



DE ARTE LATINĒ SCRIBENDĪ

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Adiūmenta ēlectronica ad Latinē scribendum

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Exercitium scribendi

A Leiden professor once told me to my great surprise that the first ten, fifteen languages you learn are difficult, but afterwards it really becomes much easier.

Exercitiū scribendī explānātiō

- BS = Burkard & Schauer (ōlim Menge), *Lehrbuch der lateinischen Syntax und Semantik*.
LD = Doederlein, *Handbuch der lateinischen Synonymik*.
OLD = *Oxford Latin Dictionary*.
P1 = Pinkster, *Oxford Latin Syntax I*.
TTL = Forcellini, *Thesaurus totius Latinitatis*.
> = sibi vult ...; rescribendum est in ...
→ = dēnique scribēmus ...

a] > 'a certain' → *quīdam*. (BS § 92; P1 §§ 11.27, 11.114)

Leiden] Hīc 'Leiden' prō adiectivō valet. Īnstitūtō meō iamdiū suum est nōmen Latīnum, nempe *Acadēmīa Lugdūno-Batāva*. → *Lugdūno-Batāvus*.

professor] *professor* (ut sit argenteæ q.d. Latīnitātis). → *Professor quīdam Lugdūno-Batāvus*.

once] Nēquāquam scribendum est *semel* = 'ūnā vice (neque bis), ἄπαξ' (etiāmsī *semel* 'prius, primum' significāre potest, ut in *Quod semel dīxī, haud mūtābō* [Pl. *Bac.* 1202], *Quī semel aspexit quantum ...* [Hor. *Ep.* 1.7.96]), sed *ōlim* (= *prīdem*, BS § 156.a), *aliquandō* vel *quondam*. → *ōlim*.

told me] Prīmā speciē 'to tell' = *narrāre*, at respiciendum est quodque verbum suam habere vim: *narrāre* = 'narrātiōnem prōferre'; *arguere* = 'argūmenta prōferre, probāre' (numquam tamen + a.c.i.); *memorāre* = '(aliquid) in memoriā vocāre, (alicūius rei) mentiōnem facere'; *dīcere* = generātim (*mihi dīxit* sine dubiō rēcta est Latīnitās); h.l. autem melius etiam quadrat *affirmāre* = 'prō certō asserere', nam professor ille admodum mīra contendit. → *mihi affirmāvit*.

to my great surprise] Nihil placet *meam in/ad admirātiōnem* vel *meā admirātiōne*. Forsitan per περιφρασι: (*id*) *quod valdē mirātus sum?* At Latīnius erit: *mihi* + participium coniūctum. Cūiusnam verbī? (*Dē*)*mīrārī*? In contextū intuendī et aspiciendī nonnumquam ūsurpārī vidētur *stupere*, ut in *Quæ cum stupēns intuerer* (Cic. *Rep.* 6.18). → *mihi stupentī affirmāvit*.

first] → *prīmus*. (Quid aliud?)

ten, fifteen] > 'ten or fifteen'. Cf. *duō trēsve* (Cic. *Att.* 6.1.3; BS § 438.2) → *decem quīndecimve*.

languages] *Sermō* potius ad āctiōnem loquendī pertinet ('colloquium'; 'dialectus') → *linguæ*.

you learn] > 'that you learn': *quās discis*. Ea quæ Anglicē (Theodiscē, Batāvicē, ...) per locūtiōnem '(the) smurfing (of) smurfs' (i.e. nōmen āctiōnis/īnfinītīvus + obiectum) circumscribī possunt, aptissimē per gerundivum Latīnum redduntur: 'I like (the) writing (of) letters' *Mihi placent litteræ scribendæ*. Itidem: '(the) learning (of) languages' (= 'dominante Gerundivkonstruktion', BS § 510.5; P1 § 3.20 c) → *linguæ discendæ*.

are difficult] Cavē: linguæ nōn difficilēs *sunt*, sed studiōsō arduæ *videntur*. Sententiam nostram velut *præsēns gnōmicum*, sc. ūniversam vērītātem, reddēmus (BS § 131.4; P1 § 7.14 f-k 'timeless present'). → *difficilēs videntur*.

but ... easier] Cum lingua Latīna ab obscuritāte stilī ac sēnsūs abhorreat summamque requirat dīligentiam in rēbus exprimendīs, sententia hęc eō rescribenda est, ut fēliciter vertī possit: (a) **but afterwards ...**] > 'but *that* afterwards ...' (adhūc enim sunt verba professōris). (b) **it**] Ad quid refert prōnōmen? Debetne esse *they* (sc. linguæ)? Certē *they* nōn ad 'the first ten, fifteen languages' pertinet, ergō > 'other languages you learn afterwards'. (c) **become ... easier**] Iterum caveās: linguæ nōn faciliōrēs *fiunt* (neque enim ipsæ mūtantur), sed mītiōrēs *videntur* > 'prove to be easier'. Hanc dēnique sententiam Latīnē reddere studēbimus: **but that other languages you learn afterwards, really prove to be much easier**.

but] Prō 'but' cōpia est vocābulōrum (BS § 439; P1 § 3.25): *At* in initiō sententiā positum fortem dēnotat disiūctiōnem sēnsūs. Itidem *atquē*, etsī paulō leviōrem. Sine dubiō *sed* et ... *tamen* æquē rēcta sunt. Cum autem dē leviōre disiūctiōne agī videātur ('Prīmæ forsitan difficilēs videntur, sed aliud cūrā ...'), aptius erit ... *autem*, quod etiam in syntagmata (i.e. partēs sententiā) coniungenda valet (e.g. *primæ* ↔ *ceteræ*), sit nōn sit disiūctiō sēnsūs. Cui verbō sæpe adiungitur *quidem*, ut in *Et hæc quidem hōc modō, nihil autem ...* (Cic. *Tusc.* 1.99; *OLD* s.v. *autem* 1b, 2b, 3c). → *difficilēs quidem videntur, ... autem*.

other languages] *aliū* pertinet ad ea quæ differunt: 'dīversī, nōn īdem, dissimilēs'; *ceterī* = 'præter priōra'; *reliquī* dēnotat ea (numerō vel pondere minōra, BS § 53) quæ relicta manent seu supersunt (LD, s.v. *cæterus*). Aliter Forcellini: '*Cetera* et *reliqua* in eō differunt, quod *reliqua* sunt alia quæ supersunt, quæque tamen ratiōne habitā præcēdentium similia sunt; *cetera* vērō sunt alia quæ supersunt, quæque ratiōne habitā præcēdentium dīversa sunt' (*TTL*, s.v. *cæterus*). → *ceteræ linguæ*.

you learn] > 'that you learn': *quās discis*, potiusve *quās addiscis* (*addiscō* 'to learn in addition'). Cum tamen rēs nōn valeat, nisi *sī* eās linguās addiscis, coniungēmus – Latīnissimō quidem modō! – sententiā relātivā et condiōnālem: → *linguæ, sī quās addiscis*.

afterwards] *deinde* 'tum (in ēnumerātiōne)'; *deinceps* 'statim post, continuo'; *post* plērumque ut in *paulō post, diē post* etc.; *postea* generātim. → *postea*.

really] Latīnitās ā novissimā istā '*adverbūside*' (sc. profūsō adverbiorū ūsū) longē abest: 'Now obviously I didn't actually like that book quite so much' *Liber mihi parum placuit*. Adverbia *rēvērā, reapse* vel *rē ipsā* nōn nisi vērā actiōnem dēnotant: *Hanc rem nōn solum cōgitāvī, sed rēvērā fēcī*. Per *profectō* exprimitur potissimum ipsius locūtōris opīniō (BS §§ 185.2, 402.1): *Tū profectō insānus es!* Itaque illud Anglicum 'really' Latīnē scribentibus ōmittendum est. (BS § 190.1–3)

prove to be ... easier] Possumus scribere *faciliōrēs videntur*. Cum tamen eōdem verbō suprā iam ūsī sīmus, aliter dīcendum est: *sē præstāre* + adi. (e.g. *sēque præstitit invictam*, *Ov. Tr.* 4.10.103–104) vel *sē præbēre* + adi. (e.g. *sī sē dignum præbuerit*, *Cic. Fam.* 2.18.3). → *faciliōrēs sē præbent*.

much easier] Adverbium *multum* cum verbis coniungitur: *multum labōrāvī*. Cum comparātivis autem scribendum est *multō*, e.g. *multō melius, multō magis*. → *multō facilitōrēs*.

→ *Professor quīdam Lugdūno-Batāvus ōlim mihi stupentī affirmāvit primās decem, quīndecimve linguās discendās difficilēs quidem vidēri, ceterās autem, sī quās postea addiscis, multō facilitōrēs sē præbēre*.

Attamen hæc et brevius scribī possunt. Quamquam enim linguæ facilitōrēs nōn fiunt, ipsum mūnus discendī certē levātur. Itaque propter ūsum gerundivī Latīnī (*linguæ discendæ*) dīcere possumus:

Professor quīdam Lugdūno-Batāvus ōlim mihi stupentī affirmāvit primās decem quīndecimve linguās discendās difficilēs quidem vidēri, posteriōrēs autem multō facilitōrēs fierī.

Hāctenus sententiā velut *præsēns gnōmicum* trānstulimus (v. suprā). Tempus futūrum erit:

ōr. rēcta: *Prīmæ decem quīndecimve linguæ discendæ difficilēs quidem vidēbuntur, ceteræ autem, sī quās postea addiscēs/addidiceris, multō facilitōrēs sē præbēbunt*.

ōr. obliqua: *Affirmāvit primās decem quīndecimve linguās discendās difficilēs quidem vīsūm irī, ceterās autem, sī quās postea addiscēs/addidiceris, multō facilitōrēs sē præbitūrās esse*.

Versiō tandem brevissima:

Professor quīdam Lugdūno-Batāvus ōlim mihi stupentī affirmāvit primās decem quīndecimve linguās discere difficile esse, plūrēs facilius.