

Ross Lesson 21: Disjunctive WAW, Passive Ptc, More on Pron Sfxs

LECTURE NOTES

1. Disjunctive Clauses Introduced by Waw + Non-verb (or Waw + Non-finite-verb) (Ross 21.1)

Almost every Hebrew clause in a text begins with waw. Surprising? Notice this string of verses from the introduction to the book of Jonah:

1:1	וַיֹּהִי דְּבָרֵר־יְהוָה אֲלֵיכֶם בְּנֵ־אַמְתִּי לְאָמָר:	The word of Y. came to Jonah the son of Amitai saying,
1:2	קוֹם לְךָ אֶל־נָינָה הָעִיר הַגָּדוֹלָה	“Arise, go to Nineveh the great city
	וּקְרָא עַלְּהָה בַּיּוֹתְרָה רָעָתָם לִפְנֵי:	and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me.”
1:3	וַיָּקָם יוֹנָה לְבָרֵךְ תְּרִשְׁישָׁה מִלְּפָנֵי יְהוָה וַיָּרַד יְפֹ	And Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of Y. and he went down to Joppa,
	וַיִּמְצָא אָנָּה בָּאָה תְּרִשְׁישָׁה וַיַּתְּנוּ שְׁכָרָה	and he found a ship which was going to Tarshish, and he gave/paid the fare,
	וַיָּרַד בָּהּ לְבֹזָא עַמָּהָם תְּרִשְׁישָׁה מִלְּפָנֵי יְהוָה:	and he went down into it to go w. them to Tarshish fr. the presence of Y.
1:4	וַיֹּהִי הַטִּיל רוח־גָּדוֹלָה אֶל־הַיּוֹם וַיֹּהִי סֻעָּר־גָּדוֹל בְּיַם וְהַאֲנָה חָשַׁבָּה לְהַשְׁבָּרָה:	And Y. hurled a great wind on the sea and there was a great storm on the sea and the ship was about to break up.

Did you notice that only v.2a did not begin with waw? Incidentally, it begins a quotation and therefore does not move the “event-storyline” forward.

In historical narrative in BH, the structural “backbone” that moves the narrative along are the verbs that report a sequence of events using wci (*wayyiqtol*) forms. At times, however, the author needs to stop walking you through the sequence of events and, instead, needs to show you around before getting back to the event-line. Some refer to these breaks in the narrative as *off-line* material, compared to *mainline* material. To accomplish this, the author commonly introduces the “break” with a DISJUNCTIVE WAW (so called in Ross Lesson 21).

Historical narrative sequences will chain together clauses beginning with wci (or *wayyiqtol*) forms—waw + a finite verb form (prefixed). Future sequences will chain together clauses beginning with wcp (or *weqatal*) forms—waw + a finite verb form (suffixed). BUT breaks in the sequence will have in clause-initial position waw + non-verb (like a noun, pronoun, negator) or, more rarely, waw + non-finite-verb (like a participle or infinitive) .

1. Circumstantial clauses introduced by disjunctive waw.

Genesis 18:1

וַיַּרְא אֶלְיוֹן יְהוָה בְּאֶלְעָנִי מַמְרָא : וְהִוא יָשַׁב פֶּתַח-הַאֲהָל בְּתָם הַיּוֹם . And YHWH appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, and he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day (= while he sat).

Notice the waw does begin the new clause, but it is not attached to a verb. It is attached to a pronoun: **וְהִוא** (and he). This clause with disjunctive waw does not tell us the next event in the storyline; rather, it give us the circumstances within which the action of the preceding mainline event occurred: 'Y. appear to A. *while he was sitting....*'

The precise semantic value of the circumstance that a circumstantial clause bears must be inferred from the semantic context of the clauses taken together. The circumstance could be temporal ('while, when, as'), concessive ('although, even though'), causal ('because'), manner ('by'), etc. For ex.,

I could smell his BO, and I was sleeping! (concessive: '... *even though* I was sleeping!')

John overcame the odds, and God was with him. (cause: '... *because* God was with him')

2. Parenthetical clauses introduced by disjunctive waw.

Such clauses do not continue the mainline, but provide background or parenthetical information that is important for processing what has happened or will happen in the mainline.

Genesis 13:7

וַיְהִי-רִיב בֵּין רָעֵי מִקְנָה-אַבְרָהָם וּבֵין רָעֵי מִקְנָה-לֹט : וְהַכְּנָעָנִים וְהַפְּرִזְזִים אֲוֹ יָשַׁב בְּאֶרְצָן : and there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. and the Canaanites and the Perizzites then were dwelling in the land. (=Now, the C & P were then dwelling....)

Notice the waw does begin the new clause, but it is not attached to a verb. It is attached to a noun (actually, a compound noun phrase): **וְהַכְּנָעָנִים וְהַפְּרִזְזִים** (and the Canaanites and the Perizzites). The Cs & Ps dwelling in the land is not the next event to occur after Abram's and Lot's herdsman fight! Rather, it provides a break in the narrative to introduce parenthetical information necessary to understand the narrative as it unfolds.

1 Ki 17:10

וַיַּקְרַב | And he arose
וַיַּלְךְ צְרָفָתָה | and he went to Zarephath,
וַיָּבֹא אֶל-פֶּתַח הָעִיר | and he came to the gate of the city,
וְהַנָּה-שָׁם אֲשֶׁר אֶל-מִנָּה מִלְשָׁשָׁת עַצְים | and behold, a widow-woman was there gathering sticks;
וַיִּקְרַב אֶלְיהָ | and he called to her

וַיֹּאמֶר... and he said, “....”

Notice that there are 6 clauses here. The first 3 and the last 2 are wci (wayyiqtol) forms that move the storyline forward as mainline events; the 4th clause, however, is waw + non-verb ('behold'), presenting background info as opposed to the next mainline event. Once the parenthesis is complete, the mainline action resumes with a wci form again.

3. Initial clauses introduced by disjunctive waw.

Sometimes a new scene or section of the narrative begins with a disjunctive waw clause. This happens several times in the early chapters of Genesis.

Genesis 3:1

וְהַנֶּחֶשׁ *הִיא עָרָם מִכֶּל חַיָּת הַשָּׂדָה אֲשֶׁר*
עָשָׂה יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים
וַיֹּאמֶל אֶל־הַאֲשָׁה.... *Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.*
And he said to the woman, “....”

Genesis 4:1

וְהִיא־אָדָם יְדֻעַ אֶת־חַוָּה אֲשֶׁר־
וְתָהָר וְתָלַד אֶת־קַיִן
וְתָמַר וְقָוָה....

Notice that each of these chapters begins a new scene using a disjunctive waw clause: a waw + non-verb (in these two clauses, waw is prefixed to a noun). Once the first clause of the new scene is given, the mainline is continued by way of wci (wayviqtol) forms.

4. Contrastive and/or negative clauses introduced by disjunctive waw.

Finally, sometimes material that is contrastive to the preceding clause, or that introduces a statement of what did not happen, is introduced by disjunctive *waw*.

Psalm 1:6

כִּי יְדֹעַ יְהוָה דָּרְךָ צַדִּיקִים
וְדָרְךָ רְשָׁעִים תָּאֶבֶד:

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
But the way of the wicked will perish.

2. Qal Passive Participles (Ross 21.2)

We covered Qal Active Participles in Ross Lesson 16 (remember פָקָד/פָזָקָד ‘appointing, visiting’). This chapter deals with Qal Passive Participles (פָקָוד ‘appointed, visited’). Important things to remember:

2.1. Participles are *verbal adjectives*!! They have verbal characteristics (can be marked for stems like the Qal; can take objects and modifiers) and adjectival characteristics (can be inflected for gender and number; can function as other adjectives do—attributively, predicatively, and substantivally).

2.2. Since Participles are *verbal adjectives*, they are describing or modifying something (explicitly or implicitly). NOTE: To simplify matters: If the ptc is Active, then whatever it describes is the doer/agent of the ptc-verbal action (typically translate with -ing). If the ptc is Passive, then whatever it describes is the receiver/patient of the ptc-verbal action (typically translate with -ed, -d, -en).

- a. Active ptc exx: *the biting man* (the man does the biting); *the jumping bean* (the bean does the jumping)
- b. Passive ptc exx: *the bitten man* (the man is the patient, someone else does the biting activity); *the broken jawbone* (someone broke the jawbone; the jawbone didn’t break anything).

2.3. Qal Active Participles and Qal Passive Participles all have historically long vowels, but the Actives have it with R-1 (root-1) and the Passives have it with R-2 (the theme vowel). These historically long vowels NEVER reduce to VS!

פָקָוד	ms ‘appointed’	פָקָודִים	mp ‘appointed’
פָקָודָה	fs ‘appointed’	פָקָודָות	fp ‘appointed’

2.4. Let’s mix it up a little and use the verb בָרַךְ ‘to bless’ as another example: compare active and passive ptc meanings:

Qal Active Ptc	Qal Passive Ptc
בָרַךְ ms ‘blessing’	בָרַךְ ms ‘blessed’
בָרַכָּה fs ‘blessing’	בָרַכָּה fs ‘blessed’
בָרַכִּים mp ‘blessing’	בָרַכִּים mp ‘blessed’
בָרַכּוֹת fp ‘blessing’	בָרַכּוֹת fp ‘blessed’

In בָרַךְ, historically long holem-waw is usually spelled defectively as holem; it never reduces.

In בָּרוֹךְ, historically long shureq never reduces, although the qamets will when syllables are added (since it becomes O/PPT syll.).

3. Uses/syntax of the Passive PTC (Ross 21.3)

Functions of the Passive PTC are the same as the functions of the adj and the Active PTC! Here are a few examples using our verb פָקַד in the Qal passive ptc form:

הַמְלָךְ הַפְּקוּדָה: The appointed king ATTRIBUTIVE

הַמְלָךְ פְּקוּדָה: The king (is) appointed. PREDICATE

פְּקוּדָה הַמְלָךְ:

הַפְּקוּדִים פָּהּ: The appointed (ones) are here. SUBSTANTIVAL

Here are some exx. where the active and passive ptcs for בָּרַךְ (to bless) are paired together to show the difference among the ptc functions:

הָאִישׁ הַבָּרֵךְ The blessing man

ATTRIBUTIVE

הָאִישׁ הַבָּרוּךְ The blessed man

הָאִישׁ בָּרֵךְ The man is blessing.

PREDICATE

הָאִישׁ בָּרוּךְ The man is blessed.

הַבָּרֵךְ שֵׁם: The blessing (one) is there.

SUBSTANTIVAL

הַבָּרוּךְ שֵׁם: The blessed (one) is there.

4. Pause/Pausal Lengthening (Ross 21.4)

Pausal lengthening is caused by disjunctive accents (and so a vowel will lengthen if it's short). Ross mentions 3 specific vowel pointings where pausal lengthening occurs.

4.1. ○ > ָ פָקַד >

4.2. ָ > ָ מְלָךְ >

4.3. ָ (vs) > full vowel פָקַדָה >

A special problem: ְלָ ? > ְלָּא

5. Pronoun Suffixes on Prepositions **ן** and **בְּ** (Ross 21.4)

See Ross p. 159 for the full paradigm for what it looks like to add pronominal suffixes to these prepositions.

5.1. Prep **ן**

Some forms of **ן** undergo both reduplication and assimilation: **מִנְנָנוּ** > **מִנְמָנוּ** (+ 1cp sfx, 'from us')

Some forms of **ן** undergo just assimilation (but with adjustments if cannot become DF in a guttural):

מִתְהָם > **מִנְתָּהָם** (+ 3mp sfx, 'from them') **מִבְּם** > **מִנְבָּם** (+ 2mp sfx, 'from y'all')

5.2. Prep **בְּ** (remember this is one of the 3 inseparable preps: **בְּ/לְ/בִּ**)

The prep **בְּ** has two forms that are used to add pron. suffixes to: **בְּ** and **בְּמֹזְ**:

בְּ	בְּמֹזְ
3mp/3fp	All sing. pronouns
2mp/2fp	1cp
בְּהָם like them	בְּמֹזְנִי like me
(cf. לְהָם)	