



The AGNT Project Report—Q1 2015

As a licensee or friend of AGNT or ANLEX, we would like to update you once a quarter about our continuing work to enhance and perfect these databases and about our plans for the future.



The Project. *The AGNT Project Report—Q3 2008* introduced the team, outlined ongoing tasks, and discussed potential tasks.



Recent Developments in the AGNT Project

Timothy Friberg

A. We are happy to announce that Tony Pope has agreed to work with us in checking several basic components of our AGNT project. He has worked for thirty years as an SIL translation consultant in Africa. One of his particular interests is Greek lexicography. Tony will have two main focuses:

He will check our AGNT ERGs (English reference glosses) for accuracy, working through a specially prepared spreadsheet that will give him the texts of GNT5 (/NA28) and Byzantine Textform in a parallel horizontal display including all relevant AGNT fields.

With respect to AGNT he will check that the text has been assigned the most relevant ERG. We are not interested here in one gloss per lexeme everywhere applied, but rather working with the ANLEX presentation to make sure that we have the most appropriate gloss for each next Greek reflex, striving for both consistency and distinctiveness of ERGs, each in its proper place. Figurative glosses will be used when the context calls for it. As noted in an earlier newsletter, when a figure is larger than a single Greek word, the prefigurative sense will be assigned to the ERG slot, while the larger figure will be reflected in our PERGs (Phrasal English reference glosses).

Tony will also check our ANLEX lexical write-ups for accuracy of content and information display, relating the glosses back to AGNT ERGs.

Because Tony also has other commitments, his work will predictably spread over several years. We are not concerned with the passage of time; indeed the entire AGNT project, now in its thirty-ninth year, has been an *ongoing* project to refine basic New Testament helps for translators, pastors and students.

Thanks again to the several of you that interacted on the issue of ERGs several months ago, especially on the issue of whether ERGs should be essentially literal.

B. As noted earlier, we have added an annotational field to our AGNT word-by-word records that gives several pieces of additional information, including a “strict tag.” This new tag presents only the exact information found in the word so parsed, excluding the larger contextual and implied information that has been part of our AGNT tags from the beginning. It also gives pointers to where in our AGNT appendix more discussion can be found.

Another addition is that we now designate in the annotation field whether a verb is “second,” that is second aorist, future, perfect or pluperfect. Not unexpectedly, we have fielded several requests for that information to be put directly into the traditional AGNT tag.

The question is what that might look like.

We would like to retain the basic AGNT tag signature of one alphanumeric symbol assigned to each piece of information. For that reason, we are reluctant to change the tag of $\epsilon\tilde{\iota}\pi\omicron\nu$, V $\overline{I}A$ --3P (or V $\overline{I}A$ --1S), making it V $\overline{I}2A$ --3P, when the fourth place symbol there bearing the A for “aorist” would otherwise be found in the third place, say, for λέγουσι(v), V $\overline{I}P$ A--3P, where P represents “present,” again designating tense.

Trying to get the “seconds” information into the invariable tense place (third place in tags starting with V) is another possibility. We work under two constraints: what is technically possible (including search possibilities in the larger programs of participating vendors) and what is aesthetically pleasing.

Thus a tag representing the “seconds” information might be represented, for aorist, as something from the following list.

1. V $\overline{I}a$ A--3P (lower case when tags are upper case, upper case when tags are lower case)
2. *V $\overline{I}A$ A--3P* (italicized)
3. V $\overline{I}\mathfrak{A}$ A--3P (different font, here Old English)
4. V $\overline{I}\underline{\underline{A}}$ A--3P (double underlining)
5. V $\overline{I}\alpha$ A--3P (equivalent Greek letter)
6. V $\overline{I}A^2$ A--3P (superscripted two)
7. V $\overline{I}B$ A--3P (B for second aorist, alphabetic symbol following A)
8. ?? (your suggestion)

Similarly, for future, “V $\overline{I}2F$ A--3P”

1. V $\overline{I}f$ A--3P
2. *V $\overline{I}F$ A--3P*
3. V $\overline{I}\mathfrak{f}$ A--3P
4. V $\overline{I}\underline{\underline{F}}$ A--3P
5. V $\overline{I}\phi$ A--3P
6. V $\overline{I}F^2$ A--3P
7. V $\overline{I}G$ A--3P (G for second future, alphabetic symbol following F)
8. ??

Similarly, for perfect, “V $\overline{I}2P$ A--3P”

1. V $\overline{I}r$ A--3P
2. V $\overline{I}R$ A--3P
3. V $\overline{I}\mathfrak{R}$ A--3P
4. V $\overline{I}\underline{\underline{R}}$ A--3P
5. V $\overline{I}\rho$ A--3P
6. V $\overline{I}R^2$ A--3P
7. V $\overline{I}S$ A--3P (S for second perfect, alphabetic symbol following R; P stands for present)
8. ??

And similarly, for pluperfect, “VI2LA--3P”

1. VIIA--3P
2. VILA--3P
3. VI~~L~~A--3P
4. VILA--3P
5. VIλA--3P
6. VIL²A--3P
7. VIMA--3P (M for second pluperfect, alphabetic symbol following L)
8. ??

These—and other possibilities—come with their advantages and disadvantages. If we choose, for example, to alter the case (upper to lower or vice versa, since different vendors display our tags both ways), it puts capital I next to lower case l, potentially very confusing. Superscripted “2” unfortunately represents a distinct keystroke.

In any case, the reason we want to differentiate A, F, R, L from their “seconds” counterpart is to allow searches on the parsing data.

We invite you, our readers, to offer comment on this—and indeed, every—issue. Knowing how easy it is to put things out of mind, please cast your vote or make your comment now.



As always, we remain open to developing AGNT and ANLEX in ways that are most useful to the needs of students and readers of God’s Word.

Thank you for your continued support of *The AGNT Project*, for faithfully marketing the AGNT and ANLEX databases, and for making these state-of-the-art tools for studying the Greek New Testament available to students, scholars, pastors, translators, and laymen worldwide.

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