

## Preface

A Latin grammar is an indispensable tool for Latin students who pursue study of the language past the introductory course. As soon as they start reading texts for the sake of the texts and of Roman culture, they should always have a reference work at hand to check and expand their knowledge of grammar. Beginning students can use the morphology section of this book from the start, as well as the synopsis of the use of the cases (end of chap. 9) and the introductory section on sentence structure (chap. 10).

Many of the examples are taken from texts that are frequently read in a Latin curriculum. Rereading those sentences will refresh the student's memory of that text and the Roman history and culture it embodies. The meaningful context provided by such a sentence will be a good stimulus for a correct understanding of the grammatical phenomenon.

Syntax and semantics of the sentence have become the central area of linguistics during the last half century. Sentence phenomena therefore have to be seen as such and should no longer be viewed as applied morphology. Particular emphasis is placed on the central role of the predicate in the structure of the sentence. Moreover, many constructions are to be explained not on the sentence level but on the higher level of the context. Several of them have been known for a very long time, but for the last three decades, they have been treated in a more systematic way, under the heading *textlinguistics* or *discourse studies*. In this book too, they are explicitly dealt with as supra-sentential phenomena.

Much attention has been given to a scientifically justified organization of this book based on the levels in the grammatical hierarchy and particularly on the structure of the sentence. Concepts have been explained and definitions formulated with great care; morphological, syntactic, semantic, and supra-sentential concepts have been clearly labeled as such. However, occasionally a balance had to be sought between a correct linguistic definition and current educational practice.

Presenting language structures in tables appears to be beneficial for a firm understanding. Here, scientific and didactic clarity go hand in hand. Furthermore, the user of this book will find numerous suggestions for translations whenever the English language requires a different turn for typical Latin structures.

This English edition is a slightly corrected adaptation of the original publication in Dutch. A glossary has been added in this English edition.

It is my pleasure to thank again the many Flemish high school students who forced me to make abstract concepts clear to them. Also, some

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It is to be hoped that the use of this grammar will provide as much pleasure to others as the writing of it provided to me.

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