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BY

K. J. DOVER

Professor of Greek in the University of St Andrews



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PREFACE

The essential argument of this book is that of the J. H. Gray Lectures which I gave in Cambridge in February 1959, and I am very greatly indebted to the Board of the Faculty of Classics in Cambridge for giving me the opportunity and encouragement to put into coherent form the results of ten years of intermittent work on the problems of Greek word order. Since the requirements of a reader are not those of a hearer, the original lectures have been reduced by the compression of explanatory passages, expanded by the inclusion of statistics and bibliographical references, and changed in arrangement by the deferment of 'Logical Determinants' to a later part of the book.

I have not attempted a complete historical description of the phenomena of Greek word order, but only the isolation and illustration of what seem to me the most important determinants of order in early Greek prose. The Classical scholar may think my methods and language tainted by the jargon of modern linguistics; the modern linguist may think them the naive dabbling of an old-fashioned Classic in something which he does not understand. Provided the fire from both sides is of roughly equal intensity, I shall have some cause for satisfaction. I believe that students of any language should be receptive to ideas which come from the students of any other language; but I believe at the same time that no language should be described and analysed except in the terms which are positively suggested by its own peculiar nature and the nature of our knowledge of it.

Although there is, I think, much in this book which has not been said before, or not said in the same connections, I have never, in anything that I have written, been so continuously conscious that whatever good there may be in it has been reached by standing on the shoulders of others. I hope that someone will stand on mine as soon as possible, and that I can take the weight. My first stimulus to the study of Greek word order was provided, within a week of my starting work as a Tutor, by Mr R. G. M. Nisbet, who was courteously but firmly unconvinced by a change in order which I wanted to make in a Greek sentence which he had written. Among published works, I have long been indebted to Wackernagel's

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PREFACE

‘Über ein Gesetz der indogermanischen Wortstellung’, Fraenkel’s ‘Kolon und Satz’, Frisk’s *Studien zur griechischen Wortstellung*, and Loepfe’s *Wortstellung im griechischen Sprechsatz*. Their influence on my argument will be clear enough, I hope, to take the sting out of my criticisms of details in their work. Very many colleagues and friends have helped me by suggestions, criticisms and references, and I thank them all.

K. J. D.

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS
May 1959

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The works listed in the following bibliography are referred to in my footnotes (i) by the author's name only, if the author appears only once in the bibliography, (ii) by the author's name and an abbreviation of the title, if the author is represented by more than one work.

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