

Relative saliency and information structure in Mark's account of the Parable of the Sower

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1. Relative saliency and non-deictic demonstratives

In Levinsohn's (2003) SBL paper "Towards a unified linguistic description of *and* *,* he claims that the near demonstrative *οὗτος* is prototypically used in narrative anaphorically to encode **thematic** or 'central' participants, especially if the referent temporarily displaces a more globally thematic participant, e.g., Simeon displacing Joseph, Mary and Jesus in Luke 2:25. On the other hand, the far demonstrative *οὗτοι* is used in similar contexts to encode **athematic** or 'non-central' participants, as in Mark 16:10-11 to refer to 'that one/those ones' as athematic while Jesus remains thematic. Levinsohn also demonstrated that these demonstratives are used to contrast competing participants, using the near demonstrative *οὗτοι* for the more salient or important of the two (cf. Mt 9:26; 12:45; Lu 18:14; Jo 1:33; 5:19, 38; 6:29; 10:6; 21:23; 1 Co 10:6, 11, 28; 1 Jo 3:3).

Let us now consider the use of demonstratives in Mark 4:14-20.¹ The near demonstrative is used in vv. 15, 16 and 18 to encode the seed scattered along the path, on the rocky ground, and among the thorns, respectively. On the other hand, the far demonstrative *οὗτοι* is used to encode the seed scattered on good soil. Is Levinsohn's claim applicable here, viz. that the unfruitful scatterings of seed are more thematically salient to the writer/editor than the fruitful scattering? This paper will consider other linguistic devices used in this pericope to evaluate this thematic/athematic distinction suggested by the use of contrasting demonstrative pronouns. We will begin with an overview of information structure, looking at how hearers process and categorize information in order to better understand how and why speakers structure their utterances.

2. Mental Representations and Information Status

As people read a text, they form a *mental representation* of the information communicated in the discourse, which has been likened to filing the information into cognitive files (Lambrecht 1994:43).

Givón states that discourse is made up of a combination of *new* and *old* information. We shall refer to the

¹ It should not be ruled out that writer/editor intended these terms to be understood deictically, as though Jesus were pointing at the very kind of ground in question. Even granting this point, the fact still remains that a distinction between the two groups has been made using the prototypically thematic *οὗτος* and the prototypically athematic *κενος*.

new information as *focal*, and the old information as *presupposed* or *topical*. *Presupposed*, *topical* information is “assumed by the speaker to be accessible to the hearer” either from the preceding text, or from a general knowledge of the world; *focal* information is “assumed by the speaker to be inaccessible to the hearer” (1992:8). *Presupposed* information serves as the “grounding point” or framework within which the *focal* information is processed (1992:8).

According to the cross-linguistic principle of ‘natural information flow’ (cf. Comrie 1989:127-128; Givón 2001:257), utterances are prototypically structured to move from what is *most* known to what is *least* known. Stated another way, *presupposed* or *topical information* by default is placed before *focal* information, as much as the syntactic typology of the language allows. Consider the following example. The bolded constituents are the **focal** information, while the plain italics are *presupposed*.

1) Default flow of information

- a) *Once upon a time there was a **handsome prince**.*
- b) *The prince **lived in a large, ornate castle**, which was surrounded by a moat.*
- c) *The prince **wanted to see the world**...*

The story begins by predicing the existence of *a handsome prince*, and only makes a *comment* about him after his activation. The second line introduces *a large, ornate castle*, and makes a comment about it using a relative clause.

3. Information Structure

3.1 Markedness [cf. Andrews (1990:9-29) in general and Levinsohn (2000:ix) for Koine Greek]

Andrew’s (1990) account of markedness proposes an asymmetrical set of oppositions where members of the set are either *marked* or *unmarked* for a particular feature. Use of a ‘*marked*’ form explicitly signals the presence of a particular feature in the context. Use of the ‘*unmarked*’ member of a set does not specify whether the feature is present. It is *unmarked* for the feature. From a methodological standpoint, we will describe the unmarked member of the opposition set as the *default*, the ‘most basic’ member. The default forms the canon against which marked forms are identified and described.

The principle of natural information flow represents the default ordering of constituents when a speaker has *no particular reason* to use a marked order or structure (Levinson 1987).² When speakers use a *marked* order, they have pragmatically chosen to signal the presence of a particular feature, such as discontinuity or added prominence. To summarize, *marked* structures, by definition, signal the presence of a particular feature in the context. On the other hand, if speakers use a *default* order, they have pragmatically chosen *not* to signal the presence of the feature. It *may* or *may not* be present, but the

² Cf. Stephen C. Levinson’s neo-Gricean pragmatic implicature expressed in his M-principle, which states that a speaker should not use a marked expression unless he or she intends some meaning other than that signaled by a default expression.

default form is unmarked for it. Thus, a default expression does not inherently mean the *opposite* of a marked expression; it simply implies that the expression is unmarked for the feature in question.

3.2 ‘Points of departure’ (PoDs)

Speakers have a certain degree of flexibility in how they structure an utterance, based on the conventions and constraints of the particular language. Utterances can be pragmatically structured to create certain effects, prototypically signaling a constituent is marked for a particular feature by moving it to an initial position in the clause or phrase, which we shall refer to as *preposing*. Preposing a constituent has one of two pragmatic effects, depending on whether the constituent is *presupposed* or *focal*.

Lambrecht (1994) has found that preposing topical information pragmatically creates a *new frame of reference* for the following clause, with several effects. While the writer/speaker could have communicated the same information by placing the constituent in its default position, preposing a noun phrase (NP) or an adverbial expression of place, time, or situation, creates a disruption or *discontinuity* in the flow of the text by signaling a non-default switch in the context [Buth refers to this as a ‘break structure.’] A second effect is that this preposed topical constituent becomes the primary basis of relating the discourse that precedes the constituent with the discourse that follows it (Levinsohn 2000:8, Dooley and Levinsohn 2001:68-69). We shall refer to clause-initial presupposed constituents as *points of departure* or *PoDs*, following Levinsohn (2000:8), and identify them graphically by underlining. Let us now consider the pragmatic effect of preposing focal information.

3.3 Proposed Focal Constituents (PFCs)

When both topical and focal information are preposed, Dik (1978) has found that languages place the topical information before focal information, as expected based on the principle of natural information flow (cf. Lambrecht 1994). The default position for focal constituents is as close to the end of the clause as the typology of the language allows. Preposing the focal constituent pragmatically gives it *marked prominence* it would not have naturally received in its default position. It reflects the writer’s choice to mark the constituent as relatively more salient than the others in the context. The pragmatic effect of preposing focal constituents has long been recognized, but is usually referred to as placing ‘emphasis’ on the constituent (cf. BDF §472(2)). We will refer to preposed focal constituents using the abbreviation *PFCs*, and identify them graphically using **bolding**.

This study considers the following constituent order to be the most basic and unmarked order in NT Greek when all constituents are present, as informed by the principles of natural information flow and of language typology (cf. Lehmann 1978, 1989).

2) Proposed unmarked constituent orders of nuclear clauses in NT Greek³

PoD—PFC—Verb—Pronoun(s)—Subject—Complement(s)—Adjuncts

This diagram describes the expected order if all constituents are present. If one or more clause constituents is preposed before the verb, we will construe this as being pragmatically motivated.

Compare the pragmatic effects of changing the structures found in **Appendix 1**.

A constituent's discourse context determines whether it should be construed as presupposed or focal. Consider the pragmatic change to the word *yesterday* depending upon the context it occurs in.

3) Presupposed versus focal: the importance of discourse context

- a) *What did you been doing?*
Yesterday, I arrived. (Today, I am going fishing.)
- b) *When did you arrive?*
Yesterday I arrived. (as opposed to some other day).

Both (3a) and (3b) contain the exact same clause, but *yesterday* plays a different pragmatic role in each, based on the context. In (3a), *yesterday* functions as a PoD to establish a specific temporal frame of reference. Notice that *today* in the following clause serves the same purpose, with the pragmatic effect of establishing a contrast between *yesterday* and *today*. In the case of (3b), *yesterday* is the missing element of the question, and thus it is focal.

4. Analysis of information structure in Mark 4:14-20

There are a several factors which serve to separate the unfruitful plantings from the fruitful:

- changes in the utilization of marked constituent order,
- lexical changes in the use of demonstratives, and
- changes in verbal aspect.

Each of these issues will be discussed below. Their overall contribution to the pericope's interpretation will be presented in the final section.

4.1 The Structuring of the Account

Mark's explanation of the parable begins in v. 14 by explaining what the seed symbolizes using a very tidy marked clause _____ ‘The sower the word sows’. The sower is reactivated from the original parable using a PoD to indicate a new topic, and the explanation of what he sows is preposed for marked focus, highlighting the identification of ‘the seed’ as ‘the word’. Mark's explanation makes regular use of such marked structures.

³ For a fuller treatment of constituent ordering principles, cf. Levinsohn (2000:1-62), on which my explanation is based.

First, Mark's account uses non-default constituent order to *structure* the pericope, viz. the repeated use of preposed demonstrative pronouns to begin each new segment of the explanation (cf. vv. 15a, 16a, 18a, 20a). But while the Matthean and Lukan accounts use the demonstratives in referential PoDs to signal the transition to a new segment, Mark uses the pronouns *cataphorically* as PFCs, 'pointing ahead' to highlight an 'antecedent' which *follows* the pronoun. For instance, in v. 15 he writes

, 'These are the ones along the path'. By default, as a pronominal element would be expected to immediately follow the verb.⁴ Mark's strategy has the same type of effect as the other accounts, but is achieved via a different path by *cataphorically* highlighting the referent before introducing it.

Mark's account also uses non-default structures to *highlight* the location of the scatterings. In vv. 15a, 16a, 18a, and 20a, each demonstrative is followed by a NP specifying the location of the scattering. Verse 15a uses a relative clause to grammaticalize the scattering, , 'where the word was scattered'. The choice of the relative clause affords the writer/editor another opportunity to reinforce the correlation of 'the seed' to 'the word'. Each of the following segments will grammaticalize the scattering using a participial phrase, e.g., μ 'the ones **on the rocky place** scattered' in v. 16a. Preposing the focal information of the prepositional phrases adds prominence to *where* the seed fell.

Second, while each segment of Mark's explanation utilizes nearly parallel structures to introduce the scatterings, distinctions between the fruitful and unfruitful scatterings are made using other devices. The unfruitful scatterings each use present tense/imperfective aspect to grammaticalize the act of scattering.⁵ This stands in contrast to the aorist tense/perfective aspect found describing the fruitful scattering in v. 20a. Perfective aspect is the most unmarked, portraying the action as an undifferentiated whole; imperfective aspect marks the action as ongoing or incomplete, allowing attention to be given to some facet within the action (Porter 1992:21ff.). The choice to grammaticalize the first three scatterings using imperfective aspect opens the door for more attention to be given to the actions or results. In contrast, the final scattering in Mark is viewed as a complete, undifferentiated whole. These differences

⁴ Cf. Mt 20:21; 25:46; Jn 6:5. The vast majority of occurrences using are marked, either points of departure or preposed focal constituents. This is where our definition of markedness is crucial, in that we do not take the most *frequently* occurring form or position to be default. Instead, the most *basic* form is selected as default, and forms the canon against which marked forms are described.

One should not be surprised that the demonstrative is utilized so frequently for marked constructions since demonstratives are virtually the only pronominal option for anaphorically referring to presupposed propositions, cf. Gundel, Hedberg and Zacharski (2004).

⁵ Though v. 15a does not use a participle, the verb in the subordinate relative clause, functionally parallel to the participles in vv. 16a and 18a, is nonetheless present passive.

in verbal aspect match the differences in the kind of description the results of each scattering receives (see below).

Third, the scatterings are differentiated by lexical changes in the use of demonstratives. As noted above, is used to refer to the three unfruitful scatterings, while is used to refer to the fruitful one. An important clarification must be made though. In the explanation of the seed falling among the thorns in v. 18a, the cataphoric pronoun is *not* , but 'other', a correlative pronoun. Correlatives are prototypically used to link non-initial members of a correlated set. The correlative can be used for each non-initial member of the set, explicitly linking each to the other (e.g., Mt 13:4-8; 13:24, 31, 33). This is the strategy Mark uses in the parable itself (cf. Mk 4:5, 7, 8).

There is no exact parallel in Mark to the usage of only with the final member of the set, as found here in 4:18a. However, Mark does create a similar effect by using for all but the final item, where the writer/editor creates a distinction between the correlated set and the final item (cf. Mk 6:15-16; 8:28-29; 12:3-6). The effect created in the explanation of the Sower parable is to *separate* the scattering in the good soil from the other scatterings, corroborating the apparent distinction between the groups of seed created by varying the use of demonstratives and the use of verbal aspect mentioned above. Though the correlative pronoun is used cataphorically in v. 18a, the demonstrative is used in v. 18b as a PoD to reassert the preceding topic, and thus links with the other scatterings introduced by by virtue of the repetition.

4.2 Highlighting within the Account

Mention has already been made of how PFCs are used to give added prominence to focal information (viz., preposing the prepositional phrases in vv. 16a, 18a and 20a). Mark also makes use of marked constituent order to highlight certain aspects of the results of the scatterings. The relative clauses of v. 15b and 16b share a similar structure. Both begin by establishing an explicit cognitive framework for the clause that follows using a temporal PoD, ...⁶ 'when they would hear...' The default position for subordinate adverbial adjuncts, according to our framework, is clause-final. Preposing it establishes a specific temporal frame of reference for the clause that follows. This indicates that the primary basis for relating what follows to the preceding discourse is as a switch from the one *sowing* to the ones *hearing*, concentrating specifically on what happened *when* they heard.

⁶ The NP is likely elided in v. 15b is due to the presence of ὁ λόγος in the preceding relative clause. Verse 16 does not contain such an occurrence; hence the explicit object NP in 16b.

Both relative clauses also prepose adverbial constituents to highlight the *manner* in which the following action takes place. In v. 15b, ‘immediately’ is preposed to highlight how quickly ‘Satan comes and takes the word *which was sown in them*⁷’. In v. 16b, a second adverb is preposed, highlighting that the hearers not only responded *quickly*, but *with joy*. Verse 17b describes these hearers using the preposed focal constituent or *short-lived*, an implicit consequence of not having roots.⁸

Verse 17c elaborates on the circumstances contributing to the plants’ fleeting existence. The verse begins with two temporal frames: *then*, to indicate that what follows is closely linked chronologically to what precedes (viz., immediately and with great joy receiving the word), and the second outlining the circumstances that lead to their demise, grammaticalized using a genitive absolute circumstantial clause.⁹ Thus 17c could be translated “Then, when affliction and persecution come about on account of the word, **immediately** they turn away.” The adverb is preposed before the nuclear verb, highlighting that just as quickly as they received the word, these hearers fall away.

In addition to the cataphoric use of the correlative discussed in the previous section, it is also important to note the preposing of focal information in vv. 19a and 19b. Based on the parable told in 4:1-9, the reader presupposes that *something* chokes out the seed, allegorized as weeds. While the *manner* was highlighted describing seed scattered along the path and on the rocky place, the *instrument* is highlighted in the description of the weeds. The term or *unfruitful* is also preposed, clearly highlighting the poor *results* of this scattering. Note that Matthew preposes both the instruments and the result (cf. 13:22c), while Luke only preposes the instruments (cf. 8:14c).

Finally, and in stark contrast to the unfruitful scatterings, the description of the seed scattered upon the good soil makes no use of marked constructions other than the initial description of the location (i.e., ‘*the ones on the good soil scattered*’). One would think that if this segment were the most salient of the four, the ‘*thirty-, sixty- and hundred-fold*’ return on the

⁷ The appositional modifier μ is semantically unnecessary, and likely functions to sharpen the contrast that what had only just been sown is now being taken away. Cf. Porter (1982:39-41.) for the significance of using the perfect tense in such a context.

⁸ Note the preposing of in Luke’s version (8:13c), giving more prominence than Mark to the factor leading to being short-lived.

⁹ Cf. the study of Healey and Healey (1990) on genitives absolute. They found that all but three or four of the 313 tokens found in the GNT do not have the same subject as that of the main clause verb (ibid., 187). Genitive circumstantial clauses stand in stark contrast to *nominative* circumstantial clauses, the vast majority of which have the *same* subject as the following nuclear clause. Levinsohn concludes that genitive absolute circumstantial clauses, particularly those sharing a common subject referent with the *preceding* main clause, “anticipates the appearance of new participants who will perform a significant action that changes the direction of the story” (Levinsohn 2000:182).

seed would be given more prominence by preposing or some other linguistic device. Interestingly enough, the other synoptic traditions (with a minor exception in Luke¹⁰) do not use marked devices either. With the analysis complete, we are now able to draw some conclusions regarding the relative salience of the different scatterings, as indicated by information structure and other linguistic devices.

5. Conclusions

We have looked at a number of linguistic devices which help to grammaticalize how the writer/editor conceptualized the explanation of the Parable of the Sower. We observed the ways that marked constituent order was used at the discourse level to organize the pericope, breaking the explanation into four distinct segments. Such structures were also used at the clause level for establishing PoDs, which set new cognitive frames of reference for the clause that followed, and established links back to the preceding discourse. We also observed the preposing of focal constituents to highlight them as being relatively more salient than the other constituents in the clause. The description of the scatterings along the path and on the rocky place used PFCs to highlight the *manner*, while in the scattering among the thorns a PFC highlighted the *instrument*, preposing an average of two constituents per segment. In the description of the fruitful scattering, on the other hand, the writer/editor gave no marked prominence to any constituent after the introduction in v. 20a. It is as though the seed scattered on good soil produced the expected result, whereas the other scatterings produced seemingly *unexpected* results. There are two options here.

The first option is that Mark is simply trusting that the natural prominence of mentioning the fruitful scattering last is sufficient to indicate that it was most salient to him. But in light of the contrasting use of marked structures, combined with the apparent distinction made between the unfruitful and fruitful using the near and far demonstrative, this option is highly dubious. The interpretation I would advocate in light of these linguistic data is that Mark pragmatically structured his explanation of the parable so as to highlight the various ‘roadblocks to a bountiful spiritual harvest’ as being more salient than ‘good soil bearing a good crop’. The hearer of the parable might well have expected poor results based on the description of the first three scatterings. There are few marked constituents in the actual parable (with the exception of vv. 6b and 7d), creating the impression that each scattering is equally salient. However, the *spiritual factors* contributing to the unfruitfulness of the scatterings, as disclosed in the explanation, would *not* have been expected. For this reason, it is quite reasonable to conclude that Mark uses these linguistic devices in order to focus his readers’ attention on the pitfalls to spiritual growth that should be avoided.

¶ Cf. use of produced is not highlighted at all.

to describe the *manner* in which the ‘good soil’ hears the word. The crop

Such an interpretation is reasonable in light of current research. Gundry (1993) comments on the linguistic devices which serve to separate the unfruitful scatterings from the fruitful, but he draws no conclusion regarding salience. France (2002:207) notes that the final group receives little interpretation compared to the others, without mentioning the conventions used to delineate the groups. Finally, Mann (1986:267-68) states, “The end of the explanation of the parable is an anti-climax. So intent are all three versions in the synoptic gospels on the failures and shortcomings of the previous types that the triumph of the word in the fully converted is almost omitted. Certainly the harvest is left to explain itself.”

Though the other synoptic traditions do not make a comparable distinction between the fruitful and unfruitful scatterings using *demonstratives*, our preliminary survey points toward a comparable weighting of the unfruitful scatterings using *other devices*. Further study is needed to verify these preliminary conclusions.

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Appendix 1: The pragmatic effects of preposing various kinds of constituents

4) Illustration of *default* versus *marked* ordering in English

a) *Preposing temporal expressions for a new temporal frame of reference:*

Default: John went outside after dinner. *OR* John ate dinner and went outside.

Marked: After dinner, John went outside. *OR* John ate dinner, then he went outside.

b) *Preposing nominal constituents for a new referential frame of reference*

Default: John went outside after dinner.

Marked: As for John, he went outside after dinner.

c) *Preposing certain prepositional phrases for a new spatial frame of reference:*

Default: John finished eating dinner in the kitchen and went outside.

Marked: In the kitchen, John finished eating dinner and then went outside.

d) *Preposing conditional clauses for an explicit conditional frame of reference:*

Default: John will not go outside if he doesn't finish eating dinner.

Marked: If John doesn't finish eating dinner, he will not go outside.

e) *Preposing 'new' information for marked focus (PFC):*

i) What were you working on?

Default: I was working on my **paper**.

Marked: **It was my paper** (I was working on).

ii) When did you arrive?

Default: I arrived yesterday.

Marked: Yesterday I arrived.

5) Illustration of *default* versus *marked* ordering in Koine Greek

a) *Preposing temporal expressions for a new temporal frame of reference:*

Default: and immediately comes the enemy when they would hear . (variations on Mark 4:15b)

Marked: and when they would hear immediately comes the enemy.

b) *Preposing nominal constituents for a new referential frame of reference:*

Default: sows the sower the word . (variations on Mark 4:14a)

Marked: the sower sows the word .

c) *Preposing certain prepositional phrases for a new spatial frame of reference:*

Default: and fell other on the rocky place where not had soil much . (variations on Mark 4:5)

Marked: and on the rocky ground fell some where not had soil much

d) *Preposing conditional clauses for an explicit conditional frame of reference:*

Default: what for reward you have if you should love those loving ; (var. on Matt 5:46)

Marked: if for you should love those loving ; what reward you have?

Appendix 2: Synoptic Accounts of the Explanation of the Parable of the Sower

Matthew 13:19-23

19 _____

μ

20

21

22

23

Mark 4:14-20

14
15

μ

16

17

18

19

20

μ

Luke 8:11-15

11

12

13

13

1

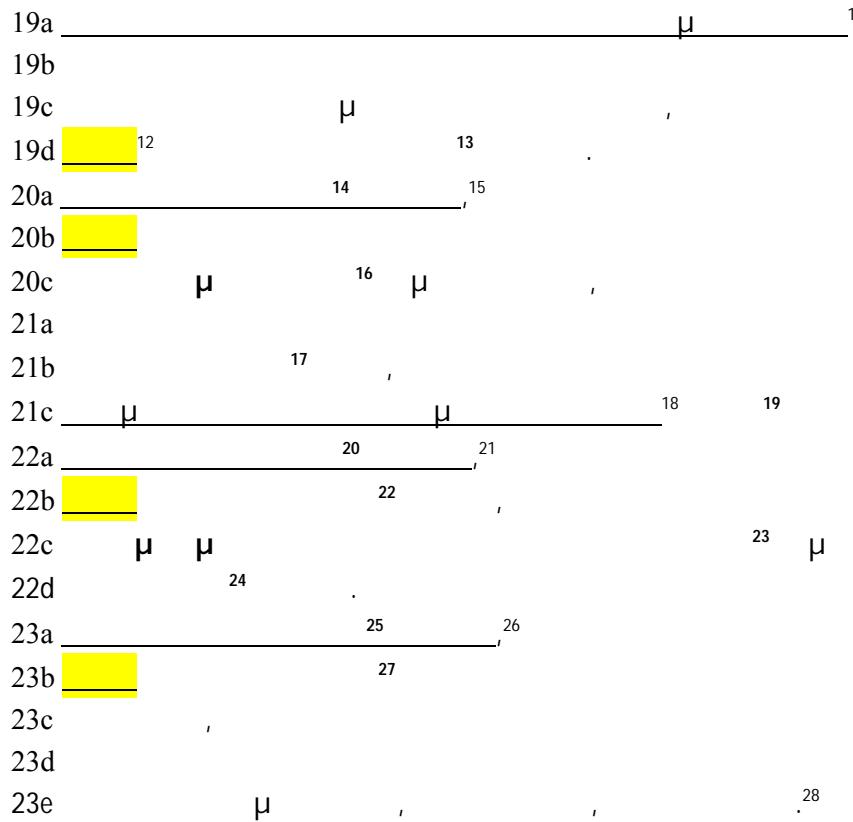
14

15

1

Information structure analysis of each Gospel:

Matthew 13:19-23



¹¹ Underlined clause is a left-dislocated phrase—syntactically independent from the following main clauses—to activate a new topic. This dislocated phrase establishes the framework within which the following predications hold (cf. Li and Thompson (1976); Chafe (1976)). Verse 19a is coreferent with in 19d.

¹² Referential point of departure resumes topic established in 19a.

¹³ Marked focal constituent within the point of departure highlights the place where the seed is sown.

¹⁴ Marked focal constituent within the point of departure highlights the place where the seed is sown.

¹⁵ Underlined clause is left-dislocated with respect to v. 20b to establish a new topic, resumed by .

¹⁶ Marked focal constituents highlight the manner in which the word is received, *immediately* and *with joy*.

¹⁷ Marked focal constituent highlights the duration of the plants existence.

¹⁸ Initial clause establishes a temporal point of departure as the basis for relating what follows to what precedes.

¹⁹ Marked focal constituent highlights the manner in which the person falls away, *immediately*.

²⁰ Marked focal constituent within the point of departure highlights the place where the seed is sown.

²¹ Underlined clause is left-dislocated with respect to v. 22b to establish a new topic, resumed by .

²² Marked focal constituent within the participial phrase highlights what was heard. Contrast with Mt. 13:19a, Mk 4:20b.

²³ The parable presupposes that *something* chokes the growth of the seeds (cf. v. 7), and the marked focal constituent highlights the means of choking.

²⁴ Marked focal constituent highlights the resulting state of the seed, *unfruitful*.

²⁵ Marked focal constituent within the point of departure highlights the place where the seed is sown.

²⁶ Underlined clause is left-dislocated with respect to v. 23b to establish a new topic, resumed by .

²⁷ Marked focal constituent within the participial phrase highlights what was heard. Contrast with Mt 13:19a, Mk 4:20b.

²⁸ Verse 23d is a continuative relative clause which provides further description of the left-dislocated topic of v. 23a.

Mark 4:14-20

14a	29	30	.	.
15a	31	.	.	.
15b	32	33	.	.
15c		μ	.	.
16a	34	35	μ	,
16b	36	37	μ	.
17a			.	.
17b	38	,	.	.
17c	μ	μ	39	.
18a	40	41	μ	.
18b	42	,	.	.
19a	μ	μ	43	μ
	μ	μ		.
19b	44			.
20a	45	46		.
20b				.
20c				.
20d				.

²⁹ Referential point of departure for a marked to switch to a different topic.

³⁰ Marked focal constituent highlights the new information of the clause.

³¹ Marked focal constituent cataphorically highlights the new topic by preposing the demonstrative pronoun.

³² Temporal point of departure to establish the temporal frame of reference for what follows.

³³ Marked focal constituent highlights the manner in which the enemy comes.

³⁴ Marked focal constituent cataphorically highlights the new topic μ by preposing the demonstrative pronoun.

³⁵ Marked focal constituent within the participial phrase highlights the place where the seeds were sown.

³⁶ Temporal point of departure to establish the temporal frame of the continuative relative clause which it begins.

³⁷ Marked focal constituents highlight the manner in which the word is received, *immediately* and *with joy*.

³⁸ Marked focal constituent highlights the duration of the plants existence.

³⁹ Marked focal constituent highlights the manner in which the person falls away, *immediately*.

⁴⁰ Marked focal constituent cataphorically highlights the new topic μ by preposing the correlative pronoun. Use of correlative—instead of the proximate demonstrative —indicates the end of correlated entities. Compare to Mt 13:4, 5, 7, 8; 13:1, 24, 31, 33; 20:1, 3, 6; and Mk. 4:4, 5, 7, 8; where correlative pronouns are used for each non-initial entity of the correlated set, including the last. Contrast with Mk 12:3, 4, 5, 6 where the final related member of the set is contrasted with the other members of the set. Similar usages are found in Mk 6:14, 15, 16; 8:28, 29.

⁴¹ Marked focal constituent within the participial phrase highlights the place where the seeds were sown.

⁴² Marked focal constituent within the participial phrase highlights what was heard. Contrast with Mark 4:20b.

⁴³ The parable presupposes that *something* chokes the growth of the seeds (cf. v. 7), and the marked focal constituents highlight the *means* of the choking.

⁴⁴ Marked focal constituent highlights the resulting state of the seed, *unfruitful*.

⁴⁵ Marked focal constituent cataphorically highlights the new topic by preposing the demonstrative.

⁴⁶ Marked focal constituent within the participial phrase highlights the place where the seeds were sown.

Luke 8:11-15

11a

11b _____⁴⁷

12a _____⁴⁸

12b _____⁴⁹

12c

12d μ

13a _____⁵⁰

13b _____⁵¹ μ⁵²

13c  ⁵³

13d ⁵⁴

13e _____ μ⁵⁵

14a _____⁵⁶,⁵⁷

14b 

14c μ μ⁵⁸ μ μ

14d

15a _____⁵⁹

15b  ⁶⁰

15c μ

⁴⁷ Referential point of departure for a marked to switch to a different topic.

⁴⁸ Referential point of departure for a marked to switch to a different topic.

⁴⁹ Temporal point of departure to establish the temporal frame for the clause which it begins.

⁵⁰ Left dislocated referential point of departure for a marked switch to a different topic for the continuative relative clause in v. 13b, resumed by _____ in v. 13c.

⁵¹ Temporal point of departure to establish the temporal frame for the continuative relative clause which it begins.

⁵² Marked focal constituent highlights the manner in which the word is received, *with joy*.

⁵³ Marked focal constituent highlights what these plants are missing, *roots*.

⁵⁴ Marked focal constituent highlights the duration for which the word is believed, *for a time*.

⁵⁵ Temporal point of departure to establish the temporal frame for the clause which it begins.

⁵⁶ Marked focal constituent within the point of departure highlights the place where the seed is sown.

⁵⁷ Left dislocated referential point of departure for a marked to switch to a different topic, resumed by _____ in the following clause.

⁵⁸ The parable presupposes that *something* chokes the growth of the seeds (cf. v. 7), and the marked focal constituent highlights the means of choking.

⁵⁹ Left dislocated referential point of departure for a marked to switch to a different topic, resumed by _____ in the following clause.

⁶⁰ Marked focal constituent highlights the inner qualities of some who hear the word and respond favorably.

