

## **Seminar on 1 John**

*That you may know  
that you have Eternal Life*

*Observational Step 2*

*Structural Diagrams RSV*

*1 Jn 1.1-4*

*1 Jn 1.5-10*

*1 Jn 2.1-2*

*1 Jn 2.3-6*

*1 Jn 5.18-21*

## *How to Observe Structure of Paragraphs*

In order to see how material in a passage is arranged, you need to get the passage in front of you on one sheet of paper, if possible. There are several ways to record material so that you can best see how the ideas are arranged. We will use the following method.

### *Make a “Structural Diagram”*

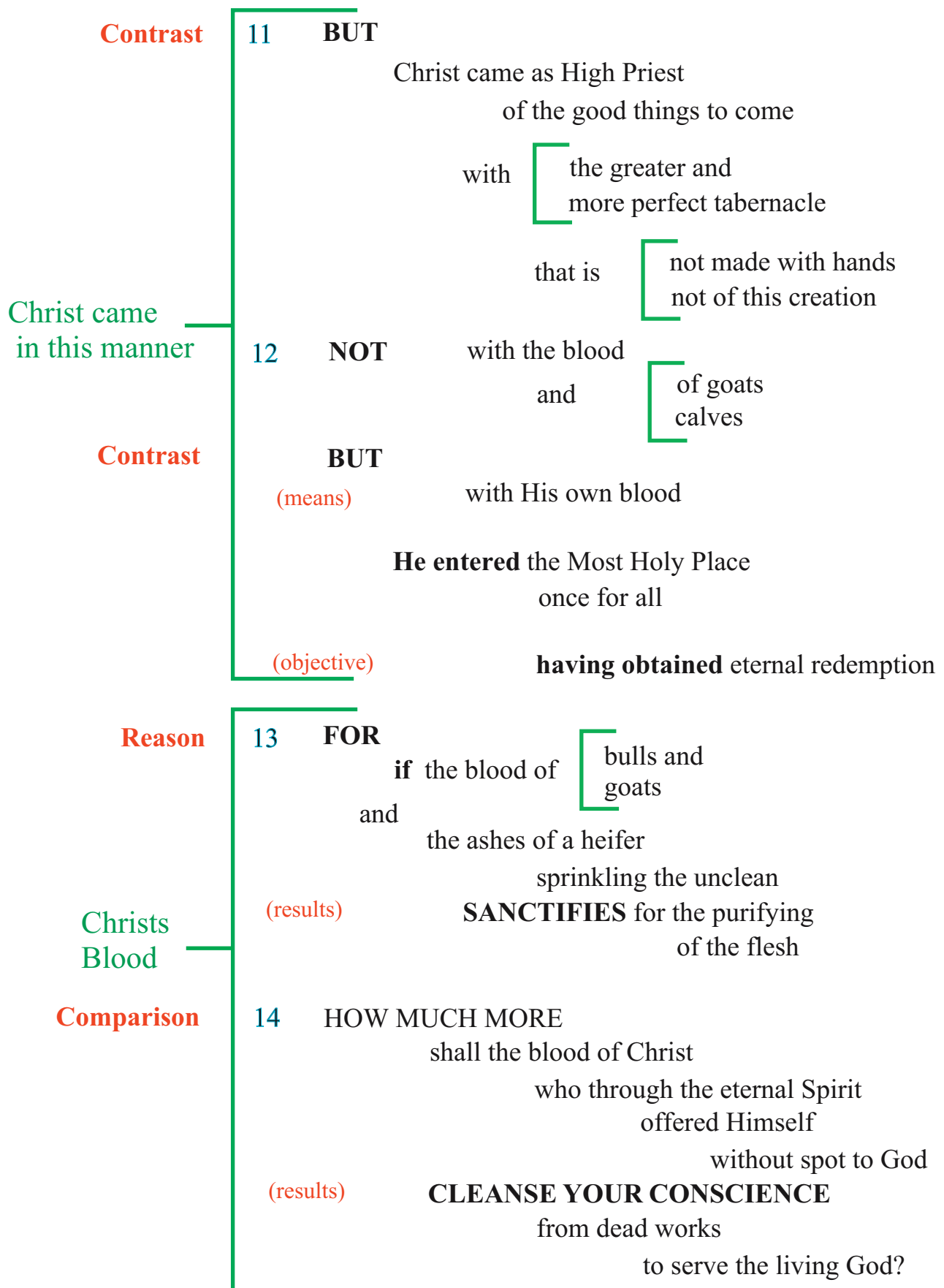
“Structural diagram” is a title given to a process in which you copy on a sheet of paper all of the words in a paragraph, but arrange the material in as graphic a way as possible.

*Suggestions:* (Note the example of a structural diagram of Hebrews 9: 11-14.)

1. Copy down the units of phrases and clauses; separate the units so that they will be most meaningful to you.
2. Line up major clauses and ideas so that key ideas can easily be seen.
3. Place modifying phrases and clauses under the words which they describe. Do not do this to the extent that you break up the thought pattern.
4. Place series of words, phrases, clauses, parallel thoughts and parallel constructions under each other. Sometimes it is helpful to bracket them.
5. Emphasize the important connectives such as, “but” “yet,” “for,” “therefore,” “then,” etc. Place them by themselves.
6. Arrange your diagram so the **KEY** words and **KEY** ideas stand out. This can be done by **CAPITALIZING** words and by underlying words and phrases. It is also helpful to use colored pencils to highlight ideas. For instance, you might encircle or underline in red the words that are repeated.
7. Analyze the passage which you have diagramed.
  - a. Study your verses and bracket those which seem to be on the same topic. Summarize the main thought in each grouping of verses and write your summary in the left margin. Try to summarize with one word or brief phrase.
  - b. Make note of commands, warning, conditional clauses, reasons and results, illustrations, etc. List comments in margin.
  - c. Use arrows and lines to show relationships, contrasts, comparisons and repetitions

# Structural Diagram Example

Heb 9: 11-14



*Structural Diagram RSV*  
*1 Jn 1.1-4*

*1* That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life-- *2* the life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us-- *3* that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. *4* And we are writing this that our joy may be complete.



*Structural Diagram RSV*  
*1 Jn 1.5-10*

**5** This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. **6** If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; **7** but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. **8** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.



*Structural Diagram RSV*  
*1 Jn 2.1-2*

*1* My little children, I am writing this to you so that you may not sin; but if any one does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; *2* and he is the expiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.





*Structural Diagram RSV*  
*1 Jn 2.3-6*

**3** And by this we may be sure that we know him, if we keep his commandments. **4** He who says “I know him” but disobeys his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him; **5** but whoever keeps his word, in him truly love for God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: **6** he who says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.



*Structural Diagram RSV*  
*1 Jn 5.18-21*

**18** We know that any one born of God does not sin, but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him. **19** We know that we are of God, and the whole world is in the power of the evil one. **20** And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, to know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. **21** Little children, keep yourselves from idols.





## **Appendix Supplement A**

### *Class Notes Observation of Terms & Structure*

#### I. DEFINITION AND PURPOSE OF OBSERVATION

Web. “ the act or faculty of. . . taking notice; the act or result of considering or marking attentively.”

Kuist. “ the art of seeing things as they really are.” seeing “ impartially, intensely, and fearlessly.”

##### A. Observation is essentially awareness.

1. to observe is to be mentally aware of what one sees.
2. transcends pure physical sight.
  - a. involves perception.
  - b. we may see a particular term but do we perceive its specific meanings; its peculiar connotations.

##### B. General function of Observation.

1. enable one to become saturated with the particulars of a passage.
2. become thoroughly conscious of their existence and need of their explanation.
3. means of data gathering for the mind for interpretation. observation provides the raw materials upon which the mind may operate.

#### II. REQUISITES OF Observation

“In my judgment, your first care should be to learn to observe. . . Do you see the thing exactly as it is? Do you strip away from it your own likings and dislikings, your own previous notions of what it ought to be? Do you come face to face with things?” George Herbert Palmer

##### A. Will to Observe.

1. Unwilled observation is soon satiated and goes to sleep.
2. Willed observation, vision with executive force behind it, is full of discernment, and is continually making discoveries which keep the mind alert and interested.
3. Get a will behind the eye, and the eye becomes a searchlight, the familiar is made to disclose undreamed treasure.

##### B. Exactness in Observation.

1. Precise observation of details.

##### C. Persistence in Observation

1. “Discoveries are missed each day By men who turn too soon away.” Flynn.

### III. ANALYSIS OF OBSERVATION

Four main constituents of any Biblical passage are: terms; the relations and interrelations between terms, or structure; the general literary form or forms; and the atmosphere.

#### A. Observation of Terms.

##### 1. Definition of a Term.

- a. a given word in a given context.
  - 1) a term has one meaning.
  - 2) a word may have several meanings.

##### 2. Kinds of Terms.

###### a. Routine and Non-routine Terms.

- 1) routine
  - a) common, ordinary
  - b) meaning is immediately obvious
  - c) not very significant for understanding a passage.
- 2) non-routine or strong.
  - a) those difficult to understand
  - b) crucial terms and those significant for understanding the statements of a passage.
  - c) express profound concepts.

note: this distinction meant to develop discretion; and the more one's discretionary powers are developed, the more one will see terms which will need special consideration. Eventuate in more incisive and therefore more thorough observation.

note: care should be exercised in not forcing hermeneutical importance to the routine or accidental in a sentence.

###### b. Literal and Figurative Terms.

- 1) literal
  - a) interpret according to the letter
  - b) convey primary or usual meaning.
- 2) figurative
  - a) symbolic
  - b) express a secondary idea distinct from their original meaning.

##### 3. Identity and Inflections of Terms.

###### a. grammatical categories: nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, interjections, and articles.

- 1) utilize those categories
- 2) aware of their functions

###### b. note the inflection of the terms.

- 1) change of form to indicate their case, gender, number, tense, person, mood, voice, etc.
- 2) important in relation to nouns, pronouns, verbs, and adjectives.



Specific Rules Unnecessary and Impracticable.

- A. Words should be understood in their literal sense unless such literal interpretation involves a manifest contradiction or absurdity.
  - 1. In practice, an appeal to every man's rational judgment.
    - a. What to one seems very absurd and improbable may be to another altogether simple and self-consistent.
    - b. Some see necessity for departing from the literal sense where others saw none.
    - c. Impossible to establish any fixed rule that will govern in all cases.
- B. Essential Information to be Considered.
  - 1. General character and Style of the particular book.
  - 2. Plan and Purpose of the Author.
  - 3. The Context and Scope of the Particular passage in question.
  - 4. \* A thorough collation and comparison of all parallel passages.
- C. The same general principles, by which we ascertain the grammatico-historical sense, apply also to the interpretation of figurative lang.
- D. Figurative portions of the Bible are as certain and truthful as the most prosaic chapters.
  - 1. Metaphors, allegories, parables, and symbols are divinely chosen forms of setting forth the oracles of God, and we must not suppose their meaning to be so vague and uncertain as to be past finding out.

“By a careful and judicious discrimination the interpreter should aim to determine the character and purport of each particular trope, and explain it in harmony with the common laws of lang., and the author's context, scope, and plan.”

***B. Observation of Relations and Interrelations Between Terms - Structure***

- 1. Definition of Structure and Various Structural Units
  - a. structure
    - 1) general sense: involves all of the relations and interrelations binding terms into literary units, from the minutest to the broadest, from the least significant to the most significant.
    - 2) restricted sense: denotes the framework or skeleton of a passage, that is, its more essential relations.

note- both of the above senses of structure will be used through-out the text.
  - b. various structural units
    - 1) phrase - a group of two or more terms constituting a partial unit of thought and expression.
    - 2) clause - a group of terms, including a subject and verb and sometimes one or more phrases, constituting a partial (or whole) unit of thought and expression.
    - 3) sentence - one or more clauses constituting a unit of thought and expression.
    - 4) paragraph - a group of sentences constituting a unit of thought and expression.
    - 5) segment - a group of paragraphs constituting a unit of thought and expression.
    - 6) subsection- a group of segments constituting a unit of thought and expression.
    - 7) section - a group of subsections (or segments) constituting a unit of thought and expression.
    - 8) division - a group of sections constituting a unit of thought and expression.
    - 9) book - a group of divisions constituting a unit of thought and expression.

## 2. Importance of structure

### a. Two areas

- 1) for the accomplishment of the artist's purpose
- 2) awareness of structure on part of the observer in order to comprehend the artist's purpose.

### b. Become Structure-conscious

note - the discovery of structure is "one of the crucial points where conditions of growth have to be carefully maintained and fostered."

## 3. Types of Structure

note - classified by comparative ease of discovery and their relative importance.

### a. Surface and subsurface structure

#### 1) surface structure

- a) explicit structural elements: immediately apparent to the trained observer.
- b) structural elements which lie on the exterior of a passage.

ex. Ro. 1: 18-24 v. 1:24 "therefore" indicates passage construction in terms of cause and effect.

#### 2) subsurface structure

- a) implicit structural elements: may not be observed as readily as those which are expressed.

ex. David and Ammon in 2 Sam. 11-13 Judah and Joseph in Gen. 38-39

#### 3) Facts concerning the distinction between surface and subsurface structure

- a) primarily concerned with the more obvious and the less obvious.
  - (1) not necessarily involving the difference between the less profound and the more profound.
- b) not all passages have both explicit and implicit structure.
  - (1) be alert to structural elements which lie on the interior of a passage.
- c) the discovery of subsurface structure frequently comes in partial completion of interpretation.
  - (1) observation primarily concerns noting surface structure.
- d) Surface and subsurface structure are effected by the same laws of composition.

### b. Primary and Secondary Structure.

#### 1) some connections of structural elements primary.

- a) primary emphasis given to primary relations.

#### 2) other connections of structural elements secondary or subordinate.

- a) secondary structural elements conceived as subservient to primary relations (if the author's stress is to be ascertained)

note- in certain instances partial completion of interpretation is needed to make the above distinctions.

- be aware of the distinctions and utilize them as far as possible in the initial step of study.

#### 4. Specific Laws of Structure.

Premise: 1) the laws to be stated are laws of logic;

2) they reflect the mental processes of men as they think and as men express themselves in any specific medium.

3) the observer does not apply them to a work of art; he simply discovers them and thereby ascertains the message of the artist.

4) the same relations which provide the universal means of communication also provide the universal avenues for interpretation.

quote: "All one needs to do, therefore, is to observe the composition of various artistic productions and by so doing discover the means used by artists in effecting the structural unity of their works." (Traina, p.39)

##### a. Structural Relations Within Phrases and Clauses, Between Clauses, and Between Sentences - Within Paragraphs.

note: the paragraph (groups of sentences which actually form units of thought and expression) will be used as the basic structural unit rather than the sentence- the relations between sentences will therefore be surveyed together with the relations within sentences.

: syntax- structure as related to clauses and sentences.

Webster def.- "the due arrangement of word forms to show their mutual relations in a sentences."

: "paragramphical relations" - the structural relations considered together of both syntactical relations and similar relations which exist between sentences.

##### 1) Presentation of Paragraphical Relations.

a) The relation of subject to verb. The subject may be a noun, pronoun, infinitive, gerund, or dependent clause.

b) The relation of verb to predicate, which may involve a direct object, an indirect object, a predicate noun, a predicate adjective or adjectival clause, or an adverb or adverbial clause.

c) The relation of modifier to modified includes adjectives, participles, adverbs, articles, demonstrative pronouns, prepositional phrases, and adjectival and adverbial clauses.

d) The relation of preposition to object,

e) The relation of pronoun to antecedent.

f) The relation of independent (coordinate) clauses to each other in compound sentences and the relation of dependent (subordinate) and independent clauses in complex sentences. (these clauses may involve the various moods, such as indicative, subjunctive, imperative, etc.) Various kinds: relative subordinate causal, local, subordinate comparative, temporal, purpose, result, conditional, concessive, substantival, indirect discourse, coordinate causal, and coordinate comparative.

Grammatical Connectives: coordinate and subordinate connectives used to relate the different types of clauses to each other. Some of them will be expressed by prepositional phrases which serve as connectives.

#### Four Categories

<u>TEMPORAL</u> or Chronological	<u>LOCAL</u> or Geographical	<u>LOGICAL</u>	<u>EMPHATIC</u>
after	where	Reason-because, for, since,	truly
as		Result-so, then, therefore,	only
before		thus, so then, hence,	indeed
now		consequently,	now
then		Purpose-that, in order that,	
until		so that,	
when		Contrast- but, yet, much more,	
while		although, however, nevertheless, otherwise.	
		Comparison-also, as, as-so, just as-so, likewise, so also, so, even as, so accordingly, again.	
		Series of Facts-and, first of all, last of all, or , finally, especially, secondly.	
		Condition-if, unless.	

note: Several facts should be noted in regard to these relations between clauses and sentences.

- 1) the four categories are not mutually exclusive, ex.-temporal connective may also imply a logical relation. Also, some of the connectives may be found in more than one category.
- 2) many of these same relations are operative within clauses as well as between clauses. ex.- similes and metaphors involve comparison.
- 3) sometimes clauses and sentences are related implicitly rather than explicitly. Therefore, the mere absence of expressed connections does not mean that they are unrelated. At times one may need to infer relations from a study of the thoughts expressed or from the comparative positions of the clauses or sentences in question. (Heb.8.5)

## 2) Illustrations of Paragraphical Relations

- a) Logical type of literature  
ex. Relations in Romans 1:18
- b) Narrative type of literature  
ex. Relations in Mark 9:2-5

note: facts to be kept in mind in regard to the above illus.

- (1) not all of the relations indicated are of great significance.
- (2) place no hindrances on the observation eyes
  - (a) be open to more than just those things which have immediate and outstanding import.
  - (b) often things which first lack much significance become very important in the long run.
- (3) sometimes there will be an interplay between observation and interpretation and is allowable at this step, if the observer remains able to distinguish the various steps when asked to do so.
- (4) this type of minute conscious analysis is especially imperative for proper observation in the study of the argumentative type of literature.

note: example of grammatical analysis

L.M. Sweet's The Study of the English Bible Appendix C.

## b. Structural Relations Between Paragraphs, Segments, Subsections, Sections, Divisions, and Books.

### 1) Literary Structure.

- a) transcends grammatical structure.
- b) more literary than purely grammatical.
- c) not mutually exclusive.
  - many of the paragraphical or grammatical relations, such as contrast and comparison, will be utilized to make possible literary structure.
- d) some of the broader structure relations will be indicated by grammatical means. ("therefore" in Ro.12.1.)

note- it is possible to compose sentences in paragraph form with-out at the same time arranging a work with literary unity.

### 2) List of Main Literary Relations.

- a) Comparison- the association of like things.
- b) Contrast- the association of opposites.
- c) Repetition- the reiteration of the same terms, phrases, clauses, etc. Recurring factors are exactly the same.
- d) Continuity- the repeated use of similar terms, phrases, clauses, etc. Recurring factors are more or less alike.
- e) Continuation- the extended treatment of a particular aspect;
  - the carrying through to its completion of an idea or series of events.
  - related to continuity.
  - involves extension rather than recurrence.

- f) Climax- the arrangement of material in such a way as to progress from the lesser to the greater and ultimately to the greatest.
- g) Cruciality- the utilization of the principle of the pivot.
  - the subject matter is arranged so that it turns around or upon some one factor.
- h) Interchange- the exchanging or alternation of certain elements.
  - often employed to strengthen contrasts or comparisons.
- i) Particularization & Generalization - the movement from the general to the particular.
  - the movement from the particular to the general.
- j) Causation & Substantiation - the progression from cause to effect.
  - the progression from effect to cause.
- k) Instrumentation- the setting forth of the means to an end as well as the end itself.
  - involves the factor of purpose.
  - the means may be as significant as the ends.
  - often instruments are no less dispensable than their purposes.
  - similarity between law of instrumentation and law of causation & substantiation in that means often have a causal relation to their purpose.
- l) Explanation or Analysis - the presentation of an idea or event followed by its interpretation.
  - it is closely related to particularization.
- m) Preparation or Introduction - the inclusion of the background or setting for events or ideas.
  - thereby the reader is prepared to understand that which follows by that which precedes.
  - frequently utilized in narrative literature.
- n) Summarization - the employment of an abridgement or compendium either preceding or following a unit of material.
- o) Interrogation - the employment of a question or problem followed by its answer.
- p) Harmony - the effecting of unity by means of agreement.
  - included in this concept is the law of consistency.
  - a law of truth.
  - ex. harmony between the disease and its remedy.
  - harmony between the promise and its fulfilment.

### 3) Facts to be Noted.

- a) these laws are closely interrelated.
  - (1) no clear-cut line of distinction between them.
  - (2) often used in combination with one another.
    - (a) contrast is sometimes effected thru interchange.
    - (b) repetition and continuity are two forms of the same basic law.
    - (c) particularization and summarization have much in common.
- b) because structural laws are often used in combinations- sometimes hard to ascertain which laws are primary and which are subordinate in a given passage.
  - (1) decision depends on the makeup of the literary unit.
  - (2) the nature of some relations makes them naturally subservient to others.
    - ex.- law of interchange inherently subordinate to that which is interchanged.
    - Interchange employed for purpose of strengthening some other structural relation: contrast, comparison, or causation.

- c) the preceding list is not all inclusive.
- d) the descriptive terms used to indicate the different relations may be varied-for in some instances other terms are more accurate and more expressive than others.

Determined by:

- (1) nature of unit.
- (2) individual taste of the observer.

note - the important thing to remember:

not:the uniformity of nomenclature in describing the various relations.

but:an awareness of specific and well-defined laws of structure

and:make the attempt to analyze passages in terms of them.

note - vagueness is fatal to structural observation.

- e) differences of opinion frequently arise in connection with structural analysis.

- (1) subjective elements.
- (2) evidence for varying possibilities.  
emphasis placed on differing views.

note - one ought to make the attempt to interpret in spite of the probability of error.

note - Inductive Convictions:

- (a) based on concrete data and not on authoritarian grounds.
- (b) communicated to others on the same grounds on which they are derived: not by authority but by an examination of particulars;
- (c) never forced upon an individual.





