

Paren(theticals) in Herodotus:
means to convey Evidentiality and Epistemic Modality

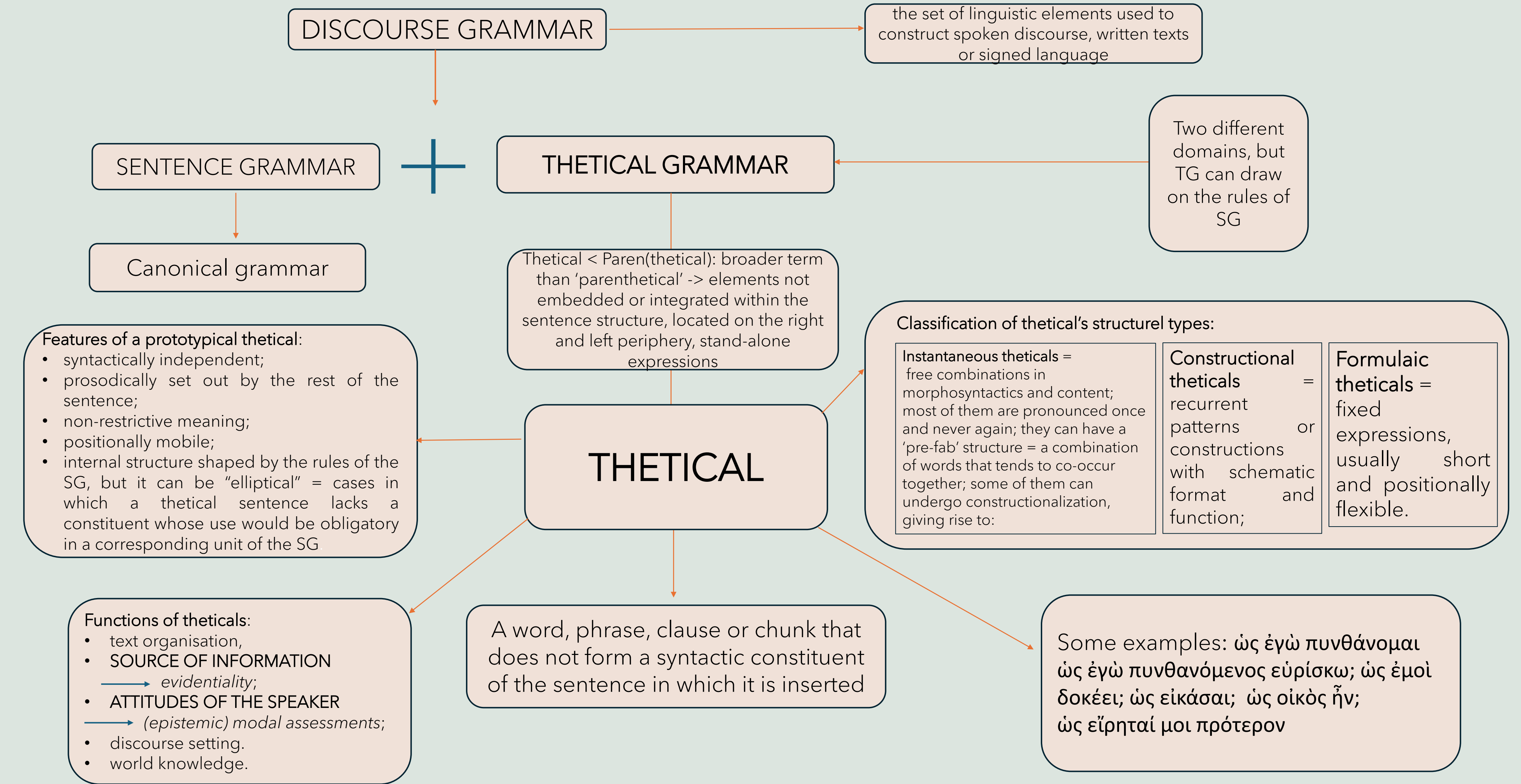
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RESEARCH QUESTION Which types of parenthetical expressions convey EVIDENTIALITY and/or EPISTEMIC MODALITY?

EVIDENTIALITY = source of information EPISTEMIC MODALITY = speaker’s commitment

- AIMS OF AN ANALYSIS CARRIED OUT ON THESE CATEGORIES:
 - a better understanding of Herodotean syntax;
 - a better knowledge of the Ionic dialect;
 - to identify any patterns specific to historiographical genre;
 - insights into the categories of evidentiality and epistemic modality in Ancient Greek;
 - to provide data for typological analysis.
- WHY PARENTHETICALS?
 - syntax-> linearisation of the sentence, order of constituents, points of insertion within the syntagmatic chain;
 - Semantics -> meanings and shades inseparable or easily removable from the meaning of the sentence;
 - Pragmatics -> context-dependent use, modification or addition of the speech act.

DISCOURSE GRAMMAR FRAMEWORK = developed to explain the behaviour of elements traditionally regarded as peripheral to the sentence



PARENT(THETICALS) IN HERODOTUS: TWO CASE STUDIES

ὥς ἐγὼ δοκέω		ὥς καὶ πρότερόν μοι δεδήλωται	
INDIRECT INFERENTIAL EVIDENTIALITY		POSITIVE EPISTEMIC MODALITY	
OCCURRENCES	6x · 1.119.7 · 1.86.1 · 2.63.3 · 2.125.7 · 2.131.3 · 7.101.2	OCCURRENCES	6x · 1.18.2 · 4.129.2 · 6.123.2 · 7.108.1 · 7.217.2 · 9.32.2
EXAMPLE	2.63.3: ἐνθαῦτα μάχη ξύλοισι καρτερὴ γίνεται, κεφαλὰς τε συναράσσονται καί, ὥς ἐγὼ δοκέω, πολλοὶ καὶ ἀποθνήσκουσι ἐκ τῶν τρωμάτων· οὐ μέντοι οἳ γε Αἰγύπτιοι ἔφασαν ἀποθνήσκειν οὐδένα. 'Then a violent battle with sticks broke out; heads were split open and, as it seems to me, many died from their wounds; yet the Egyptians claimed that no one died'.	EXAMPLE	4.129.2: οὐτε γὰρ ὄνον οὐτε ἡμίονον γῆ ἡ Σκυθικὴ φέρει, ὥς καὶ πρότερόν μοι δεδήλωται· οὐδὲ ἔστι ἐν τῇ Σκυθικῇ πάση χώρα τὸ παράπαν οὐτε ὄνος οὐτε ἡμίονος διὰ τὰ ψύχρα. 'Scythia produces, in fact, neither donkeys nor mules, as I have indicated before; there are no donkeys or mules at all in the whole of Scythia because of the cold'.
SYNTAX	ὥς → Relative adverb	SYNTAX	ὥς → Relative adverb
PROSODY	Punctuation signals independence*	PROSODY	Punctuation signals independence*
POSITIONAL MOBILITY	Inserted between: the main verb and compound participle (1.119.7), copula and predicate noun (1.186.1), a verb and its complements (2.131.3) or after the first constituent of a new clause and the rest of the clause (7.101.2)	POSITIONAL MOBILITY	Inserted between: a verb and its complements (1.18.2), verb + γάρ and the subject of the main verb (7.108.1), the main verb and the subject (7.217.2), immediately after a μέν clause, followed by a δέ clause (9.32.2), or at the right periphery (6.123.2)
INTERNAL STRUCTURE	Absolute use of δοκέω, not dependent on other elements	INTERNAL STRUCTURE	Built according to Sentence Grammar
THETICAL STRUCTURE	Recurrent pattern and 'pre-fab' structure → CONSTRUCTIONAL THETICAL	THETICAL STRUCTURE	Recurrent pattern and 'pre-fab' structure → CONSTRUCTIONAL THETICAL
FUNCTION	Van Rooy 2016 = δοκέω is inferential in parenthetical clauses → indirect inferential evidentiality	FUNCTION	Text organisation + author/audience interaction + author's commitment towards the truth of his words by giving them more authority
PRAGMATIC EFFECT	To present the proposition as an inference	PRAGMATIC EFFECT	To reinforce authorial commitment / authority of the statement

CONCLUSIONS:

- It appears that in Herodotus, many parenthetical expressions conveying evidentiality and epistemic modality are 'pre-fabs' → formulaic and constructional theticals.

NEXT STEP:

- Research question: which elements co-occur with parenthetical expressions that convey evidentiality and epistemic modality?
- Detailed analysis of all syntactic, semantic and pragmatic characteristics of these devices to have a comprehensive understanding, taking into account the context in which they are inserted and the presence of other co-occurring devices conveying evidentiality and epistemic modality.

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