

Original article

HOW THE EGYPTIANS DETERMINED WORDS?
(ALONG WITH THE DETERMINERS AND DETERMINATIVES)

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Received 18/2/2015

Accepted 26/5/2015

Abstract

There are several ways which are used to determine words, in ancient Egypt; the determinatives and the determiners (Demonstrative determiners/ demonstrative pronouns) are the most common ways, also the adjectives (and adjective's equivalents), genitives (Direct and indirect), apposition, and finally the sentences (Verbal, non-verbal). All these ways appeared in ancient Egyptian texts to determine a certain word.

Keywords: Determination, Late-Egyptian, Determiner, Adjective, Apposition, Genitive, Sentence

1. Introduction

The topic of this research is a part of my PhD thesis entitled Deixis^(a), the importance of it appears in clarifying the determination in Ancient Egyptian Language and what are their makers, that they are not the determinatives and

determiners only but also there are several ways to determine a certain word. The determinatives are attached to a word to determine the meaning of it [1], just like example of such [2].

1) : The town sign was attached to any word meaning "a city", such as:

 dmyt Village^(b),  Iwnw City of Heliopolis^(c)

2) : The mountain sign was attached to any word meaning "the desert" or "foreign country" and its components (Hills, mountains ... etc), such as:

 xAst Mountain^(d),  Kpny Byblos^(e)

3) : The standing man was attached to any word meaning "a man", such as:

 iTA Thief^(f),  it Father^(g)

Moreover, they used the determiners (Demonstrative determiners, or

demonstrative pronouns) to determine a noun [3], such as:

 pAy HD This silver^(h),  tAy iAwt This office⁽ⁱ⁾

Agreeing with Junge [4], he mentioned in his L.E. grammar book that there are other different determining ways, just as adjectives and genitives; unless adding some other ways after

analyzing several texts, it is noticed that they were not only the ways Ancient Egyptian used to determine his words. In this paper, these other ways will be elaborated.

2. Adjective and Its Equivalent

One of the meanings of the verb determine is “To explain or limit by adding differences”, from this point there could be other ways which are used to limit the differences between several words to be determined in one thing;

adjective is one of these because it has the capability to limit the differences between words by determining their main features (Gender, age, color, size ... etc), as follows:

2.1. Adjective (descriptive adjective)

There are three kinds of the descriptive adjectives these kinds include normal adjective [1, 5], adjectives

derived from a verb [1], Nisba form from a noun [1, 2, 6, 7], such as:

 wpwt nb “Every chore”⁽ⁱ⁾ (Normal Adjective)

 ipdw nfrw “Fine furniture”^(k) (Adjectival Verb)

 rd iAbty “Eastern bank”^(l) (Nisba Form from a Noun)

2.2. Adjective's equivalents

As the adjective is used as determiner, so its equivalents could be used in the same way. There are several

equivalents of the adjective which depend on its nucleus, they could be cited in the following few points:

2.2.1. Verbal nucleus

Verbal nucleus [8]; in which the mean element is a verb, such as

participles [9] and relative form, for examples:

 rmT i.gmy im “Man who had been found there”^(m)

 xprw i.Dd.f n pAy.f sn aA “Form which he had mentioned to his elder brother”⁽ⁿ⁾

2.2.2. nty nucleus

In which the mean element is the relative adjective nty 

(iwty  Negation) such as the relative clauses [10], for example:

 Hmt nty DdH “Woman who were imprisoned”^(o)

2.2.3. Nisba form from a preposition nucleus

In which the mean element is the Nisba adjective which is derived

from simple preposition [8], for example:

 tA-Sat n pA-Hm-nTr tpy n Imn nty m Drt.tw.k “The letter from the high priest of Amun which is in your charge?”^(p)

3. Genitive

Also, there are other ways which could be considered as determiners such as the 'Genitive' in its different ways. That the genitive typically expresses a possession relation

3.1. The (In)direct genitive

Both direct and indirect genitives represent the connection between two

3.1.1. The direct genitive

The direct genitive consists of two main nouns; one (namely regens) after another (namely rectum) immediately [12] with the first noun denoting the object that is being



3.1.2. Indirect genitive

The indirect genitive is an expression of the genitive, where the 'possessor' is expressed as a prepositional phrase with "n" (Genitival adjective / determinative pronoun [8] which agrees especially in M.E. with the head noun in



3.2. Pronouns which give the meaning of possession

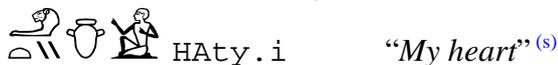
Pronouns could be used to give the meaning of possession. In this case,

3.2.1. Personal pronouns

There are several types of personal pronouns, each one of them

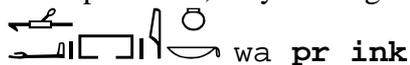
3.2.1.1. Suffix-pronouns

The suffix-pronouns could not be used alone, so they have to be attached to a certain word, such as a



3.2.1.2. Independent-pronouns

The independent-pronouns are used in another way that differs from the suffix-pronouns; they could give the



3.2.2. Genitival pronouns/possessive pronouns

The genitival pronouns namely the possessive adjectives are used to show possession the same as the



or some other similarly close connection [11] which means that the possession noun could be determined by the one who possess it, as detailed in the following examples:

nouns but in different ways (Direct genitive and Indirect genitive).

possessed and the second is the object that possesses the first. For this pattern the term "construction state" is generally used by the Egyptologists [8, 13].

"Syrian crew" (q)

number and gender [1, 2, 13, 14]) post-modifying the 'possession'. The noun before the genitival adjective is the possessor (namely regens), and the noun after genitival adjective is the possesse (namely rectum) [13].

"Prince of this land" (r)

there are two kinds of pronouns which are capable for possession:

has its uses and forms during using, they are divided into two types:

noun, in which they give the meaning of possession, such as:

meaning of pronouns when they follow the noun, such as:

"A house of mine" (t)

possessive pronouns. They are giving the meaning of: *my, your, his, her, its...* as:

"His brother" (u)

4. Apposition

One can tell that the apposition as a term, which is a syntactic relation between two expressions that have the same function and the same relation to other elements of the sentence. The second sentence identifies or supplements

 Imn-m-int sA Hy “Amun-em-inet, son of Hay”^(v)

In this point of the study the author found Camilla [15] mentioning that in Wenamun 1.9 (LES 61, 12)

the first [11]; it could be used in determining words, especially when it is following a proper name to specify the meaning of the first in restricting the scope [6], as:

 bdr “Beder” is a name which is determined by several expressions like:

1.9^(w):  pAy.f wr “Its chief” (Dor’s chief)

1.13^(x):  pA-wr “The chief”

1.13^(y):  pA-wr n pAy tA “The chief of this land”

1.14^(z):  pAy.f smty “Its Judge”

She placed all these examples together to represent that Wenamun refers to Beder by the use of these expressions to outline his role as Chief.

Through this idea the apposition could also be used to outline a role of some person or determining his duties not only his personality.

5. Sentences

Finally the sentence which is used to describe someone or something, or may be used as an answer for a question, all of those cases give the priority of thinking that these kind of

sentences could be used as determiners in Ancient Egyptian Language; there are two types of sentences: nominal and verbal sentences, both of them are elaborated in the following examples:

5.1. Verbal sentence

The verbal sentence [7, 16, 17] expresses an action related to a certain time, viewed from a certain period, attributed to a certain subject and directed

to a certain object, if any [1], they have at least a verb and a subject. The subject can be indicated by the conjugation of the verb.

 BAT ... Xr HAty.i wAH Hr DADA n tA-Hrrt pA-aS
“Bata ... My heart lies on top of the blossom of the Cedar tree”^(aa)

5.2. Non-verbal sentence (Nominal Sentence)

The non-verbal (so-called nominal) sentence [18, 19, 20, 21] differs from the verbal sentence in that its predicate could be anything but a finite

verb form. This predicate could be: noun, adjective, adverb, or an equivalent of any of the previous three predicates [1].





BAt iw mntf i.ir.tw n.f Hbsw iw.f Hr Smt m-sA nAy.f
 iAwT r sxt iw mntf i.ir.tw (n.f) skA mntf awAy n.f iw
 mntf i.irt n.f wpwt nb nty m sxt

“Bata *He was the one who made clothes for him, he followed after his cattle to the fields, it was he who had to plow (to him), it was he who reaped for him, it was he who did for him every chore that was in the fields*”^(bb)

6. Conclusion

This paper discussed the unmentioned ways which the Ancient Egyptian used to determine the words used along certain ways. As a result there are a few other ways to determine the word and limit it by adding differences or giving a detailed description using an adjective (or its equivalents), or sometimes by the use of a sentence. Also the genitive and apposition both of them have the capability to differ a certain word from another word as explained above.

Endnotes

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| <p>(a) The Deixis in Ancient Egyptian Language (in Late Egyptian Literature), my Ph.D. Thesis under preparation, under the supervision of Prof. Ahmed Al-Nassary, and Dr. Omar Nur El-Din, Sohag University</p> <p>(b) D’ Orb 14.9 (LES 24, 12)</p> <p>(c) H.S. 412 (LES 42, 11); in this example sign of the falcon of Horus on the standard (Determinative of Gods and their relatives) appeared together with the town sign to represent the city of Heliopolis as a divine city.</p> <p>(d) H.S. 10.7 (LES 51, 1)</p> <p>(e) Wenamun 1.17 (LES 62, 11); in this example the town sign appeared together with the mountain sign to represent the town which is a foreign country</p> <p>(f) Wenamun 1.20 (LES 62, 16)</p> <p>(g) Prince 5.12 (LES 4, 2)</p> | <p>(h) P. Mayer A 4.4</p> <p>(i) H.S. 3.8 (LES 40, 11)</p> <p>(j) D’ Orb 1.3 (LES 9, 16)</p> <p>(k) D’ Orb 18.1 (LES 28, 1-2)</p> <p>(l) Doomed prince 5.1 (LES 2-16, 3-1)</p> <p>(m) Abbott 4.14</p> <p>(n) D’ Orb 15.1 (LES 24, 13-14)</p> <p>(o) P. Mayer A 13.C1</p> <p>(p) Wenamun 1.52 (LES 66, 10)</p> <p>(q) Wenamun 1.55 (LES 66, 14)</p> <p>(r) Wenamun 1.13 (LES 62, 5)</p> <p>(s) D’ Orb 8.4 (LES 17, 13)</p> <p>(t) Mayer A v. 8.7 (KRI 6, p. 818 1.1)</p> <p>(u) D’ Orb 1.2 (LES 9, 12)</p> <p>(v) Abbott 5.4</p> <p>(w) LES 61, 12</p> <p>(x) LES 62, 4</p> <p>(y) LES 62, 5</p> <p>(z) LES 62, 6</p> <p>(aa) D’ Orb 1.1-10.2-3 (LES 9, 11 – 19, 16)</p> <p>(bb) D’ Orb 1.1-3 (LES 9, 11-16)</p> |
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