

**THE SENTENCE
STRUCTURE OF
VIRGIL; PP. 11-69**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649328673

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ALBERT R. CRITTENDEN

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THE SENTENCE STRUCTURE OF VIRGIL

A THESIS
SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE
AND THE ARTS
OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

BY
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ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN
1911

0 3 54 12 255

PREFACE

The work which follows is based upon the proposition that since language is the result of psychological forces, any comprehensive or searching study of its phenomena must rest upon psychological principles and employ psychological methods. Functional or dynamic methods of classification have accordingly been preferred. To the possible objection that such a classification is apt to be fluctuating and variable, the reply must be made that the phenomena of language are fluctuating and variable, and a true method of investigation must conform in its nature to the nature of the subject-matter to be investigated. The starting-point of the work is found in the views of the nature of discourse set forth by the newer school of German linguists, more particularly those of Professor Wilhelm Wundt, regarding the nature of the sentence, enunciated in his *Volkerpsychologie*. As the literature of the subject is not yet accessible in English, it has seemed best to the present writer to state the fundamental principles upon which the paper is based in a somewhat detailed introduction. For most of the facts and theories stated in the Introduction, no originality is claimed.

In his own work, the writer seeks first to determine whether the peculiar character of an author's temperament manifests itself in the manner in which his thought unfolds, and whether in the case of a writer of strongly marked personal characteristics, like Virgil, these distinctive traits appear even amid the exigencies of conventional methods of expression. In the case of writers of weak literary personality, such as some of the later epic poets, and of writers whose end and

aim is mechanical imitation of the forms of expression of some great master, such personal traits may be difficult, or even impossible, to trace.

In the illustrative passages cited from various authors and especially in those cited from Virgil, the aim has been to select such as conform to the author's habitual style, rather than those which illustrate particular points. In the last section of the paper, the endeavor has been made to apply the facts discovered with respect to Virgil's style as a test of authorship in the case of the most important of the minor works which have been at various times ascribed to Virgil.

The writer has been directly indebted to but few works in the development of this investigation. Acknowledgment has been made to these in footnotes in connection with the portions of the work concerned.

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