

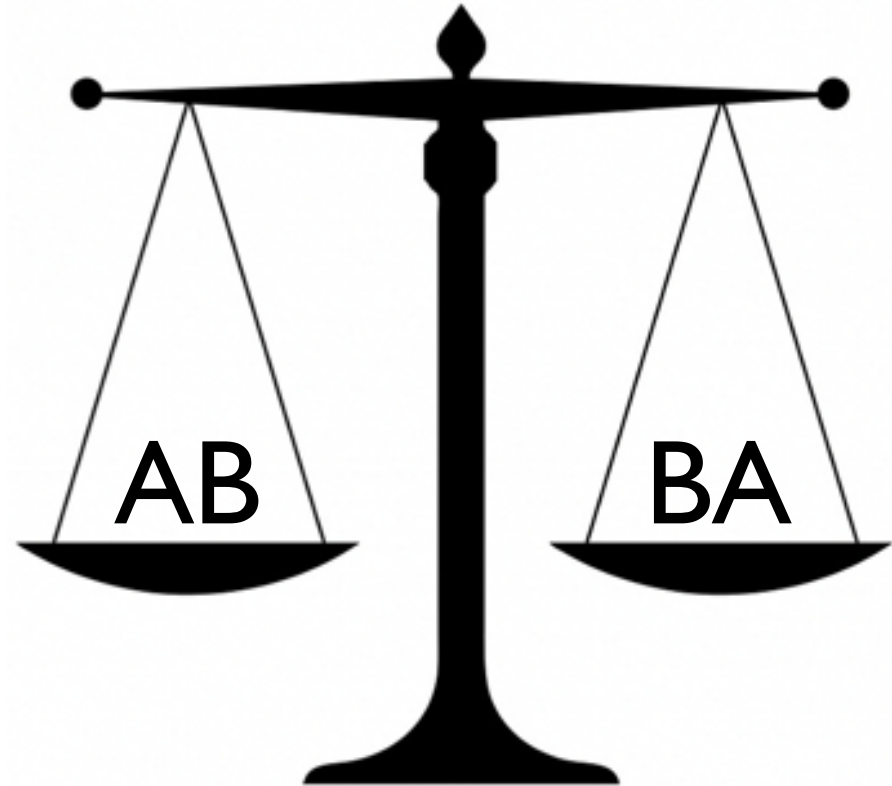
Chiastic iconicity

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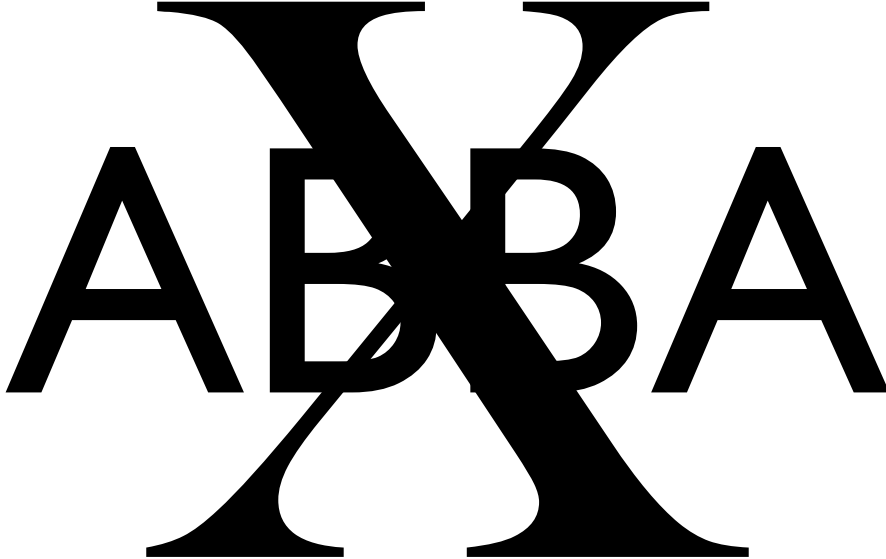
Chiastic iconicity

1. Preliminaries
2. Chiastic suite
3. Symmetry
4. Symmetry and parallelism
5. Balance
6. Meaning



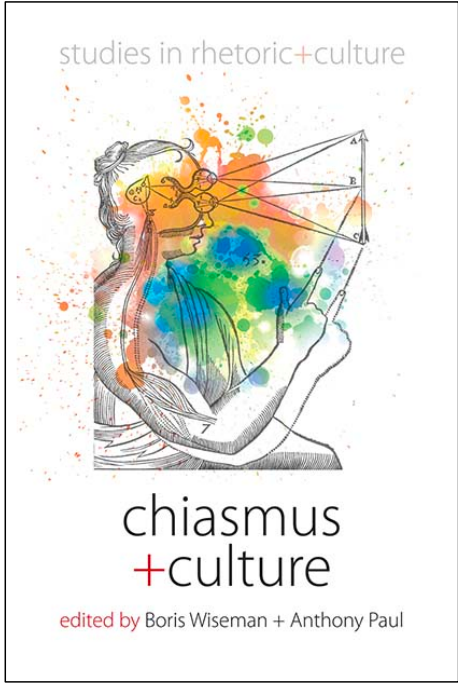
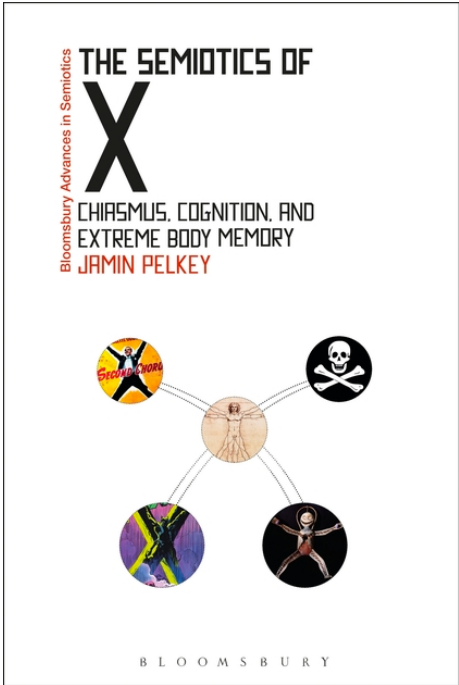
Preliminaries

all for one

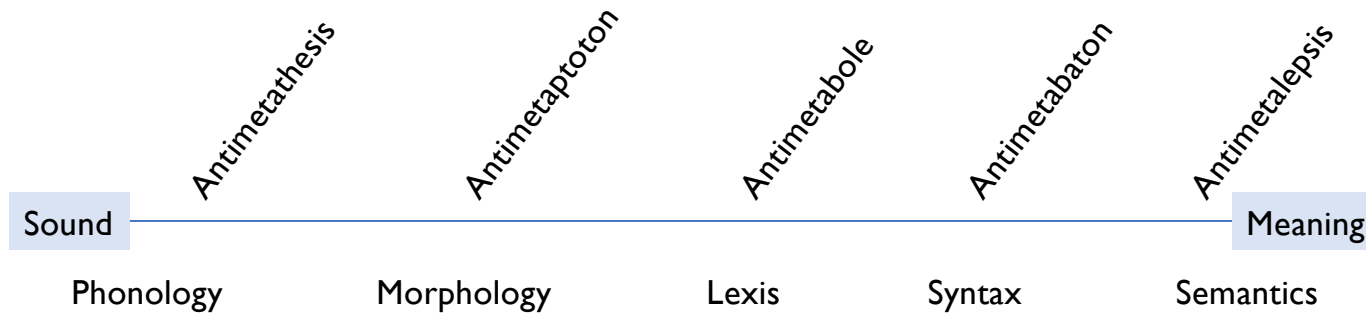
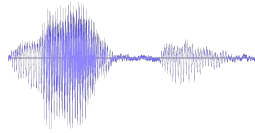


one for all

Preliminaries



The chiastic suite



Antanametabole: also *pseudo-antimetabole*; chiasmic repetition of signantia without the signata

Evoked chiasmus: a phrase that evokes its reverse, a well-known expression, forming a kind of mental chiasmus, a type of allusion

Textual chiasmus: a sequence of units of text (chapters, narrative episodes, themes) are 'repeated' in reverse (often much greater than two units)

Chiastic figures

Champagne for my real friends, real pain for my sham friends.

Better to sleep in an uncomfortable bed free, than sleep
in a comfortable bed unfree.

Despised, if ugly; if fair, betrayed. (Adj-Conditional, Conditional-Adj)

[T]he new metaphor - the brain as a calculating machine - is ... fraught
with the danger of anthropomorphizing the machine and
mechanizing the man.

All for one, one for all.

Women don't want dates on their condoms; they want condoms on their
dates.

Aw Harold, I've been too fucking busy. Or vice versa, if you prefer.

A term for
carrying out a chiastic
transform

Textual chiasmus

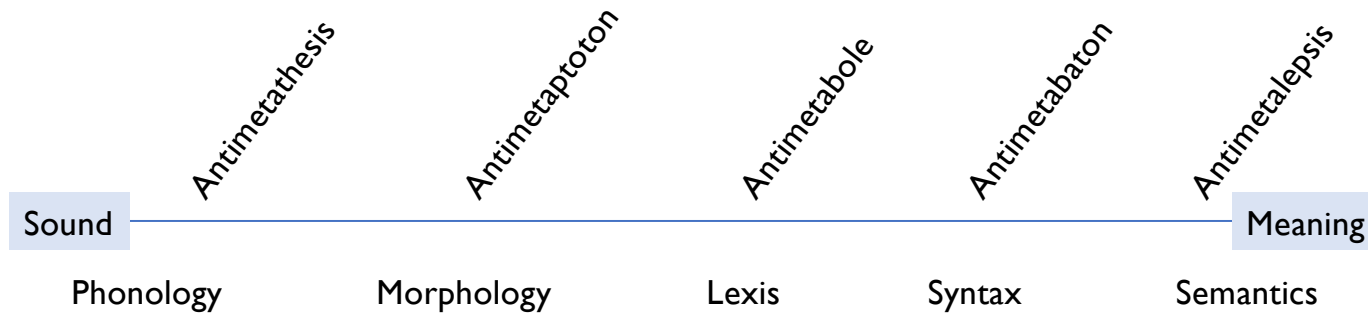
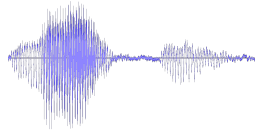
(AKA ring composition, narrative chiasmus)

A: Noah and his sons (Gen 6:10)
B: All life on earth (6:13.a)
C: Curse on earth (6:13.b)
D: Flood announced (6:7)
E: Ark (6:14-16)
F: All living creatures (6:17-20)
G: Food (6:21)
H: Animals in man's hands (7:2-3)
I: Entering the Ark (7:13-16)
J: Waters increase (7:17-20)
X: God remembers Noah (8:1)
J: Waters decrease (8:13-14)
I: Exiting the Ark (8:15-19)
H: Animals (9:2,3)
G: Food (9:3,4)
F: All living creatures (9:10a)
E: Ark (9:10b)
D: No flood in future (9:11)
C: Blessing on earth (9:12-17)
B: All life on earth (9:16)
A: Noah and his sons (9:18,19a)

The Pacific Journal of Adam Ewing
Letters from Zedelghem
Half-Lives: The First Luisa Rey Mystery
The Ghastly Ordeal of Timothy Cavendish
An Orison of Sonmi 451
Sloosha's Crossin' an' Ev'rythin' After
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The chiastic suite

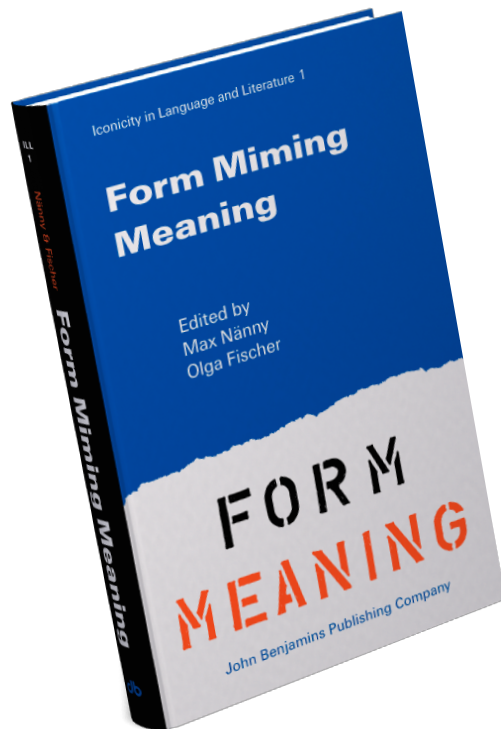


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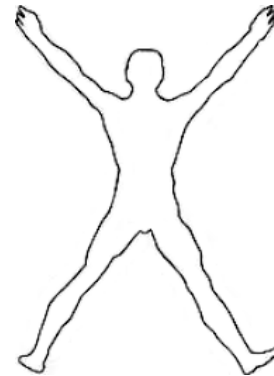
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Antimetabole and symmetry



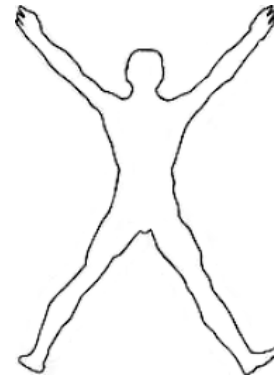
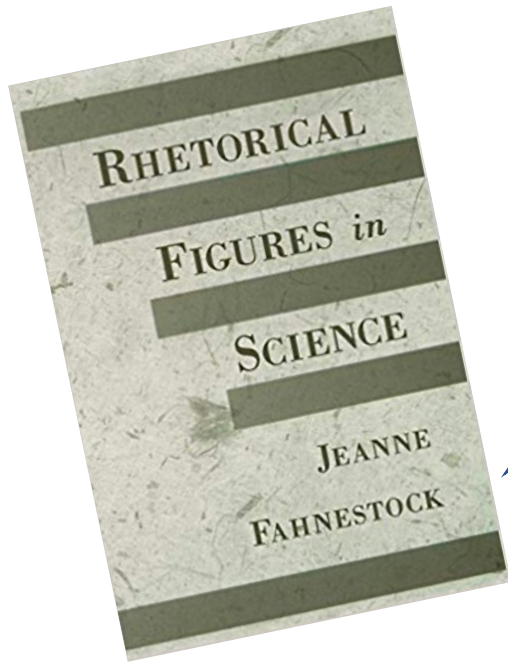
[T]he rhetorical figure of chiasmus ... is a direct manifestation in language (at the sentence level) of love of symmetry.
(Norrman 1999, 64)



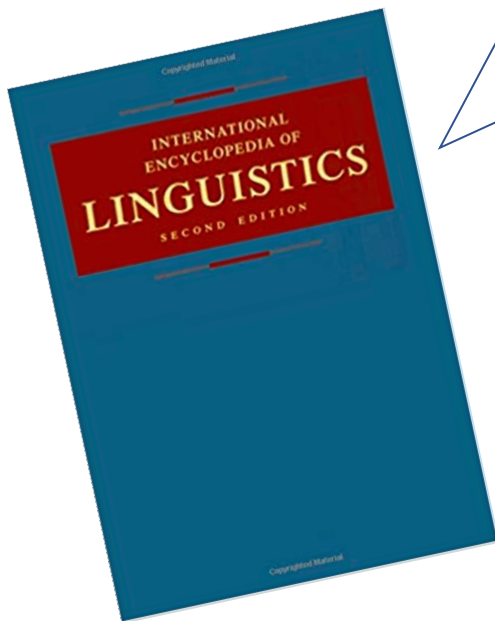
Antimetabole and symmetry

In typical bilateral symmetry, a mirror image is produced by rotating the plane in which the two-dimensional image exists around an axis of reflection by 180°. The two resulting right-hand and left-hand versions of an image or object are referred to as enantiomorphs, from the Greek word *έναντίας*, meaning "opposite."

(Fahnestock 1999, 134-135)



Antimetabole and symmetry



[A]uditory symmetry is expressed in palindromic devices, which human beings either do not appreciate or have genuine difficulty in processing. Musical palindromes, too, like Bach's 'Crab Canon' are more a delight to the eye than to the ear.



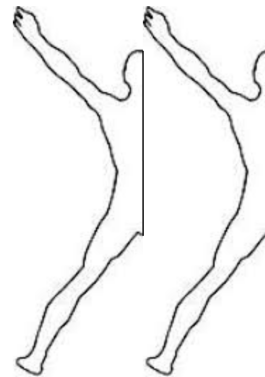
[S]ymmetry in language, as in music, is expressed by *parallelism*, i.e., repetition of the same or similar units from left to right—thus alliteration, antithesis, rhyme, and the opening bars of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony.

(Haiman 2003, 60)

Antimetabole and symmetry



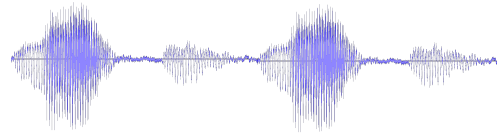
symmetrical



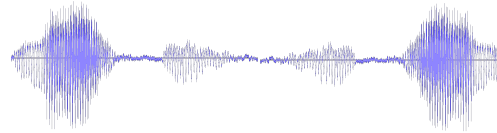
parallel

Antimetabole and symmetry

parallel



symmetrical



Antimetabole and symmetry

All for one, all for one.



Entirely parallel.

All for one, eno rof lla.



Entirely symmetrical

All for one, one for all.



(A little symmetry mixed with some parallelism; stay tuned.)

Symmetry and parallelism

Two lessons

1. Symmetry is not a very reliable analogy for aural phenomena, like, say, language.
2. Symmetry is not parallelism, not even close.

Symmetry AND parallelism

ABBA

all for one, one for all

Symmetry AND parallelism

(Antimetabole and its friends)

Antimetabole

all for one, one for all

Mesodiplosis

all for one, one for all

Anadiplosis

all for one, one for all

Epanalepsis

all for one, one for all

Parison

all for one, one for all

[N [P [N]_{NP}]_{PP}]_{NP} [N [P [N]_{NP}]_{PP}]_{NP}

Isocolon

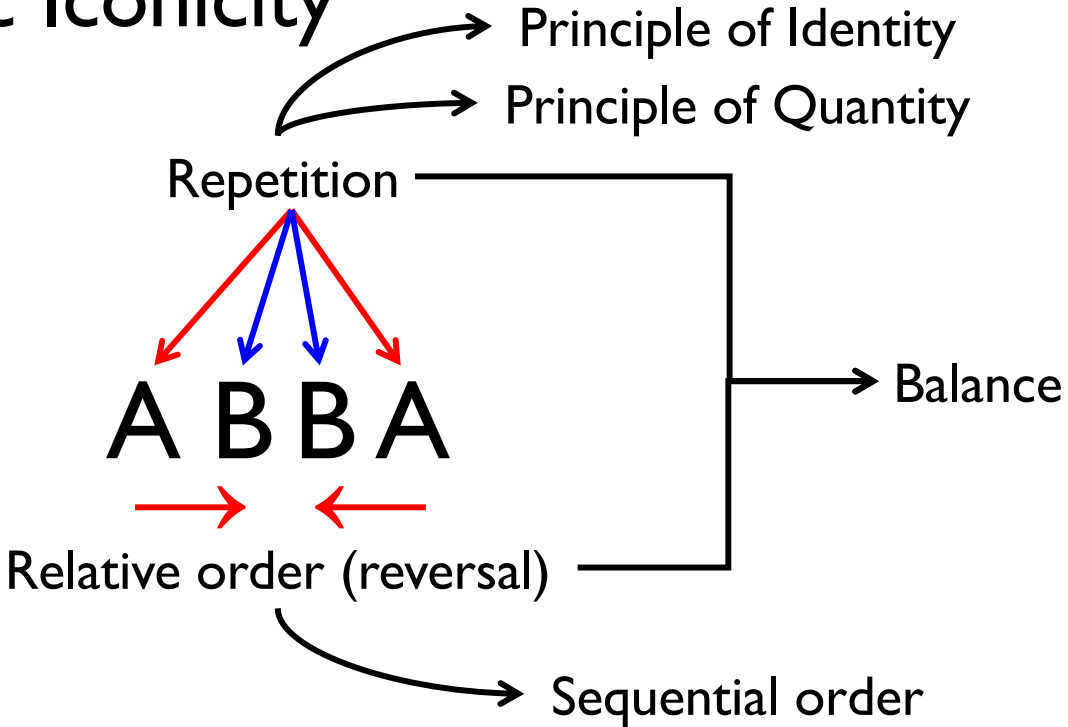
all for one, one for all

ól fór wén wén fór ól

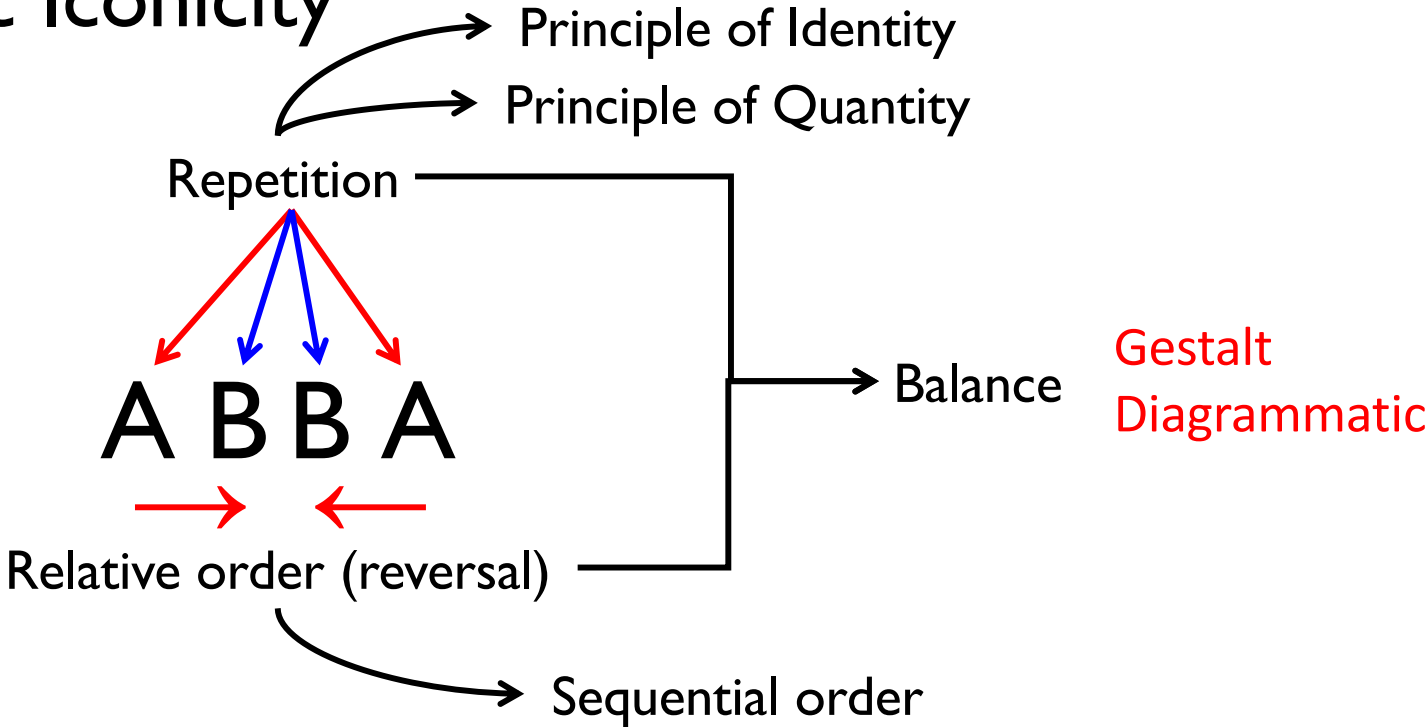
Figures of sequential symmetry that reinforce antimetabole.

Figures of parallelism that provide a setting for other linguistic activities (here, the cluster of symmetrically lexical sequences).

Chiastic Iconicity



Chiastic Iconicity



Chiastic Iconicity

Irrelevance of order / rank

mutually cancelling orders
sequential order ('precedence') + balance

$A > B, B > A$

Reciprocity

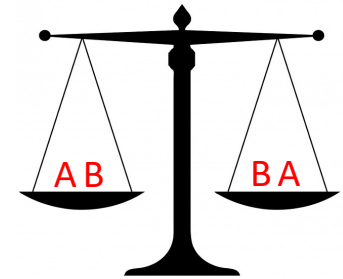
mutual influence
sequential order ('flow') + balance

$\begin{matrix} \rightarrow & \leftarrow \\ A B & B A \end{matrix}$

Completeness / Closure

there-and-back-again coverage
sequential order ('return') + balance

$\begin{matrix} \curvearrowright & \\ A & B \\ \curvearrowleft & \end{matrix}$

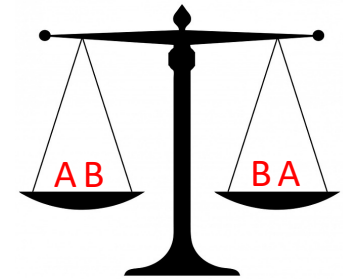


Chiastic Iconicity

Irrelevance of order / rank

One of Peirce's prime examples of how algebra is diagrammatic

$A > B, B > A$



$x + y = y + x; xy = yx; p \& q \rightarrow q \& p; p \vee q \rightarrow q \vee p$

Thus the expression “men and women” is, conventional meanings set aside, equivalent with the expression “women and men.” (Boole 1854: 23)

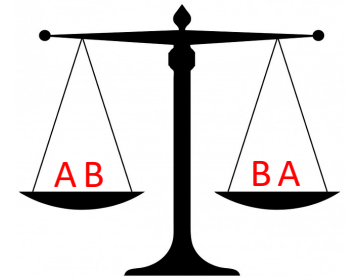
Me and you and you and me ... the only one for me is you and you for me. (“Happy Together,” Bonner and Gordon 1967)

Gretzky and McNall, McNall and Gretzky, joined at the hip, joined at the wallet. (Brunt 2009: 196).

Let me get one thing straight. I am Rob Ford. I like football and trains. Trains and football. (Tavendall 2012)



Chiastic Iconicity



Reciprocity $\begin{matrix} \rightarrow & \leftarrow \\ A B & B A \end{matrix}$

If you press a stone with your finger, the finger is also pressed by the stone. If a horse draws a stone tied to a rope, the horse (if I may so say) will be equally drawn back towards the stone: for the distended rope, by the same endeavour to relax or unbend itself, will draw the horse as much towards the stone as it does the stone towards the horse.

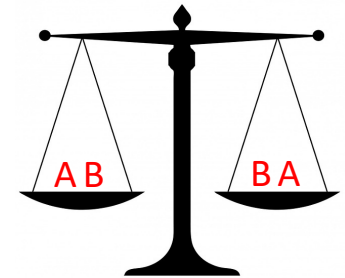
(Newton, 1803 [1687]: 1.15)

Life is the germ and the germ is life. (Pasteur 1886 [1883]: 33)

All for one, one for all.

Chiastic Iconicity

Completeness / closure



Members of the faculty and faculty members, students of Huxley and Huxley students, ... well, I guess that covers everything. (Mankiewicz and McLeod 1932)

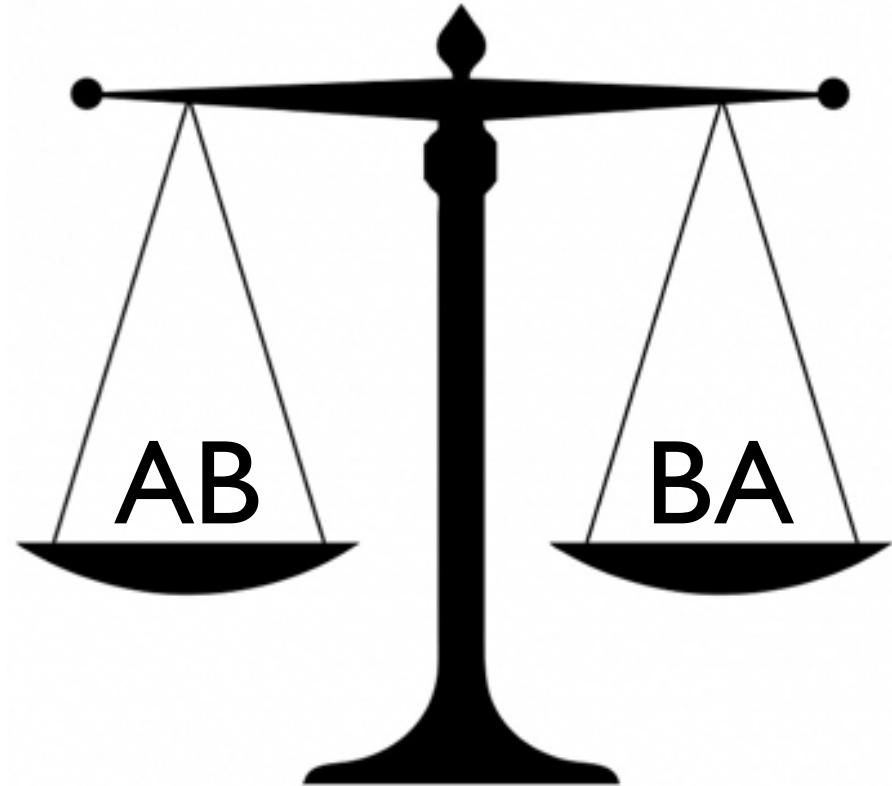
I meant what I said and I said what I meant

An elephant's faithful—one hundred per cent. (Seuss 1940, *passim*)

Whether we bring our enemies to justice or bring justice to our enemies, justice will be done. (Bush [and Frum] 2001).

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Tack

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A pair of antimetaboles

1. There are only two kinds of men: the righteous who think they are sinners and the sinners who think they are righteous. (Dubremetz 2017a)
2. You hear about constitutional rights, free speech and the free press. Every time I hear these words I say to myself, 'That man is a Red, that man is a Communist!' (Dubremetz 2017a)

A pair of antimetaboles

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Preliminaries

Rhetorical figures

linguistic configurations which pair form and function

present in all languages, varieties, registers

entrenched instantiations 'disappear' into literal language

salient instantiations prominent in vigorous and aesthetic registers (oratory,
poetry, ...)

the form / function pairs are non-arbitrary

The chiasmic suite

antimetabole, antimetalepsis, commutatio, counterchange, inversio, permutatio, reversio, the reversible raincoat

Chiasmus: “Repetition of ideas in inverted order.”

But O, what damned minutes tells he o'er
Who dotes, yet doubts; suspects, yet strong loves.

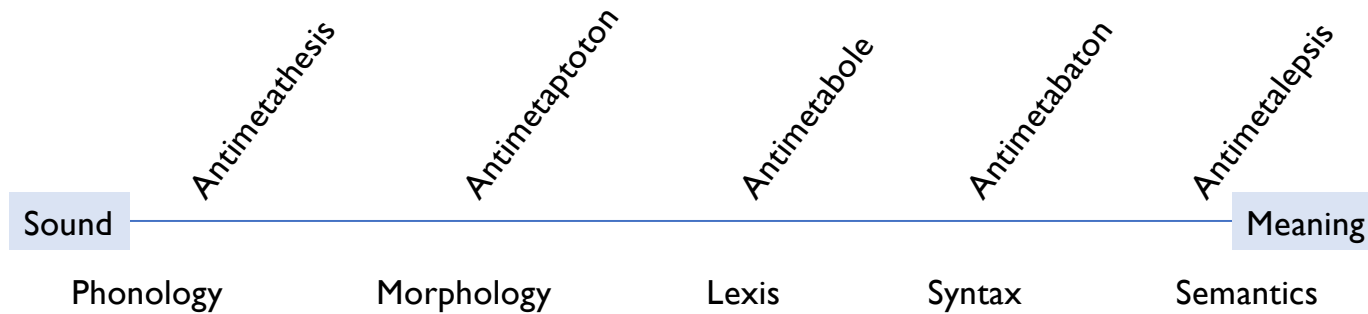
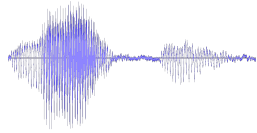
Antimetabole: “Repetition of words, in successive clauses, in reverse grammatical order.”

When the going gets tough, the tough get going.

Silva Rhetoricæ.



The chiastic suite



Antanametabole: also *pseudo-antimetabole*; chiastic repetition of signantia without the signata

Evoked Chiasmus: a phrase that evokes its reverse, a well-known expression, forming a kind of mental chiasmus, a type of allusion

Antimetathesis

I find the Apostle **Paul** appealing and the Apostle **Peale** appalling.

She sells sea **sh**ells by the seashore

Champagne for my real friends, real **pa**in for my **sham** friends.

Light a **fi**re, **fi**ght a **li**ar.

Don't **sw**eat the **pet**ty things and don't **pet** the **sw**eaty things.

Blanche: You're not as **ga**llant as when you were a **bo**y.

John: You're not as **bu**oyant as when you were a **ga**l.

Antimetapoton

Better to sleep in an **uncomfortable** bed free, than sleep in a **comfortable** bed **unfree**.

You **marketise** our **education**, we **educate** your **market**.

Friendly **Americans** win **America** **friends**.

Most of the problems in life are because of two reasons: we **act** without **thinking** or we **think** without **acting**.

Doing what you **like** is freedom. **Liking** what you **do** is happiness.

Quitters never **win** and **winners** never **quit**.

Antimetabaton

When **Adam** first of humans To first of women **Eve**. (N-PP / PP-N)

It **is boring** to eat; to sleep **is fulfilling**. (Adj-VP, VP-Adj)

Despised, if ugly; if fair, **betrayed**. (Adj-Conditional, Conditional-Adj)

By day the frolic, and the dance **by night**. (PP-N / N-PP)

He went to the country, to the town went **she**. (N-PP / PP-N)

He **came in triumph** and in defeat **departs**. (V-PP / PP-V)

Each throat was parched, and glazed **each eye**. (NP-Adj / Adj-NP)

Antimetalepsis

Old King Cole was a merry old soul And a merry old soul was he.

Charles felt himself growing weaker at this continual repetition of prayers and torches, beneath this oppressive odour of wax and of cassocks.

[T]he new metaphor - the brain as a calculating machine - is ... fraught with the danger of anthropomorphizing the machine and mechanizing the man.

You can know the position of an electron but you cannot know where it's going... Or you can know its direction, but you cannot know its position.

It was he who, in a manner of speaking, muddied waters that became too clear or clarified those that had grown murky.

Antanametabole

It's not the **men** in my **life**, it's the **life** in my **men**.

Women don't want **dates** on their **condoms**; they want **condoms** on their **dates**.

StarKist doesn't want a tuna with **good taste**. StarKist wants a tuna that **tastes good**.

I'll never forget my first corn-silk corona. I was **weak** for **days** in a **daze** for **weeks**.

The right to **bear arms** is slightly less ridiculous than the right to **arm bears**.

It was much easier to take **Kuhn** out of **Harvard** than **Harvard** out of **Kuhn**. (Tarzan/jungle; hooker/brothel; etc.)

Evoked Chiasmus

The *Wrath* of *Grapes*

[cf. The *Grapes* of *Wrath*]

Work is the curse of the *drinking* class.

[cf. *Drink* is the curse of the *working* class]

Britannia *waives* the *rules*.

[cf. Britannia *rules* the *waves*.]

Time *wounds* all *heels*.

[cf. Time *heals* all *wounds*.]

Aw Harold, I've been too *fucking busy*. Or vice versa, if you prefer.

[cf. your imagination.]

A term for
carrying out a
chiastic
transform