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978-1-107-00394-1 - Expressions of Time in Ancient Greek

Coulter H. George

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EXPRESSIONS OF TIME IN ANCIENT GREEK

How did Ancient Greek express the fact that an event occurred at a particular time, for a certain duration, or within a given time frame? The answer to these questions depends on a variety of conditions – the nature of the time noun, the tense and aspect of the verb, the particular historical period of Greek during which the author lived – that existing studies of the language do not take sufficiently into account. This book accordingly examines the circumstances that govern the use of the genitive, dative, and accusative of time, as well as the relevant prepositional constructions, primarily in Greek prose of the fifth century BC through the second century AD, but also in Homer. While the focus is on developments in Greek, translations of the examples, as well as a fully glossed summary chapter, make it accessible to linguists interested in the expression of time generally.

COULTER H. GEORGE is Associate Professor of Classics at the University of Virginia. The author of *Expressions of Agency in Ancient Greek* (Cambridge University Press, 2005), he has also taught at Rice University and was a Junior Research Fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge. His research interests include the syntax of the Greek verb, particles and prepositions, and contact phenomena between Greek and the other languages of the ancient Mediterranean.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As the final task in writing a book on Ancient Greek expressions of time, it seems fitting to take a diachronic look at its genesis. After all – if I may indulge in Vendlerian language – writing it was certainly a (durative) Accomplishment rather than an (instantaneous) Achievement; in any case, I'm very much relieved it didn't remain an (atelic) Activity! Work on it began during 2006–07, my last year as a Junior Research Fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge, and I remain extremely grateful to the Master and Fellows for providing an environment so conducive to research. In particular, I should like to record my lasting gratitude to Eric Handley, who, ever since my very first supervision at Cambridge (Greek prose composition, October 1995), had nothing but the kindest words of encouragement and advice. As always, the camaraderie of the E Caucus of the Faculty of Classics meant that there was ample opportunity for lively discussion of sundry linguistic issues.

The academic year 2010–11 was also fruitful, when, thanks to a Sabbatical Fellowship from the American Philosophical Society as well as Sesqui Leave and a summer stipend from the University of Virginia, I was able to give the project my undivided attention. During the first two months, I enjoyed a delightful stay at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, and it is a true pleasure to thank the classicists there, especially my academic host, Rutger Allan, for their warm hospitality. The rest of the year, equally idyllic, was spent in Cologne, where José Luis García Ramón was tremendously welcoming and helpful. It was a great pleasure to have the chance to bounce ideas off Daniel Kölligan, and I am also very grateful to Lena Wolberg for helping me navigate bureaucratic matters.

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Charlottesville

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ABBREVIATIONS AND OTHER CONVENTIONS

The abbreviations of Greek authors and works are those found in LSJ, except for names of the books of the Bible, which are abbreviated as in *The New Oxford Annotated Bible: New Revised Standard Version* (1991), p. xxvii. Papyri are abbreviated as in the Duke Databank of Documentary Papyri (<http://www.papyri.info/browse/ddbdp/>). An ellipsis within round brackets indicates that words may or may not occur between the words on either side.

BDAG	F. W. Danker (2000) <i>A Greek–English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> , 3rd edn. Chicago.
BDB	F. Brown, S. Driver, and C. Briggs (1906) <i>Hebrew and English Lexicon</i> . Boston, MA.
BDR	F. Blass and A. Debrunner (2001) <i>Grammatik des neutestamentlichen Griechisch</i> , 18th edn., rev. F. Rehkopf. Göttingen.
BHS	K. Elliger and W. Rudolph (1987) <i>Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia</i> . Stuttgart.
Classen–Steup	J. Steup (ed.) (1963) <i>Thukydides, erklärt von Johannes Classen</i> , 8 vols., 6th edn. (Vols. 1–2); 4th edn. (Vols. 3–8). Berlin.
DMic.	F. Aura Jorro (ed.) (1985–93) <i>Diccionario micénico</i> , 2 vols. Madrid.
Hansen–Quinn	H. Hansen and G. M. Quinn (1992) <i>Greek: An Intensive Course</i> , 2nd rev. edn. New York.
Joüon–Muraoka	P. Joüon (1993) <i>A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew</i> , repr. with corrections, tr. and rev. T. Muraoka. Rome.

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Kühner–Gerth	R. Kühner and B. Gerth (1898) <i>Ausführliche Grammatik der griechischen Sprache</i> , Part II, Vol. 1. Hanover and Leipzig.
LSJ	Liddell, H. G., and R. Scott (1940) <i>Greek– English Lexicon</i> , rev. H. S. Jones, 9th edn. Oxford, 1996.
MT	Masoretic Text
Rahlfs	A. Rahlfs and R. Hanhart (2006) <i>Septuaginta</i> , 2nd edn. Stuttgart.
Schwyzler–Debrunner	E. Schwyzler and A. Debrunner (1950) <i>Griechische Grammatik</i> , Vol. 2. Munich.
TLG	<i>Thesaurus Linguae Graecae</i> (Irvine, CA, 1972–)