

# Pater Rupert Ruhstaller's grammar

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## BUDDING CIRCLES The grammar of Pater Rupert Ruhstaller OSB

The late Pater Rupert Ruhstaller OSB (Ordo Sancti Benedicti), a monk and teacher of Latin, Greek and philosophy at the monastery school of Einsiedeln, wrote his dissertation on the structure of the Greek sentence. Rupert Ruhstaller developed a new grammar that makes use of so-called functors and arguments, and may be visualized by means of budding circles. I spent many hours in his modest cell, and was amazed by his ideas - so different from what he had experienced at school. He explained his grammar to me using examples. I hardly understood the linguistic terms, but I understood his drawings well. An example: *pater filio pilam dat*: *dat* is the functor in the center of a circle, while *pater*, *filio* and *pilam* are arguments written on the circumference of the circle. If the ball was expensive, *pilam* is the center of a new circle on whose circumference are written the words *multo argento*. Pater Ruhstaller was able, without hesitation, to apply a pattern of circles to any Latin sentence, no matter how complicated. He also developed a system for describing the natural order of a sentence, beginning with the main functor and main argument. One morning at eleven o'clock, in his former cell in the monastery of Fribourg, he chose the opening lines of Virgil's *Aeneid*: *Arma virumque cano Troiae qui primus ab oris Italiam que profugus Latiniam que venit litora*. Then he established the natural order of the words, beginning with the main functor: *cano armae que virum qui venit primus profugus fato ab oris Troiae Italiam que litora Lavinia*. He wrote the natural order of words on the x-axis of a grid, and the actual order on the y-axis. He marked the crosspoints of the meeting lines, joined them, and obtained a zigzag-line, whose peaks are the words (*Arma*) *virum Troiae Italiam Lavinia* - the first lines of the epic are a summary of the *Aeneid*, and the words on the peaks of the diagram are a summary of the summary: the HERO who came from TROY to ITALY and founded LAVINIA ... The words on the peaks of the diagram are the ones on which the most emphasis lies, while the words in the dips resolve a previous tension. *Arma* (what fights?) *virum* (what man?? the tension rises) *que* (joining *arma* and *virum*, the tension falls slightly) *cano* (finally the functor, joining all previous words, the tension sinks) *Troiae* (Troy??? the tension rises from a deep valley to a high peak), and so on. Pater Ruhstaller believed that Virgil, a natural born poet, was able to apply many linguistic rules in a mostly unconscious manner, using his feeling and sensibility for language. I considered his diagram a wonder, and was amazed by the poetic genius of Virgil, whose *carmina burana* I liked very much.

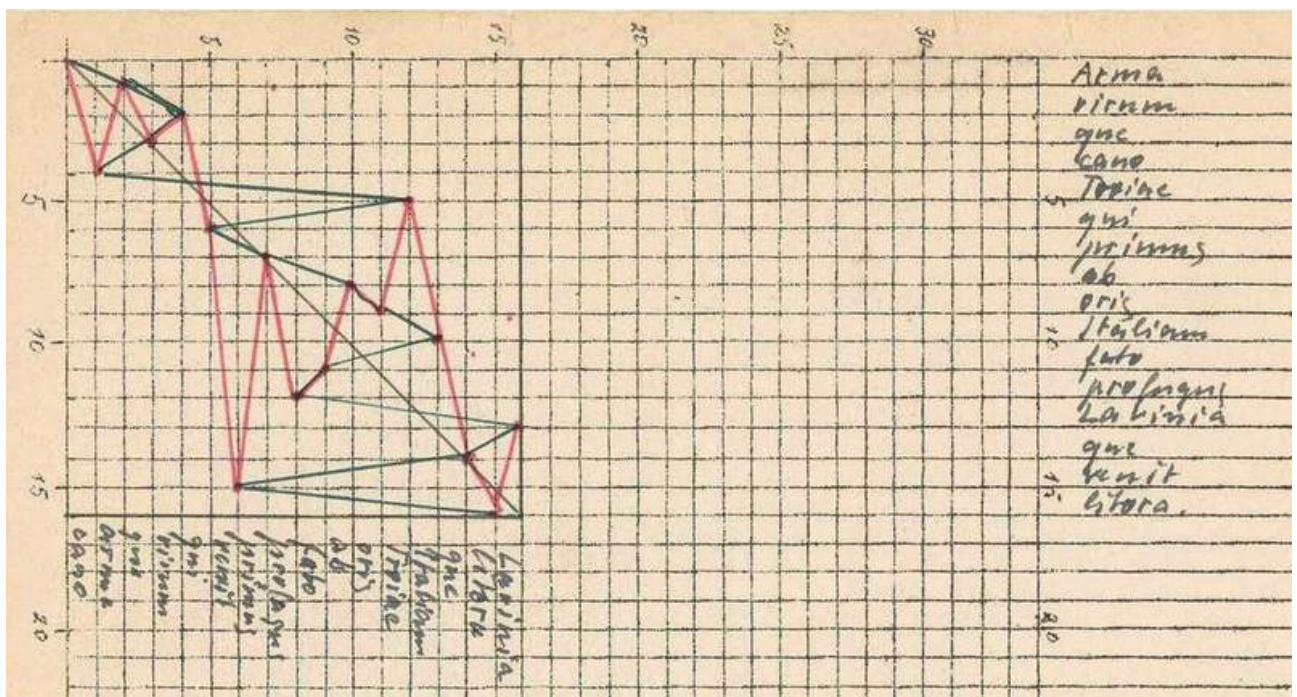
Pater Rupert Ruhstaller's dissertation may, I hope, be found in a few specialized university libraries. He did not, however, include either of his visual systems in his text, and as I may be the only one in possession of some of his grammatical drawings, which I keep as a precious memory, I publish them here in the hope that they will find a competent reader. I wish very much to share these ideas as well as the memory of a kind man, patient teacher and enthusiastic scholar.

P. RUPERT RUHSTALLER OSB

METHODOLOGISCHE UNTERSUCHUNGEN  
ÜBER DEN BAU DES GRIECHISCHEN SATZES

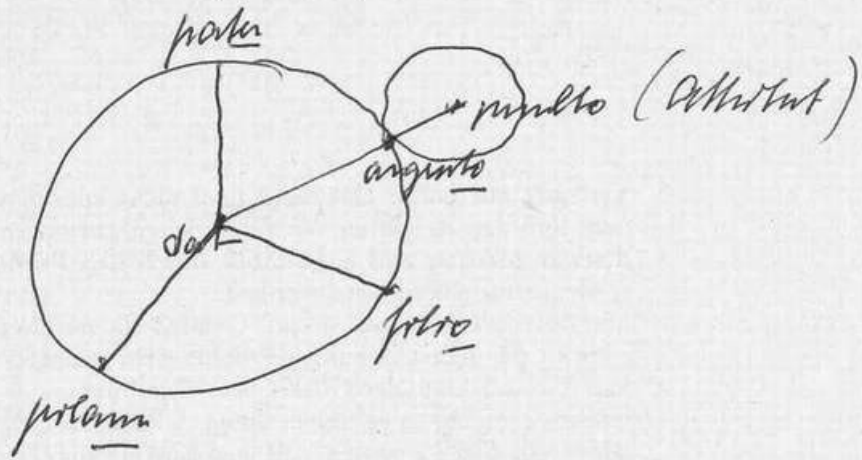
Herrn Franz Juchaczinger,  
der für die hier behandelten  
Fragen des griechischen Satzes  
gerade hundert geeignet von

P. Rupert Ruhstaller

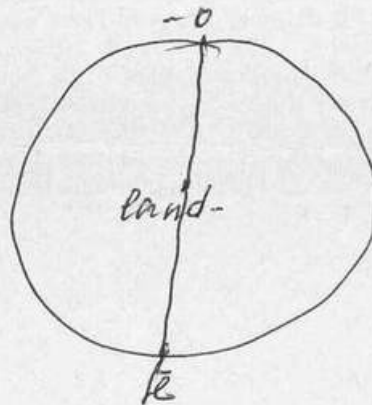


I Argumente werden durch Kasus unterschieden

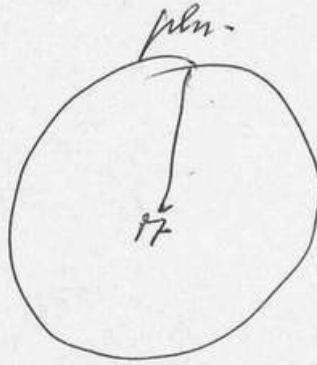
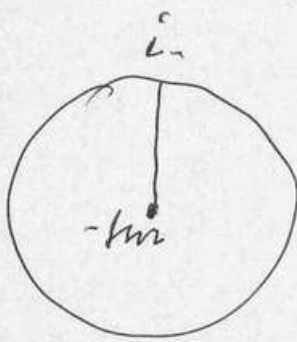
patru dat folio pilam multo argento



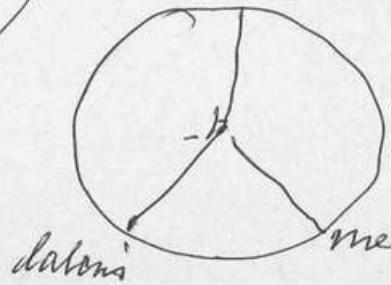
II. Das erste Argument (Subjekt) wird durch eine Personal-  
endung markiert. (Statt Nominativ)



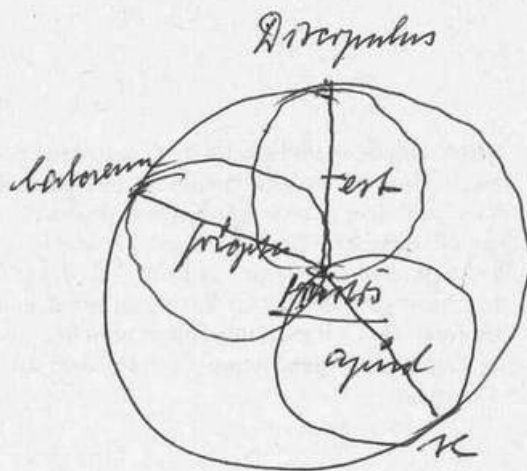
III. Die Verteilung und Subjekt (Fingerringe)



= Regen findet  
statt.  
Taebe

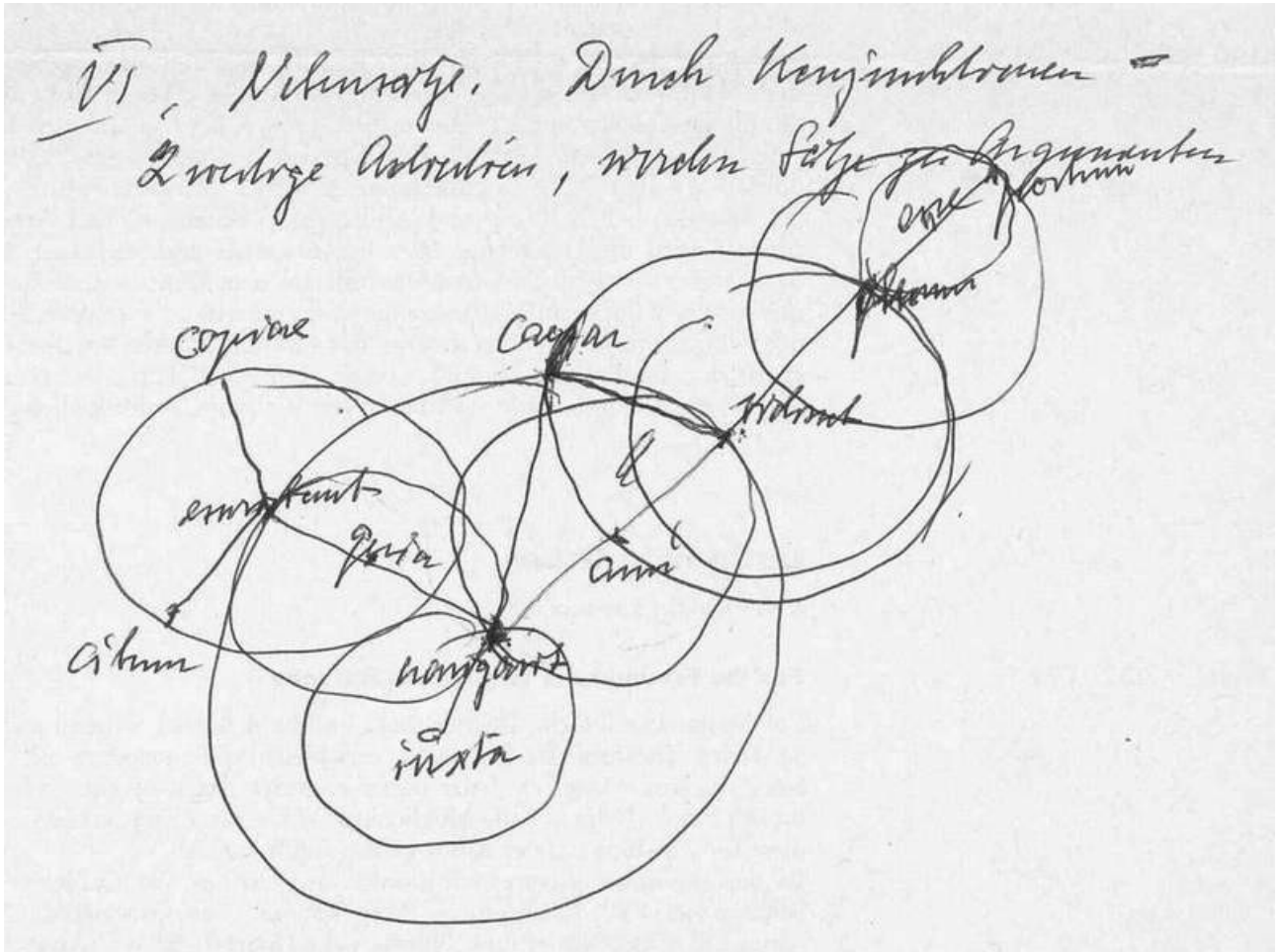
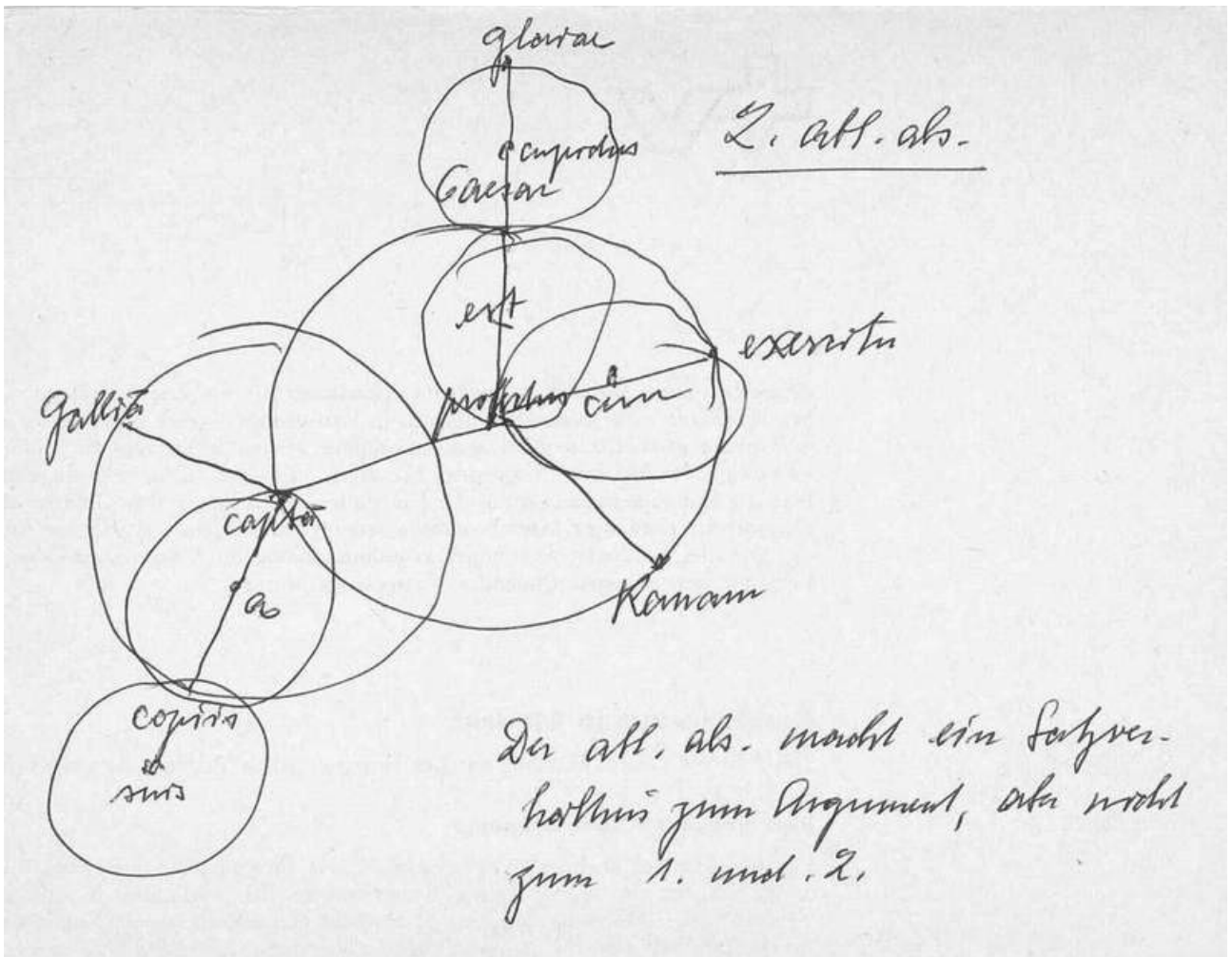


IV. Die Kassen werden durch Kassenströmen veränd-  
ert. Prot.p. = gemeinsames Recht. (Funktin)



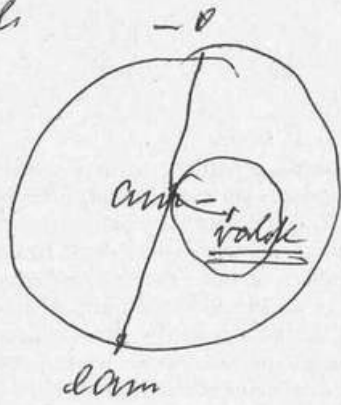




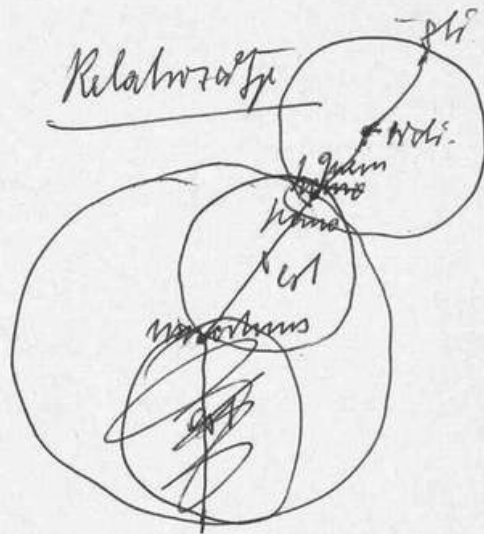


# Abstraksi

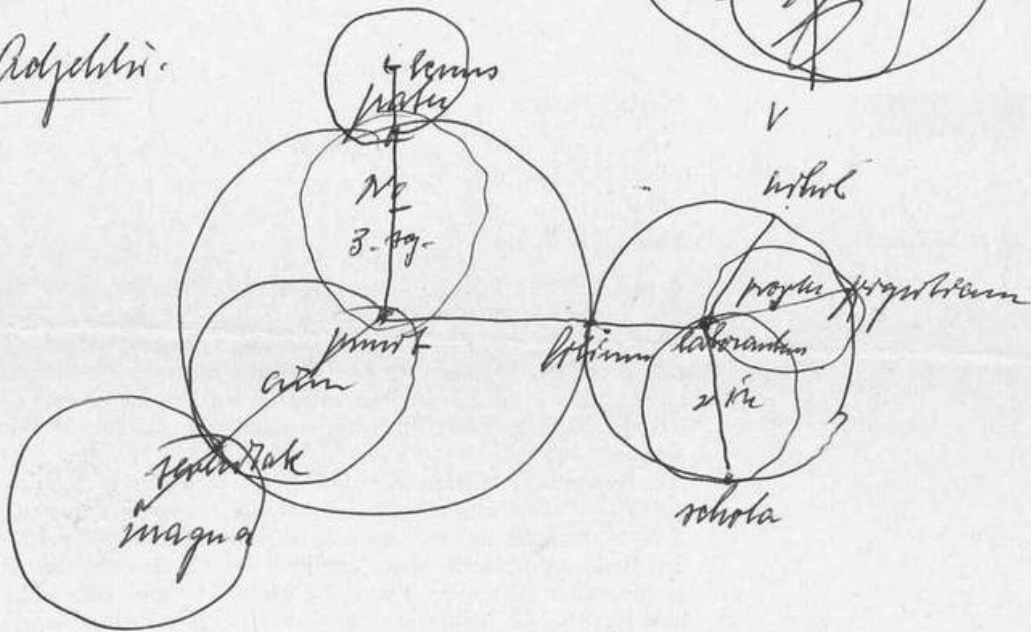
1. Adverbial



Relativitas

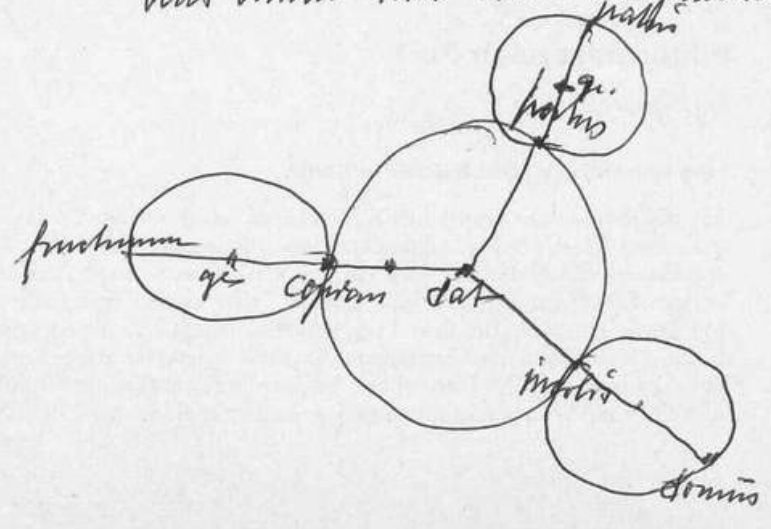


2. Adjektiva



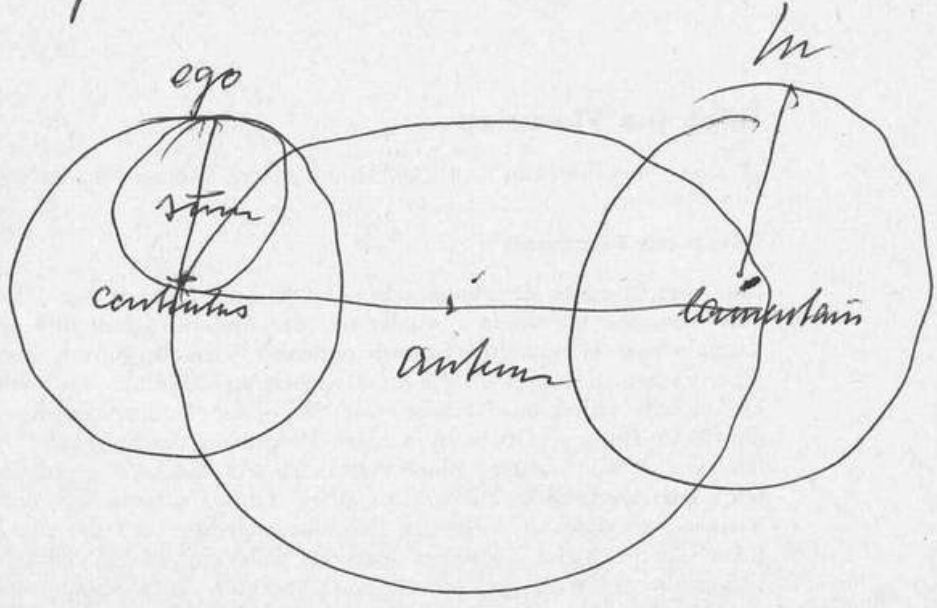


3. Genetiv = 2. Argument eines zweireichigen Prädikates,  
 das durch ein Nomen angedeutet ist.



Koordinierte Fälle

7. ego sum contentus, in anticum commentaris.



## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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