

E. Intermediate Theory of Syntax

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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?

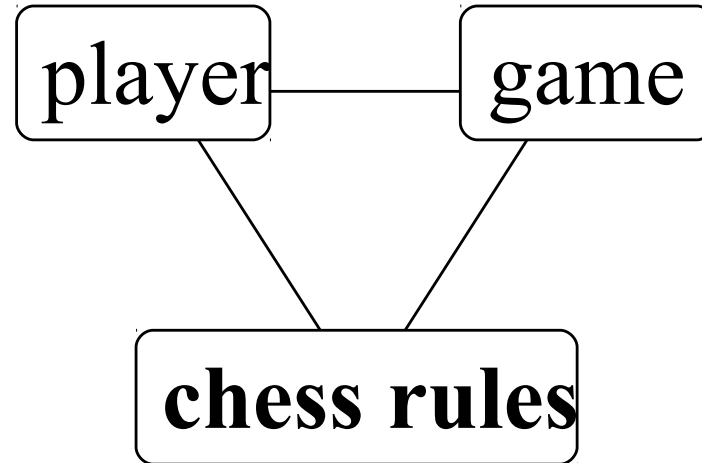
We want a framework for understanding how language works.

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

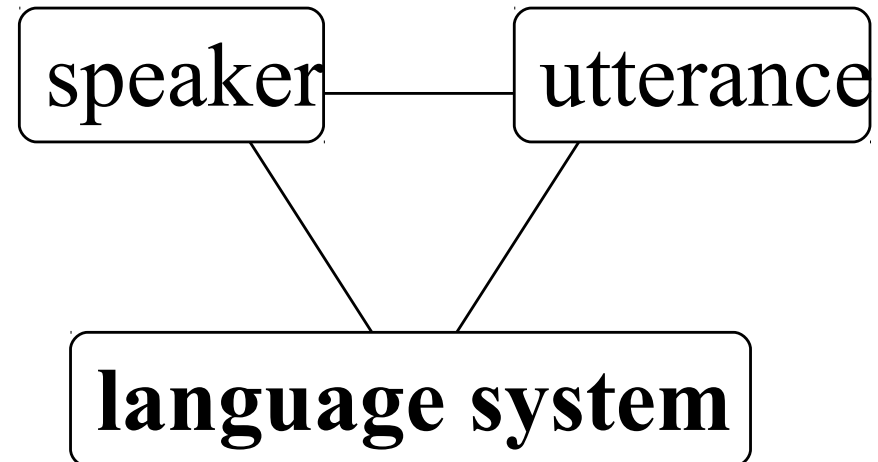
Enabling us to evaluate Bible translations.

Language and Chess

Chess has a system of rules.



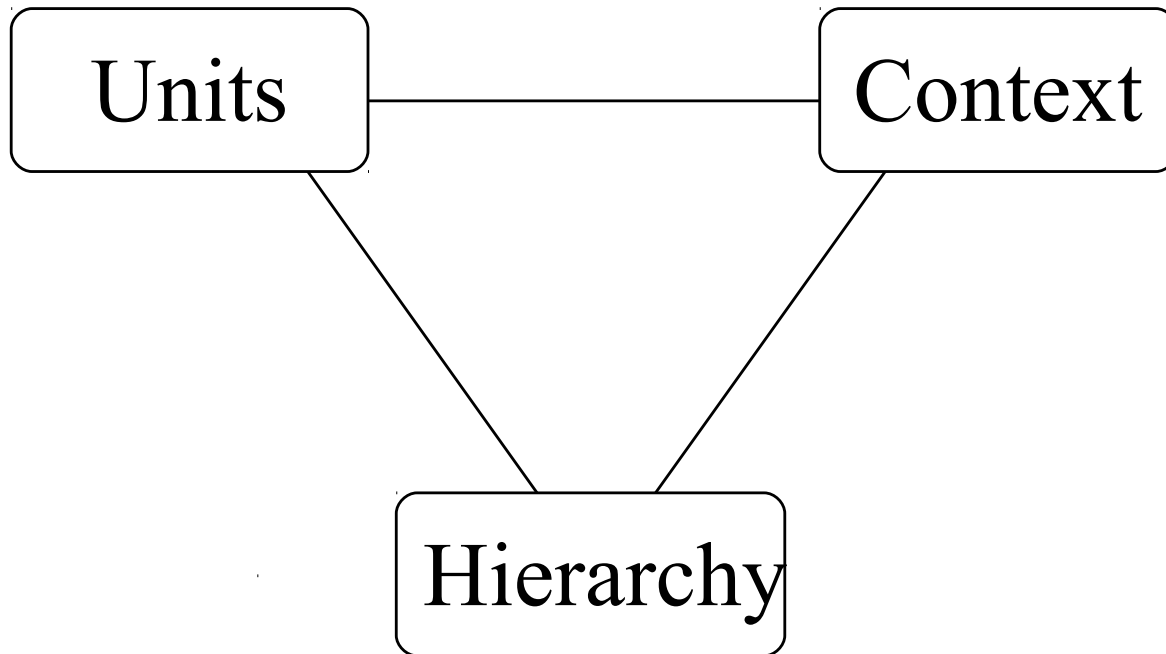
**Language
likewise.**



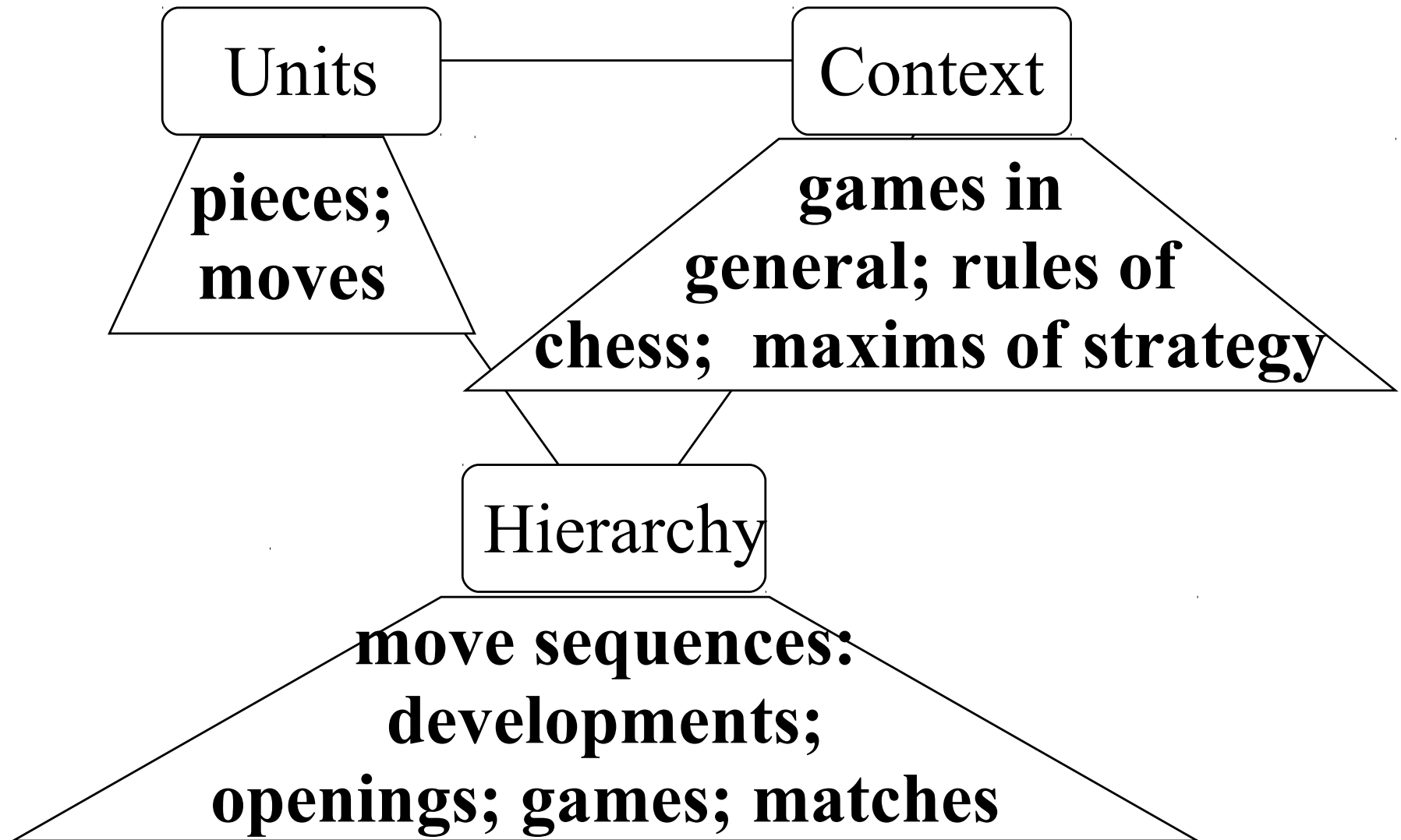
Learn
the game.



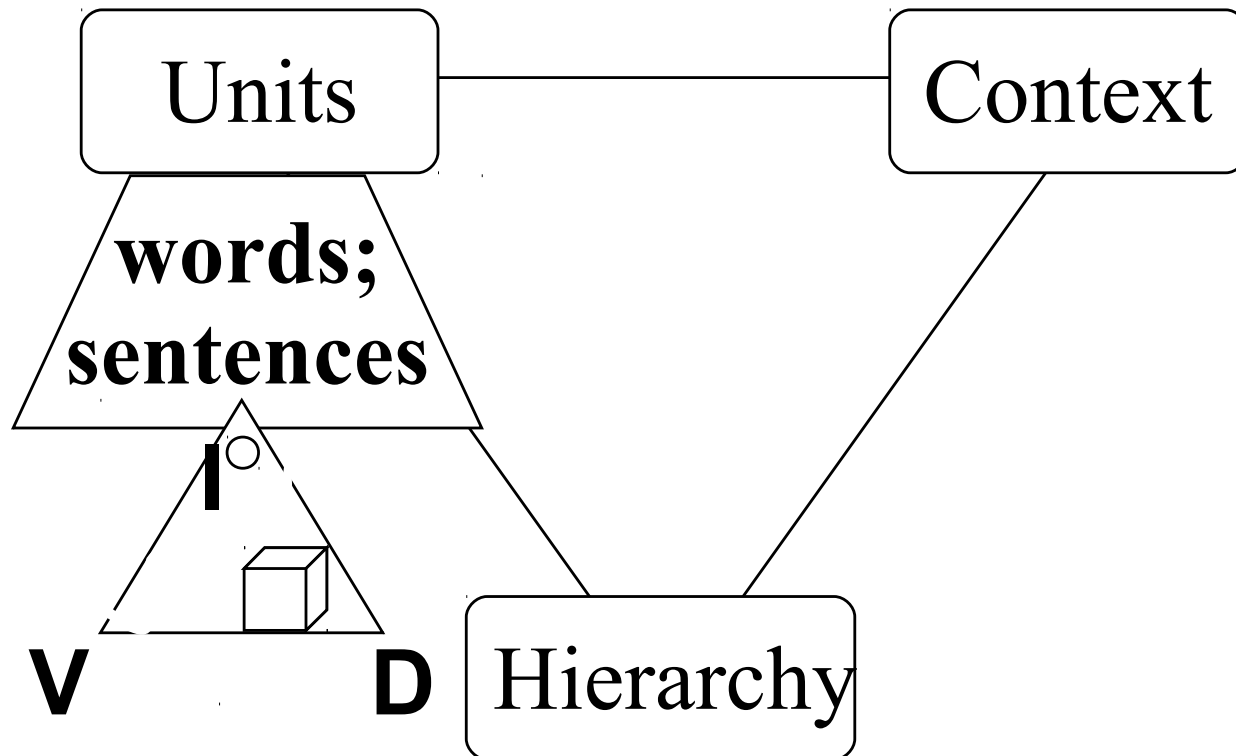
Aspects of Meaning



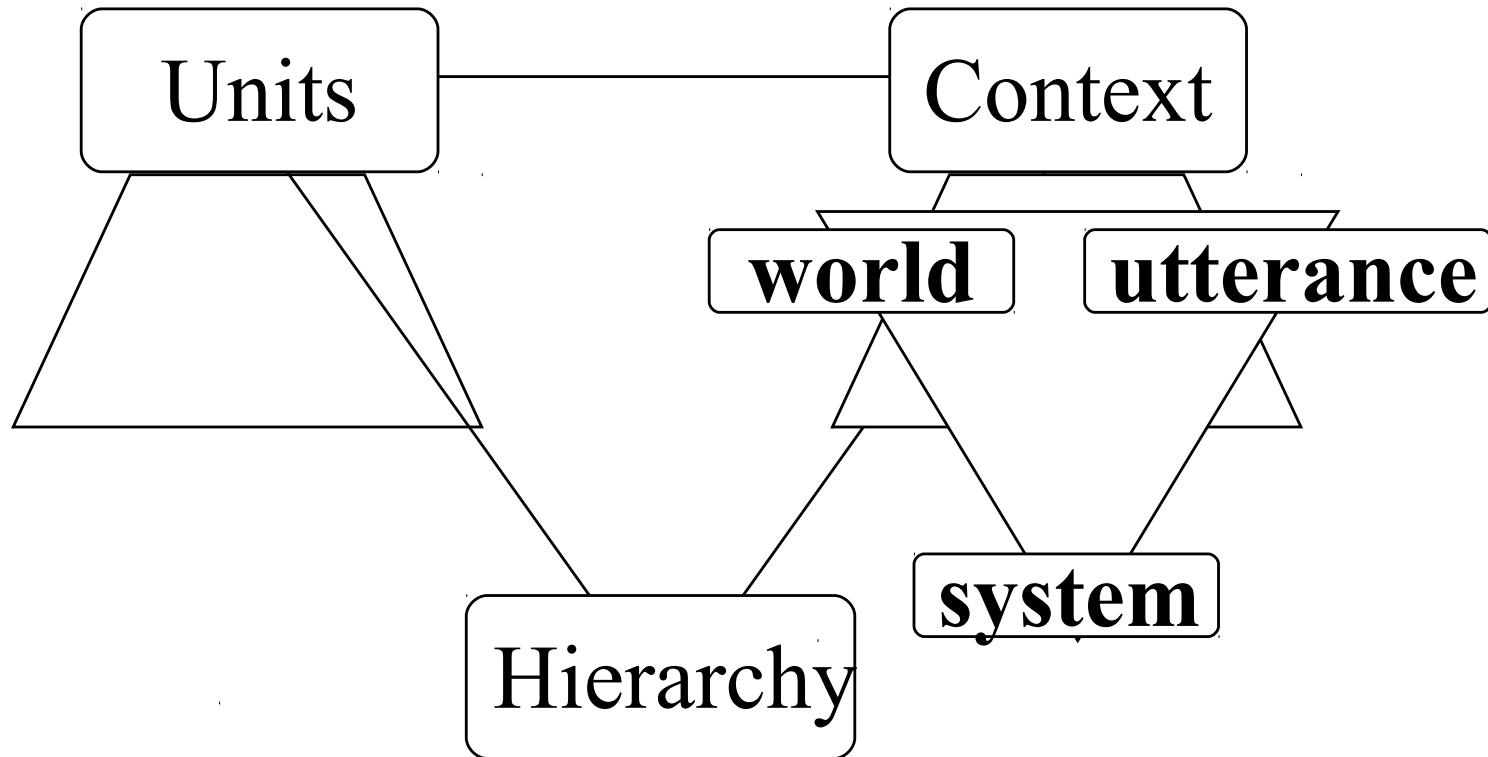
Meaning in Chess



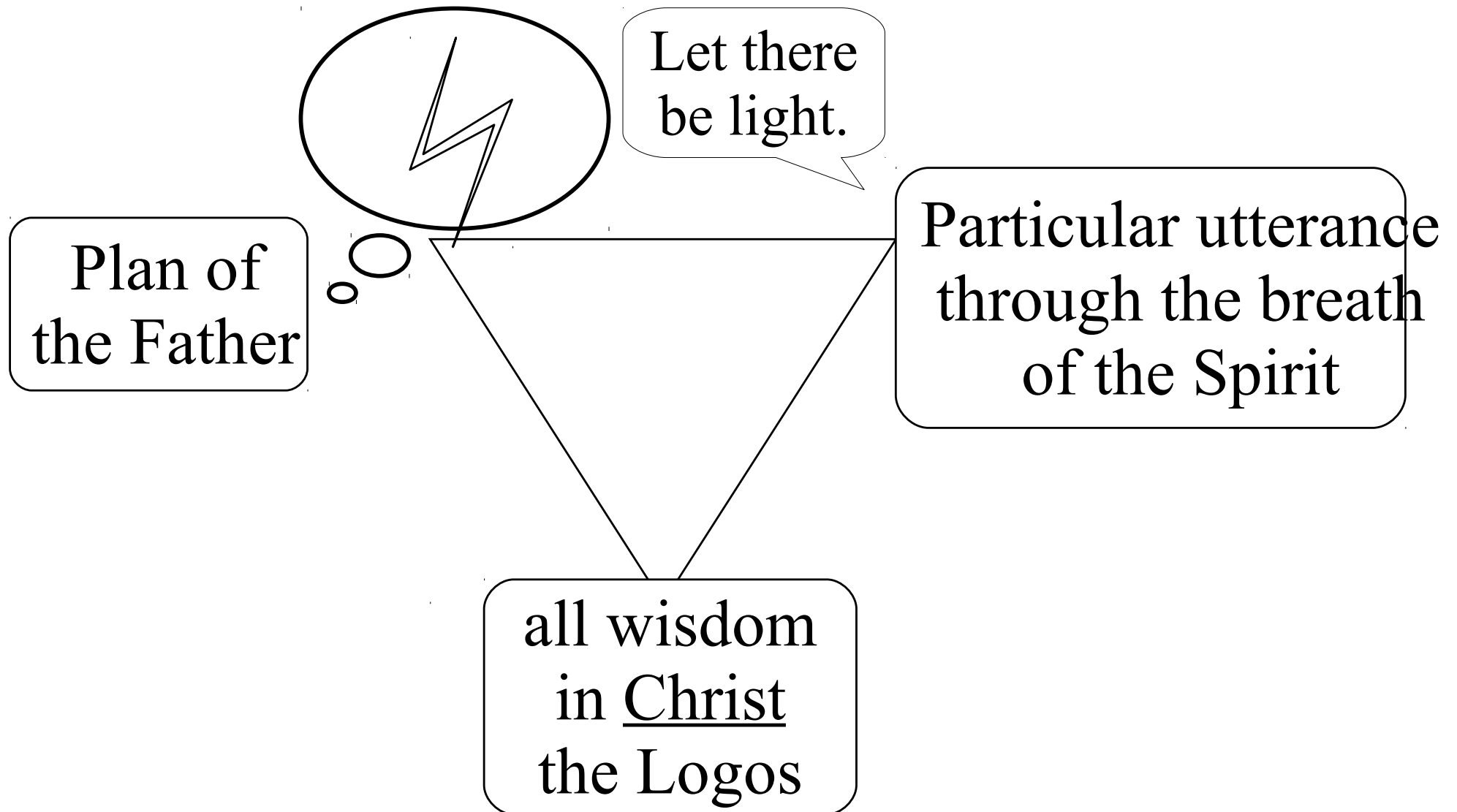
Meaning in Language: Unit



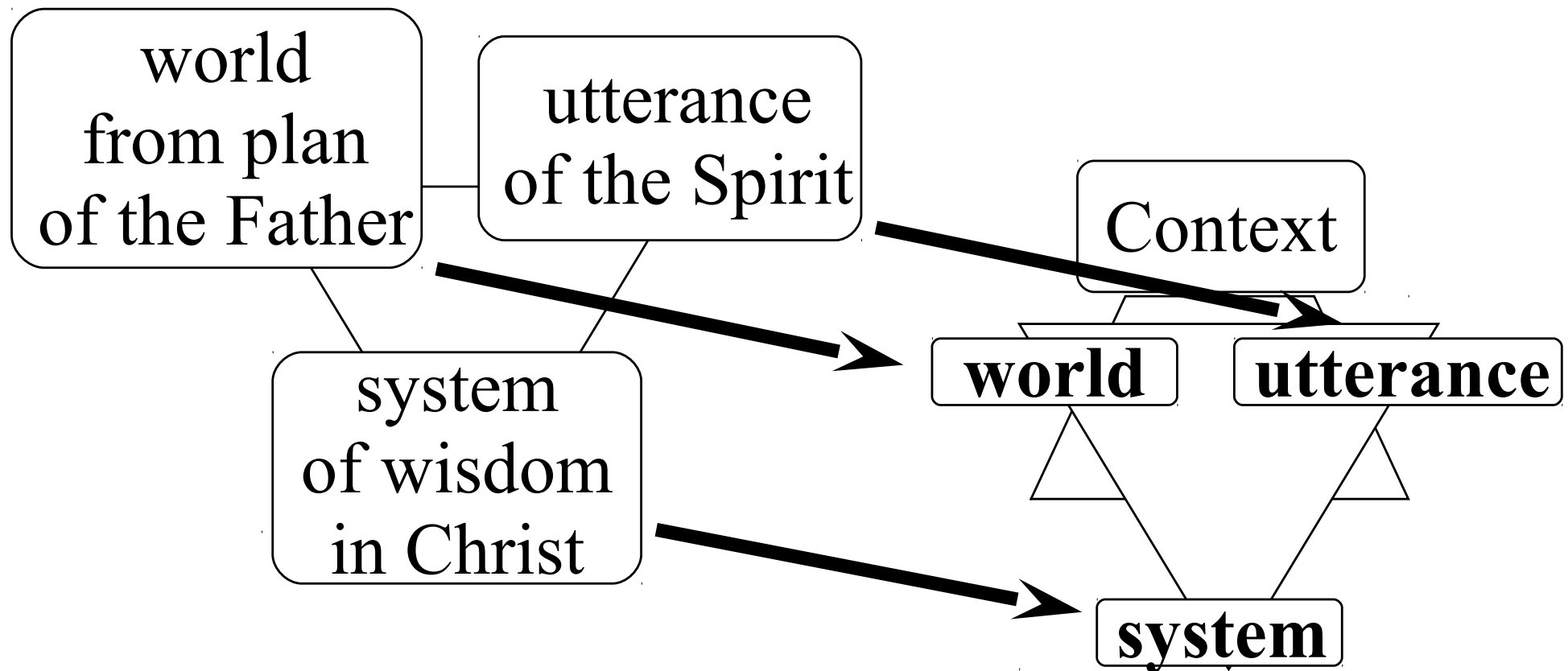
Meaning in Context



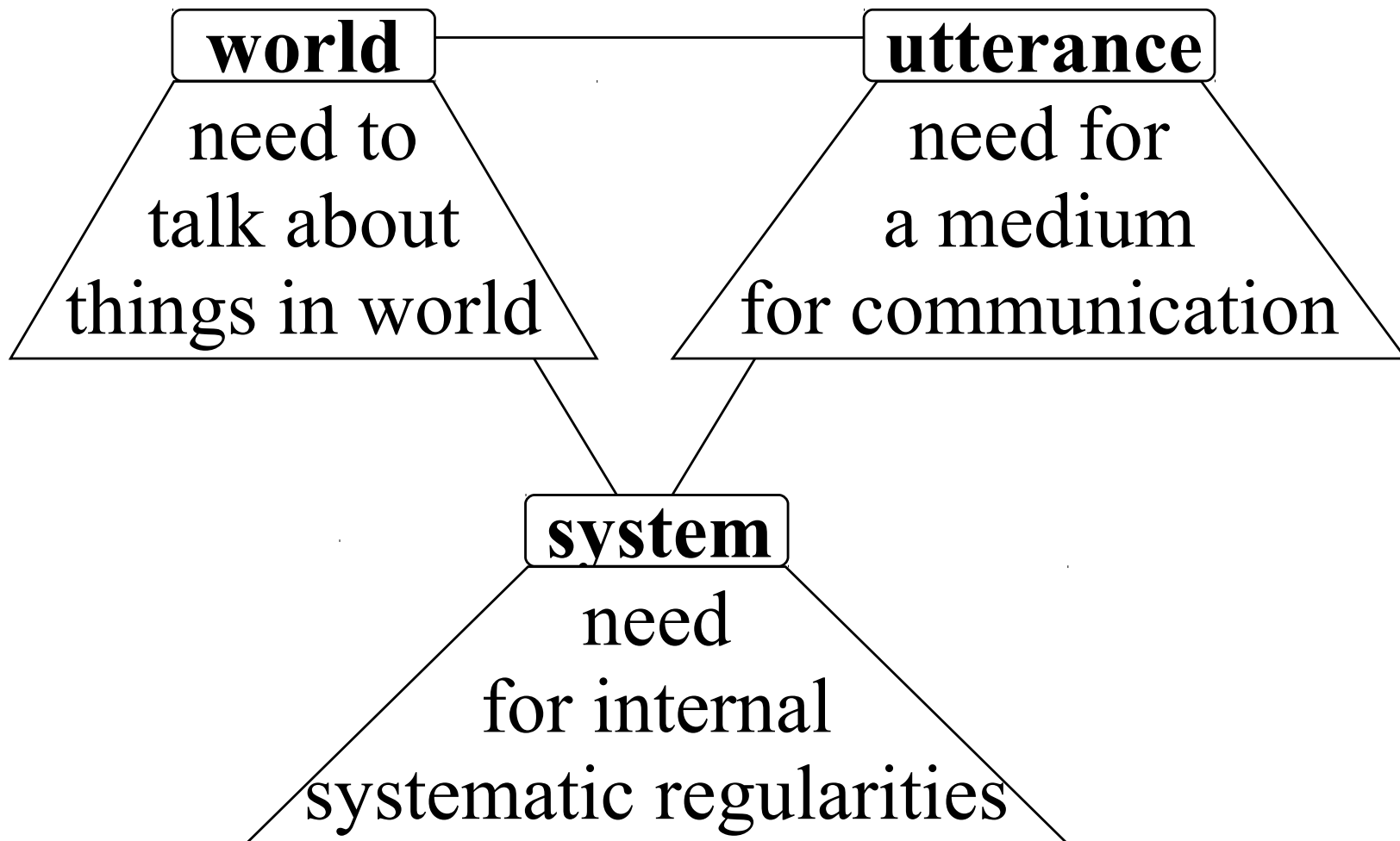
Language in God



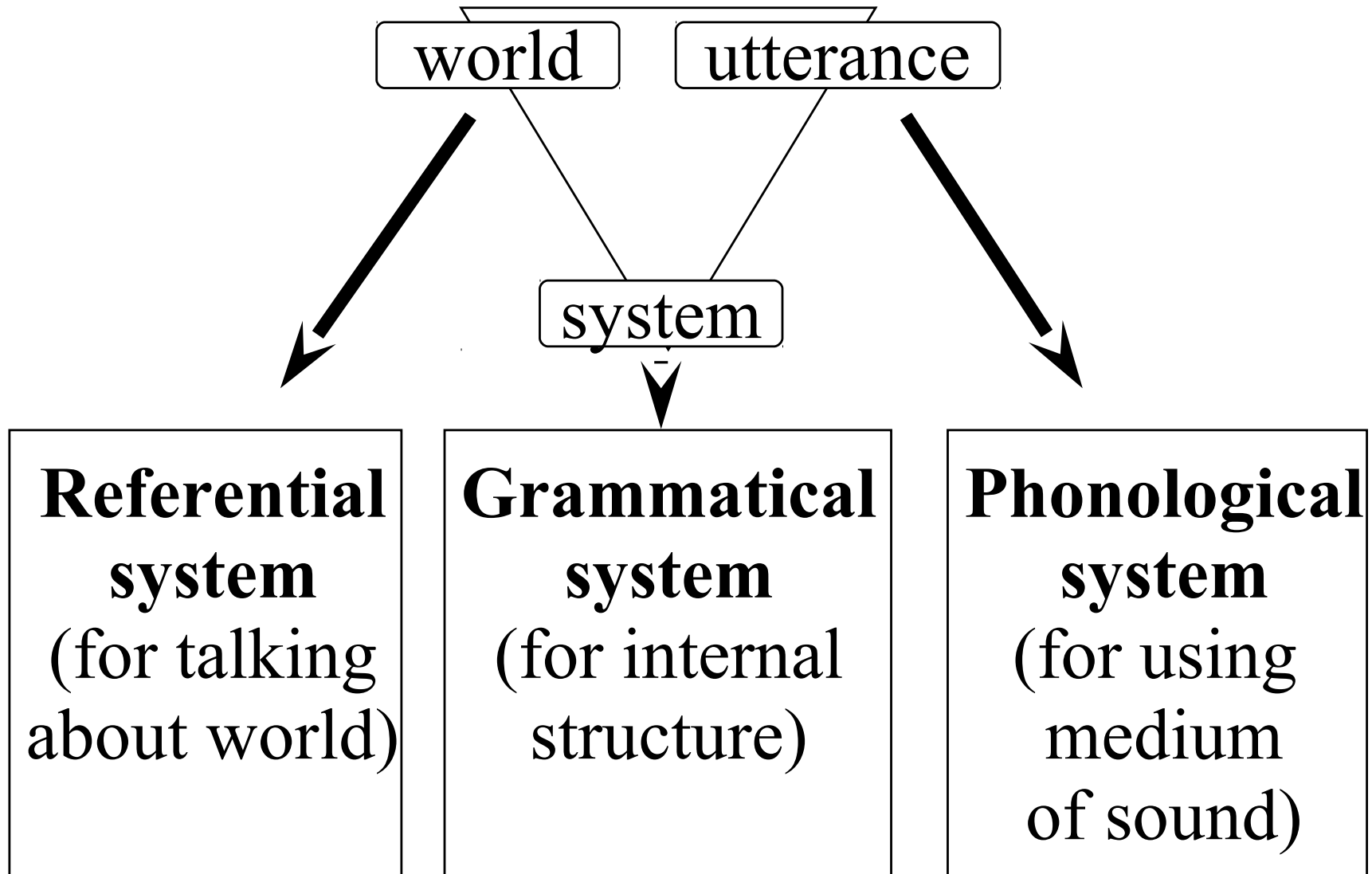
Kinds of Context



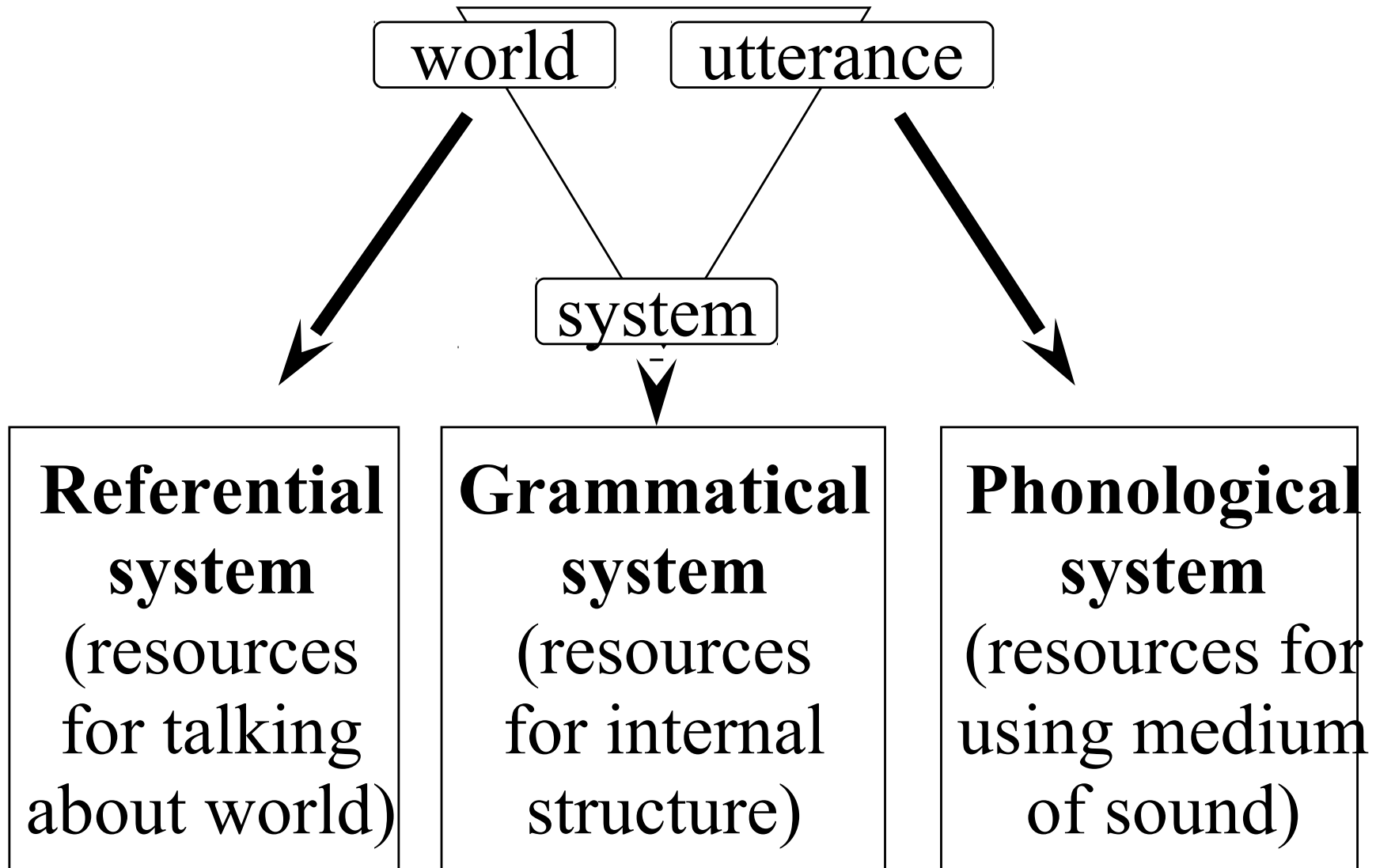
Language Needs



Language Subsystems

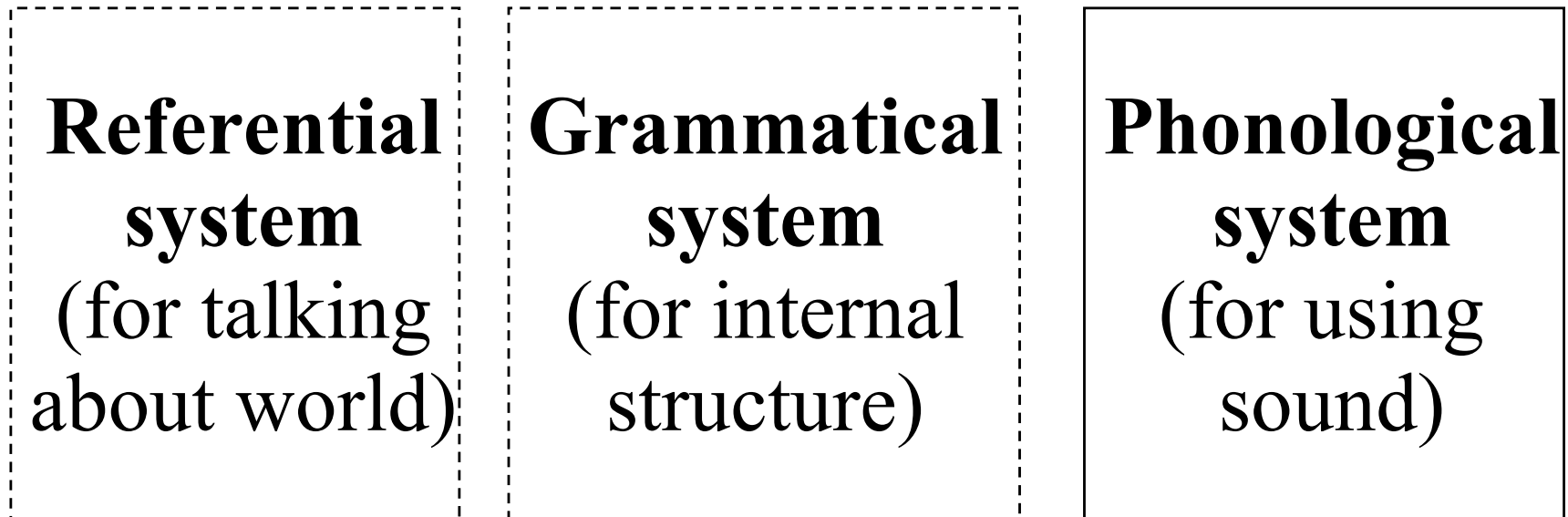
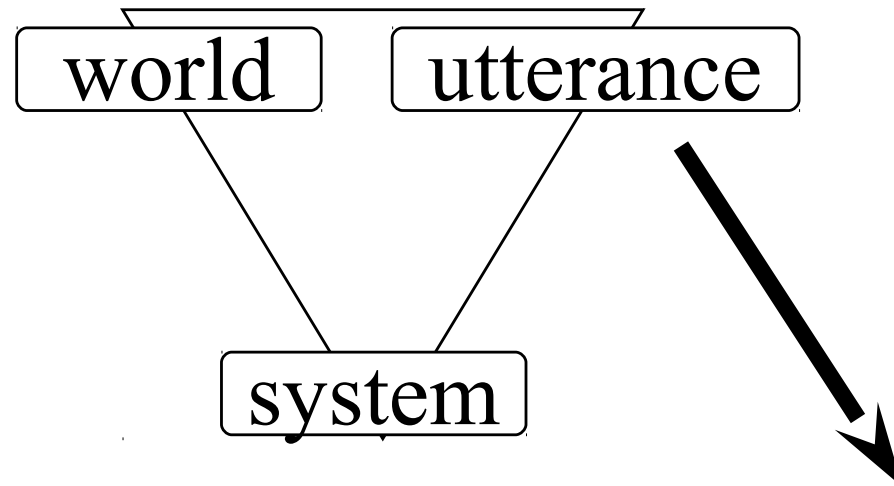


Language Subsystems



2. Phonological Subsystem

Origin of Phonology



Phonology of Greek

	<u>bilabial</u>	<u>dental</u>	<u>velar</u>
<u>voiced</u>	αβ α	αδ α	αγ α
<u>voiceless</u>	απ α	ατ α	ακ α
<u>aspirated</u>	αφ α	αθ α	αχ α
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

řet

ǃpet

łet

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

* ~pet

* ~let

* l>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

וַיִּקֶן לְמַשְׁפָּט
וְהִנֵּה מִשְׁפָּח

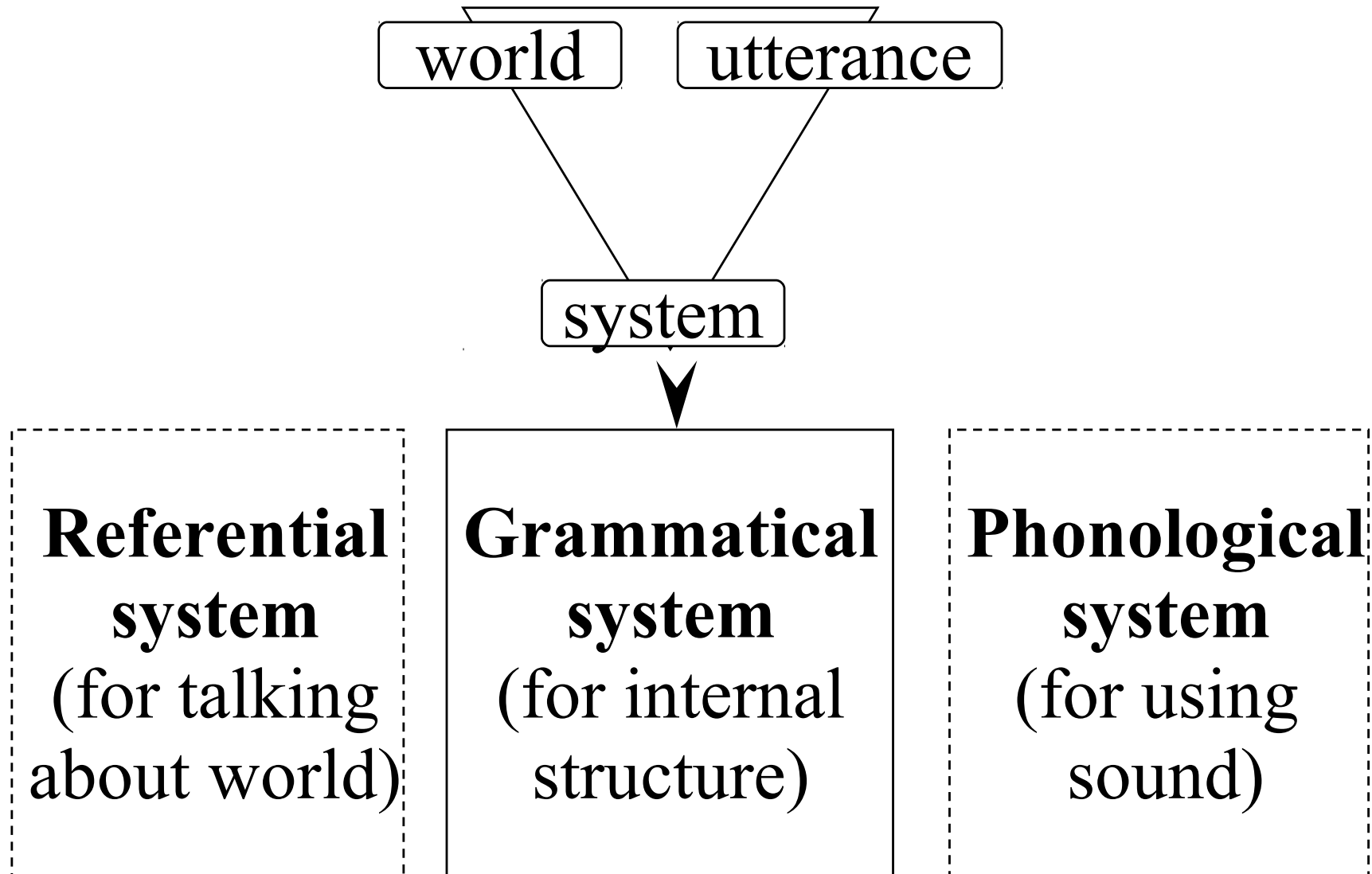


וְהִנֵּה צִעֲקָה
לְצַדִּיקָה צִעֲקָה

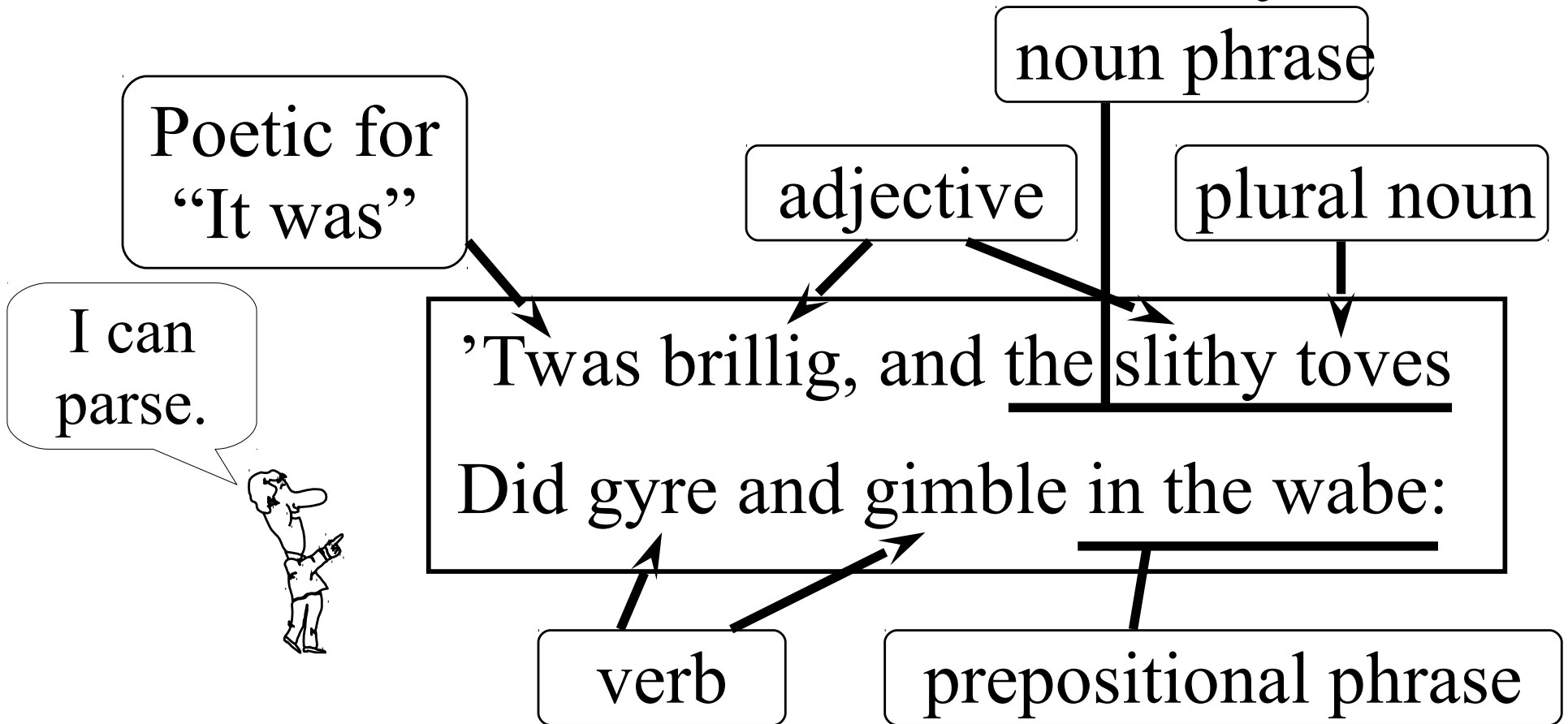


3. Grammatical Subsystem

Origin of Grammar



Grammar in Jabberwocky



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

λῦσαι

λύειν

τελετέκέναι

vs.

English

nonperfect

perfect

nonprogress

to weave

to have woven

progressive

to be weaving

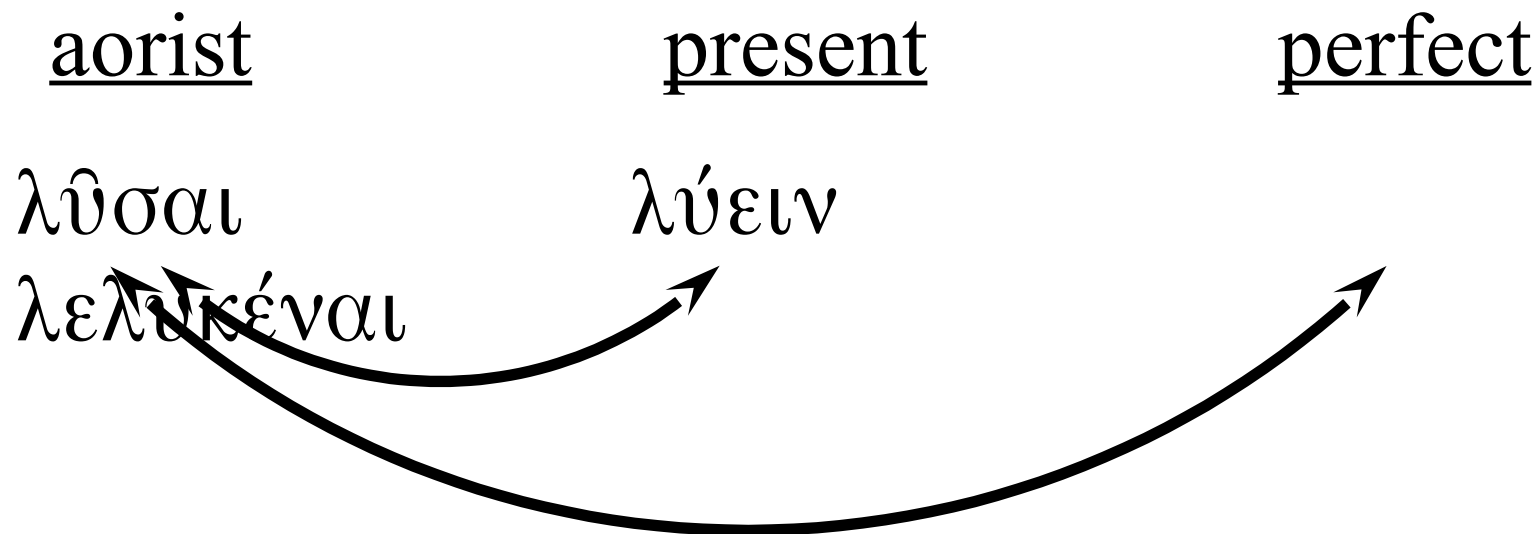
to have been weaving



$3 \neq 4$

Grammar Contributing

Grammar affects overall meaning primarily by contrast.



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.”

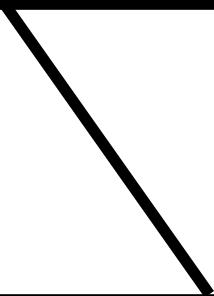
Descriptions of

“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.”

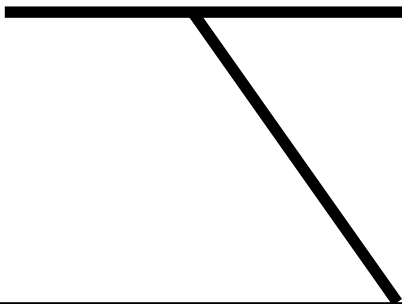


Used where you talk about something else simultaneous.

Example of Fine Difference

“I studied Greek for two hours yesterday.”

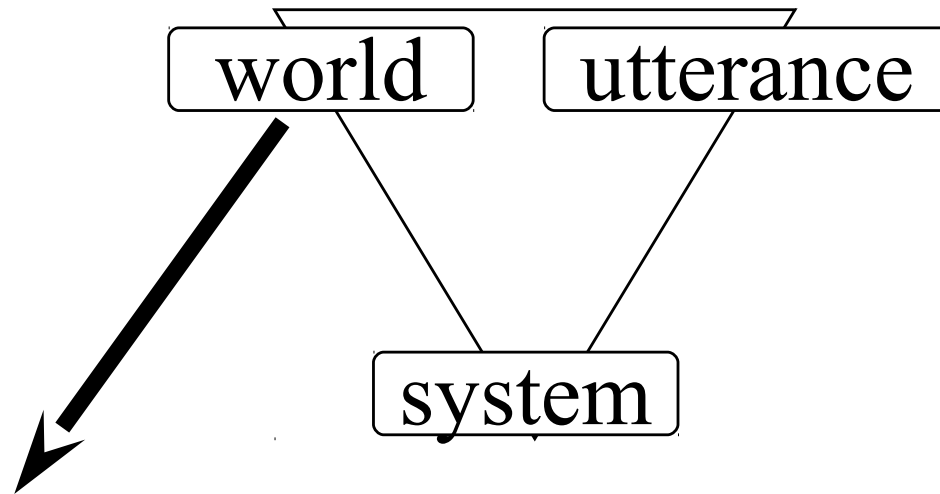
“I was studying Greek for two hours yesterday.”



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.

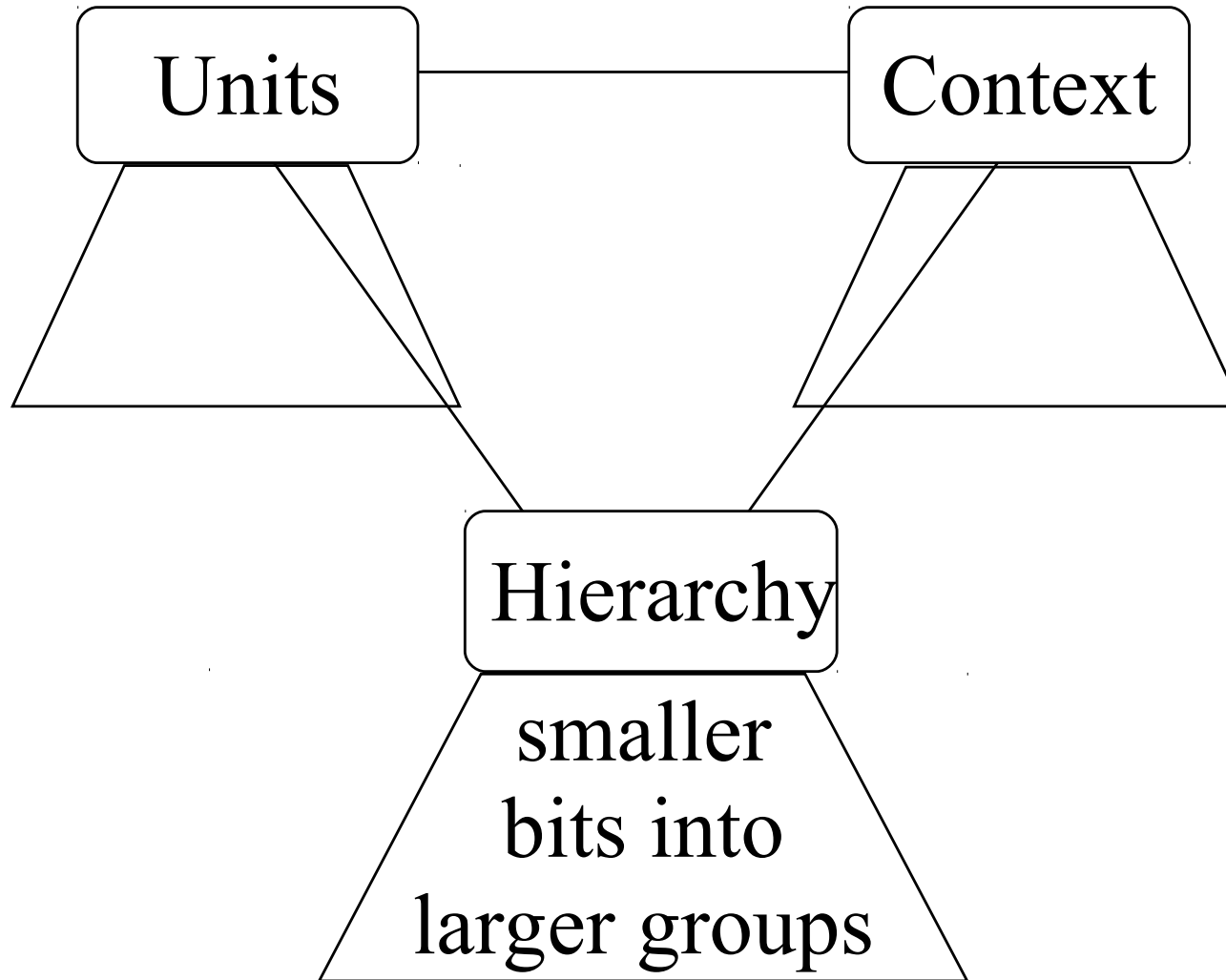
Almost anything can be said in any language if you take enough time.

Differing Vocabulary

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

5. Hierarchy

Meaning in Hierachy

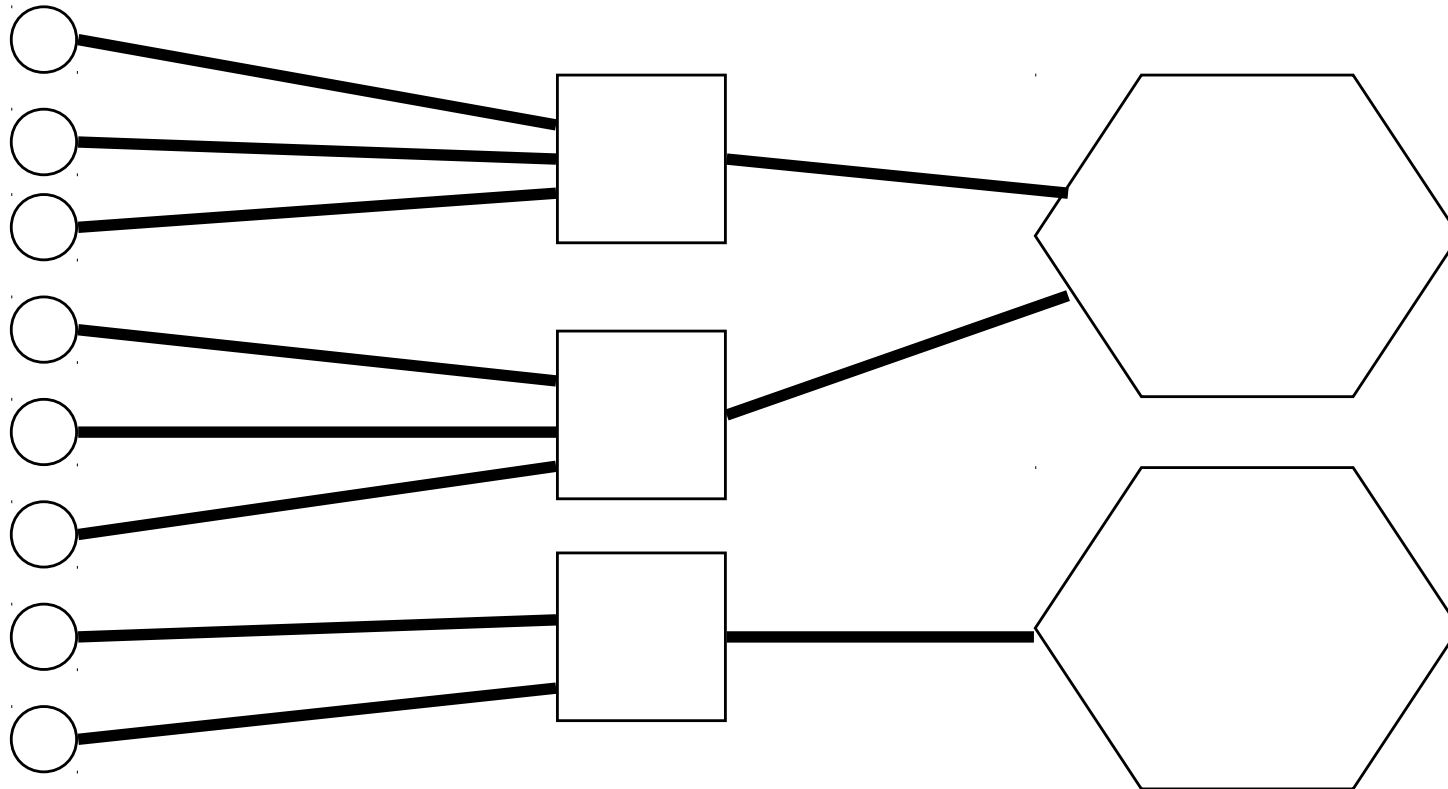


Example of Embedding

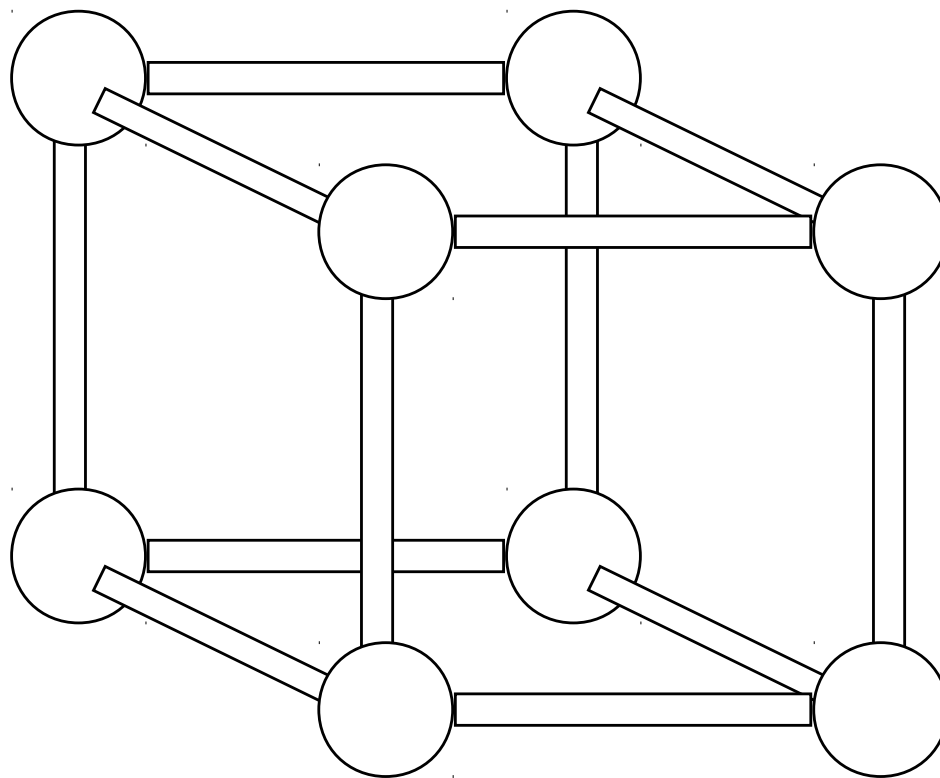
Sentence:

Paragraph:

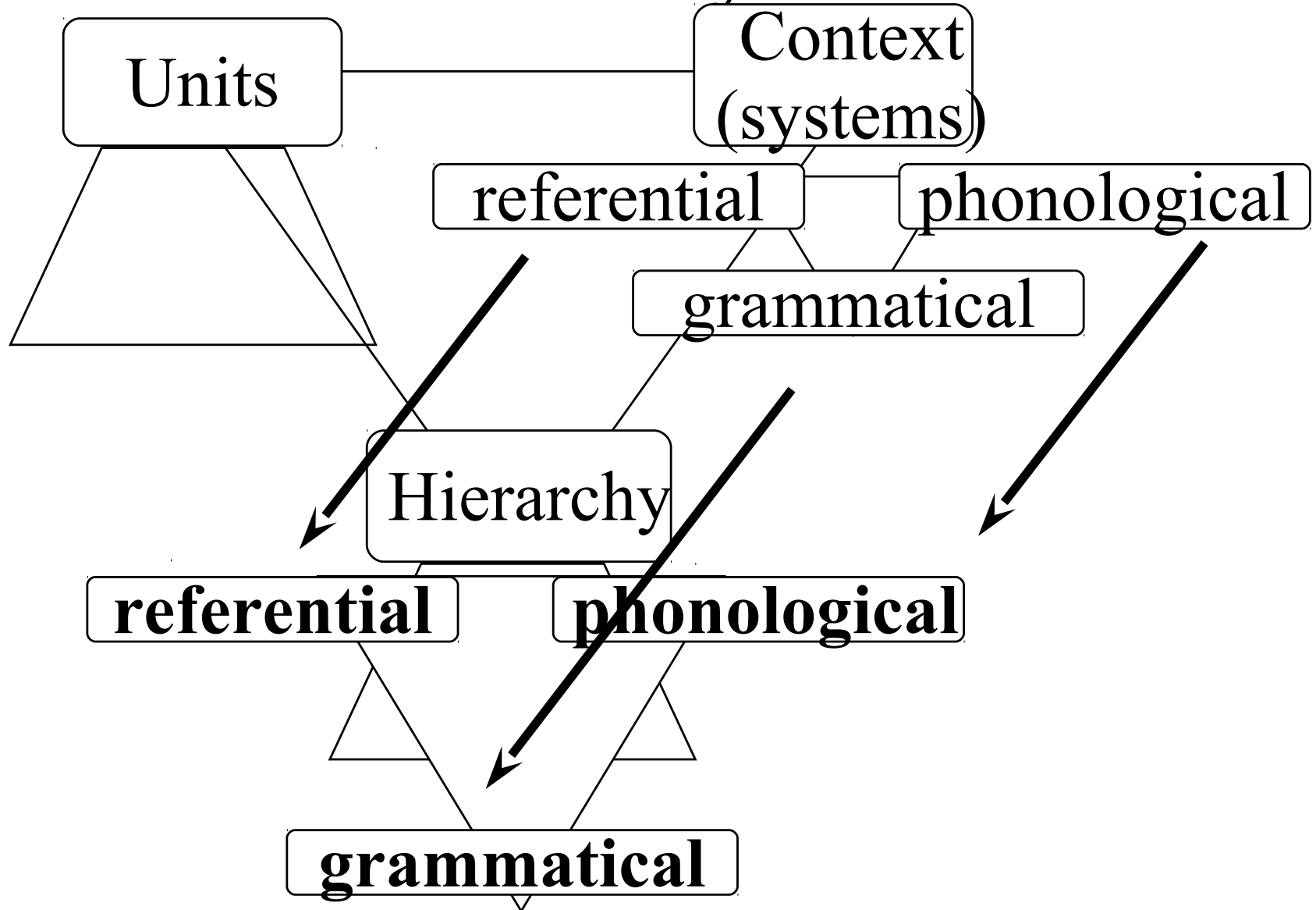
Section:



Complex Fitting



Kinds of Hierarchy



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

?

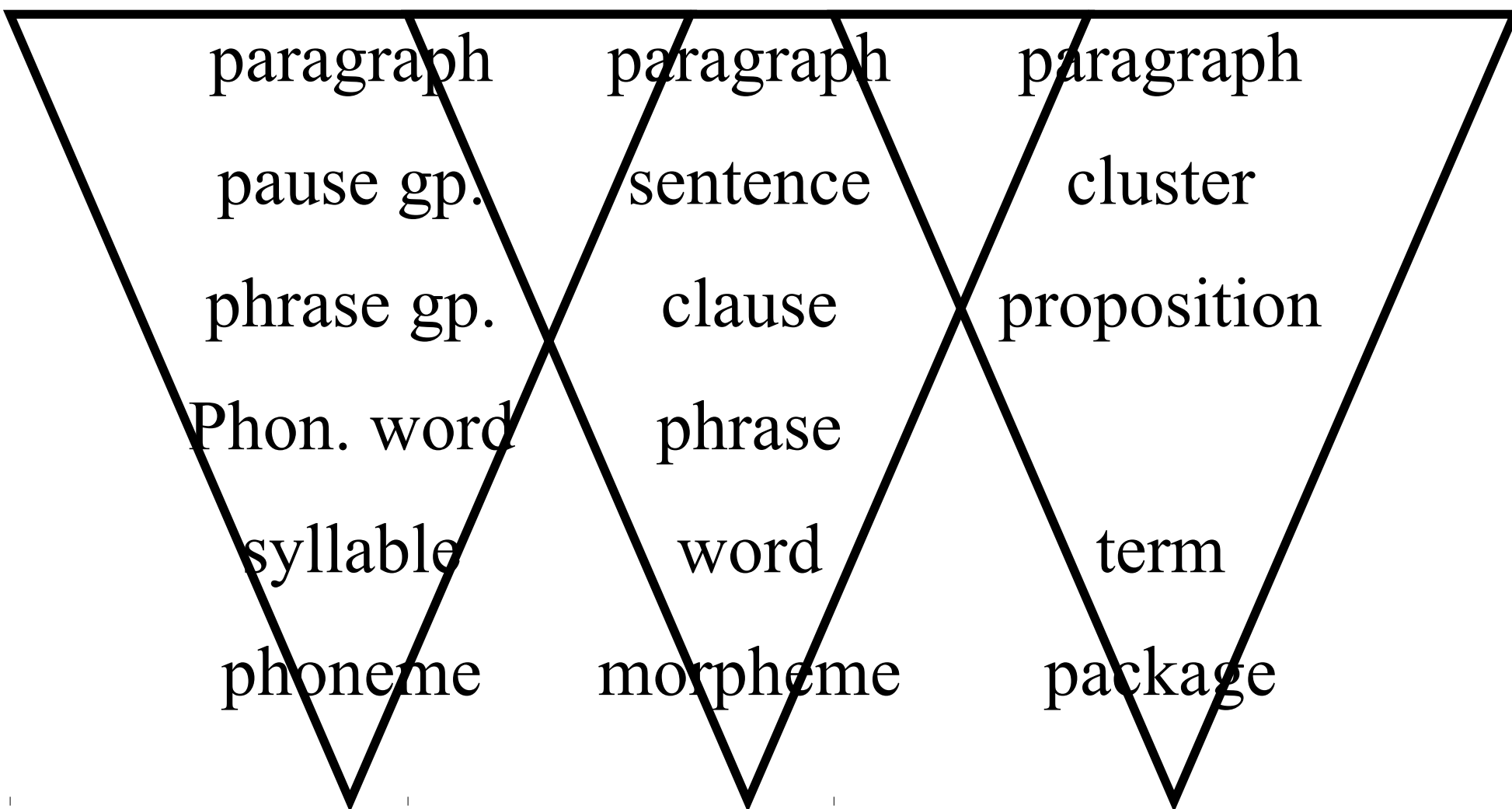
marked by punctuation?

Referential Levels

semantic pack	un-, non-
term	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

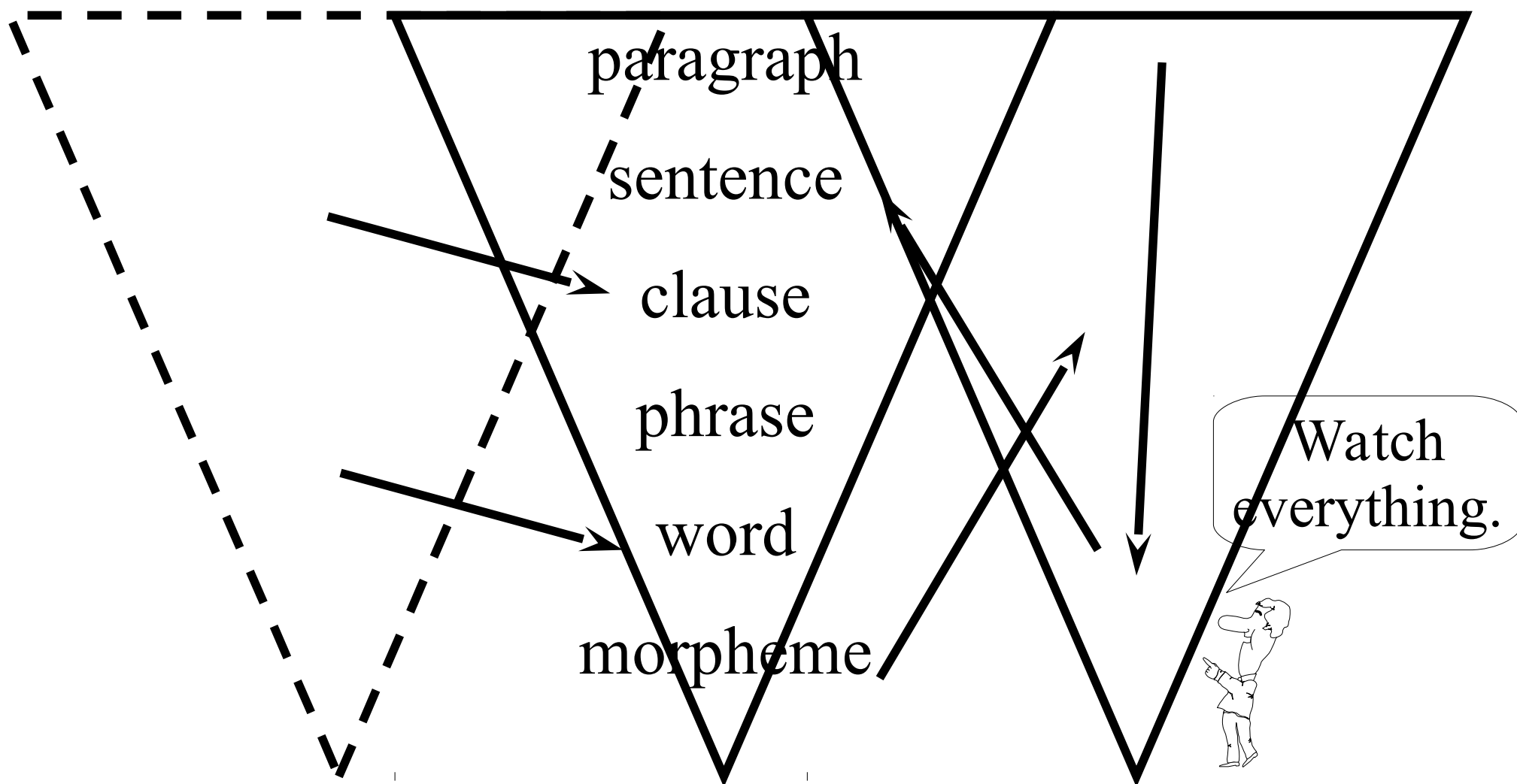
Phonology Grammar Reference



6. Implications for Interpretation

Interacting Hierarchies

Phonology Grammar Reference



Burton Indicates Interaction

Grammatical

Referential

Present
tense in
Greek



Progressive

General (gnomic)

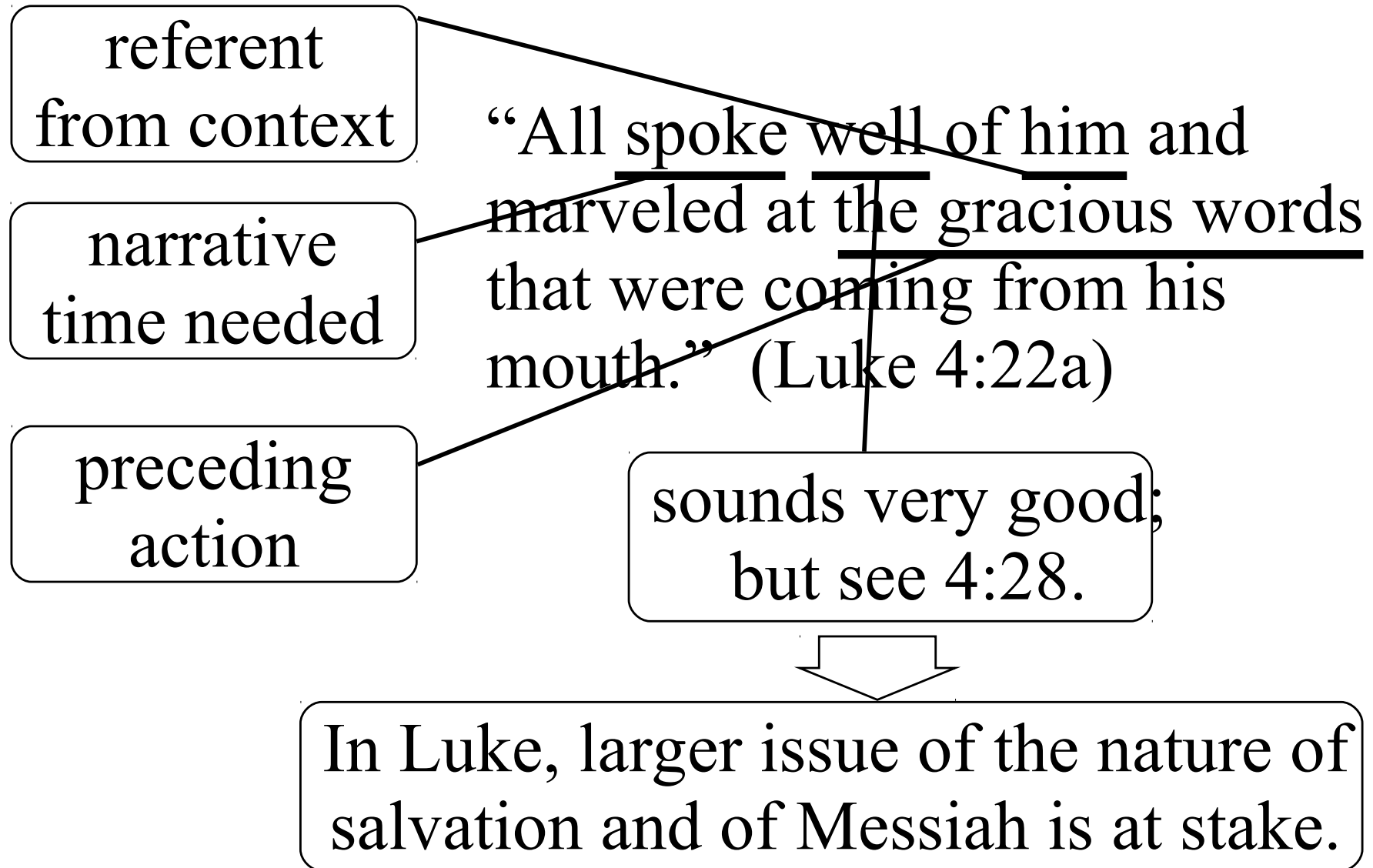
Aoristic

Historical

For the future

Past action still in
progress

Implications of Linkage



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.

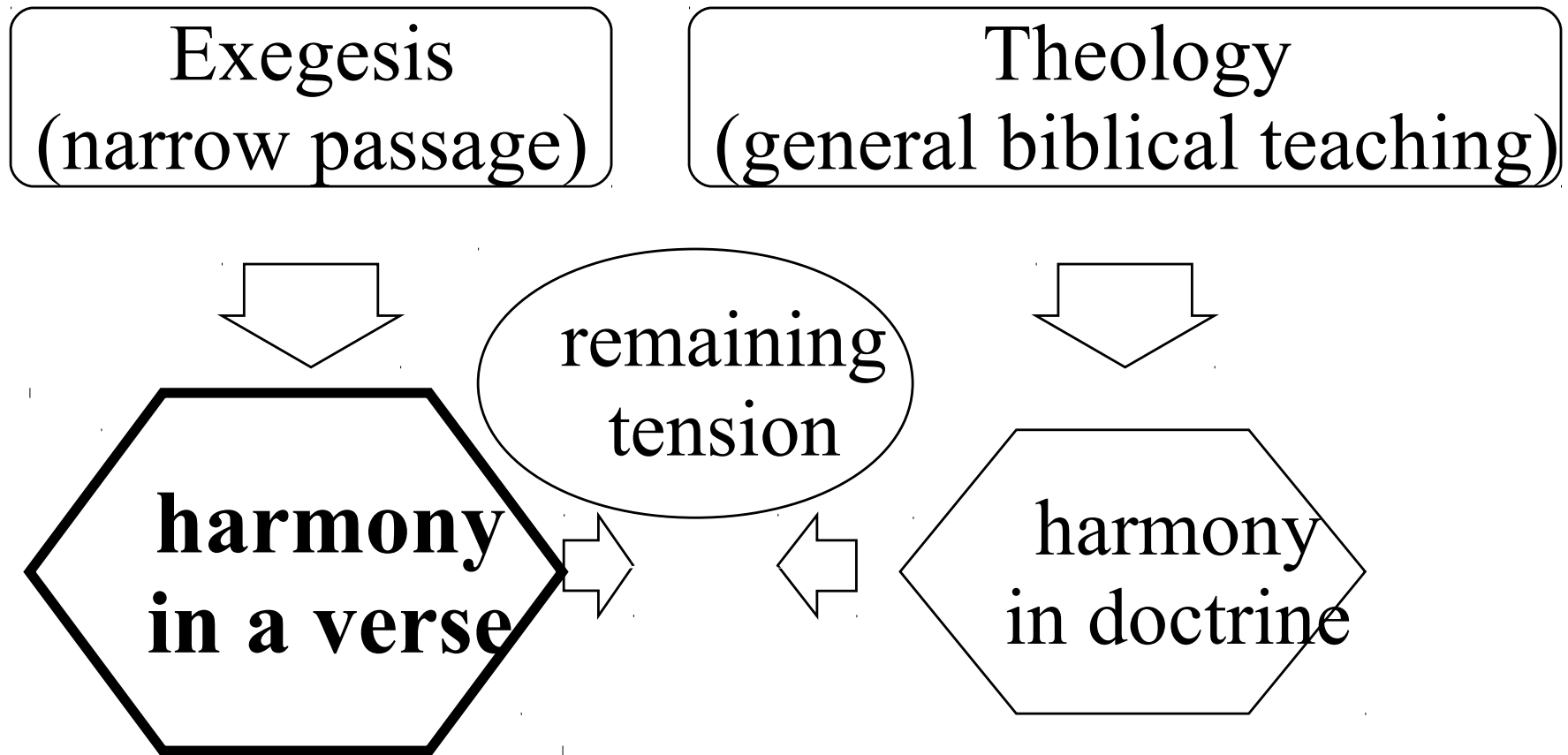
At every level in all 3 hierarchies.

What to do with tension?



Not always easy!

Exegesis and Theology



Prefer exegesis because your training biases you toward doctrine.

Harmonizing in Luke 18:35

Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐν τῷ ἐγγίξειν αὐτὸν
εἰς Ἱεριχὼ 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.

