

INALIENABLE POSSESSION IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK: A LINGUISTIC AND REDACTION-CRITICAL STUDY

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Abstract. This article provides a linguistic and redaction-critical study of “inalienable possession” in the Gospel of Mark. “Inalienable possession” is a common linguistic phenomenon that occurs in many Indo-European languages but has rarely been examined in NT Greek. My contribution will inquire how the Greek language of Mark codes inalienable possession and which objects and relations of possession are conceptualised as inalienable. It will further examine how Matthew and Luke redacted Mark’s coding of inalienable possession.

Keywords: Inalienable Possession, Linguistics, Gospel of Mark, Philology, Redaction Criticism, Synoptic Gospels.

Introduction

My contribution will provide a linguistic and redaction-critical analysis of “inalienable possession” in the Gospel of Mark. The first section will define the linguistic phenomenon of “inalienable possession” and briefly discuss the findings of previous scholars in relation to this category. The second section will explore whether, and if so how, inalienable possession occurs in the language of the Gospel of Mark. It will inquire how the Greek language of Mark codes inalienable possession and which objects and relations of possession are conceptualised as inalienable. The third section will examine how Matthew and Luke redacted Mark’s coding of inalienable possession. The conclusion will briefly summarise the results and formulate the relevance of the study of “inalienable possession” for NT scholarship.

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