

## **SPECIFIC TERMINOLOGY of Rhetorical Analysis**

### 1. TERMS SIGNIFYING THE RHETORICAL UNITS

Very often, in works of exegesis, the terms “section”, “passage”, and especially “piece” and “part” are used unequivocally. Here is a list of terms, which in the present methodological exposition, signify the textual units at each successive level:

#### **1.1 The “inferior” levels (or not autonomous levels)**

Apart from the first and the second (Term and Member), the units of inferior levels are formed of ONE, TWO, or THREE units of the preceding level.

TERM	the term usually corresponds to a lexeme: e.g. a word that belongs to the lexicon: subject, adjective, verb or adverb.
MEMBER	the member is a syntagma, or group of “terms” linked together through close syntactic relationships; the “member” is the minimal rhetorical unit. Sometimes the member can include only one term (the term of Greek origin is “stich”).
SEGMENT	the segment counts one, two or three members; and there are <i>unimember</i> segments (or “monostichs”), <i>bimember</i> segments (or “distichs”) and <i>trimember</i> segments (or “tristichs”).
PIECE	the piece counts one, two or three segments.
PART	the part counts one, two or three pieces.

#### **1.2 The “superior” levels (or autonomous levels)**

They are all formed of either ONE or SEVERAL units from the preceding level.

PASSAGE	the passage – the equivalent of the exegetes “pericope” – is formed of one or several parts.
SEQUENCE	the sequence is formed of one or more passages.
SECTION	the section is formed of one or more sequences.
BOOK	finally the book is formed of one or more sections.

It is sometimes necessary to decide for intermediary levels such as “sub-part”, “sub-sequence” and “sub-section”; these intermediary units have the same definition as that of the part, sequence and section.

SIDE	the side is the part of text, which precedes and/or follows the centre of a construction; if the centre is composed of two parts, the side corresponds to each of the two halves of the construction.
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## 2. TERMS SIGNIFYING THE RELATIONS BETWEEN SYMMETRICAL UNITS

### 2.1 Total symmetries

#### PARALLEL

CONSTRUCTION figure of composition where the elements in relations two by two are disposed in a parallel fashion: A B C D E | A' B' C' D' E'.

When two parallel units frame a unique element, we speak of parallelism to indicate the symmetry between those two units, but the whole will be considered (the superior unit) as concentric construction: A | x | A'.

For “parallel construction” one can also use “parallelism” (which is opposed to “concentrism”)

#### CONCENTRIC

CONSTRUCTION figure of composition where the elements are disposed in a concentric fashion around a central element (which can be a unit of any level of textual organization): A B C D E | x | E' D' C' B' A'.

For “concentric construction” one can also use “concentrism” (which is opposed to “parallelism”).

#### MIRROR

CONSTRUCTION figure of composition like “concentric construction”, but without any central element: A B C D E | E' D' C' B' A'.

When the construction has only four units, we also speak of a *chiasm*: A B | B' A'.

### 2.2 Partial symmetries

INITIAL TERMS identical or similar terms or syntagmas that mark the beginning of symmetrical textual units; the *anaphora* of classical rhetoric.

FINAL TERMS identical or similar terms or syntagmas that mark the end of symmetrical textual units; the *epiphora* of classical rhetoric.

EXTREME TERMS identical or similar terms or syntagmas that mark the extremities of a textual unit; the “inclusion” of traditional exegesis.

MEDIAN TERMS identical or similar terms or syntagmas that mark the end of a textual unit and the beginning of the unit which is symmetrical to it; the “link-word” of traditional exegesis.

CENTRAL TERMS identical or similar terms or syntagmas that mark the centres of two symmetrical textual units.

See G. FLOR SERRANO, *Diccionario de la ciencia bíblica*, Estella (Navarra) 2000; Italian transl.: *Dizionario della scienza biblica*, Città del Vaticano 2002.