

**Evert van Emde Boas, Albert Rijksbaron, Luuk Huitink, Mathieu de Bakker, *Cambridge Grammar of Classical Greek*.** Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019, xlii + 811 pages, ISBN 9780521198608 (hardback), 9780521127295 (paperback), 9781108229456 (ebook).\*

*Cambridge Grammar of Classical Greek*, having the catchy abbreviation CGCG, is a long-awaited reference grammar of Classical Greek, published by respected Dutch scholars Evert van Emde Boas (University of Oxford), Albert Rijksbaron (University of Amsterdam), Luuk Huitink (University of Heidelberg) and Mathieu de Bakker (University of Amsterdam), some one hundred years after the famous Smyth's *Greek Grammar*<sup>1</sup> appeared. CGCG reflects the progress in both general and ancient Greek linguistics made in the last fifty years (pragmatics, functional grammar, discourse analysis, cognitive linguistics, as well as comparative grammar), and at the same time, it preserves the canonical ordering of the treatment in a Greek grammar which we are accustomed to. Entirely novel are the sections on textual coherence (pp. 657–662), word order (pp. 702–721), and four sample passages (pp. 722–748), appearing for the first time in a Greek grammar. The way of the description and explanation of grammatical phenomena is scientifically up-to-date but refreshing and user friendly, not abusing specialized linguistic terminology. The book is primarily intended for university students and teachers,<sup>2</sup> not only for native speakers of English, but for all those able to read in English.

The book opens with a preface informing the reader on the history and aims of the CGCG,<sup>3</sup> presenting abbreviations, symbols and editions, and giving some terminological information concerning various linguistic phenomena.

The text itself encompasses three parts: Part I 'Phonology and Morphology' (includes sections 1–25, pp. 1–304), Part II 'Syntax' (sections 26–57, pp. 305–654), and Part III 'Textual Coherence' (sections 58–61, pp. 657–748), followed by a selected bibliography, arranged by topic, and very useful indexes (examples, subjects, Greek words). Sections are of different length, from one to forty pages, usually divided into many sub-sections, with

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<sup>1</sup> H. W. Smyth, *A Greek Grammar for Colleges*. New York [et al.]: American Book Company, 1920 (following H. W. Smyth, *A Greek Grammar for Schools and Colleges*. New York / Cincinnati / Chicago: American Book Company, 1916), later revised as H. W. Smyth, G. M. Messing, *Greek Grammar*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1956.

<sup>2</sup> It is not a scientific grammar like R. Kühner, F. Blass, *Ausführliche Grammatik der griechischen Sprache. Erster Teil. Elementar- und Formenlehre*. Hannover: Hahnsche Buchhandlung, 1890–1892; R. Kühner, B. Gerth, *Ausführliche Grammatik der griechischen Sprache. Zweiter Teil. Satzlehre*. Hannover / Leipzig: Hahnsche Buchhandlung, 1898–1904; or E. Schwyzer, *Griechische Grammatik*, München: C. H. Beck'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1939–1950 encompassing several volumes.

<sup>3</sup> A more detailed account can be found in the paper by E. van Emde Boas, A. Rijksbaron, L. Huitink, M. de Bakker, 'The Cambridge grammar of classical Greek: aims and principles'. *The Journal of Classics Teaching* 20 (40), 2019, 30–34. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-classics-teaching/article/cambridge-grammar-of-classical-greek-a-new-reference-grammar-for-classical-greek-aims-and-principles/5B95441737CE11BEDEA269DBC8C4DD42> [retrieved 15/3/2020]. The authors also draw attention to 'Resources' placed on: <https://www.cambridge.org/gb/academic/subjects/classical-studies/classical-languages/cambridge-grammar-classical-greek?format=HB#resources>. See some pages of 'Corrections and additions to the Cambridge Grammar of Classical Greek' published by Emde Boas on Academia.edu: <https://oxford.academia.edu/EvertvanEmdeBoas> [retrieved 14/6/2020].

excellent cross-referring. Written in a clear and transparent way, the book is extremely user-friendly with a great layout, printed on high-quality paper with easily legible font, leaving large margins and sufficient interline space, the only disadvantage being its weight (paperback 1.7 kg).

As with other Greek grammars, the book begins with the alphabet and pronunciation, and continues with historical developments arranged in a modern (scientific) way, clearly indicating the names of phenomena like ablaut (vowel gradation), contraction of vowels, compensatory lengthening, Osthoff's Law, etc., while e.g. Smyth<sup>4</sup> hides them under covering terms like euphony of vowels, euphony of consonants, movable consonants, etc. Such historical observations are not autotelic, on the contrary they are particularly useful for university students as they help them to better understand the forms of the nominal as well as verbal inflection.<sup>5</sup>

The treatment of nominal as well as verbal morphology opens with a general introduction, i.e. a helpful survey of grammatical categories and concepts. The authors then gradually proceed with individual word classes beginning with the article, continuing with nouns, adjectives and participles, adverbs, pronouns, correlatives pronouns and adverbs, numerals, and ending, as expected, with the verb.

The noun declensions are illustrated by a smaller number of paradigms than grammars usually do, since not all accentuation types are presented: e.g. the second declension of masculine nouns in -ος is exemplified by δούλος and νοῦς, while e.g. Niederle offers ἵππος, ἄνθρωπος, ποταμός, δούλος and νοῦς (see note 5). This seems to be a bit strange, especially when the section on accentuation (where some other paradigms are given) is placed at the end of Part I 'Phonology and Morphology'. From my experience I know that students who will master accentuation prefer to have all declension paradigms before their eyes. Declension of adjectives and participles, despite adopting the same types of paradigms as nouns, are treated in a special section (as in Smyth). In other grammars their forms are treated together with the noun paradigms, e.g. perfect active participles (-ώς, -υῖα, -ός) with noun stems in dental stops (-τ, -δ, -θ), while the chapter on adjectives gives only an overview of the different adjectival stems and endings, being focused on degrees of comparison. It is noteworthy that the forms of the dual of all declensions are treated *en bloc* in a separate section. The section on numerals encompasses notation of numbers in later inscriptions, papyri, and manuscripts (with letters of the alphabet modified by an oblique stroke). It would be useful to also mention the notation of numbers used in a list, as e.g. in Homeric poems (κ 223 = *Od.* X, 223). This way of referencing was still employed in the 1970s.

The treatment of verbal forms is naturally more extensive than that of nominal forms. Individual sub-sections successively cover the forms of the present, the aorist (active and middle), the aorist passive, the future active and middle, the future passive, the perfect

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<sup>4</sup> H. W. Smyth, G. M. Messing, *Greek Grammar*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1956, 14–34.

<sup>5</sup> Such historical treatments are also found in earlier Greek grammars, e.g. E. Bornemann, E. Risch, *Griechische Grammatik*. 2. Aufl. Frankfurt am Main: Verlag Diesterweg, 1978; J. Niederle, V. Niederle, L. Varcl, *Mluvnice řeckého jazyka* [Greek Grammar]. Praha: Státní pedagogické nakladatelství, 1974; J. Bertrand, *Nouvelle grammaire grecque*. 2<sup>e</sup> éd. rev. et corr. Paris: Éllipses, 2002, to name some non-English written textbooks.

active and middle-passive, and the future perfect. This way of treatment, i.e. following individual stems, is different from the organisation in earlier grammars and is certainly clearer.

The authors group together the items that are intimately connected, e.g. in the section on the present (pp. 128–146) they treat together thematic (contracted and uncontracted forms are adjacent in the same table) and athematic present, first explaining the various formations of the thematic present stem and then that of the athematic present. Then come the forms of the aorist stems: active and middle (pp. 147–167: sigmatic, thematic and root aorist) and passive (pp. 168–179). It is worth noting that the authors use a novel, more intuitive terminology, i.e. *sigmatic vs. thematic* and *θη-aorist vs. η-aorist* instead of the traditional terms ‘first/weak’ vs. ‘second/strong’ aorist. Then follow the forms of the future stem: active and middle (pp. 180–193: sigmatic vs. so-called Attic future), and passive (pp. 194–196: *θη-future vs. η-future*). And finally, there are the perfect and future perfect stems (pp. 197–223). I miss the translations of difficult forms, such as *πεπαιδευμαι*, which, for that matter, is common to many grammar books: there is the translation of the basic form: *παιδεύω ~ I educate*, but even graduate students would appreciate the translations of the perfect middle-passive forms, etc. The passages on verbal morphology finish with a list of ‘irregular’ verbs (called ‘Principal Parts with Peculiarities’) that contains 191 verbs (pp. 230–259); verbs with regular principal parts like *ἀγγέλλω*, *νομίζω*, *αἰσχύνω* are not included in the list (unlike Smyth). The order of the six parts (the present = the entry form, the verb root, the aorist active and passive, the future, the perfect active and middle/passive) is different from that presented in Smyth and other grammar books but is intuitive and felicitous. Time will tell whether it will be universally adopted in teaching.

The treatment of morphology also contains special sections on correlative pronouns and adverbs, on dual forms, and on word formation. This part closes with a very useful section on accentuation (which used to be treated at the beginning of the morphology part which I prefer), and finally, on morphological characteristics of Ionic prose (and Doric *ā* in Choral Lyric).

Part II ‘Syntax’ virtually encompasses two major divisions, simple sentences (sections 26–38, pp. 307–490) and complex sentences (sections 39–57, pp. 491–654), each of them beginning with a detailed introduction. As for simple sentences, there is a section on agreement, use of the article, pronouns and quantifiers, functions and meaning of cases, prepositions, comparison, and verbs (tense and aspect, mood and voice, and impersonal constructions), covering more than 60 pages. The last sections of this division devote attention to verbal adjectives, and finally to the four sentence types and communicative functions (questions, directives, wishes and exclamations).

We now come to an intriguing phenomenon – tense and aspect. An apposite and student-friendly explanation of basic notions (absolute and relative tense, grammatical and lexical aspect, telic and atelic verbs, narrative and non-narrative text) is followed by a sound and clear description of the basic uses and specific interpretations of the seven indicatives (pp. 409–437). The authors point out the importance of the distinction between telic and atelic verbs since certain interpretations are limited only to one group, sometimes semantically even more restricted (telic verbs: resultative present, conative and immediative imperfect, gnomic aorist; atelic verbs: ingressive aorist, intensive perfect and pluperfect, etc.). A special sub-section focuses on the uses of the imperfect and aorist (and historical present) in narrative texts. As for the conative interpretation of the present

with telic verbs, it would be better to give an example other than that with the verb *πείθω* which moreover occurs in a relative clause (p. 413), and not in the main clause. The future indicative is seen as aspect-neutral.

The introduction to finite subordinate clauses offers a general overview of their different types and functions, paying special attention to the uses of the moods. Whereas other grammar books begin with completive clauses and finish with the most complex phenomenon, indirect discourse, CGCG surprisingly starts with a section on indirect statements, which in fact contains a treatment of completive clauses with *ὅτι* / *ὥς*, and another on subordinate clauses in indirect speech. While other grammars focus on clarifying the use of the oblique optative, CGCG is brief on this point (“The oblique optative signals that the reporter presents everything from his own temporal perspective”, p. 509), and rather concentrates on moods corresponding to those of direct speech, adding some novel ideas: These moods are considered to present “the content of the speech emphatically from the perspective of the reported speaker. As such, the construction functions as a distancing device: it may suggest that the reporter believes the reported words to be false or otherwise inappropriate, or that the reported words were of particular importance in the reported speech situation...”. Note: Examples (26), (27), (28) on p. 510 contain matrix verbs of knowledge (*ἔγνων*, *ἐπιστάμενος*, *εἶδεν*), while the sub-section deals with verbs of speaking.

After an explanation of indirect questions and exclamations, the next passages focus on the remaining subordinate clauses: fear clauses, effort clauses, purpose clauses, result clauses, temporal clauses, causal clauses, conditional clauses (including concessive clauses), and finally relative clauses (including clauses of comparison). The description is not as exhaustive as that in Smyth, but better accessible for students. It is noteworthy that the examples illustrating the clauses are all taken from Greek original texts, translated by the authors of CGCG, and accompanied by sound explicative notes. This also holds for the detailed and well-structured treatment of the infinitive and participle. Very helpful are the five overviews, which close the section on syntax: an overview of subordinate constructions, moods, uses of *ἄν*, negatives, and *ὥς* (as conjunction, as adverb, as preposition).

The final Part III (‘Textual Coherence’, pp. 655–748) opens with a brief introduction to textual coherence, illustrated – for better understanding – by examples in English and informing the user on new concepts, hitherto untreated in Greek grammars. Their application on Greek texts is provided in section 61, presenting four sample passages (narrative, description, argument and dialogue), each with an English translation and thorough commentary. Special attention is paid to particles, which are divided into three groups: connective, attitudinal, particles of scope, and, in addition, particle combinations. The section on word order is novel and especially valuable.

To sum up: The authors of CGCG succeeded in harmonizing the traditional arrangement of the features of a Greek grammar with an up-to-date approach and new findings in (Greek) linguistics. CGCG is an excellent tool that should reside in any Classics library and on the bookshelves of every earnest student of ancient Greek. I believe it will be the reference grammar for next one hundred years.

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