THE LIMITATIONS OF THE PREDICATIVE POSITION IN GREEK.

A study of the limitations of the predicative position in Greek calls for a brief treatment of the origin and historical development of the Greek article.

Aristotle (Poetics, c. 21) is the first writer by whom the pronoun is referred to as a separate part of speech. He expressly

THE GREEK ARTICLE. makes mention of the ὄνομα, the ῥῆμα, the σύνδεσμος, and the ἄρθρον, though elsewhere he includes the last two under σύνδεσμος. We do not know when the name ἀντωνυμία was introduced. Schoemann's assumption, Die Lehre von den Rede-theilen, p. 117, that it originated with the Alexandrian grammarians is not improbable. He is probably right, too, in assuming that the separation of the pronoun from the article did not take place later than the time of Aristarchus, the grammarian. It is important to remember, however, that this separation was not countenanced by the Stoics, who did not fail to perceive that the article was in reality a degraded pronoun. Under the general name of pronoun, they comprehended both pronoun and article. The Stoic view of the nature of the article—that it is a degraded pronoun—has won general acceptation.

In Homer ὁ ἡ τό is the commonest of the demonstrative pronouns. It is a matter of great interest to the student of language to observe the traces of the gradual weakening of the pronominal force of ὁ ἡ τό. Accompanying this loss is the growing use of οὗτος, ὅδε, and ἐκεῖνος. The gradual weakening of the pronominal ὁ ἡ τό is, however, only another way of characterising the transition from pronoun to article. Vogrinz, Grammatik des homerischen Dialektes, p. 197, points out one step in the development of the article where the pronominal form and the noun to

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