PART I

WORD ORDER
2.1. Word order in the noun phrase

Although almost every page of an Ancient Greek text contains several NPs with one or more modifiers, the order of the constituents of these NPs has received very little attention. Probably, this is due to the fact that—irrespective of the order of the constituents in Greek—the order of the constituents in a translation is rather set. Since a modern reader of the examples (1) and (2) is not forced to think about the word order within the highlighted NPs, he will easily fail to notice that they differ in their ordering, let alone that he will wonder why the red cloak in example (1), introduced by πορφυρεόν εἶμαι (AN), is referred to later by τὸ εἴμα τὸ πορφυρεόν (NA), or why the lying colossus in example (2) is said to be πόδες πέντε καὶ ἐβδομήκοντα (NA) high, while the two huge statues of Egyptian stone are said to be εἶκοσι ποδῶν (AN) high:

(1) ἐπείτε δὲ τῷ Καμβύσῃ ἐκ τῆς Ἑλεφαντίνης ἄπικοντο οἱ Ἰχθυοφάγοι, ἔπεμπε αὐτοὺς ἐς τοὺς Αἴθιοπας ἐνειλαμένος ταῦτα λέγειν χρὴν καὶ δῶρα φέροντας πορφυρεόν τε εἴμα καὶ χρύσον στρεπτὸν σφαιρίζενον καὶ ψέλια καὶ μύρον ἀλάβαστρον καὶ Φοινικίων οἴου κάδον. (...). ἐρώτησε δὲ τὸ εἴμα τὸ πορφυρεόν εἰρώτα ὅ τι εἰς καὶ ὅνως πεποιημένον.

When the Fish-eaters arrived from Elephantine to Kambyses, he sent them to the Ethiopians, with orders what to say, and bearing as gifts a red cloak and a twisted gold necklace and bracelets and an alabaster box of incense and an earthenware jar of palm wine. (...). Then, having taken the red cloak (lit. the cloak the red), he (= the king of Ethiopia) asked what it was and how it had been made.

(Hdt. 3.20.1–22.1)

(2) ἀνέθηκε δὲ καὶ ἐν τοῖς ἄλλοις ἱροῖσιν ὁ Ἀμασίς πᾶσι τοῖς ἐλλογίσμοις ἔργα τὸ μέγαθος ἀξιοθέτητα, ἐν δὲ καὶ ἐν Μέμφι τὸν ὕπτιον κείμενον κολοσσόν τοῦ Ἡρακλείου ἐμπροσθε, τοῦ πόδες πέντε καὶ ἐβδομήκοντα εἰς τὸ μῆκος, εἰς δὲ τῷ αὐτῷ βάθῳ ἐστάσα Ἀλεξάνδρειον ἐόντες λίθου δύο κολοσσοί, εἰκόσι ποδῶν τὸ μέγαθος ἐόν ἐκατερος, (...).

Furthermore, Amasis dedicated, besides monuments of marvellous size in all the other temples of note, the huge image that lies supine before