CHAPTER NINETEEN

QUADRIPARTITE NOMINAL CLAUSES

19.1 BASIC PATTERNS

Quadripartite NCs are extensions of tripartite NCs. In Muraoka’s model they are extensions of the tripartite patterns Pr–Ep–Su and Su–Ep–Pr. The first pattern is extended to Pr–pron–Ep–Su, the second to Su–pron–Ep–Pr.¹ Both the Su and the Pr are definite.² Compare the following two examples.

Type 1: Pr–pron–Ep–Su

Deut 7:9 וַעֲשֹׁרֵךְ אֶעֶזֶר אֲשֶׁר יָשָׁב אֶלֹהִים ‘The Lord your God is God’.³

Type 2: Su–pron–Ep–Pr

Matt 13:39 (Curet.) מְשַׁלֶּה אֶעֶזֶר אֲשֶׁר יָשָׁב ‘The sower is the evil one’.

The second pattern is disputed. Goldenberg, who does not acknowledge the tripartite pattern Su–Ep–Pr, does not acknowledge its quadripartite extension Su–pron–Ep–Pr either. In his approach there is only one quadripartite pattern, namely Pr || p – s | Su, which is an extension

---

¹ Muraoka, *Classical Syriac for Hebraists*, § 106; similarly Joosten, ‘Negation’, 586. Nöldeke (Grammatik, § 317) analyses these clauses as cases of ‘nominativus absolutus’.


³ Thus both Goldenberg and Muraoka (unlike Pennacchietti, ‘Frase nominale tripartita’, 163, 167); Goldenberg, *Syriac Sentence Structure*, 106, analyses this clause as Pr–p–s–Su. According to Muraoka, *Classical Syriac for Hebraists*, § 106, the p in this construction is originally a resumptive element, just as in a verbal clause such as Matt 24:13 מָכַר אָמָנוֹת יָדֵי הֶבֶל וְאָשֶׁר יָשָׁב ‘One who endures till the end shall be saved’. Compare in Syr:

31:7 מָכַר אָמָנוֹת יָדֵי הֶבֶל וְאָשֶׁר יָשָׁב ‘And everyone who goes astray through it will stumble’.

48:4 מָכַר אָמָנוֹת יָדֵי הֶבֶל וְאָשֶׁר יָשָׁב ‘And he who is like you will be praised’.
of the tripartite pattern Pr—s || Su. However, in our view this interpretation of Pr and Su is sometimes difficult to maintain. Thus in the example quoted כָּדוֹן is the symbol and כָּדוֹן its referent in the explanation of a parable. It is preferable therefore to take כָּדוֹן as the Su and כָּדוֹן as the Pr.5

In Syr there are no examples of the first pattern. The second pattern is attested three times:

19:20 כָּדוֹן כָּדוֹן כָּדוֹן כָּדוֹן כָּדוֹן כָּדוֹן כָּדוֹן כָּדוֹן כָּדוֹן כָּדוֹן כָּדוֹן כָּדוֹן כָּדוֹן כָּדוֹן כָּדוֹן כָּדוֹן כָּדוֹן כָּדוֹן כָּדוֹן כָּדוֹן כָּדוֹן כָּדוֹן כָּדו֨0 'And fear of God is wisdom'.
21:26 כָּדוֹן כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 'The mouth of the fool is his heart'.
37:19 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 'Everyone who is wise in his own opinion is a fool'.6

19.2 FUNCTION

The following functions have been ascribed to the quadripartite NC.

1. To avoid clumsiness or misunderstanding, especially when the predicate is long or when it consists of a relative clause.7
2. To indicate that the predicate is determinate.8
3. To turn a word (the initial Pr) into the theme ('logical subject') of the sentence.9

The first function can explain its use in 37:19, although it is difficult to see a functional difference from tripartite NCs of the type

31:7 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּدو֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 כָּדו֨0 'And everyone who goes astray through it will stumble'.

In 19:20 and 21:26 the function of the quadripartite construction is hard to establish. It is remarkable, however, that in almost all examples of the corresponding tripartite pattern (i.e. Su—Ep—Pr) the Su is a pronoun, whereas in these two examples of the quadripartite pattern the Su is a noun.

5 Accordingly, Joosten (Syriac Language, 89) analyses it as Su—pron—Ep—Pr. The Sinaicus has כָּדו֨0 instead of כָּדו֨0, which makes it even a more likely candidate to be the Su; cf. § 16.3.
6 Var3 has כָּדו֨0 instead of כָּדו֨0; cf. § 18.2 (C), n. 16.
7 Muraoka, Classical Syriac for Hebraists, § 106; Joosten, Syriac Language, 89.
8 Cf. Matt 13:39 (Curet.), quoted above, where the Greek text has διάβολος; Joosten, Syriac Language, 89.