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Borrowing, Code-Switching, and Authorship in the *Passio Sanctarum Perpetuae et Felicitatis*

1. *Passio* 2.3¹

haec ordinem totum martyrii sui iam hinc ipsa narrauit sicut conscriptum manu sua et suo sensu reliquit.

Now from here on, she herself has narrated the entire series of events of her own martyrdom, just as she left it written by her own hand and in her own sense.

2. *Passio* 2.1

...honeste nata, liberaliter instituta, matronaliter nupta...

...born nobly, educated in the liberal arts, wedded as a matron...

3. Code-switching versus Borrowing

Code-switching = “a full-blown switch from one language into another within one person’s utterance or writing” — “Why is he doing that? *Je ne sais pas.*”

Borrowing = the use of “loan-words thoroughly integrated into the language, morphologically or phonetically or semantically or in all three ways, and freely used even by monolingual ... speakers”² — “I am going to *sauté* the chicken.”

4. *Passio* 3.1-2

Pater, inquam, uides uerbi gratia uas hoc iacens, urceolum [> ὑρχη] siue aliud? et dixit: Uideo. (2) et ego dixi ei: Numquid alio nomine uocari potest quam quod est? et ait: Non. Sic et ego aliud me dicere non possum nisi quod sum, Christiana.

“Father,” I say, “do you see, for the sake of argument, this **vessel** lying here, **a little pitcher** or something?” And he said, “I see it.” (2) And I said to him, “Surely it cannot be called by any other name than what it is, can it?” And he says, “No.” “Just so even I cannot say that I am anything except what I am, a Christian.”

5. *Passio* 5.6

*et confortauit eum dicens: Hoc fiet in illa **catasta** [> κατάστασις] quod Deus uoluerit.*

And I comforted him by saying, “It will happen on that **platform**, that which God wills.”

6. *Passio* 6.2

*ascendimus in **catastam**.*

We climbed up onto the platform.

¹ The text is James Halporn’s 1984 Bryn Mawr Commentary. All translations are my own.

² Adams 2003, 19, 26, respectively.

7. TLL s.v. *catasta*

imminutum esse uidetur pro κατάστασις, etsi graecum uocabulum plane eadem significatione qua latinum non inuenitur.

It seems to have been shortened for κατάστασις, even though the Greek word is clearly of the same meaning, for which a Latin word is not found.

7a. *tabulatum uel podium ... in quo martyres supplicium subibant.*

A table or platform ... on which martyrs underwent punishment.

7b. *tabulatum uel podium ... in quo serui uenales stabant.*

A table or platform on which slaves to be sold stood.

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