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The distribution of the discourse marker “kai” in Greek narratives

from

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Incentive of this presentation

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- The wealth of the connective “καί” (“and”) at thematic (initial) position in the so-called “low” (“popular”) register of the 16th-17th cent.
- Explanation of its provenance
- Framework of the study:
 - Register analysis in a “neutral” diglossia situation

Corpus of the project

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- The Life of Aesop
 - 3 „low“ versions from the beginning of the 17th c.
 - 2 “high” versions from Byzantine times
 - Alignment of source & target texts
- New Testament
 - Greek original text
 - Metaphrasis of Maximos Kallioupolitis (1638)
- Other narrative texts from the 16th & 17th c.
 - Kartanos, Aesop’s Fables by Noukios, Tale of Alexander (Φυλλάδα)
- Corpus size for all low texts: 230.000 words

Corpus of this study

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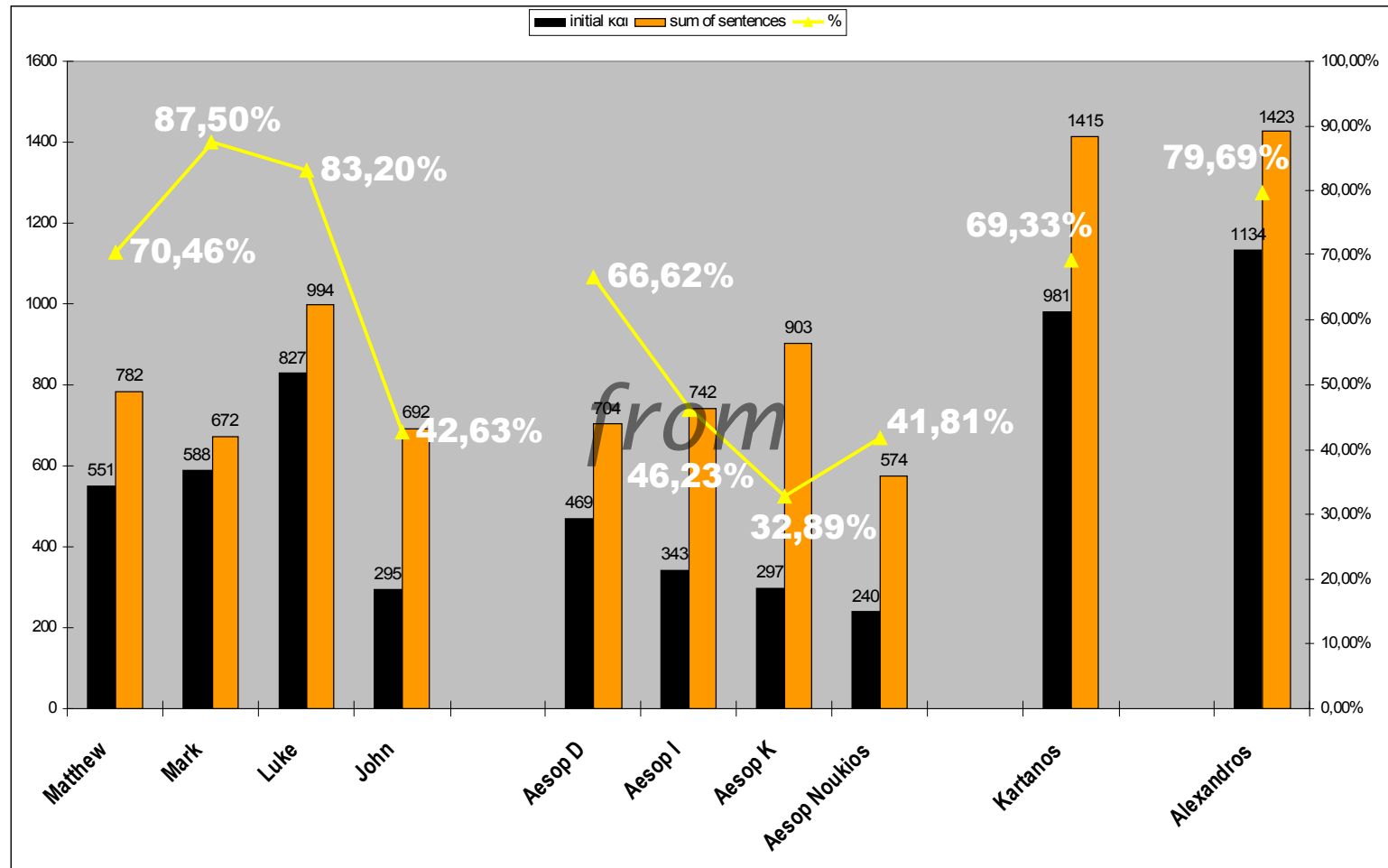
- Representative pre-biblical texts
 - Thucydides, Xenophon, Polybius, Plutarch
 - Genesis and the Gospel of Luke
 - Low texts of 17th c.: Life of Aesop, Kalioupolitis translation of the New Testament
- from*

Methodology *Download*

- Quantitative analysis
 - Importance of frequency
- Separation of direct speech from non-direct speech
- Initial position of “and” determined through punctuation
 - . : ; ! ·

Overview of frequency (16th-17th c.)

All “low” texts, only narrative parts

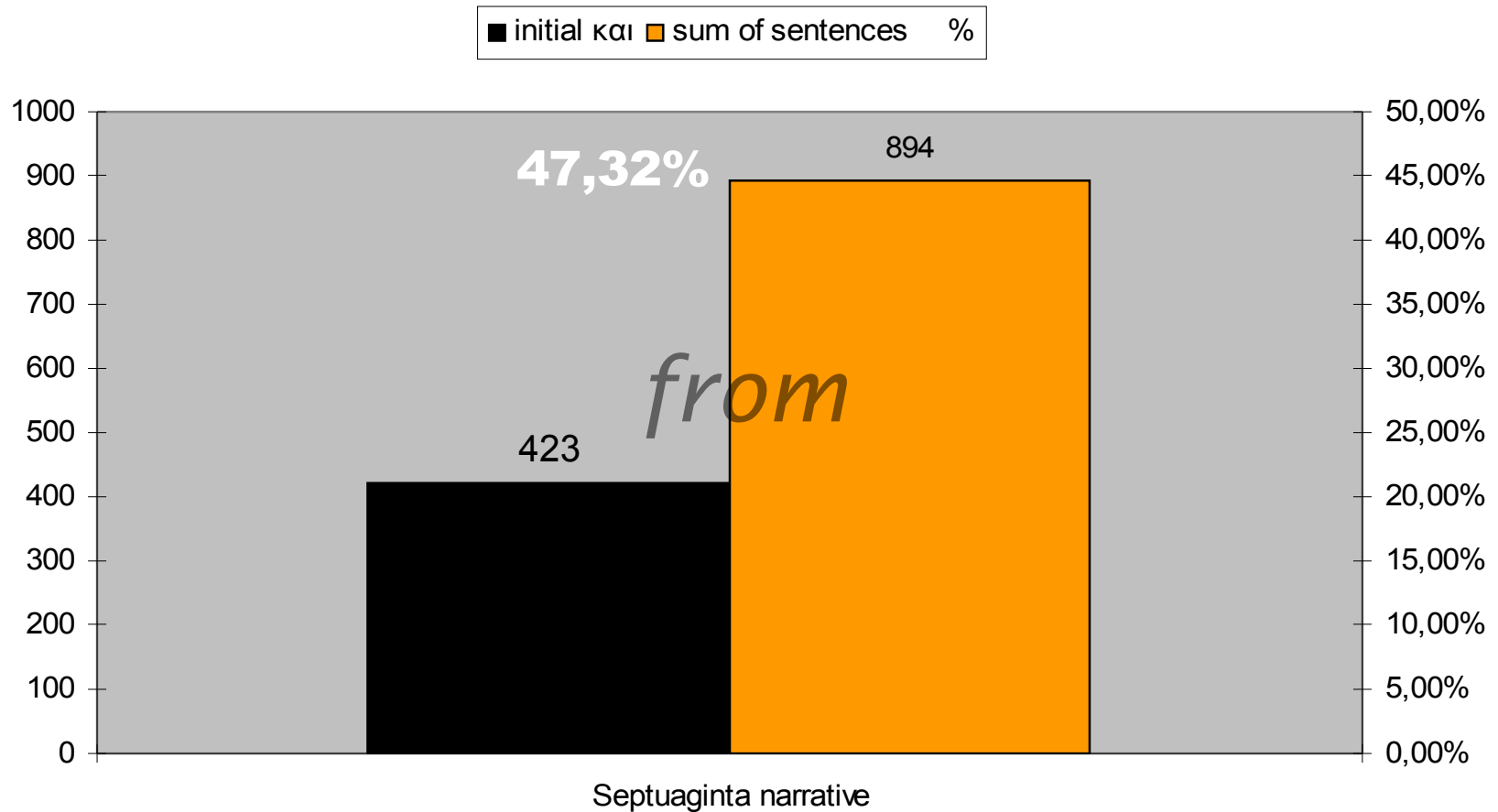


Questions

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- Is this a feature of spoken Greek of the period?
- Is the high frequency of initial “kai” due to the fact that some texts of our corpus are translations of “high” texts?
- Is it due to the continuation of an already existing narrative register?

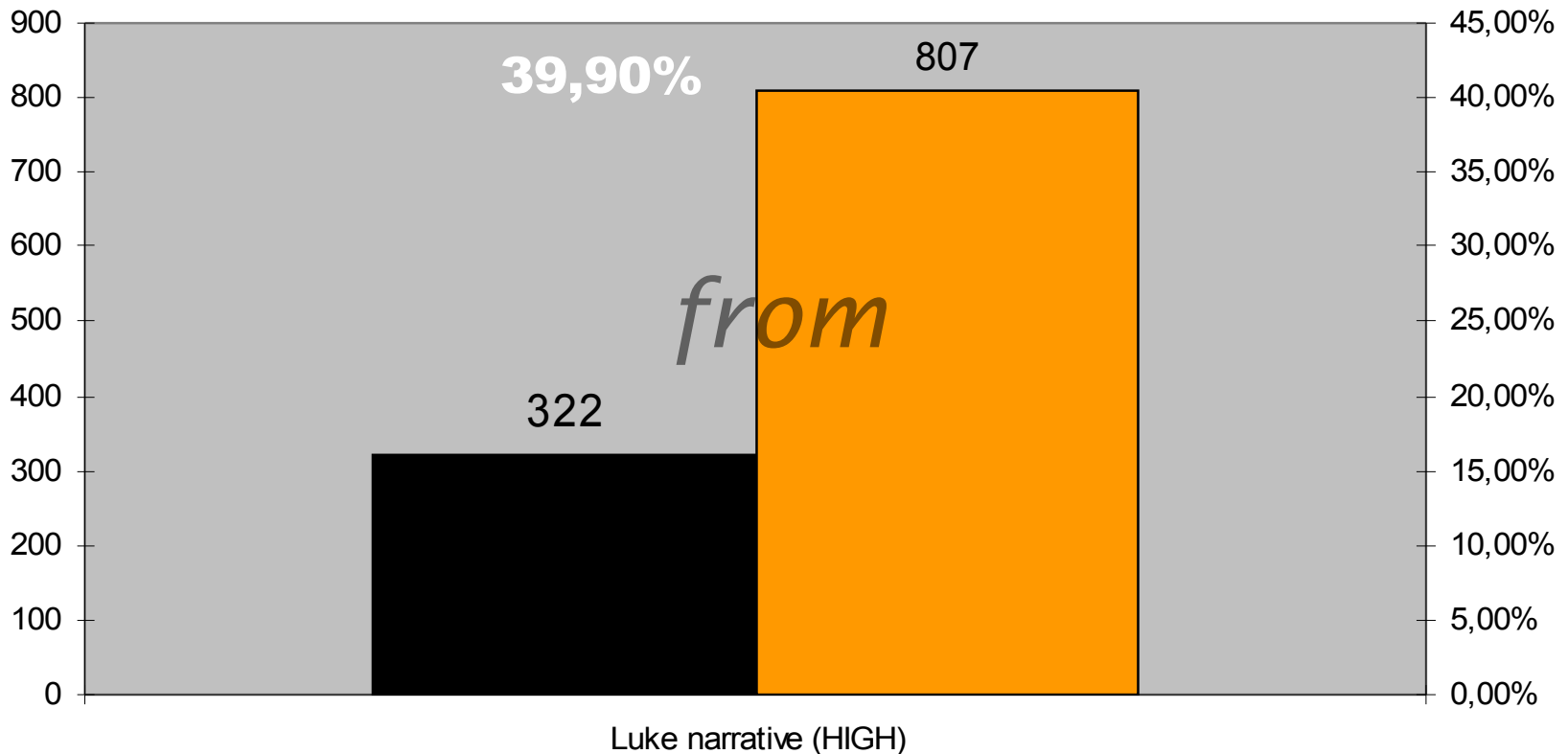
Initial “kai” in the Septuaginta: Genesis, narrative parts only



Initial “kai” in the Bible

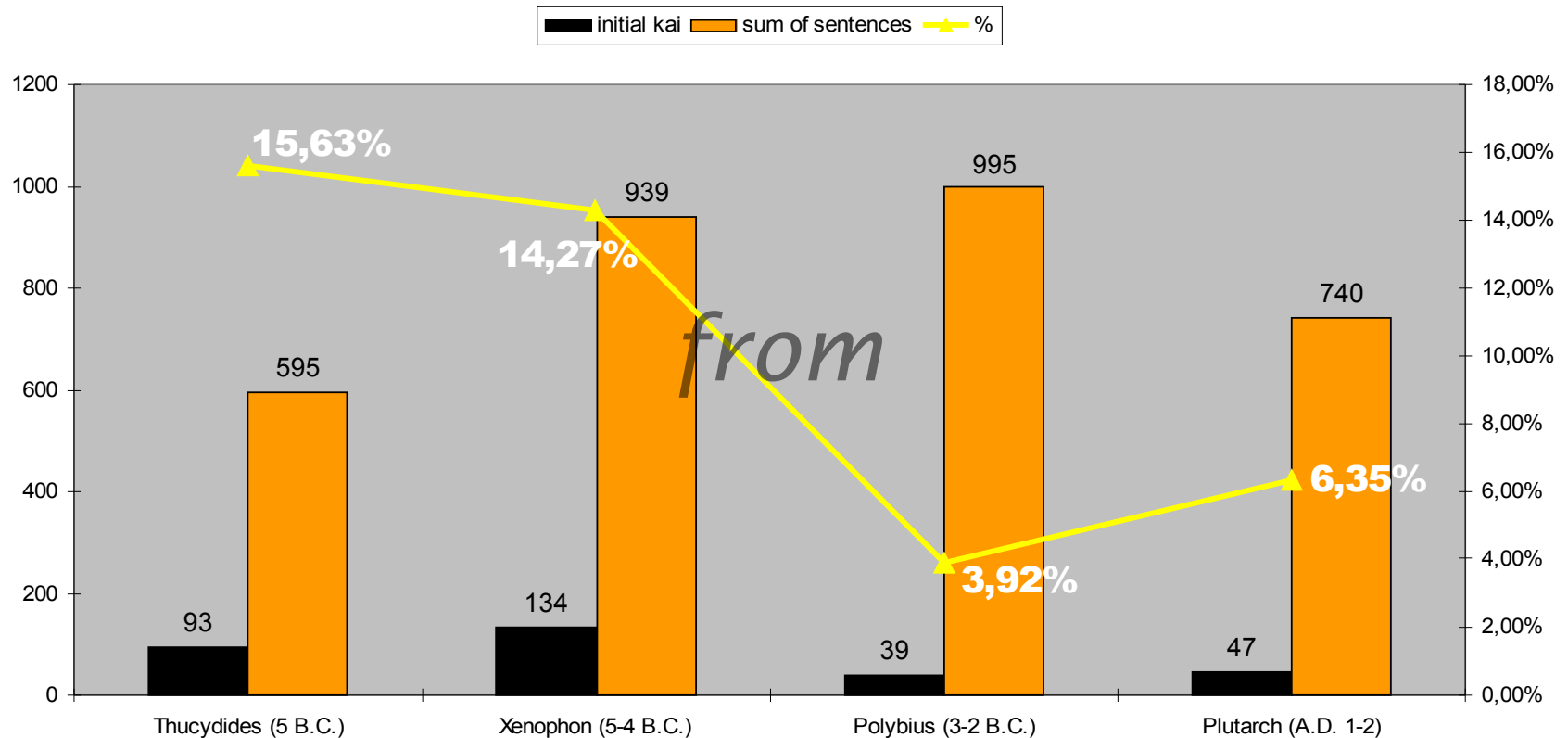
Luke, narrative parts only

initial kai sum of sentences %



Initial “kai” in pre-Bible texts

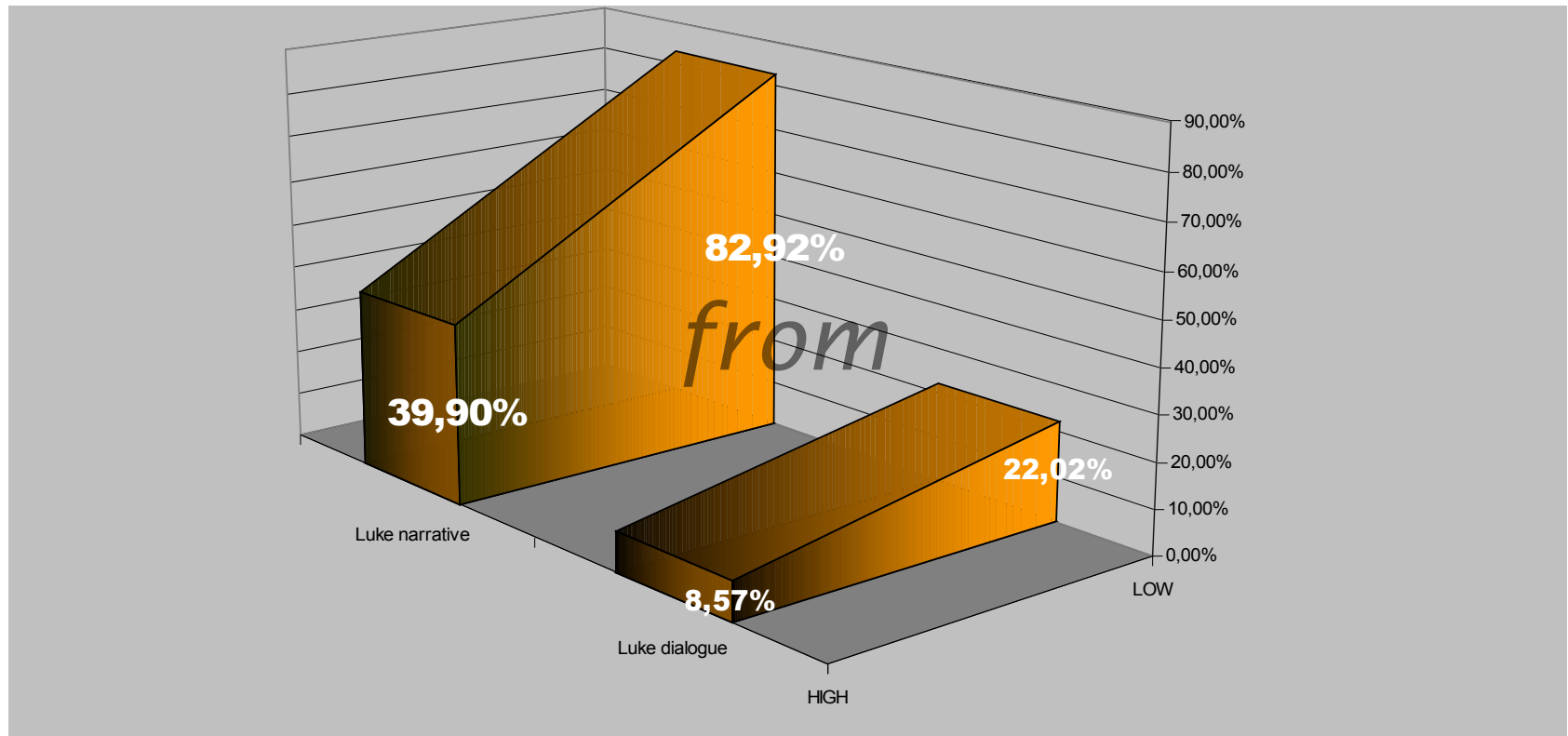
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Results so far *Download*

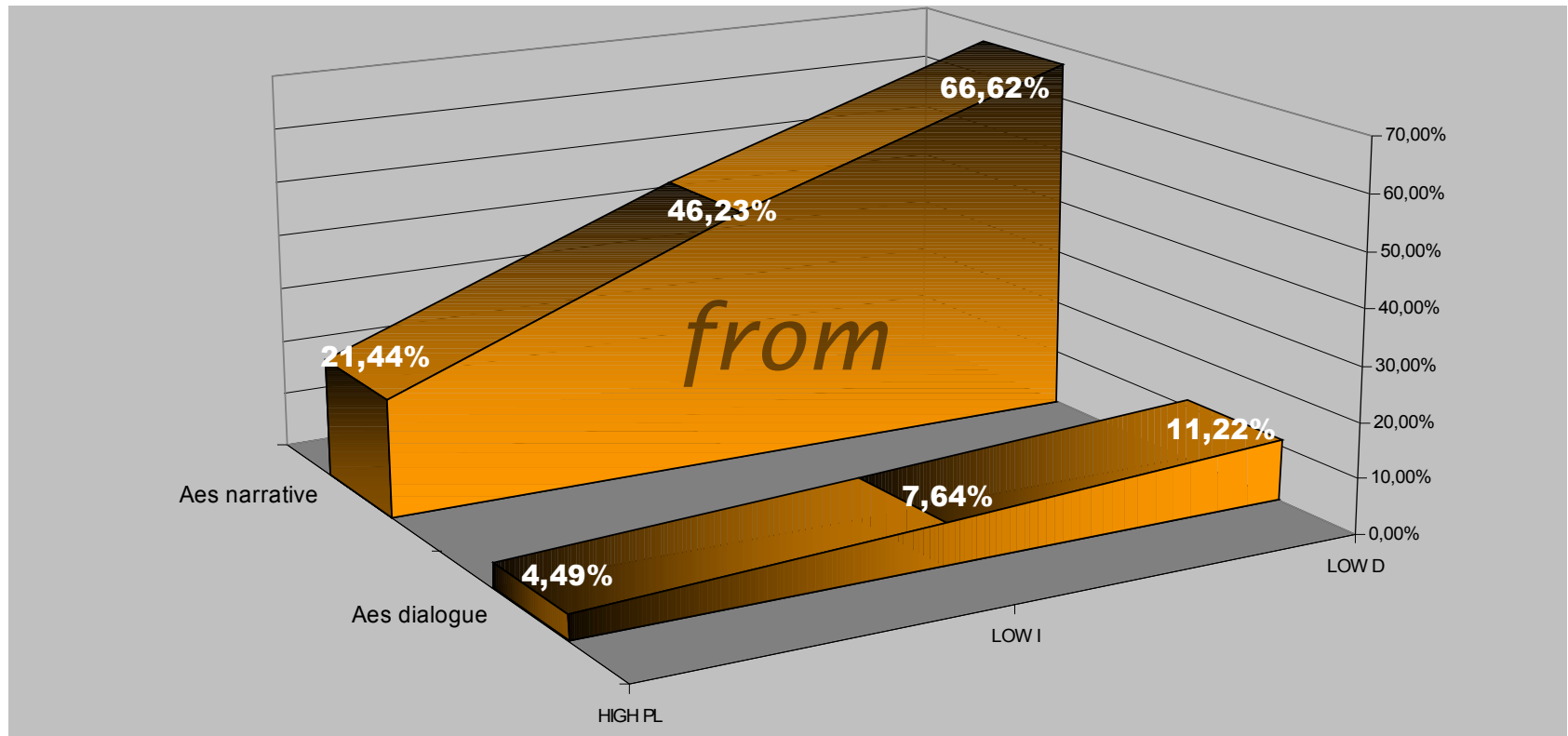
- First text showing the phenomenon: Genesis
- Pre-biblical texts show lower frequency as in the Bible
- High frequency in the Bible probably due to semitic influence *from*

HIGH-LOW comparison Bible *Download*

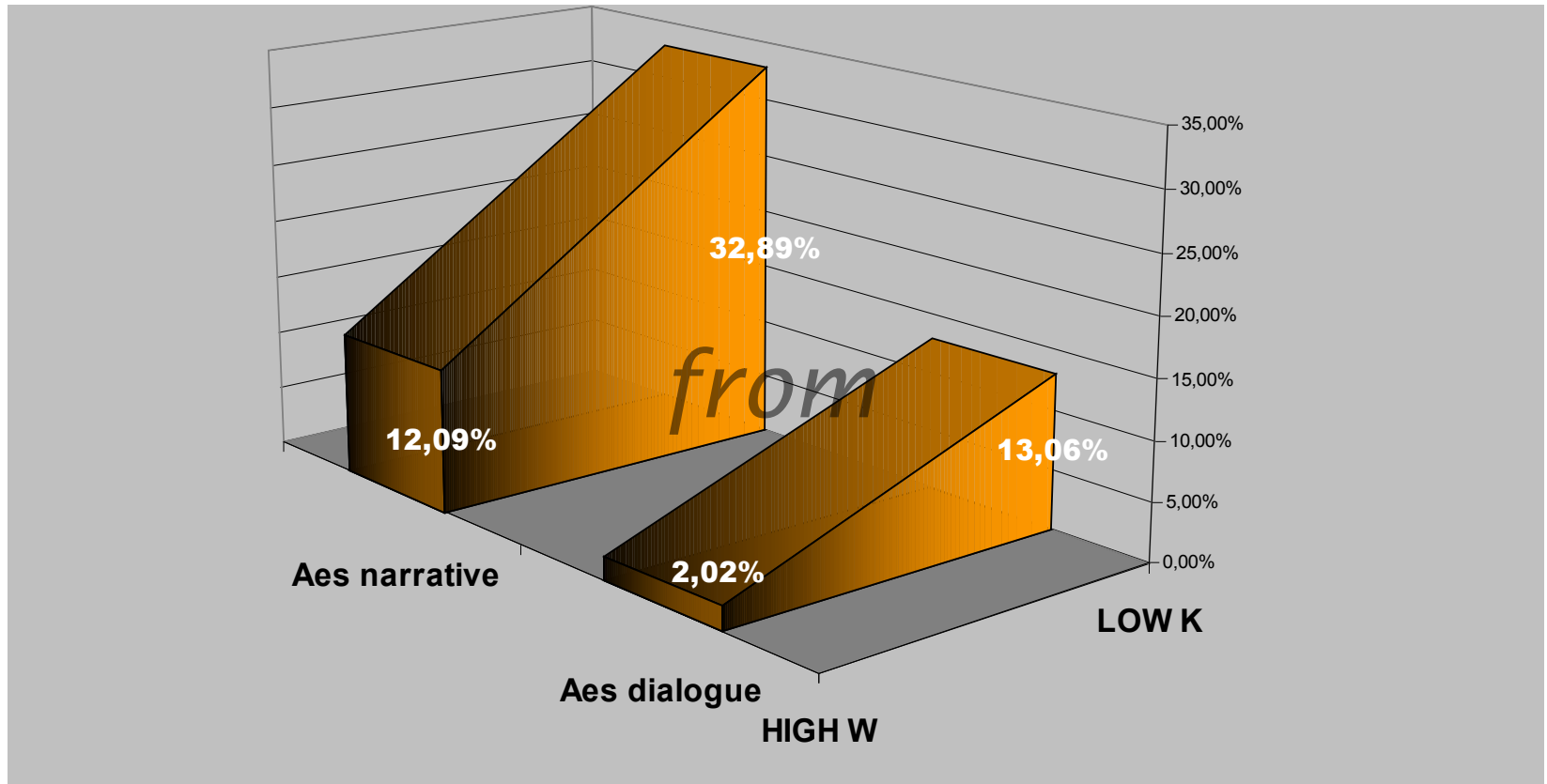


HIGH-LOW comparison Aesop's Life 1

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HIGH-LOW comparison Aesop's Life 2 *Download*



Discussion of data

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- First text showing the phenomenon: Genesis
 - High frequency of “kai” in the Bible probably due to Semitic influence
- High frequency of the phenomenon to be found in the narrative parts and not the dialogue *from*
 - Not a phenomenon of oral discourse of the time
- Discourse markers used by writers as register indicators and at the same time as indicators of social position