Ruth Meaning Map Guide (Team Edition)

Practice-ready guide for clause-level meaning maps using Tripod.

> **Purpose:** Help analysts map Ruth clause-by-clause in a consistent, cross-linguistic way so the story can later be reconstructed orally in another language.

Contents

- Why we are doing this
- What a meaning map is
- How it will be used
- Tripod framework (Ruth-specific)
- Common value definitions (Ruth focus)
- How to use the app (step-by-step)
- Best practices

1) Why We Are Doing This

We are building **meaning maps** of the book of Ruth so the story can later be **reconstructed orally** in a new language, not merely translated word-for-word. This requires capturing:

- What the Hebrew text explicitly encodes (syntax, discourse, semantics)
- What is required for reconstruction (e.g., evidentiality, discourse function, participant tracking)

> The goal is not to guess hidden ideas, but to faithfully represent what is in the text in a structured, language-independent way.

2) What a Meaning Map Is

A **meaning map** is a structured representation of each clause that includes:

- Clause type (event vs non-event)
- Core event or state

- Roles of participants (who does what to whom, where, when)
- Discourse function (mainline, background, setting, etc.)
- Pragmatic and rhetorical signals
- Participant tracking across the story

3) How This Will Be Used Later

After validation, the maps will feed a pipeline that reconstructs Ruth in a new language using clause-level semantics, discourse structure, and participant tracking to produce a natural, oral-form retelling.

4) Tripod Framework (Ruth-Specific)

Tripod defines the categories we record. Below are the Ruth-relevant categories that appear in the app.

Layer 3 — Clause Semantics

Clause type   event, identification, classification, attribution, existential

Event category   STATE, MOTION, ACTION, TRANSFER, SPEECH, INTERNAL, PROCESS, RITUAL, META, SOCIAL

Semantic roles   initiator, affected, experiencer, recipient, beneficiary, source, goal, location, instrument, companion, manner, time, cause, purpose, result, theme, identity, separated_from

Non-event roles   subject, predicate, domain, location

Layer 4 — Event Modifiers

Reality   actual, potential, hypothetical, counterfactual, obligatory, desired, feared, commanded, permitted

Time frame   retrospective, immediate, prospective, gnomic

Aspect   completed, ongoing, habitual, inchoative, cessative

Polarity   positive, negative

Evidentiality   witnessed_visual, witnessed_sensory, reported, inferred, assumed, general_knowledge, divine_revelation, unspecified

Layer 5 — Discourse

Function   Setting, Background, Mainline, Evaluation, Quote introduction, Peak

Layers 6–8 — Pragmatics / Inference / Rhetoric

These are used only when relevant to the register (e.g., dialogue or

Relation   sequence, background, cause, purpose, result, contrast, condition, concession, additive, resumption, temporal, elaboration, explanation, comparison, content_specification

Info structure   topic_given, topic_new, topic_contrast, none

poetic sections). The app hides most of these when a register filter is chosen.

5) Common Value Definitions (Ruth-Focused, Short)

Clause type

- **event**: something happens or is done
- **identification**: X is Y (naming/identity)
- **classification**: X belongs to a category
- **attribution**: X has a quality
- **existential**: there is/there are

Discourse function

- **Mainline**: backbone events
- **Background**: supporting info
- **Setting**: time/place setup
- **Quote intro**: introduces speech
- **Evaluation**: speaker/narrator evaluation

Time frame

- **retrospective**: past-viewed events
- **immediate**: "now" in narrative frame
- **prospective**: forward-looking (commands, intentions)

Register (most common in Ruth)

- **narrative**: standard storytelling
- **dialogue**: direct speech
- **poetic**: stylized speech or blessing

Semantic roles (common)

- **initiator**: performs the action
- **affected**: impacted by the action

Mention status

- **new_mention**: first appearance
- **given**: already introduced

- **experiencer**: perceives/thinks/feels
- **recipient / beneficiary**: receives or benefits
- **location / time / manner**: where, when, how

- **inferrable**: can be inferred from context

6) How to Use the App (Step-by-Step)

1. **Find a clause** using the search box (e.g., "1:3").
2. **Select Register** to hide irrelevant sections.
3. **Clause Semantics**: confirm clause type, event category, event core, semantic roles.
4. **Event Modifiers**: verify time frame and polarity; fill reality, aspect, evidentiality.
5. **Discourse**: confirm discourse function; choose discourse relation.
6. **Mentions & Participants**: link each mention to the right participant and mark status.
7. **Relations**: confirm targets for any explicit relations.

7) Best Practices

- Accuracy over speed. Leave "needs input" if uncertain.
- Use Register to reduce clutter.
- Do not over-use "background" for main events.
- For repeated common-noun participants, merge carefully.

This is a training phase, not final production.