

BART Display Enhanced for Discourse Features: Greek New Testament

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0. Introduction

This file describes the features that have been marked in the interlinear propositional displays of books of the Greek New Testament that are posted on this webpage. The files have been obtained by enhancing SIL International's Bible Analysis and Research Tool (BART) so that key discourse features of the Koiné Greek text are readily apparent, and then making pdf copies. My intention, in preparing such displays, is to make it easier for translators with limited knowledge of Greek to recognise the presence of certain discourse features in the source text. This file does not attempt to justify the claims that underlie the display, but instead indicates books or articles where such claims are substantiated.

Readers will note some similarities between these displays and those of the *Lexham Discourse Greek New Testament* produced by LOGOS Bible Software. It was my privilege to interact with Dr. Steven E. Runge during the early stages of the development of the LOGOS tool and, at one time, we had hoped to produce a single database. However, it eventually became apparent that the needs of pastors differ significantly from those of Bible translators, hence the present displays.

1. Indentation

The text is usually displayed with one proposition per line (e.g. 1 Th 5:14-22),¹ though long propositions have had to be divided (1:3), and a series of verbs is sometimes displayed on a single line (5:6).

The **first** level of indentation reflects the presence in a proposition of any pre-nuclear or pre-verbal constituents, including vocatives, pre-verbal subjects (1:6a) and other points of departure (also called 'topicalised constituents'—3:6a),² preposed focal constituents (1:8c)³ and pre-nuclear participial clauses (*DFNTG* §11.1, as in 2:2a-b).⁴

The **second** level of indentation is for nuclear clauses that begin with a verb (e.g. 1:2a).⁵

Third and subsequent levels of indentation are for post-nuclear clauses (1:2b), as well as the second part of long propositions that have had to be divided.

1 Th 2:2 illustrates the use of the three levels. It begins with two pre-nuclear clauses (first level of indentation), then a nuclear clause (second level) and, finally, a post-nuclear clause (third level).

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, all the examples are taken from 1 Thessalonians (1 Th). Other examples are taken from Matthew's Gospel (Mt).

² See *DFNTG* §2.2, *NARR* §3.1 and *NonNarr* §4.3. Pre-verbal subjects and other points of departure occupy P1 in Dik's template (see §3.1 below).

³ Preposed focal constituents occupy P2 in Dik's template (*ibid.*).

⁴ The first level of indentation is NOT used if the pre-verbal constituent is in a post-nuclear clause.

⁵ The second level of indentation is also used for nuclear clauses that begin with μακάριοι (ἔσπε) (e.g. Mt 5:3-11) or Ἐπικατάρατος (Gal 3:10,13).

2. Reported Speech

The enhanced BART display makes a two-way distinction between reported speech and any form of embedded reported speech (i.e., speech that is reported within a reported speech).

- Reported speech is coloured **blue** (e.g. 1 Th 5:3, Mt 26:18).
- Speech that is reported within a reported speech (embedded reported speech) is coloured **magenta** [pink] (e.g. Mt 26:18).

In addition, quotations from the Old Testament have a background coloured **cyan** [turquoise] (e.g. Mt 26:31).

No attempt has been made to distinguish levels of embedded speech, such as occurs in Mt 26:18.

3. Constituent Order

The BART display has been enhanced to indicate the function of a number of variations in constituent order.

3.1 Pre-verbal constituents

Koiné Greek is of the VS/VO language type (*NARR* §0.3). Many variations in constituent order can be explained by reference to Simon Dik's **P1 P2 V X** template (1989:363), where:

- P1 can be occupied by a pre-verbal topical subject and/or other points of departure;
- P2 can be occupied by a FOCUS constituent, to give it prominence (*NARR* §4.2.3).

Constituents in **P1** are **underlined** and marked with one of the following labels:

- **Top**—pre-verbal topical subject or other referential point of departure (*NARR* §3.1, *NonNarr* §4.3, *DFNTG* §§2.2, 2.8; as in 1 Th 1:6).⁶
- **Sit**—situational point of departure (e.g. temporal, spatial, conditional—*ibid.*; as in 1 Th 3:4).
- **Art**—articular pronoun, which often introduces an 'intermediate step' in a reported conversation (*NARR* §7.5, *DFNTG* §13.1; as in Mt 26:15).

Constituents in **P2** to give them focal prominence (*NonNarr* §5.2, *DFNTG* §3.6) are enclosed in a **solid red box** (e.g. 1 Th 2:5).⁷

If a focal constituent is split, with only the first part in P2 (*NonNarr* §5.5, *DFNTG* §4.4), then the second part is marked with the label **Split** and is also enclosed in a **solid red box** (e.g. 1:6).

If a constituent of a phrase or embedded clause has been preposed for focal prominence (*DFNTG* §4.5), it is enclosed in a **solid red box** and is marked **Emb** (embedded) (e.g. 2:6).

Negative pro-forms such as οὐδείς 'no one' or οὐδέν 'nothing' are enclosed in a **dark green box** and marked **Constit** when they are in P2 (e.g. 3:3). This indicates that the constituent has been negated (e.g. 'Jesus answered nothing'—Mk 15:5), rather than the clause as a whole (e.g. 'Do you not answer anything?'—Mk 15:4).

Some nominal objects that appear to be in P2 may precede their verb because they have been "incorporated" (Rosen 1989) in the verb phrase. Typically, the phrase consists of an indefinite noun and a "light verb" such as "do, give, have, make, take" (Wikipedia entry on Light Verbs). Such nouns are marked **Incorp** (e.g. 4:9).

⁶ When a verbless clause begins with a topical subject, the subject is also underlined and marked **Top**.

⁷ Some focal constituents in P2 are not enclosed in a solid red box because they are judged to be in their default position. They include content question words (e.g. Mt 3:7) and negative pro-forms (see below), unless they are separated from the verb by an element conveying established information (*DFNTG* §4.2; e.g. Mt 21:23).

Left-dislocated constituents (*NARR* §3.1) are **underlined** and labelled **L-Dis** (e.g. 1 Th 2:4).

Tail-head linkage (*NARR* §3.2.3, *NonNarr* §8.12, *DFNTG* §12.1) may involve a subordinate clause in P1 (**underlined**—e.g. Mt 7:28) or, more often, a pre-nuclear participial clause (e.g. 1 Th 5:8). Such linkage is marked **T-H** and is *italicised*.

3.2 Clause-final focal constituents

The Principle of Natural Information Flow explains many variations in the order of post-verbal constituents in Greek (see *NARR* §4.2.1, *NonNarr* §4.4). Constituents that may be moved from their default position to the end of a proposition to give them focal prominence include verbs, pronominals and objects that follow adjuncts (*NonNarr* §5.3, *DFNTG* §3.5). Such constituents, also called ‘dominant focal elements’ or DFEs (Heimendinger 1999:167), are enclosed in a **red box with dots**⁸ for borders (e.g. 1 Th 3:3, 4:6; in 4:1 the DFE is labelled **Emb** as it occurs within a constituent in P1).

See also 2:2, where the final constituent is separated from the rest of the proposition by an expression which acts as a ‘spacer’ (*NARR* §4.2.4, *NonNarr* §5.4).

Constituents of a phrase that have been placed at the end of the phrase to give them focal prominence are enclosed in a **red box with dots** for borders and labelled **Emb** (e.g. Mt 5:30).

Right-dislocated constituents (*NARR* §3.1) are labelled **R-Dis** (e.g. 1 Th 2:10). They are often in apposition to an earlier constituent in the sentence (e.g. 1:10).

3.3 Marking of postposed topical subjects

When a subject is postposed to the end of its clause (following nominals or adjuncts), it is marked **ThS+** (e.g. Lk 1:41 [twice]). Such postposing typically marks as salient the participant who performs the next event in chronological sequence in the story (see Levinsohn 2014).

3.4 Marked but ambiguous constituent order

When the verb is final, it is not always clear whether the DFE is the verb or the constituent that immediately precedes it (see *DFNTG* §3.8.1). When such is the case, I choose the analysis that I think is more likely, but enclose the constituents with **asterisks** (*...*) (e.g. 1 Th 5:16, 19-21).

3.5 Marking of cataphoric expressions

When an expression such as διὰ τοῦτο ‘because of this’ is used to point forward to and highlight something which ‘is about to be expressed’ (Crystal 1997:55; see *NARR* §5.4.2), it is enclosed in a **red box** and marked **Cata**. If it is in P2, the red box is **solid** (e.g. 1 Th 2:13). If it is clause final, the red box is **with dots** (e.g. ταῦτα ‘these’—Mt 10:2).

The clause or sentence to which the cataphoric expression refers is often introduced with ὅτι (e.g. 1 Th 2:13) or ἵνα (e.g. Luke 1:43). When this is NOT the case, it may be enclosed in a **red box with dots** and marked **CataRef** (e.g. in 1 Th 4:3).

3.6 Marking of preposed pronominal genitives

When an ‘unemphatic’ pronominal genitive precedes its head noun (*DFNTG* §4.5), it is underlined with a **broken line** and labelled **TopGen** (e.g. 1 Th 2:16).

⁸ NOTE: The dots in BART look more like short dashes.

4. Over-encoding of references to active participants and props

When the subject remains the same between clauses or sentences, the default means of reference to it in all languages is the minimum permitted for that language (*NARR* §8.2.4). Since Koiné Greek is a pro-drop language, this means that the default way of referring to the subject in a same-subject context in Greek is usually with no overt reference other than verb inflection (see *DFNTG* §8.2).⁹ The same is true for certain contexts in which there is a change of subject when the new subject is an active participant or prop (*ibid.*).

I use the term ‘over-encoding’ to refer to any instance in which more encoding than the default is employed to refer to an active participant or prop. Over-encoding is signalled in the enhanced BART display by means of **yellow background**.

Over-encoding is used in Greek, as in other languages:

- to mark the beginning of a narrative unit (e.g. Mt 4:5); and
- to highlight the action or speech concerned (e.g. Mt 4:7).

5. Thematic prominence

In Greek, prominence is given to active participants and props who are the current centre of attention (*NARR* §4.6) by omitting the article (*DFNTG* §§9.2.3-9.4), by adding αὐτός ‘-self’ (e.g. in 1 Th 3:11), by using the proximal demonstrative οὗτος (*NARR* chap. 9, Appendix 1; e.g. in 3:3), and by postposing the constituent concerned (e.g. Mt 14:29). If such constituents are in position P1, they are marked with the label **Top+** and **underlined** (e.g. 1 Th 2:1). Otherwise, they are marked **Th+**.

6. Highlighting Devices

So far, four highlighting devices are marked in the enhanced BART display: presentatives such as ἰδοῦ ‘look!’, the combination of ἐγένετο ‘it came about’ and a temporal expression, the historical present, and the combination of a verb and its cognate dative to intensify the action concerned.

6.1 Presentatives

Interjections such as ἰδοῦ and ἴδε ‘look!, see!’ typically highlight what immediately follows (*Narr* §5.4.2, *NonNarr* §7.7.3).¹⁰ Such presentatives are displayed on a **light green background** (e.g. Mt 1:20, 25:20).

6.2 The combination of ἐγένετο and a temporal expression

The function of ἐγένετο ‘it came about’ and an immediately following temporal expression varies with the author (see *DFNTG* §10.3). In Matthew’s Gospel, it usually marks major divisions in the book (e.g. Mt 7:28). In Luke-Acts, in contrast, ‘it picks out from the general background the *specific circumstance* for the foreground events that are to follow’ (*ibid.*), as in Acts 9:37 (see also Mt 9:10).

Whenever the combination occurs, ἐγένετο is displayed on a **light green background** and the temporal expression begins the next line.

⁹ In constructions such as the genitive absolute, the default way of referring to the subject in a same-subject context is with an independent pronoun (*ibid.*).

¹⁰ See Bailey 2009 for an insightful analysis of the different uses of ἰδοῦ and ἴδε.

6.3 The historical present

The function of the historical present also varies with the author (see *DFNTG* chapter 12, §14.3 and §15.1). It is a highlighting device though, “particularly in Mark and John, what is highlighted by the HP is not so much the speech or act to which it refers but the event(s) that follow” (ibid. §12.2).

Historical presents are marked by enclosing the **verb** in a green box, as in Mt 26:25 (earlier versions only have a green line below and above the verb).

6.4 Intensified verbs

The combination of an independent verb preceded by a cognate dative appears to intensify the action of the verb. The combination is enclosed in a **red box with dashes** for borders, as in Lk 22:15.

The same marking is used in quotations from the Old Testament when the combination of an infinitive absolute and cognate verb in Hebrew is translated with a pre-nuclear participle plus cognate verb, as in Mt 13:14.

References

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