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THE

PRINCIPLES

OF

LATIN SYNTAX.

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THE

PRINCIPLES OF LATIN SYNTAX;

OR THE

CONSTRUCTION OF WORDS IN SENTENCES.

A SENTENCE is any judgment of the mind expressed by two or more words put together; as, "*I read*," "*The boy reads Virgil*."

That part of grammar which teaches to put words rightly together in sentences is called SYNTAX, or Construction.

Words in sentences have a twofold relation to one another; namely, that of *Concord*, or agreement, and that of *Government*, or influence.

Concord is when one word agrees with another in certain common accidents; as in gender, number, person, or case.

Government is when one word requires another to be put in a certain case or mood.

General Principles of Syntax.

1. In every sentence there must be a verb and a nominative case.
2. Every adjective must have a substantive expressed or understood.
3. All the cases of Latin nouns, except the nominative and the vocative, must be governed by some other word.
4. The Genitive is governed by a noun-substantive expressed or understood.
5. The Dative is governed by adjectives and verbs.
6. The Accusative is governed by an active verb, or by a preposition; or is placed before the Infinitive.
7. The Vocative stands by itself, or has an interjection joined with it.
8. The Ablative is governed by a preposition expressed or understood.
9. The Infinitive is often governed by some verb or adjective.

All sentences are either simple or compound. Syntax may therefore be divided into two parts, according to the general division of sentences.

Syntax of Simple Sentences.

A SIMPLE SENTENCE is that which has but one nominative and one finite verb, that is, a verb in any mood but the infinitive.

In a simple sentence there is but one *Subject* and one *Attribute* or *Predicate*.

LATIN SYNTAX.

The *Subject* is the word which marks the person or thing spoken of.

The *Attribute* or *Predicate* expresses that which we affirm concerning the subject.

"*The boy reads his lesson.*" Here "*the boy*" is the *subject* of discourse, or the person spoken of; "*reads his lesson*" is the *attribute*, or what we affirm concerning the subject.

"*The diligent boy reads his lesson carefully at home.*" Here we have still the same *subject*, "*the boy*," marked by the quality of "*diligent*" added to it; and the same *attribute*, "*reads his lesson*," with the circumstances of manner and place subjoined, "*carefully at home.*"

Construction by Concord.

I. Substantives applied to the same person or thing agree in case.

II. Every finite verb has a nominative case before it, with which it agrees in number and person.

Obs. 1. A singular noun which signifies more than one, or two singulars, are equivalent to a plural, and may have a plural verb.

Obs. 2. A sentence may sometimes be the nominative case to a verb.

III. Every adjective, participle, and possessive pronoun, agrees with its noun in case, gender, and number.

Obs. A sentence may be the substantive to an adjective.

IV. The Infinitive Mood agrees with the accusative case which comes before it.

Obs. The Infinitive Mood is sometimes the nominative to a verb, or the substantive to an adjective. It is still oftener governed by verbs and adjectives.

Construction by Government.

I. CASES.

The NOMINATIVE case

1. Comes before verbs, expressing the subject of their affirmation.
2. Follows verbs,
 - a. Of *being*; as, *sum, fio, existo.*
 - b. Of *gesture*; as, *sto, sedeo, ambulo.*
 - c. Of *being called or esteemed*; as, *nominor, appellor, &c., habeor, existimor, &c.*

The GENITIVE case

1. Is the latter of two nouns.
2. Follows adjectives,
 - a. Alone in the neuter gender.
 - b. Partitive, indefinite, interrogative, numeral, verbal.
 - c. Comparative and superlative with the sign *of*.
 - d. Signifying *desire, knowledge, remembrance, &c.*, and their contraries.

3. Follows participles when deprived of their signification of time.
4. Comes after verbs—
 - a. *Sum*, signifying *possession, duty, office*, except *meum, tuum*, &c.
 - b. Of *esteeming*, expressing the *price, value*.
 - c. Of *accusing, acquitting, admonishing, condemning*, expressing the *crime*.

N.B. This construction is sometimes in the *ablative*.

- d. *Satago, misereor, reminiscor, obliviscor, egeo, indigeo, potior*.
- e. Some impersonals; as, *interest* and *refert* (except *meâ, tuâ*, &c.); also *miseret, miserescit, pudet, piget*.
5. Follows certain adverbs of time, place, and quantity.

Obs. The gerund in *di* is a verbal noun in the genitive case, having the governing power of its verb.

The DATIVE case

1. Is put acquisitively after adjectives and verbs denoting *advantage* or *disadvantage*.
2. Follows certain individual verbs, viz.
 - a. *Sum*, with its compounds, except *possum*.
 - b. Verbs compounded with *bene, satis, male*; also with *præ, ad, con, sub, ante, post, ob, in, inter*.
3. Is doubled after the following verbs, viz. *deputo, do, duco, habeo, sum, tribuo, verto*.
4. Expresses the *agent* after verbal adjectives; and sometimes after verbs and participles passive.

The ACCUSATIVE case

1. Comes before the infinitive mood.
2. Is governed by certain prepositions [understood before substantives which follow adjectives].
3. Follows verbs transitive.
4. Is doubled after verbs of *asking, teaching, clothing, admonishing, concealing*.

Obs. The gerund in *dum* is a verbal noun in the nom. or acc.; the supine in *um* in the acc.,—having each the governing power of its verb.

The VOCATIVE case is put independently; sometimes an interjection is prefixed.

The ABLATIVE case is governed by certain prepositions expressed or understood.

A preposition is understood:

1. *After*

- a. Verbs of *traffic*, also of *comparing, exceeding, abounding, wanting, filling, emptying*, &c.; sometimes of *accusing, acquitting, and condemning*.
- b. Certain particular verbs, viz. *fungor, fruor, utor, vescor, dignor, muto, communico, supersedeo, potior*.
- c. Adjectives signifying *fulness* and *emptiness, plenty* and *want*; also comparatives which take the sign *than* after them; and to express the measure of excess.
- d. Certain particular adjectives and participles, viz. *dignus, indignus*,

præditus, captus, contentus, extorris, fretus, liber. After *natus, prognatus, satus, cretus, creatus, ortus, editus*, the preposition is sometimes expressed.

2. *Before*

A noun and adjective expressing the good or ill qualities of persons and things.

Obs. This construction may be in the genitive.

3. *With*

The ablative case absolute, its sign *-ing, being, having*.

Obs. 1. The gerund in *do* is a verbal noun in the dat. or abl., with the governing power of its verb. The supine in *u* is a verbal noun in the abl., following adjectives, and having no governing power.

Obs. 2. Participles, and occasionally verbal nouns, govern the cases of their verbs.

II. CIRCUMSTANCES.

The Noun expressing

1. The *reason, cause, instrument, means, manner, or part affected*, is commonly put after verbs and adjectives in the *abl.* without a preposition.
2. The *price* is put in the *gen.* after verbs of esteeming; in the *abl.* after adjectives and verbs of traffic.
3. The *measure* is commonly put in the *acc.*, sometimes in the *abl.*
4. The time *when* is put in the *abl.*, with or without a preposition; *how long*, in the *acc.*, with or without a preposition.
5. The place *where*, if it wants the singular number, or is of the third declension, is in the *abl.*, otherwise in the *gen.*

whence, in the *abl.* } without a preposition.
whither, in the *acc.* }

Obs. The *distance* of one place from another is commonly in the *acc.*, sometimes in the *abl.*

Syntax of Compound Sentences.

A COMPOUND SENTENCE is that which has more than one noun, or than one finite verb.

A compound sentence is made up of two or more simple sentences; and is commonly called a *period*.

The parts of which a compound sentence consists are called *members* or *clauses*.

Sentences are compounded by means of RELATIVES and CONJUNCTIONS; as, "*Happy is the man who loves religion, and who practises virtue.*"

The Construction of the Relative.

The RELATIVE *qui*, in whatever case it is found, stands between two cases of the same noun; the one generally *expressed* in the clause before it, called its ante-

cedent, with which it agrees in gender and number; the other, commonly *understood* in the same clause with it, called its consequent, with which it agrees in gender, number, and case; as, *Rex, qui [rex] legitime imperat, honoratur. Rara quidem est virtus, quam [virtutem] non fortuna gubernat.*

N.B. The antecedent is sometimes understood, and the consequent expressed. Sometimes both are expressed. This last is a favourite construction with Cæsar.

The Construction of the Conjunction.

CONJUNCTIONS mark the relation and dependence of sentences and clauses of sentences.

Conjunctions usually unite similar cases and moods: but,

Ex. 1. When the construction of the sentence is varied, different cases may be connected; as, *Emi librum centussi et pluris.*

Ex. 2. When the assertion of a subsequent sentence or clause is conditional or indefinite, its verb will be in the subjunctive mood.

Obs. The sign of such indefinite or conditional sense is the presence of the relative, or of certain indefinite adjectives and pronouns, or conjunctions, in a subsequent clause or sentence; as, *Nihil refert, quàm minax veniat mors, quantaque sit vis, quam in nos trahat.*

Directions for Construing.

I. Begin with

1. Adverbs of *exhorting, asking, calling*, as, *age, utinam, heus, ecce*; or of *time and place*, as, *cùm, ibi.*

If these are wanting, then with

2. Conjunctions causal, as, *nam, enim*; or illative, as *igitur, ergo*; or with
3. The voc. case.

II. Then construe the nom. case to the principal verb, with its dependents, which may be:

1. A gen. latter of two nouns.
2. Another noun in apposition.
3. An adjective, participle, or possessive pronoun.

Obs. 1. If another case follows the adjective, &c., the adjective is construed immediately after its noun; as, *Homo cupidus auri.*

Obs. 2. The nom. case to an impersonal verb is the sentence.

III. Next to the nom. and its dependents, construe the principal finite verb, with the proper signs of its mood and tense.

IV. Then construe those words which depend on the verb; viz.

1. An adverb which expresses the manner of its affirming.
Obs. The adverb and verb should be taken together.
2. An infinitive, the latter of two verbs.

3. A noun in the acc. or dat. with its dependents. Let the acc. be construed first, then the dat., if there are both. If two accusatives follow the verb, one of the person, the other of the thing, the acc. of the person is taken first; as, *Docuit eum grammaticam*. If two datives, the dat. of the thing; as, *Hoc est tibi laudi*, This is a praise to you.

V. Next construe the preposition, with its cases.

Obs. The ablative case absolute must be construed where it will best agree with the sense.

VI. The words *quis, quantus, quotus, &c.*, in whatever case, must be construed first in the sentence, because they serve to connect it directly with a former sentence or clause.

VII. Subjunctive and relative clauses must be construed in exactly the same manner.

Obs. The relative *and its clause* must be construed immediately after its antecedent, whether before or after the verb.

Aliter Latine.

Construit in primis casum sententia rectum,
 Quicquid et hinc pendet; dein verbum, quæque sequuntur.
 Proximus activo fere verbo quartus adhæret;
 Passivo rectus; suo in ordine cætera perstant.
 Pertinet ad rectum sæpe altera et altera casum
 Clausula, et ad quartum, donec sententia plena est.
 Ultima præposito sedes, vocique sequenti.
 Non sibi præstiunt impersonalia rectum;
 Pro recto casu sed adhærens clausula servit,
 Nempe modus, reliquis cum vocibus, infinitus.
 Hæc voces, Qui, Quis, Qualis, Quantus, Quotus, omnes,
 Quamvis obliquæ, rectum præcedere gaudent.
 Quæ rogat, et vocat, et vetat, et demonstrat, et optat,
 Subjungitve, hanc exponat sententia primam.



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