CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY

In the composition of the passages analysed in this thesis (John 1,19-2,11; 5; 6; 9,1-10,21; 17) the author of the Fourth Gospel made use of numbers of syllables and words. The results of an analysis of this numerical composition are convergent with the results of a conventional analysis of literary structure; the numerical analysis offers, moreover, possibilities to refine the conventional literary analysis, and to make it more concrete.

In applying his quantitative technique, the author of John has employed two basic methods. The syllables and words can be divided according to a 'transverse section' and according to a 'longitudinal section'. In the former case, the text is divided into its successive parts: scenes, parts of a discourse, sentences, and the like. In the latter case, the text is divided into portions which are present all over the literary unit and throughout its successive parts; such a division is a division of the syllables and words of a given passage into narrative and discourse, in which case the discourse can be divided according to the various speakers. Such a division is also a division of the syllables and words of a given passage according to the actors, i.e., the acting and speaking subjects.

There are two basic patterns of relationship between the parts of the text arising from a transverse section, i.e., the successive parts of the text, measured in numbers of syllables and words:

1. The A-A'-pattern: two successive parts have a numerical relationship. Examples:
   — John 1,35-42 is made up of two parts, of 164, = 4 x 41, and 123, = 3 x 41, syllables respectively (see Chapter I, under 3.a.).
   — John 9,35ab-38 is made up of two parts of (almost) equal length: 44 and 44 syllables, 23 and 22 words (see Chapter IV, under 3.f., with Table XIX).

2. The A-B-A'-pattern: the first and last part have a numerical relationship. Application of it may be termed 'framing-technique'. Examples:
   — In John 6, the central part (6,22-59) is surrounded by parts whose number of syllables is a multiple of 44 (704, = 16 x 44, for 6,1-21, and 396, = 9 x 44, for 6,60-71); the sum total of syllables for the two surrounding parts together is the round number of 1100 (see Chapter III, under 2., with Table III).
The words of the steward in John 2,10bc display this pattern on a small scale. They are made up of 7 + 5 + 7 words, or 14 + 11 + 14 syllables. The same pattern is present in the entire sentence 2,9-10, made up of 22 + 5 + 22 words (see Chapter I, under 5., in fine).

Of course, the number of members in each of the patterns can be enlarged, and patterns can be combined. An example is afforded by John 5,19b-30, which passage displays a pattern a-b-c-d-d'-'c'-b'-a'. Elements a and a' amount together to 110 syllables, and all the other combinations of corresponding elements result in sum totals of syllables which are divisible by 7, and in which the factor 7 is also present in another way. In numbers of words, elements a and a' are of equal length, and all the other combinations of corresponding elements result in sum totals which are divisible by 11 (see Chapter II, under 3.b., with Tables VII and VIII). Here, the A-B-A'-pattern is enlarged, and it is combined with the A-A'-pattern, as there is no single central element, but the middle of the passage is constituted by two elements (d and d').

Longitudinal and transverse sections can be combined, too. An example is to be found in John 9,1-39, where there is a proportion of 2:3 between the numbers of syllables of 9,1-12.35-39 and 9,13-34 (supposing the articular reading in John 9,35a, see Chapter IV, under 3.f.). The same proportion is present in the numbers of syllables for the narrative portions of 9,1-12.35-39 and 9,13-34, and in those for the discourse in these passages (see Chapter IV, under 2., with Table VIII).

The numbers of syllables and words of the various parts arising from a transverse or longitudinal section of the text display the following arrangements:

a. A part stands out by containing a round or otherwise significant (triangular, rectangular, square, symmetric) number of syllables or words. Examples:
- In John 6,22-59, the central passage 6,41-43 has a size of exactly 100 syllables (see Chapter III, under 4.b., with Table XIII).
- In John 1,29-34, the discourse amounts to exactly 100 words (see Chapter I, under 2.b., with Table II).

b. Parts supplement each other, and together they amount to a round or otherwise significant number of syllables or words. Examples:
- John 1,35-2,11 is made up of three scenes; together, these amount to 1000 syllables (see Chapter 1, under 6.).
- In John 9, the discourse of Jesus and those who are on his side (the disciples and the man born blind) together amounts to 250 words (see Chapter IV, under 1., with Table IV).

c. Parts are of equal length, in numbers of syllables or words. Examples: