

JOSÉ MIGUEL JIMÉNEZ DELGADO, *Sintaxis del griego micénico*. Sevilla. Editorial Universidad de Sevilla 2016. Pp. 264. ISBN 978-84-472-1812-7.

The syntax of Mycenaean Greek has been studied since the decipherment of the Linear B script and many papers and book chapters have been written about it, though dedicated only to particular aspects and mostly as tentative analyses. The “*Sintaxis del griego micénico*”, written by José Miguel Jiménez Delgado, professor of Greek philology at the University of Seville, is the first comprehensive and systematic study of the syntactic data collected from the Linear B tablets. As the author himself explains in the introduction, this book is organized as any other syntax of Ancient Greek, but taking into account the specific nature of the Mycenaean corpus. It consists of an introduction, nine chapters, bibliography and indices (word, citation and subject).

The scope and the purpose of the work are described in the introduction. The author also provides a brief summary of each chapter of the book, explains the main principles of the transcription of Mycenaean words and abbreviations.

The subject matter of each chapter following the introduction is as follows:

I. General remarks

In the first chapter the author first gives an overview of the previously published works on Mycenaean syntax and then continues with a brief account of the Mycenaean corpus of texts, its administrative function and the limitations that the syllabic nature of the Mycenaean script imposes on the detailed syntactic analysis.

II. Number and gender. Concordance. Determination

The second chapter is dedicated to number, gender, concordance and determination. In this respect Mycenaean doesn't differ substantially from Post-Mycenaean Greek. However, due to the peculiarities of the syllabic script it is not always easy to determine the number and the gender of Mycenaean nominals. Still, the author discusses particular distributive singular and collective nouns, then cases of distributive plural or dual, plurale tantum and plural of uncountable nouns. The gender is described with appropriate examples of natural and grammatical gender, adjectives that do not distinguish between masculine and feminine, and common gender nouns. Examples of nouns that have different gender in Mycenaean and in Post-Mycenaean Greek are also provided as well as of nouns whose gender cannot be interpreted decisively. Forms *da-ma* and *du-ma* are discussed as a possible example of homophone nouns having different gender.

The rules of concordance in Mycenaean coincide with the rules in Post-Mycenaean Greek. This is corroborated with appropriate examples of substantive – adjective and subject – verb concordance, but also with exceptions of the rules and cases difficult for interpretation.

Finally in this chapter, the author discusses determination, which in Mycenaean is not expressed with an article, because there is no article and substantivization that can refer to the adjectives, the participles or the genitives and can be also described as a case of ellipsis.

III. Case uses

This chapter focuses on the semantics of the cases and provides us with examples from the Mycenaean tablets for various uses of the nominative case (subject, predicate nominative, nominative of the rubric, enumeration, in apposition), of the accusative (of direct object, predicate accusative, of internal object, of relation, double accusative, of time, of direction, as subject of the infinitive, as anacoluthon), of the genitive

(possessive, pertinentive, of parental relationship, of place of origin, of matter, of price/quality, subjective, objective, partitive, of time, ablative, of cause (or reference), absolute) and of the dative (of indirect object, of interest, possessive, of agency, of purpose, of destination, locative, of time, instrumental, comitative).

The existence of other cases in Mycenaean Greek, such as ablative, locative and instrumental, is discussed on one hand in terms of the impossibility to distinguish the appropriate endings of these cases from the endings of other cases due to the spelling rules and the syllabic nature of the Linear B script, while on the other hand, possible examples of local cases are analyzed with reference to the general thesis that the syncretism of the genitive with the ablative and of the dative with the instrumental and the locative evident in Post-Mycenaean Greek is evident in Mycenaean Greek as well. Apart from the case forms in this section of the book the author also studies the post-positional morphemes such as *-θεν*, *-θι*, *-δε*, *-φι*.

The chapter on the case uses ends with a conclusion on the case syncretism in Mycenaean. Even though the author admits that the nature of the Linear B script makes it difficult to determine this phenomenon, nevertheless he concludes that the ablative is syncretized with the genitive, that the dative singular ending *-e /-ei/* and the locative singular ending *-i /-i/* in the third declension are used irrespectively of their functions, that the plural endings *-o-i*, *-a-i* should be considered as graphic variants of *-o /-ois/*, *-a /-ais/*, meaning that in the first and second declension the instrumental ending was used to express the functions of the dative and locative cases and that the ending *-πι* had instrumental and locative meaning. The possibility that the instrumental was used to denote the ablative is dismissed as not very probable.

IV. Pronouns and numbers

The fourth chapter provides us with a brief account of the pronominal forms and the numbers as found on the Mycenaean tablets. There are no new suggestions among the forms presented in this section of the book.

V. Adverbs, prepositions, particles and subordinating conjunctions

The adverbs, the prepositions, the particles and the subordinating conjunctions are described in the fifth chapter in the same order as they are mentioned in the title. These categories of words are abundantly attested on the Mycenaean tablets and the evidence is important because they include some archaisms. The author pays particular attention to the preposition *pa-ro* as it is probably most abundantly attested preposition in Mycenaean and has versatile semantics. The section on the particles is also very detailed. Forms of the relative pronominal stem *jo-/o-* are also included in this section and analyzed as cataphoric particles. This chapter ends with a passage on *o-te*, the only subordinating conjunction in Mycenaean.

VI. Verbal categories of voice, aspect, tense and mood

The verbal forms are not attested with many forms on the Mycenaean tablets, but those attested are important evidence for the history of the Greek language. The focus of the syntactical analysis in the first section of the sixth chapter is on the impersonal use of the 3rd person singular forms. Then follows a discussion on voice with examples that illustrate the situation regarding this issue in the Mycenaean period. In similar manner examples of different aspects, tenses and moods are also presented and discussed.

VII. Infinitive, participle and verbal adjectives

The seventh chapter is dedicated to the infinitive, the participle and the verbal adjectives. Only a few certain infinitive forms are analyzed and a few forms for which no agreement has been reached whether they are infinitive forms at all. As for the par-

ticiples, the available examples are analyzed as attributive participles (including substantivized attributive participles and participles used as personal names) and as predicate circumstantial participles (denoting manner, concession, cause). Possible examples of dominant participles and absolute participles are also discussed. In many of the cases, the participle is the only verbal form in the sentence, usually standing for a relative clause. In terms of this, the author interprets *te-re-ja* as a participle form, not as a personal verbal form. The chapter ends with an analysis of the verbal adjectives and discussion of the examples in *-te-jo* and *-to*.

VIII. Simple sentences, coordinate and subordinate clauses

This chapter first addresses the simple sentences with or without verb and then continues with a description of coordinate clauses with *-qe*, *-de* and an analysis of examples of polysyndeton and asyndeton, of subordinate clauses with *jo-qi*, *jo-/o-*, *o-te*, and constructions with infinitive and of absolute participles.

IX. Ellipsis and word order

In the last chapter the author describes the following cases of ellipsis: omissions of the head noun in phrases with genitive, omissions of the noun in phrases with adjectives, omissions of the verbal form, omissions of elements of the subordinate clause if they appear in the main clause. In addition, examples are provided of ellipsis due to scribal error or lack of space. The author also discusses abbreviations and in this context the coexistence of the endings *-a/-ao*, *-o/-jo*, *-a/-a-pi*, *-o/-o-pi*.

The last part of the ninth chapter is dedicated to the word order. The author first describes the word order of noun phrases and in particular of phrases consisting of a preposition and a noun, of a genitive and a head noun, of a pronominal adjective and a noun, of an adjective and a noun. Then the author discusses the word order of the elements of the sentence, SVO or SOV, paying particular attention to the sentences with infinitives and participles and to the sentences introduced with *jo-/o-* and other types of subordinate clauses.

The book on the Mycenaean syntax is concluded with an extensive and up to date bibliography on Greek syntax, Mycenaean Greek and Mycenaean tablets in general, followed by word, citation and subject indices.

The “Sintaxis del griego micénico”, written by José Miguel Jiménez Delgado, professor of Greek philology at the University of Seville, is indeed the first comprehensive and systematic study of the syntactic data collected from the Linear B tablets. The author succeeds in his efforts to present the syntactic data of Mycenaean Greek in a concise and elaborate manner, providing at the same time new interpretations, and thus making this book an indispensable tool for every mycenaeanologist or Greek scholar. A particular advantage of this book is that it clearly demonstrates that all phonetic, morphological and semantic issues look different when seen from a syntactic point of view. Of course, the question remains open as to the extent to which it is possible to describe Mycenaean syntax in a definite manner, bearing in mind that there is no common opinion on the interpretation of many of the tablets and on some of the syntactic issues, the most important of which probably is the issue of the case syncretism.

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