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Propositions pertaining to the doctoral dissertation

Studies in the Syntax of Targum Jonathan to Samuel

Renaud J. Kutty

1. The Aramaic of Targum Jonathan is essentially a Middle Aramaic dialect.

Contra J.A. Fitzmyer, *The Genesis Apocryphon of Qumran Cave I: A Commentary* (3rd edition; Rome: Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 2004), 31, note 98.

2. Targum Jonathan does not originate from Babylonia.

3. Targum Jonathan does display Eastern Aramaic influence.

Contra: G. Dalman, *Grammatik des jüdisch-palästinischen Aramäisch* (2nd edition; Leipzig: J.C. Hinrichs Verlag, 1905; reprint Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1960), 13; M.H. Goshen-Gottstein, 'The Language of Targum Onqelos and the Model of Literary Diglossia in Aramaic', *JNES* 37 (1978), 178.

4. The infinitive absolute *miqtâl* is a distinct grammatical category of the Aramaic of Targum Jonathan.

Contra S. Bombeck, *Das althebräische Verbalsystem aus aramäischer Sicht: Masoretischer Text, Targume und Peschitta* (Frankfurt am Main-Berlin-Bern-New York-Paris-Wien: Peter Lang, 1997), 19.

5. The verbal syntax of Targum Jonathan bears witness to the remarkable expansion of *qâtel* throughout the history of Aramaic.

Cf. R.J. Kutty, 'Remarks on the Use of the Participle in Targum Jonathan to Samuel', forthcoming in: H. Gzella & M.L. Folmer (eds.), *Aramaic in its Historical and Linguistic Setting* (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz).

6. The construct relation is the default genitive construction in the Aramaic of Targum Jonathan.

Cf. R.J. Kutty, 'Genitive Constructions in Targum Jonathan to Samuel', *Aramaic Studies* 5.1 (2007), 111-131.

7. From a syntactic viewpoint, Qumran Aramaic as documented in the *Genesis Apocryphon* is strikingly similar to the Aramaic of Targum Jonathan to Samuel.

8. A. Sperber's contention that the grammatical treatment of ancient Bible translations can dispense with a chapter on syntax is arguable only insofar as matters of word order are concerned.

Cf. A. Sperber, 'How to edit the Septuagint', in: Saul Lieberman *et al.* (eds.), *Harry Austrin Wolfson Jubilee Volume on the Occasion of His Seventy-fifth Birthday*, English vol. II (Jerusalem, 1965), 764ff.

9. The history of research in Aramaic linguistics shows that quantitative analyses are bound to be inconclusive if they are not supplemented by adequate qualitative treatments of the data.

10. Of all International Auxiliary Languages ever conceived, Danish Prof. Otto Jespersen's *Novial* is one of the most successful at preserving the delicate balance between systematicity and naturalness.

Cf. O. Jespersen, *An International Language* (London: Allen & Unwin, 1928).

11. The regular practice of *Sudoku* is an excellent way to prepare for a Ph.D. program; the regular reading of *Asterix* (Goscinny & Uderzo) an excellent way to survive it.