

RST Analyses from the RST web site (www.sfu.ca/rst)

The Mother Teresa Text

This is the primary analysis of this text. Two alternate analyses can be reached below.

This text is chosen and given three slightly different analyses. This has been done in order to facilitate some thinking about why one analysis might be preferable to another. In this case, preferences seem to revolve around which intentions are most plausible to attribute to the author.

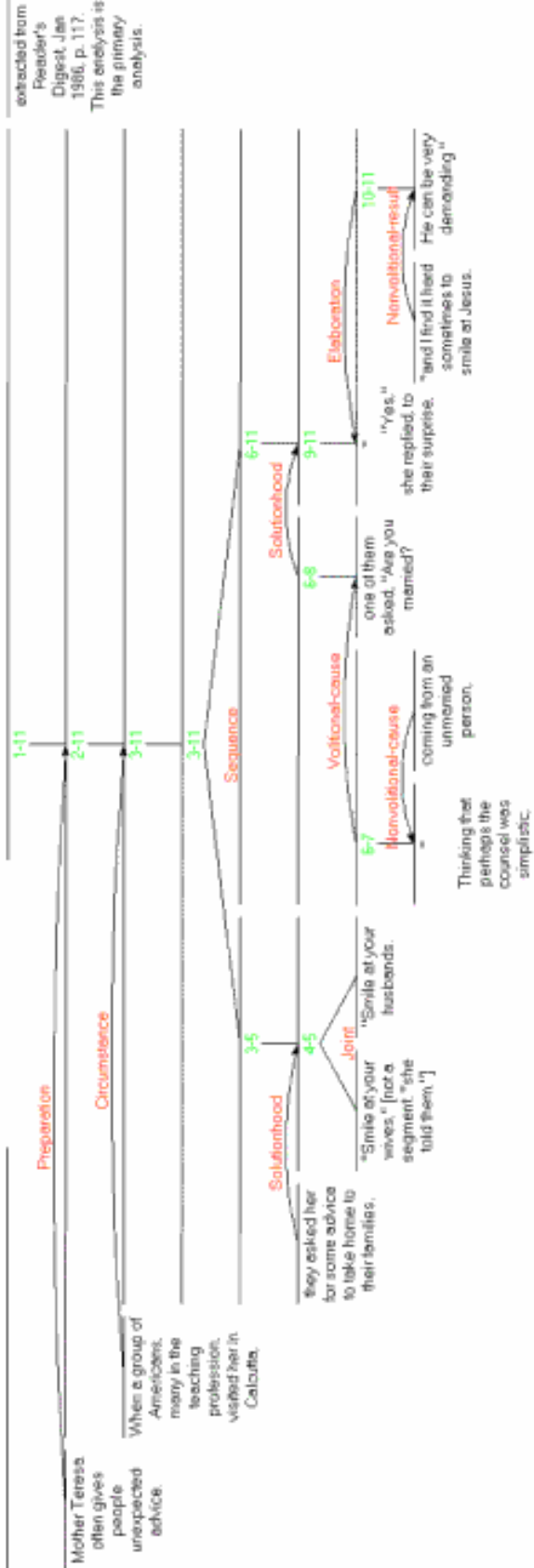
Notice that one of the key relationships in the text is an *analogical relationship* between "Smile at your husbands" and "I find it hard sometimes to smile at Jesus." Notice also that there is no trace of this analogical relationship in the RST analyses of the text. It is certainly a discourse structural element, and it is certainly involved in the way that the text communicates, but it is of a different order than RST identifies.

There are inherent limits on how much a monologue oriented method such as RST can find in text containing dialogue. One of the large challenges raised by CRST is to provide some comparable structured whole-text or whole-event representation, first for natural two-party dialogue and eventually for multiparty interaction.

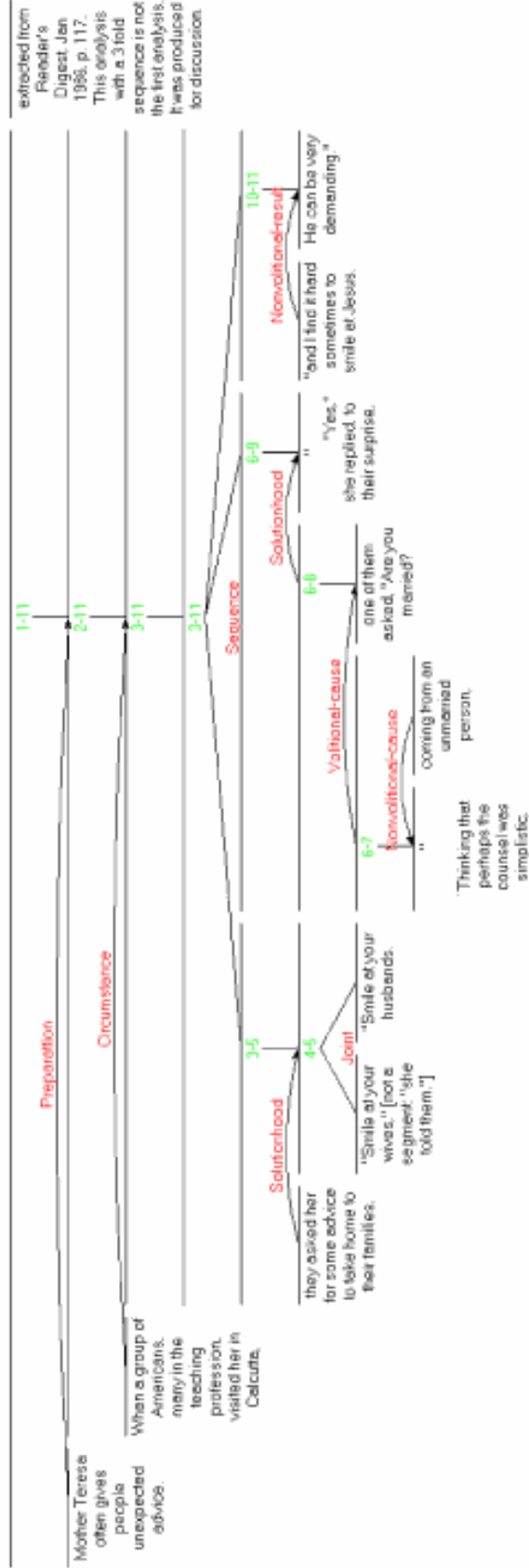
The text:

- 1) Mother Teresa often gives people unexpected advice. 2) When a group of Americans, many in the teaching profession, visited her in Calcutta, 3) they asked her for some advice to take home to their families.
- 4) "Smile at your wives," she told them. 5) "Smile at your husbands."
- 6) Thinking that perhaps the counsel was simplistic, 7) coming from an unmarried person, 8) one of them asked, "Are you married?"
- 9) "Yes," she replied, to their surprise, 10) "and I find it hard sometimes to smile at Jesus. 11) He can be very demanding."
- 12) Extracted from Reader's Digest, Jan 1986, p. 117

Analysis 1:



Analysis 2:



Analysis 3:

