

## GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS

### 1. TERMS DESIGNATING RHETORICAL UNITS

Very often in the exegetical works the terms “section”, “passage”, and in particular “piece”, “part”, etc., are not used consistently. Here is a list of terms designating the textual units at their successive levels.

#### *THE “LOWER” (OR NON-AUTONOMOUS) LEVELS*

Apart from the first two (the term and the member), the lower level units are formed of *one*, *two* or *three* units of the preceding level.

TERM	The term generally corresponds to a “lexeme”, or word that is found in the lexicon: noun, adjective, verb, adverb.
MEMBER	The member is a syntagma, or group of “terms” linked together by close syntactic relations. The “member” is the minimal rhetorical unit; it may happen that the member consists of a single term (the term of Greek origin is “stich”).
SEGMENT	The segment comprises one, two or three members; there are “unimember” segments (the term of Greek origin is “monostich”), “bimember” segments (or “distichs”), and “trimember” segments (or “tristichs”).
PIECE	The piece comprises one, two or three segments.
PART	The part comprises one, two or three pieces.

#### *THE “UPPER” (OR AUTONOMOUS) LEVELS*

They are all formed of either *one* or *several* units from the previous level.

PASSAGE	The passage—the equivalent of the exegetes’ “pericope”—is formed of one or more 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 use the intermediary levels of “subpart”, “subsequence” and “subsection”; these intermediary units have the same definition as the part, sequence and section.

**SIDE** The side is a textual complex that precedes or follows the centre of a construction; if the centre is bipartite, the side corresponds to each of the two halves of the construction.

## **2. TERMS DESIGNATING THE RELATIONS BETWEEN SYMMETRICAL UNITS**

### *TOTAL SYMMETRIES*

- PARALLEL CONSTRUCTION** Composition figure in which the units in paired relations are arranged in parallel fashion: A B C D E | A'B'C'D'E'.
- When two units parallel to each other frame a single element, we talk about parallelism referring to the symmetry between these two units, but we consider the whole (the upper level unit) as a concentric construction: A | x | A'.
- “Parallel construction” is also called “parallelism” (as opposed to “concentrism”).
- MIRROR CONSTRUCTION** Composition figure in which the units in paired relations are arranged in an antiparallel or “mirrored” fashion:  
A B C D E | E'D'C'B'A'.
- Like the parallel construction, the mirror construction does not have a centre; like the concentric construction, the related elements mirror each other.
- When the construction comprises only four units, it is also called “chiasmus”: A B | B'A'.
- CONCENTRIC CONSTRUCTION** Composition figure where the symmetrical units are arranged concentrically: A B C D E | x | E'D'C'B'A', around the central element (this element can be a unit of any level of textual organisation).
- “Concentric construction” can also be called “concentrism” (as opposed to “parallelism”).
- ELLIPTIC CONSTRUCTION** Composition figure where the two focal points of the ellipse articulate the other textual units: A | x | B | x | A'.

*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 symmetrical to it; the “hook-word” or “linking-word” of traditional exegesis.
CENTRAL TERMS	Identical or similar terms or syntagmas that mark the centres of two symmetrical textual units.

For more details, see R. MEYNET, *Treatise on Biblical Rhetoric*, International Studies in the History of Rhetoric 3, Leyden – Boston 2012, 129–145.

*MAIN REWRITING RULES*

- Within the member, the terms are usually separated by spaces;
- Each member is usually rewritten on a single line;
- Segments are separated by a blank line;
- Pieces are separated by a broken line;
- Part is delimited by two continuous lines; the same applies to the subparts.
- Within the passage, the parts are framed (unless they are very short, such as an introduction or a conclusion); the subparts are arranged in adjoining frames;
- Within the sequence or subsequence, the passages, rewritten in prose, are arranged in frames separated by a blank line;
- Within the sequence, the passages of subsequence are arranged in adjoining frames.

On the rewriting rules, see *Treatise*, chap. 4, 187–299.