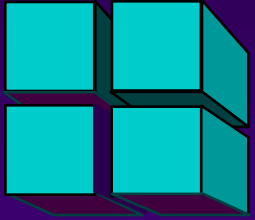


E. Intermediate Theory of Syntax



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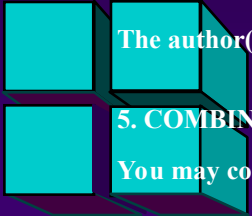
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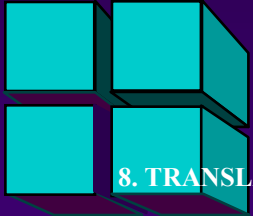
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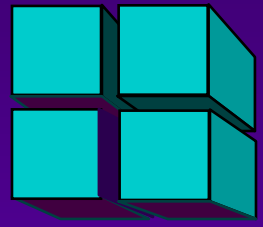
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1. General Structure of Language



Where Are We Going?

**Establish a framework for
understanding language.**

To evaluate tense and case.

To avoid overreading.

To evaluate Bible translations.

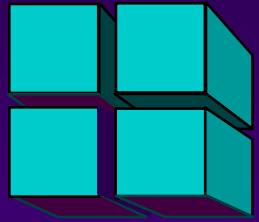


Where Are We Going?

**We want a framework for
understanding how language works.**

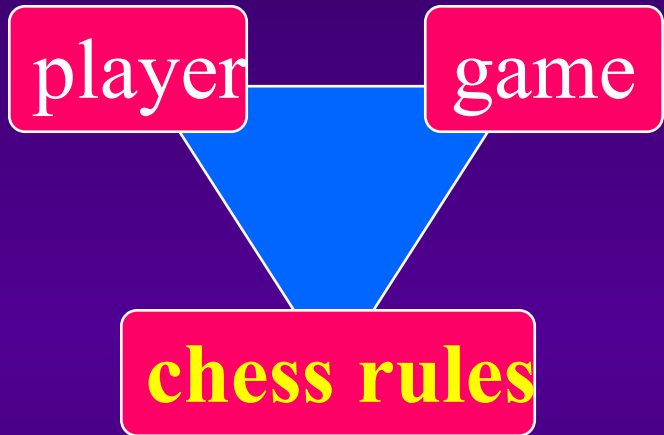
**Enabling us to evaluate tense and case,
and avoid overreading.**

**Enabling us to evaluate Bible
translations.**

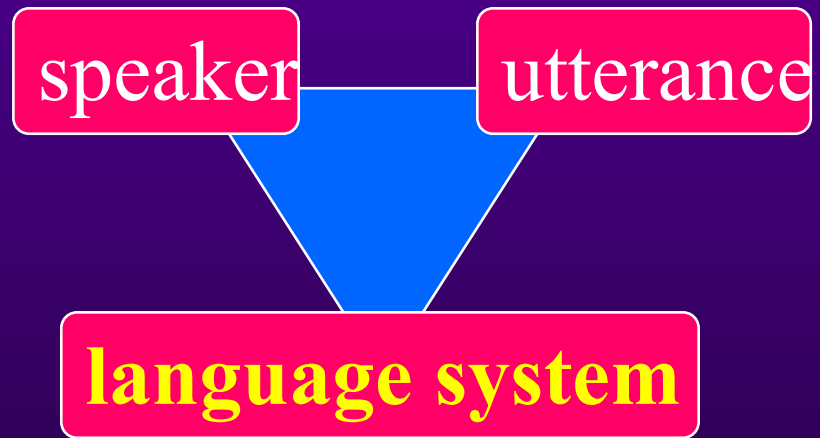


Language and Chess

Chess has a system of rules.



Language likewise.

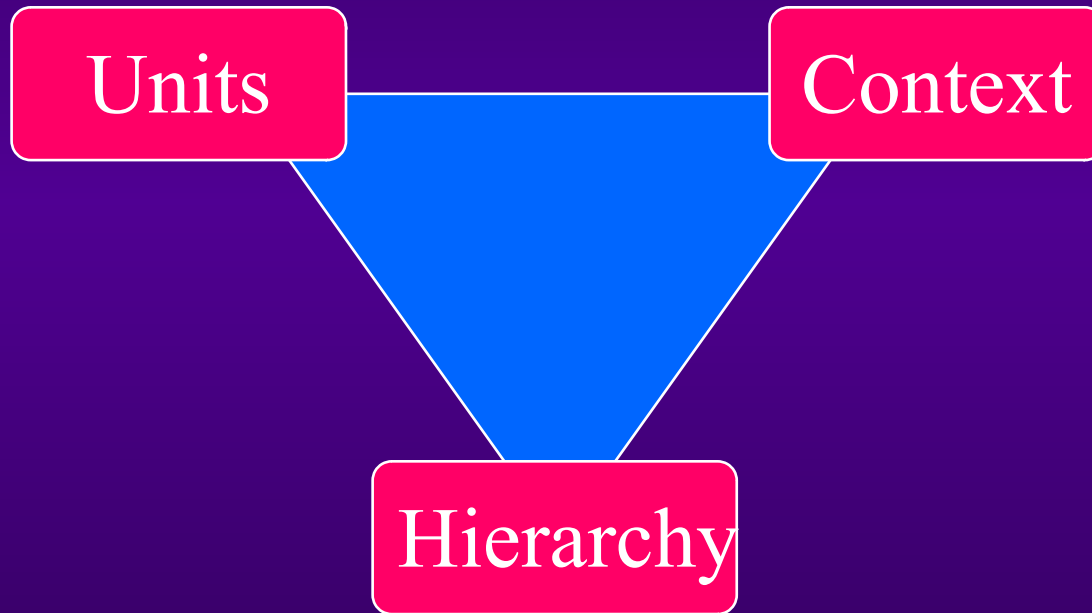


Learn the game.



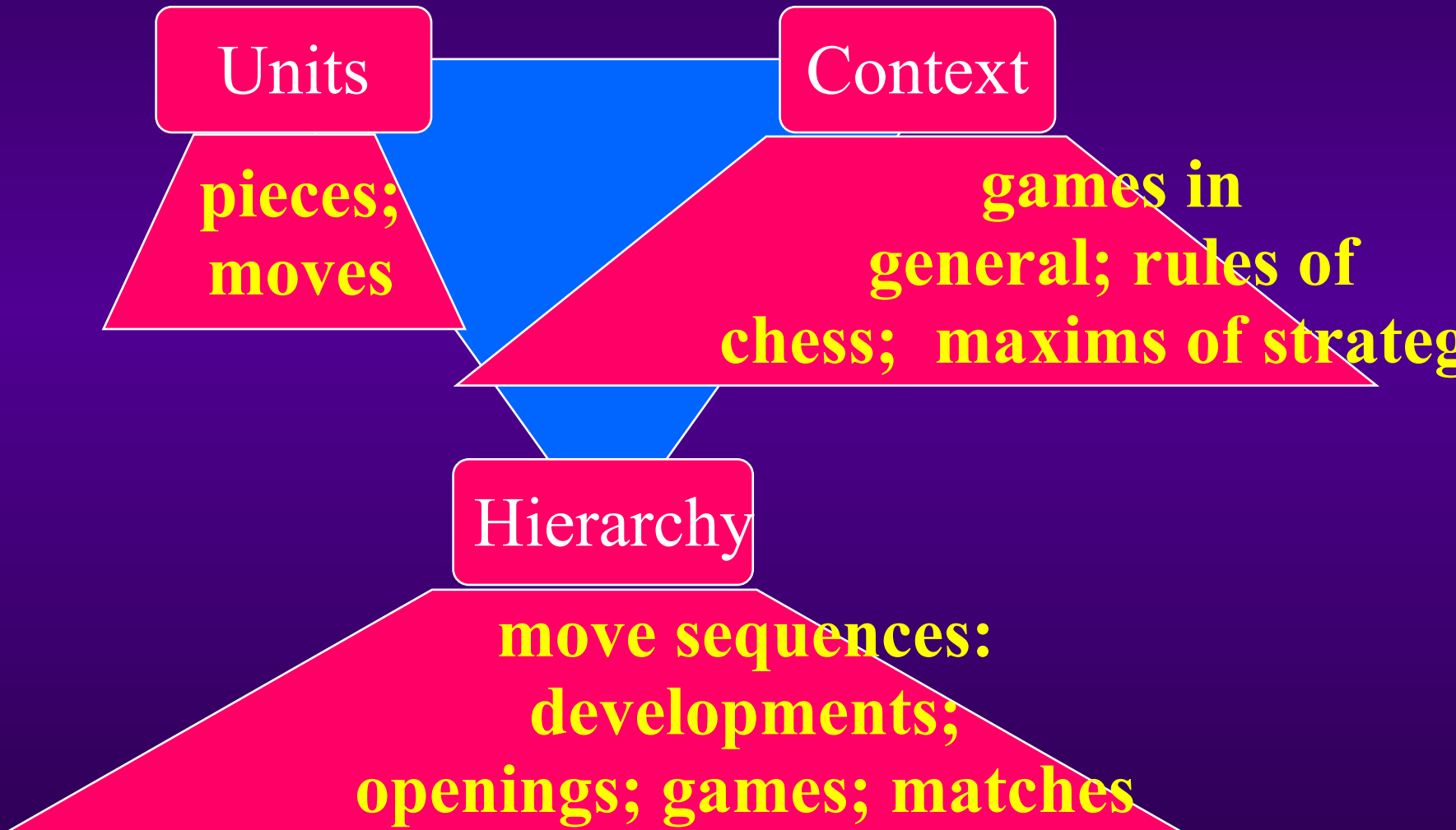


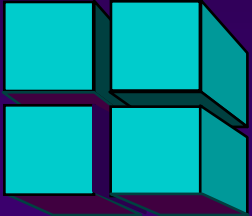
Aspects of Meaning



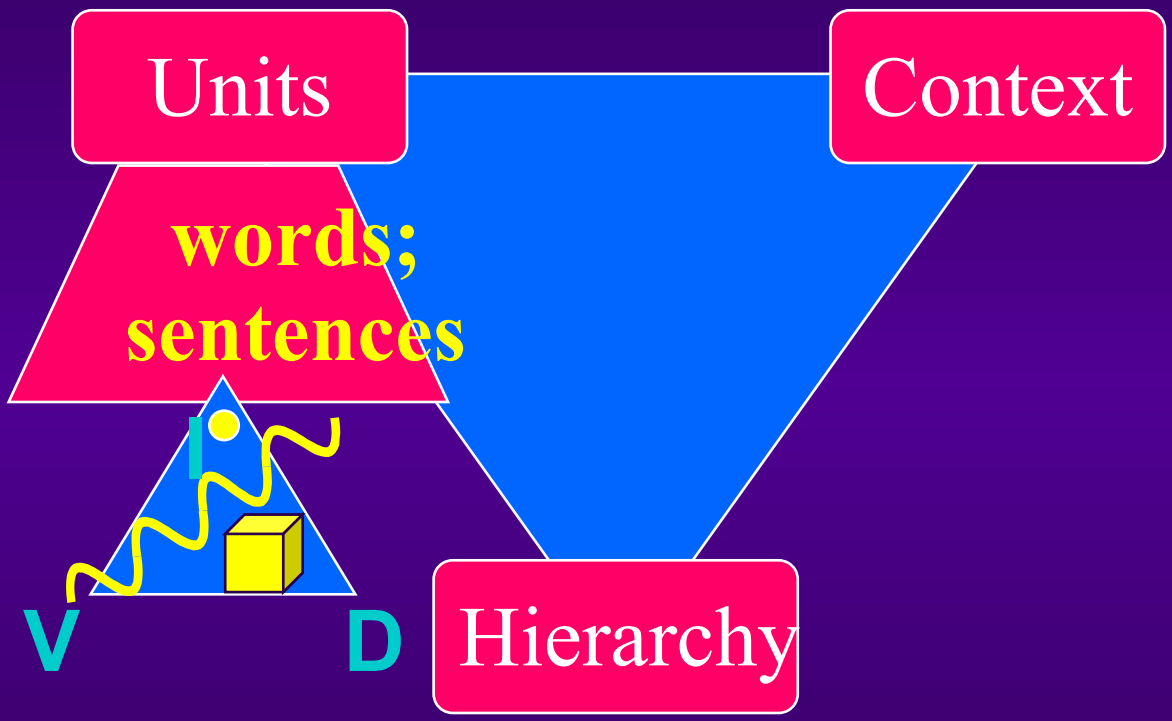


Meaning in Chess



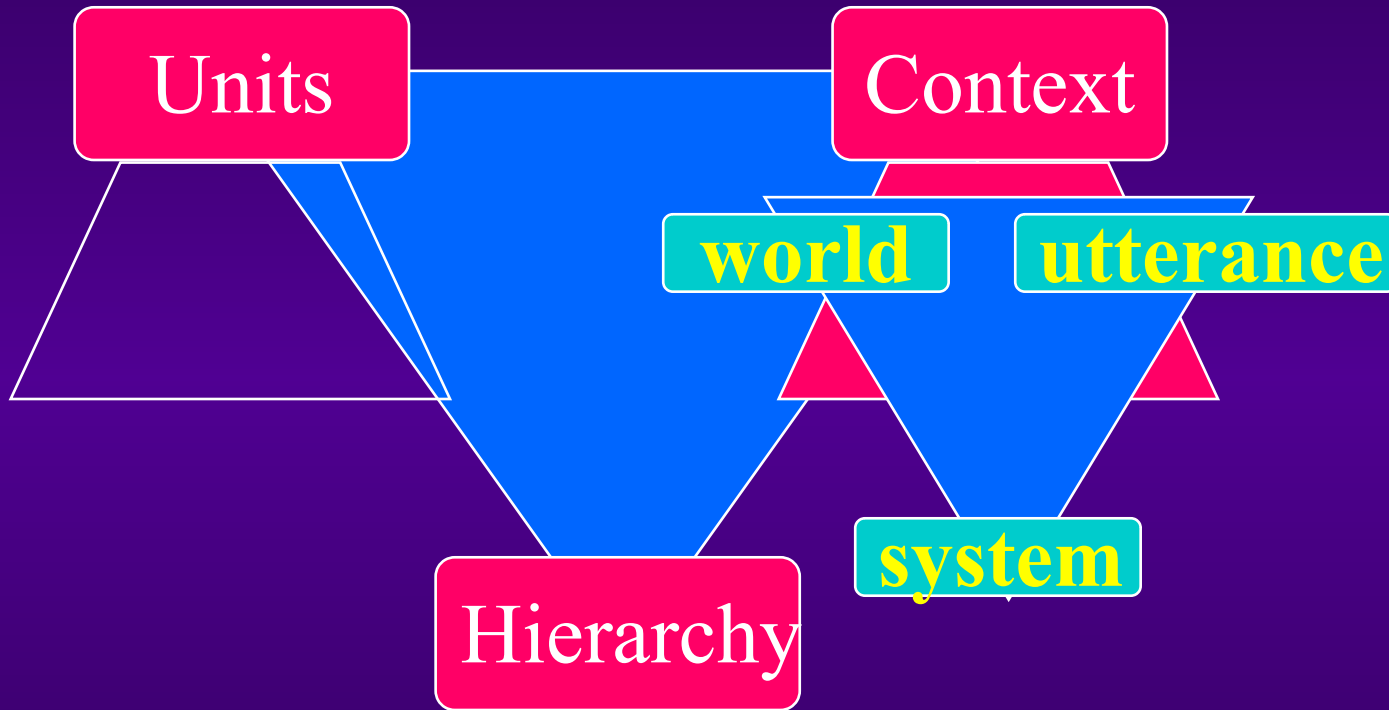


Meaning in Language: Unit





Meaning in Context





Language in God

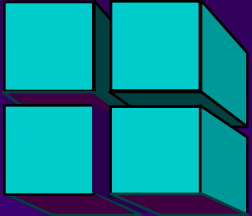


Let there be light.

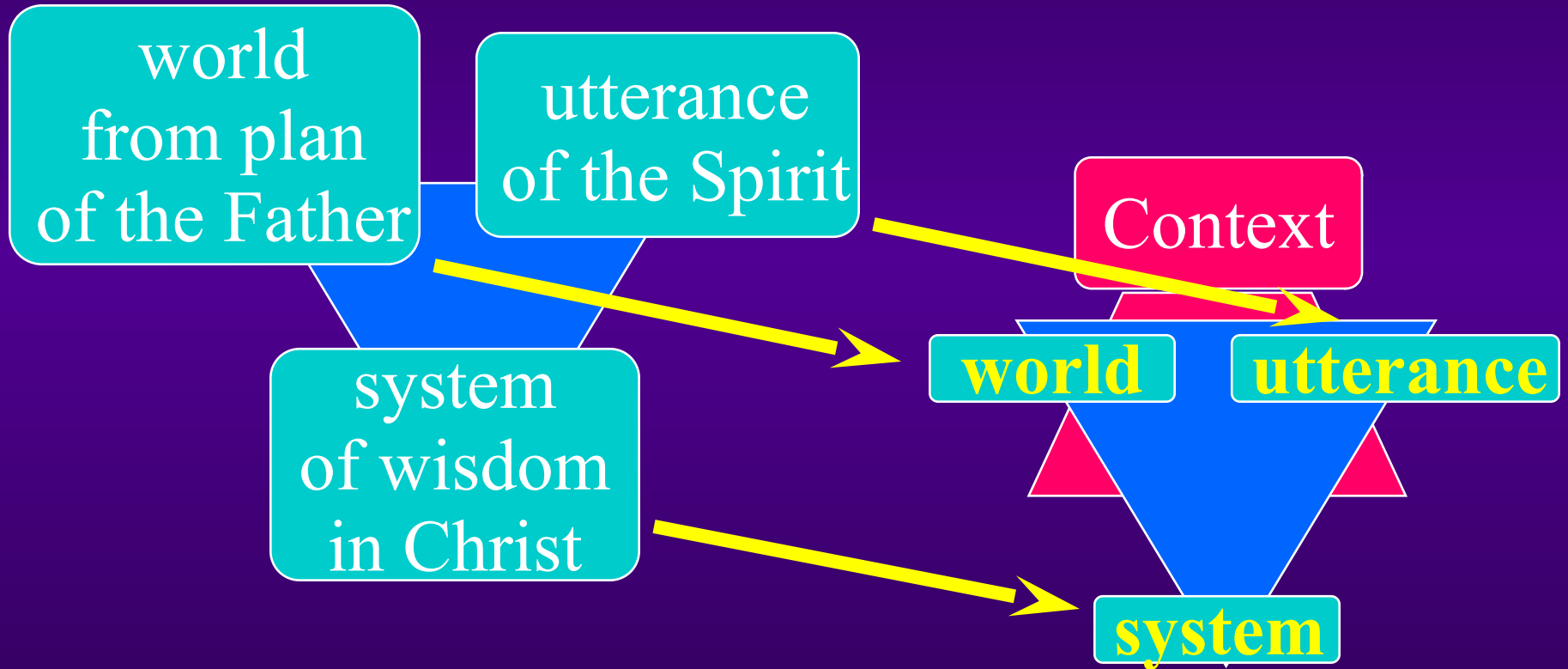
Plan of the Father

Particular utterance through the breath of the Spirit

all wisdom in Christ the Logos

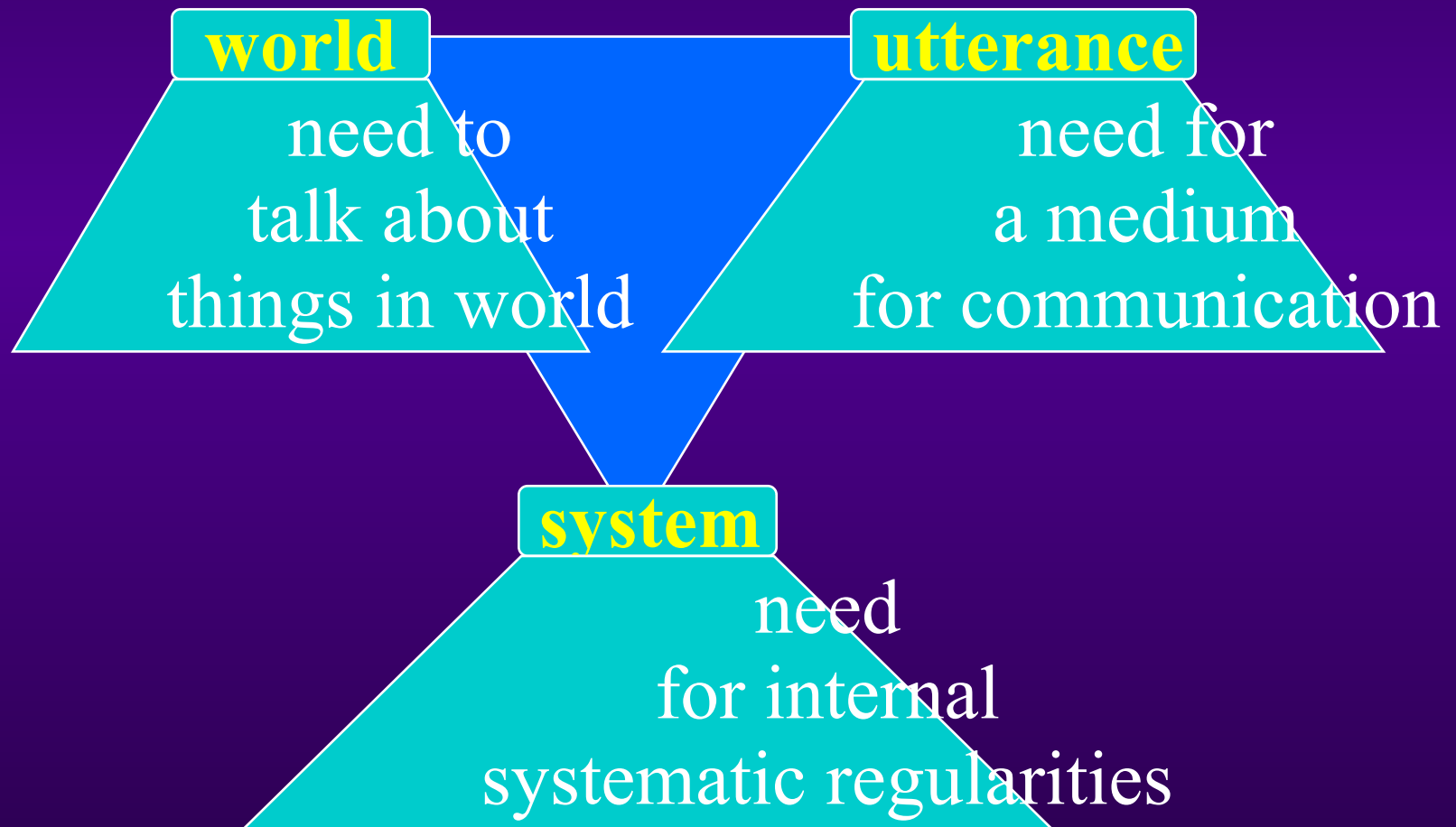


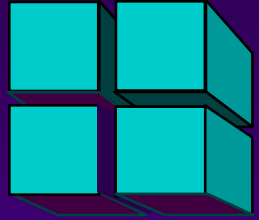
Kinds of Context



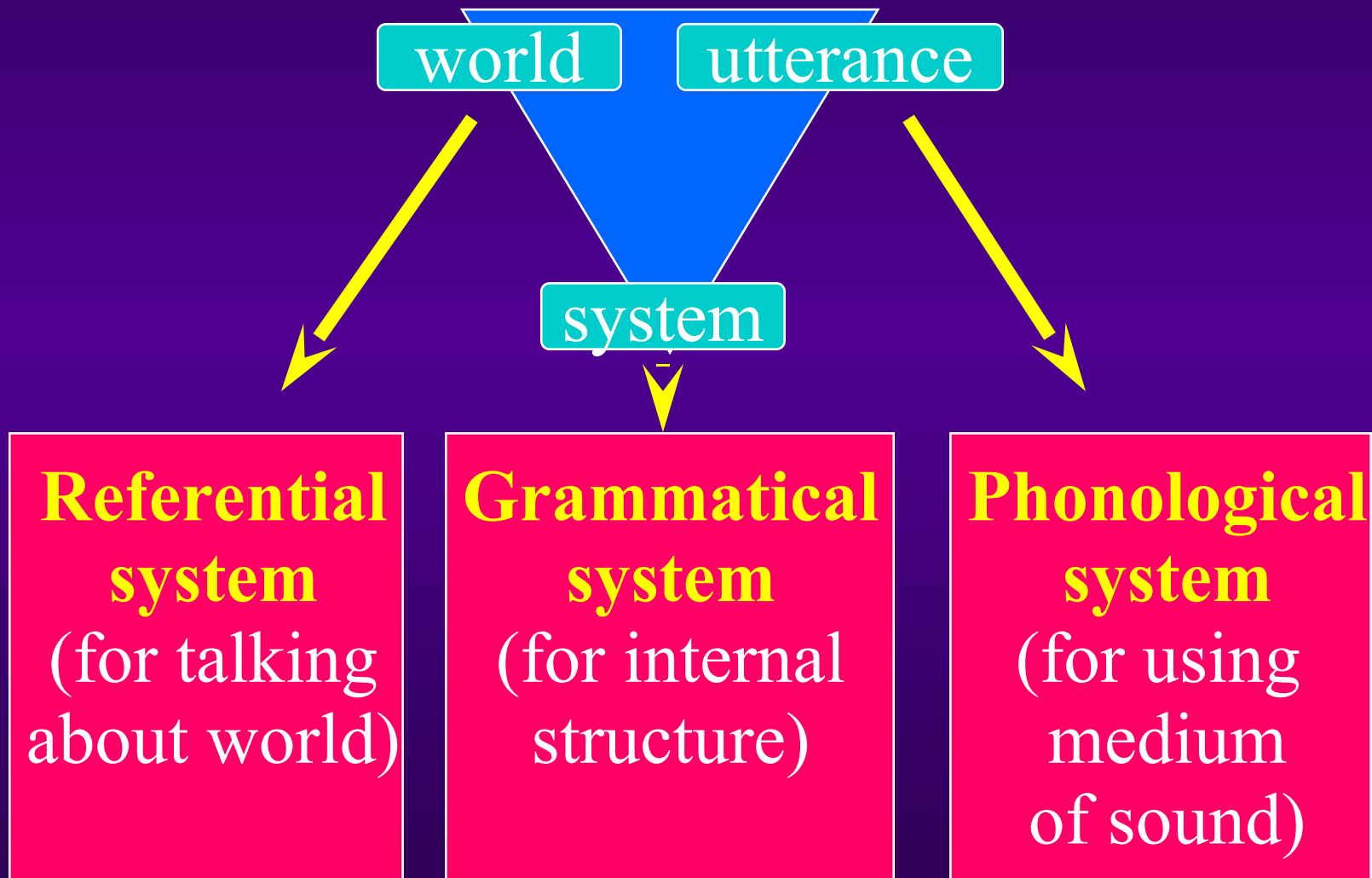


Language Needs



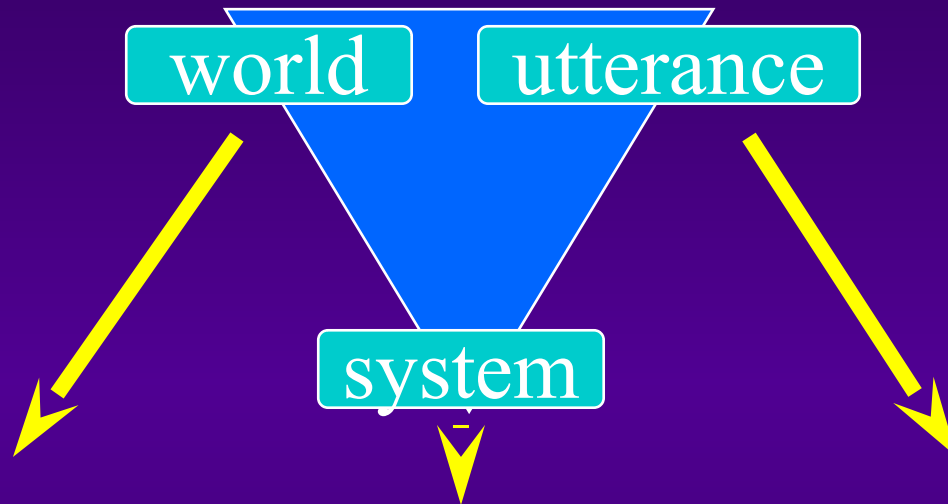


Language Subsystems





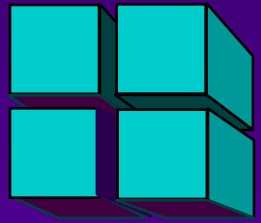
Language Subsystems



Referential system
(resources for talking about world)

Grammatical system
(resources for internal structure)

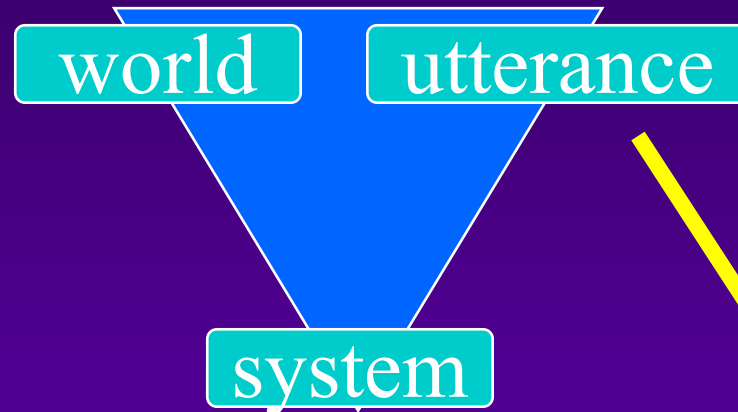
Phonological system
(resources for using medium of sound)



2. *Phonological Subsystem*



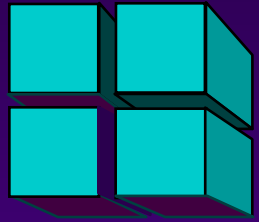
Origin of Phonology



Referential system
(for talking about world)

Grammatical system
(for internal structure)

Phonological system
(for using sound)



Phonology of Greek

bilabial

dental

velar

voiced

αβ^βα

αδ^δα

αγ^γα

voiceless

απ^πα

ατ^τα

ακ^κα

aspirated

αφ^φα

αθ^θα

αχ^χα

vs.

English

b

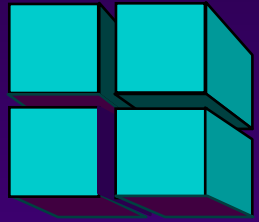
d

g

p

t

k



Sounds of Words in English

Actual words

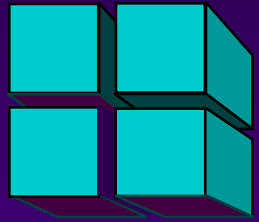
bet
pet
vet
debt
set
let
met
net
get
yet

Might-Be words

fet
ket
shet
chet
slet
spet
spret
glet

Couldn't-Be

pnet
pset
kset
mnet
shlet
χet
r̃et
p̃et
l̃et
l>et



Sounds of Words in Greek

beta

peta

* veta

deta

seta

leta

meta

neta

geta

yeta

feta

keta

* sheta

* cheta

* sleta

speta

* spreta

gleta

pnet

pset

kset

mnet

* shlet

χet

~ret

* p̃et

* l̃et

* l̃>et

Different
from English.



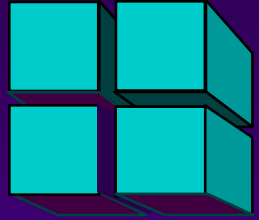


Principles for Phonology

Sound system exists.

Phonological system differs among languages.

In writing, a graphic system.



Principles for Phonology

There is a distinctive sound system or phonological system, semi-independent of subject matter.

The phonological system differs from one language to another.

In writing it is converted to a graphic system.



Phonology Contributing

Phonology contributes indirectly, by identifying words.

Sometimes directly, through sound play.



Phonology Contributing

Phonology contributes mostly indirectly, through identifying the words.

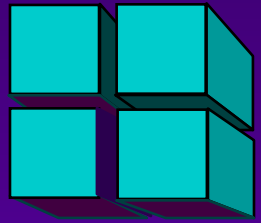
But sometimes it directly, through sound play:



Assonance in Isaiah 5:7

לְמִשְׁפָּט וַיִּקַּן
מִשְׁפָּח וַהֲנִיחַ

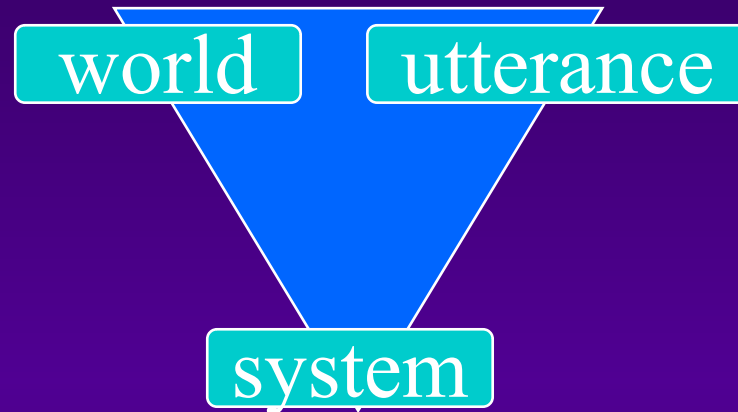
לְצַדִּיקָה וַהֲנִיחַ
צַעֲקָה



3. *Grammatical Subsystem*



Origin of Grammar



Referential system
(for talking about world)

Grammatical system
(for internal structure)

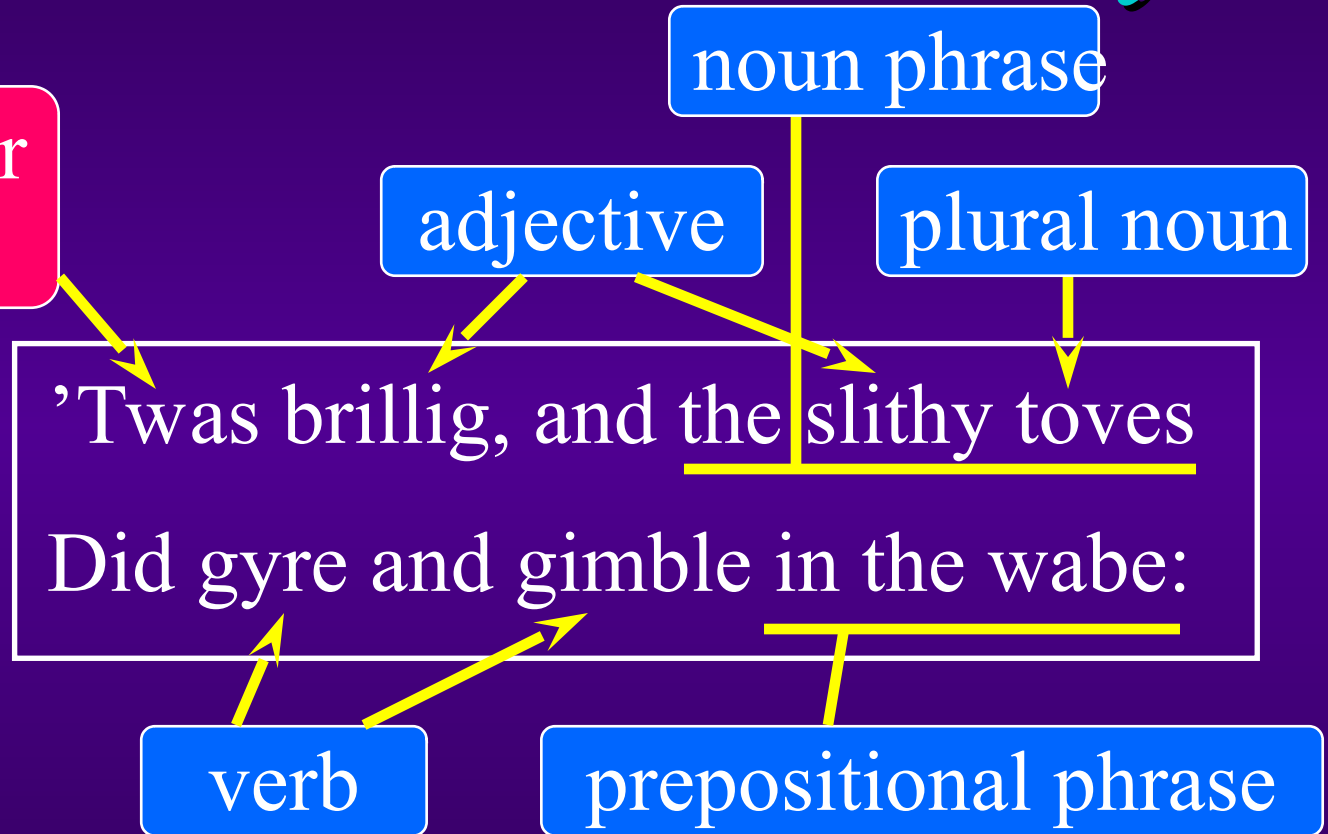
Phonological system
(for using sound)



Grammar in Jabberwocky

Poetic for
“It was”

I can
parse.

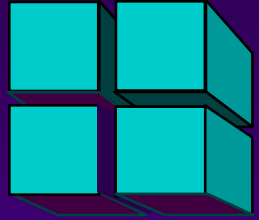


Normal grammar, but no decipherable meaning!



Principles for Grammar

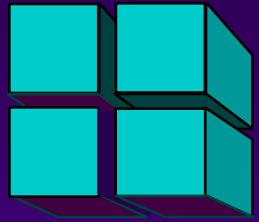
**There is a grammatical system.
Grammatical systems differ.**



Principles for Grammar

**There is a distinctive grammatical system,
semi-independent of the subject-matter.**

**Grammatical systems differ from one
language to another.**



Infinitive System in Greek

aorist

present

perfect

λύσαι

λύειν

λέλυκέναι

vs.

English

nonperfect

perfect

nonprogress

to weave

to have woven

progressive

to be weaving

to have been weaving



3 ≠ 4



Grammar Contributing

Grammar affects overall meaning primarily by contrast.

aorist

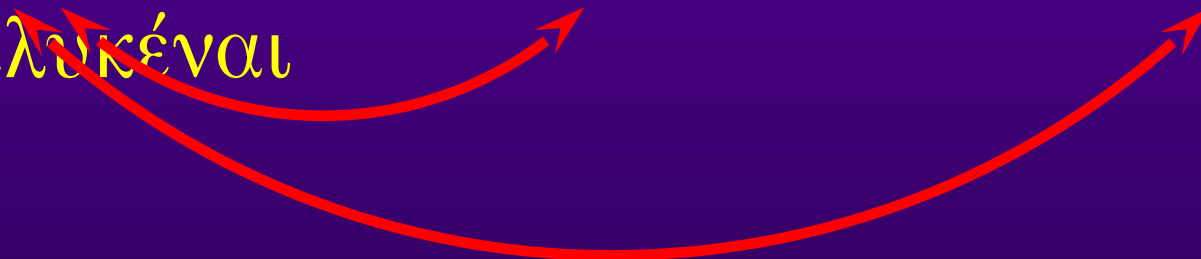
present

perfect

λύσαι

λύειν

λελυκέναι



Aorist contrasts with present and perfect.
It means, “I’m not present or perfect.”



Aorist as the Default

Aorist infinitive and aorist imperative are normal.

The speaker says, “No further comment.”

**Descriptions of
“sudden event,” “once-for-all action,”
“decisive action,” “point action”
are overreadings.**



Example of Fine Difference

“I studied Greek for two hours yesterday.”

“I was studying Greek for two hours yesterday.”

Used where you talk about something else simultaneous.

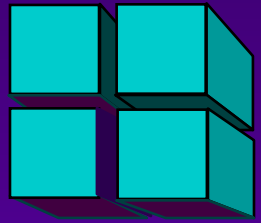


Example of Fine Difference

“I studied Greek for two hours yesterday.”

“I was studying Greek for two hours yesterday.”

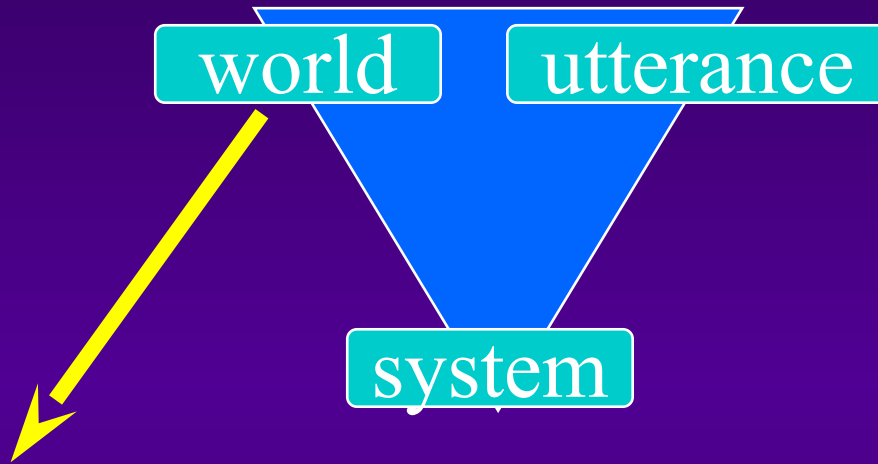
Used in a paragraph where you talk about some other event within the same time frame.



4. *Referential Subsystem*



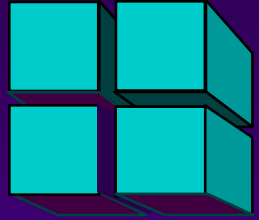
Origin of Reference



**Referential
system**
(for talking
about world)

**Grammatical
system**
(for internal
structure)

**Phonological
system**
(for using
sound)



An Example of Reference

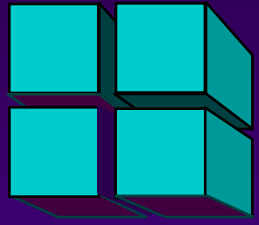
“He does well without studying.”

“Bill seldom has to crack the books.”

same “meaning”

different grammar,
vocabulary, sound

. Reference deals with content invariant
under paraphrase.

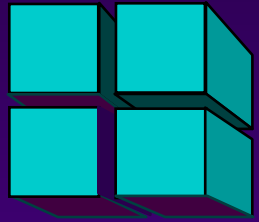


Principles for Referential Subsystem

There is a referential system.

Referential systems differ.

**You can say anything if you take enough
time.**



Principles for Referential Subsystem

**There is a distinct referential system,
semi-independent of grammar and
phonology.**

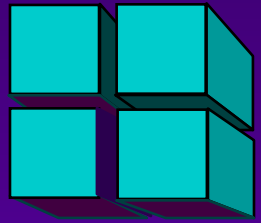
**Referential systems differ from one
language to another.**

**Almost anything can be said in any
language if you take enough time.**

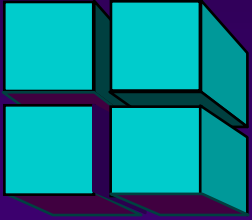


Differing Vocabulary

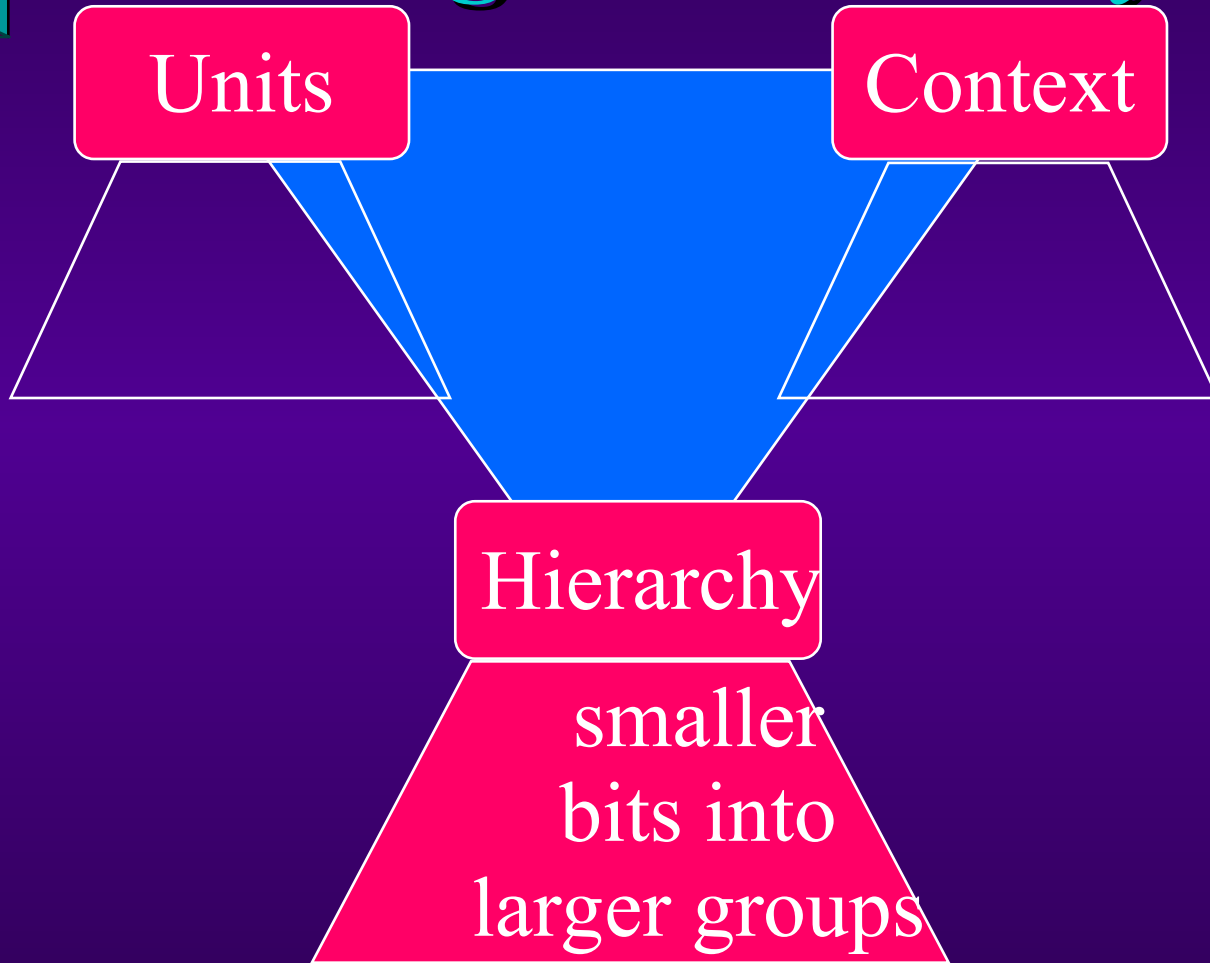
λαμπάς	“torch”
	“(oil) lamp”
κύων	“dog”
κυνάριον	



5. *Hierarchy*



Meaning in Hierachy



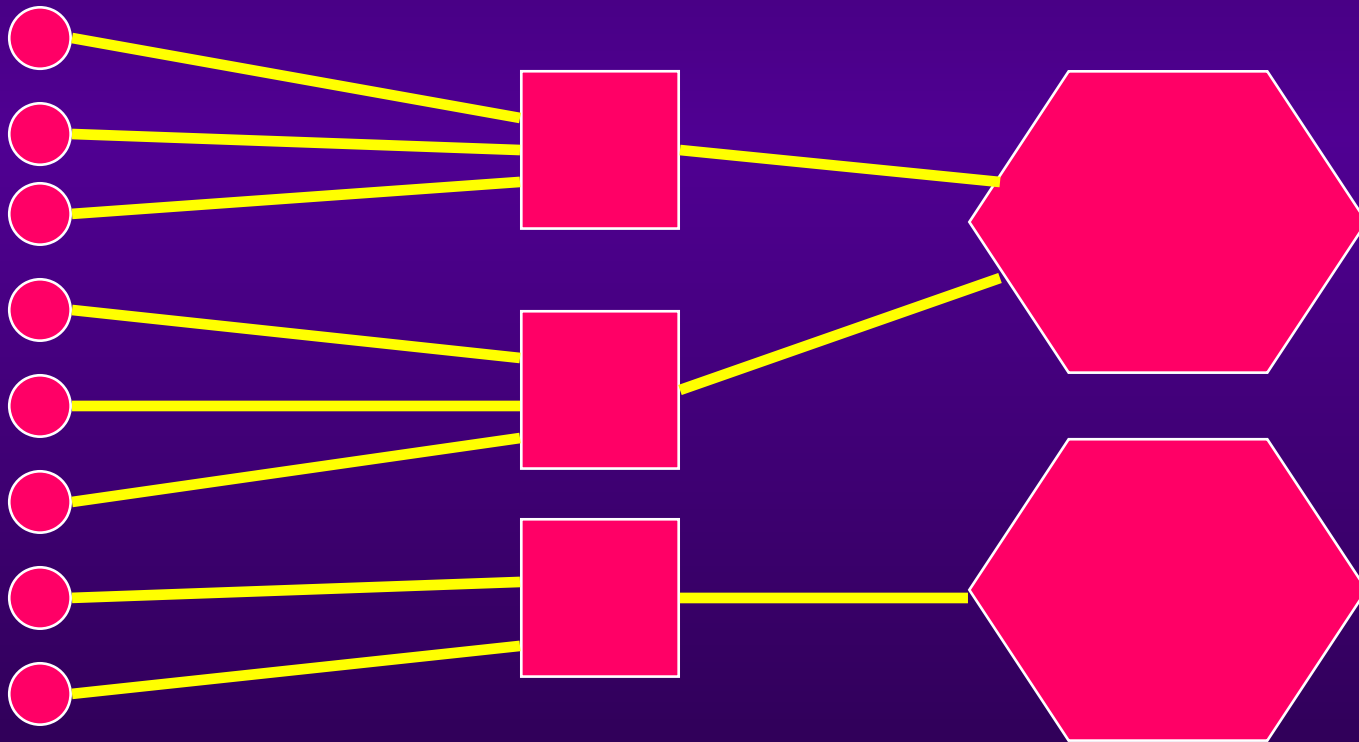


Example of Embedding

Sentence:

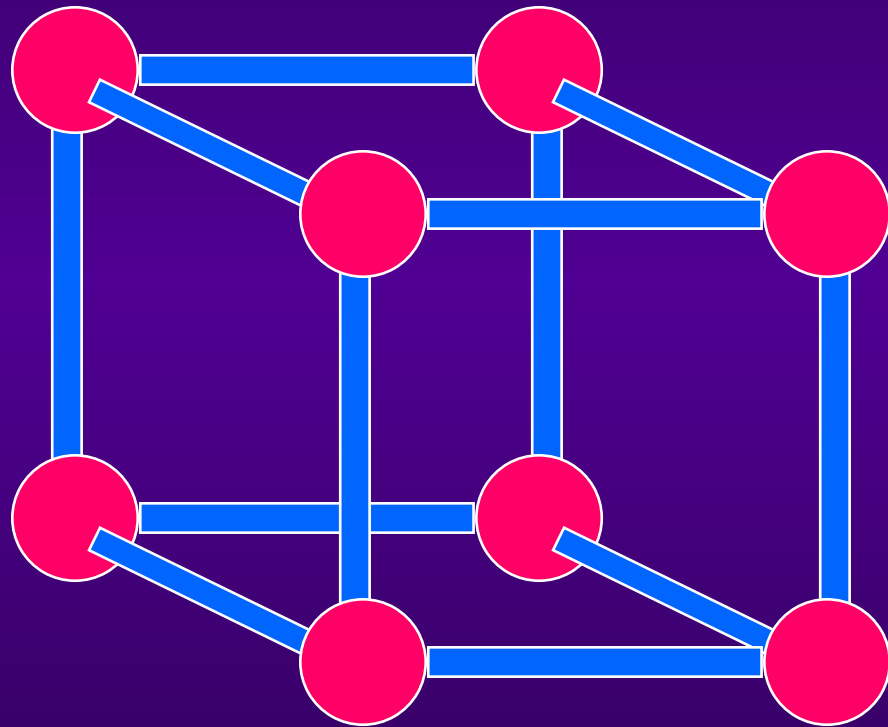
Paragraph:

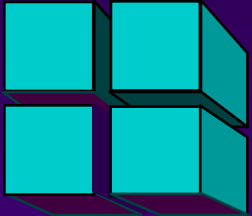
Section:



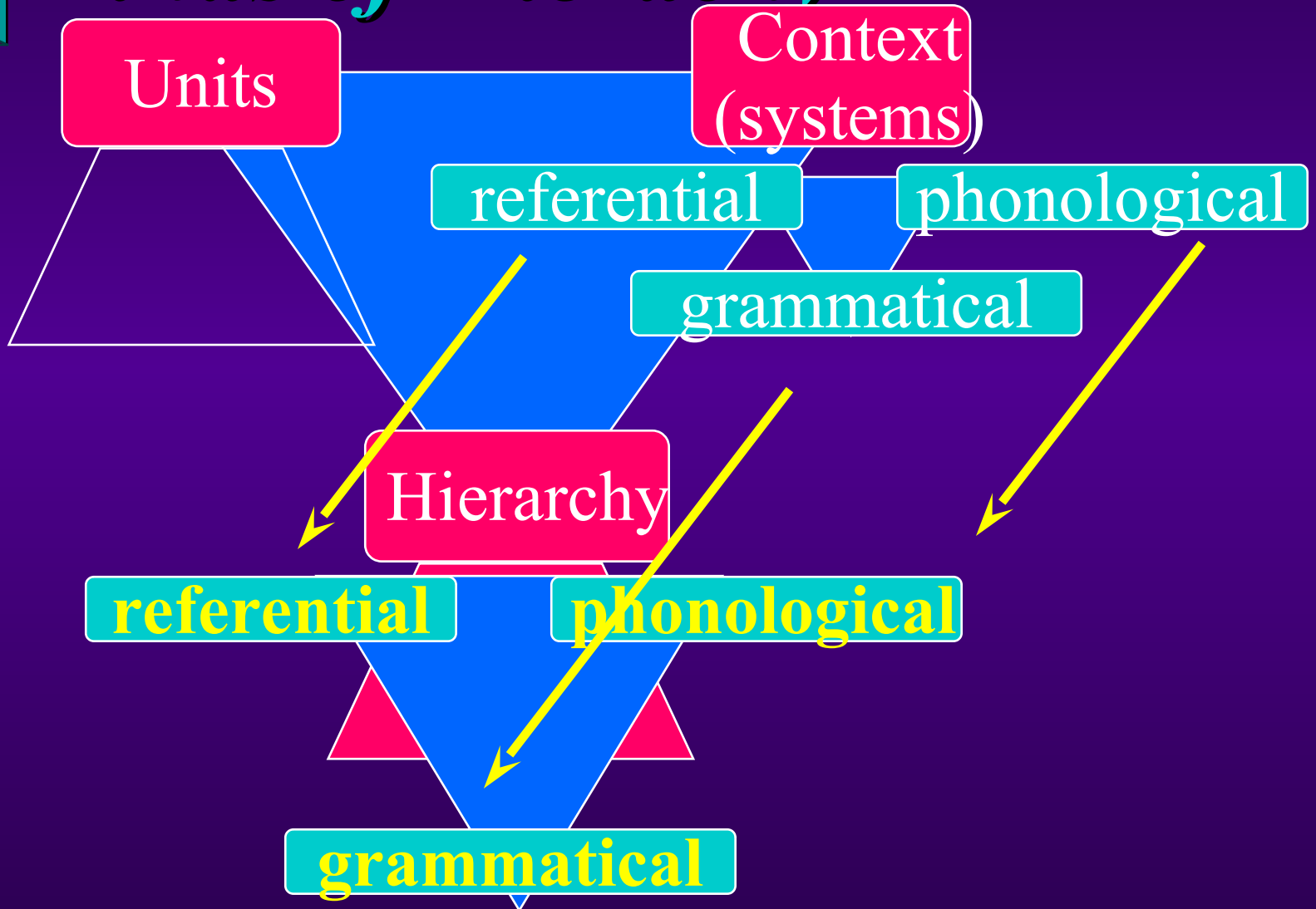


Complex Fitting





Kinds of Hierachy





Grammatical Levels

morpheme

-ness, -ing

word

truthfulness

phrase

which of these three

clause

when he saw him,

sentence

when he saw him,

**he passed by on the
other side.**

paragraph

Luke 10:29-37

monologue



Grammatical Levels in Greek

morpheme

-ου, -ω

word

ἀντιπαρήλθεν

phrase

τούτων τῶν τριῶν

clause

ἰδὼν αὐτὸν

sentence

καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτὸν
ἀντιπαρήλθεν.

paragraph

Luke 10:30, 31, 32

monologue

Luke 1:46b-55



Phonological Levels

phoneme

/i/

syllable

/bit/

phonological word

the 'man

phrase group

“When John arrived
I fell silent.”

pause group

phonological paragraph

phonological monologue



Phonological Levels in Greek

phoneme

/o/

syllable

/on/

phonological
word

a proclitic leans on the next
word, making a single stress
group but two grammatical
words.

phrase group

pause group

?

marked by punctuation?



Referential Levels

**semantic pack
term**

**un-, non-
angel,**

the angel Gabriel

proposition

I have no husband

**proposition
cluster**

**How can this be,
since I have no husband?**

paragraph

Luke 1:30-38

book

Luke; Acts

monologue

Luke-Acts



Interlocking Hierarchies

Phonology Grammar Reference

paragraph

paragraph

paragraph

pause gp.

sentence

cluster

phrase gp.

clause

proposition

Phon. word

phrase

syllable

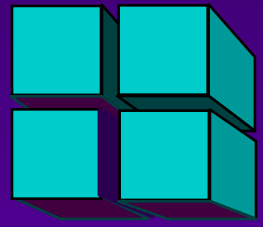
word

term

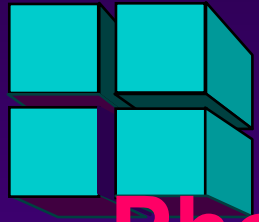
phoneme

morpheme

package

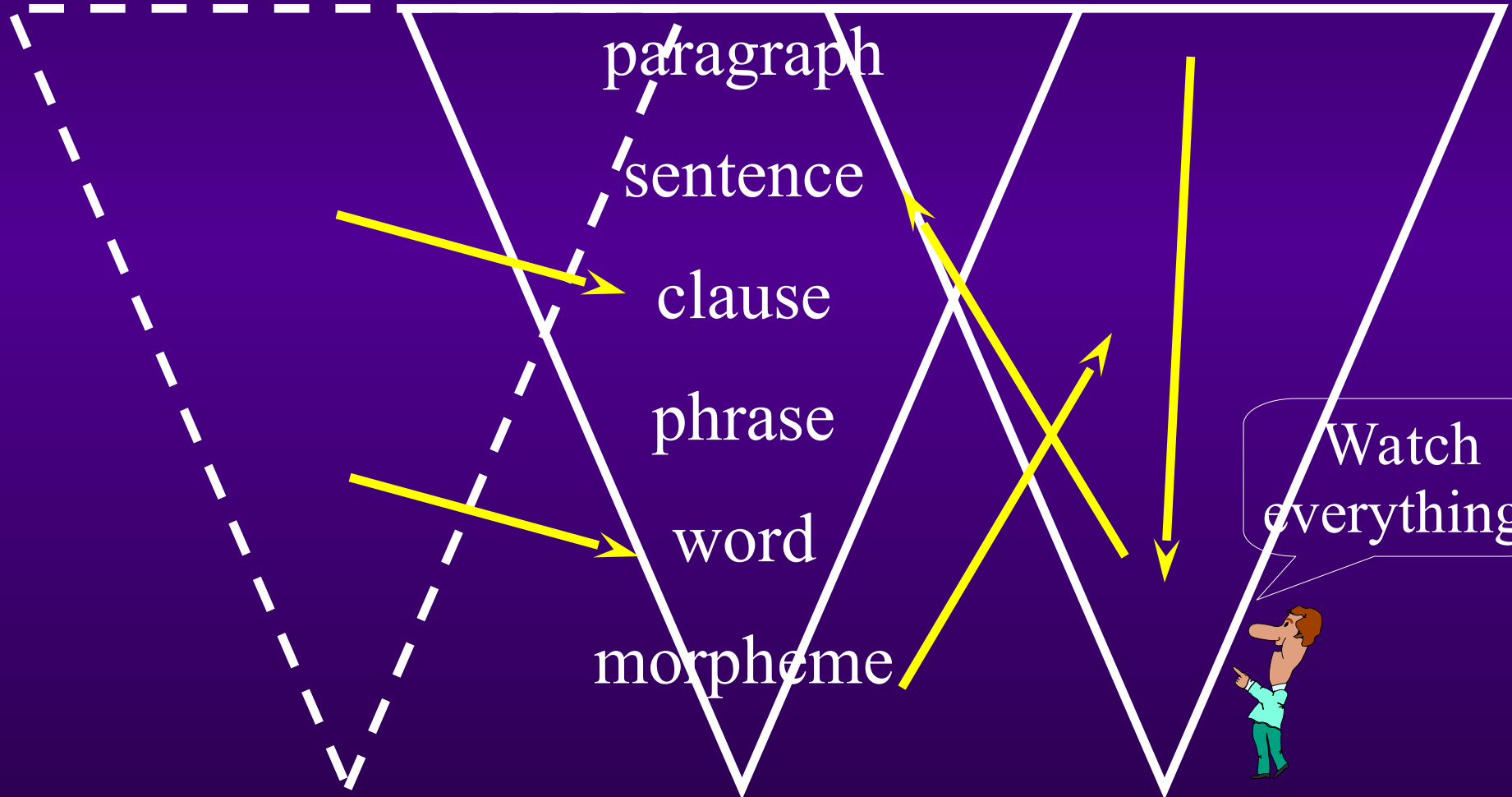


6. *Implications for Interpretation*



Interacting Hierarchies

Phonology Grammar Reference



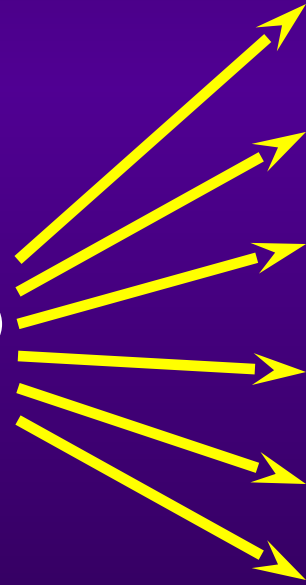


Burton Indicates Interaction

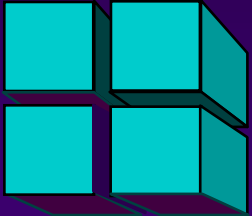
Grammatical

Referential

Present
tense in
Greek



Progressive
General (gnomic)
Aoristic
Historical
For the future
**Past action still in
progress**



Implications of Linkage

referent
from context

narrative
time needed

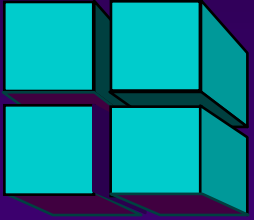
preceding
action

“All spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth.” (Luke 4:22a)

sounds very good;
but see 4:28.



In Luke, larger issue of the nature of salvation and of Messiah is at stake.



Linkages in 1 Cor. 4:8

referent
from context

time needed

“Already you have all you
want! Already you have
become rich!”

sounds very good;
but see 4:8b.



In 1 Cor., larger issue of the nature of
kingdom, of boasting in Christ,
and of image of oneself.



Goal in Interpreting Sense

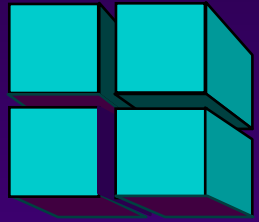
Minimal strain.

At every level in all 3 hierarchies.

What to do with tension?

Not always easy!

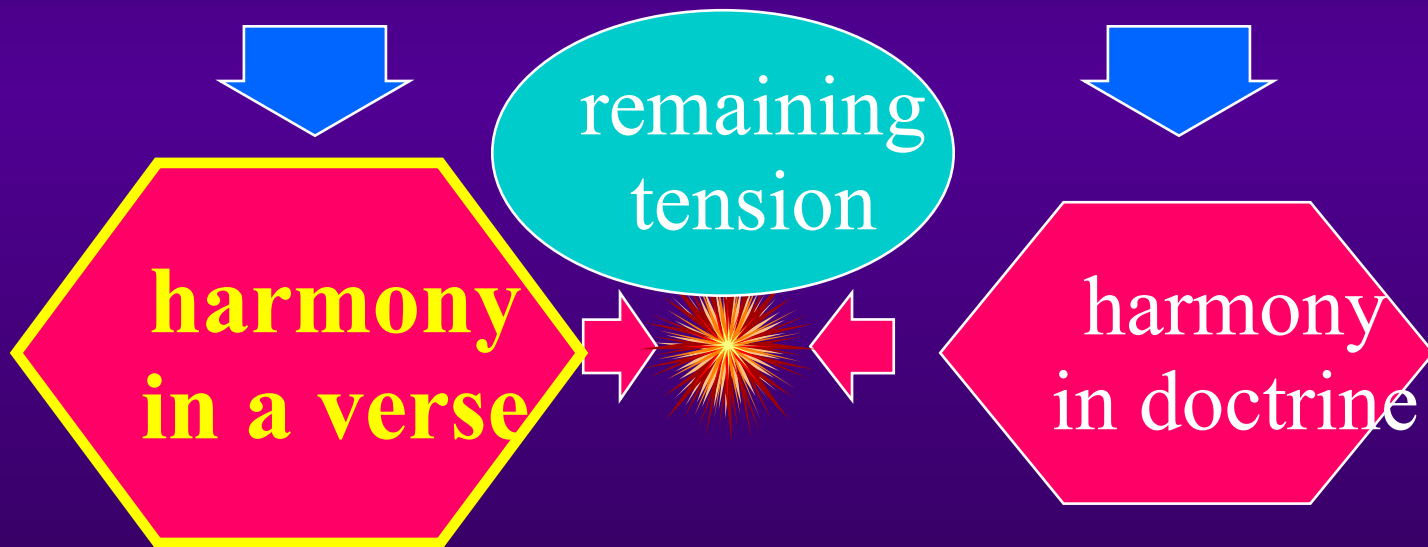




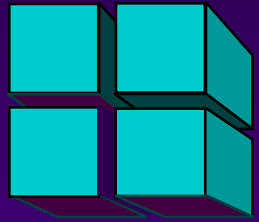
Exegesis and Theology

Exegesis
(narrow passage)

Theology
(general biblical teaching)



Prefer exegesis because your training biases you toward doctrine.



Harmonizing in Luke

18:35

Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐν τῷ ἐγγίξειν αὐτὸν
εἰς Ἰεριχὼ τυφλὸς τις ἐκάθητο παρὰ
τὴν ὁδὸν ἐπαιτῶν.

Exegesis

Theology

ἐγγίξειν εἰς
= “draw near to”

preferable

need harmony with
Matt. and Mark

ἐγγίξειν is related to
ἐγγύς, “near”



Fuzziness in Interpretation

Understanding is more or less precise.

Don't detect what isn't there. (Maximal interpretation is not best.)

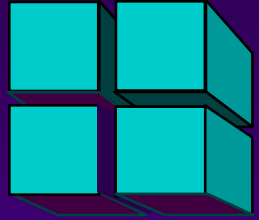
You never exhaust meaning.

You can obey God now.

You can obey a command to “stand roughly there.”

Comforting.





Fuzziness in Interpretation

Understanding is more or less precise.

Don't detect what isn't there. Maximal interpretation is not necessarily best.

You never exhaust meaning.

You can live and obey God without exhaustive knowledge.

You can obey a command to “stand roughly there.”

Comforting.

