Rocine Lesson 11

וַיְהִי יְשַׂעְיָֽהוּ לֹא יָצָא וּדְבַר־יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

2 Kings 20:4
Goals

1. Identify and read the Historical Narrative transition marker יַהֲנֵי
2. Identify and read irrealis comments constructed with לא
3. Begin constructing a discourse profile scheme for Historical Narrative
4. Use an understanding of Hebrew clause construction to help identify clause boundaries
What we already know

We know how to parse the last verb.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>PGN</th>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Root meaning</th>
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What we already know

וַיְהִי יְשַעְיָָ֫הוּ לֹא יָצָא וּדְבַר־יְהוָה

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<tr>
<td>יהוה</td>
<td>Qal</td>
<td>Qatal</td>
<td>3ms</td>
<td>X-qatal = topicalization</td>
<td>To be, become</td>
</tr>
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What we already know

And Isaiah did not go out among the nations to declare God’s message to them.

How could we translate the last clause?
What we already know

וַיְהִי יְשַעְיָָ֫הוּ לֹא יָצָא
וּדְבַר־יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

How could we translate the last clause?

And it was the word of YHWH which came to him ...
Historical Narrative transition marker

וַיְהִי יְשַעֲיוּ לֹא יָצָא וּדְבַר־יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

RULE: The word "וַיְהִי" has a special function in Biblical Hebrew as a transition marker.
Historical Narrative transition marker


RULE: The word יְהִי has a special function in Biblical Hebrew as a transition marker.

• Wayyiqtol form of יְהִי

• Basic meaning “to happen, become, be”
  – Like the verb “to be” in English
  – But often has the added nuance of something happening, not just “being”
Historical Narrative transition marker

It is simultaneously a divider and joiner of text

• Divider: marks the onset of
  – a new scene
  – a new episode
  – the entrance of a new participant in a story.

• Joiner:
  – “At the same time it does indeed join the scene or episode it marks to a larger discourse.”
Historical Narrative transition marker

וַיְהִי יְשַׁעְיָָ֫הוּ לֹא יָצָא וּדְבַר־יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

• The nikkud is irregular
  – learn without analysis, i.e. as a sight word
  – Very common, occurs 700+ times in HB

• Translation: *And (then) it happened*
  or left untranslated

• Function (in analysis chart): transition marker
Historical Narrative transition marker

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- learn without analysis, i.e. as a sight word
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• Translation: *And (then) it happened*
  or left untranslated

• Function (in analysis chart): *transition marker*

Looks like a Piel but it’s Qal.

Triply weak.
Heh, Yod, Heh
Historical Narrative transition marker

וַיְהִי ישַעְיָָ֫הוּ לֹא יָצָא וּדְבַר־יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

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Historical Narrative transition marker

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Translation: *And (then) it happened* or left untranslated

Function (in analysis chart): transition marker

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Historical Narrative transition marker

Not a Historical Narrative summary line.

Nota Bene:

• Even though נָהָה is a wayyiqtol and the genre is Historical Narrative, it is off-line, not mainline.
• It is off-line because it is not describing the next event in the narrative.

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Next three words

וַיְהִי יְשַׁעְיָָ֫הוּ לֹא יָצָא

In the next 3 words we have an X-qatal.

• Identify the X
• Identify the qatal
• How is the X related to the qatal?
In the next 3 words we have an X-qatal.

• Identify the X
  יְשַׁעְיָָ֫ה (Isaiah)

• Identify the qatal
  יָצָא

• How is the X related to the qatal?
  יְשַׁעְיָָ֫ה (Isaiah) is the subject of the qatal
Irrealis

וּוַיְהִי יְשַעְיָָ֫ה לֹא יָצָא וּדְבַר־יְهוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

• לֹא means “no, not”
Irrealis

לֹא means “no, not”

לֹא converts a verb to irrealis

– i.e. a statement of what is not rather than what is
Irrealis

וּוַיְהִי יְשַעְיָה לֹא יָצָא וּדְבַר־יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

• לא means “no, not”
• לא converts a verb to irrealis
  – i.e. a statement of what is not rather than what is
• Do not confuse לא and לו (“to him” or “his”)
Irrealis

וַיְהִי יְשַעֲיהוּ לָא יָצָא וּדְבַר־יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

Translate the elements.
Irrealis

וַיְהִי יְשַׁעְיָֽהוּ לֹא יָצָא וּדְבַר־יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

he went out  not  Isaiah  and it happened
Irrealis

עָלָיו אֵלָיו יָצָא לֹא יְשַעְיָ֫הוּ

he went out not Isaiah and it happened

X-qatal
Irrealis

It was Isaiah who did not go out.
Irreals

It was Isaiah who was not a goer forth / did not go out

Translation of first clause:

• “And it happened that it was Isaiah who was not a goer forth / did not go out”

Or simply

• “It was Isaiah who was not a goer forth / did not go out”

The transition marker יָצָא is often left untranslated in English.
RULE: The conversion of any verb to irrealis, that is, a statement of what is not rather than what is, by the word לֹא moves the verb form to the lowest place in the discourse profile scheme of a genre.
Discourse profile

A bit of review

• What is a discourse?

• What is a genre?
Discourse profile

A bit of review

• A Discourse:
  – “a self-contained text, maybe long or maybe short, but the text has its own plan, purpose, and meaning.”
Discourse profile

A bit of review

• A Discourse:
  – “a self-contained text, maybe long or maybe short, but the text has its own plan, purpose, and meaning.”

• Genre:
  – “A kind of discourse”
  – E.g.
    • Historical Narrative       Tell a story about the past.
    • Predictive Narrative      Tell a story set in the future.
    • Instructional Discourse   Tell how to do something.
    • Hortatory Discourse       Influence the behavior of someone.
    • Procedural Discourse      Tell how a procedure was done in the past.
Discourse profile

A bit of review

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    • Procedural Discourse: Tell how a procedure was done in the past.

Today we are looking at

• the discourse profile of the historical narrative genre.
• The profile is how the discourse of this particular genre is structured.
Discourse profile

• The idea is that the **mainline** verb form is like the skeleton from which hang all the tissue of detail, setting, summary, and elaboration.

• All **off-the-line** verb forms in a genre provide these details, settings, summaries, and elaborations as they retard the forward progress of the mainline.

• The lower a verb form is in the profile, the farther away it is from the mainline and the more it tends to retard the forward progress of the mainline.
Discourse profile

1. **Mainline:** Wayyiqtol

2. **Off-the-line:**
   2.1 **Topicalization:** X-qatal
   2.2 **Relative past background:** אֲשֶׁר qatal
   2.3 **Transition marker:** Wayyiqtol of הוה
   2.4 **Scene setting:** Verbless Clause
   2.5 **Irrealis scene setting:** Negation of any verb by לא
Discourse profile

1. **Mainline**: Wayyiqtol  (Lesson 1, p 4)

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**Off-the-line:**

2. **Topicalization**: X-qatal  (Lesson 5, p 23)

3. **Relative past background**: אֲשֶׁר qatal  (Lesson 4, p 18)

4. **Transition marker**: Wayyiqtol of הוה  (Lesson 11, p 51)

5. **Scene setting**: Verbless Clause  (Lesson 2, p 10)

6. **Irrealis scene setting**: Negation of any verb by לא  (Lesson 11, p 52)
Discourse profile

1. **Mainline:** Wayyiqtol

   **Skeleton or Framework**

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**Off-the-line:**

2. **Topicalization:** X-qatal

3. **Relative past background:** אֲשֶׁר qatal

4. **Transition marker:** Wayyiqtol of היה

5. **Scene setting:** Verbless Clause

6. **Irrealis scene setting:** Negation of any verb by לא
Discourse profile

1. **Mainline**: Wayyiqtol

   **Advances the narrative**

   **Skeleton or Framework**

---

**Off-the-line:**

2. **Topicalization**: X-qatal

3. **Relative past background**: אֲשֶׁר qatal

4. **Transition marker**: Wayyiqtol of היה

5. **Scene setting**: Verbless Clause

6. **Irrealis scene setting**: Negation of any verb by לא
Discourse profile

1. **Mainline**: Wayyiqtol

Off-the-line:

2. **Topicalization**: X-qatal

3. **Relative past background**: אֲשֶׁר qatal

4. **Transition marker**: Wayyiqtol of הוה

5. **Scene setting**: Verbless Clause

6. **Irrealis scene setting**: Negation of any verb by לא

- **Dynamic action**: Advances the narrative
- **Skeleton or Framework**: Details: setting, summary, elaboration, etc.

- **Increasingly static**: Retards the narrative
Discourse profile

1. **Mainline**: Wayyiqtol

**Off-the-line:**

2. **Topicalization**: X-qatal
3. **Relative past background**: אֲשֶׁר qatal
4. **Transition marker**: Wayyiqtol of היה
5. **Scene setting**: Verbless Clause
6. **Irrealis scene setting**: Negation of any verb by לא

- **Note**: This is **not** a ranking of importance.
  - It is a ranking of movement in the narrative – the lower the rank the more that construction slows the forward progress of the discourse.
  - Sometimes off-line constructions contain the most important material: like a “slow-mo” section of a video or even a “freeze frame”.
Identifying where clauses begin and end

• This is an art
• Look for the *waws*, that will tell you an awful lot
• Read Rocine’s section on this (11.5) but it’s best dealt with when looking at the concrete examples in the exercises