The function of marked word order in Biblical Hebrew prose:
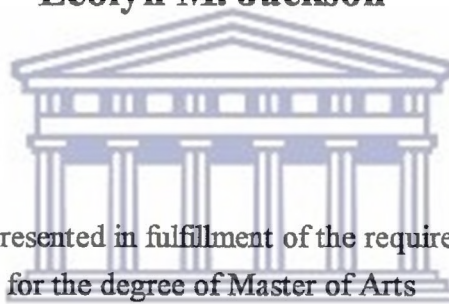# An evaluation of existing theories in the light of 2 Kings.

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for the degree of Master of Arts
at the University of Stellenbosch

Department of Ancient Near Eastern Studies

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Declaration

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that the work contained in this thesis is my own original work and has not previously in its entirety or in part been submitted at any university for a degree.

....   26.11.1996

Signature   Date

Abstract

This thesis investigates the function of a topicalized constituent in the narrative non-direct speech texts in 2 Kings. Many traditional BH grammarians described the function of a topicalized constituent as "emphasis". Recent BH grammarians pointed out that extra-linguistic factors like the total communicative context should also be considered in the description of a function for a topicalized constituent. The shift from the structural to a more pragmatic approach is illustrated in this study. The pragmatic approach proved to be not only possible, but also advantageous to the study of function in BH.

The *aim* of this study was to test the viability and results of the various theories and categories of the BH linguists. This study also researched whether their linguistic approaches are indeed an improvement on the descriptions as defined by the traditional grammarians. In other words, to see whether and in which way more recent studies of BH could aid the understanding of the function of a topicalized constituent in BH word order.

The *methodology* utilized in this study is briefly outlined as follows:
1. This study examined the description of word order in terms of the traditional and more recent approaches. The categories used to describe the function of a topicalized constituent were our main focus. At the end we compiled a theoretical frame of reference that we regard as representative of modern attempts to acquire a more refined comprehension of BH word order.

2. A theoretical linguistic framework was formulated which could be used in our description of a sentence in BH in 2 Kings. This attempt could be described as eclectic because it used the diverse perceptions from the various linguistic approaches. Richter's theoretical linguistic framework (with its limitations) together with contributions of Van der Merwe, Buth and Gross were used as a basis for the description of the sentences.

3. Sentences were analysed systematically and holistically at the different levels of description, namely morphology, morphosyntax, sentence syntax, semantics and pragmatics. Because of the difficulty in defining semantics and with pragmatics still in disarray, this study defined some semantic-pragmatic concepts it worked with.

4. In the description of sentences we incorporated and tested the viability of the different categories of various grammarians. By carefully considering the context of each sentence, this study posed the question: which, if any, of the categories could adequately describe the semantic-pragmatic function of a topicalized constituent in 2 Kings.

The *results* of this study include the following:

1. The historical overview of the various theories revealed that although modern attempts do not present us with a uniformed set of linguistic categories, they do provide us with an array of possibilities that may help us in our quest for a more nuanced view. Such a view of the function of a topicalized constituent is indeed possible instead of the vague term "emphasis".

2. In the description of sentences one needs to work with an explicitly defined theoretical linguistic framework which consists of clearly formulated criteria and categories.

3. If we consider the term topicalized constituent instead of marked word order, it becomes essential that we investigate and reconsider the use of the term marked word order as it is used by Buth, Bandstra and Van der Merwe. Their view is in contrast to that of Gross who works with a different set of word order categories.

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Abstrak

Die funksie van getopikaliseerde konstituente (sinsdele) in die narratiewe, indirekte spraakteks in 2 Konings is in hierdie studie aan die orde gestel. Talle tradisionele BH grammatici beskryf die funksie van 'n getopikaliseerde konstituent as "beklemtoning". Resente BH grammatici voer aan dat buitetalige faktore soos die algehele kommunikatiewe konteks verreken behoort te word om die funksie van 'n getopikaliseerde konstituent te beskryf. 'n Verskuiwing vanaf die strukturele na 'n meer pragmatiese benadering word dus in hierdie studie geïllustreer. Nie slegs bied die pragmatiese benadering omvattender interpretasiemoontlikhede nie, maar dit blyk ook meer bevorderlik te wees tot die studie van funksie by BH.

Die studie het uiteraard gedoel op die lewensvatbaarheid en resultate van verskeie teorieë en kategorieë aangebied deur die BH linguiste. Ook wou die studie vasstel of hierdie linguistiese benaderings enigsins 'n verruimimg bied op beskrywings deur die tradisionele grammatici. Dus is nagevors of en op watter wyses meer resente studies van BH bedra tot 'n begrip van funksie by getopikaliseerde konstituente in BH woordvolgorde.

Die metodologie wat in die studie benut is, word kortliks as volg saamgevat:
1. Die studie het die beskrywing van woordvolgorde binne die raamwerk van beide die tradisionele en meer resente benaderings ondersoek. Kategorieë waarbinne die funksie van getopikaliseerde konstituente beskryf kan word, was die pimêre fokus. Ten slotte is 'n teoretiese verwysingsraamwerk opgestel wat beskou kan word as verteenwoordigend van moderne pogings om 'n meer verfynde begrip te bewerkstellig van BH woordvolgorde.

2. 'n Teoreties-linguistiese raamwerk is geformuleer wat benut is vir sinsbeskrywing van BH in 2 Konings. Hierdie poging kan as eklekties beskryf word, daar verskillende uitgangspunte vanuit verskeie linguistiese benaderings benut is. Richter se teoreties-linguistiese raamwerk (met sy beperkings) is in samehang met bydraes deur Van der Merwe, Buth en Gross aangewend as deskriptiewe invalshoek vir die gekose sinne.

3. Sinne is sistematies en holisties ontleed op die verskillende linguistiese beskrywingsvlakke, te wete morfologies, morfosintakties, sintakties, semanties en pragmaties. Omdat dit problematies is om semantiek te omskryf of om die verwarring rondom die pragmatiek te orden, is bepaalde semanties-pragmaties begrippe in die studie toegelig.

4. In die sinsbeskrywings is die lewensvatbaarheid van die verskillende kategorieë wat deur die onderskeie grammatici vooropgestel word, in berekening gebring en ook getoets. Deurdat ook die konteks van elke sin in ag geneem is, is die volgende vraag opgeroep: watter, indien enige, van hierdie kategorieë kan bevredigend aangewend word om die semanties-pragmatiese funksie te beskryf van die getopikaliseerde konstituente in 2 Konings?

Die resultate van hierdie studie is kortliks as volg:

1. Die historiese oorsig van die verskeie toerieë het getoon dat alhoewel moderne pogings ons nie bedien van 'n uniforme stel linguistiese kategorieë nie, dit wel 'n verskeidenheid moontlikhede bied wat benut kan word in 'n soeke na 'n meer genuanseerde perspektief in plaas daarvan om 'n mens te beperk tot die vae term "beklemtoning".

2. In die beskrywing van sinne is 'n duidelike omskrewe teoreties-linguistiese raamwerk, bestaande uit duidelik geformuleerde riglyne en kategorieë, noodsaaklik.

3. Indien die term getopikaliseerde konstituent in plaas van gemarkeerde ("marked") woordorde oorweeg word, vereis dit die ondersoek en heroorweging van laasgenoemde in ooreenstemming met Buth, Bandstra en Van der Merwe. Hul perspektief kontrasteer met dié van Gross wie se woordorde-kategorieë opvallend verskillend is.

Acknowledgements

With the completion of this thesis I am deeply grateful for the countless spiritual and other blessings and rewards which I have experienced along the way. To God all the glory through his son Jesus Christ who continues to honour us with the creative presence of the Holy Spirit.

A project of this nature is essentially a team effort. I, therefore, would like to express my gratitude and indebtedness to all those who directly and indirectly encouraged and supported me while I was doing this study.

To my supervisor, Dr. C. H. J. van der Merwe, I want to extend a word of deepest appreciation, who from the start to the end, has not only been a teacher to me, but also a special friend. He competently introduced me to the field of linguistics, semantics and pragmatics, and with fair critique and probing questions guided me to the completion of my study. I would also like to thank Prof. Deist for his scholarly expertise and dedication as internal examiner of this thesis.

My gratitude also goes to the University of the Western Cape for the privilege of serving on its staff, and for granting me study leave during 1994 which allowed me to complete a substantial part of this thesis.

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How do you thank friends for their lifelong inspiration, prayers and concern? To Gerald, Thelma, Vivienne, Lennie, Maureen, "the Wednesday-Prayer group", Netta, Gerhard, Anastasia, Grace and the many others, I express genuine thanks for your indispensable role in providing the love, warmth and humour to keep me going.
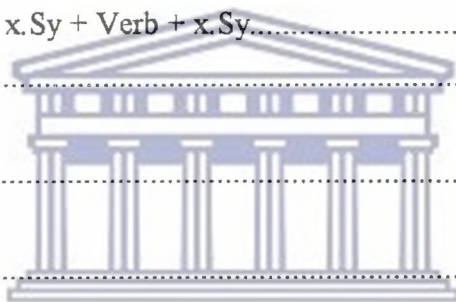
I gladly dedicate the thesis to my father and mother who with endless love and support encouraged me. A special word of thanks to my sisters and brothers who have constantly shown an encouraging interest in my studies. In more than one way they provided and at times had to bore the brunt of my frustrations. I am also deeply grateful to the rest of my family who supported me through prayer.

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CONTENTS

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Abbreviations

1.   Sentence divisions

1a	- first sentence of a verse
1b	- second sentence of a verse
2v	- continuation of the last sentence of verse 1
3v1b	- sentence 1b is continued
3va	- continuation of sentence a of the preceding verse
3bP	- pendens construction in sentence b
b	- sentence to which the pendens belongs, pendensed sentence
1aP3a	- the pendensed sentence does not follow in the same verse, but in the first sentence of verse 3
1aI	- infinitive construction (infinitives which are dependent on a substantive are not isolated from the sentence)
aII	- infinitive which is dependent on an infinitive
aIP	- infinitive and pendens
aR	- relative sentence
aRR	- relative sentence embedded in a relative sentence
aPR	- relative sentence and pendens
aRI	- infinitive construction in a relative sentence
a=R2	- relative sentence to the sentence in verse 2
aV	- vocative
aJ	- interjection
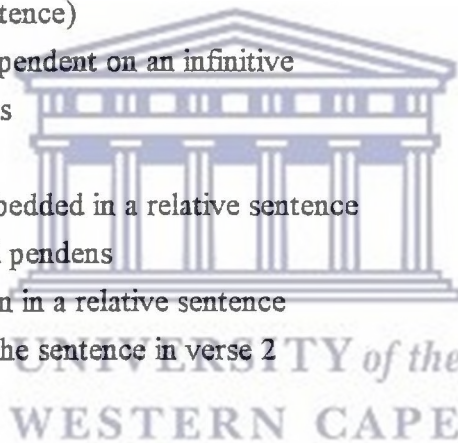
2. Syntactic-semantic units

A	Adverb or adverbial phrase	i/o	indirect object
		imp	imperative
adj	adjective	inf	infinitive
adv	adverb	inf abs	infinitive absolutus
AdvWG	adverb word group	inf cs	infinitive construct
AnnWG	annexion word group	InterAdv	interrogative adverb
AppWG	appositional word group	InterPron	interrogative pronoun
Aptc	active participle	IPP	independent personal pronoun
art	article		
ArtWG	article word group	IPron	indefinite pronoun
AttWG	attributive word group	InterPtc	interrogative particle
AV	"Aktionsverb"	LF	long form
BH	Biblical Hebrew	m	masculine
BHS	Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia	mod	modal word
		ModWG	modal word group
CC	contextualizing constituent	MT	massoretic text
		NS	nominal sentence
C.Sy	circumstantial syntagm	num	numeral
card	cardinal	NumWG	numerical word group
CN	clan name	O	Object
conj	conjunction	OH	Old Hebrew
ConjWG	conjuntion word group	ord	ordinal
cs	construct form	P	predicate
CsWG	construct word group	P.Sy	predicate syntagm
d/o	direct object	P1	fronted item in sentence
deict	deictica	P2	left dislocated item
DPron	demonstrative pronoun	P3	right dislocated item
ePP	enclitical personal pronoun	PC	prefix conjugation
		pl	plural
f	feminine	PN	name of person
FG	functional grammar	Pptc	passive participle
foc	focus particle	prep	preposition
GeogrN	name of place	PrepWG	prepositional word group
GN	name of God	ptc	participle

RPron	relative pronoun
s	singular
S	Subject
SC	suffix conjugation
SD	sentence deictica
SF	short form
sub	substantive
sy	syntagm
TD	text deictica
V	Verb
vs	verse
VS	verbal sentence
vss	verses
VWG	verb word group
wayy	wayyiqtol
we-	conjunction ן
X	constituent other than subject or object
x.Sy	constituent (not subject or verb)
ZV	"Zustandverb"

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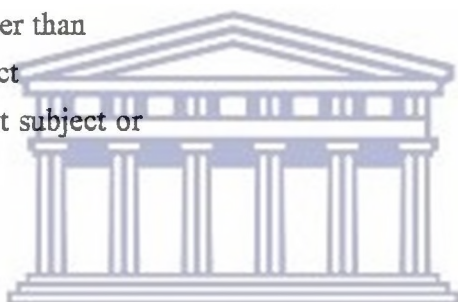
3. Other

+	sign of concatenation of constituents
[ ]	marks syntactic and semantic functions and semantic classes
1, 2, 3	first person, second person, third person

4. Books of the Old Testament

Gen	Genesis	Eccles	Ecclesiastes
Ex	Exodus	Song	Song of Songs
Lev	Leviticus	Is	Isaiah
Num	Numbers	Jer	Jeremiah
Deut	Deuteronomy	Lam	Lamentations
Josh	Joshua	Ezek	Ezekiel
Judg	Judges	Dan	Daniel
Ruth	Ruth	Hos	Hosea
1 Sam	1 Samuel	Joel	Joel
2 Sam	2 Samuel	Amos	Amos
1 Kings	1 Kings	Obad	Obadiah
2 Kings	2 Kings	Jon	Jonah
1 Chron	1 Chronicles	Mic	Micah
2 Chron	2 Chronicles	Nahum	Nahum
Ezra	Ezra	Hab	Habakkuk
Neh	Nehemiah	Zeph	Zephaniah
Esther	Esther	Hag	Haggai
Job	Job	Zech	Zechariah
Ps	Psalms	Mal	Malachi
Prov	Proverbs		

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The study of language changed considerably over the past decades[1]. Linguistic research is no longer focused only on the description of linguistic forms and the structure of language. What we have experienced recently is a shift from the study of syntax "to semantic descriptions, to sociological inquiry and to language as part of the total communicative conducts of communities" (Brown, 1980:190). Lakoff (1972:646-650) points out that we need to consider the essentiality of extra-linguistic contextual factors like the status of the speaker and addressee; their social environment; the mental world of the speaker and the beliefs or customs a speaker brings to a discourse. This dramatic change brought along many new ways of looking at the function of syntactic constructions. The transition from structural to pragmatic is illustrated well by Old or Biblical Hebrew[2] (BH) grammarians' description of BH word order.

Until recently, many BH grammarians described the function of a topicalized constituent[3] (except the verb) in the sentence initial position as 'emphasis'. However, questions like; "What does 'emphasis' entail? What can one do with 'emphasis'? Do all the sentence constituents convey the same emphasis in a sentence?," were seldom critically addressed. This situation changed when BH grammarians started to implement the results of these new developments in linguistics.[4] Several attempts were made to provide BH scholars with a much more nuanced perspective of the function of a topicalized constituent in BH than the one provided by the widely accepted vague concept "emphasis". However, this quest for a more nuanced view of the topicalized constituent necessitated the introduction of new analytical categories.

The problem this study is challenged with, is to investigate whether the recent linguistic approaches with their diverse linguistic presuppositions on the function of a topicalized constituent, are indeed an improvement on existing descriptions. In contrast to the traditional

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[1]Cf. Lyons (1968:1-52) for a relatively self-contained introduction to a scientific study of language. Cf. Van der Merwe (1987:161-180 and 1989:217-235) for a survey of some of the major contributions in the description of Old or Biblical Hebrew.

[2]This study uses the term Biblical Hebrew instead of Old Hebrew (OH) (cf. Kutscher 1982:12-85).

[3]This term substitutes the term marked word order. We use this term as Gross (1993) defines it. It is used to refer to all those non-verbal sentence constituents that is placed in the sentence initial position. This term has no functional value other that indicating the linguistic and grammatical topic of a sentence.

[4]Cf. Brown (1980) and Lakoff (1972). Buth (forthcoming articles a and b), Van der Merwe (1990, 1991 and 1994) and Bandstra (1992) are some of the BH grammarians who recognise the shift and acknowledge that we also consider the communicative context as an important factor in our explanation of the function of a topicalized constituent.

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grammarians who operate with categories that are assumed to be universally applicable, the more recent approaches lack such a set of linguistic categories. Different categories are being identified and used because each one of the grammarians works with his own linguistic frame of reference. This is well illustrated in Muraoka's attempt to provide a more approving definition of emphasis. To further illustrate this disarray, we may refer to the different categories and definitions used by scholars like Van der Merwe, Buth, Bandstra and Gross[5]. Difference of opinion is also expressed concerning word order[6] and focus/rheme function. They do not claim to have the last word on the function of a topicalized constituent. However, they do claim to provide us with a more nuanced view on the function of the topicalized constituent in the narrative texts in 2 Kings.

As the more recent developments seemed problematic for the existing research (traditional approach) we would thus use that as this study's point of departure. For this purpose we will commence in **chapter 2** with a description of both traditional and more recent treatments concerning BH word order. The various categories used to describe the function of a topicalized constituent in BH will be our focus. This chapter will reveal that although modern attempts do not present us with a uniformed set of linguistic categories, they do provide us with an array of possibilities to help us in our quest for a more nuanced view. At the close of this chapter we will construct a theoretical frame of reference that may be regarded as representative of modern attempts.

In **chapter 3** the theoretical linguistic framework used in this study will be briefly described. This attempt may be described as eclectic because it will be using diverse perceptions from various linguistic approaches. Verbal sentences will be analysed systematically at different levels of description, namely morphology, morphosyntax, sentence syntax, semantics and pragmatics[7]. In our quest for a suitable linguistic framework for the description of sentences, we will use the theoretical linguistic framework of Richter as a basis. Richter's structural syntax with its limitations provides us with a viable frame of reference. Because of the difficulty in defining semantics, and with pragmatics still in disarray (due to the complexities of languages), this study will define some semantic-pragmatic concepts it will be working with.

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[5]Cf. chapter 2 for a overview of the theories of these scholars.

[6]Van der Merwe (1991), Buth (forthcoming articles a and b) and Bandstra (1992) work with the VSO as the unmarked word order and the SVO as the marked word order. Gross (1993) is suggesting a new approach to word orders. Cf. chapter 2 for more information on Gross' view on word order.

[7]Pragmatics entails the study of language from a functional perspective. Within this domain one considers the communicative context of the sentence in a text. Cf. chapter 3 for elaborate discussion.

In **chapter 4** the verbal sentences (excluding the היה-sentences) of the narrative texts (that is, the non-direct speech) in 2 Kings will constitute our corpus[8]. These sentences and, when necessary, the immediate contextual sentences in the corpus will be analysed on morphological, morphosyntactic and syntactic levels as well as the semantic and pragmatic levels. These sentences will be examined systematically. This part of the investigation will incorporate and test the viability of the different categories of various grammarians. By carefully considering the context of each sentence, this study will pose the question: which, if any, of the categories can adequately describe the semantic-pragmatic function of a topicalized constituent in 2 Kings? The text critical notes (in the BHS) in certain verbal sentences will only be discussed where the results thereof may influence the description of the sentence or where it may denote a possible semantic-pragmatic function for a topicalized constituent.

The results of this study will be summarised in **chapter 5**.

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[8]Gross (1993) focused mainly on the function of the subject in asyndetic sentences in direct speech texts within a specific corpus that included 2 Kings. He operates with a clearly defined linguistic framework, concepts and categories in his corpus. This study endeavours to test the viability of the categories and concepts he uses in our corpus, namely, 2 Kings. This study will concentrate on the function of the subject, object, adjunct and conjunction כִּי (followed by preverbal constituent) in the sentence initial position in the non-direct (narrative) speech texts in 2 Kings. It will include syndetic as well as asyndetic sentences.

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CHAPTER 2

A BRIEF HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF
EXISTING THEORIES

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The aim of this study is to investigate whether and in which way more recent studies of BH could aid the understanding of the function of a topicalized constituent in BH word order. For this purpose we will first look at the description of word order in terms of the traditional approach[9]. Due to the correspondence of their views on word order we will not describe each exponent separately, but rather use Gesenius-Kautzsch-Cowley (GKC) as a representative of this group. Schlesinger, Joüon and Brockelmann, however, will be treated separately. The latter because he proposes his views on word order from a different angle than GKC and Schlesinger and Joüon because their views oppose that of the others.

We will treat each of the more recent publications on word order in more detail. Because modern linguistics brought with it a diversity of approaches to the description of language, we will try to identify, where possible, the linguistic framework of each publication. The categories used to describe the function of a topicalized constituent in BH word order will thus be of central importance in this chapter. At the end of the chapter we will then compile a theoretical frame of reference that we regard as representative of modern attempts to acquire a more refined comprehension of BH word order.

2.2 GRAMMATICAL THEORIES

TRADITIONAL GRAMMARIANS

2.2.1 GESENIUS-KAUTZSCH-COWLEY

Gesenius-Kautzsch-Cowley (1910:§142) devote only two pages to the order of constituents in verbal sentences in BH. They argue that the unmarked word order norm for a verbal sentence in BH is V-S-O. They claim that the verb comes first because "the principle emphasis rests upon the action that proceeds from (or experienced by) the subject, and accordingly the verb

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[9]The term traditional refers to those scholars who adhere to an approach whereby no extra textual elements of meaning or context are allowed in their syntactic description. They are also termed the structural grammarians. Cf. also Lyons (1968:1-52) for a more elaborate elucidation thereof.

naturally precedes (necessarily so when it is in the perfect consecutive or Imperfect consecutive)"(§142). If the emphasis is on a particular constituent, it is placed in the sentence initial position. When the subject precedes the verb in a verbal sentence it is being emphasised. Even though GKC (1910) provide a number of examples of the different alternate word orders, Bandstra (1982:65) observes that "no attempt is made to substantiate the normative word order V-S-(O)".

Meyer (1972:§91), Lettinga (1976:152-156), Blau (1976:90-92), Sawyer (1976:150), Williams (1976:§570-582) and Davidson (1985:§105) are unanimous in terms of their description of BH word order. They support the view that the Verb-Subject order is the unmarked word order in BH in a verbal sentence. By reversing the word order or placing any constituent before the verb, the author wishes to emphasise such a constituent. The problem with these grammarians is that they do not give a clear definition of their use of the functional category "emphasis". Hence, when we turn to the examples they use to illustrate this function of emphasis, it is evident that other functions than emphasis might be attributed to constituents in the sentence initial position. It is probable that many of them have coined the reversed (marked) word order as emphasis on the first constituent of the sentence because the sentence was their largest and sole unit of grammatical description. If one concentrates exclusively on the meaning of individual sentences, the options are limited to emphasis when one has to assign meaning to a topicalized constituent in BH word order.

2.2.2 BROCKELMANN

Brockelmann (1956§48, §122) claims that the normal word order for the verbal sentence in BH is V-S. He utilises the Arabic syntax where we have the V-S word order considered as the norm for verbal sentences. If, however, any nominal constituent is placed before the verb, the sentence is classified as a nominal clause. Brockelmann's view of the V-S word order in the verbal sentence is based on the many occurrences of the wayyiqtol verbal form in the narrative text of BH. He applies the norm of V-S order on all types of BH literature, but with the exception of poetry where word order is subject to more flexibility. Any deviation from the norm of V-S is interpreted as indicating emphasis - a view which is assumed as self-explanatory. Bandstra (1982:65) argues that it is impossible to "extrapolate from the narrative and say V-S syntax is to be considered universally normative for all forms of literature".

2.2.3 SCHLESINGER

Schlesinger (1953:381-390) has a different approach. He is not very keen on the view that the V-S order is normative in the BH verbal sentence. He asserts that a "pure verb" never takes the first position in the BH verbal sentence. According to him the verb is always preceded by a waw conjunctive. This approach is applied to the narrative sections of BH literature where the wayyiqtol form is particularly frequent.

He furthermore favours the view of the "primitive noun-verb (N-V) syntax" because of the Semitic prefix to the verb being a pronoun (1953:382). His view differs strongly from many of the traditional grammarians and even more from the most recent functional arguments on word order in BH verbal sentences. He asserts that the Subject-Predicate (S-P) order of constituents instead of the Predicate-Subject (P-S) be considered as the 'proto word order'. According to him the preponderance of the wayyiqtol verbal form in BH narrative should not be viewed as deviant of the normal order, viz. N-V, but as corroboration of it. The waw in the wayyiqtol verbal form is seen as the first element of the verbal sentence, which then automatically makes the verb the second constituent of the sentence. Joüon-Muraoka (1991:§155n, 580) states that in a "majority of cases the waw is inseparable from the verbal form, e.g. וַיִּקְטֹל; therefore the subject necessarily comes after the verb". Often the waw is a separate element followed by the subject before the verb to indicate the breaking of a sequence, e.g. Gen 31:34: "Now Rachel had taken..." וְרָחֵל לָקְחָה אֶת־הַתְּרָפִים , or in circumstantial sentences. This means that if Schlesinger's view on the N-V syntax is accepted, the verb actually moves to the third position in the verbal sentence. Schlesinger defends his concept of the N-V syntax by acknowledging the waw copulative not as a sentence element, but "more as the connective which stands neutrally between the two coordinated clauses" (Bandstra 1982:66).

However, Schlesinger accepts that there are exceptions to his view of the verbal sentence (N-V). The V-S word order is possible especially in the poetic sections where the writer has greater freedom as far as word order is concerned. Other V-S orders do occur. His views on the primitive N-V syntax are however not widely accepted by other grammarians.

2.4 JOÜON

A secondary source (Bandstra 1982) on Joüon (1923) states that his research differs a great deal from other grammatical studies on word order. He proposes a Subject-Predicate (S-P) word order for both the nominal and verbal sentences. If however, inversion occurs, the

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nominal or verbal predicate is emphasised. The reversed word order, Predicate-Subject (P-S), also occurs when the sentence is introduced with a particle like כִּי, אִם, לֹא and הִנֵּה[10] because in such cases the predicate is emphasised.

RECENT GRAMMARIANS

2.2.5 MURAOKA (JOüON-MURAOKA)

This section deals with Muraoka and his revision of Joüon's work on word order in BH. According to Joüon-Muraoka (1991:579), the statistically normal word order of the constituents in BH verbal sentence, is V-S. Muraoka proves the authenticity of this traditional view when he considers the many occurrences of the wayyiqtol verbal form in BH narrative. Other attested patterns of word order in BH are V-S-O-A[11], V-S-O, V-S-A, V-O-A and V-A. Moreover, he makes it clear that neither the subject nor predicate in a V-S order is marked for emphasis. It does not necessarily mean that the non-verbal preposed constituent functions emphatically if constituents other than the verb are placed in the sentence initial position. We do find the reversed order as emphasis on the constituent in the sentence initial position in a number of texts, but he suggests that we also investigate other possible factors at work. Muraoka advises that we take into consideration the following aspects (concerning the subject preceding the verb) possibly responsible for the reversed word order in BH:

- Emphasis or contrast (Gen 41:16, Judg 7:7, Gen 50:20).
- When a circumstantial sentence is involved (Gen 37:3, Judg 3:5, 1 Sam 3:2).
- Avoidance of the waw-consecutive sequence (Judg 9:44, 20:48)
- No emphasis if the subject is אִישׁ or אִשָּׁה (Judg 17:6, 21:1, 1 Sam 21:3, Lev 18:23).
- When the subject is God in the first position, "a kind of religious psychology in which God occupies the dominant place determines the arrangement of words giving the Subject the initial position" (1985:35) (Gen 28:3, 31:29).
- With special groups of verbs of movement and knowledge (Gen 42:10, Judg 6:21).
- Employment of the chiastic construction (Judg 20:39, 1 Sam 14:15).
- Reply/response to a question at the beginning (Judg 6:29).

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[10]Cf. Gen 6:3, 13:16, 16:2 and 29:32.
[11]V = Verb; S = Subject; O = Object and A = Adverb or adverbial phrase.

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Muraoka also deals with the function of the position of the object and adverb in the sentence. He asserts that the object can either take the medial or initial position in the sentence. Muraoka, according to Van der Merwe (1991:130), regards those prepositional phrases that are closely related to the verb (where the preposition is used to mark the object of the verb) as objects[12] while the other prepositional phrases are considered to be adverbs. The functions attributed to the O-V-S or Adverb-V-S word order correlate with those cases where a subject precedes the verb in a verbal sentence. Unfortunately, Muraoka "does not explain the reason why (according to him) an object may be used to avoid a waw-consecutive sequence, because in those cases one rather expects an independent personal pronoun to be used" (Van der Merwe 1991:130).

Muraoka's statistical material is impressive, but his explanations for some of the constructions, especially those relating to the functions emphasis and contrast, are unsatisfactory. Muraoka sees emphasis as a linguistic expression "that belongs more to the psychological than to the logical, purely communicative sphere" (1985:xiii). He freely assigns the function emphasis to a pronoun, also referred to as the "redundant pronoun", preceding the finite verb in the verbal sentence. He claims that certain psychological factors do play a role when a personal pronoun is utilised with finite verb forms. The personal pronoun can also be used to indicate contrast (1985:58).[13] However, Van der Merwe (1991:131) points out that Muraoka, on the one hand, perceives those cases where the subject is a nominal phrase as either emphasis or contrast. On the other hand, he also distinguishes between the functions "emphasis" and "contrast" in those instances where the objects and adverbs precede the finite verb (1985:38-39). Evidently Muraoka suspects a relationship between these two functions, but has difficulty distinguishing between them (Van der Merwe 1991:131).

2.2.6 VAN DER MERWE

Van der Merwe (1991:136) in his article on the function of word order in the book of Joshua asserts that there are "sufficient grounds to consider Old Hebrew to be a Verb-Subject-Object (V-S-O) language". He utilises the scheme, P1-P2-V S O X-P3, proposed by Dik (1978:175) to discuss the function of the marked word order in Old Hebrew. The scheme is defined as follows:

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[12]Cf. also Deut 23:21 and Judg 12:1.
[13]Cf. also Bandstra 1992:122.

- The P2 and P3 positions refer to the left- and right dislocated items;
- P1 position refers to the item at the beginning of a sentence like question words, subordinated conjunctions and relative pronouns;
- V-S-O stands for the traditionally accepted word order for a verbal sentence in BH;
- The X refers to any sentence item other than the subject or object (Dik, 1978:175).

Dik's functional grammar postulates that every language has a P1-pragmatic position at the beginning of a sentence that can be utilised for the marking of a constituent. The following P1 constituents, namely interrogative particles, subordinate conjunctions and relative pronouns, may occupy the first position. The P1-pragmatic position may be occupied by any focused item if no P1 constituents occur. Van der Merwe (1991) argues that when the verb is preceded by any constituent occupying the P1 position, the function of such a marked word order may be any one of the following:

- focus of an illocutionary act;
- focus of topicalization;
- a new topic in a particular discourse is involved;
- interruption of a narrative sequence (also referred to as the circumstantial sentence).

He concludes that his hypothesis on the function of marked word order should, "as Muraoka and Gross rightly suggested, therefore not be restricted to the vague term emphasis, but rather be systematically viewed in the light of the communicative events that take place in a discourse" (1991:7).

2.2.7 BUTH

Buth (forthcoming articles a and b) accentuates the view that the unmarked order for the BH verbal sentence is V-S-O. If, however, we have a fronted constituent, e.g. S-V or X-V-S-O, he proposes that we determine the pragmatic functions and the value thereof at work in the fronted element of the sentence. He refers to these functions as the theoretical expansions within Functional Grammar. The theoretical expansions include Contextualization or

9

Contextualizing Constituent[14], Foreground and Background, Continuity and Discontinuity, Dramatic Pause and Plot structure.

According to Buth there is a difference between Topic/Contextualizing Constituent and Focus as pragmatic functions. He defines Topic/Contextualizing Constituent as "a constituent that is marked in order to serve as a frame of reference for relating a clause to its context" (1988).[15] The Topic/Contextualizing Constituent does not have to be the subject of the sentence and is not the salient, most important information of a clause.

Focus, on the other hand, is the marking of the salient, most important information of a sentence.[16] These two pragmatic functions, namely Topic/Contextualizing Constituent and Focus, are of vital importance to the analysis of marked word order in BH and are accepted as a "major advancement over the general catch-all 'emphasis'" (Buth, forthcoming article b).

Closely linked to the Topic/Contextualizing Constituent and Focus in a sentence, are the pragmatic functions Foreground/Background. A semantic definition of Foreground of the narrative can be defined as the sequential chain of completed actions.[17] In BH, the most obvious structure to constitute the sequential chain of completed actions or events will be the wayyiqtol verbal form. However, Buth maintains that we do find cases where the wayyiqtol verbal form does not constitute a sequential or completed event. Whether the wayyiqtol verbal form has something to do with the sequence of a story or not, it seems obvious that the wayyiqtol form can be Foreground and sometimes not.[18] It is the writer's way of advancing his story in BH. In Jon 1:16-2:1 we have three such sentences.

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[14]It is also referred to as Topic in his articles (forthcoming a and b). However, he does not like the concept "Topic" and proposes a change in name because it is a confusing concept in Functional Grammar. Topic relates to what the sentence or paragraph is about. "Yet many marked 'Topics' are not what the sentence is about, they only orient the sentence to the context. I propose a contextualizing function which can mark a contextualzing constituent in the grammar" (Buth, forthcoming article). Buth, according to Van der Merwe (1994:30) acknowledges that the notion of topic was recently expanded by Dik (1989). Dik (1989) includes new concepts like discourse topic, new topic, given topic, resumed topic, subtopic, and subject. Buth, in his approach, does not utilise these new concepts because they "are not yet defined clearly enough as part of the grammar" (Van der Merwe, 1994:44). Cf. Givon (1979b:11-12) for his view on the notion topic.

[15]Bandstra (1992:109-123) and De Stadler (1989:213) refer to already known information or old, given information as the Topic/Contextualizing constituent. It may be contrasted with the new information, referred to as the Focused constituent.

[16]Van der Merwe (1991:135) describes the concept Focus as a "relational concept". He further distinguishes between a free focus (where the focused item is the focus of a statement, question or appeal) and a bound focus (the focused item is the focus of a focus particle, e.g. גַּם , אַף or רַק).

[17]Buth, according to Van der Merwe (1994:30), understands foreground as a "pragmatic concept that is better served by the terms *mainline events* or *thematic continuity.*"

[18]The wayyiqtol and weqatal verbal forms are two grammatical devices a writer may use to advance his story. Cf. Naccacci, 1994b.

<div dir="rtl">

1:16 וַיִּזְבְּחוּ־זֶבַח לַיהוה וַיִּדְּרוּ נְדָרִים:

2:1 וַיְמַן יהוה דָּג גָּדוֹל לִבְלֹעַ אֶת־יוֹנָה

</div>

<div dir="rtl">

וַיִּזְבְּחוּ־זֶבַח לַיהוה

</div>

a. **and** they **sacrificed** (wayyiqtol verbal form) a sacrifice to the Lord

<div dir="rtl">

וַיִּדְּרוּ נְדָרִים:

</div>

b. **and** they **vowed** (wayyiqtol verbal form) vows

<div dir="rtl">

וַיְמַן יהוה דָּג גָּדוֹל לִבְלֹעַ אֶת־יוֹנָה

</div>

c. **and** the Lord **appointed** (wayyiqtol verbal form) a big fish to swallow Jonah.

Each of the these sentences has a wayyiqtol verbal form as the first constituent. According to the BH word order rules (according to the traditional norm) we have in each of these sentences an unmarked word order.

This story of Jonah clearly illustrates that wayyiqtol verbal forms do not necessarily signal that there is sequentiality at work in a text. From a pragmatic point of view we will have to accept in Jon 1:16-2:1 the appointment of the big fish as the next Foreground (main-line event) in the story.[19] Buth maintains that "we must look and see how the author structured and encoded the event and then, after looking at the surface structures of the language, we can say that it is or is not Foreground".

Background refers to the material not temporally sequential in the narrative. Simultaneous material, pluperfect past reference, negation, stative descriptions, habitual actions, reason and purpose sentences form part of the Background of a narrative. Buth asserts that BH utilises the Subject-Verb word order with a separate tense-aspect system to mark a clause as 'Background'.[20] In Jon 1:5c[21] we have an example of a S-V order preceded by a wayyiqtol form.

It may also happen that a Subject is marked for both Contextualization (Topic) and Discontinuity. In Gen 4:1 Adam is placed in the first position (also referred to as the P1 pragmatic position by FG) of the sentence as the Contextualizing Constituent.

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[19]Cf. Judg 11:1. The sentence "and Gilead had fathered Jephthah" begins with a wayyiqtol form. The wayyiqtol verbal form usually indicates the sequentiality of the story. However, in this case, this sentence is used to break the order of events as they would have followed one another in a possible real world.

[20]The we-X-qatal and we-X-yiqtol may be utilised to mark background information that realises discontinuity in the BH narrative.

[21]Cf. also Gen 20:4, 15-16.

<div dir="rtl">

4:1   וְהָאָדָם יָדַע אֶת־חַוָּה אִשְׁתּוֹ וַתַּהַר וַתֵּלֶד אֶת־קַיִן

וַתֹּאמֶר קָנִיתִי אִישׁ אֶת־יהוה:

</div>

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וְהָאָדָם יָדַע אֶת־חַוָּה אִשְׁתּוֹ

</div>

And the Man (Adam) knew Eve his wife (S-V-O order)

<div dir="rtl">

וַתַּהַר

</div>

and she **conceived** (wayyiqtol verbal form) (V(S)-O)

<div dir="rtl">

וַתֵּלֶד אֶת־קַיִן

</div>

and gave birth to Cain (wayyiqtol verbal form) (V(S)-X)

<div dir="rtl">

וַתֹּאמֶר קָנִיתִי אִישׁ אֶת־יהוה

</div>

and said: "I have gotten a man from the Lord"(V-Inf-O-O)

Adam is fronted in the first sentence as the Topic/Contextualizing Constituent even though Eve continues to be the subject in the following sentences. The fronting of Adam is suitable to mark discontinuity and to break the main-line, sequential verbal forms. The first sentence, according to Buth, opens a new episode with new setting and new dramatis personae. This Background sentence (with S-V order) marks a new paragraph or episode and signals discontinuity.

Buth further reports that there are cases in Hebrew grammar where the marked constituent (Topic/Contextualizing Constituent) breaks up the time continuity (referring to the breaking up of the wayyiqtol forms which introduces narrative sequentiality) of the story as well as the Topic continuity *and* has a contrastive Focus[22] in addition. In Gen 4:3-5 we have four sentences:

<div dir="rtl">

4.3   וַיְהִי מִקֵּץ יָמִים וַיָּבֵא קַיִן מִפְּרִי הָאֲדָמָה מִנְחָה לַיהוה:

4.4   וְהֶבֶל הֵבִיא גַם־הוּא מִבְּכֹרוֹת צֹאנוֹ וּמֵחֶלְבֵהֶן

4.4   וַיִּשַׁע יהוה אֶל־הֶבֶל וְאֶל־מִנְחָתוֹ:

4.5   וְאֶל־קַיִן וְאֶל־מִנְחָתוֹ לֹא שָׁעָה וַיִּחַר לְקַיִן מְאֹד וַיִּפְּלוּ פָּנָיו:

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וַיָּבֵא קַיִן מִפְּרִי הָאֲדָמָה מִנְחָה לַיהוה:

</div>

a. Verb(wayy) - S - X - O - X

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[22]Buth's view on the notion of contrastive focus was influenced by Simon Dik (1989:266).

וְהֶבֶל הֵבִיא גַם־הוּא מִבְּכֹרוֹת צֹאנוֹ

b. CC/Focus (S) - V - X - X

וַיִּשַׁע יְהוָה אֶל־הֶבֶל וְאֶל־מִנְחָתוֹ

c. Verb (wayy) - S - X

וְאֶל־קַיִן וְאֶל־מִנְחָתוֹ לֹא שָׁעָה

d. CC/Focus (S) - neg. - V

In sentences a + c and b + d there is a definite contrastive comparison between Cain and Abel. It is obvious that there is no sequentiality in the story in verses 3-5 because the expected wayyiqtol verbal forms were not utilised by the author. In this way the author makes the comparison possible. According to Buth, "comparisons usually imply some kind of contrast". Therefore he assumes a Topic/Contextualizing Constituent overlayed with a Focus function.

Buth also argues conclusively that a marked Contextualizing Constituent may be part of a temporally sequential sentence. In Gen 3:1 and Gen 4:1 we have a subject preceding the verb as the marked Contextualizing Constituent at the beginning of a new narrative unit. In the case of Gen 4:1 וְהָאָדָם יָדַע אֶת־חַוָּה אִשְׁתּוֹ ("and *Adam* knew his wife") the subject starts a new event and is most probably sequential to the garden story as a whole. The Contextualizing Constituent (Adam) is used to mark discontinuity and simultaneously introduces a new episode in the garden story. On the other hand he argues that there are also cases of special usage of the Topic/Contextualizing Constituent in a sequential sentence to illustrate a special pragmatic function, viz. Dramatic Pause.

In Gen 19:23-25[23] we have four sentences:

הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ יָצָא עַל־הָאָרֶץ וְלוֹט בָּא צֹעֲרָה: 19.23
וַיהוָה הִמְטִיר עַל־סְדֹם וְעַל־עֲמֹרָה גָּפְרִית וָאֵשׁ מֵאֵת יְהוָה מִן־הַשָּׁמָיִם: 19.24
וַיַּהֲפֹךְ אֶת־הֶעָרִים הָאֵל וְאֵת כָּל־הַכִּכָּר וְאֵת כָּל־יֹשְׁבֵי הֶעָרִים 19.25
וְצֶמַח הָאֲדָמָה: 19.25

הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ יָצָא עַל־הָאָרֶץ

a. CC (S) - V - X

וְלוֹט בָּא צֹעֲרָה:

b. CC (S) - V - X

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[23]For more examples cf. Gen 38:25, Esther 7:6-10.

13

וַיהוה הִמְטִיר עַל־סְדֹם וְעַל־עֲמֹרָה גׇּפְרִית

c. CC (S) - V - X

וַיַּהֲפֹךְ אֶת־הֶעָרִים הָאֵל

d. V (S) (wayy) - O

The first three sentences a, b and c have a subject in the first position and the verb in the second position even though they are all sequential in the story about Lot and Sodom. One would expect the author to use the normal wayyiqtol verb form to express sequentiality. According to Buth, the sequentiality (or "temporal progression") of the story lies in the semantics of the event. Through the successive use of the Topic/Contextualizing Constituent structures (in verses 23a, 23b and 24) he indicates that we might have a situation where the author wishes to indicate a pause in the whole development of the story. Buth proposes that the use of the three Contextualization structures in succession be considered a dramatic climax for the author.[24]

Testing this hypothesis against the whole corpus of the Old Testament still needs to be done. Furthermore, "dramatic climax" might gain more credibility if one could elaborate and substantiate it by also referring to examples in other languages.
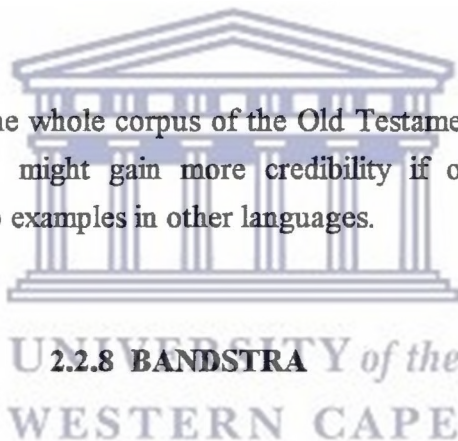
2.2.8 BANDSTRA

Bandstra (1992:109-123) contends with the factors that determine the "linear sequencing of words in Biblical Hebrew". It is possible, according to him, to account for certain word order variations in terms of functional principles. Grammars of BH have indicated that the word order variation is due to the intrinsic style of the different authors in BH. Other factors may also influence the word order variation, e.g. interrogatives, negatives, focus particles, etc. Many traditional grammarians have in their search for a suitable answer to word order variations utilized the concept of emphasis. Bandstra argues that a "more refined and linguistically grounded approach" is needed to define "what easily remains just a psychological notion" (1992:113). Emphasis must be seen as a possible function, and not the only function,

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[24]I am inclined to disagree with Buth's proposal of dramatic climax. If you consider the syntactic and semantic evidence, it becomes clear that sentences a and b have no semantic relationship with sentence c. Each event has its own context. For a dramatic climax one might at least expect a degree of topic continuity. It may be suggested that sentences a and b mark the end of a scene/paragraph while sentence c introduces a new sub-paragraph or episode with a new topic and theme.

for a fronted constituent in a sentence in BH. To be able to predict that other functions are also at work, he proposes that we look at the "information structure" of the sentence.

According to him, every text has an information structure, whether it be known or new information. Old information may be known if it had already been mentioned previously, or it can be deduced from the general situation of communication, or it can be information assumed from within a particular cultural context. This old or given information is frequently referred to as "Topic".

New information need not be totally unknown information. Some grammarians, according to Bandstra (1992:114), have suggested that one should rather refer to it as information not yet activated within a communicative situation, whereas old or given information had been activated. New information has communicative value and is usually the most important, salient information of the sentence. This new, salient information of the sentence is also referred to as "Focus".

According to the structure of a particular sentence or text as a whole, different types of information can be signalled through word order. Bandstra maintains that old information is contextually and textually bound. Most given elements are always referred to anaphorically, e.g. by means of a personal pronoun. Grammatically, they also have a definite article "presupposing identifiability in the mind of the reader". The new information on the other hand is without a definite article and must be described in full. One can then assume that the way in which a sentence or text is structured with reference to either old or new information, will have certain implications for the understanding of the principles of word order. Bandstra (1992:115) uses this information structure as point of departure to illustrate that factors other than the commonly used emphasis are at work when we have a fronted constituent in a sentence in BH.

He distinguishes between a basic word order (V-[S]-O =implicit subject or V-S-O =explicit subject) and a marked word order (S-V-O) in BH. Bandstra (1992:116-119) deals with marked order in the narrative and spoken discourses. When there is a wayyiqtol verbal form in the first position of the sentence it signals the continuity of the narrative. However, when a subject stands in the first position of the verbal sentence, it conveys the message that "new or unexpected information is being introduced". In cases where a constituent is placed in the fronted position of a sentence, e.g. Subject-Verb marked structure, discontinuity of the narrative is signalled. This means that something new is introduced. It is also possible that a constituent can effect contrast.

The construction of fronting is referred to as "word order topicalization". He defines it as "the process whereby a writer brings into prominence new information and places it into the given information slot or the topic position".

He also recognises the different functions attributed to a fronted constituent (e.g. subject, object, adverb, etc.) in the verbal sentence[25] and refers to the topicalization function of the independent pronoun. Different types of pronouns are identified, namely the redundant and reprise pronoun, subject and object reprise.

He concludes by stating that what traditional scholars have perceived as emphasis can now be given a linguistic definition. He proposes that the term topicalization be used instead of emphasis. "Topicalization takes the non-salient information, fronts that constituent, and places it in a position of informational prominence" (1992:123). He asserts that one should never examine word order in a sentence in isolation from the discourse. According to Bandstra (1992:123), word order is responsible for maintaining continuity between sentences as well as indicating thematic breaks between paragraphs.

In conclusion it would be appropriate to acknowledge that Buth and Bandstra do have concordant approaches. They agree that the marked order of the verbal sentence is constituted by the fronting of a constituent, e.g. X-V-S-O or S-V-O. Both argue that it is incorrect to automatically suggest the notion of "emphasis" for this structure.

While earlier studies of word order concentrated on the syntactic and semantic function of the sentence, Buth and Bandstra argue that it is possible to account for word order variations in terms of functional principles. They utilise Topic/Contextualizing Constituent[26], Focus, Continuity and Discontinuity as pragmatic functions, instead of emphasis, for fronted constituents in a sentence[27]. Buth also refers to the "Dramatic Climax" as a function. Essentially, both of them use the text as a whole within the communicative context to determine the pragmatic function of word order variations.

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[25]Cf. Bandstra 1992:120-121 for further detail on the different functions attributed to the topicalized constituents.

[26]Bandstra (1992) attributes the function Topic(alization) to any fronted constituent. Buth, on the other hand, proposes to use the term "Contextualizing Constituent" because Topic is a confusing concept in Functional Grammar.

[27]Bandstra (1992) does not elaborate sufficiently on the many functions he attributes to the Topicalized constituents in the sentence.

2.2.9 GROSS

Gross (1993:170-187) questions the traditional grammarians (Joüon[28], GKC, Brockelmann, Meyer, Waltke and O'Connor[29] and Muraoka[30]) on their views of the V-S-O word order (referred to as the unmarked order) as the norm for the verbal sentence in BH. The statistic evidence that a particular verbal form, viz. wayyiqtol in the narrative, occurs so frequently, should not be utilised as a criterion to ascertain whether it should be regarded as the norm or not.

His article deals with the position of the subject in the verbal sentence in BH. According to him one must have a holistic approach to these phenomena. However, for this purpose it is necessary to investigate first the initial function of the constituent order in each type of sentence. Gross (1993) therefore restricts himself to a description of "asyndetischen erste Redesätzen" in Gen, Ex 1-19 and Joshua to 2 Kings.

Gross operates with specific linguistic presuppositions. Firstly he distinguishes between the "Vorfeld" and "Hauptfeld" of a sentence. The constituents preceding the verb are referred to as being in the "Vorfeld". Those constituents placed after the verb are referred to as being in the "Hauptfeld". The constituents in the "Vorfeld" are considered to be the "Topicalized constituents". It includes any constituent other than the verb in the fronted position . It should be noted that this concept "Topicalization" does not have any functional value in the sentence[31]. It is just a way of referring to those constituents in the fronted position.

If a verb is in the first position in the sentence, he speaks of "Spitzenstellung". This verb may take particles like לֹא, נָא or the Infintivus Absolutus of the same root and these items will be recorded as part of the verb and therefore will also be in "Spitzenstellung".

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[28]He argues that the Subject-Verb word order is the normal order in nominal and verbal sentences. However, if the verb is placed in the first position in a verbal sentence, it has an emphatic function.

[29]GKC, Brockelmann, Meyer, Waltke and O'Connor have the same view on the Verb-Subject word order in Biblical Hebrew. They respectively refer to this constituent order as the "natürliche, die Normalstellung, die meist realisierte, the basic word order" (Gross, 1993:170). The subject, according to these scholars, is the emphasised constituent when it precedes the verb.

[30]Muraoka's approach to this phenomenon differs considerably from Joüon's view of a normal Subject-Verb word order. He argues that neither the verb nor subject receives any special emphasis when it is placed in the first position of a verbal sentence. Gross states that Joüon asserts that the Verb-Subject order is statistically the unmarked word order in the verbal sentences.

[31]Bandstra (1992) also utilises the concept "Topicalization". Buth (forthcoming articles), on the other hand, uses the term "Contextualizing Constituent". Cf. footnote 6 where Buth explains why he prefers the term Contextualizing Constituent. Both argue that their concept has functional value. Pragmatic functions like "Topic/Contextualizing Constituent" or "Focus" may be attributed to the constituent(s) in the fronted position of any sentence in BH.

Gross distinguishes between optional and obligatory constituents. He refers to constituents as "Ergänzungen" (supplements) and considers only the order of obligatory constituents in his article.

He further recognises, concerning the "Topicalized constituent(s)", functions like Focus, Theme/Rheme[32] and anaphoric referencing. A constituent is marked for focus when it refers to an item that represents a particular choice in a context where more than one alternative is possible.[33] Gross (1993) maintains that "der Fokus gewichtet somit die durch einen Satzteil vermittelte Information in bezug auf die anderen elementen desselben Satzes". Any Focus/Background structure gives emphasis to particular information in the sentence. The Focused constituent may precede or succeed the verb. It is important to remember that the verb may also be the Focused item of the sentence.

He asserts that the Theme-Rheme structure refers to old or new information in the sentence. If a constituent is focused there is no need to question whether we have a Theme/Rheme function because no mutual relationship exists between Focus/Background and Theme/Rheme. The Focus/Background refers to the salient or non-salient information in the sentence whereas the Theme/Rheme points to the old or new information in the sentence. When a part of the sentence is the response to a question previously asked, the Rheme function may be attributed. In such cases Gross does not consider looking for a Focus/Background function.

In his research of the "asyndetischen ersten Redesätzen", he corroborates the view that in contrast to the remaining constituents, the subject in the "Vorfeld" is not necessarily the Focused constituent. Even if the verb is the first constituent, it does not have to bear a Focus function.

With the afore-mentioned presuppositions, Gross lists six criteria that may be used to identify the function of a specific "Topicalized constituent". In this way he is able to ascertain some of the general influences a Topicalized constituent may have on a sentence. The following six

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[32]These concepts are considered pragmatic functions. Theme refers to old, known information and Rheme refers to new information. Hendricks (1988:19) argues that theme is a positional and semantically loaded concept. Positional refers to the first constituent of a syntactic structure while the rest of the sentence refers to the rheme. Brown and Yule (1983:126-127) utilises the concept theme to "refer to a formal category, the left-most constituent of the sentence. Each simple sentence has a theme 'the starting point of the utterance' and a rheme, everything else that follows in the sentence". Theme is used as synonym for topic to indicate different types of discourse or communication subjects. Gross maintains that a topicalized constituent is marked for focus or rheme. His view does allow more functional options. However, it is possible that one may consider rheme function as a synonym for focus. In this study I shall primarily concentrate on the pragmatic notions, viz. topic and focus. When reference is made to theme it will be to inform the reader what the story is all about and not to refer to the topic of a sentence. Theme as a pragmatic function is described in chapter 3 in the way it will be used and referred to.
[33]Cf. Van der Merwe 1994:44.

questions are therefore directed at each of the 367 sentences in his corpus that has a subject as a 'Topicalized constituent':

1. In which type of sentences is the fronting of the verb determined by a sentence type or the verb function? He refers to the interrogative sentences, negative sentences and verbs with an imperative function (e.g. Jussive, Cohortative, Inf. abs., etc.).

2. In which type of sentences is the topicalized constituent necessitated or strongly favoured by certain constituent types? This will be the case with sentences introduced by interrogative particles, deictic particles or special usage of the subject.

3. Is the topicalized constituent the rheme (i.e. new information) of the sentence?

4. Is the (free) topicalized constituent the focus in the sentence? He acknowledges that special markers like ⬚ , contrast and the pleonastic independent personal pronoun are used to indicate focus. However, one should also look at instances where it could be deduced contextually whether it is the focus of the sentence or not.

5. Is the verb in the fronted position the focused item?

6. Are there cases of topicalized constituents where none of the above-mentioned questions are relevant?

In the application of these criteria he is conscious of the fact that there are cases where none of the above-mentioned criteria are applicable. He suggests that in such cases we look at other general criteria that may possibly provide us with a solution to the question of fronted verbs and Topicalized constituents. To achieve his goal, Gross divides the corpus into three different categories:

A. "Asyndetischen ersten Redesätzen" with a verb and at least two nominal or pronominal constituents. Neither should be the subject of the verb.

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B.   Sentences with an independent personal pronoun (IPP) as the Subject or with God as the Subject of the sentence.

C.   "Asyndetischen ertsen Redesätzen" with a Verb, Subject and at least one constituent.

A. "Asyndetischen ersten Redesätzen" with a Verb and at least two constituents[34]

In these cases the verb may be obligatorily fronted. The verb is automatically fronted when used with an imperative or declarative function or if it occurs in an interrogative or negative sentence. The topicalization of a sentence constituent is, however, obligatory if the sentence begins with a question[35] or deictic particle[36] (כֹּה, prep. כְּ). In these cases the topicalized constituent carries no focus function.

There are also cases where the topicalized constituent is the rheme (1 Sam 15:15) or the focus (Gen 12:7, 2 Sam 7:27 and 2 Kings 23:27) of the sentence.

He states conclusively that the fronted verb in these sentences is not focused. If however, it is preceded by an Inf. abs. one may attribute a focus function to the verb. On the other hand, the topicalized constituent often carries the focus or the rheme of the sentence. According to the examples it is clear that:

a)   the **V - Constituent/Supplement** (hereafter referred to as X[37] - excluding the Subject) is the **neutral constituent order** for BH sentences;

b)   the **X** (excluding the Subject)-**V** *(subject imbedded)*-**X** (excluding the Subject) is the **marked word order** for a BH sentence. This order signals that the Topicalized constituent can either be the Focus or Rheme of the sentence.

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[34]The verb within this category has an implied subject.
[35]Cf. Gen 12:18; 15:2; 20:9; 44:4, 16; Ex 5:4, 15; 17:3, 4; Josh 17:14; 1 Sam 5:8; 6:2: 2 Kings 4:2, 43.
[36]Cf. Gen 50:17; Ex 3:14; 19:3; 1 Sam 11:9; 18:25; 1 Kings 12:10; 2 Kings 9:12; 19:6, 10.
[37]The "X" refers to an obligatory sentence constituent. It must not be the subject of the sentence.

B. Sentences with an independent personal pronoun (IPP) as Subject or God as Subject

1. *IPP as Subject:*

This group has cases where the IPP appears before and after the verb. Of special interest are the six examples where the IPP is positioned after the verb. The reason for the IPP=subject succeeding the verb is that the verb is fronted (preceded by an Inf.abs.[38] or negation[39]) or the topicalization of another part of the sentence (being an interrogative particle[40]). If a sentence begins with the conjunction פֶּן the verb usually immediately follows the conjunction[41].

In the verbal sentence we may have an IPP=subject (being the topicalized constituent) in the "Vorfeld". Gross (1993:178) provides two possible explanations for those cases where the IPP=subject is positioned in the "Vorfeld" (i.e. the topicalized constituent) in the verbal sentence:

1. The IPP is the topicalized constituent and it may be a *non-Focused* IPP=subject.

2. The IPP=subject is the topicalized constituent and the *Focus* of the sentence.

This second group is advocated by Gross in most cases. The IPP in the first or second person in most cases (and especially in dialogue sentences), with the anaphoric pronominal הוּא do not supply any information about the subject of the verb, "die das verbum finitum durch seine Kongruenz mit dem Subjekt nach Numerus, Person und Genus nicht schon enthielte" (1993:178). According to Gross (1993:178), the IPP in conjunction with the finite verb expresses a kind of emphasis ("Nachdruck") on the verbal subject. He mentions that there are sentence types where the IPP=Subject is required at the beginning of the sentence, thus marking the IPP=Subject as the Focused constituent. Two cases of a topicalised IPP=subject are often regarded as marking the subject for focus:

1. Where the IPP=Subject occurs before verbs of observation (e.g. יָדַע). Joüon, according to Gross (1993:179), simply refers to such cases as being emphasised without substantiating his facts.

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[38]Cf. 1 Sam 23:22 and 2 Sam 18:2.
[39]Cf. Judg 8:23.
[40]Cf. 2 Sam 15:19.
[41]Cf. Gen 38:11.

However, some do perceive this use of the IPP as merely a pleonastic use of the subject. Gross maintains that it is possible to attribute the Focus function to the IPP=Subject in these cases.

2. In interrogative sentences where the "yes" answer is expected, the IPP=Subject is positioned before the verb (Gen 21:24, 47:30). According to Gross, these cases have no Focus function attributed to the IPP=Subject.

It is thus evident that Gross (1993) argues that the IPP=Subject in the "Vorfeld" may carry the Focus function. However, in cases (e.g. Gen 21:24, 47:30, 2 Kings 6:3) where the Focus function cannot easily be detected, one should consider the context more closely.

2. *Subject=name of God*

In Gross' corpus, i.e. sentences introducing direct speech, God as the subject of a particular verb may either precede the verb (i.e. positioned in the "Vorfeld") or succeed the verb (i.e. positioned in the "Hauptfeld") in a verbal sentence. If the S-V order is considered to be the neutral word order, then God, being the Subject in the "Vorfeld", may be the Focused constituent only if it is marked as such by some other means, e.g. by the particle גַּם or semantically by an implied opposition. It may even be the Rhema of the sentence (Ex 3:15c). As expected, there are cases where the Subject=God is not the focused constituent in the sentence (Gen 48:3, Ex 3:18). Such cases occur when the Subject=God is positioned in the "Hauptfeld".

The Subject=God is shifted to the "Hauptfeld" when:

a) interrogatives and direct objects like the deictic כֹּה are in the "Vorfeld";
b) the verb is focused, Inf. abs. preceding the verb or beginning with a commanding type of verb;
c) the verbal sentence begins with לֹא ;
d) any other part of the sentence is focused (e.g. being the Rheme and in the"Vorfeld";
e) deictics (indicating time) are in the "Vorfeld".

In conclusion he states that the subject preceding the verb has either a Focus or Rheme function. However, he argues that the S-V order is in fact also the *neutral word order* in this instance because the placing of the subject in the first position does not necessarily mark or indicate any focusing.

C. "Asyndetischen ersten Redesätzen" with a Verb, Subject and at least one supplement:

Gross analyses three groups of sentences:

1. Sentences with a topicalized Subject;
2. Sentences with another topicalized constituent ("Vorfeld") and subject in the "Hauptfeld";
3. Sentences with the verb in the first position and a subject in conjunction with a constituent in the "Hauptfeld".

In the first place we have sentences that display the S-V-constituent order. In this group Gross discovered that the subject, being the topicalized constituent in the "Vorfeld", may be the Rheme or the Focus of the sentence. However, the fronting of the subject does not necessarily mean that the subject is the Focus or Rheme of the sentence because we have sentences where the subject is not the Focused constituent. For this reason Gross regards the order: S-V-constituent for asyndetic BH sentences as the *structural normal word order*. It may be used in cases where the word order is not supposed to mark a constituent as focused.

In the second group where the pattern is: constituent X-V-S, Gross determined that the topicalized constituent is nearly always the Rheme of the sentence or represents a focused item. In other words, the focused item represents a particular choice in a context where more that one alternative is possible. In some cases formal focus indicators like כִּי provide the conclusive evidence. According to Gross we may understand the constituent X-V-S as the *marked word order*.

The last category includes all those cases where the Verb takes the fronted position with the subject and constituents in the "Hauptfeld". A verb is placed in the first position when an Inf. abs. precedes it or when the verb has an imperative function. The verb is also fronted in interrogative or negative sentences. From the analysis it is clear that the fronted verb is

focused in most cases. There are also examples where the verb, e.g. בָּא[42] is not the focused item.

Gross concludes his investigation of **"Asyndetischen ersten Redesätzen"** with the following summary:

1. Constituent X (excluding the Subject)-V-... is accepted in most cases, either with or without an implicit subject, as the **marked word order** (i.e. the fronted constituent is "marked for focus"). The fronted supplement is then marked for Focus or the Rhema of the sentence.

2. S-V-constituent X is accepted as the **structural normal word order.** This means that the subject may be marked for Focus or Rhema and sometimes not be the Focus.

3. V-constituent X (excluding the subject) is with reference to the verb the **structural normal word order** in BH sentences. It is used when constituents, excluding the subject, are involved that are not focused. However, it may be used for focused or non-focused verbs.

4. V-constituent X (= subject) is probably the **marked word order** for the Focused verb. This marked word order may also be used for verbs which are not focused. However, Gross considers this word order as "unklar, ob sie auch für neutrale Satzteilfolge verwendet wird".

2.3 CONCLUSION

1. Most traditional grammars base their assumption on the fact that in BH the VSO order is the unmarked order, on psychological (GKC and those who follow them uncritically) or purely logical (Schlesinger) rather than on empirical considerations.

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[42]Cf. Gen 27:35; Judg 16:2; 1 Sam 4:7; 15:12; 2 Sam 3:23 and 2 Kings 8:7.

2. Apart from the above-mentioned consideration, their (uncritical) assignment of the "vague" semantic value, viz. emphasis, to cases where a constituent precedes a verb has been justifiably questioned by more modern BH grammarians.

3. In contrast to the traditional approaches that operate with assumed universally applicable categories, the more modern approaches suffer from a lack of a uniform set of linguistic categories. This state of affairs is well illustrated by Muraoka's attempt to provide a more adequate definition of emphasis as well as the differences between Van der Merwe, Buth, Bandstra and Gross' view of the concept "topicalization".

4. Most of the modern approaches to BH word order are in a sense pilot studies that treat only a selection of texts. Except for Muraoka, most of them investigate only narrative texts. However, they do not claim to have the last word on BH word order. Most elaborate at this stage are the contributions of Buth and Gross. They indeed provide us with an array of possible reasons for a BH sentence displaying a specific pattern in a particular context.

5. Even though they do not operate with the same linguistic frame of reference, the approaches of Van der Merwe, Bandstra, Gross and Buth complement each other in a number of ways:

   • They try to spell out their linguistic frame of reference as clearly as possible;
   • They distinguish between different types of textual material (e.g. narration and dialogue);
   • Van der Merwe, Buth, Gross and Bandstra consider the communicative context as important if one would like to understand or explain the function of BH word order.

In the next chapter we will formulate the theoretical framework that we have constructed considering the above-mentioned discussion. Categories like focus, topicalisation, comparative topics, etc. used by modern BH grammarians will be defined as clearly as possible. In chapter 4 they will then be scrutinised and applied in the light of the linguistic data provided by 2 Kings.

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CHAPTER 3

DESCRIPTION OF A THEORETICAL LINGUISTIC FRAMEWORK

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The previous chapter has shown that scholars from different grammatical traditions have used different linguistic approaches as criteria to explain the use of a topicalized constituent in a sentence in the narrative texts of BH. The aim in this section is to formulate a theoretical linguistic framework that we can use in the description of a sentence in BH in 2 Kings.

Biblical Hebrew, which belongs to the language of the Old Testament, is no longer being used as an every day spoken language nor was it upheld "by a tradition concerning its textgrammatical, speech-act, or sociolinguistic conventions" (Van der Merwe, 1994:15). Due to the unavailability of any native speakers, BH may be considered as a 'text language'. This implies that the researcher must depend heavily on all the available written material .

Therefore, in this study it is deemed necessary to analyse a sentence holistically, i.e., according to its surface structure (where we concentrate on the grammar) and deep structure (concentrating on semantics) and especially to focus on the pragmatic level where extra-linguistic features such as the communicative context will be considered. It is imperative that we define the different levels of description, namely, morphology, morphosyntax, sentence syntax, semantics and pragmatics, that will be used in the description of the sentences in 2 Kings. Richter's theoretical linguistic framework provides a creditable basis for any grammatical research in BH. This study will rely on certain views regarding morphology, morphosyntax, sentence syntax and to a lesser extent semantics from his work because he deals extensively with these levels of description of a sentence. The pragmatic approach adopted in this study will rely on the views of Van der Merwe, Buth and Gross.

This chapter is an attempt to create a linguistic framework for the description of the verbal sentence in 2 Kings. This attempt is essentially an eclectic one because it does not entertain one specific linguistic approach or view of a particular scholar, but uses several insights from the various linguistic approaches. It may be regarded as representative of modern attempts for a better comprehension of the use of a topicalized constituent in narrative texts of BH sentences. This linguistic framework will be applied in chapter 4 where the different sentences will be described.

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3.2 LEVELS OF DESCRIPTION

To obtain valid results one is confronted with the analysis of the surface structure[43] and deep structure. It is important for any study of the verbal sentence in BH to start at the "bottom" of the surface structure, namely at a morphological level. In the analysis, different levels of description are identified and need to be described in an organised fashion.[44] The following language description levels will be briefly described[45], namely, morphology, mophosyntax, sentence syntax, semantics and pragmatics[46]. On each of these levels the different categories will briefly be explained as they occur in the sentences.

3.2.1 MORPHOLOGY

This level of description concerns itself with the description of grammatical and lexical morphemes. The word class of each lexical morpheme and the value of each grammatical morpheme within a sentence will be briefly described or refered to in the description of the different sentences. This study will only treat the description of those lexical and grammatical morphemes which may influence the understanding of the text within its context. What follows is an index of word classes listed by Van der Merwe (1991:12-16). This study will refer to some of these word classes in the description of the sentences in chapter 4.

    Verbals

        Verbal forms[47]

            Suffix conjugation (SC)

            Prefix conjugation (PC)[48]

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[43]Richter (1978) maintains that a distinction be made between the "Ausdruckseite" (expression-plain) and the "Inhaltseite" (content-plain). Expression-plain or surface structure is the object of grammar while content-plain or deep structure is the object of semantics.

[44]In this study I use some of the levels of description as outlined by Van der Merwe (1991:24-35), who provides a useful brief summary of the levels of description in Richter's linguistic framework (1978, 1979 and 1980). Rogerson (1991:379) accepts Richter's work (Richter 1978) as commendable. He states that "there is no other example in the history of Old Testament study to match the achievement of Richter...". Cf. also Pröbstle (1994:16-18).

[45]Some of the groundwork for the different levels of description has been dealt with but is not reflected in this research.

[46]Pragmatics may be regarded as the study of language "from the point of view of the users, especially of the choices they make, the constraints they encounter in using language in social interaction, and the effects their language has on other participants in the act of communication" (Crystal 1985:240).

[47]Verbal form is treated as a sub-category because one verbal form can present itself in various verbal stem formations.

[48]Van der Merwe (1991:12-13) makes a distinction between prefix conjugation long form (PC-LF) and prefix conjugation short form (PC-SF). This study will not consider the distinction if such a verbal form occurs.

Imperative (Imp)

Verbal nouns
    Infinitive constructs (Inf. cs.)
    Infintive absolutes (Inf. abs.)
    Participles (Ptc)
        Active participle (APtc)
        Passive participle (PPtc)

Nominals
    Substantive (Sub)
    Adjective (Adj.)
    Numerals (Num)
        Cardinal (card)
        Ordinal (ord)
    Proper nouns
        Name of person (PN)
        Name of place (GeogrN)
        Name of God (GN)
        Name of group of humans, a clan (CN)

Pronouns
    Personal pronouns
        Independent personal pronouns (iPP)
        Enclitic personal pronouns (ePP)[49]
    Demonstrative pronouns (DPron)
    Interrogative pronouns (InterPron)
    Relative pronouns (RPron)
    Indefinite pronouns (IPron)
    Deictics (deict)

Particles
    Prepositions (prep)
    Adverbs (adv)
    Interrogative adverbs (InterAdv)[50]

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[49]Enclitic pronouns are those pronouns that are suffixed to verbals, nominals and some particles.
[50]Richter (1987:188-192) lists existentials, negation words, interrogative particles and interrogative adverbs as subclasses of the modal words. Van der Merwe (1990:27 and 1991:14-15) differs from Richter because he lists existentials, negation words, interrogative particles and interrogative adverbs as subclasses of particles.

Modal words (mod)

Existensials

Negation words

Focus particles (Foc)[51]

Conjunctions (conj)[52]

Articles (art)

Interrogative particles (InterPtc)

Sentence deictica (SD)[53]

Text Deictica (TD)[54]

Interjections

3.2.2 MORPHOSYNTAX

On this level of grammatical description, namely word groups, only the combination of different lexical morphemes or lexical items and the semantic functions realised will be treated.

A word group is always binary, i.e. it consists of two sentence constituents, namely, a head and a modifier. A sentence constituent[55] or syntagm is not comparable to a word group because it is possible for a sentence constituent to contain more than one word group. Nor is it equivalent to a word class, because a word group consists of a combination of two word classes.

The following word groups served as a frame of reference against which we approached the non-direct speech narrative texts of 2 Kings. However, it was discovered that most of this

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[51]The particles אַף, גַּם and רַק are focus particles and may occur before any sentence constituent, subordinate sentences or sentences. Richter does not include them in his linguistic framework. Van der Merwe (1990) maintains that the function of גַּם can best be described as that of a "focus inducing connector" (1990:199). He defines גַּם as "primarily a focus particle that marks the word, syntagm or sentence immediately following it for focus" (Van der Merwe 1991:166) and concludes that "the basic semantic function of גַּם may be described as 'addition' or 'inclusion'" (1991:168). The other focus particles אַף and רַק are also described by Van der Merwe (1991:157-159, 187-189). Andersen (1974:168) points out that אַף and רַק are treated only under the heading "particles". Brown, Driver and Briggs (1979:36) and Williams (1976:65) treat them as adverbs. This is a term Andersen (1974) considers as a misnomer and he suggests that they be refered to as 'exclusive-restrictive particles'. Read also Van der Merwe (1991: 297-311) for more detail on these "particles".

[52]Van der Merwe (1991:15) lists six different types of conjunctions. Cf. also Pröbstle (1994:18).

[53]הֵן and הִנֵּה are considered as sentence deictica; e.g. Num 22:11, 22:23, 24:11 and 31:16. Cf. also Richter (1978:193-194 and 1980:203-205).

[54]עַתָּה, וְעַתָּה, וַיְהִי and וְהָיָה are text deictica. Cf. Richter (1980:205-206). E.g. Num 22:19, 22:34 and 24:11.

[55]This study will use the term "sentence constituent". No distinction is made between the term "syntagm" as used by Richter or sentence constituent.

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material was not relevant in the description of the sentences.[56] Richter (1979:9-48) and Van der Merwe (1991:78-126) list these word groups as follows:

Article word group (ArtWG)
Appositional word group (AppWG)
Construct word group (CsWG)
"Annexion word group" (AnnWG)
Attributive word (AttWG)
Prepositional word group (PrepWG)
Conjunction word group (ConjWG)
Verb word group (VWG)
Adverb word group (AdvWG)
Modal word group (ModWG)
Numerical word group (NumWG)

3.2.3 SENTENCE SYNTAX

The following aspects of each sentence will be described:
1. the sentence constituents
2. the different sentence types
3. the different sentence relations

3.2.3.1 The sentence constituents

The biggest unit of description in a sentence is the constituent. In *He gave the food to the man* we distinguish four constituents, viz. subject (He), verb (gave), object (the food) and indirect object (to the man). Sentence constituents may be certain words or word groups which are necessary to constitute a sentence. Sentence constituents are identified by Richter (1980:17-20) according to their position, morphological characteristics and their relationship with the verbal form in the sentence. Richter (1980:4), who works with the valency grammar[57], regards the verbal element as the main constitutive element in a sentence. Though he assigns a syntactic term "P-Syntagm" to it, it will be referred to as the verb in this study.

[56]In this section we are merely referring to different word groups in the grammar of BH. For a more detailed description with examples, Pröbstle (1994:19-20) can be referred to.

[57]Cf. Somers (1987:4-20) for a review of the valency grammar. He argues that valency grammar is more or less regarded as the 'classical approach' to the teaching of German as a foreign language and to the linguistic description of German.

The subject in a sentence where the verb takes the sentence initial position either follows the verb or is implied by the verbal grammatical morpheme. It is also possible for an explicit subject to precede the verb.[58] Such a subject will then be referred to as the topicalized constituent in that specific sentence. The distinctive feature of the subject is its congruence with the finite verb of the sentence. The verb, being the dominant element, governs other sentence constituents. The number of obligatory constituents the verb may take is determined by the verb's valency. Furthermore, sentence constituents are divided into obligatory (also referred to as actant/Aktant) and optional (referred to as supplement/Ergänzung) constituents.[59] The obligatory sentence constituents "may be described as those sentence constituents that a particular verb requires to constitute a full sentence" (Van der Merwe 1991:128). A full sentence may consist of two, three, four or even five constituents. It is also possible to add to a sentence an optional sentence constituent. This constituent is considered optional because it does not affect the constitution of a full sentence if it is omitted.[60]

The number and type of the obligatory sentence constituents that may appear in a sentence are determined by the lexical value of the verb. This valency theory determines the different verbal sentence types in a text.
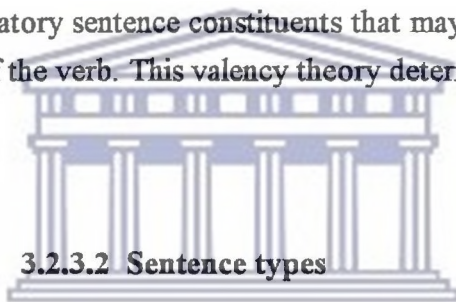
3.2.3.2 Sentence types

Two types of sentences are distinguished in BH, viz. nominal (NS) and verbal sentences (VS). NS has no verbal form, i.e. a NS is constituted by two nominals of which one member is the predicate.[61] Richter cites two main types of verbal sentences (VS), namely those referring to a state of affairs "Zustandsverb" (ZV) and those referring to an action "Aktionsverb" (AV). Verbs like מלך that indicate a complex situation, or an action over a longer period of time will also be refered to as action verbs.

As mentioned earlier, each verb has a valency which determines the number of incongruent sentence constituents that can be governed by the verb. Richter (1980:94-108) distinguishes

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[58]If the expected subject does not occur, the sentence constituent has been ellipsed. In such cases, the context must be considered to solve the problem of ellipses. Richter (1985:9, 11-12) distinguishes between three kinds of ellipses. Cf. Pröbstle 1994:23. Other sentence constituents like the object, conjunctions and adjuncts may also precede the verb.

[59]Cf. Somer 1987:5-8. Optional sentence constituents are also referred to as circumstantial sentence constituents or adjuncts ("freie Angabe").

[60]Richter (1980:17-20) distinguishes between obligatory and optional sentence constituents. Richter also refers to the latter as "circumstantial syntagms".

[61]NS are also realized in sentences with הָיָה, because הָיָה is regarded as a temporal or modus marker. (Cf. Joüon-Muraoka, 1992§154m and §111h-i).

between different sentence constructions or "Satzbaupläne" for verbal sentences (VS I to VS VII) and identifies their semantic functions. However, this study will only concentrate on a specific VS[62] in the narrative texts of 2 Kings.

Two distinct verbal sentence structures are identified in the verbal sentences in 2 Kings, namely, a V-S-O... or S (or O)-V order. A clear distinction is made between a sentence where the verb occurs in the sentence initial position (i.e., the wayyiqtol form[63]) that realizes progress and continuity in the narrative and a sentence where a subject (or any other constituent) is in the first position. The second sentence structure contains a constituent in the first position that will be referred to as the topicalized constituent of the sentence.

3.2.3.3 Sentence relations

This section deals with the description of each sentence "back into the context" (Kotze, 1990:65). Any sentence that is coordinated by a conjunction to another sentence needs to be defined. The relation between the different sentences can be one of equal status or one of subordination or superordination. It is therefore important that differentiation is made between the sentences. Van der Merwe (1991:194-207) refers to hypotactic[64] and paratactic[65] relations in sentences. Halliday (1985:198-215) classifies purpose sentences, result sentences, causal sentences (cause-reason/reason-cause), conditional sentences, concessive sentences, exceptive sentences, temporal sentences and manner sentences as hypotactic constructions. A paratactic relation occurs when a sentence is an elaboration, extension (by either addition or variation) or enhancement of another sentence[66].

The relations between sentences in the non-direct speech narrative texts of 2 Kings are marked by different conjunctions, prepositions with infinitives, focus particles and wayyiqtol verbal forms with the main sentence. However, this study will mainly concentrate on those sentences where the conjunction ו coordinates one sentence with another. It will also entertain

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[62]This study will only treat those verbal sentences where the verbal element is preceded by nominals, pronouns, conjunctions and adjuncts (including prepositional word groups).

[63]The we-qatal verbal form can also be associated with the mainline of communication or the primary storyline (Niccacci 1994b).

[64]A hypotactic relation exists between a dependent sentence and the sentence it is dependent on (i.e. the dominant sentence).

[65]A paratactic relation exists between two sentences of equal status.

[66]Elaborations includes specifying sentences, additions are additive and adversative sentences, variations are replacing/corrective sentences, restrictive and alternative sentences, enhancements include temporal sentences, comparative or manner sentences, result sentences (cause-effect) and causal sentences (effect-cause) (Halliday 1985:198-215).

asyndetic sentences. If for any reason any other conjunction does occur and lends itself to a comprehensible understanding of the text, it will be considered.

3.2.4 SEMANTICS

Semantics is a branch of linguistics dealing with the meaning of words and sentences (Trask, 1993:249-250). It can be defined as the study of the information provided by an utterance due to its distinctive combination of grammatical and lexical patterns. Crystal (1987) and Lyons (1977) maintain that semantics, as a linguistic approach, is the study of meaning in language. Crystal (1987:101) defines the aim of semantics as "the study of properties of meaning in a systematic and objective way, with reference to as wide a range of utterances and languages as possible". Palmer (1981:1) acknowledges that "meaning" covers a wide variety of aspects of language. He believes that there is no general agreement about the nature of meaning, what aspects of meaning should be included in semantics and how meaning should be described[67]. This confused state of affairs affirms the difficulties encountered to define semantics and the meaning of textual utterances. A fairly general view of semantics may be defined as the study of sentence elements within a context of linguistic utterances that constitute meaning. A linguistic utterance indicates a specific state of affairs. The type of lexical elements in a sentence and the interrelationship of the constituents determine what type of state of affairs is realised in a sentence (e.g., process and state)[68]. The number of constituents required by the verb depends on the valency[69] of that verb. In the sentence *John kicks the ball* the verb "*kick*" governs two obligatory constituents, viz. a grammatical subject and object. The semantic functions of the grammatical subject *John* and object *the ball* will be: subject=agent (doer) and object=patient. Other widely recognised semantic functions are recipient, beneficiary, instrument, goal, source, time, etc. (Trask, 1993)[70].

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[67]Lyons (1981:30-31) lists several distinguishable theories of meaning, namely, referential, ideational or mentalistics, behavouristic, meaning-is-use, verification and truth-conditional. He asserts that these theories are not "satisfactory as a comprehensive and empirical well-motivated theory of meaning in natural languages". It has been suggested that we take a fairly broad view of meaning. De Stadler (1989:9-28) points out the different approaches and diversity of meaning in the study of semantics. Cf. Lyons (1977:174-175) who refers to the confusion concerning the different concepts of meaning.

[68]The verb is considered the dominant constituent in the sentence.

[69]This concept is borrowed from chemistry. "The concept of valency can be seen ... as something which takes over and extends the more traditional, but more restricted, notions of transitivity and government. But it is also quite relatable to the predicate-calculus classification of predicators in terms of the number of arguments that they take in well-formed formulae ..." (Lyons, 1977:486). In BH possible verb valencies range from one to four, e.g. monovalent verbs are traditionally intransitive verbs, transitive verbs are at least divalent taking a grammatical subject and object. Cf. also De Stadler (1989:169-170).

[70]Cf. also Dik, 1989:91-105, 172, 195-198, 206-208 for a complete list of semantic functions of verbal and non-verbal predicates.

Richter (1978) utilises some of these semantic functions in the description of the sentence units in his syntax. He also discerns between stative (ZV) and active verbs (AV). Active verbs are further defined as instantaneous actions or the more complex type of action that refers to an action over a longer period (e.g. מלך). Richter (1978) discerns between the different verbal sentences according to the valency theory he applies. He lists the verbal sentences: VS I (1-5), VS II (1-2), VS III (1-3), VS IV (1-4), VS V (1-6), VS VI (1-5) and VS VII (1-6) and attributes the various semantic functions to each constituent[71]. These semantic functions and features[72] dealt with by Richter were also considered in this study. However, upon closer scrutiny this study discovered that the various semantic features (and some of the semantic functions) have proved ineffectual in the description of the topicalized constituent. For that reason this study does not elaborate considerably on the semantic functions or features.

3.2.5 PRAGMATICS

Charles Morris, quoted in Akmajian, Demers, et al (1991:308) acknowledges the close relationship between syntax, semantics and pragmatics. He defines the latter as "the study of the relation of signs to their users" (1938:29). Rudolf Carnap (1939:4) defines pragmatics as "the field of all those investigations that take into consideration ... the action, state, and environment of a man who speaks or hears [a linguistic sign]". More recently the term pragmatics is applied to cover the study of a language as it is employed. Language users make certain choices and meet with different constraints when they interact. What they communicate in that language has various effects on the participants or listeners[73]. In general, the study of pragmatics entails the study of language in daily use, i.e. a study from a functional perspective.

Within this domain of pragmatics one needs to consider both the linguistic environment and the given situation of the utterance, i.e. the communicative context (cf. Geeraerts, 1989:239). This approach is also referred to as the contextual approach and differs from that of generative approaches to the study of language. The latter does not consider the context of a sentence necessary for the study of the grammar of a language. A pragmatic approach, however, perceives language as a form of action that is motivated by the speaker's intentions, presuppositions, beliefs and desires about a situation. The pragmatic information, therefore,

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[71]Cf. Pröbstle (1994:20-32) for a detailed summary with examples of the various semantic functions. Cf. also Dik (1989:89-109) and De Stadler (1989:172-196).

[72]The idea/concept of semantic features had its origin in the componential analysis. Componential analysis (alternatively referred to as lexical decomposition) involves the "analysis of the sense of a lexeme into its component parts" (Lyons, 1981:75-85). This approach of the description of lexical meaning of a word rests on the supposition that the meaning of a lexical item is a divisible whole with the semantic distinguishing characteristics (i.e. animate, inanimate, human, etc.) as subdivisions of the whole.

[73]Cf. Crystal 1985:240.

includes any possible item that is somehow present in the mental world of the writer. It is important to note that people speak to accomplish something through speech-acts. The pragmatic context of a discourse encompasses a writer's or speaker's beliefs, attitudes and commitments. These attributes shape the purpose and meaning of the writer's or speaker's utterance within a well-defined social context.

A perusal of available literature on the contribution of pragmatics to the study of BH has shown that this field of study is still in disarray. One of the reasons is that a study of language use confronts linguistics with all the complexities of languages. For the purpose of this study we will confine "pragmatics" to the linguistic categories that we will be using in chapter 4.

To assist the reader in comprehending the content of this research, the following semantic-pragmatic concepts need to be defined:

3.2.5.1 Topicalized Constituent

This concept is borrowed from Gross (1993) and is used to refer to all those constituents that are placed in the sentence initial position. A subject, object, adjunct, etc. that precedes the verb will be referred to as a topicalized constituent. It is a concept that has no functional value.[74]. Recent (excluding Gross who has a different approach to word orders[75]) and traditional grammarians refer to those sentences with a topicalized constituent as a "marked word order" sentence structure. This study will not use the concept "marked word order" but instead only refer to a sentence or word order with a topicalized constituent because "marked" implies a deviation from the norm and thus has negative connotations.

3.2.5.2 Focus

This study accepts the view of Van der Merwe (1994) and Gross (1993) that a constituent is marked for *focus* "when it represents a particular item from at least two or more possible alternatives" (Van der Merwe, 1994:44). Van der Merwe (1994:44, footnote 36) uses the following example to explain this notion. If we consider the sentence *John married yesterday*, John will be marked for focus in a context where the writer or speaker and his audience know that somebody married yesterday but the identity of the person is uncertain. The two parties (the writer or speaker and the reader or audience) share the same contextual setting. In such

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[74]Buth (forthcoming articles a and b) and Bandstra (1992) use the concept contextualizing constituent and topicalization respectively and attribute a functional value to it.

[75]Cf Gross (1993) in chapter 2 for more detail on word orders.

cases this study accedes to the view of Van der Merwe (1994) who prefers to call such a type of focus the *focus of an illocutionary act*. On the other hand, if the speaker wants to introduce a new topic, reinstate a referent as the topic of a sentence, or compare topics by means of contrast, he marks an item or items for the *focus of topicalization.*

3.2.5.3 Topic

This study considers *topic* (the old or given information) to be that part of the sentence that the verb predicates in a given setting. Van der Merwe (1994:30) and Buth (forthcoming article) define topic as "a constituent that is marked in order to serve as a frame of reference for relating a clause to its context"[76]. The topic of a sentence or text can more easily be identified when it is associated with the theme of the greater context (cf. De Stadler, 1989).

3.2.5.4 Theme

Theme is a highly abstract and complex concept. This study does not treat this concept as a synonym of the topic in a sentence. *Theme* is that main point of a text or a paragraph. Theme could be defined (in contrast to topic) as the subject of discussion or discourse - it forms the perspective from which the rest of the sentence (text) conveys something meaningful (cf. Geerts 1984:912-913). We may speak of thematic continuity if the theme stays the same in the succeeding story.
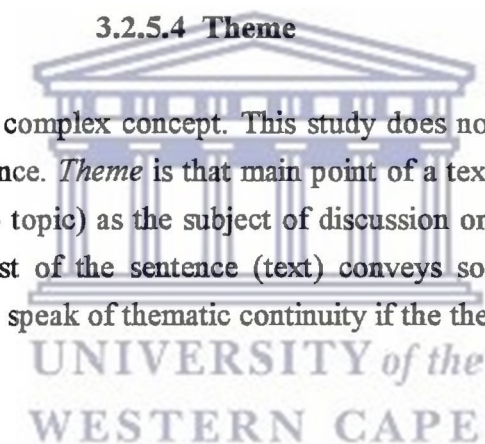
3.2.5.5 Comparative topics

Comparative topics are realised when a topic is brought into the story where it interrupts the temporal continuity of the story as well as the topic continuity and in addition maintains a contrastive focus. Such an approach is supported by Dik (1989:266) who believes that the two dimensions, namely topicality and focality, have a certain area of overlap. This implies that certain topical elements may at the same time be focal to the communication.

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[76]Cf. also Dik (1978). Givon (1979b:9) discerns three types of topics, viz. text initial topics (refers to newly announced topic which indicates discontinuity), text medial topic (usually found in the middle of a text or discourse and indicates continuity) and text final topic (which also indicates continuity). Cf. Givon (1979b:11-12) for more detail on the notion of topic. This study will not entertain all the different types of topics as distinguished by Givon.

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3.2.5.6 Actors in a story

Actors or participants refer to those persons who take part in a linguistic interaction or story, i.e. the dramatis personae. Every event in a story involves actors or participants that are either implicitly indicated or are made explicit by means of a noun or pronoun (cf. Longacre and Hwang 1994:345).

3.2.5.7 Topic continuity

Topic continuity is a linguistic device whereby the writer uses the same grammatical subject in successive events. The topic in the succeeding sentences will be without a definite article because it is known information to the reader. A writer can also use an independent personal pronoun that links the topic/subject with the rest of the story (also known as anaphoric referencing).

3.2.5.8 Discontinuity and Continuity of events

Discontinuity occurs when mainline successive events are interrupted by a X-V word order. This discontinuity can either concern a topic (e.g. Gen 20:15-16) or a series of events (Gen 20:3-4). The X-V order is used to discontinue the series of events with the intention to provide some background information. The *continuity* of mainline events in narration is constituted by a chain of wayyiqtol verbal forms.The we-qatal verbal form can also be associated with the mainline communication (Niccacci, 1989). The mainline events are also referred to as the foreground information. The events may still continue even though the topic of the text was changed due to an overarching action that continues.

3.2.5.9 Background information

Background information is the material in a narrative that is not foreground information. A writer will use background material either to support or clarify previous events in the story. Usually this designates material that is not temporally sequential. The writer uses the X-V word order and a separate tense-aspect system to mark a sentence as background to the story.

3.2.5.10 Story or narrative

A *story or narrative* is considered one of the discourse types (alongside with dialogue) of the prose genre in BH. A story refers to an account of past events. Scene, paragraph and episode are form elements the writer uses to narrate past events[77].

3.2.5.11 Scene

Scene refers to a section of a story. A new scene may imply a change in venue or scenario. Within this new scene we have an overarching theme (that may realise the thematic continuity) with old or new actors who perform in the events.

3.2.5.12 Paragraph

A *paragraph* refers to a section of a story or narrative that contains a group of events dealing with one main idea or theme. A new scene can be introduced by a new paragraph.

3.2.5.13 Episode

An *episode* is a description of one event in a chain of events.

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[77]Cf. also Ska (1990) for his views on narrative, scene, paragraph and episode.

CHAPTER 4

DESCRIPTION OF SENTENCES
IN 2 KINGS

4.1   INTRODUCTION

The previous chapters revealed the problem some BH grammarians had with the vague term "emphasis" and the definite shift from the structural to the functional approach in attempts to determine the function of a topicalized constituent in BH. Different, and at times diverse, viewpoints were tabled by respective grammarians on the function which a topicalized constituent supposedly has.

This chapter deals with the description of the verbal sentences[78] in the narrative texts of 2 Kings[79]. We will use the linguistic framework in chapter 3 in conjunction with the different viewpoints of the various BH grammarians on the function of a topicalized constituent. Different categories and definitions have been identified and will be used in this chapter. The primary aim is to test the viability of the theories and categories of the BH linguists in the narrative texts in 2 Kings. In this way it may help us to determine which semantic-pragmatic functions can be attributed to a topicalized constituent. In other words, we will investigate whether the recent linguistic approaches with their diverse linguistic presuppositions and their results are indeed a viable option and an improvement on the descriptions as defined by the traditional grammarians.

Each verbal sentence with a topicalized constituent will be treated systematically. Such a verbal sentence will carefully be analysed according to its specific syntactic structure[80]. Once we have established these analyses we can proceed to the information structure[81] of a sentence. This is information (different from the syntactic information) the writer would like to communicate to his readers (also referred to as the communicative context). The question

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[78]Ninety verbal sentences with a topicalized constituent have been identified and dealt with. The main focus of this study will be on the following types of sentences: a) 40 sentences with a Subject + Verb order (including syndetic and asyndetic sentences); b) 20 sentences with an Object + Verb order (including syndetic and asyndetic sentences); c) 27 sentences with an Adjunct + Verb + x.Sy order (including syndetic and asyndetic sentences) and d) 3 sentences with a כִּי + x.Sy (anything) + Verb + x.Sy order. The "x.Sy", with the exception of the x.Sy preceding the verb in group d, refers to all constituents other than the subject and the verb.

[79]This study is using the demarcated sentences of 2 Kings as listed by Richter (1991). The MT of the BHS will be used throughout the study as the standard text. Any text critical note will only be considered if there exists a convincing reason for any such textual emendation. Any textual emendation considered will be indicated.

[80]Syntactic structure includes those elements mentioned in the linguistic framework, viz. the morphology, morpho-syntax and sentence syntax.

[81]Information structure includes those elements treated in the semantic and pragmatic categories.

https://etd.uwc.ac.za/

remains: What does the writer want to communicate to his readers when he interrupts a specific wayyiqtol verbal series in the narrative texts by placing a constituent in the sentence initial position? To answer this question we will attempt, with the help of our linguistic framework and the use of the different categories, to provide a more nuanced view on the function of a topicalized constituent.

4.2 SUBJECT + VERB + X.Sy

This section deals with those verbal sentences where the subject is placed in the sentence initial position, viz. utilizing the SVO or SVX word order. The constituent word ordering is in most cases the same i.e., conj. we- + Subject + Verb + x.Sy, with the exception of three instances of asyndetic sentences (12:17a, 15:13a and 20:4b).

1.   2:7a   conj. we- + S + V + (x.Sy - ellipsis)

וַיֵּלְכוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם׃	2:6h
וַחֲמִשִּׁים אִישׁ מִבְּנֵי הַנְּבִיאִים הָלְכוּ	2:7a
וַיַּעַמְדוּ מִנֶּגֶד מֵרָחוֹק	2:7b
וּשְׁנֵיהֶם עָמְדוּ עַל־הַיַּרְדֵּן׃	2:7c

"So the two of them went on.
Fifty men of the sons of the prophets
also went, and stood at some distance from them,
as they both were standing by the Jordan." (RSV)[82]

In sentence 2:7a the conj. we- coordinates sentence 2:7a with 2:6h. Sentence 2:7a has a Qal SC verbal form הָלְכוּ which realizes the semantic function [completed action]. The attributive word group חֲמִשִּׁים אִישׁ with its construct word group extension constitutes the qualified subject constituent of the sentence - the agents of the action. The subject is definite, m. pl. and congruent with the verbal grammatical morpheme (3 m. pl). הָלְכוּ in 2:7a realizes movement and one would have expected a prepositional word group to indicate the direction of the action and to make the sentence complete[83].

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[82] All the translations in this study are taken from the Revised Standard Version (RSV).
[83] The sentence constituent (a prepositional word group) has been ellipsed because the expected constituent does not occur. The context must be considered in such cases to solve the problem of ellipses.

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In sentence 2:6h we have the same root type as in sentence 2:7a namely, הלך in the verb וַיֵּלְכוּ. This verb realizes a completed action within the wayyiqtol verbal chain[84]. The subject of the verb in 2:6h (realized by the verbal grammatical morpheme 3 m. pl.) refers back to the actors (Elijah and Elisha) in sentence 2:2a while the subject in sentence 2:7a is "fifty men of the sons of the prophets".

From the syntactic evidence gathered we may argue that there is no semantic relationship between sentences 2:6h and 2:7a. It is therefore plausible that sentence 2:7a introduces new information to the course of the story.

The question remains: Why did the writer use the conj. we- + Subj. + Verb word order in sentence 2:7a? Syntactically, the author could have utilized a wayyiqtol verbal form in 2:7a. This would in fact ensure the continuity of the story. Instead, the writer utilizes the surface structure conj. we- + Subj. + Verb (SC) to convey specific information to his reader/hearer.

Sentence 2:7a presents us with a surface structure which is identical to that of sentence 2:7c. In both cases we find the subject in the sentence initial position before a Qal SC verb. From the context we may accept that two distinct, completed instantaneous actions were executed but in distinct locations, i.e. the sons of the prophets stood at some distance while Elijah and Elisha were standing at the Jordan. In other words, the actions of the two groups of participants are compared with each other.

Succession of events is therefore out of the question. The "fifty sons" stood *here* and "the two of them" *there*. By avoiding the wayyiqtol verbal series in 2:7a and 2:7c the writer indicates that the actions do not follow one after the other. We may, therefore, persuasively argue that the writer uses the topicalized constituent to introduce a new topic (subject/actor) in 2:7a.

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[84]The wayyiqtol verbal form as a rule takes the sentence initial position in narrative texts. There are cases where the wayyiqtol verbal form does not take the sentence initial position e.g. 1 Sam 10:11 and 11:11. We shall not address the problem constituted by these cases here. (Cf. Gross 1987:64-78 for a discussion in this regard). The wayyiqtol verbal series characterizes the narration of the non-direct speech section in the narrative text in Biblical Hebrew and realizes statements in the past (Kotze, 1990:65). Waltke and O'Connor (1990:547) argues that the wayyiqtol verbal form subjectively represents a situation according to the perfective aspect, that is usually successive, and sub-ordinates it to the preceding statement or assumption. Niccacci (1994b:176) states that "sentences initiated by wayyiqtol verbs are verbal and independent; they therefore constitute the mainline of communication". For more information on the wayyiqtol verbal form, cf. also Joüon-Muraoka (1991§118c).

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2.   2:7c   conj. we- + S + V + x.Sy

<div dir="rtl">

2:6h   וַיֵּלְכוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם:

2:7a   וַחֲמִשִּׁים אִישׁ מִבְּנֵי הַנְּבִיאִים הָלְכוּ

2:7b   וַיַּעַמְדוּ מִנֶּגֶד מֵרָחוֹק

2:7c   וּשְׁנֵיהֶם עָמְדוּ עַל־הַיַּרְדֵּן:

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"So the two of them went on.

Fifty men of the sons of the prophets

also went, and stood at some distance from them,

as *they (the two of them)* were both standing by the Jordan."

The conj. we- in sentence 2:7c coordinates sentence 2:7c with 2:7b. In sentence 2:7c the plural subject being realized by a numeral with a pronominal suffix is placed in the sentence initial position as the topicalized constituent. The subject anaphorically refers back to the subject in 2:6h also realized by a numeral with pronominal suffix. It is followed by Qal SC verb עָמְדוּ and realizes a completed action in the past. A prepositional word group denoting the specific location where the two of them, namely, Elijah and Elisha were standing, succeeds the verb.

Sentence 2:7b begins with a wayyiqtol verb which realizes the successiveness of events between 2:7a and 2:7b. The subject in 2:7b is realized by the verbal grammatical morpheme (3 m. pl.) and refers back to the plural subject in 2:7a.

There is no actor/topic continuity or temporal continuity between the events in 2:7b and 2:7c. This signals that the actions of the respective verbs in 2:7b and 2:7c were performed at separate locations and by two different subjects. The reason for the topicalization of the subject in 2:7c is therefore the same as that in 2:7a. Buth (1990:8) refers to such cases as *comparative topics*[85]. In sentences 2:7a and 2:7c the temporal continuity of the story and the topic continuity are interrupted. In addition, the two topics וַחֲמִשִּׁים אִישׁ מִבְּנֵי הַנְּבִיאִים and וּשְׁנֵיהֶם maintain a contrastive focus. Significant from a pragmatic point of view is the fact that the state of affairs portrayed in 2:7a, b and 2:7c provides the background or point of departure for the narrative commencing in 2:8.

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[85]Buth (forthcoming paper) refers to such cases as "comparative topics". He uses the example in Gen 4:3-5 to illustrate his thesis on comparative topics. Buth explains that a new topic is brought into the story where it interrupts the time continuity of the story as well as the topic continuity and maintains a contrastive focus in addition. Such an approach is also recognized by Dik (1989:266) who believes that the two dimensions namely, topicality and focality have a certain area of overlap. This denotes that certain topical elements may at the same time be focal to the communication. Cf. also 2 Kings 14:6c and 16:6c.

3.   2:23c conj. we- + S + V + x.Sy

וַיַּעַל מִשָּׁם בֵּית־אֵל	2:23a
וְהוּא עֹלֶה בַדֶּרֶךְ	2:23b
וּנְעָרִים קְטַנִּים יָצְאוּ מִן־הָעִיר	2:23c
וַיִּתְקַלְּסוּ־בוֹ	2:23d
וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ	2:23e
עֲלֵה	2:23f
קֵרֵחַ	2:23fV
עֲלֵה	2:23g
קֵרֵחַ׃	2:23gV

"He went up from there to Bethel;
and while he was going up on the way,
small boys came out of the city
and jeered at him, saying
'Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!'".

Sentence 2:23c is coordinated by the conj. we- with the participial sentence 2:23b. The participial sentence 2:23b has a participle עֹלֶה predicating about the subject being realized by the independent personal pronoun (IPP) 3 m. s.. The participle realizes the semantic function [continuous, durative action]. In sentence 2:23b the prepositional word group בַדֶּרֶךְ indicates the direction of Elisha's movement.

In sentence 2:23c we have a plural subject as the topicalized constituent in the sentence. It is extended by an adjective קְטַנִּים that constitutes an attributive word group. This subject is congruent with the subject realized by the verbal grammatical morpheme in the verb יָצְאוּ. The Qal SC verb realizes a semantic function [completed action in the past]. The predicates עֹלֶה and יָצְאוּ realize two different action occuring simultaneously. The participle realizes an action which is durative in nature.

The surface structure of the preceding sentence 2:23a and that of sentence 2:23d shows the wayyiqtol verb in the sentence initial position. The information structure in sentences 2:23b and 2:23c denotes that the wayyiqtol verbal chain has been interrupted. There is no succession of events.

The subject *"small boys"* נְעָרִים קְטַנִּים in sentence 2:23c interrupted the topic continuity between 2:23a and 2:23c and may be interpreted as the *new topic*. Therefore, one may argue that the writer wanted to *focus on the new topic/new actors* (Focus of Topicalization)[86].

However, Joüon-Muraoka (1991:§166f, g) argue that the occurence of the subject before the verb has nothing to do with a new topic being introduced. They prefer to refer to such a type of sentence as a temporal sentence. According to them "the light and elegant use of the simple waw" is one way of expressing the time relation between two sentences. If the action signals no succession of events then the conj. we- + Subject + Verb word order is utilized. It is important that the waw must be separated from the verb by means of a "buffer" word. In sentence 2:23b we have a participial sentence of durative nature and in 2:23c a verb expressing an instantaneous action. According to Joüon-Muraoka *"small boys"* is then referred to as *the buffer word*[87]. If one considers a case like 1 Sam 9:11 where the topicalized constituent is an independent personal pronoun, in other words, no new topic could be involved, then Joüon-Muraoka's argument appears even more plausible.

4. **3:1a   conj. we- + S + V + x.Sy**

וִיהוֹרָם בֶּן־אַחְאָב מָלַךְ עַל־יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּשֹׁמְרוֹן בִּשְׁנַת שְׁמֹנֶה   3:1a
עֶשְׂרֵה לִיהוֹשָׁפָט מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה   3:1a
וַיִּמְלֹךְ שְׁתֵּים־עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה: 3:1b

"Jehoram, son of Ahab became king over
Israel in Samaria (in the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat,
king of Juda) and he reigned twelve years".

Sentence 3:1a is the start of a new chapter and paragraph. The conj. we- coordinates sentence 3:1a with 2:25b even though no semantic relationship exists between these two sentences. In the preceding sentences 2:24 and 2:25 we have Elisha as the subject and theme of the paragraph. The predicates וַיֵּלֶךְ and שָׁב in 2:25a and b inform the readers about the geographical location of the subject.

From the context of sentences 2:24, 25 and 3:1a it becomes clear that the preceding chapter 2 dealt with a particular theme namely, Elisha. The wayyiqtol verbal chain in 2:24 and 2:25 is interrupted when the writer utilizes a topicalized constituent in 3:1a. This illustrates to the

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[86]Cf. also 1 Sam 7:10; 9:11; 1 Kings 1:22; 2 Kings 2:23; 6:5b; 6:26b; 13:21; 19:37b.
[87]For more detail and textual reference on the buffer word theory read Joüon-Muraoka (1991:§166f, g).

reader that no succession of events was intended between 2:25 and 3:1a. The only point of congruency between 2:25 and 3:1a is the geographical reference to Samaria.

Sentence 3:1a should rather be understood as the first sentence of the new story and paragraph where Jehoram, son of Ahab becomes the newly appointed king over Israel in Samaria. The subject (וְיהוֹרָם PN) as the topicalized constituent is followed by a Qal SC verb. The subject is further qualified by an construct word group בֶּן־אַחְאָב which realizes the semantic function [kinship]. The Qal SC verb מָלַךְ realizes a completed action in the past.

One may infer from the syntactic and semantic evidence from verses 2:24, 25 and 3:1a that the writer is introducing a known actor or topic in 3:1a at the beginning of a new story and paragraph. Sentence 1:17 refers to the subject, Jehoram and we may argue that a *given actor/topic is re-introduced* into the mainstream of the narrative[88].

5.   3:21a+b   conj. we- + S + V + כִּי-sentence

וְכָל־מוֹאָב שָׁמְעוּ	3:21a
כִּי־עָלוּ הַמְּלָכִים	3:21a
לְהִלָּחֶם בָּם	3:21bI
וַיִּצָּעֲקוּ מִכֹּל חֹגֵר חֲגֹרָה וָמַעְלָה	3:21c
וַיַּעַמְדוּ עַל־הַגְּבוּל׃	3:21d

"When *all the Moabites* heard that the kings had come to fight against them, all who were able to put on armour, from the youngest to the oldest, were called out, and were drawn up at the frontier".

The conj. we- coordinates sentences 3:21a and 3:20c. In sentence 3:21a the conj. we- introduces a particular situation and is translated as "when"[89].

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[88]See also 2 Kings 8:1a, 9:1a, 15:13a.

[89]Brown, Driver and Briggs (1979:253) argue that "in circumstantial clauses we- introduces a statement of the concomitant conditions under which the action denoted by the principal verb takes place: in such cases the relation expressed by we- must often in English be stated explicitly by a conj., as when, since, seeing, though, etc., as occasion may require (cf. Judges 16:15)". Lambdin (1971:162) refers to two types of we- conjunctions namely, the *conjunctive-sequential* where the succeeding sentence is temporally or logically successive or consequent to the first and secondly the *disjunctive* where the second sentence has a non-sequential relationship with the first sentence. We may find this disjunctive sentence at the beginning or end of a larger episode or interrupt an episode. By using the interruptive disjunctive the writer "break(s) into the main narrative to supply information relevant to or necessary for the narrative" (cf. 1 Sam 1:9; Gen 29:16). Waltke and O'Connor (1990:650) refers to two types of disjunctives. One type involves a continuity of the scene and

Sentence 3:21a displays a surface structure where the subject is considered the topicalized constituent. The subject is m. pl., viz. כָּל־מוֹאָב. A completed action in the past is realized by the Qal transitive verb שָׁמְעוּ. The expected object after a transitive verb is realized by the object sentence introduced by the conjunction כִּי in sentence 3:21b. This object sentence 3:21b is also extended by an Infinitive sentence 3:21bI. The infinitive construct with the preposition לְהִלָּחֶם realizes the semantic function [purpose]. The pronominal suffix in the prepositional word group בָּם refers back to the subject "the Moabites" in sentence 3:21a .

It is quite clear from the context that 3:21a introduces a new scene and actors. In sentence 3:21a the writer avoided the use of the wayyiqtol verb. This means that no continuity of events are intended.

The topicalized constituent may be interpreted as the *new topic/actor in a new paragraph* for the new scene. One might argue that the writer wanted to draw the attention of his hearers to the new actor in the sentence.

However, it is also possible to argue as follows: If the writer wanted to introduce any new actor he could also have used the wayyiqtol verbal form. The question remains as to why the new actor/topic "the Israelites" in verse 24 does not precede the verb. It is rather difficult to further substantiate any focus function to the new actor/topic.

We therefore regard the function of the topicalization here as a means of marking that no succession of events is involved. A new paragraph, with new actors performing at a different scene at a point in time that is not successive to the preceding scene, is introduced in this way.

6.   **3:22b   + conj. we- + S + V + x.Sy**

וַיַּשְׁכִּימוּ בַבֹּקֶר   3:22a
וְהַשֶּׁמֶשׁ זָרְחָה עַל־הַמָּיִם   3:22b
וַיִּרְאוּ מוֹאָב מִנֶּגֶד אֶת־הַמַּיִם אֲדֻמִּים כַּדָּם: 3:22c

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actors, but a change in action, while the other is used where the scene or actors are shifted. It seems as if sentence 3:21a re-introduces a known actor (cf. 3:5) in a new paragraph.

"And when they rose early in the morning,
and *the sun* shone upon the water,
the Moabites saw the water opposite them
as red as blood".

The Qal SC verb זָרְחָה in 3:22b expresses an action that is occuring simultaneously with the wayyiqtol verb וַיַּשְׁכִּימוּ in sentence 3:22a. Sentence 3:22a with its prepositional word group בַּבֹּקֶר indicates to us the specific time of the day.

The conj. we- in 3:22b coordinates 3:22b with the sentence in 3:22a. In sentence 3:22a the subject 3 m. pl. is realized by the verbal grammatical morpheme of the verb וַיַּשְׁכִּימוּ while the subject (3 m.s.) in 3:22b is specifically mentioned. The subject הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ, is definite and the topicalized constituent.

The wayyiqtol series introduced in 3:22a is interrupted by a sentence with a topicalized constituent in 3:22b and re-introduced in 3:22c. This indicates that there is no succession of the events referred to in 22a and 22b. Logically, we may assume that the actions of the two verbs in 3:22a and 3:22b occurred simultaneously[90]. We may also further substantiate this fact through the use of the prepositional word group, בַּבֹּקֶר . This temporal indicator, בַּבֹּקֶר refers to a specific time in the morning which may imply that the sun could have shone. However, if the writer had utilized a wayyiqtol verbal form in 3:22b, it would have realized successive events. We therefore do not have any succession of events.

If we take the temporal indicator, בַּבֹּקֶר (implying that the sun must have shone) into consideration, the reference to הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ (in the sentence initial position) as the new topic is out of the question. From the context it is also quite difficult to assume that the subject is the focused item in sentence 3:22b. We may argue that the main intention of the writer was *to avoid a construction that gives the impression that a continuity of the events* was involved by simply placing the subject before the verb in sentence 3:22b. The writer was syntactically bound to use the topicalized constituent in sentence 3:22b because he wanted *to express* to his hearers *that the two actions occurred simultaneously*[91].

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[90]Joüon-Muraoka (1991§166c, d) state that there are four possible combinations in Biblical Hebrew for expressing simultaneity. One way of realizing it is to use the *qatal* (or yiqtol) verbal form for instantaneous actions in the past. In this particular case we have the wayyiqtol (indicating that the first action is successive to the preceding action) and the *we + subject + qatal* verb to illustrate that we have two instantaneous actions (cf. Gen 15:12 and Josh 2:5).

[91]Burney (1903:270) prefers that we translate this sentence like the English pluperfect. According to him, the writer wanted "to narrate an event anterior" to the event described in the preceding sentence by "interposing the subject between the conjunction and the verb, and thus starts afresh from a new standpoint". Burney (1903:188) refers us to other similar cases e.g. Gen 31:34; 1 Kings 14:5; 22:31; 2 Kings 7:17; 9:16b.

7.   4:31a conj. we- + S + V + x.Sy

וְגֵחֲזִי עָבַר לִפְנֵיהֶם	4:31a
וַיָּשֶׂם אֶת־הַמִּשְׁעֶנֶת עַל־פְּנֵי הַנַּעַר	4:31b
וְאֵין קוֹל	4:31c
וְאֵין קָשֶׁב	4:31d
וַיָּשָׁב לִקְרָאתוֹ	4:31e
וַיַּגֶּד־לוֹ	4:31f
לֵאמֹר	4:31ff
לֹא הֵקִיץ הַנָּעַר׃	4:31g

"*Gehazi* went on ahead and laid the staff upon
the face of the child, but there was no sound or
sign of life. Therefore he returned to meet him,
and told him, 'The child has not awakened'".

In sentence 4:31a we have a Qal SC verb עָבַר which denotes a completed action in the past.
The subject גֵחֲזִי precedes the verb as the topicalized constituent. The verb עָבַר is followed
by a prepositional word group with pronominal suffix לִפְנֵיהֶם. The plural suffix refers back
to Elijah and the Shunamite woman in sentence 4:30.

The preceding sentences 4:30e and f have wayyiqtol verbs in the sentence initial position and
form a wayyiqtol verbal chain. This illustrates that there is succession of events. Sentence
4:31a has a topicalized constituent with a word order: conj. we- + S + V + x.Sy that signals
that there is no sequence of events between 4:30e, f and 4:31a.

The conj. we- in sentence 4:31a coordinates sentence 4:31a with 4:30f even though there is no
semantic reletionship between the events in these two sentences. From the context, semantic
and syntactic evidence it is quite obvious that 4:31a introduces the start of an additional scene
and paragraph in the course of the story.

In verse 29 Gehazi is ordered to perform a certain task for his master, Elisha. In verses 29 and
30 the scene changes, first having three actors (Elisha, Gehazi and the Shunamite woman),
then two actors (Elisha and the woman) and finally only one actor (Gehazi) in sentence 4:31a
who is on his way to follow up an order previously given by Elijah.

This clearly denotes that it was not the intention of the writer to convey the idea of successive
events but rather to illustrate to his hearers that the action in sentence 4:31a happened *while*

Elisha and the woman were also on their way to the woman's house. In this case it would be best to translate the conj. we- + Subject + Verb word order in sentence 4:31a as our English pluperfect[92] (which illustrates the "in the meantime" of the action)[93].

8.   4:38a   conj. we- + S + V + x.Sy

וֶאֱלִישָׁע שָׁב הַגִּלְגָּלָה	4:38a
וְהָרָעָב בָּאָרֶץ	4:38b
וּבְנֵי הַנְּבִיאִים יֹשְׁבִים לְפָנָיו	4:38c
וַיֹּאמֶר לְנַעֲרוֹ	4:38d
שְׁפֹת הַסִּיר הַגְּדוֹלָה	4:38e
וּבַשֵּׁל נָזִיד לִבְנֵי הַנְּבִיאִים:	4:38f

"And *Elisha* came again to Gilgal when there
was a famine in the land. And as the sons of the
prophets were sitting before him, he said to his servant,
'Set on the great pot, and boil pottage for the sons
of the prophets'".

Even though sentence 4:38a is coordinated to 4:37e by the conj. we- no semantic relationship exists between the content of these two sentences. Sentence 4:38a should rather be read as the first sentence of the next paragraph which informs the reader that Elisha returned to Gilgal after his departure with Elijah to Bethel (cf. 2:1).

The Qal SC verb שָׁב indicates a physical movement by a person and realizes the semantic function [completed action in the past]. The expected prepositional word group indicating the direction of the action is realized by a gentilic substantive הַגִּלְגָּלָה with a directive ה-ָ. The subject [PN] וֶאֱלִישָׁע, the agent of the action is placed in the sentence initial position of 4:38a and is therefore called the topicalized constituent.

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[92]Cf also Gen 6:8, 31:25, 32, Num 17:15, 1 Sam 9:15; 2 Kings 7:6a, 7:17a.

[93]Joüon-Muraoka (1991§118d) asserts that the Biblical writers deliberately avoided the wayyiqtol verbal series and utilized the waw + x (implies anything) + verb word order form to interrupt the succession of events. Such word order structures possess the force of the English pluperfect. They state, with reference to the sentence structure (*wayyiqtol* in 4:30e; *wayyiqtol* in 4:30f, conj. we- + *subject* + *verb* [*Qal*] in 4:31a and *wayyiqtol* in 4:31b), that "after a Qal with pluperfect meaning the form normally found is wayyiqtol, which only expresses the posteriority of the action in relation to the qatal (cf. also Gen 26:18; Gen 31:33b-34; 1 Sam 28:3; 2 Sam 18:18; 1 Kings 22:31)". According to Waltke and O'Connor (1990:552) the qatal and wayyiqtol verbal forms may be used to represent the character of the English verbal system, the pluperfect. The pluperfect signifies a resulting state in time that is past relative to the speaker. Williams (1976:30) speaks of "a pluperfect tense to indicate action anterior to the accompanying verb".

Sentence 4:38a is followed by an non-verbal sentence 4:38b. The conj. we- coordinates sentence 4:38b with sentence 4:38a and is commonly refered to as a non-verbal sentence because of the absence of a verbal form. This sentence describes a specific situation and circumstance which prevailed in Gilgal when Elisha returned. Sentence 4:38b may be labelled as a circumstantial sentence because it conveys information concerning Gigal in the immediate preceding sentence 4:38a.

Verse 4:37a-e is characterized by the wayyiqtol verbal series realizing the semantic function [completed action in the past]. All these wayyiqtol verbs with their unspecified feminine subjects denote the succession of events and signal topic continuity. The writer interrupts this wayyiqtol verbal chain in sentence 4:38a by placing the subject in the sentence initial position, followed by the SC verb (denoting direction). It is therefore clear that no succession of events is intended by the writer.

It is possible to infer from the syntactic and semantic evidence that the subject in sentence 4:38a is placed before the verb because the writer wanted to re-introduce a known actor/topic and therefore focuses on the subject of 4:38a. However, if one considers examples 2:19a, 2:23a, 6:1a and 8:7a, it appears that it would be best to propose that the word order: conj. we- + S + V + x.Sy was utilized simply to introduce *background information for a new scene* to the reader. Why the non-successiveness of the events in the new scene is explicitly placed here is not clear because a new scene is not only introduced by a S-V word order but can also be introduced by the wayyiqtol verbal form (cf. also 2:19a; 2:23a; 6:1a; 8:7a). This latter example, 8:7a, also exhibits the syntactic evidence as in 4:38a, namely, a verb of movement followed by a non-verbal sentence.

9.   5:2a   conj. we- + S + V + x.Sy

וַאֲרָם יָצְאוּ גְדוּדִים	5:2a
וַיִּשְׁבּוּ מֵאֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל נַעֲרָה קְטַנָּה	5:2b
וַתְּהִי לִפְנֵי אֵשֶׁת נַעֲמָן׃	5:2c

"Now *the Syrians* on one of their raids had
carried off a little maid from the land of Israel,
and she waited on Naaman's wife".

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Sentences 5:2a and 5:1d are coordinated by the conj. we- even though there is no semantic relationship between their content.

The Qal SC verb יָצְאוּ is also a verb of movement and realizes a completed action in the past. The verb יָצְאוּ in this context has the connotation of troops on their way to fight. A prepositional word group is omitted in 5:2a which would have indicated the specific direction and location the Aramaean troops were going to in order to fight. The subject אֲרָם is the topicalized constituent. It realizes the semantic function [belonging to a specific group] which is further extended by a nominal word group.

The theme of this story relates to the chief of the army namely, Naaman. Sentences 5:1a and 5:1d realize the semantic function [attribute and quality]. Both 5:1a and 5:1d refer to the status of the chief of the army and to his sickness. Verse 1 as a whole could serve as background material for a new scene which begins in sentence 5:2a. Therefore, one may argue that verse 5:1 has no semantic relationship with 5:2a and sentence 5:1d must be seen as the end of one scene or episode.

Sentence 5:2b starts the wayyiqtol verbal chain which indicates that there is a succession of events between 5:2a and 5:2b. The subject of the wayyiqtol verb וַיִּשְׁבּוּ in 5:2b is realized by the verbal grammatical morpheme (3 m. pl.) and refers back to the specified subject, the Aramaean troops, in 5:2a. This indicates that there is a semantic relationship between sentences 5:2a and 5:2b.

The syntactic and semantic evidence of sentences 5:1a-d and 5:2a denotes that there is no reference to any succession of events. We may therefore argue that the writer utilized the S-V word order to denote that there is no continuity of events. Significant is the fact that 5:1a provides the background information for the narrative starting in 5:2.

10.   9:11a   conj. we- + S(PN)+ V + x.Sy

9:11a	וְיֵהוּא יָצָא אֶל־עַבְדֵי אֲדֹנָיו
9:11b	וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ
9:11c	הֲשָׁלוֹם
9:11d	מַדּוּעַ בָּא־הַמְשֻׁגָּע הַזֶּה אֵלֶיךָ
9:11e	וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם
9:11f	אַתֶּם יְדַעְתֶּם אֶת־הָאִישׁ וְאֶת־שִׂיחוֹ׃

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"When *Jehu* came out to the servants of his
master, they said to him, 'Is all well? Why did
this mad fellow come to you?' And he said to them,
'You know the fellow and his talk'".

The conj. we- in sentence 9:11a coordinates sentence 9:11a with 9:10d. From the context one may infer that there is a logical and chronological continuity between 9:10d and 9:11a. The "son of the prophet" (verse 1a) and Jehu were the only dramatis personae of the scene preceding the event in 9:11a. They were inside one room/building during the anointing and induction of Jehu as the newly appointed king over Israel.

The subject in 9:11a is יְהוּא (PN) and it is placed in the sentence initial position. The topicalized constituent refers back to the person being specified in the command given by the prophet Elisha to the "son of the prophet" in verses 1-3. The Qal SC verb יָצָא realizes the semantic function [completed action in the past]. The x.Sy contains the prepositional word group אֶל־עַבְדֵי אֲדֹנָיו with its construct word group. The 3 m. s. pronominal suffix in אֲדֹנָיו refers to the subject in 9:11a, namely, Jehu. This nominal word group "his master" refers back to the king Joram in verse 3:1.

The conj. we- in sentence 9:11b[94] coordinates 9:11b with 9:11a. There is a semantic relationship between the content of 9:11a and 9:11b. The pronominal suffix in לוֹ refers back to Jehu, the subject in 9:11a. This does not apply to the content of 11a-b and 10d.

The preceding sentences 9:10c and d have the wayyiqtol verbal form in the sentence initial position that realizes successive events in the past. The subjects in both sentences are 3 m. s. and point back to the "son of the prophet" in sentence 9:1a. The dramatis personae in this scene involves Jehu and the son of the prophet. The wayyiqtol verbal chain is interrupted in sentence 9:11a and interrupts the topic continuity. If the writer had utilized a wayyiqtol verb, it would have meant that there is a logical continuity of events and topic continuity between the preceding sentences 9:10c and 10d and sentence 9:11a. Sentence 9:11a may be interpreted as the beginning of a new paragraph or scene with Jehu, the newly appointed king, as the subject.

One may infer from the context that there is a definite division in paragraphs between sentences 9:10c, d and 9:11a. If the writer had utilised the wayyiqtol form it would not have influenced the logical continuity of the story. It is quite evident that Jehu had to get back to his

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[94]The MT writes the verb with a singular subject while most of the commentaries and bible translators rely on the text critical note which proposes that the verb has a 3 m. pl. form 'and they said'. In this case we also rely on the text critical note (cf. Burney 1903:297).

fellow servants/military officers with whom he had been sitting prior to his anointing and induction as the new king of Israel. This signals that there is some continuity in the story.

We may now raise the question: Why did the writer not use a wayyiqtol verbal form to illustrate that there is continuity? The fact that the writer did not use the wayyiqtol verbal form has nothing to do with breaking up the continuity of the story. Factors like the re-introduction of a known person, namely Jehu, with *new status* as the *new main actor of a new paragraph* could have played a role.

11.   9:24a   conj. we- + S(PN) + V + x.Sy + x.Sy

וְיֵהוּא מִלֵּא יָדוֹ בַקֶּשֶׁת   9:24a
וַיַּךְ אֶת־יְהוֹרָם בֵּין זְרֹעָיו   9:24b
וַיֵּצֵא הַחֵצִי מִלִּבּוֹ   9:24c
וַיִּכְרַע בְּרִכְבּוֹ:   9:24d

"And *Jehu* drew his bow with his full strength,
and shot Joram between the shoulders, so that
the arrow pierced his heart, and he sank in his chariot."

The conj. we- in 9:24a coordinates 9:24a with 9:23d. The subject יֵהוּא (PN) is the topicalized constituent. The Piel transitive verb מִלֵּא in 9:24a realizes an instantaneous, completed action in the past. This sentence is preceded by a vetitive[95] in 9:23d but it does not exercise any influence on the change of the word order in sentence 9:24a[96].

Sentence 9:24b begins with a wayyiqtol verb וַיַּךְ . The subject of the verb in 9:24b as realized by the verbal grammatical morpheme, refers back to the subject in sentence 9:24a, namely, Jehu. The use of the wayyiqtol verbal forms in sentence 9:24b, c, d and 9:25a illustrates that these events occured in succession. In the preceding sentences 9:23a, b and c the wayyiqtol verbal forms also suggest the successiveness of the events. Sentence 9:24a is the only sentence in this context with a word order: conj. we- + S + V + x.Sy + x.Sy, which signals that something other than succession of events has occured. It illustrates the interruption of topic continuity between sentences 9:23a, b, c, and 9:24a, b and c.

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[95]It is a form expressing negative expressing prohibition (Waltke & O'Connor 1990:694).
[96]There are cases where the wayyiqtol verbal form is used after a vetitive (cf. 2 Kings 2:23gV; 3:23eV; 5:25dV; 6:21cV; 9:5hV and 9:22cV)

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One may infer from the context that there is a logical continuity in the story between 9:23 and 9:24a. Events described in sentences 9:23a, b, c, d and 9:24a occured one after the other. Joram, after having met with the pugnacious Jehu, discovered that Jehu was busy plotting to dethrone him. Joram reacts by trying to flee away from his attacker but is felled by Jehu. According to this evidence there is a logical sequence in the story even though the preverbal positioning of the subject does not signal that there is any succession of events.

This clearly denotes that it was *not* the intention of the writer to convey the idea of successive events but rather to illustrate to his readers that the action in sentence 9:24a happened *while* Joram and Ahaziah were trying to escape from the newly anointed king, Jehu. In this case it would be best to translate the conj. we- + Subject + Verb word order in sentence 9:24a as our English pluperfect which illustrates the "in the meantime" of the action.

12.   10:19e   conj. we- + S(PN) + V + x.Sy (prep./o)

וְעַתָּה כָל־נְבִיאֵי הַבַּעַל כָּל־עֹבְדָיו	10:19a
וְכָל־כֹּהֲנָיו קִרְאוּ אֵלַי	10:19a
אִישׁ אַל־יִפָּקֵד	10:19b
כִּי זֶבַח גָּדוֹל לִי לַבַּעַל	10:19c
כֹּל	10:19d
אֲשֶׁר־יִפָּקֵד	10:19dR
לֹא יִחְיֶה	10:19d
וְיֵהוּא עָשָׂה בְעָקְבָה	10:19e
לְמַעַן הַאֲבִיד אֶת־עֹבְדֵי הַבָּעַל׃	10:19eI

"...Now therefore call to me all the prophets
of Baal and all his priests; let no one be
missing, for I have a great sacrifice to offer
to Baal; whoever is missing shall not live.
But *Jehu* did it with cunning in order
to destroy the worshippers of Baäl."

Sentence 10:19e succeeds sentences 10:18c to 10:19d which contains the direct speech where Jehu, as the doer of the action (10:18a) orders that all the Baal prophets be brought into the temple.

The conj. we- coordinates sentence 10:19e with 10:19d. In sentence 10:19e the topicalized constituent and subject יֵהוּא (PN) precedes the verb. The Qal SC verb עָשָׂה realizes the semantic function [completed action in the past]. The sentence 10:19e is further extended by a subordinate sentence introduced by the conjunction לְמַעַן and infinitive construct הַאֲבִיד which realizes the purpose of the action in the sentence 10:19e.

Sentence 10:20a proceeds with a wayyiqtol verbal form which indicates a completed action in the past. The subject יֵהוּא (PN) refers back to the subject of 10:19e and 10:18a. This denotes that Jehu is the topic of the scene. One may therefore argue that no focusing of the topic is intended.

It is moreover quite obvious from the syntactic evidence that this story forms a coherent sequence of events. In each of the events Jehu is the agent of the action. One cannot speak of a re-introduced topic because Jehu is the topic of the scene as from verse 10:1. The events of the sentences 10:18 to 10:19e display no sign of simultaneity. In fact, the writer used this word order type not to focus on the topicalized constituent of the sentence but *to supply* the hearer or reader with some *background information*[97]. Avoidance of a wayyiqtol sequence was in a sense obligatory in this context; thus the use of the we + qatal construction.

13.   **10:24b**   **conj.we- + S (PN) + V + x.Sy + x.Sy (d/o)**

וַיָּבֹאוּ	10:24a
לַעֲשׂוֹת זְבָחִים וְעֹלוֹת	10:24aI
וְיֵהוּא שָׂם־לוֹ בַחוּץ שְׁמֹנִים אִישׁ	10:24b
וַיֹּאמֶר	10:24c
הָאִישׁ	10:24dP
אֲשֶׁר־יִמָּלֵט מִן־הָאֲנָשִׁים	10:24dPR
אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי מֵבִיא עַל־יְדֵיכֶם	10:24dPRR
נַפְשׁוֹ תַּחַת נַפְשׁוֹ׃	10:24d

"Then he went in to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings.
Now *Jehu* had stationed for himself eighty men
outside, and said: 'The man who allows any of those
whom I give into your hands to escape shall forfeit
his life'".

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[97]Cf. also 10:31a.

The conj. we- in sentence 10:24b coordinates 10:24b with 10:24a. Sentence 10:24b has the topicalized constituent, that is the subject יֵהוּא , and it is followed by a verb. The Qal SC verb שָׂם realizes a completed action in the past.

Sentence 10:24a begins with a wayyiqtol verb which indicates the successiveness of the events. The verb has no specified subject but it can be deduced from the verbal grammatical morpheme, 3 m. pl[98].

This plural subject refers to the "servants of Baal" in sentence 10:23b. An infinitive sentence 10:24aI follows the verb וַיָּבֹאוּ . The preposition לְ with the infinitive construct לַעֲשׂוֹת realizes the semantic function [purpose sentence]. We may therefore argue that 10:24a with its infinitive sentence forms one particular scene in the story. There is no congruency in subject and action between sentence 10:24a and 10:24b which illustrates that 10:24b denotes a second concurrent situation.

Sentence 10:24c resumes the wayyiqtol verbal chain that is followed by the direct speech. The subject is realized by the verbal grammatical morpheme of the verb וַיֹּאמֶר and refers back to the subject in sentence 10:24b, namely, Jehu. This indicates that there is a closer semantic relationship between 10:24b and 10:24c than between 10:24b and 10:24a.

From the context one notices that the actions of the two predicates in 10:24aI and 10:24b do not represent any posteriority of events. If the writer wanted his hearers to understand this sentence as successive he could have utilized the wayyiqtol verbal form which would have implied successive events. It is therefore quite obvious that the writer deliberately avoided the use of the wayyiqtol verbal form. Instead, he utilized the word order: conj. we- + S + V .

Sentences 10:24a and 10:24b refer to two separate events. Sentence 10:24a refers to a specific action being undertaken by the prophets of Baal while at the same time (sentence 10:24b) Jehu orders his men to take up their positions outside the temple.

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[98]The MT reads the verb with a plural subject. The 1957 edition of the Afrikaans Bible acknowledges the plural form. This may refer to Jehu and Jehonadab from verse 23 or it may also refer to the prophets of Baal who prepared the sacrifices and burnt offerings. According to the text critical note 10:24a the Lucian edition of the Septuagint reads a singular form namely, "he" 3 m.s. This can not refer to the prophets of Baal or to Jehu and Jehonadab. The RSV and JB translates the verb as singular. One may, according to the text critical note and Bible translators (e.g. RSV and JB), argue that the grammatical morpheme refers to Jehu only. The Lucian edition who proposes the acceptance of the singular form of the verb is not considered that authoritative. Scholars differ on the interpretation of this text. Keil-Delitzsch (1978:351) assert that it was the prophets of Baal who were preparing to offer sacrifice. In this case we prefer the MT reading that reads the plural subject because if we accept the singular form we should consider an independent personal pronoun in stead of the PN יֵהוּא in sentence 10:24b. Jehu is a known character in this event from preceding sentences.

From the syntactic and semantic evidence on sentences 10:24a and 10:24b one may claim that it was *not* the intention of the writer to convey the idea of successive events but rather *to illustrate* to his hearers *that the action in sentence 10:24b occurred while* the prophets of Baal were busy preparing sacrifices and burnt offerings. In this case it would be best to translate the conj. we- + Subject + Verb word order in sentence 10:24b as our English pluperfect.

14.   10:31a   conj. we- + S(PN) + neg. V

וְיֵהוּא לֹא שָׁמַר	10:31a
לָלֶכֶת בְּתוֹרַת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּכָל־לְבָבוֹ	10:31aI
לֹא סָר מֵעַל חַטֹּאות יָרָבְעָם	10:31b
אֲשֶׁר הֶחֱטִיא אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל:	10:31bR

"And (but) *Jehu* was not careful to walk in
the law of the Lord the God of Israel with
his whole heart; he did not turn from the sins
of Jeroboam which he made Israel to sin."

Sentence 10:31a succeeds sentences 10:30a to 10:30d that contain the direct speech where Yahweh communicates the promise that he would place the sons of the fourth generation of Jehu on the throne of Israel because Jehu has done well in carrying out what was right in the sight if the Lord, namely, the destruction of the house of Ahab.

The subject, יֵהוּ is placed in the sentence initial position in sentence 10:31a. It is followed by the verb and a negative particle לֹא שָׁמַר which realizes a negative statement in the past. The subject, Jehu, is the addressed person referred to in 10:30a and represents the theme of this paragraph.

Sentence 10:31a is further extended by an infinitive sentence while the preposition לְ + infinitive construct לָלֶכֶת specifies the action being expressed by the verb. We may describe the infinitive sentence 10:31aI as referring to events that specify those in 10:31a.

One may infer from the context that sentence 10:31a is a repetition of what has already been said about the transgressions of Jehu in sentence 10:29. It is also clear that there is no succession of events (due to the absence of any wayyiqtol verbal forms). The only wayyiqtol verbal forms are found in sentence 10:30a and then again in sentence 10:32b. Verse 10:29

provides the reader with some background information for better comprehension of the following sentence 10:30.

The syntactic evidence signals that there is no continuity or simultaneity of events between sentences 10:31a and 10:30d. It also signals that the preverbal positioning of the subject does not signal the start of a new paragraph or scene. In fact, the writer utilizes the word order type: conj. we- + S + negV + x.Sy *to equip* the hearer with some *background information*[99] and not to focus on the topic of the sentence.

15.　　11:20b　　　　conj we- + S + V

וַיִּשְׂמַח כָּל־עַם־הָאָרֶץ	11:20a
וְהָעִיר שָׁקָטָה	11:20b
וְאֶת־עֲתַלְיָהוּ הֵמִיתוּ בַחֶרֶב בֵּית מֶלֶךְ:	11:20c

"And all the people of the land rejoiced;
and *the city* was quiet after Athaliah
had been slain with the sword at the
king's house".

The conj. we- in sentence 11:20b coordinates sentence 11:20b with 11:20a. Sentence 11:20b describes a specific state of affairs in the city.

In sentence 11:20b we have the specified subject הָעִיר as the topicalized constituent. It is grammatically definite and presupposes identifiability in the mind of the reader. The qatal verb שָׁקָטָה is a stative verb and expresses a state of affairs in the past[100].

Sentences 11:19a to 11:20a are characterized by a whole range of wayyiqtol verbal forms, each of them realizing a completed action in the past. The actions of these sentences clearly represent a succession of events. This wayyiqtol verbal chain is, however, interrupted in sentence 11:20b where the writer used the word order: conj. we- + Subject + Verb.

From the context we may infer that it is not a new topic or a new paragraph or scene because the predicates וַיִּשְׂמַח and שָׁקָטָה in sentences 11:20a and b each denote a particular state of affairs present amongst the people and in the city[101].

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[99]Cf. also 10:19e.
[100]Joüon-Muraoka (1991§112b) states that "in the past its primary meaning is that of the French imperfect (present of the perfect), e.g. 'he was heavy' (Fr. il était lourd)".

The syntactic evidence furthermore indicates that there is no simultaneity of events between 11:20a and b. It will also be wrong to argue that background information is supplied in sentence 11:20b because background information is only provided to help the reader to a better understanding of what is about to follow. Verse 20 merely concludes chapter 11. Chapter 12:1 begins a new story and setting.

However, it is possible to infer from the context that sentence 11:20b may be interpreted as a typical way *to conclude the story or episode*[102].

16. **12:17a** S + neg. V + x.Sy

כֶּסֶף אָשָׁם וְכֶסֶף חַטָּאוֹת לֹא יוּבָא בֵּית יְהוָה   12:17a
לַכֹּהֲנִים יִהְיוּ:   12:17b

"The money from the guilt offerings and the money from the sin offerings must not be brought into the house of the Lord; it belonged to the priests".

Sentence 12:17a is an asyndetic sentence that follows after a causal sentence that is introduced by the conjunction כִּי in sentence 12:16b. It expresses the reason why the money was given to the workmen repairing the house of the Lord. Sentence 12:17a is a descriptive text. It is a passage taken from Lev 4:24, 29; 5:15, 18 and 7:7 and describes what must happen to the money brought in for the guilt and sin offerings.

The grammatical subject כֶּסֶף אָשָׁם וְכֶסֶף חַטָּאוֹת is placed in the sentence initial position. It consists of two nominal word groups coordinated by a conjunction we-. The nominal word groups are realized by two construct word groups. The subject is followed by a Hophal (passive) verbal form with a negative particle לֹא יוּבָא which realizes a negative statement[103].

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[101]Gray (1977:582) suggests that possibly in the jubilation of the people of the land and the silence of Jerusalem there is a contrast between the people of Judah and the city. This state of affairs that the inhabitants of the city were expected to rally to Athaliah's support, was an apprehension which apparently prompted Jehoiada to post a guard over the temple while Joash was being installed as the king in the palace.

[102]Even though Kotze refers to the possible interpretation of the conj. we- + S + V word order within its context as a circumstantial sentence, he also mentions that such a word order may be utilized to mark the end of a paragraph or episode (Kotze, 1988:144).

[103]Andersen generalizes: "In any case, placement of an item before the negative particle indicates deliberate choice for some additional effect-focus, contrast, topicalization, whatever, ..." (Andersen, unpublished manuscript).

The contextual evidence indicates that there is no relationship between sentences 12:16a, b and sentence 12:17a. The subjects of the two sentences are different and the money refered to in sentence 12:16a is not the same money being refered to in 12:17a. From verse 14 to 16 reference is made to the money that was brought into the house of the Lord which was given to the workmen to repair the house of the Lord while the money in verse 17 was not brought into the house of the Lord because it belonged to the priests.

In sentence 12:17b the plural subject realized by the verbal grammatical morpheme 3 m. pl. refers back to the subject of sentence 12:17a which illustrates the relationship between these two sentences. The content of sentence 12:18 refers to Hazael, the king of Aram, thus differing from the content of the scene in 12:17. This shows that there is no connection between 12:17 and 12:18.

The absence of any wayyiqtol verbal forms indicates to us that no succession of events is involved. From the context we may infer that the subject in sentence 12:17a is the *new topic* introduced at the beginning of a new subsection of a description. In this paragraph the two topicalized new topics are also the theme of this subsection.

17.   12:22a   conj. we- + S + V(d/o)

וְיוֹזָבָד בֶּן־שִׁמְעָת וִיהוֹזָבָד בֶּן־שֹׁמֵר עֲבָדָיו הִכֻּהוּ	12:22a
וַיָּמֹת	12:22b
וַיִּקְבְּרוּ אֹתוֹ עִם־אֲבֹתָיו בְּעִיר דָּוִד	12:22c
וַיִּמְלֹךְ אֲמַצְיָה בְנוֹ תַּחְתָּיו:	12:22d

"And Jozabad (Jozacar) the son of Shimeath
and Jehozabad the son of Shomer, his servants
struck him down, so that he died. And they buried
him with his fathers in the city of David, and Amaziah
his son reigned in his stead."

The conj. we- in sentence 12:22a coordinates 12:22a with sentence 12:21c. In sentence 12:22a two people, namely, Jozabad and Jehozabad (RSV) are the subjects of the action. Each subject יוֹזָבָד and וִיהוֹזָבָד is further extended by a construct word group, namely, "the son of Shimeath" and "the son of Shomer" respectively. The pronominal suffix in עֲבָדָיו refers anaphorically to the qualified subjects. A completed action in the past is realized by the Hiphil

verb הִכָּהוּ. The object suffix 3 m. s. with the verb in 12:22a refers to king Joash also mentioned in sentence 12:21c as the direct object of the verb הִכָּהוּ.

Sentences 12:21a, b and c have the plural subject עֲבָדָיו . In each of these sentences we have the wayyiqtol verbal forms which indicate that there is a succession of events. We read of the conspiracy by the servants to kill Joash in 12:21.

The following sentences 12:22b, c and d introduce a new scene and continue with the wayyiqtol verbal chain. However, in 12:22a we have the subject, the topicalized constituent followed by a hiphil verb which denotes that the wayyiqtol verbal chain has been interrupted. This sentence structure realizes a situation where no continuity in the main stream story is involved.

The qualified subject of 12:22a is known information to the readers because it was referred to in sentence 12:21a. The death of king Joash in 12:22a is also considered as known information due to the referenceto it in sentence 12:21c. The syntactic evidence of sentences 12:21 and 12:22 signals that no focus function can be attributed to the subject placed in the preverbal position in 12:22a.

One may argue that sentence 12:22a is redundant because it is a repetition of what was said in sentence 12:21c. Sentence 12:22b can easily be joined with 12:21c with exactly the same message to the reader and this would ensure the continuity of the events.

From the context and the syntactic and semantic evidence one may infer that the writer interrupted the wayyiqtol verbal chain by using the word order: conj. we- + S + V[d/o] to provide his readers with some *background information* to help them understand the events of sentences 12:22b, c and d. On the other hand, we may assume that the writer must have been uncertain whether his readers knew the identity of the two murderers. He therefore specifies the two subjects together with appositional word groups in sentence 12:22a to eliminate any uncertainty in the mind of his readers. Such reasoning would presuppose that the writer is possibly *focusing on the subjects*.

Joüon-Muraoka (1991:§118g) suggest something different. They deal with this type of sentence structure in a different manner by suggesting that "in the case of a repetition the action cannot be represented as subsequent, and therefore wayyiqtol is not used. (2 Sam 3:23 - repetition of verse 22; 1 Kings 20:19 - repetition of verse 17)".

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In sentence 12:21c the unspecified subject of the verb הִכָּהוּ refers back to the specified subject in 12:21a. Even though the verbal form is different (12:21c - wayyiqtol verb and 12:22a - hiphil SC verb) one may argue that 12:22a involves the same actors and is a repetition of sentence 12:21c. Therefore, the wayyiqtol chain is interrupted and the repeated action in sentence 12:22a is presented with the subject in the sentence initial position.

18. **13:13b** conj. we- + S + V + x.Sy

וַיִּשְׁכַּב יוֹאָשׁ עִם־אֲבֹתָיו	13:13a
וְיָרָבְעָם יָשַׁב עַל־כִּסְאוֹ	13:13b
וַיִּקָּבֵר יוֹאָשׁ בְּשֹׁמְרוֹן עִם מַלְכֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:	13:13c

"And Joash slept with his fathers,

and *Jeroboam* sat upon his throne;

and Joash was buried in Samaria with the

kings of Israel."
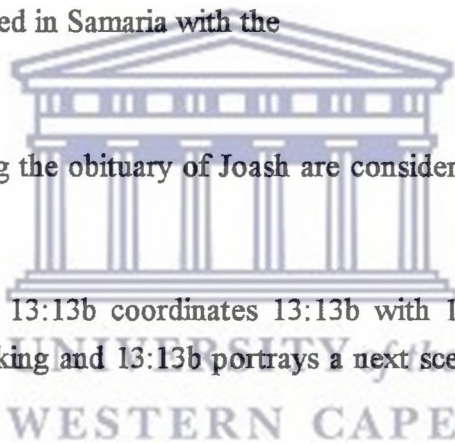
Verses 13:12 and 13:13 describing the obituary of Joash are considered by scholars as a later addition[104].

The conjunction we- in sentence 13:13b coordinates 13:13b with 13:13a. Sentence 13:13a describes the death of Joash, the king and 13:13b portrays a next scene where Jeroboam, the

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[104]Montgomery (1960:434) states that this obituary of Joash varies considerably from the usual closing formulas. It is out of place here and a duplication of 14:15-16. Hobbs (1985) considers sentence 13:13b as an insertion and asserts that "it is an unusual expression although by no means unique in the books of Kings (cf. 1 Kings 1:13, 17, 20, 24, 27, 30, 35, 48; 2:12, 19, 24; 3:6; 8:20; 2 Kings 10:30; 11:19)". We may assert that a later scribe must have noticed that the death of king Joash was described in 14:15-16 and not at the end of chapter 13 where it should have been placed. The scribe then wrote an obituary notice roughly in Deuteronomic style and inserted it here before the Elisha stories. A closer scrutiny of the following verses: 1 Kings 11:43; 14:31; 15:8, 24; 16:28; 22:40; 2 Kings 8:24; 10:35; 13:9; 14:6; 15:7; 15:38; 16:20; 21:18, discloses that we have other 'usual closing formulas'. All these sentences have one common feature namely that they are placed at the end of a paragraph or scene. They characterise a particular sentence structure namely:

Wayy (to sleep) + S[PN] + x.Sy
Wayy[S] (to bury) + x.Sy + x.Sy
Wayy (to reign) + S[PN] + x.Sy.

Sentence 13:13 is the only example of the sentence type (closing formula) where we have the following sentence structure:

Wayy (to sleep) + S[PN] + x.Sy
conj. we- + Subject[PN] + Qtl verb (to sit) + x.Sy
Wayy (to bury) + S[PN] + x.Sy + x.Sy

According to this syntactic evidence one may infer that sentence 13:13b must have been an insertion by a later scribe.
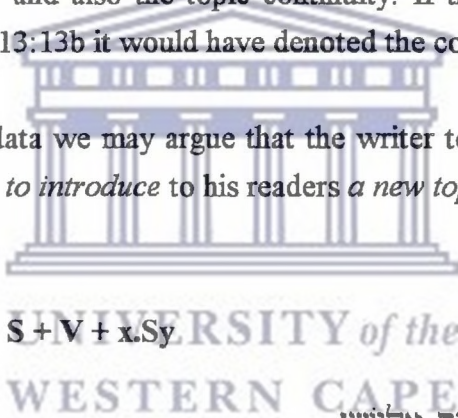
son of Joash, sits on his fathers throne. This is followed by the burial of Joash in Samaria - a scene more closely linked to the content of sentence 13:13a.

In sentence 13:13b the subject יָרְבְעָם is placed in the sentence initial position. It is followed by the Qatal verb יָשַׁב which realizes a completed action in the past. The pronominal suffix (3 m. s.) in the prepositional word group עַל־כִּסְאוֹ refers anaphorically back to the subject of 13:13a.

Sentence 13:13a has a wayyiqtol verb in the sentence initial position which realizes the succession of events in the past. It is then succeeded by a sentence with a topicalized constituent in 13:13b and a wayyiqtol verbal form in 13:13c. To express the temporal continuity between 13:13a and 13:13c one would have expected sentence 13:13b to be placed after 13:13c.

The sentence structures of 13:13a, b, and c signal that the new topic, Jeroboam, in 13:13b interrupts the temporal continuity and also the topic continuity. If the writer had utilized a wayyiqtol verbal form in sentence 13:13b it would have denoted the continuity of events[105].

From the syntactic and semantic data we may argue that the writer topicalized the subject in the word order in sentence 13:13b *to introduce* to his readers *a new topic*[106].

19.   13:20c   conj. we- + S + V + x.Sy

וַיָּמָת אֱלִישָׁע	13:20a
וַיִּקְבְּרֻהוּ	13:20b
וּגְדוּדֵי מוֹאָב יָבֹאוּ בָאָרֶץ	13:20c
בָּא שָׁנָה׃	13:20d

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[105]Sentences 14:16a, b, and c describes the same situation as in 13:13a, b, and c. Each sentence begins with a wayyiqtol verbal form which indicates that there is certainly a continuity of events.

[106]This sentence (13:13b) is a problem case. It is also true that a new topic can be introduced by a wayyiqtol verbal form (cf. 2 Kings 15:38). Perhaps one needs to rely more on the evidence of the Bible commentaries (cf. footnote 104) since it is rather difficult to substantiate any pragmatic function on the preverbally positioned subject in 13:13b. Cf. also 8:24; 10:35; 13:9; 14:6; 15:7; 15:38; 16:20; 21:18 for examples where the syntax of each of them is :
    Wayy (to sleep) + S[PN] + x.Sy
    Wayy[S] (to bury) + x.Sy + x.Sy
    Wayy (to reign) + S[PN] + x.Sy .

"And Elisha died, and they buried him.
And bands of Moabites used to invade the land
in the spring of the year."

The conjunction we- in sentence 13:20c coordinates sentence 13:20c with 13:20b even though there is no semantic relationship between them. In sentence 13:20c the subject גְּדוּדֵי מוֹאָב is realized by the construct word group. A yiqtol verb[107] succeeds the plural subject which realizes the semantic function [recurrence: customary event][108].

The subject in 13:20c is placed in the sentence initial position which is followed by the verb and prepositional word group בָאָרֶץ that realizes the semantic function [direction].

In sentences 13:20a and b we have the wayyiqtol verbal forms which realize the succession of events in the past. Elisha is the subject/agent of the action in 13:20a which is anaphorically referred to in 13:20b by means of the object suffix 3 m. s. וַיִּקְבְּרֻהוּ .

The writer avoids the wayyiqtol verbal chain by using the topicalized constituent in the sentence that signals that no succession of events was intended. The syntactic evidence clearly shows that there is no relationship between sentences 13:20a, b and c. Sentences 13:20a and b refer to one scene, namely, the death and funeral of Elisha while 13:20c introduces a new topic and scene to the reader, namely, the bands of Moabites who invaded the land.

We may therefore argue that sentence 13:20c *introduces a new paragraph* with the subject גְּדוּדֵי מוֹאָב as the *new topic*.

Alternatively, one may also interpret the sentence 13:20c as being background information. Sentences 13:20a and b refer to one completed action in the past while sentence 13:20c refers to an entirely different and customary action of the past.

In verse 13:21 we have the temporal marker וַיְהִי which indicates a new episode in the story. In sentence 13:21c we read that the men saw the band of the Moabites coming to invade the land while they were busy burying a man. This indicates that the direct object אֶת־הַגְּדוּד in

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[107]The MT reads PC, 3 m. pl. while two Hebrew manuscripts have a SC verb 3 m. pl. The Targum on the other hand has a singular form of the PC verb. In this case the MT is retained.

[108]Williams (1976:31) refers to the frequentative or habitual use of the yiqtol verbal form. It indicates that the action is repeated at any time (1 Kings 5:25 and Job 1:5) or customarily at a given time (Gen 6:21; 43:32 and Dt 1:44). Joüon-Muraoka (1991§113e) speak of a repeated action of the past (Gen 31:39; Ex 33:7). Keil-Delitzsch (1978) interpret the text as evidently indicating that the burial of the prophet Elisha occurred at the time when the annually returning bands of Moabitish marauders invaded the land. Brongers (1982:129) also refers to the "gebruiklijke raids" of the Moabites. The RSV and JB translators also render the verb as a repeated action of the past.

13:21c refers back to the subject in 13:20c which illustrates to the reader that there is a closer contextual relationship between 13:20c, d and verse 21 (because of the dramatis personae) than sentences 13:20a, b and 13:20c. Sentences 13:20c and d can thus be interpreted as an independent scene.

Despite a new topic being introduced in sentence 13:20c one may yet infer from the context and syntactic evidence that the writer utilized the word order *to provide* his readers with some *background information*. This information will help the reader to understand the succeeding events. Significant again is the fact that this background information is supplied at the beginning of a new scene. This scene concludes the story of Elisha.

20.   **13:22**   conj. we- + S + V + x.Sy + x.Sy

13:22   וַחֲזָאֵל מֶלֶךְ אֲרָם לָחַץ אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל כֹּל יְמֵי יְהוֹאָחָז׃

"And *Hazael king of Syria* oppressed Israel
all the days of Jehoahaz..."

Sentence 13:22 is coordinated with 13:21h even though there is no semantic relationship between them. The topicalized constituent חֲזָאֵל of 13:22 is further qualified by a construct word group מֶלֶךְ אֲרָם[109]. It is followed by the Qal verb לָחַץ that realizes a completed action in the past. In sentences 13:21d-h we have the wayyiqtol verbal chain which realizes the succession of events in the past. The topic of these sentences is הָאִישׁ, the direct object in 13:21d who is about to be buried.

The syntactic evidence discloses that there is no semantic relationship or logical sequence of events between sentences 13:21 and 13:22. Sentence 13:23a resumes with the wayyiqtol verbal chain which marks the succession of events. The subject in 13:23 is Yahweh. The direct object marker with its pronominal suffix 3 m. pl. אֹתָם refers anaphorically to the direct object in 13:22, namely, the Israelites. Again the syntactic evidence confirms a closer relationship between 13:22 and 13:23a than 13:21d-h and 13:22.

This evidence allows us to argue that the writer utilized the topicalized constituent in the sentence to interrupt the succession/continuity of the events. The occurence of the subject in

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[109] According to the text critical note 22a-a the Septuagint omits the construct word group. The MT is retained in this case.

the sentence initial position may be interpreted as the *new topic being introduced*. Verse 22 serves as the *beginning of a new paragraph and scene* with new actors.

21.   **14:6c   conj. we- + S + neg V + x.Sy**

וְאֶת־בְּנֵי הַמַּכִּים לֹא הֵמִית	14:6a
כַּכָּתוּב בְּסֵפֶר תּוֹרַת מֹשֶׁה	14:6a
אֲשֶׁר־צִוָּה יְהוָה	14:6aR
לֵאמֹר	14:6aRI
לֹא־יוּמְתוּ אָבוֹת עַל־בָּנִים	14:6b
וּבָנִים לֹא־יוּמְתוּ עַל־אָבוֹת	14:6c
כִּי אִם־אִישׁ בְּחֶטְאוֹ יָמוּת׃	14:6d

"But he did not put to death the children of
the murderers; according to what is written
in the book of the law of Moses, where the
Lord commanded: 'The fathers shall not be
put to death for the children,
or *the children* be put to death for the fathers;
but every man shall die for his own sin'".

Conjunction we- in sentence 14:6c coordinates sentence 14:6c with 14:6b. These sentences 14:6b, c and d are part of a prescriptive text taken from Deut 24:16[110].

The subject בָּנִים in 14:6c is plural and congruent with the subject being realized by the verbal grammatical morpheme 3 m. pl. of the verb יוּמְתוּ[111]. The PC form of the verb with its negative particle realizes a negative non-perfective action which is intended for the present and the future. The subject אָבוֹת in sentence 6b is placed after the verb יוּמְתוּ. It is also plural but differs from the subject in sentence 6c.

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[110]It is the first reference by the Deuteronomistic compiler in 2 Kings to the book of the law of Moses. The only other reference to the lawbook is in 1 Kings 2:3. It must have been quoted from the lawbook found in the temple during the reign of king Josiah according to 2 Kings 22:8. Keil and Delitzsch (1978) assert that the writer has made a substantially accurate quotation from Deut 24:16, except that he has improved the syntax.

[111]The MT has the Hophal form of the verb while the text critical note suggests that we read the Qal form of the verb. If the Hophal form is retained then it represents the subject בָּנִים as the undergoer of a causative situation involving an event. According to the text critical note 16b in Deut 24:16 it has been suggested in the Septuagint, Peshitta and Targum that we read the verb as a PC verbal form. The Qal form as proposed by the text critical note 14:6a is more acceptable. With its negative particle the verb realizes a negative non-perfective action for the now and then.

There is no sign of any wayyiqtol verbal forms which would have indicated a succession of events. The only other way of interpreting this sentence with a topicalized constituent is that the writer wanted to unambiguously demarcate two topics that are compared with each other in 14:6a and 14:6c. Buth (forthcoming article) refers to such cases as "comparative topics"[112].

22.   16:6c conj. we- + S + V + x.Sy

בָּעֵת הַהִיא הֵשִׁיב רְצִין מֶלֶךְ־אֲרָם אֶת־אֵילַת לַאֲרָם   16:6a
וַיְנַשֵּׁל אֶת־הַיְהוּדִים מֵאֵילוֹת   16:6b
וַאֲרַמִּים בָּאוּ אֵילַת   16:6c
וַיֵּשְׁבוּ שָׁם עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה: 16:6d

"At that time the king of Edom recovered Elath
for Edom, and drove out the Jews from Elath;
and *the Edomites* came to Elath, where they
dwell to this day."

Conjunction we- in sentence 16:6c coordinates sentence 16:6c with 16:6b even though there are two distinct events, namely, the one nation being driven out of Elath and the other being brought into Elath. In sentence 16:6c the subject אֲרַמִּים refering to a specific group of people is plural and is congruent with the implicit subject being realized by the verbal grammatical morpheme 3 m. pl. of the verb. It is placed in the sentence initial position followed by the SC verb. The SC verb בָּאוּ realizes a completed action in the past.

In the preceding sentence 16:6b we have a wayyiqtol verbal form which realizes the start of a wayyiqtol chain. The unspecified subject in 16:6b refers back to the specified subject, namely, the king of Edom, in sentence 16:6a. The topic of sentence 16:6b differs from the topic in sentence 16:6c.

The wayyiqtol chain is resumed in sentence 16:6d indicating that there is continuity of events between 16:6c and d. The implicit subject is derived from the verbal grammatical morpheme 3 m. pl and refers back to the explicit subject in 16:6c.

One may argue that these two sentences, 16:6b and c reflect a contrastive situation. The verbs utilized are opposites ("to drive out" וַיְנַשֵּׁל vs. "to bring in" הֵשִׁיב) and the actions took place in the same city, namely, Elath. We may infer from the context that there is a logical

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[112]Cf also footnote 85 for a more detailed explanation on comparative topics by Buth.

sequence in the events. At first the king drove out the Jews from Elath and then the Edomites was brought into Elath.

If we take the syntactic data of sentences 16:5 to 16:6b into consideration we will find a definite topic, namely, the king Rezin. The story of 16:5 to 16:6b reflects also a temporal continuity and topic continuity. Sentences 16:6c and d introduce a new topic, the Edomites. We agree with Buth (forthcoming articles a and b) that this topic marking in sentence 16:6c interrupts the temporal continuity as well as the topic continuity and also has a contrastive focus in addition. We refer to it as "comparative topics"[113].

23.   17:30a   conj. we- + S + V + x.Sy(d/o)
        17:30b   conj. we- + S + V + X.Sy(d/o)
        17:30c   conj. we- + S + V + x.Sy(d/o)
        17:31a   conj. we- + S + V + X.Sy(d/o)

וְאַנְשֵׁי בָבֶל עָשׂוּ אֶת־סֻכּוֹת בְּנוֹת	17:30a
וְאַנְשֵׁי־כוּת עָשׂוּ אֶת־נֵרְגַל	17:30b
וְאַנְשֵׁי חֲמָת עָשׂוּ אֶת־אֲשִׁימָא:	17:30c
וְהָעַוִּים עָשׂוּ נִבְחַז וְאֶת־תַּרְתָּק	17:31a
וְהַסְפַרְוִים שֹׂרְפִים אֶת־בְּנֵיהֶם בָּאֵשׁ	17:31b
לְאַדְרַמֶּלֶךְ וַעֲנַמֶּלֶךְ אֱלֹהֵ סְפַרְוִים:	17:31b

"*The men of Babylon* made Succoth-benoth,
the men of Cuth made Nergal,
the men of Hamath made Ashima,
and *the Avvites* made Nibhaz and Tartak;
and the Sepharvites burned their children in the fire
to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim."

The sentences 17:30a, b, c and 17:31a all have the same syntactic sentence surface structure. Each of them has the subject in the sentence initial position followed by a Qal verb and direct object. These subjects each refer to a specific ethnic group while the object tells us which god they made. The specified subjects listed in 17:30a, b, c and 17:31a refers back to the subject in 17:29a which relates to the different nations brought into Samaria by the king of Assyria (17:24).

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[113]Cf. also footnote 85 for a more detailed explanation on comparative topics by Buth.

There is no indication of any continuity of events due to the word order with a topicalized constituent being used by the writer. A change in the topic, namely the nations, is also not evident. The only difference is that the topic, the nations, is defined in a listed fashion. One may therefore argue that the wayyiqtol verbal chain was not utilized. Instead, the writer topicalized the constituents *to list a number of topics in a descriptive text.*

4.2 conj. we- + OBJECT - VERB(S) + X.Sy...

The previous section dealt with the S-V-O word order. This section deals with those cases where the direct object is placed in the first position, namely, the O-V word order. The constituent structure in most of the sentences is the same (i.e. conj. we- + O + V(s)) with the exception of two sentences where the conjunction we- is omitted[114].

1.　　**3:25a conj. we- + x.Sy(d/o) + V(S)**
　　　3:25d conj. we- + x.Sy(d/o) + V(S)
　　　3:25e conj. we- + x.Sy(d/o) + V(S)

וְהֶעָרִים יַהֲרֹסוּ	3:25a
וְכָל־חֶלְקָה טוֹבָה יַשְׁלִיכוּ אִישׁ־אַבְנוֹ	3:25b
וּמִלְאוּהָ	3:25c
וְכָל־מַעְיַן־מַיִם יִסְתֹּמוּ	3:25d
וְכָל־עֵץ־טוֹב יַפִּילוּ	3:25e
עַד־הִשְׁאִיר אֲבָנֶיהָ בַּקִּיר חֲרָשֶׂת	3:25f
וַיָּסֹבּוּ הַקַּלָּעִים	3:25g
וַיַּכּוּהָ:	3:25h

"And they overthrew *the cities,* and on every
good piece of land every man threw his stone,
until it was covered;
They stopped *every spring of water,*
and felled *all the good trees*;
till only its stone were left in Kirhareseth, and
the slingers surrounded and conquered it."

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[114]In the text critical note 15:16d suggestions are made that we add the conj. we-.

In sentence 3:25a[115] the conjunction we- coordinates sentence 3:25a with 3:24e. The direct object (f. pl.) הֶעָרִים is placed in the sentence initial position as the topicalized constituent. The verb יַהֲרֹסוּ is a PC verb and realizes a completed situation/action. The subject is realized by the verbal grammatical morpheme (3 m. pl.) and refers back to the subject "the Israelites" in 3:24b.

The conj. we- in 3:25d coordinates 3:25d with 3:25c even though no semantic relationship exists between them. The direct object כָּל־מַעְיָן־מַיִם is also placed in the sentence initial position and is considered as the topicalized constituent. It is followed by a Qal PC verb which realizes a completed action in the past. The subject, like in 3:25a, is realized by the verbal grammatical morpheme (3 m. pl.) and refers back to the subject, "the Israelites" in 3:24b.

In sentence 3:25e the conj. we- coordinates 3:25e with 3:25d. Again the direct object כָּל־עֵץ־טוֹב is placed in the first position of the sentence also as the topicalized constituent. It precedes the Hiphil PC verb יַפִּילוּ which denotes a completed action in the past. The subject is realized by the verbal grammatical morpheme (3 m. pl.) and refers back to the subject "the Israelites" of sentence 3:24b.

In sentence 3:24e we have a wayyiqtol verbal form indicating the succession of events with the infinitive sentence introduced by the infinitive absolute הַכּוֹת . This infinitive absolute functions as the equivalent of the preceding wayyiqtol form[116]. The subject of sentence 3:24e is "the Israelites" which is congruent with the subject of sentence 3:25a. This signals that there is a semantic relationship between sentences 3:24e and 3:25a.

The wayyiqtol verbs in sentences 3:24a-e constitute a wayyiqtol verbal chain which realizes the succession of events in the past. The fact that sentences 3:25a, d and e have the marked word order indicate that the succession of events have been interrupted. Even though the wayyiqtol verbal chain is interrupted in sentence 3:25a by a word order with a topicalized constituent, one may infer from the syntactic evidence that there is a logical continuity in the narrative. We find in sentences 3:24e and 3:25a an actor continuity, namely, "the Israelites" and temporal continuity. After the Israelites defeated the Moabites (as described in 3:24e, a repetition of 3:24c) they went on to destroy the cities of the Moabites (cf. sentences 3:25a-e).

However, the syntactic and semantic evidence in sentences 3:24a-e and 3:25a-e allow us to reason that the different actions in sentences 3:25a-e refer back to sentence 3:24e where the final attack on the Moabites is mentioned. It seems that one may argue that the writer

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[115] According to Hobbs (1985:31), Long (1973:339) asserts that the prophecy in verse 19 "receives its emphatic fulfillment" in sentence 3:25a.
[116] Cf. Joüon-Muraoka, 1991:430.

introduced a new sub-paragraph. Even though we have actor continuity (m. pl. מַחֲנֵה יִשְׂרָאֵל) between verses 3:24 and 3:25, the writer introduces a new scene following the smiting of the Moabites. The battle shifted from the battlefields to the cities. The destruction is defined by means of a detailed description of the final attack. This description is realized by listing all the different objects (כָּל־מַעְיְנֵי־מַיִם , הֶעָרִים and כָּל־עֵץ־טוֹב) that refer to the cities of the Moabites which were attacked by the Israelites.

One may argue that the writer utilized the word order in sentences 3:25a, b, d and e to illustrate the discontinuity of the events. A topicalized constituent is placed in the sentence initial position in each of these sentences. Each topicalized item *introduces a new item/role player in the new scene*. If the writer wanted to indicate to his readers that the events of 3:25a, b, d and e occurred in succession after 3:24a-e he should have utilized wayyiqtol verbs to realize it. This, however, is not the case. One may conclude then that the writer is providing his readers with a detailed report on how the Moabites were attacked by the Israelites. The writer achieves this by *listing* all the things that were destroyed.

2. **11:18c**   **conj. we- + x.Sy(d/o) + V(S]) + x.Sy**
    11:18d   **conj. we- + x.Sy(d/o) + V(S) + x.Sy**

וַיָּבֹאוּ כָל־עַם הָאָרֶץ בֵּית־הַבַּעַל	11:18a
וַיִּתְּצֻהוּ	11:18b
אֶת־מִזְבְּחֹתָו וְאֶת־צְלָמָיו שִׁבְּרוּ הֵיטֵב	11:18c
וְאֵת מַתָּן כֹּהֵן הַבַּעַל הָרְגוּ לִפְנֵי הַמִּזְבְּחוֹת	11:18d
וַיָּשֶׂם הַכֹּהֵן פְּקֻדּוֹת עַל־בֵּית יְהוָה:	11:18e

"And all the people of the land went to the house of Baal,
and tore it down;
his altars and his images they broke in pieces,
and they killed *Mattan the priest of Baal* before the altar.
And the priest posted watchmen over the house of the Lord."

In sentences 11:18a and b the wayyiqtol verbs are placed in the sentence initial position. The subject כָל־עַם הָאָרֶץ in 11:18a is realized by a construct word group and is congruent with the verbal grammatical morpheme (3 m. pl.). It is followed by the direct object בֵּית־הַבַּעַל. In 11:18b we have the wayyiqtol verb with its m. pl. subject realized by the verbal grammatical morpheme. It refers anaphorically to the subject of 11:18a. The object suffix (3 m. s.) of the verb וַיִּתְּצֻהוּ in 11:18b also refers back to בֵּית־הַבַּעַל in 11:18a. This denotes that there is a

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semantic relationship between 11:18a and b. Succession of events is also expressed by the wayyiqtol verbs.

Sentence 11:18c is an asyndetic sentence[117]. The sentence 11:18c begins with the direct objects אֶת־מִזְבְּחֹתוֹ וְאֶת־צְלָמָיו in the sentence initial position as the topicalized constituent. The direct objects, both plural, are coordinated by the conj. we-. The pronominal suffixes (3 m. s.) of the direct objects refer anaphorically to בֵּית־הַבַּעַל in sentence 11:18a. The Piel verb שִׁבְּרוּ follows the direct objects and presents "a resultative profile" (Waltke and O'Connor, 1990:404-406). The verbal grammatical morpheme (3 m. pl.) presents the subject or agent of the action in 11:18c. It is then followed by an infinitive absolute הֵיטֵב realizing an adverbial function[118]. The syntactic and semantic data confirms that there is a semantic relationship between 11:18a-b and 11:18c.

Sentence 11:18d begins with the conj. we- which coordinates 11:18d with 11:18c. The direct object אֵת מַתָּן כֹּהֵן הַבַּעַל is placed in the first position of the sentence as the topicalized constituent. It is followed by a Qal SC verb which realizes a completed action in the past. The verb is followed by a prepositional word group לִפְנֵי הַמִּזְבְּחוֹת. The preposition לִפְנֵי indicates the place[119] of the murder. Even though two separate actions are portrayed by 11:18c and d there is a semantic relationship between them. In both cases the subject refers to the same group of people and the action took place in the same building.

If we consider sentences 11:17 and 11:18a and b, we find the wayyiqtol verbal forms which realize the wayyiqtol verbal chain and a succession of events. The succession of these events are interrupted in sentence 11:18c and d with the direct objects being placed in the sentence initial position. The contents of sentences 11:18c and d describe the destruction of the temple of Baal. The listed topicalized constituents, namely, אֶת־צְלָמָיו , אֶת־מִזְבְּחֹתוֹ and מַתָּן כֹּהֵן are all related and refer back to בֵּית־הַבַּעַל in sentence 11:18a.

It is therefore possible to argue that the writer utilized a word order in 11:18c-d to illustrate the discontinuity between the events of sentences 11:18a-b and 11:18c-d. Furthermore, he provided his readers with a detailed report on specific events with reference to the temple

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[117]Text critical note 18c suggests that we read the object marker in sentence 11:18c with a conjunction we-. It is possible that the conjunction was omitted in the copying process (also referred to as haplography). Therefore, in this case the MT is retained because the omittance thereof will not change the word order or the meaning of the sentence.

[118]According to Waltke & O'Connor (1990:592-593) we do find some Hiphil infinitive absolute forms used with a variety of verbal types similar to adverbial complements (cf. Deut 9:21; 13:15). Williams (1976§204) refers to the "adverbial accusative of manner" as one of the functions of this type of infinitive absolute (Gen 21:16; Josh 2:5; 1 Sam 13:12 and 17:16).

[119]A compound form of a preposition and a substantive in the construct form that realizes a locative function meaning "before" (Williams, 1976§370).

destruction. The writer achieved this by *listing* all the events concerning the destruction of the temple of Baal.

3.   **11:20c**   conj. we- + x.Sy(d/o) + V(S) + x.Sy + x.Sy

וַיִּשְׂמַח כָּל־עַם־הָאָרֶץ   11:20a
וְהָעִיר שָׁקָטָה   11:20b
וְאֶת־עֲתַלְיָהוּ הֵמִיתוּ בַחֶרֶב בֵּית מֶלֶךְ:   11:20c

"And all the people of the land rejoiced;
and the city was quiet
after *Athaliah* had been killed with the sword at the king's house."

The conj. we- in sentence 11:20c coordinates sentence 11:20c with sentence 11:20b even though there is no semantic relationship between them. Sentence 11:20b refers to a situation that existed in the city while 11:20c refers the death by sword of Athaliah.

Sentence 11:20c has the direct object עֲתַלְיָהוּ as the topicalized constituent in the sentence initial position. The direct object is followed by a Hiphil SC verb הֵמִיתוּ . The plural subject of the verb הֵמִיתוּ is realized by the verbal grammatical morpheme (3 m. pl.) which refers anaphorically to the plural object פִּקְדֵי הַחַיִל in sentence 11:15a. The prepositional word group בַחֶרֶב in 11:20c follows the verb. The preposition בְּ in בַחֶרֶב realizes the semantic function [instrument]. A construct word group בֵּית מֶלֶךְ[120] follows which realizes the semantic function [possession].

Sentence 11:20c is preceded by sentence 11:20b that has a word order structure that marks the end of the story and also of chapter 11. The subject הָעִיר in 11:20b is f. s. and has no congruency with the subject of sentence 11:20c. The stative verb שָׁקָטָה describes a specific situation that prevailed in the city. If we consider sentence 11:20a, we see that a wayyiqtol verb occurs in the first position and with the preceding wayyiqtol verbs in 11:19, constitutes the wayyiqtol chain that realizes a chain of completed actions in the past. The subject of sentence 11:20a, כָּל־עַם־הָאָרֶץ is also different from the subjects of sentences 11:20b (הָעִיר) and 11:20c (עֲתַלְיָהוּ). It is clear from the syntactic evidence that sentences 11:20b and

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[120]According to the text critical note 20a many manuscripts and the Lucian edition of the Septuagint reads מֶלֶךְ with the definite article הַמֶּלֶךְ . The dagesh in the מ indicates the doubling of the מ because of the definite article. In this case it has been omitted most probably due to a spelling error. We therefore read the noun מֶלֶךְ with the definite article.

c each have their own topicalized constituent. There is no actor continuity or time continuity involved in sentences 11:20a, b and c.[121]

The death of Athaliah being refered to in sentence 11:20c must be linked to the command given by Jehoiada to the army officers and the subsequent killing of Athaliah in verses 15 and 16.

It is also important that we consider sentence 12:1a. It is the main sentence which informs us about the age of Joash which is followed by a prepositional word group realized by a preposition בְּ and the infintive construct בְּמָלְכוֹ in sentence 12:1aI. The preposition בְּ in בְּמָלְכוֹ indicates the general temporal proximity to the situation refered to in the main sentence (12:1a). The content of the sentence refers to a known actor (according to verse 11:2) with a totally new scene being introduced (12:1a) namely, the beginning of the reign of Joash as the new king of Judah. If we consider the content of chapter 11 and chapter 12 respectively, it becomes evident that there is some measure of continuity between these two chapters. The life of Joash is spared in sentence 11:2a and b from the killing of the royal family. In sentence 11:20c reference is made to the death of Athaliah and in sentence 12:1a Joash is introduced to the reader as the new king of the nation. We may therefore argue that 12:1a is the beginning of a new scene and episode.

According to this information one may infer from the syntactic and semantic evidence that the writer listed the topicalized constituents (the subject in 11:20b and the object in 11:20c) at the end *to add a suitable finish to (or round off or conclude) the episode* and chapter 11.

4.   **14:6a   conj. we- + x.Sy(d/o) + V(s) + (optional sy.)**

וְאֶת־בְּנֵי הַמַּכִּים לֹא הֵמִית	14:6a
כַּכָּתוּב בְּסֵפֶר תּוֹרַת מֹשֶׁה	14:6a
אֲשֶׁר־צִוָּה יְהוָה	14:6aR
לֵאמֹר	14:6aRI
לֹא־יוּמְתוּ אָבוֹת עַל־בָּנִים	14:6b
וּבָנִים לֹא־יוּמְתוּ עַל־אָבוֹת	14:6c
כִּי אִם־אִישׁ בְּחֶטְאוֹ יָמוּת׃	14:6d

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[121]Cf. also the discussion of 11:20b on pp 58-59.

"But he did not put to death *the children of the murderers*;
according to what is written in the book of the law of Moses,
where the Lord commanded: 'The fathers shall not be put
to death for the children, or the children be put to death for
the fathers; but every man shall die for his own sin'".

The conj. we- in sentence 14:6a coordinates sentence 14:6a with 14:5c. Sentence 14:6a has a plural direct object בְּנֵי הַמַּכִּים in the first position of the sentence as the topicalized constituent. It is constituted by a construct word group which realizes the semantic function [belonging to a group]. The negative particle with the Hiphil SC verb realizes a negative statement in the past. A prepositional word group comprising of a preposition כְּ with a passive participle כַּכָּתוּב succeeds the verb. The preposition כְּ realizes the semantic function [comparison] in relation to the succeeding prepositional word group "in the book of the law of Moses" בְּסֵפֶר תּוֹרַת־מֹשֶׁה. The preposition בְּ in בְּסֵפֶר תּוֹרַת־מֹשֶׁה indicates to the reader the specific location where the quotation (sentences 14:6b, c and d) can be found.

The preceding sentence 14:5c begins with a wayyiqtol verbal form which realizes a completed action in the past. The subject is presented by the verbal grammatical morpheme 3 m. s. and refers back to the subject אֲמַצְיָהוּ in sentence 14:1. Sentence 14:5c has the direct object אֶת־עֲבָדָיו succeeding the wayyiqtol verb וַיַּךְ. The direct object עֲבָדָיו (extended by an appositional word group הַמַּכִּים אֶת־הַמֶּלֶךְ אָבִיו) refers to new actors being introduced into the narrative by the writer.

It is evident from the syntactic and semantic information that different actors are being introduced into the narrative in sentences 14:5c viz., עֲבָדָיו הַמַּכִּים אֶת־הַמֶּלֶךְ and 14:6a viz., בְּנֵי הַמַּכִּים.

If the writer had utilized a wayyiqtol verbal form in sentence 14:6a it would have suggested that succession of events was intended. One may infer from the evidence that the two new characters (in sentences 14:5c and 14:6a) are played off against each other by the writer. It is thus quite plausible that the writer used the word order to clearly distinguish between the two topicalized direct objects namely, in 14:5c עֲבָדָיו הַמַּכִּים אֶת־הַמֶּלֶךְ and 14:6a בְּנֵי הַמַּכִּים. Earlier in this thesis, these cases have been regarded as *comparative topics*[122].

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[122]For more detail on the comparative topic cf. footnote 85. In 14:6a it is plausible to argue that the writer compared the topicalized direct object with a topic in sentence 14:5c, namely, "his servants, the murderers of the king".

5. **15:16d** **X.Sy(d/o) + V(S)**

אָז יַכֶּה־מְנַחֵם אֶת־תִּפְסַח וְאֶת־כָּל־	15:16a
אֲשֶׁר־בָּהּ	15:16aR
וְאֶת־גְּבוּלֶיהָ מִתִּרְצָה	15:16a
כִּי לֹא פָתַח	15:16b
וַיַּךְ	15:16c
אֵת כָּל־הֶהָרוֹתֶיהָ בִּקֵּעַ׃	15:16d

"At that time Menahem sacked Tiphsah and all who were in it

and its territory from Tirzah on;

because they did not open it to him,

therefore he sacked it,

and he ripped open *all the pregnant women* thereof."

In sentence 15:16d[123] the MT reads the object marker without a conj. we-[124], i.e. as an asyndetic sentence. If we consider the text critical note 16d we may suggest that the conj. we-coordinates sentence 15:16d with 15:16c. The direct object[125] כָּל־הֶהָרוֹתֶיהָ is placed in the sentence initial position as the topicalized constituent. The suffix refers anaphorically to Tiphsah in sentence 15:16a. A Piel SC verb בִּקֵּעַ[126] follows the object that realizes a completed action in the past. The subject of the verb is realized by the verbal grammatical morpheme (3 m. s.) which refers anaphorically to the subject Menahem in sentence 15:16a.

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[123]Sentences 15:16a, b, c and d are considered by Hobbs (1985:196) as a grammatically "clumsy" verse. According to him the "phrase 'and her territory from beyond Tirzah' is awkward, though not devoid of meaning". Even the Qal verbal form פָתַח in sentence 15:16b with its verbal grammatical morpheme 3 m. s. (implied subject) clashes with the feminine form of Tiphsah. He even questions the order of the sentences 15:16b and 15:16c and suggests a reversed order - 15:16c וַיַּךְ to be placed before 15:16b כִּי לֹא פָתַח so that it could read וַיַּךְ כִּי לֹא פָתַח (cf. also Burney, 1903:322). The clumsiness remains when the writer omits the conjunction we- in 15:16d.

[124]The MT reads the object marker in sentence 15:16d without the conjunction we-. According to the text critical note 16d various manuscripts in conjunction with the Septuagint, Peshitta and Targum add the conjunction we-. If we consider the text critical note 16c one may demand a conjunction we- in the MT. The Lucian edition of the Septuagint, Targum manuscripts and the Peshitta in the text critical note 16c read the wayyiqtol verb (3 m. s.) with the addition of the suffix 3 f. s. that refers back to the city Tiphsah. In this case we may accept the reading witnessed to by the sources in the text critical note 16d because the direct object in 15:16d has no bearing on the verb in 15:16c. The proposed conjunction we- will then coordinate 15:16d with 15:16c.

[125]The text critical note 16e reads that we should omit the definite article. In the light of the suffix the reading with the article probably originated through dittography. The pronominal suffix 3 f.s. must also be considered.

[126]Montgomery (1960:450) declares that "the savage cruelty against pregnant women was typical of those days of the Assyrian terror; it was expected from Hazael (8:12), practised on Israel by Ammon (Amos 1:13), and was to be part of Israel's final tragedy (Hos 14:1)". Hobbs (1985:197) regards the actions of Menahem as a common feature in the ancient near East and as the right of the victor (cf. Lam 5:6-22; Hos 10:14; Nah 3:10). Cf. also 2 Kings 8:12.

In the preceding sentence 15:16c we have a wayyiqtol verbal form realizing a completed action in the past. From the text critical note 16c[127] one may conclude that there is a semantic relationship between 15:16d and 15:16c. This relationship is further strengthened by the congruency in person, gender and number of the subjects of both verbs.

The succeeding sentence 15:17 is regarded as the deuteronomistic introduction formula to the reign of Menahem (Gray, 1977:623)[128]. The theme in sentence 15:17 concerns Menahem who is also being referred to in verse 16. From the syntactic and semantic evidence one may infer that there is a semantic relationship between the content of verses 16 and 17.

If we consider sentences 15:16c and d we discover that there is a topic continuity with a 'clumsy' temporal continuity. The utilization of the a word order with a topicalized constituent in 15:16d interrupts the succession of events between sentences 15:16c and d. When we consider sentence 15:16d and verse 17 it becomes clear that there is a topic and actor continuity but no temporal continuity. It is unlikely that the actions as portrayed by these two verbs in 15:16d בָּקֵעַ and 15:17 מָלַךְ occured one after the other (cf. 15:14 where reference is made to his kingship). One would have expected verse 16 to succeed verse 17 because of the content which concerns the savage deeds of the king Menahem even before his induction as the king of Israel.

The main event of this scene is portrayed by the verb יָכָה in sentences 15:16a and again in sentence 15:16c וַיַּךְ. The subject and agent for these verbs in both cases is Menahem. The different direct objects אֶת־תִּפְסַח , אֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־בָּה and אֶת־גְּבוּלֶיהָ מִתִּרְצָה (joined by the conj. we-) of the verb יָכָה are mentioned one after the other.

However, in sentence 15:16d the writer topicalized the direct object כָּל־הֶהָרוֹתֶיהָ. The situation sketched in sentence 15:16d may be interpreted as an extended illustration of the main action as portrayed by the verb יָכָה. It further explains to the reader what Menahem did to the pregnant women of the city.

It is possible, considering the syntactic and semantic evidence of sentences 15:16a-d, to argue that the writer first of all utilized a word order with a topicalized constituent in 15:16d *to*

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[127]The MT reads וַיַּךְ 'to destroy' without an object. The noun that follows is the direct object of the Piel SC verb בִּקֵּעַ. The Lucian edition of the Septuagint, the Targum manuscripts and the Peshitta reads the verb בָּקַע with the object suffix 3 f. s. (cf. Gray, 1977: 622). Burney (1903: 322) claims that sentences 15:16b, c and d is "slightly corrupt" and proposes with the Septuagint and Peshitta that we read the verb וַיַּךְ followed by an object marker with suffix 3 f. s. (cf. Hobbs, 1985: 196).

[128]See also 2 Kings 3:1-3; 8:16-17, 25-26; 11:21, 12:3 [12:1-4]; 13:1-2, 10; 14:1-6; 14:23; 15:1-4, 8, 13, 17, 23, 27; 16:1-4; 17:1-2; 18:1-3; 21:1-2, 19-20; 22:1-2; 23:31-32, 36-37; 24:8-9, 18-19.

indicate the discontinuity of events between 15:16c and d. We may also argue that the event of 15:16d *occurred simultaneously* with the event of 15:16c. It suggests that the destruction of the city took place concurrently with the ripping open of the pregnant women. One may also assert that the direct object was placed in the sentence initial position by the writer *to round off or conclude the paragraph/scene* because sentence 15:17 introduces the kingship of Menahem and the duration of his reign (verse 17 is also refered to as the deuteronomistic introduction formula).

6.   16:9e   conj. we- + x.Sy(d/o) + V(S)

וַיִּשְׁמַע אֵלָיו מֶלֶךְ אַשּׁוּר   16:9a
וַיַּעַל מֶלֶךְ אַשּׁוּר אֶל־דַּמֶּשֶׂק   16:9b
וַיִּתְפְּשֶׂהָ   16:9c
וַיַּגְלֶהָ קִירָה   16:9d
וְאֶת־רְצִין הֵמִית: 16:9e

"And the king of Assyria listened to him;
and the king of Assyria marched up against Damascus,
and took it, carrying it (the people) captive to Kir,
and he killed *Rezin*."

The conj. we- in sentence 16:9e coordinates sentence 16:9e with 16:9d even though there is no semantic relationship between the content of these two sentences. Sentence 16:9d deals with the war of the king of Assyria against Damascus whilst 16:9e refers to the subsequent killing of Rezin, the king of Syria. The syntactic structure of verse 9 allows the reader to assume that the killing of Rezin took place after the seizure of Damascus. Two different actions (the exile of the people in 9d and the killing of Rezin in 9e) are portrayed by the writer in sentences 16:9d and e.

In sentence 16:9e the direct object רְצִין is placed in the sentence initial position as the topicalized constituent. The direct object is anaphorically being referred to in verses 5 and 6 where Rezin made preparations to fight against Jerusalem and especially against Ahaz, the king of Judah. The use of the Hiphil SC verb הֵמִית presents the reader with a completed action in the past. The subject is realized by the verbal grammatical morpheme 3 m. s. and refers anaphorically to the subject of 16:9a, מֶלֶךְ אַשּׁוּר. There is full congruency in person, gender and number with reference to the subject of sentences 16:9a, b, c, d and e. The fact that the wayyiqtol verbal chain is used in sentences 16:9a, b, c and d realizes the succession of

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events. In sentence 16:9e the chain is interrupted by the use of a word order with a topicalized constituent. The wayyiqtol verbal chain is then again resumed in sentence 16:10a. Even though there is a topic (actor)/subject continuity between sentences 16:9a-e we do detect that no temporal continuity is involved. This furthermore substantiates the utilization of the topicalized constituent in 16:9e to indicate that there is no succession of events.

Within this chapter 16, Rezin is a known character when the writer refers to him in verse 9. In verses 7 and 8, Ahaz appeals to Tiglath-pileser, the king of Assyria for help to fight for his capital. In these verses he declares his submission to the king of Assyria ("I am your servant") and dependence on him ("I am your son"). He even sent inducements to the king of Assyria. Verse 9 (a-e) relates to yet another scene in the narrative. Tiglath-pileser acted on the request and marched against Damascus, took it and carried its people captive to Kir. After all this warfare he kills Rezin.

According to Hobbs (1985:215) the preceding information should be seen as a preface for what follows in the succeeding verses. Verse 10 denotes a new scene in the narrative. The dramatis personae differ from the preceding verses. In the new paragraph the main actor, Ahaz, sets out to meet Tiglath-pileser.

The contextual evidence shows that verses 7 and 8 deal with a specific group of people realizing a specific situation while verse 9 deals with a different group of actors presenting us with a new scene. It is impossible for the writer to use a wayyiqtol verbal form in 16:9e because it would have meant succession of events between verses 9 and 10. Verse 10ff begins yet another new scene with its own dramatis personae. One should further note that there is sequentiality involved between the different paragraphs.

In conclusion one may infer from the syntactic and semantic evidence that the writer did not intend any succession of events between sentences 16:9d and e. It is evident from earlier information that the semantic content of sentences 16:9a-d differs from that of sentence 16:9e. Sentences 16:9a-d refer to a specific king and how he acted against the inhabitants of Damascus while 16:9e deals with the death of Rezin. In sentences 16:9a-d the writer utilized the wayyiqtol chain to illustrate how the events (which is related to the attack launched against people of Damascus) occured. It is plausible that the writer used a word order with a topicalized constituent in sentence 16:9e as the only way to indicate that what happened to Rezin, occured during the course of the events as portrayed in sentences 16:9a-d. If he had utilized the wayyiqtol verbal form it would have meant that the killing of Rezin occured successively after the events of 16:9a-d which is not the case. It is also possible that the writer

may have used a word order with topicalized constituent to indicate to his readers the *end of an episode* within chapter 16.

7.　　18:5a　X.Sy + V(s)

18:5a　בַּיהוָה אֱלֹהֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בָּטָח

18:5b　וְאַחֲרָיו לֹא־הָיָה כָמֹהוּ בְּכֹל מַלְכֵי יְהוּדָה

18:5c　וַאֲשֶׁר הָיוּ לְפָנָיו:

"*In the Lord, the God of Israel* he trusted;
so that there was none like him among all the kings of Judah after him
nor among those who were before him."

Sentence 18:5a may be classified as an asyndetic sentence due to the absence of a conj. we-. In the sentence initial position we have the prepositional word group בַּיהוָה אֱלֹהֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל that constitutes the prepositional object of the Qal SC verb בָּטָח[129]. In the prepositional word group we have an appositional extension אֱלֹהֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל that is constituted by a construct word group. The Qal SC verb בָּטָח realizes a completed action in the past. The subject is realized by the verbal grammatical morpheme (3 m. s.) of the verb. It refers back to the subject mentioned in verse 1. In the preceeding verses 2 to 4 the subject is being referred to either by independent personal pronoun (3 m. s.) or by the verbal grammatical morpheme (3 m. s.).

The preceding sentence 18:4f begins with a wayyiqtol verb in the sentence initial position. The use of the wayyiqtol indicates to the reader that a completed action occurred in the past. The masculine singular subject realized by the verbal grammatical morpheme in sentence 18:4f corresponds with the subject in sentence 18:5a. This demonstrates to the reader that there is subject continuity between 18:4f and 18:5a. The succeeding sentences reflect the same syntactic and semantic information regarding the subject, namely, Hezekiah. If we consider the preceding verses 3 and 4 it becomes evident that the writer had no intention of any succession of events. These verses in actual fact describe actions and attributes of Hezekiah. In other words, a descriptive text is involved, not a narrative text.

One may infer from the narratives in 2 Kings with reference to the religious behaviour of the different kings of Judah that Hezekiah, according to the writer, must have been a prominent figure and fighter for religous reforms in relation to those kings before and after him (18:5b and c).[130] The writer needed to portray and contrast his valour to uphold the religion of

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[129]The preposition בְּ marks the object of the verb בטח that refers to an emotional state.

[130]According to McKenzie (1991:131ff) Hoffmann argues that the reforms of Hezekiah prepared the reader for the reforms under Josiah. He claims that "the connection between the two is particularly apparent in the

Yahweh in Judah against his counterparts before and after him. The fact that he trusted God and nobody else, is expressed in more formal terms with the help of a word order with a topicalized constituent. The topicalized object is marked as the focus of the statement in 18:5a.

8.   23:11b+12a   conj. we- + x.Sy(d/o) + V(s) + x.Sy

וַיַּשְׁבֵּת אֶת־הַסּוּסִים	23:11a
אֲשֶׁר נָתְנוּ מַלְכֵי יְהוּדָה לַשֶּׁמֶשׁ	23:11aR
מִבֹּא בֵית־יְהוָה אֶל־לִשְׁכַּת נְתַן־מֶלֶךְ הַסָּרִיס	23:11aRI
אֲשֶׁר בַּפַּרְוָרִים	23:11aRR
וְאֶת־מַרְכְּבוֹת הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ שָׂרַף בָּאֵשׁ:	23:11b
וְאֶת־הַמִּזְבְּחוֹת	23:12a
אֲשֶׁר עַל־הַגָּג עֲלִיַּת אָחָז	23:12aR1
אֲשֶׁר־עָשׂוּ מַלְכֵי יְהוּדָה	23:12aR2
וְאֶת־הַמִּזְבְּחוֹת	23:12a
אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה מְנַשֶּׁה בִּשְׁתֵּי חַצְרוֹת בֵּית־יְהוָה	23:12aR3
נָתַץ הַמֶּלֶךְ	23:12a
וַיָּרָץ מִשָּׁם	23:12b
וְהִשְׁלִיךְ אֶת־עֲפָרָם אֶל־נַחַל קִדְרוֹן:	23:12c

11. "And he removed the horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun, at the entrance to the house of the Lord by the chamber of Nathan-melech the chamberlain, which was in the precincts; and he burnt *the chariots of the sun* with fire.

12. *And the altars on the roof of the upper chamber of Ahaz*, which the king of Judah had made, *and the altars which Manasseh had made* in the two courts of the house of the Lord, he pulled down and broke in pieces (from there), and cast the dust of them into the brook Kidron."

Sentence 23:11b is coordinated with sentence 23:11a by means of the conj. we-. The close relation of these two sentences is illustrated by the actions described by the two verbs viz.,

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similar statements of incomparability for each of them". Cf. Gerbrandt (1986:46-57; 72-75) for an evaluation of king Hezekiah and Josiah.

שָׂרַף and וַיַּשְׁבֵּת . The first sentence 23:11a refers to the destruction of the horses dedicated to the sun whilst 23:11b refers to the burning of the chariots of the sun[131].

The direct object אֶת־מַרְכְּבוֹת הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ is placed in the sentence initial position as the topicalized constituent. It is followed by the Qal SC verb שָׂרַף[132] that realizes a completed action in the past. The subject of the verb in 23:11b is represented by the verbal grammatical morpheme (3 m. s.) and refers back to the subject (Josiah) in chapter 22:1. The verb is followed by a prepositional word group בָּאֵשׁ which functions as the indirect object of the sentence. With the preposition בְּ in בָּאֵשׁ the semantic function [instrument] is realized.

The succeeding sentence 23:12 entails yet another element of the religious reformation under Josiah. The conj. we- coordinates sentence 23:12a with 23:11b. The direct objects (the altars in both cases) are further qualified by the three relative sentences viz., 12aR1, 12aR2, 12aR3. It is then followed by a Qal SC verb נָתַץ which realizes a completed action in the past. The subject of the verb, namely הַמֶּלֶךְ, is explicitly mentioned and refers back to Josiah in 22:1.

From the context one may infer that all these different elements of reformation in the respective sentences form a particular scene. Verse 10 refers to a particular action at a specific geographical cite, "the valley of the sons of Hinnom"; verse 11 speaks of the destruction of horses and chariots "at the entrance to the house of the Lord"; sentence 12a depicts the demolition of the altars "on the roof of the upper chamber of the house of Ahaz"; etc. It is quite obvious that the writer had no intention of expressing any succession of events between verses 10 to 12a (the absence of the wayyiqtol verbal chain indicates that). No succession is also intended between sentences 23:11b and 23:11a or 23:11b and 23:12a because each sentence bears reference to one single situation.

Sentence 23:11b begins the preverbal positioning of the direct object and it continues to sentence 12a. A semantic relationship exists between these sentences. Each of them has its own verbal form which realizes a different action but the agent in each case is the same, namely, king Josiah, and the patient in each case reflects what was destroyed by him. All the sentences from 23:11b to 23:12a contribute so that the reader may get a holistic picture of the destruction of the idolatrous objects. We may therefore treat them as a unit.

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[131]Historical and archeological data testify to the excistence of such a horse and chariot which was part of the solar religion of that time. For more information on the close connection of both horses and chariots with the solar religion cf. also Jones (1984:622-3); Montgomery (1960:533); Gray (1977:736) and Hobbs (1985:334-5).

[132]Brown, Driver & Briggs, (1979:976) state that the verb שׂרף is often used with inanimate direct objects implying their destruction.

With the syntactic and semantic evidence it is possible to state that the writer has *listed all the direct objects* (from 23:11b to 23:12a) in a specific word order *to give to the reader a detailed description* of a specific situation in Judah namely, the destruction of the idolatrous objects and the reformation by Josiah[133].

9.   **23:34c**   **conj. we- + x.Sy(d/o) + V(S)**

וַיַּמְלֵךְ פַּרְעֹה נְכֹה אֶת־אֶלְיָקִים בֶּן־יֹאשִׁיָּהוּ תַּחַת יֹאשִׁיָּהוּ אָבִיו	23:34a
וַיַּסֵּב אֶת־שְׁמוֹ יְהוֹיָקִים	23:34b
וְאֶת־יְהוֹאָחָז לָקָח	23:34c
וַיָּבֹא מִצְרָיִם	23:34d
וַיָּמָת שָׁם׃	23:34e

"And Pharaoh Neco made Eliakim the son of Josiah
king in the place of Josiah his father,
and changed his name to Jehoiakim.
But he took *Jehahaz* away;
and he came to Egypt, and died there."

The conj. we- in sentence 23:34c coordinates sentence 23:34c with 23:34b even though there is no semantic relationship between these two sentences. Sentence 23:34b refers to the name change from Eliakim to Jehoiakim while sentence 23:34c mentions the capture of king Jehoahaz.

In sentence 23:34c the direct object יְהוֹאָחָז is placed in the sentence initial position as the topicalized constituent. Verse 31 informs us about the new king, Jehoahaz, and his three month reigning period. The Qal SC verb לָקָח follows and presents us with a completed action in the past. The subject of the verb is realized by the verbal grammatical morpheme (3 m. s.) and refers anaphorically to the subject פַּרְעֹה נְכֹה in sentence 23:33a. This subject corresponds with the subject realized by the verbal grammatical morpheme (3 m. s.) in sentence 23:34b.

The succeeding sentences both have wayyiqtol verbal forms which realize the succession of events between sentences 23:34d and e. In sentences 23:34c, d and e one recognises a semantic relationship. There is a definite actor continuity, namely, Jehoahaz with a logical sequentiality (he was captured and taken to Egypt where he died) in the narrative. There is no

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[133]Cf. also 2 Kings 23:13, 25:9-15.

further reference to Jehoahaz or even an expected closing formula to portray his history, burial and successor. Sentence 23:35a refers to the taxes Jehoiakim paid to Pharaoh.

Sentences 23:33a, b and 23:34a, b have wayyiqtol verbs and they constitute the wayyiqtol verbal chain which realizes the succession of events in the past. In sentence 23:34c the succession of events is interrupted by placing the direct object יְהוֹאָחָז in the sentence initial position. If the wayyiqtol verbal form was utilized in 23:34c it would have denoted the succession of events, but this was clearly not the intention of the writer.

According to verse 23:30, Josiah, the religious reformer, was killed by Pharaoh Neco at Megiddo and buried in Jerusalem. The people of the land then appointed Jehoahaz, the son of Josiah as their new king. In verse 34 we read that Pharaoh Neco, after the capture of Jehoahaz, appointed the second son of Josiah, namely, Eliakim (renamed Jehoiakim by Pharaoh) in the place of the captured Jehoahaz[134].

One may now infer from the syntactic and semantic evidence that the writer utilized the marked word order to help his readers to clearly distinguish between the two topics (in this case we have the direct objects), namely Jehoahaz and Jehoiakim, in sentences 23:34b and c. These cases are referred to as *comparative topics*.

10.　　25:7a　conj. we- + x.Sy(d/o) + V + x.Sy
　　　　25:7b　conj. we- + x.Sy (d/o) + V

וְאֶת־בְּנֵי צִדְקִיָּהוּ שָׁחֲטוּ לְעֵינָיו	25:7a
וְאֶת־עֵינֵי צִדְקִיָּהוּ עִוֵּר	25:7b
וַיַּאַסְרֵהוּ בַנְחֻשְׁתַּיִם	25:7c
וַיְבִאֵהוּ בָבֶל׃	25:7d

"They slew *the sons of Zedekiah* before his eyes
and put out *the eyes of Zedekiah*,
and bound him in fetters, and took him to Babylon."

The conj. we- in sentence 25:7a coordinates sentence 25:7a with 25:6c. There is a definite semantic relationship between these two sentences. Sentence 25:6c refers to the punishment

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[134]The reason for the appointment of Eliakim, the second son of Josiah declares much of the position of Jehoahaz. One may infer that Jehoahaz demonstrated an anti-Egyptian campaign (like his father) while Eliakim was willing to accept a pro-Egyptian policy (Hobbs 1985:341). Gray (1977:751) states that the act of the changing of the name of Eliakim by Pharaoh Neco emphasized the vassal status of Judah.

being passed on Zedekiah by the king of Babylon. In sentences 25:7a and b the punishment is explained for the reader in more detail.

Sentence 25:7a has a plural direct object בְּנֵי צִדְקִיָּהוּ in the sentence initial position as the topicalized constituent. The direct object is presented by a construct word group which realizes the semantic function [kinship]. It is followed by the Qal SC verb שָׁחֲטוּ[135] that realizes a completed action in the past. A prepositional word group לְעֵינָיו succeeds the verb. The preposition לְ in לְעֵינָיו with a pronominal suffix indicates to the reader the specific location of the death of his sons namely, in Zedekiah's presence. Sentence 25:7b is coordinated with 25:7a with the conj. we-. The sentence has the same sentence structure with a Piel SC verbal form, namely, עִוֵּר.

In the preceding sentence 25:6c the wayyiqtol verb "to pass sentence" וַיְדַבְּרוּ מִשְׁפָּט[136] indicates, with sentences 25:6a and b, that there is succession of events. A word order with a topicalized constituent is utilized by the writer in sentences 25:7a and 25:7b which would normally interrupt the successive flow of events. However, one may infer from the syntactic and semantic evidence that there is a sequential flow of events. At first "the sentence" מִשְׁפָּט (the object of the verb וַיְדַבְּרוּ and the topic in sentence 25:6c) is passed. Then follows the slaughtering of the sons of Zedekiah and thereafter his blinding. It is therefore possible to say that there is a logical sequence between sentences 25:6c, 25:7a and 25:7b. We may also argue that the wayyiqtol chain resumes the logical sequence in sentence 25:7c.

In sentences 25:7a and 25:7b we find a detailed descriptions of the enforcement of the sentence passed on Zedekiah in sentence 25:6c. Sentence 25:7a refers to the slaughtering of the sons of Zedekiah while 25:7b refers to the blinding of Zedekiah. In both cases the writer placed the direct object (the patient) in the sentence initial position. The content of sentence 25:7c refers to a situation after the execution of the sentence. One may therefore infer from the syntactic and semantic evidence that the writer utilized the word order with topicalized direct objects in sentences 25:7a and b *to give a detailed description of a specific topic*, מִשְׁפָּט "the sentence" (the direct object), being referred to in 25:6c. He achieves this by *listing* the direct objects.

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[135]Brown, Driver & Briggs (1979:1006) translate the verb שחט as "to slaughter" when used in connection with human beings (cf. Jer 39:6a, b; 41:7; 52:10a, b). Hobbs (1985:363) claims that this verb is often used in the killing of sacrifices (Lev 6:25). One may infer from the context that the verb in sentence 25:7a implies the brutal slaughter of the sons of Zedekiah.

[136]The MT reads the verb with a plural subject. The Septuagint, Peshitta, Targum and Vulgate read the verb with a singular subject as in Jer 39:6 and Jer 52:10. Gray (1977:763) accepts the singular form and translates the king of Babylon as the subject. Hobbs (1985:358) argues that the change to singular is unnecessary. He prefers to translate the 'army of the Chaldeans' as the plural subject. In this case the MT is retained.

4.4 CONJUNCTION כִּי - X.Sy - V - X.Sy

This section deals with those sentences in which the conjunction כִּי is followed by a sentence constituent (except a verb) in the sentence initial position, i.e., the word order conj.כִּי -X.Sy - V.

1. **5:1c conj כִּי-+ x.Sy + V + Subj + x.Sy(d/o) + x.Sy**

5:1a	וְנַעֲמָן שַׂר־צְבָא מֶלֶךְ־אֲרָם הָיָה אִישׁ גָּדוֹל לִפְנֵי אֲדֹנָיו
5:1b	וּנְשֻׂא פָנִים
5:1c	כִּי־בוֹ נָתַן־יהוה תְּשׁוּעָה לַאֲרָם
5:1d	וְהָאִישׁ הָיָה גִּבּוֹר חַיִל מְצֹרָע׃

"And Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria,
was a great man with his master and in high favour
because *by him* the Lord had given victory to Syria."

The conjunction כִּי in sentence 5:1c introduces a causative sentence which is subordinate to the main sentence (5:1a and b). In this subordinate sentence the writer presents the reason for a specific situation in the preceding sentences (5:1a and b)[137]. It tells the reader why Naaman was in high favour before his master. It is followed by the preposition בְּ with a pronominal suffix 3 m. s. which refers anaphorically to the subject in sentence 5:1a, namely Naaman. The preposition in בוֹ realizes the semantic function of instrument or means (Joüon-Muraoka 1991:§133c). The Qal SC verb נָתַן realizes a completed action in the past. The subject 3 m. s. יהוה is mentioned explicitly and is congruent with the verbal grammatical morpheme (3 m. s.) of the verb. A substantive constituting the object of the verb is also followed by a prepositional word group לַאֲרָם. The preposition in לַאֲרָם here realizes the semantic function [beneficiary].

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[137]Van der Merwe (1991:179-180) maintains that the conjunctive כִּי marks the specific sentence that provides us with a reason. He distinguishes between three different causal relationships namely, a) *fact-based* where the writer expresses the causal relationship between two phenomena in nature (facts); b) *speech act-based* where the causal relationship exists between specific statements a speaker is making; and c) *knowledge-based* where "a speaker may deem it necessary to provide the reason for referring to a particular participant or an action performed by one of the participants in an immediately preceding statement". Joüon-Muraoka (1991:§170a-d) distinguishes between "*ordinary causality* (Engl. because, Lat. cum), *explanatory causality* (for), and *supposedly known cause* (since)". They argue that the conjunction כִּי does not always provide a logical cause for an event or circumstance, but rather evidence of a preceding statement. In sentence 5:1c the writer deems it neccesary to provide the reason for the immediately preceding statements made about Naaman. In terms of Van der Merwe's (1991:180) definition it is a *knowledge-based causal* relationship.

Sentence 5:1c is preceded by a passive participle נְשֻׂא with a plural noun פָּנִים constituting a participial sentence 5:1b. The participle realizes a durative aspect to the predicate[138]. The conjunction we- in sentence 5:1b coordinates sentence 5:1b with sentence 5:1a. Both sentences 5:1a and b serve as an introduction for the narrative as a whole. It gives the reader some information concerning Naaman's status within the community and the honour bestowed upon him by his master that showed him to be high in favour (5:1b).

We notice from the syntactic and semantic evidence that there is a difference in grammatical subject in sentences 5:1a, b (נַעֲמָן) and c (יהוה). We may therefore, accept that no topic continuity exist between these sentences. One can also not speak of any temporal continuity between sentences 5:1a, b and c because the predicates of each sentence (5:1a, b) describe a specific quality and/or attribute of Naaman while 5:1c provides the reader with the reason for his being so graciously held in honour by his master.

Sentence 5:1a is the start of the new narrative concerning a specific person namely, Naaman. נַעֲמָן is placed in the first position of the sentence (5:1a) together with an extension realized by a construct word group "the commander of the army". We may infer from this information that the writer wanted to introduce the main actor (Naaman) of this story. In sentence 5:1c we have the prepositional word group בוֹ and the pronominal suffix which refers anaphorically to the main actor and subject of sentence 5:1a. It is plausible that the writer utilized the marked word order within this causative ordinate sentence to mark the topicalized constituent as the *focus of the statement*, namely, through him and nobody else.
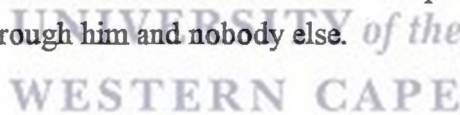
2.   12:15a   conj + x.Sy(i/o) + V(subj+d/o)

כִּי־לְעֹשֵׂי הַמְּלָאכָה יִתְּנֻהוּ   12:15a
וְחִזְּקוּ־בוֹ אֶת־בֵּית יהוה: 12:15b

"...for that was given *to the workmen* who were repairing
the house of the Lord with it."

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[138]Brown, Driver & Briggs (1979:670) translate the phrase נְשֻׂא פָנִים as "graciously received, held in honour". Holladay (1971:246) translates the phrase נְשֻׂא פָנִים as to be "highly thought of, in high standing". Gray (1977:504) argues that this idiom refers to the "gesture of the king stretching forth his sceptre and touching the face of the suppliant bowed to the ground before him and raising the face up, Esther 8:3f". Cf. also Jones (1984:414) and Brongers (1982:50). Other examples, cf. Job 22:8; Is 3:3; 9:15.

In sentence 12:15a the conjunction כִּי introduces a subordinate sentence which may realize a contrastive relationship with the preceding verse 14. The conjunction כִּי is followed by a prepositional word group לְעֹשֵׂי הַמְּלָאכָה which is constituted by a construct word group. This prepositional word group also occurs in sentence 12:12a. We may therefore argue that the reoccurrence of this word group in sentence 12:15a denotes that a known actor is being referred to. The preposition in לְעֹשֵׂי הַמְּלָאכָה realizes the semantic function [beneficiary]. The yiqtol verb יִתְּנֻהוּ realizes a completed action in the past. The subject of the verb is realized by the 3 m. pl. verbal grammatical morpheme and refers back to the subject in 12:11c namely, the secretary of the king and the high priest. The direct object is presented by the object suffix 3 m. s. and refers anaphorically to הַכֶּסֶף in sentence 12:11b.

The restrictive focus particle אַךְ at the beginning of sentence 14 has a "restrictive-adversative" (Muraoka, 1985:129) sense. Sentence 12:14 informs the reader that nothing was acquired from the money that was brought into the house of the Lord. A detailed list of all the craftsmen in charge of the restoration of the house of the Lord is presented in verses 12 and 13. They were given the money which was collected by the secretary of the king and the high priest.

From the syntactic and semantic evidence one may infer that sentence 12:15a realizes a contrastive function in relation to 12:14. Sentence 12:14 with its restrictive particle אַךְ and the negative particle states emphatically that no implements or utensils were manufactured from the money which was collected in the house of the Lord. The money was used solely toward the repairing of the building. It is possible to infer from the syntactic data and the conjunction כִּי that we have a *contrastive function* being realized by sentence 12:15a in relation to sentence 12:14. Sentence 12:15a states that the money being referred to in 12:14 was indeed given *to the workmen* to repair the building. The indirect object becomes the *focus of an adversative statement* by topicalizing the indirect object. It is the workmen and nobody else.

3.   **14:6d   conj + Subj + x.Sy + V**

וְאֶת־בְּנֵי הַמַּכִּים לֹא הֵמִית	14:6a
כַּכָּתוּב בְּסֵפֶר תּוֹרַת מֹשֶׁה	14:6a
אֲשֶׁר־צִוָּה יהוה	14:6aR
לֵאמֹר	14:6aRI
לֹא־יוּמְתוּ אָבוֹת עַל־בָּנִים	14:6b
וּבָנִים לֹא־יוּמְתוּ עַל־אָבוֹת	14:6c
כִּי אִם־אִישׁ בְּחֶטְאוֹ יָמוּת׃	14:6d

"But he did not put to death the children of the murderers;
according to what is written in the book of the law of Moses,
where the Lord commanded: 'The fathers shall not be put
to death for the children, or the children be put to death for
the fathers; but *every man* shall die for his own sin'".

This sentence 14:6d forms part of a prescriptive text quoted from Deut 24:16. In sentence 14:6d the conjunction כִּי introduces an adversative sentence. GKC (1910:§163a) state that an antithesis "but" is introduced by כִּי אִם after a negative sentence especially after prohibition (cf. sentences 14:6b and c)[139]. The word אִישׁ is used in an indefinite sense, "someone, everyone" (Joüon-Muraoka 1991:§155nf) and is the subject of the verb יָמוּת. The subject is then followed by a prepositional word group בְּחֶטְאוֹ. The semantic function [specification: causal] is realized by the preposition בְּ. The pronominal suffix 3 m. s. refers back to the subject אִישׁ in 14:6d. A incomplete action is realized with the use of the yiqtol verbal form יָמוּת. This verb presents a future time reference. The verbal grammatical morpheme 3 m. s. is congruent with the subject of the sentence.

In the preceding sentence 14:6c the marked word order is used to distinguish between the two subjects (14:6b and c). These sentences have two different subjects, namely the fathers and the sons. Sentence 14:6d is an adversative sentence because of the nature of the statement being made which concerns both the fathers and the sons as indicated in 14:6b and c. The subject אִישׁ in sentence 14:6d refers to the subjects of both sentences 14:6b and c.

The succeeding sentence 14:7a portrays a new scene in relation to the preceding sentence 14:6d and introduces a new paragraph. This may be inferred from the context and syntactic data which reveal that a character, namely, Amaziah, is reintroduced into the mainstream of the narrative and the events of 14:7a ff. which present no connection with the events of the preceding sentences 14:6b, c and d.

It is plausible to assume that the writer used the marked word order in 14:6d to mark the end of a scene and paragraph but the fact that sentences 14:6b, c and d are a quotation from Deut 24:16 nullifies this assumption. One would rather seek the solution to the problem (of a marked word order used by the writer) in sentence 14:6d in relation to sentences 14:6b and c.

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[139] Andersen (1974:172) indicates that כִּי אִם (also אִם לֹא) has an antithetical function. He states that כִּי אִם functions as excluding conjugation when followed by a negative predication.
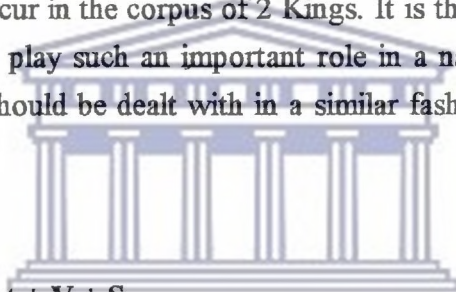
If one considers the syntactic and semantic evidence of sentences 14:b, c and d, one may infer from the evidence that the characters אָבוֹת (14:6b) and בָּנִים (14:6c) and the collective noun, אִישׁ (14:6d) - referring directly to the afore-mentioned subjects) are played off against each other by the writer. One may therefore assume that the writer used the marked word order *to indicate the contrast that exists between the subjects* (אָבוֹת *and* בָּנִים) *of sentences 14:6b, c and the subject* (אִישׁ) *of 14:6d.* In that way כִּי אִם tends to draw a constituent to be contrasted to the sentence initial position and needs to be investigated further. Cf. 12:15 where the adversative כִּי is also followed by a topicalized non-verbal constituent.

4.5 ADJUNCT[140] - V - X

The term adjunct is very vague. It includes those elements that Richter (1980) and Van der Merwe (1991) refer to as optional constituents. Prepositional word groups may also be included in this section. Adjuncts are a wide class which can include time, place or degree. Only temporal sentences (time) occur in the corpus of 2 Kings. It is therefore possible for one to ask whether time and place do play such an important role in a narrative. This study will endeavour to seek whether time should be dealt with in a similar fashion to other topicalized constituents or not.

1.   **8:16**   **conj. we- + adjunct + V + S**

8:16a   וּבִשְׁנַת חָמֵשׁ לְיוֹרָם בֶּן־אַחְאָב מֶלֶךְ
יִשְׂרָאֵל וִיהוֹשָׁפָט מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה
מָלַךְ יְהוֹרָם בֶּן־יְהוֹשָׁפָט מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה:

    "*And in the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab,*
    king of Israel, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat,
    king of Judah, began to reign."

The conj. we- in sentence 8:16 syntactically coordinates this sentence with sentence 8:15f even though no semantic relationship exists between them. Verse 15 refers to the death of Benhadad. It consists of a closing formula which entails a reference to the death of a king and the introduction of the newly appointed king. The geographical setting of the story in verse 15

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[140]Adjuncts is a category which is a modifier of a lexical head without being subcategorised for by that lexical head and which could in principle be removed without affecting well-formedness (Trask, 1993:8). Andersen (1994:105) refers to time, location and other kinds of "adverbial" modifiers as adjuncts.

(Aram) and verse 16 (Judah) with the difference in the dramatis personae in each case also further substantiates the fact that these two verses have no bearing on each other.

The temporal prepositional word group with its appositional word groups ("In the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab, king of Israel, and Jehoshaphat, king of Judah"[141]) in verse 16 is considered optional. "In the fifth year" בִּשְׁנַת חָמֵשׁ is the temporal prepositional word group and refers to the specific time when king Jehoram became king. The Qal SC active verb מָלַךְ refers to a completed ingressive action. The subject יְהוֹרָם is explicitly mentioned and is also extended by an appositional word group constituted by two construct word groups.

In sentences 8:15a-f we find a whole range of wayyiqtol verbs which constitute the wayyiqtol verbal chain and express the succession of events in the past. In the subsequent verse 16, the writer places the optional sentence elements before the verb. This indicates that the succession of events is interrupted. We may therefore argue that verse 15 with its closing formula[142] marks the end of one scene or story namely, the death of Benhadad and the introduction of Hazael as the new king of Aram.

The sentence initial position of the temporal reference places the new story within a very specific time sphere. This introduction of a *new story* section includes a new set of dramatis personae (a new actor namely, Jehoram as the new king in Jerusalem is being introduced into the narrative) and geographical setting[143]. In this case we cannot speak of a new topic. Even the attribution of the focus function is problematic[144].
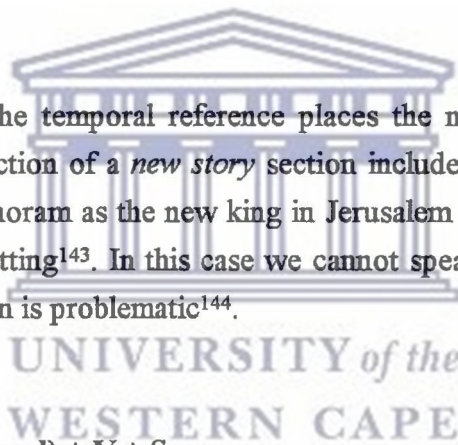
2.   **10:32a**   X.Sy (optional) + V + S

בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם הֵחֵל יהוה	10:32a
לְקַצּוֹת בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל	10:32aI
וַיַּכֵּם חֲזָאֵל בְּכָל־גְּבוּל יִשְׂרָאֵל:	10:32b

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[141]According to the text critical note 8:16a-a the Septuagint, Hebrew manuscripts and editions, Peshitta and the Vulgate omit "and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah". It also suggests that we delete it. Burney (1903:294) describes it as a scribal error. He claims that "the words have come in through error from the latter of the verse". Diverse arguments are presented concerning this text critical note. Cf. also Montgomery (1960:397), Hobbs (1985:96, 102-103) Gray (1977:532-534) and Jones (1984:446).

[142]It has been noted in the books of 1 and 2 Kings that the writer utilizes a specific formula when he refers to the death of one king and the appointing of the new king. See also 1 Kings 11:43; 14:31; 15:8, 24; 16:28; 22:40, 51; 2 Kings 8:24; 10:35; 12:21; 13:9; 14:29; 15:7, 22, 38; 16:20; 20:21; 21:18, 26; 24:6.

[143]Gray (1977:526-537) and Hobbs (1985:96-100) divide the chapter into three parts viz., 8:1-6; 7-15; 16-29. Cf. also 8:25; 12:2; 14:1; 15:1, 8; 16:1; 17:1, 6 as examples of the closing formula used in 2 Kings.

[144]We refer you to other temporal constructions that are introduced by וַיְהִי and followed by a wayyiqtol verbal form, viz. 2 Kings 22:3 and 10:9.

"*In those days* the Lord began to cut off parts of Israel.
Hazael defeated them throughout the territory of Israel."

The temporal prepositional word group בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם is placed in the sentence initial position and is also considered as an optional sentence element. It is followed by a Hiphil SC הֵחֵל which realizes an incomplete situation. The infinitive construct לְקַצּוֹת with preposition לְ serves as a verbal complement to the main verb הֵחֵל. The subject יהוה is explicitly mentioned and is congruent with the implicit subject of the verb הֵחֵל. The Inf. cs. is succeeded by a prepositional word group בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל with the preposition בְּ realizing the semantic function [location].

Verses 29 to 31 deal with one actor, namely Jehu, and his relationship with the God of Israel. Sentence 10:32b begins with a wayyiqtol verb וַיַּכֵּם which realizes a completed action in the past. A new actor is introduced by the writer which realizes the beginning of a new scene. Sentences 10:32b and 10:33 deal with the destruction of the regions of Israel by Hazael, the king of Aram. Verses 10:34 to 10:36 reflect upon the death of Jehu as the king of Israel. In verse 35 we find the closing formula which consists of the death and burial of Jehu and announcement of the new king Joahaz.

If we examine the sentence content it is clear that verses 29 to 36 consist of two scenes, namely, one scene which reflects on Jehu, the king of Israel (verses 29 to 31 and 34 to 36) and another which treats the destruction of regions of Israel by Hazael the king of Aram (verses 32 and 33).

The syntactic and semantic structure of the sentence 10:32a affirms that the scene in verses 32 and 33 occurred contemporaneously with the scene refered to in verses 29 to 31 and 34 to 36. Burney (1903:35) states that sentence elements like בָּעֵת הַהִיא , בְּיָמָיו , בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם, etc. are used by the deuteronomistic redactor as one method "to show that an event was more or less contemporaneous with the preceding narrative"[145]. However, Bandstra (1992:117) and Andersen (1974:37) claim that a sentence beginning without a conjunction we- indicates the beginning of a new paragraph even though the lack of it is unusual (e.g. Gen 8:5; 22:4).

If one considers the syntactic and semantic evidence of sentence 10:32a one may therefore argue that the writer used the temporal prepositional word group in the sentence initial position to indicate to his readers the *beginning of a new paragraph.*

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[145]Cf. also 1 Kings 3:16; 2 Kings 8:20; 16:6; 18:16; 20:1, 12; 23:29; 24:1, 10.

3. **11:4a**[146]   **conj. we- + adjunct + V + S**

וּבַשָּׁנָה הַשְּׁבִיעִית שָׁלַח יְהוֹיָדָע	11:4a
וַיִּקַּח אֶת־שָׂרֵי הַמֵּאיוֹת לַכָּרִי וְלָרָצִים	11:4b
וַיָּבֵא אֹתָם אֵלָיו בֵּית יהוה	11:4c
וַיִּכְרֹת לָהֶם בְּרִית	11:4d
וַיַּשְׁבַּע אֹתָם בְּבֵית יהוה	11:4e
וַיַּרְא אֹתָם אֶת־בֶּן־הַמֶּלֶךְ׃	11:4f

"*But in the seventh year* Jehoiada sent and brought
the captains of the Carites and of the guards, and had
them come to him in the house of the Lord; and he made
a covenant with them and put them under oath in the house
of the Lord, and he showed them the son of the king."

The conjunction we- in sentence 11:4a coordinates 11:4a with 11:3b even though no close semantic relationship exists between their content. Sentence 11:3 refers to a specific time during the reign of Ataliah while 11:4a refers to a new main actor namely, the priest Jehoiada who made an agreement with the Carites in the house of the Lord to help them overthrow Ataliah's government. It was a shrewd move by the priest but "it secured for him a solid power base from which to conduct the coup and virtually guaranteed success" (Hobbs, 1985:139). One may argue that verses 1 to 3 serve as background material for the main narrative which starts from verse 4.

The temporal prepositional word group בַּשָּׁנָה הַשְּׁבִיעִית is placed in the sentence initial position and places the story within a specific time slot. It is followed by the SC verb שָׁלַח and the subject יְהוֹיָדָע[147]. Sentences 11:4b to 4f follow and have a wayyiqtol verb in the sentence initial position which secures the successive nature of the story. The preceding sentences 11:3a and b refer to different actors and scenes. From the semantic data it is evident that there is a strong sense of chronological continuity between sentences 11:3a, b and 11:4a even though, as stated earlier, reference is made to two different scenes. The placing of the temporal prepositional word group in the first position by the writer may *be interpreted* by the reader *as the beginning of a new scene and paragraph with a new set of dramatis personae*[148].

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[146]Cf also 12:2a.

[147]According to Burney (1903:309) the Lucian edition adds הַכֹּהֵן like in verse 9.

[148]Brongers (1982:110) argues that verse 4 starts the story of the coup d'etat. Jones (1984:476) speaks of the main narrative which relates to the planned revolt by main character Jehoiada, the priest.

One may also argue that בַּשָּׁנָה הַשְּׁבִיעִית is the focus of the statement that introduces the new paragraph (he was hidden for *six years* but *in the seventh year*...).

4.   8:17a, aI, b[149]

בֶּן־שְׁלֹשִׁים וּשְׁתַּיִם שָׁנָה הָיָה	8:17a
בְּמָלְכוֹ	8:17aI
וּשְׁמֹנֶה שָׁנָה מָלַךְ בִּירוּשָׁלָם׃	8:17b

"He was thirty two years old when he became king,
and he reigned *eight years* in Jerusalem."

The next group of sentences have more or less the same constituent structure viz. Sentence 8:17a has the construct state form בֶּן with a numeral that is used specifically in the expression of the age of a king. This is followed by a Qal SC of הָיָה and an inf. cs. בְּמָלְכוֹ. The preposition בְּ with the infinitive construct introduces a temporal sentence 8:17aI. Sentence b follows consisting of the marked word order with a temporal adjunct וּשְׁמֹנֶה שָׁנָה which indicates the specific reigning period of the king. The Qal SC verb מָלַךְ realizes a complex action, that is, not an instantaneous action. It is then followed by a prepositional word group בִּירוּשָׁלָם where the preposition בְּ indicates the location

A perusal of the literature available on the temporal sentences denoted the difficulty of attributing any specific pragmatic function to this type of constituent structure[150]. Gray (1977) refers to this type of sentences as part of a "deuteronomistic introduction" compiled by a deuteronomistic redactor and/or editor who introduces the specific kings in Israel and Judah. One may argue that the writer introduced the new king to the readers in this way and likewise indicated the age of the king and the length of his kingship. He then proceeded to tell the story of that king.

4.6 CONCLUSION

1.   This chapter has confirmed that the hasty utilisation of the concept "emphasis" by the traditional grammarians (to explain the function of a topicalized constituent) proved to be a vague and too broad category. Subsequently, recent grammarians like Van der

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[149]Cf. also 8:26a, aI, b; 14:2a, aI, b; 15:2a, aI, b; 16:2a, aI, b; 18:2a, aI, b; 21:1a, aI, b; 21:19a, aI, b; 22:1a, aI, b; 23:31a, aI, b; 23:36a, aI, b (lack of conjunction we- in 36b); 24:8a, aI, b and 24:18a, aI, b.
[150]Cf. Bandstra, 1992 and Waltke and O'Connor, 1990

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Merwe, Gross, Muraoka, Bandstra and Buth, moved away from the structural to a more functional approach. Our application of such an approach confirms that the recent linguistic approaches do provide us with an improvement on the concept emphasis.

2. Ninety (90) sentences with a topicalized constituent were identified and examined in our corpus. Diverse categories and definitions are used by the recent grammarians (e.g. the concept topicalization). A difference of opinion is also expressed on word order and focus function (cf. Gross' criteria). However, despite the difference in approach, this study agrees with all grammarians, that the topicalized constituent interrupts the continuity of mainline events. In the light of this study we maintain with them that the communicative context should be considered when we explain the function of a topicalized constituent in the narrative non-direct speech texts in 2 Kings.

2.1 Forty (40) sentences occur where the *subject* is topicalized. The criteria utilized by Buth, Bandstra, Muraoka and Van der Merwe on the various categories, could in most cases easily be re-used in this study. In some cases (indicated hereafter) the available information did not suffice for a firm categorization. In such cases more than one category was provided.

a) Twelve (12) cases were identified where a *topic* and/or a *new paragraph* is introduced. One problem case, namely 13:13b was identified. This sentence is characterised by a particular structure similar to the "usual closing formulas" that occur at the end of a paragraph or scene.

b) Three (3) sentences occurred where Buth's well defined *comparative topic* category was identified and used. A new topic that interrupts the topic and temporal continuity and in addition, maintain a contrastive focus, is introduced to the story.

c) In seven (7) sentences the topicalized constituent was used to indicate that the event took place "in the meantime" and should be translated as our *English pluperfect*.

d) The "*buffer word*" category proposed by Joüon-Muraoka proved to be helpful in four (4) sentences where we had to choose whether a new topic is introduced or a buffer word used. Even though this study used his category, we

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would argue that this category might gain more credibility if one could substantiate it by also referring to examples in other languages.

e) It is also possible to *list* the topicalized subjects in succession as in 17:30a, 17:30b, 17:30c and 17:31a. This category entails the listing of a number of topics and is advocated by Van der Merwe.

f) Four (4) sentences occur where *background information* is given. In sentence 13:20c it is also possible to argue that both a new topic and a new paragraph are introduced.

g) The following sentences, namely 8:29b, 12:22a and 20:4b are *problem cases*. In 12:22a we suggested that background information is given. Joüon-Muraoka assert that the action cannot be represented as subsequent and therefore the wayyiqtol is not used. These sentences need further investigation.

h) It is remarkable to notice that no example of the *focus* category occurred in our corpus of non-direct speech texts in 2 Kings. Gross, who operates with a well defined criterion on this category (cf. also Van der Merwe, 1994), identified many sentences in his corpus (which included 2 Kings) where the subject is the focus. We may argue that it is obvious that the focus category will occur more in his corpus because he works with the dialogue/direct speech texts.

2.2 Twenty (20) sentences with a topicalized *object* have been examined. In 12 cases, the object is topicalized in a specific word order to provide the reader with a detailed report/description. Van der Merwe argues that the writer achieves this by means of *listing*. The object is also topicalized to *conclude a story or paragraph* (4 cases), to *compare topics* and to *focus on a specific statement*.

2.3 A topicalized adjunct in a verbal sentence refers to a specific time frame and places the event or story within certain temporal parameters. One may therefore argue that this type of sentences should be dealt with differently. Three (3) sentences were identified where the topicalized adjunct introduced a *new paragraph*. In sentence 8:17 no clear-cut function could be attributed. Considering the many occurrences (12 times) of such sentence constructions introducing a new king, one might accept Gray's (1977) proposal that a deuteronomistic redactor or editor compiled such deuteronomistic introductions to introduce any newly appointed king. This may be interpreted as the introduction of a new paragraph.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUDING REMARKS

New perspectives in the study of language prompted many BH grammarians to shift their focus on the description of linguistic forms and the structure of a language to an approach that includes semantic and pragmatic categories. Recent grammarians pointed out that extra-linguistic factors like the total communicative context should also be considered in the description of a function for a topicalized constituent. Due to these new developments in linguistics, several attempts were made by some BH scholars to provide us with a more nuanced view of the function of a topicalized constituent. Emphasis, as used by the traditional grammarians, is described by many recent grammarians as a nebulous term to describe the function of a topicalized constituent in BH. A possible reason being that traditional grammarians attributed such a function to a constituent in a particular sentence construction, but did not take the communicative context of the specific sentence into account. Recent scholars proposed that we include the semantic-pragmatic content of that topicalized constituent within its context into our text linguistics. However, the diversity of new concepts from various linguistic perspectives created a problem for many Old Testament exegetes. It became important to investigate the published research material of traditional and recent grammarians to see whether the recent scholars indeed improved on existing descriptions.

In the description of the different sentences in 2 Kings certain important discoveries were made:

1. In the description of sentences one needs to work with an explicitly defined theoretical linguistic framework, one that consists of clearly formulated criteria and categories. Richter's linguistic framework provides a BH linguist with a valuable point of departure even though it lacks categories at the levels of semantics and pragmatics.

2. A much more nuanced view of the function of a topicalized constituent is indeed possible instead the vague term "emphasis" as it is used by the traditional grammarians. The transition from the structural to a pragmatic approach is thus illustrated in this study to be not only possible, but also advantageous to the study of function in BH.

3. Traditional grammarians who operated with the assumed universally applicable categories, suggested that a particular sentence construction necessarily equals a specific function. This study indicated that a sentence construction plus the semantic and pragmatic content (i.e. the total communicative context) may provide us with a much more nuanced view of the function of a topicalized constituent.

4. Linguists have no general agreement about the nature of meaning or what aspects of meaning should be included in semantics and how meaning should be described. This is illustrated by the many distinguishable theories on meaning (cf. Lyons, 1977). Herewith is the contribution of pragmatics to the study of BH - an approach still in disarray. This confused state of affairs is affirmed by some of the difficulties BH scholars have in the definition of certain concepts and categories. We may refer to the different categories and definitions of concepts which are used by scholars like Van der Merwe, Buth, Bandstra and Gross (e.g., topicalization/topicalized constituent, word order and the focus/rheme function). A possible reason for this linguistic disagreement could be that each of these linguists define specific categories and concepts from his own linguistic presuppositions. It is therefore important that a uniform set of linguistic categories be worked out for future research.

5. Recent grammarians refer to a SVO or OV as the marked word order. If we consider the view point of this study (where we referred to a topicalized constituent instead of a marked word order), it becomes essential that we investigate and reconsider the use of the concept marked word order as it is used by Buth, Van der Merwe and Bandstra. The term marked word order implies the acceptance of a specific structure as a 'universal' norm and it is recommended that one rather refers to that particular structure simply as a sentence or word order with a topicalized constituent. Their view is in contrast to that of Gross who works with a different set of word order categories (cf. the discussion on Gross' view in chapter 3). When the term *marked* is used, Gross maintains that the topicalized constituent is marked for a specific function like focus or rheme. It is possible to argue that we may consider the rheme function as a synonym for focus. Even though I disagree with the way in which he uses the focus or rheme function one should acknowledge his perspective as it allows the researcher more options.

In this study, the description of the different sentences in 2 Kings is only a small contribution to the larger debate on the study of word orders in BH. It would therefore like to offer some suugestions for future research:

1. Further description of sentences with a topicalized constituent in the narrative and dialogue texts is necessary to establish a more comprehensive description for such sentences.

2. If one accepts Gross' view on word orders as outlined in chapter 2, it indicates the possibility that we should reconsider the use of the concepts *marked* (e.g. SVO or OV) and *unmarked* (e.g. VSO) word order as it is used by several scholars. It is possible that a writer might use the wayyiqtol verbal series (referred to by BH grammarians as an unmarked word order) to mark the sentence in the narrative for continuity.

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