

“So, Brothers”: Pauline Use of the Vocative

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Slides at: <http://semanticbible.com/other/presentations/2007-sbl-vocative/>

Outline

- The historical understanding of the vocative
- Data and methodology
- A new view
- Conclusions

Scope

- Purpose: describe the pragmatic effect of vocative
- Focus on Pauline epistles
- Some comments on general epistles
- Not addressing narrative

The Traditional View

- Robertson (1919)
- Blass, Debrunner and Funk (1961)
- Rogers (1984)
- Banker (1984)

Data and Methodology

- Using OpenText.org Syntactically Analyzed Greek NT
- Broad empirical analysis using
 - Syntactic search in Logos Bible Software
 - Other automated processing
 - Manual analysis

Example: Syntax Search

Syntax Search

Database: The OpenText.org Syntactically Analyzed Greek New Testament

Search Range: Pauline Epistles (Romans-Philemon)

Add Copy ◀ ▶ ↕ ⬇ Delete

Clause Component 1: Clause Category = Addressee
Add: Clause Component / Conjunction / Word Group / Head Term / Modifier / Connector / Word / Any / Gap / Group / Unordered Group / OR
↳ **Word Group 1**
↳ **Head Term 1**
↳ **Modifier 1:** Modifier Category = Definer

Options for **Clause Component 1:**

▼ Search Parameters

☐ Highlight this term in search results
☒ Must be an immediate child of parent

► Occurrence

▼ Clause Category

☐ Subject ☐ Adjunct
☐ Predicator ☒ Addressee
☐ Complement

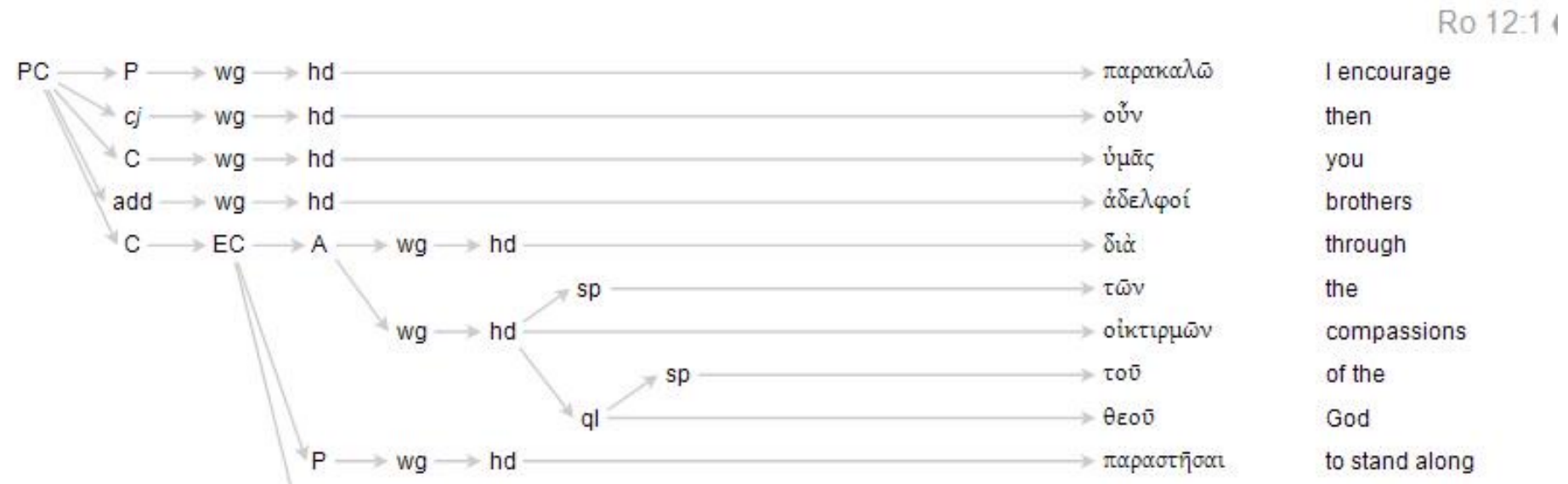
▼ Agreement

This term's *feature* must be *in some relation to* that of *another term*. ➔

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Example: Search Result



Target Corpus and Analyzed Attributes

- 172 verses containing vocatives from epistles
 - 109 from Pauline epistles
- Added attributes from further analysis
- Excluded cases (13):
 - OT quotation (10)
 - “Abba, father” (2)
 - Aramaic (1)
- Head term of vocative component
 - Semantically redundant?
 - Has definer?

Target Corpus and Analyzed Attributes (2)

- Vocative placement
 - Verse starts pericope?
 - Vocative is first element in its clause?
 - Vocative is last element in its clause?
- Meta-comments and exhortations
- Data is available for review
 - Tab-delimited table
 - <http://semanticbible.com/other/presentations/2007-sbl-vocative/>

Analysis: the Semantic Function

- Traditional view: vocative serves to identify or further characterize the addressee

Authorship: No Agg. Func
(No size attribute)
Depth : 0

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Data File loaded at 07:41:06 on 11/17/2007

File

Options

Help

Meta-comment.tn3

0

Pauline

Rom 1:13

Rom 7:1

Rom 7:4

Rom 8:12

Rom 9:20

Rom 10:1

Rom 11:25

Rom 12:1

Rom 12:19

Rom 15:14

Rom 15:30

1Cor 7:29

1Cor 10:1

1Cor 10:14

1Cor 11:33

1Cor 12:1

1Cor 14:6

1Cor 14:20

1Cor 14:26

1Cor 14:39

Rom 16:17

1Cor 15:1

Gal 1:11

Gal 3:15

Gal 4:12

Gal 4:19

Gal 4:28

Gal 4:31

Gal 5:11

Gal 5:13

1Cor 1:10

1Cor 15:31

Gal 6:1

Phil 4:8

Phil 4:15

1Thess 2:1

1Thess 2:9

1Thess 2:14

1Thess 2:17

1Thess 3:7

1Cor 1:11

1Cor 15:50

Gal 6:18

1Thess 4:1

1Thess 5:14

1Thess 5:25

2Thess 1:3

2Thess 2:1

2Thess 2:15

2Thess 3:1

1Cor 1:26

1Cor 16:15

Phil 1:12

1Thess 4:10

2Thess 3:6

Rom 2:1

Rom 2:3

1Cor 15:58

Gal 3:1

Phil 4:1

1Cor 2:1

2Cor 1:8

Phil 2:12

1Thess 4:13

2Thess 3:13

1Thess 1:4

1Cor 15:36

Eph 5:22

Eph 5:25

Eph 6:1

1Cor 3:1

2Cor 6:11

Phil 3:1

1Thess 5:1

1Tim 6:11

2Thess 2:13

Eph 6:4

Phil 4:3

Col 3:18

Col 3:19

1Cor 4:6

2Cor 7:1

Phil 3:13

1Thess 5:4

1Tim 6:20

1Tim 1:18

Eph 6:5

Col 3:20

Col 3:22

Col 4:1

1Cor 7:24

2Cor 8:1

Phil 3:17

1Thess 5:12

2Tim 2:1

1Cor 7:16

Eph 6:9

Col 3:21

Phlm 1:7

Phlm 1:20

Johannine

1John 2:1

1John 2:28

1John 3:18

1John 4:7

1John 4:11

1John 5:21

1John 2:7

1John 3:2

1John 3:21

3John 1:2

3John 1:11

1John 2:13

1John 2:12

1John 3:7

1John 4:1

3John 1:2

1John 2:14

2John 1:5

1John 2:18

1John 3:13

1John 4:4

1:5

2:14

1:5

James

James 1:2

James 3:1

James 4:11

James 5:10

James 1:16

James 1:19

James 2:1

James 3:10

James 5:7

James 5:12

James 2:5

James 2:20

James 2:14

James 3:12

James 5:9

James 5:19

James 4:4

James 4:8

James 5:1

Petrine

1Pet 2:11

2Pet 3:1

2Pet 3:8

2Pet 3:14

1Pet 4:12

2Pet 3:17

1Pet 3:1

1Pet 3:7

2Pet 1:10

1Pet 2:18

1Pet 5:5

Hebrews

Heb 3:12

Heb 10:19

Heb 13:22

Heb 6:9

Heb 3:1

Jude

Jude 1:3

Jude 1:17

Jude 1:20

1

Pauline

Rom 8:15

Rom 10:16

Rom 11:3

Rom 15:10

Rom 15:11

1Cor 15:55

1Cor 16:22

Gal 4:6

Gal 4:27

Hebrews

Heb 1:8

Heb 1:10

Heb 10:7

Heb 12:5

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Analysis: the Semantic Function (2)

- Traditional view: vocative serves to identify or further characterize the addressee
- After filtering out
 - Excluded cases (13)
 - Non-redundant head terms (40)
 - Vocatives with definers (18)119 cases still remain (172 – 53, or 69%)
 - 75 in Paulines
 - 44 in general epistles
- Conclusion #1: there's more to the story than the traditional view

Analysis: the Pericope Boundary Marker

- Traditional view: vocative signals pericope boundaries
- After filtering out
 - The same (preceding) semantic cases (53)
 - Verses that begin a pericope where the vocative is the first element in its clause (13)

106 cases still remain (172 – 66, or 61%)

More conservative alternative: filter out verses that begin a pericope (regardless of vocative placement in its clause)

67 cases still remain (172 – 105)
- Conclusion #2: there's more to the story than pericope boundaries

Entailment Hierarchy of the Vocative

- Semantic role:
 - identify the addressee

Entailment Hierarchy of the Vocative

- Semantic role:



- Processing role:
 - Identify or reinforce points of discontinuity
 - Help the reader transition

Entailment Hierarchy of the Vocative

- Semantic role:



- Processing role:



- Pragmatic role:
 - Thematic re-characterization
 - Forward-pointing attention getters

Thematic Re-characterization

- Identifying the addressee
- Thematic highlighting by re-characterizing the addressee

Forward-Pointing Attention Getters

- Exhortations
 - Includes imperatives and hortatory subjunctives
 - Draws attention to the exhortation
 - Signals the discontinuity

Forward-Pointing Attention Getters (2)

- Meta-Comments
 - “Steps back” from the discourse to talk about what’s being talked about
 - Introduces a new concept or proposition, e.g.
 - “I want you to know ...” + ὅτι clause
 - “I urge you ...” + infinitive
 - Can usually be removed without changing the propositional content
 - Effect: draws added attention to the concept or proposition

Conclusions

- Identified the need for additional explanation of vocative usage
- Applied a pragmatic framework for understanding multiple functions of the vocative
- Illustrated an empirical methodology using syntactic search and attribute analysis

Additional Meeting

- Discourse Annotation Database for Biblical Texts
- Sunday 1PM
- Columbia 1 - MM