

COMPOSITION LEVELS

1 – The "lower" (or not autonomous) or "citation" levels

Apart from the first two (term and member), lower level units are made up of one, two or three units of the previous level.

Term

The term generally corresponds to a "lexeme", or word which belongs to the lexicon: noun, adjective, verb, adverb.

Member

The member is a phrase, or group of "terms" linked together by close syntactic relationships. The "member" is the minimal rhetorical unit; it may happen that the member has only one term (the term of Greek origin is "stique").

Segment

The segment consists of one, two or three members; we will speak of a "unimember" segment (the term of Greek origin is "monostic"), of a "bimember" (or "distic") segment and of a "tri-member" (or "tristic") segment.

Fragment

The fragment consists of one, two or three segments.

Part

The part consists of one, two or three fragments.

2 – The "higher" (or autonomous) or "recitation" levels

They are all made up of either one or more units from the previous level.

Passage

The passage - the equivalent of the "pericope" of exegetes - is made up of one or more parts.

Sequence

The sequence is made up of one or more passages.

Section

The section is formed from one or more sequences

Livre

The book is made up of one or more sections.

It is sometimes necessary to use the intermediate levels of the "sub-part", "sub-sequence" and "sub-section"; these intermediate units have the same definition as part, sequence and section.

COMPOSITION FIGURES

At each of these levels, the texts are organized according to what are called "figures". The system is very simple. We distinguish:

1 – Total symmetries

Parallel construction

Figure of composition where the units in relation two by two are arranged in a parallel way: A B C D E | A B C D E'.

When two units parallel to each other surround a single element, we speak of parallelism to designate the symmetry between these two units, but we consider the whole (the higher-level unit) as a concentric construction: A | x | A'.

For "parallel construction", we also say "parallelism" (which is opposed to "concentrism").

Specular construction

Figure of composition where the units in relation two to two are arranged in an antiparallel or "mirror" manner: A B C D E | E'D'C'B'A'.

Like the parallel construction, the specular construction has no center; like the concentric construction, the related elements mirror each other.

When the construction only includes four units, we also speak of "chiasm»: 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 a central element (this element can be a unit of any level of the textual organization).

For "concentric construction", we can also say "concentrism" (which is opposed to "parallelism").

2 – Partial symmetries

Initial Terms

Identical or similar terms or phrases that mark the beginning of symmetrical textual units; the "anaphora" of classical rhetoric.

Final Terms

Identical or similar terms or phrases that mark the end of symmetrical textual units; the "epiphora" of classical rhetoric.

Extreme Terms

Identical or similar terms or phrases that mark the ends of a textual unit; the "inclusion" of traditional exegesis.

Median Terms

Identical or similar terms or phrases which mark the end of a textual unit and the beginning of the unit which is symmetrical to it; the "hook word" or "staple word" of traditional exegesis.

Centre Terms

Identical or similar terms or phrases that mark the centers of two symmetrical textual units.