

Klaas Bentein, Mark Janse & Jorie Soltic (Ed.), *Variation and Change in Ancient Greek Tense, Aspect and Modality*. Brill, Leiden, 2017.

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nouvelles interprétations. Le troisième chapitre comprend quatre articles qui font le lien entre écriture, langue et contrôle politique. A. Franceschetti, dans son article « Le scrittura egee come strumento della burocrazia palaziale » (p. 157-167, 6 fig.), s'attarde sur la coexistence des systèmes d'écritures linéaire A et B, le linéaire A étant l'écriture formelle par rapport au linéaire B. Vers la fin du XIII<sup>e</sup> siècle, ce dernier est choisi par les scribes palatins comme écriture « standard ». L'auteur discute la question de la diffusion du linéaire A et B en dehors de la Crète, d'après les documents trouvés à Milet en Anatolie, à Tel Haror et Tel Lakish dans le désert du Néguev, à Drama en Bulgarie et à Bernstorf en Bavière. M. Salvini étudie les « Avventure cuneiformi » (p. 169-184, 7 fig.) à travers des documents qui relèvent du domaine royal : 1) la lettre de Ḫattusili I<sup>er</sup> d'une collection privée de Londres, de provenance inconnue, qu'il date de l'époque de ce roi (XVII<sup>e</sup> siècle), 2) l'épée égéo-anatolienne de Bogazköy, portant une dédicace en akkadien, de Tudḫaliya au dieu de l'orage, à la suite de sa victoire contre le pays d'Aššuwa (fin XV<sup>e</sup> siècle), 3) le bilinguisme dans les textes du royaume d'Urartu du IX<sup>e</sup> au VII<sup>e</sup> siècle. Dans son article « Words of power. Latin inscriptions and the Roman borderland in Mesopotamia (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> C. CE) » (p. 185-201, 6 fig., *addenda*, p. 202-203, 2 fig.), R. Palermo étudie les inscriptions latines en Mésopotamie du nord, pour déterminer la frontière orientale de l'empire romain dans cette région. L'usage du latin comme langue officielle reflète le pouvoir impérial qui y régnait. Dans les *addenda*, l'auteur présente l'inscription latine de Karsi, supposée perdue, qu'il a vue en 2017 au musée de la Civilisation d'Erbil. Le dernier chapitre rassemble deux articles traitant de l'évergétisme. Celui de E. M. De Martino se concentre sur la relation entre l'écriture et le pouvoir : « Scrittura e classi dirigenti. Alcuni esempi dall'Oriente greco » (p. 207-216, 4 fig.). L'auteur y présente cinq inscriptions grecques appartenant ou adressées à la catégorie des *evergetai*, qui datent des époques hellénistique tardive et impériale et proviennent de l'Hiérapolis phrygienne et du district de Denizli, en Turquie. Ces textes soulignent l'usage à des fins de propagande de l'écriture et montrent combien le prestige des classes dirigeantes se développe et se renforce à l'époque impériale. Enfin, la question de l'écriture sud-arabique est abordée par R. Loreto dans un article intitulé « Cerimonialità e architettura nelle iscrizioni di costruzione nello Yemen pre-islamico. Dati epigrafici ed evidenza archeologica » (p. 217-236, 4 fig.), qui se focalise sur les inscriptions de construction livrant des renseignements sur les pratiques architectoniques en Arabie du Sud. L'auteur fournit une liste de substantifs relatifs aux techniques de construction liées à la maçonnerie, regroupés par types d'édifice. La répartition des articles dans des chapitres thématiques rend le volume original et harmonieux. On comprend qu'il est difficile d'inclure tous les systèmes d'écriture connus de la Méditerranée orientale, mais le volume aurait gagné en embrassant également l'écriture cunéiforme alphabétique d'Ougarit, le phénicien ou encore l'égyptien hiéroglyphique.

Jimmy DACCACHE

Klaas BENTEIN, Mark JANSE & Jorie SOLTIC (Ed.), *Variation and Change in Ancient Greek Tense, Aspect and Modality*. Brill, Leiden, 2017. 1 vol., 303 p. Prix : 115 €. ISBN 9789004311640.

Tense, aspect and modality have been a favorite topic of research in Greek linguistic studies throughout the last two decades. The reason for this interest can be explained by two significant features of the ancient Greek language. First, its extensive written tradition provides a myriad of documents for linguistic investigations. Second, the available source texts comprise a wide range of source types, allowing for linguistic investigation on diverse registers (e.g. literary texts, inscriptions, documentary papyri). Together, these two factors provide a robust basis for both diachronic and sociolinguistic studies. In this volume, diachronic and sociolinguistic analysis converge, giving an overview of the different approaches which can be used to address questions concerning tense, aspect and modality. As stated at the beginning of the first chapter (i.e. *Introduction* p. 1-8), the editors aim at collecting a range of scholarly contributions which will investigate these three grammatical categories with respect to linguistic variation in ancient Greek texts. In other words, the book consists of eleven papers which discuss evidence from various time periods and from different kinds of sources, and in some cases, also address methodological problems. Despite the fact that the papers remarkably differ from each other, the book is divided in chapters and includes thematic subdivisions. The brief explanation on the three dimensions of variation (p. 2-5), followed by an outline of the volume (p. 5-7) with some references on *Variation*, lays out a clear and useful overview of the guiding principles behind the single contributions. Chapter 2 (p. 9-21) deals with the alternation in the use of the subjunctive and the optative in final clauses introduced by ἵνα and ὅπως. The author, Antonio Lillo, provides an overview of the previous studies which assert that the subjunctive is used to mark an immediate consequence of the action expressed in the main clause while the optative marks a remote consequence. Thus, Lillo challenges traditional assertions related to Homer and concludes that the choice of the mood in the final clauses is related to the action of the main clause. He starts with the discussion of some passages from Homer and then focuses on Herodotus' *Histories*. The paper by Gerry C. Wakker in chapter 5 (p. 84-99) is similarly confined to a single author. Wakker focuses on Hesiod's *Theogony* and *Works and Days*, in order to investigate the "omnitemporality" character of the gnomic aorist. Wakker presents a list of examples from these two works, and includes disputable examples from which the reader can not only better understand the problem but also raise further conclusions. Data from documentary papyri are discussed by Jerneja Kavčič in chapter 3 (p. 22-55) and by Martti Leiwo in chapter 11 (p. 242-260). Kavčič points out the significant changes between classical Greek and the Greek of the documentary papyri from the Roman period (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> cent. CE) in regards to the use of the declarative infinitive, present, aorist and future respectively, to express temporal and aspectual distinctions. In addition to the many tables, which show the tense frequencies, the article includes the list of the analyzed infinitives (p. 26), the list of the investigated papyri (p. 53) and a paragraph on the distinction between the occurrences in private letters and in official documents (p. 47-48): all these elements contribute very well to clarifying the meaning of the results from the papyri, a source type whose analysis implies many methodological difficulties. Leiwo focuses on the confusion in the use of the moods (i.e. infinitive, participle and imperative), a quite widespread phenomenon in texts from the everyday life, taking into consideration the private letters from Mons Claudianus. Some of the remarkable features of this study are the distinction between professional and idiolectic uses and

the considerations about language contacts: these features make the paper an important guideline for leading investigations on documentary papyri. A specific case of grammaticalization (i.e. *ὄφελον* from verb into desiderative illocutionary particle) is discussed by Antonio R. Revuelta Puigdollers in chapter 8 (p. 158-188). Revuelta Puigdollers leads a diachronic analysis from Homer up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century CE including also the evidence from the documentary papyri. He starts the investigation from the observations by the ancient grammarians in order to explain how this process, which was already noted by them, has taken place. In chapter 9 (p. 189-218), Marina Veksina considers the Coan inscriptions. This epigraphical corpus consists prevalently of legal texts written in a formulaic language in which the future indicative is found in independent clauses to express an obligation or a permission. Veksina explains this usage of the future through current linguistic theories and she provides the reader with parallels from other epigraphic texts. The contribution of Amalia Moser (p. 131-157) in chapter 7 is based on theoretical questions about the distinction between *Aktionsart* and aspect. Moser presents a diachronic analysis over a very broad time period (i.e. from the archaic period until modern Greek), starting from the fact that modern Greek has to be considered very close to the prototypical aspect notion. Using a pure cognitive linguistic approach, in chapter 6 (p. 100-130), Rutger J. Allan, who is an authority in the field of cognitive linguistic studies on ancient Greek, describes the semantic of aspect in Greek. Allan concentrates on the relationship between the boundaries of the event and the temporal scope and he especially considers the case of the imperfect unbounded within temporal scope. In chapter 10 (p. 219-241), Geoffrey Horrocks provides a methodological guide for linguistic studies on byzantine texts, proposing various research questions. Horrocks demonstrates that the high-register Byzantine is not an imitation of ancient Greek and that the grammar of these texts is also influenced by the contemporary vernacular. For his analysis on the indicative future, the subjunctive and the optative, he uses various passages from the *Alexiad* of Anna Comnena. A methodological approach is central also in the last chapter (p. 261-286). Andreas Willi addresses the main research questions of the volume about register, tense, aspect and mood, giving an overview of the different approaches which should be taken into consideration for the analysis of these topics. As a sample study, Willy focuses on the resultative perfect in the oratory, adopting both a qualitative and a quantitative approach. As is often the case with publications of papers from different authors and with different approaches, the book presents a wide variety of contributions, which does not make simple the reading of the whole book. The contributions with methodological guidelines should undoubtedly be considered not only by advanced scholars, but also by linguistics students who intend to address these research topics. To those interested in investigating variations and change in ancient Greek, the book indeed provides a useful overview of the newest and current trends in the discussion on these topics.

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Eleanor DICKEY, *Learning Latin the Ancient Way. Latin Textbooks from the Ancient World*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2016. 1 vol. 17,5 x 24,5 cm, XII-187 p. Prix : 17.99 £. ISBN 978-1-107-47457-4.