Paratactic and Hypotactic Strategies
in the Discourse Organization of the Multilingual
Achaemenid Texts

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La presente analisi sulla connessione tra clausole nella documentazione multilingue achemenide è ancora all'inizio, tuttavia si possono già individuare alcune tendenze generali, in particolare sulle strategie paratattiche.

Come regola generale, gli autori delle diverse unità dei testi reali multilingui sembrano essere stati consapevoli degli effetti pragmatici che volevano raggiungere nella pianificazione delle frasi e sembrano aver usato con cognizione di causa e coerenza gli strumenti disponibili nelle tre lingue achemenidi per delineare gli eventi. Diversi fattori possono riflettersi nelle loro scelte: tipologia e contenuto testuale, vincoli linguistici, preferenze individuali o delle scuole scribali, accuratezza nell'organizzazione del testo. Attraverso questo nuovo tipo di analisi, possono essere individuati chiaramente anche i cambiamenti nel tempo: per esempio, nelle iscrizioni di Serse la corrispondenza parola per parola può essere considerata come un fenomeno piuttosto regolare, se comparato con le iscrizioni di Dario.

The present analysis on clause linking in the Achaemenid multilingual documentation is at its first stages, however, some general trends may already be discerned, in particular, on paratactic strategies.

As a general rule, the authors of the different units of the royal multilingual texts seem to have been aware of the pragmatic effects that they wanted to achieve in sentence planning and to have used the tools for profiling events available in the three Achaemenid languages with knowledge and consistency. Different factors may be reflected in their choices: textual typology and content, language constraints, individual or scribal school preferences, accuracy in text editing. By this new type of analysis, changes over time can also be clearly identified: e.g., in Xerxes' inscriptions a word-for-word correspondence may be considered as a rather regular phenomenon if compared with Darius' inscriptions.

1. In discourse organization, parataxis is the equipollent ranking of clauses. Hypotaxis is the unequal ranking; it presupposes a syntactic hierarchy. From a functional perspective, we may say that paratactic and hypotactic strategies offer solutions to differentiate the way of constructing the cognitive relation between two events. In a paratactic construction, both events have an autonomous profile, though, despite the apparent syntactic symmetry of a paratactic construction it may encode, and often encodes, an asymmetrical relation at the semantic-pragmatic level. In a hypotactic construction, one of the events (the dependent one) is construed in the perspective of the other (the main event), being not profiled autonomously. Special constructions and special words encoding notions of temporality, manner, and causation are used in order to signal how each clause connects to others, how the coming clause relates