

does not have all its parts, one cannot press the overall idea too far. But where the parts are present, there is reason to think that inversion, etc., suggests a stronger emphasis or a strengthened concept.

C. SENTENCE COMPONENTS

1. Noun Clauses

A noun clause is a clause ruled by a substantive where one must supply the verb and this, more often than not, will be a supply of some form of the verb "to be". The action may also come from a participle or an infinitive but it does not come from an expressed verb. The needed verb is supplied and/or understood from the context of the passage. Note the example from Genesis 24:1

יְהִי עַתָּה זָקֵן אַבְרָהָם "now Abraham was old..."

The predicate adjective calls for the supplying of the verb "was". But as there is no expressed verb we call the clause a noun clause.

Noun clauses describe or portray a state of existence or indicate a set, particular status. The subject is an accomplished end in the noun clause as opposed to a verbal clause where movement or progress is needed. Further notes are in Gesenius 140 (sct).

2. Verbal Clauses

A verbal clause is one where there is an expressed verb with a subject either supplied independently or contained in the inflexion of the verb. A comparison with the previous example may be made from Genesis 24:2

וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם "and Abraham said.."

In this case no question occurs concerning the verb...it is given. The explicit use of the verb directs the action and no other verbal emendation is needed.

Verbal clauses are suggestive of motion or movement or perhaps something in the form of progress. They differ therefore from noun clauses in their association or suggestion regarding the state of activity. Students are tempted to ignore these distinctions or to view them less seriously but the variety of action as conceived is important and gives insight into what is fixed and what is moving. By taking the whole of Genesis 24:2, we are able to see a bit of the contrast in ideas...and to keep it together we will do it on the next page.