



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

The old Greek of Isaiah : an analysis of its pluses and minuses

Vorm-Croughs, M. van der

Citation

Vorm-Croughs, M. van der. (2010, November 10). *The old Greek of Isaiah : an analysis of its pluses and minuses*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/16135>

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/16135>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

The Old Greek of Isaiah:
An Analysis of its Pluses and Minuses

Mirjam van der Vorm-Crouchs

The Old Greek of Isaiah:
An Analysis of its Pluses and Minuses

PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van
de graad van Doctor aan de Universiteit Leiden,
op gezag van Rector Magnificus prof. mr. P.F. van der Heijden,
volgens besluit van het College voor Promoties
te verdedigen op 10 november 2010
klokke 16.15 uur

door

Mirjam van der Vorm-Croughs

geboren te Goes
in 1978

Promotiecommissie

Promotor: Prof. dr. A. van der Kooij

Overige leden: Prof. dr. J. Lust (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)
Dr. J. Magliano-Tromp
Prof. dr. T. Muraoka
Prof. dr. E. Tov (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

The work reported here was supported by the Council for the Humanities, which is part of the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO).

CONTENTS

Preface	xi
Abbreviations	xiii

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION 1

1.1 A brief survey of studies on the Septuagint of Isaiah	2
1.2 A survey of studies on pluses and minuses in the Septuagint	9
1.3 How to establish pluses and minuses in a translation	11
1.3.1 Defining “plus” and “minus”; “addition” and “omission”	11
1.3.2 Segmentation of the source text	12
a. Translation at word level	13
b. Translation at phrase level	14
c. Translation at clause level	15
d. Rearrangement	16
1.3.3 The limits of a quantitative approach	20
1.4 <i>Vorlage</i> or translator?	21
1.5 An outline of this study and a discussion of the method of analysis	22

CHAPTER 2. DOUBLE TRANSLATION 25

2.1 Introduction	25
2.1.1 Terminology	25
2.1.2 Various explanations of doublets in the Septuagint	26
2.2 Doublets and double translations in LXX Isaiah	26
2.3 The two renderings are joined in coordination	28
a. Two coordinate renderings reflect a similar interpretation of the Hebrew	28
b. Two coordinate renderings reflect distinct readings or interpretations of the Hebrew	32
2.4 The two Greek renderings are in genitival relationship	34
a. Two renderings in genitival relationship reflect a similar interpretation of the Hebrew	34
b. Two renderings in genitival relationship reflect distinct readings or interpretations of the Hebrew	35
2.5 Two renderings of one Hebrew expression form different grammatical units within the same sentence	36
a. Two renderings forming different grammatical units reflect a similar interpretation of one Hebrew expression	36
b. Two renderings forming different grammatical units reflect distinct readings or interpretations of one Hebrew expression	37
2.6 One Hebrew expression is used again in a preceding or following clause	43
2.6.1 A Hebrew expression at the end of one clause is rendered in the translation not only in the same clause but also at the beginning of the next one	44
a. The two renderings reflect a similar interpretation of the Hebrew	44
b. The two renderings reflect two different readings or interpretations of the	

CONTENTS

Hebrew	44
2.6.2 A Hebrew expression at the beginning of one clause is rendered in the translation not only in the same clause but also at the end of the preceding one	46
a. The two renderings reflect a similar interpretation of the Hebrew	46
b. The two renderings reflect two different readings or interpretations of the Hebrew	47
2.7 With a second rendering of a Hebrew phrase or clause a new clause is formed	49
a. An expression is used twice and its second rendering is formed into a new clause	49
b. One clause is turned into two clauses, which both include a rendering of the same part of the original clause	50
c. The same Hebrew clause or a large part of the clause is translated twice	51
2.8 Two Greek renderings each reflect a different aspect of one Hebrew expression	53
2.9 Repetitive rendering	53
2.9.1 Introduction	53
2.9.2 Repetitive rendering of a preposition in parallel phrases	54
2.9.3 Repetitive rendering of the subject	55
a. The subject is repeated in a (nearly) identical way	55
b. The subject is repeated by means of a synonym	55
2.9.4 Repetitive rendering of the object	56
a. The object is repeated in a (nearly) identical way	56
b. The object is repeated by means of a synonym	56
2.9.5 Repetitive rendering of the verb phrase	56
a. The verb phrase is repeated in a (nearly) identical way	56
b. The verb phrase is repeated by means of a synonym	58
2.9.6 Repetitive rendering of οὐδέ	58
2.10 Conclusion	59
 CHAPTER 3. CONDENSATION	 61
3.1 Introduction	61
3.2 The reduction of synonymous elements	61
3.2.1 The reduction of synonymous elements in coordination	61
a. The reduction of synonymous words or phrases in coordination	62
b. The omission of elements from an enumeration	63
c. Two parallel clauses are reduced to one	64
3.2.2 The reduction of synonymous elements that are not joined in coordination	67
a. The reduction of synonymous words in a construct state conjunction	67
b. Other examples of the reduction of synonymous elements that are not joined in coordination	67
3.3 The reduction of (nearly) identical elements	68
3.3.1 The reduction of (nearly) identical elements in coordination	68
3.3.2 The reduction of (nearly) identical elements that are not joined in coordination	69
3.4 Two phrases or clauses are combined into one	71
3.4.1 Two phrases are combined into one	71
3.4.2 Two clauses are combined into one	72

CONTENTS

3.5	The cancelling of paronomasia	74
3.6	Distributive rendering	75
3.6.1	Distributive rendering in parallel phrases	75
a.	Distributive rendering of the possessive pronoun	76
b.	Distributive rendering of a substantive noun	76
c.	Distributive rendering of the preposition	76
3.6.2	Distributive rendering in parallel clauses	77
a.	Distributive rendering of the subject	77
b.	Distributive rendering of the object	78
c.	Distributive rendering of the verb phrase	79
d.	The parallel clause merely mentions the adjective, omitting the noun to which it refers	82
3.7	A single Greek rendering represents two Hebrew expressions, reflecting the location of the one and the syntactical function or content of the other	82
3.8	Conclusion	83
CHAPTER 4. EXPLICITATION		85
4.1	Introduction	85
4.2	Explicitation through the addition of an attribute	86
4.2.1	The addition of a substantive noun or pronoun in the genitive	87
a.	The addition of a pronoun in the genitive	87
b.	The addition of a substantive noun in the genitive	89
4.2.2	The addition of an adjective	90
4.2.3	The addition of a demonstrative	91
4.2.4	The addition of an apposition	91
a.	The addition of a divine title	91
b.	The addition of an apposition to geographical names	92
4.3	The addition of πᾶς, ὅλος and ἅμα	93
4.4	Explicitation of the subject	95
4.4.1	The “addition” of a pronominal subject	95
4.4.2	The “addition” of a nominal subject	98
4.5	Explicitation through the addition of an object	99
4.5.1	The addition of a pronominal object	99
4.5.2	The addition of a nominal object	103
4.6	Explicitation through the addition of a verb phrase	104
4.6.1	The Hebrew text supposes a form of “to be”	104
a.	The addition of a form of εἰμί or γίνομαι	105
b.	The addition of a verb replacing “to be”	106
4.6.2	The addition of an infinitive	107
4.6.3	The addition of a form of λέγω to introduce direct speech	107
4.7	The addition of a pleonastic noun	108
4.8	Explicitation without the occurrence of a plus	109
4.9	Conclusion	109

CHAPTER 5. IMPLICITATION	111
5.1 Introduction	111
5.2 Implication through the omission of an attribute	112
5.2.1 The omission of a nominal suffix	112
5.2.2 The omission of the governed noun in a genitival relationship	113
5.2.3 The omission of an apposition	113
a. The omission of a divine name	113
b. The omission of other appositions	115
5.3 The omission of the governing noun in a genitival relationship	115
5.3.1 The omitted governing noun consists of the name for a body part	116
5.3.2 The omitted governing noun consists of a word other than a body part	117
5.4 The omission of כל, יחד and רב	118
5.5 Implication of the subject	120
5.5.1 The omission of a pronominal subject	120
5.5.2 The omission of a nominal subject	121
5.6 Implication by the omission of an object	122
5.6.1 The omission of a pronominal object	122
5.6.2 The omission of a nominal object	124
5.7 Implication without the occurrence of a minus	124
5.8 Conclusion	124
 CHAPTER 6. THE ADDITION AND OMISSION OF PARTICLES	 127
6.1 The copulative conjunctions καί and ו	127
6.2 Particles forming a plus	127
6.2.1 Conjunctive particles	127
a. γάρ	128
b. ὅτι	130
c. δέ	131
d. ἀλλά	132
6.2.2 Particles of comparison	132
6.2.3 Other particles	134
a. νῦν	134
b. τότε	135
c. δῆ	136
6.3 Particles forming a minus	136
6.3.1 כִּי	136
6.3.2 כִּי	137
6.3.3 כִּי	137
6.3.4 כִּי	137
6.4 Conclusion	137
 CHAPTER 7. PLUSES AND MINUSES CREATING OR IMPROVING RHETORICAL FIGURES	 139
7.1 LXX Isaiah and classical rhetoric	139

CONTENTS

7.2	Division of figures	141
7.3	Word figures of addition	142
7.3.1	Repetition	142
7.3.1.1	Repetition of the same words	142
a.	Inclusio	143
b.	Anaphora	145
c.	Epiphora	150
d.	Reduplicatio	157
e.	Other forms of repetition of the same words	157
7.3.1.2	Repetition of words with relaxed word-equivalence	164
a.	Annominatio	164
b.	Polypoton and derivatio	166
c.	Synonymia	166
7.3.2	Accumulation	169
7.3.2.1	Coordinating accumulation	169
a.	Enumeratio	169
b.	Distributio	172
7.3.2.2	Subordinating accumulation	174
a.	Epitheton	174
b.	Polysyndeton	174
7.4	Word figures of Omission (detractio)	176
a.	Ellipsis	176
b.	Zeugma	177
c.	Asyndeton	178
7.5	Word figures of transposition (figurae per ordinem)	181
7.5.1	Parallelism	181
a.	Parallelism at clause level	182
b.	Parallelism at word or phrase level	190
c.	Parallelism between the beginning lines of successive sections	192
7.5.2	Tricolon	192
a.	Tricolon at clause level	192
b.	Tricolon at word or phrase level	194
7.5.3	Chiasmus	194
a.	Chiasmus at clause level	195
b.	Chiasmus at word or phrase level	198
7.5.4	Conclusion to 7.5	198
7.6	Repetition of clauses: the refrain	199
7.7	The deletion of rhetorical figures	201
7.8	Conclusion	204
CHAPTER 8.	ANAPHORIC TRANSLATION	205
8.1	Introduction	205
8.1.1	Terminology	205
8.1.2	How did elements from other Biblical texts enter the translation?	206
8.1.3	Different levels of influence	208

CONTENTS

8.2	The adoption of elements from the near context: LXX Isaiah's pluses and minuses caused by contextual harmonisation and exegesis	209
8.2.1	Contextual harmonisation in LXX Isa 36–39	209
8.2.1.1	Contextual harmonisation in LXX Isa 36	210
8.2.1.2	Contextual harmonisation in LXX Isa 37	214
8.2.1.3	Contextual harmonisation in LXX Isa 38	216
8.2.1.4	Contextual harmonisation in LXX Isa 39	217
8.2.1.5	Pluses and minuses strengthening the internal ties between LXX Isa 36–39	218
8.2.1.6	Conclusion to 8.2.1	220
8.2.2	Contextual harmonisation in LXX Isa 44:14–19	221
8.2.3	Other examples of contextual harmonisation and exegesis in LXX Isaiah	222
8.2.4	Conclusion to 8.2	232
8.3	The adoption of elements from passages elsewhere in Isaiah	232
8.3.1	A survey of pluses and minuses resulting from the adoption of elements from elsewhere in Isaiah	233
8.3.2	Conclusion to 8.3	249
8.4	The adoption of elements from other Biblical books	251
8.4.1	LXX Isaiah and the Pentateuch	252
8.4.1.1	Genesis	253
a.	Influence of Gen 1–3 The creation story	253
b.	Influence of Gen 11:1–9 The tower of Babel	255
c.	Influence of other texts in Genesis	257
8.4.1.2	Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy	259
a.	Influence of Deut 32:1–43: The song of Moses	259
b.	Influence of other texts in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy	263
8.4.1.3	Conclusion to 8.4.1	275
8.4.2	LXX Isaiah and the Psalms	275
8.4.2.1	An outline of pluses and minuses resulting from possible influence of the Psalms	277
8.4.2.2	Conclusion to 8.4.2	291
8.4.3	LXX Isaiah and Jeremiah	291
8.4.3.1	Influence of Jer 48(31) on Isa 15 and 16	292
8.4.3.2	Influence of Jer 10 on LXX Isa 44 and 46	295
8.4.3.3	Influence of other texts in Jeremiah	297
8.4.3.4	Conclusion to 8.4.3	303
8.4.4	LXX Isaiah and Ezekiel	303
8.4.4.1	Influence of Ezek 16 and 23	304
8.4.4.2	Influence of other texts in Ezekiel	309
8.4.4.3	Conclusion to 8.4.4	314
8.4.5	LXX Isaiah and the Twelve Prophets	314
8.4.5.1	Hosea	315
8.4.5.2	Joel	317
8.4.5.3	Amos	318

CONTENTS

8.4.5.4	Obadiah	319
8.4.5.5	Micah	319
8.4.5.6	Habakkuk	321
8.4.5.7	Zephaniah	322
8.4.5.8	Conclusion to 8.4.5	323
8.4.6	Assimilation to fixed Biblical phrases	323
8.5	Conclusion	326

CHAPTER 9. FREE TRANSLATION OF HEBREW IDIOMATIC AND GRAMMATICAL FEATURES 329

9.1	Introduction	329
9.2	The translation of the asyndetic relative clause	330
9.3	The formation of a relative clause to replace a Hebrew construct state	333
9.4	The omission of the retrospective pronoun or adverb in the relative clause	334
9.5	The omission of the genitive pronoun	336
9.6	The omission of the infinitive absolute	341
9.7	Translation of semi-prepositions	345
9.7.1	Semi-prepositions with פנים	345
a.	לפני	345
b.	מפני	346
c.	מלפני	348
d.	על-פני	348
9.7.2	Semi-prepositions with עינים	348
a.	בעיני	348
b.	לעיני	348
9.7.3	Semi-prepositions with יד	349
a.	ביד	349
b.	מיד	350
c.	תחת ידך	351
9.7.4	Semi-prepositions with קרב	351
a.	בקרב	351
b.	מקרב	352
9.7.5	Semi-prepositions with תוך	352
a.	בתוך	352
b.	מתוך	352
9.7.6	Conclusion to 9.7	353
9.8	The omission of Hebrew idiomatic expressions and formulae	353
9.8.1	The omission of לאמר	353
9.8.2	The omission of הן (ו)הנה and הן	354
a.	הנה	354
b.	הן	357
9.8.3	The omission of נא	357
9.8.4	The omission of בן in indications of descent	358
9.8.5	The omission of בן when used with a meaning other than “son”	358
9.9	Conclusion	359

CHAPTER 10. SOME OTHER FACTORS THAT MAY HAVE MOTIVATED THE TRANSLATOR TO ADD OR OMIT ELEMENTS	361
10.1 Additions and omissions related to the translator's supposed deficient understanding of the Hebrew	361
10.2 Additions and omissions related to the translator's "improvement" or deletion of obscure or (seemingly) "incorrect" Hebrew	365
10.3 Additions and omissions related to ideological or theological considerations	367
10.3.1 Additions and omissions related to the translator's nationalistic attitude	367
10.3.2 Additions and omissions related to the translator's image of God	368
10.3.3 Additions and omissions in the context of pagan or mythological elements	371
10.4 Conclusion	372
 CHAPTER 11. PLUSES AND MINUSES CAUSED BY TRANSLATION MISTAKES	 373
11.1 Haplography	373
11.2 Parablepsis	374
11.3 Other possible cases of translational errors	375
11.4 Conclusion	376
 CHAPTER 12. PLUSES AND MINUSES CAUSED BY A DIFFERENT VORLAGE	 377
12.1 Introduction	377
12.2 A plus or minus can not be explained by one of the translation tendencies LXX Isaiah displays	378
Large minuses in LXX Isaiah	380
12.3 The plus or minus has a parallel in one of the Qumran manuscripts	383
12.3.1 Pluses and minuses which LXX Isaiah shares with 1QIsa ^a	383
12.3.1.1 Pluses which LXX Isaiah shares with 1QIsa ^a	384
12.3.1.2 Minuses which LXX Isaiah shares with 1QIsa ^a	393
12.3.1.3 Conclusion to 12.3.1	400
12.3.2 Pluses and minuses which LXX Isaiah shares with Isaianic Qumran manuscripts other than 1QIsa ^a	402
12.3.2.1 Pluses which LXX Isaiah shares with Isaianic Qumran manuscripts other than 1QIsa ^a	403
12.3.2.2 Minuses which LXX Isaiah shares with Isaianic Qumran manuscripts other than 1QIsa ^a	403
12.4 Conclusion	404
 CHAPTER 13. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	 405
 Bibliography	 411

PREFACE

It is a pleasure to thank those without whom it would have been impossible for me to finish this dissertation. I would like to express my gratitude to Professor T. Muraoka, who, some ten years ago, inspired me to study the Septuagint of Isaiah. I am also much indebted to Dr. W. Th. van Peursen for his advice on section 1.3.2 of this study. Special thanks are due to Helen Richardson-Hewitt for the many hours she spent on correcting the English of this book. Lastly, I thank all those who supported me in any respect during the completion of the project, in particular my husband, Matthijs van der Vorm. This dissertation is dedicated to him, and to our two sons, Michiel and Boaz.

ABBREVIATIONS

1QIsa ^a	1QIsaiah ^a
LXX	The Septuagint version of the Hebrew Bible
MT	The Masoretic Text
AASF	Annales Academiae scientiarum fennicae
AAWG	Abhandlungen der Akademie der Wissenschaften in Göttingen
ABD	<i>Anchor Bible Dictionary</i> . Edited by D. N. Freedman. 6 vols. New York, 1992
AGJU	Arbeiten zur Geschichte des antiken Judentums und des Urchristentums
ATA	Alttestamentliche Abhandlungen
BDB	Brown, F., S. R. Driver, and C. A. Briggs. <i>A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament. With an Appendix Containing the Biblical Aramaic</i> . Oxford, 1979
BDR	Blass, F., A. Debrunner, and F. Rehkopf. <i>Grammatik des neutestamentlichen Griechisch</i> . 17 th ed. Göttingen, 1990
BETL	Bibliotheca ephemeridum theologicarum lovaniensium
BHS	<i>Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia</i> . Edited by K. Elliger and W. Rudolph. Stuttgart, 1983
<i>Bib</i>	<i>Biblica</i>
BIOSCS	<i>Bulletin of the International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies</i>
BGNTL	Baker's Greek New Testament Library
BKAT	Biblischer Kommentar, Altes Testament. Edited by M. Noth and H. W. Wolff
BWAT NF	Beiträge zur Wissenschaft vom Alten Testament, Neue Folge
BZAW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft
CATSS	Computer Assisted Tools for Septuagint Studies
CBET	Contributions to Biblical Exegesis and Theology
CBQMS	Catholic Biblical Quarterly Monograph Series
ConBOT	Coniectanea biblica: Old Testament Series
COuT	Commentaar op het Oude Testament
DJD	Discoveries in the Judaean Desert
DSD	<i>Dead Sea Discoveries</i>
<i>EncJud</i>	<i>Encyclopaedia Judaica</i> . 16 vols. Jerusalem, 1972
ETL	<i>Ephemerides theologicae lovanienses</i>
FAT	Forschungen zum Alten Testament
FIEC	Fédération internationale des associations d'études classiques
GKC	<i>Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar</i> . Edited by E. Kautzsch. Translated by A. E. Cowley. 2 nd ed. Oxford, 1910
GTS	Gettysburg Theological Studies
HALOT	Koehler, L., W. Baumgartner, and J. J. Stamm. <i>The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> . Translated and edited under the

ABBREVIATIONS

	supervision of M. E. J. Richardson. 2 vols. Leiden, 2001
HdA	Handbuch der Altertumswissenschaft
HKAT	Handkommentar zum Alten Testament
HUB	Hebrew University Bible
<i>HUB Isa</i>	Goshen-Gottstein, M. H. <i>The Book of Isaiah</i> . Jerusalem, 1995
<i>HUCA</i>	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
ICA	Initiations au christianisme ancien
ICC	International Critical Commentary
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JBS	Jerusalem Biblical Studies
<i>JBTh</i>	<i>Jahrbuch für Biblische Theologie</i>
Jouön	Jouön, P. <i>A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew</i> . Translated and revised by T. Muraoka. 2 vols. Subsidia biblica 14/1–2. Rome, 1991.
<i>JQR</i>	<i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i>
JSJSup	Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic, and Roman Periods: Supplements
<i>JSOT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
JSOTSup	Journal for the Study of the Old Testament: Supplement Series
JTS	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
KHC	Kurzer Hand-Commentar zum Alten Testament
LD	Lectio divina
Lett	Lettinga, J. P. <i>Grammatica van het Bijbels Hebreeuws</i> . Revised by T. Muraoka with the assistance of W. Th. van Peursen. 10 th ed. Leiden, 1996.
MPIL	Monographs of the Peshitta Institute Leiden
MSU	Mitteilungen des Septuaginta-Unternehmens
MVEOL	Mededeelingen en verhandelingen van het Vooraziatisch-Egyptisch Gezelschap “Ex Oriente Lux”
<i>NAWG</i>	<i>Nachrichten von der Akademie der Wissenschaften in Göttingen</i>
<i>NETS</i>	<i>A New English Translation of the Septuagint</i> . New York, 2007.
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
OBO	Orbis biblicus et orientalis
OCA	Orientalia christiana analecta
OTL	Old Testament Library
<i>PAAJR</i>	<i>Proceedings of the American Academy of Jewish Research</i>
POuT	De Prediking van het Oude Testament
PSL	Perspectives on Syriac Linguistics
RB	<i>Revue bibilique</i>
SANT	Studien zum Alten und Neuen Testaments
SCS	Septuagint and Cognate Studies
SS	Studi semitici
SSN	Studia semitica neerlandica
STDJ	Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah
<i>StudOr</i>	<i>Studia orientalia</i>
SubBi	Subsidia biblica
TBL	Tübinger Beiträge zur Linguistik

ABBREVIATIONS

TCT	Textual Criticism and the Translator
<i>TRu</i> , NF	<i>Theologische Rundschau</i> , Neue Folge
UCOP	University of Cambridge Oriental Publications
<i>VT</i>	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
VTSup	Vetus Testamentum: Supplements
VWGT	Veröffentlichungen der Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft für Theologie
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary
WUNT	Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament
<i>ZAW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
<i>ZVS</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für vergleichende Sprachforschung auf dem Gebiete der Indogermanischen Sprachen</i>