# Table of contents

Acknowledgements .................................................. 9

Introduction .......................................................... 13
  1. The meaning of tense switching .................. 15
  2. Questions and aims ................................ 19
  3. Theoretical background ............................. 25
  4. Classical Greek and its translation ............ 28

Chapter 1: General conceptual model .................... 33
  1. Introduction ............................................. 35
  2. The semantics of the present tense ............. 37
  3. Bridging the gap between the near and the far: two conceptual scenarios 40
  4. On both sides of the fourth wall: 19th-century fiction ...... 45
  5. Video footage and Dutch news narratives ...... 51
  6. Simulation in a performed story ................ 54
  7. The discourse as representation in Classical Greek ........ 58
  8. Tense switching patterns and the Classical Greek present 61
  9. Conclusion ............................................... 63

Chapter 2: Scenic narrative and the mimetic present .... 67
  1. Introduction ............................................. 69
  2. Mental simulation .................................... 78
  3. Depiction ............................................... 88
  4. Linguistic construal .................................... 95
  5. Communicative dynamism ............................ 108
  6. Case studies ............................................ 116
  7. Conclusion ............................................... 134

Chapter 3: Summary narrative and the diegetic present .... 137
  1. Introduction ............................................. 139
  2. Deixis and the discourse space .................. 144
  3. Attention-management strategies ................ 154
  4. Changes in the narrative dynamic ............... 164
  5. Changes in the status of referents ............... 181
  6. Case studies ............................................ 195
  7. Conclusion ............................................... 208
Chapter 4: Zero-degree narrativity and the registering present  211
   1. Introduction  213
   2. Iconography and mythography  219
   3. Chronography  226
   4. Records of transactions  230
   5. Family tree  237
   6. Conclusion  240

Conclusion  243

Appendix  249
   1. Discourse and the assertion  251
   2. Aspect and actionality  256

References  275
   A. Primary sources  277
   B. Secondary sources  281

Thesis summary  301