

## THESIS ABSTRACT

TITLE: *HAPAX LEGOMENA* CONJUNCTION COMBINATIONS IN THE BOOK OF HEBREWS: A LINGUISTIC AND EXEGETICAL STUDY

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This study examines the linguistic function of the hapax legomena conjunction combinations (καθ' ὅσπερ καὶ [5:4], εἰ καὶ οὕτως [6:9], ἐπειτα δὲ καὶ [7:2], καὶ ᾧδε μὲν . . . ἐκεῖ δὲ [7:8], ὅθεν καὶ [7:25], καὶ εἰ μὲν [11:15], τοιγαροῦν καὶ [12:1], γὰρ ὅτι καὶ [12:17], δέ που [2:6], ὅθεν οὐδὲ [9:18], ὅπου δὲ [10:18], δὲ ἔτι [12:27], γὰρ δήπου [2:16], γὰρ που [4:4], εἰ μὴν [6:14], ἐπεὶ μήποτε [9:17]) in the book of Hebrews. The necessity to examine these combinations is derived from the fact that (1) generally conjunctions are capable of expressing multiple senses and in cases of combinations of particles the possibilities of ambiguity are naturally increased as evidenced in some translations of some of the combinations. (2) Some of the conjunction combinations are classical combinations and being cognizant of the fact that classical combinations were relatively absent from κοινή, these grounds warrants an investigation of their inclusion in the book of Hebrews in terms of functionality.

A discourse analysis (DA) approach is employed to establish which lexical sense of the individual conjunctions formulating the combination collocates semantically to express the intent of the text. Also the functionality of the combination at both the local and global structural levels is probed. DA is chosen because since conjunctions have a sequencing function of relating syntactic units, the manner in which they operate is set by levels of discourse higher than the sentence, that is, by the structure of the paragraph or section. Therefore, rhetorical structures of the paragraph in which the combinations are localized is analyzed to establish the logico-semantic relation carried by the combinations and their functionality in the discourse.

The results emanating from the study demonstrated that the conjunction combinations (1) are emphatic in force on the overall and hence signal prominence and markedness of the clause or paragraph in which they occur. (2) They express intensity or specificity of the asserted proposition, that is, increases the shape without increasing the size. (3) Globally, they are strategically employed in propositions that reinforce

the global aim of the book of Hebrew, that is, the notion of not to look back but rather fixing eyes on Christ because He is superior and distinct. Since the broader aim is to dissuade the believers from drifting back, then, these combinations play a functional role of maintaining that aim.

Therefore, summarily the conjunction combinations as focal indicators play a pragmatic role. As emphatic particles or development markers, they signal focus and hence act as clues to constrain interpretation not only of logico-semantic relations but also expression of information status. Also the conjunction combinations are used in the Book of Hebrews by the author to sustain attention as sound and gesture do in oral speech.