Logical Categories and
Parts of Speech in
Pollux

Stelios Chronopoulos

Pollux' *Onomasticon*:
an onomasiological
dictionary without
macrostructure

Word-oriented
Structures and the
Parts-of-Speech
System

Object-oriented
Structures and
Logical/Descriptive
Categories

Mixing Structures

Logical Categories and Parts of Speech as Structuring Devices in Pollux' *Onomasticon*

CHS Biannual Research Symposium – Fall 2016

Stelios Chronopoulos

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Pollux' Onomasticon

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▶ 10 books, ca. 120.000 words

▶ written as a fluid text

▶ 2nd century CE

▶ it contains:

  ▶ lists of synonyms and

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the entry *tryphân* in Pollux 6.185

▶ headword and list of verbs, without PoS-tag

▶ *pragmata*: abstract nouns

▶ *metochai*: participles; only a remark that participles from all
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▶ *onomata*: nouns denoting persons, with the remark that there
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P. M. Roget, *Thesaurus*, entry nr. 638, from the 1936 edn.

638. Waste.—N. consumption, expenditure, exhaustion; dispersion etc. 73; ebb; leakage etc. (*exudation*) 295; loss etc. 776; wear and tear; waste; prodigality etc. 818; misuse etc. 679; wasting etc. *v.*; rubbish etc. (*useless*) 645.

mountain in labor.

v. spend, expend, use, consume, swallow up, exhaust, deplete; impoverish; spill, drain, empty; disperse etc. 73.

cast − , throw − , fling − , fritter- away; burn the candle at both ends, waste; squander etc. 818.

'waste its sweetness on the desert air;' cast -one's bread upon the waters, − pearls before swine; employ a steam engine to crack a nut, waste powder and shot, break a butterfly on a wheel; labor in vain etc. (*useless*) 645; cut a whetstone with a razor, pour water into a sieve; tilt at windmills.

leak etc. (*run out*) 295; run to waste; ebb; melt away, run dry, dry up.

Adj. wasted etc. *v.*; at a low ebb.

wasteful etc. (*prodigal*) 818; penny wise and pound foolish.

Phr. *magno conatu magnas nugas: le jeu n'en vaut pas la chandelle.*

the entry "praying and sacrificing to the gods" in Pollux 1.25–30

- ▶ the state of purity of the worshippers
- ▶ what humans do when they pray and sacrifice
- ▶ nouns for acts and processes humans do when praying and sacrificing to gods
- ▶ the word used to express a single object, the smoke that is produced from the sacrifice
- ▶ the poperties the animals brought to sacrifice should have
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the entry "dispose/sell merchandise" in Poll. 3.124–5

- ▶ verbs meaning "to sell" (without PoS tagging)
- ▶ *pragmata*
- ▶ *onomata*
- ▶ adverbs
- ▶ a special phrase used for the selling of slaves
- ▶ adjectives for slaves who have been sold several times
- ▶ verbs for sellers who sell expensive and cheap
- ▶ words to denote the place where slaves and merchandise is sold

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the entry "buy" in Poll. 3.125–7

- ▶ verbs

  - ▶ participles meaning "the buyer", which should be used instead of *onomata*

  - ▶ some *onomata*

  - ▶ *pragmata*

  - ▶ nouns and substantivized adjectives denoting 'the merchandise that is sold"

  - ▶ no adverbs for the entry "buy"

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