

While historical, religious and certain literary aspects of the works of the first century historian Flavius Josephus have been the subject of much investigation by scholars from various fields, the character of his Greek has received considerably less attention. Aside from studies by philologists that consider Josephus' word choice (e.g. Shutt and Ladouceur), there is little in the form of linguistic studies apart from two fairly recent treatments (Redondo, Bernardi) that concern themselves only with the influence of Josephus' native Aramaic on his Greek. The influence of Latin on the Greek of Josephus, however, is usually relegated to ad hoc observations (Mason), used to draw parallels (Dubuisson), or asserted rather than proved (Brüne, Stein). By drawing on several works concerned wholly or partly with the influence of Latin on speakers of Greek (Adams, Famerie, Dubuisson and Hering), the two-fold aim of this paper has been to study 1) what sort of influence Latin had on the Greek of Josephus and 2) to what degree that influence was exercised in contrast to his native language Aramaic.

While time will not allow a full discussion of all the results, a short presentation of the more interesting examples of identified Latinisms will suffice to demonstrate the range and depth of the influence Latin exercised on Josephus' Greek. Of particular interest will be Josephus' use of the reflexive both in indirect discourse and as a substitute for the Greek middle voice in certain phrases influenced by Latin idiom as well as a few lexical Latinisms. Finally, various expressions of time, especially the dative of time 'within which' and of duration, will be considered with the intent of comparing the relative influence of Latin and Aramaic.

The results show clearly that Latin heavily influenced Josephus' Greek lexically and syntactically at every stage of his literary career, while Aramaic influence seems to have diminished with time. It is hoped that in addition to shedding light on the situation of Josephus' Greek with respect to both Aramaic and Latin influence this paper will contribute to the growing study of the influence of Latin on both native and non-native speakers of Greek who were in contact with speakers of Latin.