

It has been argued that questions about the language and dialect of Homer are treated unsystematically in the Homeric scholia. It is counter-argued in this paper that there are clear traces of a systematic approach to such questions. In particular, the paper will focus on the system devised by Aristarchus for (1) investigating anomalous accents in nouns and adjectives and (2) developing criteria for distinguishing what he describes as Atticisms in Homer. Although the evidence available in the scholia is occasionally abbreviated to the point of distortion, there is a level of consistency in the reportage that points to an ongoing general understanding of the essentials of Aristarchean methodology.

In the case of anomalous accents, Aristarchus concentrated on contexts where the melodic countour of the Homeric hexameter reached a high point in pitch, coinciding with an accent that did not match the accentuation current in Aristarchus' own time. In papyri as well as in lemmata preserved in the so-called "semi-uncial" scholia of the codex Venetus A, we find traces of a marking system that tracked the melodic countour of hexameters by marking only the high points in pitch, and it appears that Aristarchus sifted through these points in order to find occasional matches with anomalous accents (as in the case of *aguiês* vs. *aguiês*).

In the case of "Atticisms," Aristarchus juxtaposed "Aeolic" and "Doric" and even "Ionic" dialectal forms with corresponding "Attic" forms that he judged to be examples of "Koine" usage, in line with his theory that Homer's native dialect was Attic. It will be argued that Aristarchus equated Koine or "common" usage with Attic usage, and that this Aristarchean equation is still reflected in the testimony of the Homeric scholia.