

Contents

Preface	v
Abbreviations	xi
I. The Structure of Discourse	1
Sentence and Clause in Old Avestan	2
Verbal and Nominal Predication	3
Interrogative sentences	4
Negation	5
II. Morphosyntax	9
Concord	9
Apposition	10
Nouns and Adjectives	11
Abstracta	12
Verbal Nouns (<i>nomina agentis, actionis</i>)	13
Nominal Composition as Syntax	14
Degrees of Comparison	15
Gender	16
Number	17
Singular	17
Dual	17
Plural	18
The Cases	18
Nominative	19
Accusative	20
Instrumental	24
Dative	29
Ablative	33
Genitive	36
Locative	40
Vocative	43
Pronouns	44
Personal pronouns and adjectives	44

Demonstrative pronouns	46
Demonstrative adverbs of manner, time, and place	49
Relative pronouns	50
Relative adverbs/conjunctions	50
Interrogative pronouns	51
Interrogative adverbs	52
Indefinite pronouns	52
Verbs	53
Person and Number	53
Voice	54
Aspect	55
The present: aorist opposition	56
The perfect	58
Tense and Modality	59
Present time	59
Future time	61
Past time	63
Mythical time	64
Potentiality	65
Prayers, wishes, aspirations	66
Requests, injunctions, prohibitions	67
Infinitives	68
Participles and Verbal Adjectives	72
Verbal adjectives in <i>-ta-</i>	75
Gerundives in <i>-iia-</i>	75
Verbal Modifiers (Preverbs)	76
Dependent Clauses	77
Relative clauses	77
Restrictive (defining)	77
Appositive (non-defining)	79
Features common to both restrictive and appositive clauses	80
The relative pronoun as quasi-article	82
Temporal clauses	83
Causal clauses	85
Comparative clauses	86
Final and consecutive clauses	86
Conditional clauses	87
Object clauses	88
Indirect statements and questions	89
Recapitulation: Uses of the Moods	90
Indicative and injunctive	90
Subjunctive	91
Optative	91
Imperative	92

Quotation of Direct Speech	92
Particles	93
Sentence particles	94
Relational particles	97
Focusing particles	99
 III. Word Order	105
The Placing of Emphatic Elements	106
Initial position	106
Final position	108
Distribution of emphasis by distraction	108
The Placing of Unemphatic Elements	110
Enclitics	110
Unemphatic elements in initial position	111
Commatization	112
Order of Words within Cola	113
The contextual force field	113
Relative bulk	115
Subject, verb, object	116
Further remarks on verb placement	117
Subject and predicate in nominal sentences	120
Secondary (predicative) accusative	120
Datives	120
Attributive adjective	121
Dependent genitive	123
Other adnominals	123
Vocatives	124
Extension	126
Interlacing	128
 IV. Stylistics	131
Economy of Expression	132
Pleonasm	134
Understatement (Litotes)	134
Rhetorical Questions	135
Parenthesis	135
Figures	137
Conjunction of contrary terms	137
Conjunction of related terms	138
Anaphora	139
Augmented triads	142

Appendix The Old Avestan Texts	143
A. The Verse Texts	143
B. The Yasna Haptāŋhāiti	172
Bibliography	177
Indexes	179
I. Avestan words	179
II. Passages	180
III. Topics	181