

## Variation and contact in the papyrus archive of the Katochoi of the Sarapieion

This paper will discuss the language contact situation in Egypt in the mid-Hellenistic period, when the influx of Greek immigrants had already settled down and the administration was functioning in Greek. The archive of the Katochoi of the Sarapieion in Memphis from the second century BCE provides an interesting case study for the linguistic variety of Greek settlers' offspring in an Egyptian environment. The archive consists of documents that come a) from the pens of two brothers with Greek ancestry and Hellenic identity and b) from the pens of scribes who wrote Greek, but whose identity is unknown. To what extent the brothers knew and spoke Egyptian is uncertain. The variation found in the Greek within the archive has aroused interest to some extent (especially the orthography), but linguistic analyses have been scarce. The variation features in Greek written by the brothers are abundant; some of them may be traced to show transfer from Egyptian, some may be caused by insufficient education and internal changes in Koine Greek. I will discuss the phonology, morphology and syntax of the documents from the point of view of contact-induced transfer.

### References

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