CHAPTER TEN


In the preceding chapter no interactions of (sub)themes have been found between the parts of the false door itself. Yet it remains possible that interactions between the decoration of the western wall and the false door exist, but a further study reveals that the only feasible interaction might be the presence of (sub)theme 40 (tomb owner at the offering table, panel) exerting a negative influence on the frequency of employment of (sub)theme 3 (tomb owner at the offering table, western wall).

A possible chronological development in the magical food supply is studied further.

I. PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

Between the (sub)themes of the false door and the western wall interactions are possible. However, many of these can be considered to have no genuine basis. The only interaction that might be worth considering is the one between (sub)theme 3 (the offering table scene on the western wall) and (sub)themes 40 and 41 together (the offering table scene on the panel of the false door). This interaction could be worth studying because originally (sub)theme 40 was the only offering table scene present on the western wall as a whole. (Sub)theme 3 was later imported from the southern wall on to the western wall of the chapel. This introduction of an extra offering table scene on the western wall might give rise to (sub)themes 40 and/or 41 on the panel of the false door exerting a negative influence on the employment of (sub)theme 3 on the same wall.

I.1. The Interaction between (Sub)themes 3 and 40

The chronological development of the FO/period values of (sub)themes 3 and 40 + 41 are gathered in figure X.1.1

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1 The FO/period values of (sub)themes 3 are taken from diagram IV.3.ann., and those of (sub)themes 40 and 41 together are determined in tableVIII.I.ann.
From these two curves it can be concluded that the presence of (sub)themes 40 and 41 on the panel does not influence the increasing presence of (sub)theme 3 on the western wall.

The final conclusion is that there is no indication of interactions between the (sub)themes of the false door and the western wall.

II. Considerations Relating to the Food Supply for the ka of the Deceased

The first depictions of the tomb owner in front of an offering table have been found in the burial chambers of tombs of the 1st–3rd dynasty, and on cylinder seals placed next to the meal laid out on the floor of the burial chamber. This leads to the conclusion that the food supply has always been twofold, viz. active and magical. After the introduction of the panel in the “true” false door, both aspects became centred on the false door, in which (sub)themes 40 and 41 (the tomb owner at the offering table, panel) has always been the main (sub)theme for the magical food supply, while the actual food supply depended on the (sub)themes on the other parts of the false door. Two (sub)themes on the western wall can also be

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3 It is highly probable that at first the two aspects of the food supply were architectonically separated, i.e. the magical supply was confined to the burial chamber, and the actual cult to the stela placed in front of the eastern wall of the superstructure. In, for instance, the tomb of Merka (PM, III², 446; S 3505), the stela placed there showed the sitting tomb owner accompanied by his name and titles, but without an offering table in front of him (figure I.14).