

The Cruciality of Structure

Observation involves two Propositions –

1. – Learn to read
2. – Learn to detect structure

DEFINITION

Structure involves the relation and interrelation of component parts.

- Whenever you have two of anything (terms, phrases, clauses, prepositions, connectives, sentences, paragraphs, chapters, etc.), you have structure.

THEREFORE we are looking for

- (1) What God has said (content)
- (2) How God has said it (form)
 - Relationships
 - Arrangement

KINDS

1. Grammatical – an author communicates his mind through his grammar
 - a. Verbs
 - b. Subject/object
 - c. Modifiers
 - d. Dependent and independent clauses
 - e. Phrases – especially prepositional
 - f. Connectives
2. Literary – a book presupposes unity.

SPHERES

1. Within a paragraph – primarily grammatical
2. Between paragraphs – primarily literary

PRINCIPLES

1. Recognition that the paragraph is the basic unit of study and thought
 - not verse or chapter
 - a paragraph is a group of related sentences/ideas dealing with one leading topic or idea.
- * May be sub-thoughts but they are always united.
- not inspired, therefore evaluate and, if necessary, change

2. Devise a title for each paragraph

- Value: a handle; a means of review and recapitulation

- Characteristics:

 - (1) Brief

 - (2) Personal

 - (3) Memorable

 - (4) Unique to one paragraph

- Goal: develop “at homeness” in the book

3. The thought patterns of a writer are carried forward by means of five primary factors.

- a. Key persons – Biographical structure

- b. Key places - Geographical structure

- c. Key events – Historical structure

- d. Key ideas – Ideological structure

- e. Key times – Chronological structure

4. Always look for elements of commonality that integrate a passage (paragraph, segment, or book).