



# BULLETIN DE L'INSTITUT FRANÇAIS D'ARCHÉOLOGIE ORIENTALE

en ligne en ligne en ligne en ligne en ligne en ligne en ligne en ligne en ligne en ligne en ligne

**BIFAO 79 (1979), p. 441-449**

**ABDEL-HAMID YOUSSEF (Ahmad)**

The stative participle - An Arabic approach to Egyptian grammar.

#### *Conditions d'utilisation*

L'utilisation du contenu de ce site est limitée à un usage personnel et non commercial. Toute autre utilisation du site et de son contenu est soumise à une autorisation préalable de l'éditeur (contact AT ifao.egnet.net). Le copyright est conservé par l'éditeur (Ifao).

#### *Conditions of Use*

You may use content in this website only for your personal, noncommercial use. Any further use of this website and its content is forbidden, unless you have obtained prior permission from the publisher (contact AT ifao.egnet.net). The copyright is retained by the publisher (Ifao).

#### **Dernières publications**

|               |   |   |
|---------------|---|---|
| 9782724707397 | <i>Religion et alimentation dans l'Égypte et l'Orient anciens</i> | Marie-Lys Arnette                       |
| 9782724707373 | <i>Les papyrus magiques du Ramesseum</i>                          | Pierre Meyrat                           |
| 9782724707335 | <i>Mirgissa V</i>   | Brigitte Gratien                        |
| 9782724707472 | <i>Trésors inattendus</i>   | Claudio Gallazzi, Gisèle Hadji-Minaglou |
| 9782724706970 | <i>Les fouilles à Baouît</i>                                      | Emile Chassinat                         |
| 9782724707298 | <i>BCE 28</i>   | Sylvie Marchand                         |
| 9782724707281 | <i>Mari Girgis</i>  | Nessim Heneim                           |
| 9782724707380 | <i>Annales islamologiques 51</i>                                  |   |

# THE STATIVE PARTICIPLE — AN ARABIC APPROACH TO EGYPTIAN GRAMMAR

Ahmad ABDEL-HAMID YOUSSEF

The Egyptian tongue, being of the Hamito-Semitic family, has shown and still affords — whenever there is chance of study — many affinities with its sister languages. Its affinities with Hebrew — to quote Prof. Bakir — are often acknowledged; but it is equally manifest that an affiliation with Arabic exists <sup>(1)</sup>.

The so-called pseudoparticiples or old perfectives described as a survival of the Semitic finite verb has retained a close resemblance noticed in particular to the Akkadian permansive. An important feature, to quote Gardiner <sup>(2)</sup>, is that it can be used with passive as well as in active and that the time position it indicates depends upon the context <sup>(3)</sup>. That is to say that the same form can give — regardless of time — the active meaning in some verbs and the passive in others.

This is strikingly the same with the Arabic Verbal form or rather Verbal measure *fa'il* فعيل and *fa'ul* فعول a form which sometimes gives the meaning of, and is substituted by, the active participle or passive participle.

<sup>(1)</sup> Erman's comparison between his 'Pseudo-partizip' of which the Coptic qualitative is the latest form — and the Arabic perfective was based on a striking resemblance — he said — between the endings in both. But endings alone cannot be a decisive criterion for comparison. In meaning the «Stative participle» being essentially of a circumstantial nature qualifying a noun or a pronoun differs greatly from the Arabic perfect. As a matter of fact cannot be translated *sami'tu* 'I heard'; nor can the perfective

passive be the correct or accepted translation for «I was sent» أرسلت *ursiltu*. (See Erman, «Eine Neue Art der ägyptischer Konjugation», *ZÄS* 27' (1889), p. 65 ff.; cf. Lefebvre, *Grammaire de l'Égyptien Classique*, § 334).

<sup>(2)</sup> Gardiner, *Egyptian Grammar*<sup>3</sup>, § 309, OBS. 1.

<sup>(3)</sup> Cf. T.W. Thacker, *The Relationship of Semitic and Egyptian Verbal Systems Oxford* (1954), p. 109.

|  |               |                              |
|--|---------------|------------------------------|
|  | « I know »    | علم (انا) 'alīm = عالم 'ālim |
|  | « he hears »  | سميع samī' = سامع sāmi'      |
|  | « I am sent » | رسول rasūl = مرسل mursal     |

With verbs of motion, the stative participle, as well as the Arabic *fa'il-fa'ul* measure, describes not as much the movement itself as the position reached of the movement.

|  |                    |                  |
|--|--------------------|------------------|
|  | « I am descended » | نزيل (انا) nazil |
|  | « sitting »        | قعيسد ka'id      |

Furthermore, the stative participle and the Arabic *fa'il-fa'ul* measures, share the common feature of being frequent with adjective Verbs<sup>(1)</sup>. A good deal of Arabic adjectives as a matter of fact is in the *fa'il-fa'ul* measure e.g.

|  |               |                |
|--|---------------|----------------|
|  | « great »     | كبيرات kabirāt |
|  | « wide »      | وسيع wasi'     |
|  | « beautiful » | جميل jamil     |

In the following pages, we will find that the Arabic measure we bring forward for discussion applies well in all the uses of what we call the « stative participle » known as the pseudoparticiples or old perfective.

The stative participle is used as a predicate to a nominal sentence :

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  | « The mouth is silent »                              | الفم صموت (Pap. Prisse 4, 4).                              |
|  | « Old age is descended »                             | (او هوّى) المشيب نزيل (Prisse 4, 2).                       |
|  | « The divine body is mixed with he who created him » | جسد الاله أيش بخالقه (Simuhe, R 7-8).                      |
|  | « Thy son is shining upon thy throne »               | ولدك بدى (او جلى) على عرشك (Book of the dead LXXVIII, 52). |

(1) Cf. Gardiner, *Grammar*<sup>3</sup>, § 135; cf. see « Coronation of King Haremheb », l. 11, *JEA* 39 (1953), p. 13 ff.  
 'His Majesty being (or is) great in the sight of the populace'

«The field is come forth» الارض بروز (Pap. d'Orb. 16, 1).

«I am living» أنا حي (Orb. 16, 1).

«The bowman is ready» القواس عتيد (Admonitions 2, 2).

The nominal sentence with the stative participle as predicate can be introduced by  $\text{𓂏}$  or  $\text{𓂏}$ ; *iw* which serves to introduce some statement of outstanding interest (Gardiner<sup>3</sup> § 117) can be translated in Arabic with the corroborative particle  $\text{إن}$  governing the subject in the accusative and the predicate in the nominative case Exx.

«Teti is satiated» ان تيتي شبيع (Pyr. § 551 c).

«I know» اني عليم (Coffin texts 247).

«I am appearing as Sokar» مثل سكر (متجلّ) اني جلّي (op. cit. 245).

«I am appearing as a divine falcon» اني بدى كباذ الهى (B.D. LXXVIII, L9).

«I am high, new and young» اني رفيع جديد نصير (B.D. XLIII, 3, 4).

«The scale is void of my sins» ان الميزان خلى من ذنوبى (B.D. CXXXII, 3).

$\text{𓂏}$  can be translated by the enunciative  $\text{إذا الفجائية}$  (إذا) which denotes a thing's happening suddenly or unexpectedly, or one's experiencing the occurrence of a thing when he is in a particular state; it pertains only to nominal phrases :

«Then a ship is come as he fortold before» واذا سفينة أتتة كما تكهن قبلا

«Then I was gone and put myself on a high tree» واذا انا ذهب فوضعت نفسى على شجرة عالية (Shipwrecked sailor 154-156).

In these sentences, the *Shipwrecked sailor* in the rhetoric style of the story meant to say that he had found himself beholding a ship that was coming and found



A similar rule applies to the exclamatory use (*Gardiner*<sup>3</sup> § 313) of the stative participle :

بعيدا عنى او بعينى عنى « (be you) away from me » (C.T. 236).

The Arabic analysis of such a case is that it is a predicate to the omitted imperative of the incomplete 'verb to be' كونا — كن which governs the subject in the nominative and the predicate in the accusative :

« beware of any occasion of neglectfulness » (Prisse 154).

« in heath in heath good fellow to thy house » (Sh. S. 158).

« praised thou art : I do not know the number thereof » (Westcar 9, 2-3); and the well known formula « life, prosperity and health » حيا صحيحا سليما .

Appended to a noun, the stative participle gives the meaning of an epithet or an Arabic adjective (*Gardiner's* virtual relative clause § 317).

« an old book boiled with oil » (Ebers 49, 1).

« a frog boiled with oil » (ib. 52, 4).

« a chariot wrought in gold » (Urk. IV 663).

« the complete eye » (Eb. 99, 20).

« sns-cake mixed with salt » (Eb. 97, 19).

The circumstantial use of the stative participle is frequent :

« Teti found his throne empty » (Pyr. 602).







It can be thus understood, however, why in boastful and self laudatory texts, the stative participle is frequently used in the first person singular; the deceased asserts his knowledge and equipment of the requirements that allow him to the hereafter. It is not improbable that such a tradition was an important factor in the survival of the independent use of the stative participle in the first person singular.

Being of itself timeless, the future meaning was indicated in Middle Egyptian by placing the imperfective *sdm.f* of the verb *wnn* (to be) which has future reference, before it.

« Nay, he who is yonder shall be standing in the bark » « ويقفون الذي ثم وقيفا في السفين (Leb. 143-4).

« His soul shall live beside the Lord of the Universe » « وتكون روحه حية الى جنب رب العالمين (Urk. IV 62).

Yet, the future meaning can be implied like our Arabic measure<sup>(1)</sup> in the following example in Middle Egyptian :

« Never shalt thou see this island (again) it becoming waves » « لن ترى تلك الجزيرة (ثانية) اذ هي صائرة امواجاً (Sh. S 154).

Two more late Egyptian examples of the stative participle give the future meaning :

« He took an oath by the lord saying, if all that I have said is not true, I shall be put on a stake » « اصدرقسما بالرب قائلا لئن لم يصدق ما قلت جميعا فاني موضوع (وديعة) على رأس قضيب (B.M. 10053, verso 3, 5; sim. ib. 4, 6).

(1) Arabic examples are frequents. Cf. « Verily thou shalt die and they shall die » (Koran XXXIX 30) « انك ميت وانهم ميتون وقلن تمتع ليلة النأى هذه فانك مرجوم غدا أو مسيف

« and they said enjoy this eve of departure; for you will be stoned tomorrow or slain by sword » (Ĝirānu 'l-'Awd جران العود

