Guidelines for Articles for The Thucydides lexicon

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Requirements for authoring articles

Completion of one 3000 level Greek class with honors grade (ideally one class partially on Thucycides)

Use of Excel (create spreadsheet, add columns, sort data, transfer to textfile)

Use of Bétant, commentaries (German very helpful for Cl-St and Krueger, Latin for Bétant and Poppo)

Use of Bibliography when available (in a separate field on the spreadsheet)

When you start an article:

(In choosing groups of articles to write, look for related ones: e. g. all the compounded forms of πέμπω (περιπέμπω, ἐπιπέμπω, etc.), or synonyms whose distinctions need to be noted (e. g. ἀγείρω, ἀθροίζω, ἐκλέγω))

I. Note the number of occurrences of your lemma: the detailed instructions and possible complex organization below will apply mostly to words that occur more than 25 times (which covers ca 9% of the lemmata in Thucydides).

Lemmata that occur 2-4 times (ca 29%) will require only a very brief article,

Those that occur 5-25 times (ca 24%) will require something in between. (By the way, the above statistics include names, for which we are not supplying articles at this stage)

(We will not be writing lemmata that occur only one time (ca. 40%) at this stage.)

II. Put your initials in the column “In progress article” (AN) on the master spreadsheet

III. Learn to use the article builder

<https://lexeis.org/thucydides/#/tools>

and download the csv export of your lemma into an excel spreadsheet (where you can add columns to make notes on constructions, meaning, and organization for sorting for your final article).

General:

By all means consult different lexica, commentaries and translation, but:

--\*\*Do NOT copy verbatim any other sources for your definitions or organization; if you feel you can ONLY use another definition, credit it, e. g. to LSJ

\*\*--Do NOT copy verbatim any full phrases or sentences from another translation (or at least credit the source)

Features to note for Organization and differentiation of meanings

Verbs

Active vs middle (sometimes middle is more basic) (separate passive uses [sometimes same form as middle] at end, they are rarely basic but mostly derivations from the others

Occasionally different tenses will allow different meanings

Different constructions

----acc obj (are there patterns of semantic categories? collect exx) or other cases

----prep phrases

----complementary infinitive

----subordinate constructions

Nouns

--note patterns that occur in dependent genitives, accompanying verbs, preposition phrases or other constructions

--Different semantic spheres should often be grouped together (e. g. ἀρχή political vs imperial vs. military)

English definitions:

--definitions should be concise, preferably single words or at most short phrases

--definitions should be standard expressive contemporary English (avoid the 19th century formality of Crawley's translation)

--feel free to give several synonyms (I use thesaurus.com) with commas to express different possible nuances of the word in English, and semicolons for different categories: e. g.: “βίαιος brutal; disagreeable, obnoxious; bellicose, hawkish”

Principles for final organization

--do not make the outline more complex than it needs to be, many times no "II"(second major category) will be necessary. (See above on checking the number of occurrences before you start)

--do NOT simply follow their order of appearance in the text--this is unlikely to yield a coherent outline

--Start if possible with the most clearly derived (deducible from the stem) and most frequent meaning (if they are not the same (e. g. ἄρχω "begin" and "command"), start with the most clearly derived

--Different semantic spheres should often be grouped together (e. g. ἄρχω political vs military vs. military as noted above)

--Isolated and non-standard uses should be kept for the end of the whole article, unless it seems clearer to append them to individual sections

Key passages:

Give in full only if they contain other words which clarify their meaning, notable with synonyms or antonyms) otherwise just give significant individual words, like frequent direct objects, in the basic listing). Best to read some completed articles and note the key passages given there.

\*\*Make your own translations, using the meanings given in the article (if you must use another translation--unlikely to be consistent with your article-- give the source)

Translate them precisely: don't add any words, don't leave any words out (or use ellipses in both Greek and English for conciseness)

When you finish an article:

Download the article and place it in the "Articles for lemmata" folder as a textfile

--Put your initials and date in the “complete article (column AM) in the master spreadsheet

--enter a condensed form of definitions only (with some qualifications in parentheses if helpful) in the “short Thuc definition” (Column D) for your lemma. To separate major categories within your lemma use a semicolon, e. g. ἄρχω begin; rule, govern, command