Terence and the Language of Roman Comedy

This book offers a comprehensive examination of the language of Roman comedy in general and that of Terence in particular. The study explores Terence’s use of language to differentiate his characters and his language in relation to that of the comic fragments of the palliata, the togata and the atellana. Linguistic categories in the Terentian corpus explored include colloquialisms, archaisms, hellenisms and idiolectal features. Terence is shown to give his old men an old-fashioned and verbose tone, while low characters are represented as using colloquial diction. An examination of Eunuchus’ language shows it to be closer to the Plautine linguistic tradition. The book also provides a thorough linguistic/stylistic commentary on all the fragments of the palliata, the togata and the atellana. It shows that Terence, except in the case of his Eunuchus, consciously distances himself from the linguistic/stylistic tradition of Plautus followed by all other comic poets.

Evangelos Karakasis is temporary Lecturer of Latin Language and Literature at the University of Ioannina, Greece, and the author of several articles on Roman comedy.
## Contents

Acknowledgements

Conspectus siglorum

Introduction

### Part I Linguistic differentiation in Terence

1. Colloquialisms
2. Archaisms
3. *Senitis* μακρολογία and περισσολογία
4. Hellenisms
5. Features of elevated language
6. Idiolect
7. Plautus in Terence: the case of *Eunuchus*

### Part II Linguistic and stylistic unity in Roman comedy

Introduction

8. Terence, Plautus and the *palliata*
   - Turpilius
   - Caecilius Statius
   - Naevius
   - The rest of the *palliata*
9. Terence, Plautus and the *togata*
   - Afranius
   - Titinius
   - Atta
## CONTENTS

10  Terence, Plautus and the *atellana*  234  
    Pomponius  236  
    Novius  241  

*Bibliography*  247  
*Index locorum*  261  
*Index nominum et rerum*  308
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book is an expanded and revised version of my thesis, submitted for the PhD degree in 2000. During my stay in Cambridge, I received financial assistance from several sources, to which I am very much indebted. In particular, I am grateful to the Greek State Scholarship Foundation for a full three-year graduate scholarship, the Lilian Voudouri Foundation for funding the fourth year of my graduate studies, when other emoluments were fading out, and the Cambridge Faculty of Classics for awarding me the Charles Oldham Scholarship for the academic year 1999–2000.

I express my special thanks to my PhD supervisor, Professor R. L. Hunter, who read through several successive drafts of both the thesis and the book version. To his unremitting aid and valuable criticism I owe this book. His stimulating comments and thought-provoking observations have been a constant source of inspiration for me. Many thanks go to my MPhil. supervisor, Professor M. D. Reeve, for having read the manuscript and saved me from many infelicities. I also owe him much for helping me turn the thesis into a book. I am also obliged to my PhD examiners, Dr J. Clackson and P. G. McC. Brown, for their useful feedback.

Very warm thanks go to my teachers in the University of Ioannina. Especially to Professor G. P. Savantidis, D. K. Raisos and to the Assistant Professor Maria Papadimitriou for letting me into the fascinating world of Roman literature. What is more, Professor D. K. Raisos’s inspiring lectures on Roman Comedy introduced me to the charming plays of Plautus and Terence. Special thanks are also due to Professor I. N. Perysinakis for commending me warmly to his British friends and colleagues and for giving me, as the Chairman of the Faculty Board, the opportunity to teach Latin language and literature to the students of Ioannina University.

Dr Mary Mantziou, Assistant Professor of Greek, was a great help to me throughout my graduate studies and beyond. Her
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

constant interest both in the progress of my work and in my personal welfare, her keenness to ensure me financial help, when scholarships were petering out, her eagerness to support my application for graduate studies in Cambridge, her joy, when things were good, and her sorrow, when I was coming up against grave difficulties, make her worthy of many special thanks.

Last but not least, I want to thank my friends in Cambridge, Dr I. Manolessou, Dr P. Seranis and Mrs D. Koukouzika for their help and support. Finally, I would like to thank my mother. Without her I would never have finished.
CONSPECTUS SIGLORUM

Auctores antiqui

The references to Greek authors follow the abbreviations of Liddell, Scott and Jones, *Greek-English Lexicon*. The references to Latin texts follow the abbreviations of the *Oxford Latin Dictionary* (OLD). For authors/texts not contained in the OLD, the abbreviations of the *Thesaurus Linguarum Latinarum* (ThLL) are followed instead.

For Latin comic authors, the following abbreviations are used:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin</th>
<th>Greek</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plautus</td>
<td>Plautus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amph.</td>
<td>Amphitruo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asin.</td>
<td>Asinaria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aul.</td>
<td>Aulularia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bacch.</td>
<td>Bacchides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capt.</td>
<td>Captivi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cas.</td>
<td>Casina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cist.</td>
<td>Cistellaria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curc.</td>
<td>Curculio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epid.</td>
<td>Epidicus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men.</td>
<td>Menaechni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merc.</td>
<td>Mercator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most.</td>
<td>Mostellaria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pers.</td>
<td>Persa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poen.</td>
<td>Poenulus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pseud.</td>
<td>Pseudolus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rud.</td>
<td>Rudens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stich.</td>
<td>Stichus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trin.</td>
<td>Trinummus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
C O N S P E C T U S S I G L O R U M

Truc. Truculentus
Vid. Vidularia
Ter. Terentius
Adr. Adelphoe
Andr. Andria
Eun. Eunachus
Heaut. Heautontimoroumenos
Hec. Hecyra
Phorm. Phormio
Afran. Afranius
Aqu. Aquilius
Caec. Caecilius
Juvent. Juventius
Naev. Naevius
Nov. Novius
Pompon. Pomponius
Titin. Titinius
Turpil. Turpilius
atel. Reference to fragments of the atellana, e.g. Nov. atel. 12
com. Reference to fragments of the palliata, e.g. Turpil. com. 40
tog. Reference to fragments of the togata, e.g. Afran. tog. 32
Scriptt. R R Scriptores Rerum Rusticarum

For Afranius, Aquilius, Attilius, Juventius, Novius, Pomponius, Trabea the edition of Ribbeck was used; for Caecilius, Ennius (comic fragments), Livius Andronicus (comic fragments), Naevius (comic fragments), that of Warmington; for Titinius and Atta that of Guardi, and for Turpilius that of Ryschlewska. Full references to these editions are to be found in the bibliography. The readings of Ribbeck are sometimes adopted even in cases where his edition is not used; this is indicated by the abbreviation (Ribb.) after the relevant quotation.
CONспектУ SIGLorum

Auctores moderni

The references to classics periodicals follow the abbreviations of the *Année Philologique*. The references to linguistics periodicals follow the abbreviations in the *Routledge Dictionary of Language and Linguistics*. Other frequent abbreviations:

Austin II Austin, R. G. (1964) (ed.), *P. Vergili Maronis Aeneidos Liber secundus* (Oxford)


H-Sz Hofmann, J. B. and Szantyr, A. (1965), *Lateinische Syntax und Stilistik* (Munich)


K-S followed by a digit Kühner and Stegmann (1966), volume indicated by the digit

L-S Lewis and Short (1879), *A Latin Dictionary* (Oxford)

LSJ Liddell Scott and Jones (1940), *Greek–English Lexicon* (Oxford)

CONSPECTUS SIGLORUM

N-W  
Neue, F. and Wagener, C.  
(1892–1905), Formenlehre der lateinischen Sprache (Leipzig)

OLD  
Oxford Latin Dictionary

RD  
Ruhnkenii, D. (1825), In Terentii Comoedias dictata (Bonn)

ThLL  
Thesaurus Linguae Latinae