

Reporting Speech

Direct and Indirect Discourse

A lesson for the *Paideia* web-app

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Reporting Speech in English

- Direct discourse
 - We quote the speaker's words
 - We use quotation marks
 - Quoted words are from the speaker's point of view
- Indirect discourse
 - Introduced by "that"
 - Original speaker's words are summarized or re-stated
 - Words are from the summarizer's point of view



Reporting Speech in English

- Direct discourse
 - Kelly said "I want a sandwich."
 - Kalid replied "How about tuna?"
 - "That would be fine" Kelly answered.
- Indirect discourse
 - Kelly said that she wanted a sandwich.
 - Kalid replied that tuna might be good.
 - Kelly said that tuna would be fine.



Reporting Speech in Greek

- Greek didn't have quotation marks
- Both direct and indirect discourse introduced using **ὅτι**
 - **Direct discourse**
 - Often **ὅτι** is the equivalent of quotation marks
 - What follows is quoted speech
 - Conjunction left untranslated

Ἰησους **εἶπε** **ὅτι** [**εἰμι** **ὁ** **κυριος** **σου**].

Jesus said "I am your master."



Reporting Speech in Greek

- Greek didn't have quotation marks
- Both direct and indirect discourse introduced using **ὅτι**
 - Direct discourse
 - Indirect discourse
 - Ὅτι translated with "that"
 - No quotation marks

Ἰησοῦς εἶπε ὅτι [κύριος αὐτῆς εἶ].

Jesus said that he is her master.



Is It Direct or Indirect Discourse?

- Is the first letter of the speech capitalized?
 - Modern Greek editions may mark direct discourse by capitalizing the first letter.



Is It Direct or Indirect Discourse?

- Is the first letter of the speech capitalized?
- Do the pronouns reflect the original speaker's point of view?
 - Direct discourse
 - Speaker as **ἐγώ** or **ἡμεῖς** (1st person)
 - Original addressees as **σύ** or **ὕμεῖς** (2nd person)
 - Indirect discourse
 - Pronouns shifted to the 3rd person (**αὐτός** or **αὐτοί**)



Is It Direct or Indirect Discourse?

- Is the first letter of the speech capitalized?
- Do the pronouns reflect the original speaker's point of view?
- Does the person of the verbs reflect the original speaker's point of view?
 - **Direct discourse**
 - Actions of the original speaker in 1st person
 - Actions of the original addressees in 2nd person
 - **Indirect discourse**
 - Verbs be shifted to the 3rd person



2 Catches with Indirect Discourse

- Indirect discourse doesn't "correct" the verb's tense
 - English: shifts original speaker's verb tense
 - Greek: keeps original verbs tense
 - person changes (to 3rd p.) but not tense

	Direct	Indirect
English	He said "I am your Lord."	He said he was her Lord.
Greek	Εἶπεν ὅτι ἐγώ εἰμι κυριος σου.	Εἶπεν ὅτι αὐτος ἐστίν κυριος αὐτης.



2 Catches with Indirect Discourse

- Indirect discourse doesn't "correct" the verb's tense
- Indirect discourse sometimes replaces indicative verbs with infinitives
 - No parallel for this in English
 - Treat them as if they were regular indicative verbs
 - person and number inferred from context

Indirect

English

He said he was her Lord.

Greek

Εἶπεν αὐτός εἶναι κυριος αὐτῆς.



Keep Learning

- You can learn more about ways of reporting speech in Greek here:
 - Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek* (3rd edition)
 - Direct and indirect discourse, 32.18-32.22 (pp. 307-308)
 - Rod Decker has a great pdf handout on the topic here
 - <http://ntresources.com/blog/?p=1226>

