

GRE4101 (Gresk grammatikk III): Eksamen, høsten 2018 (12.12.2018):

Sensorveiledning

Emnebeskrivelse: <https://www.uio.no/studier/emner/hf/ifikk/GRE4101/index.html>

Course content: The principal goal of this course is to practice the student's ability to translate from Norwegian or English into Ancient Greek. Students are supposed to acquire (and improve) their composition practice by translating – and eventually writing – ‘fluently’, that is, not only single sentences, but a coherent piece of prose. To achieve this end, a particular focus lies on teaching how to build up complex periods and how to combine sentences (use of particles etc.). Idiomatically correct Attic prose should be achieved; the main models are provided by authors such as Lysias, Demosthenes, Isocrates, Xenophon, and Plato. By learning how to compose idiomatically correct Attic prose, students will also learn – and eventually absorb – some of the most fundamental differences between Ancient Greek and Norwegian/English.

In autumn 2018 the course was co-taught by Profs. Silvio Bär and Boris Maslov. The main focus of the course was on translating from English into Attic prose, whereby translations of originally Greek texts (Lysias, Xenophon) were used as well as texts originally written in English (e.g. exercises from Sidgwick's *Introduction to Greek Composition*, or – one one occasion – a translation of an excerpt from a Harry Potter novel). The second part of the class was dedicated to the style of Demosthenes and Isocrates; assignments included translation of specially prepared sentences designed to be easily imitable with the use of constructions from particular sections of Demosthenes *Or.* 18 and Isocrates's *Panegyrikos*, as well as transposition of stylistically alien passages into the style of these authors. The teaching language was partly English, partly Norwegian; the exam was in English by request of the student.

The exam consisted of a translation of the first four paragraphs of Lysias' speech “On the Property of Eraton” (*oratio* xvii, §§ 1-4). The Loeb translation by W.R.B. Lamb was used because it provides good English, and not ‘Greek translated into English’ – thus, the student is compelled to ‘think Greek’ when translating from English into Greek.

One aspect for marking the exam is the number of significant mistakes (wrong morphological forms, syntactic incoherence, omission of part of the assigned text, etc.). The following

scheme is used: 0–3 mistakes: A // 4–6 mistakes: B // 7–9 mistakes: C // 10–12 mistakes: D // 13–15: mistakes: E // more than 15 mistakes: F.

On the other hand, as pointed out in the course description above, idiomatically correct Attic prose is the goal to be achieved. What is idiomatically correct cannot always be measured in actual mistakes; therefore, a translation may, for example, come with few or even no actual mistakes, but still go low on the side of idiomacy; on the other hand, a translation may contain some formal mistakes, but still be brilliant when it comes to idiomacy. The above-mentioned scheme is therefore used with a sense of proportion in relation to the overall idiomacy.

The following list provides some of the most important aspects that distinguish an idiomatically appropriate text in Attic prose:

- Sentences should always be connected (use of particles), even if this seems unnecessary from the point of view of the source language.
- English nominal phrases should be verbalized in Greek whenever possible.
- As a thumb rule, a complex Greek clause consists of *one* main verb which conveys the ‘principal statement’, whereas the rest of the sentence ‘revolves’ around the main verb (by use of subordinate clauses and/or participle constructions).
- Redundant expressions in the source language should be tracked down and simplified or even eliminated in Greek.
- Abstract subjects should be avoided for the sake of concrete subjects.
- A good Greek prose text reads naturally and fluently and should not need to be read several times before it can be understood.
- The claim for Attic prose is to be taken seriously. Unattic forms and unattic/unprosaic vocabulary is to be avoided (e.g. -ττ- instead of -σσ-; no words/phrases that are recorded solely in poetry and/or solely in Ionic prose).

Prof. Silvio Bär and Boris Maslov, 15.11.2018