



BULLETIN DE L'INSTITUT FRANÇAIS D'ARCHÉOLOGIE ORIENTALE

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BIFAO 45 (1947), p. 61-64

Girgis Mattha

The origin of the explanatory particles [en] and [entji] : [endje].

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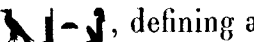
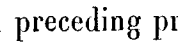
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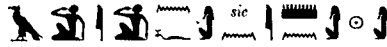
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EXPLANATORY PARTICLES \bar{n} AND $\bar{n}i$: $\bar{n}xe$

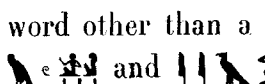
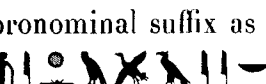
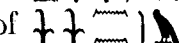
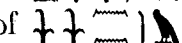
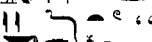
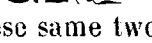
BY

GIRGIS MATTHA.

In the sentence \bar{n}  "she, namely Isis, establishes me on Earth" ⁽¹⁾ the particle \bar{n} serves to introduce a noun, , defining a preceding pronoun \bar{n} in \bar{n} .

In Late Egyptian texts this use of \bar{n} is confined to cases where the defining noun is a divine name :  "so said he, namely Amon-Rē" ⁽²⁾. Otherwise it occurs in Late Egyptian under the form \bar{n} when it is best rendered "namely" or "that is" as in the following examples ⁽³⁾ :

 "so said he, namely the prince, to them" and "the two shares  which she, namely my mother, gave me" and  "so said he, namely his son".

Sometimes this \bar{n} introduces a word or set of words defining a preceding word other than a pronominal suffix as in  and , where each of  \bar{n}  "these Asiatics" and  "what thou hast said" defines the interrogative word \bar{n}  ⁽⁴⁾. These same two sentences occur elsewhere without the particle \bar{n} and without a change of meaning ⁽⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁾ GARDINER, *Egyptian Grammar*, § 227, 5.

⁽⁴⁾ *Ibid.*, Anmerkung.

⁽²⁾ ERMAN, *Neuägyptische Grammatik*, § 714.

⁽³⁾ *Ibid.*, § 740.

⁽⁵⁾ *Ibid.*, § 702.

where $\mu\tilde{\eta}\tau\epsilon\sigma\nu\theta\upsilon\varsigma \tilde{\eta}\epsilon\pi\iota\sigma\kappa\omicron\pi\omicron\varsigma$ “12 bishops” determines the 3rd pers. plur. in $\tilde{\eta}\tau\epsilon\rho\upsilon\text{--}$; and $\mu\tilde{\eta} \tilde{\mu}\pi\epsilon\nu\lambda\gamma \epsilon\rho\omicron\upsilon\gamma \tilde{\mu}\pi\epsilon\sigma\nu\lambda\gamma$ ⁽¹⁾ “hast thou not seen both?” lit. “hast thou not seen them, namely the two persons?”, where $\pi\epsilon\sigma\nu\lambda\gamma$ defines the 3rd pers. plur. in $\epsilon\rho\omicron\upsilon\gamma$; and $\lambda\nu\omicron\kappa \Delta\epsilon \lambda\iota\chi\omega \epsilon\rho\omicron\upsilon\gamma \tilde{\eta}\nu\epsilon\nu\tau\lambda\gamma\sigma\omega\lambda\tilde{\eta} \nu\lambda\tilde{\iota} \epsilon\beta\omicron\lambda$ ⁽²⁾ “I then described what was revealed to me” lit. “I then spoke concerning them, namely the things which were revealed to me”, where $\nu\epsilon\nu\tau\lambda\gamma\sigma\omega\lambda\tilde{\eta} \nu\lambda\tilde{\iota} \epsilon\beta\omicron\lambda$ “that which was revealed to me” defines the 3rd pers. pl. in $\epsilon\rho\omicron\upsilon\gamma$.

Other examples are like $\theta\lambda\rho\alpha\tau\varsigma \tilde{\eta}\theta\upsilon\gamma\beta\omega$ “under a tree”, lit. “at the foot of it, namely a tree”; $\rho\omega\omicron\upsilon\gamma \nu\eta\iota\alpha\sigma\epsilon\beta\eta\varsigma$ “the mouths of the impious” lit. “the mouth of them, namely the unrighteous”, etc. etc.

The word introduced by $\tilde{\eta}$ could also define a preceding independent pronoun as in the following examples :

$\lambda\nu\alpha\kappa \nu\eta\pi\alpha\pi\alpha \epsilon\iota\varsigma\iota\tau\rho\upsilon\gamma, \lambda\nu\alpha\kappa \nu\kappa\alpha\sigma\epsilon\mu$ etc. (joint authors) and $\nu\tau\omicron\upsilon\alpha \nu\pi\lambda\alpha\omega\mu$ ⁽³⁾.

If the defining word is a pronoun, this latter is the independent pronoun : $\lambda\nu\mu\omega\iota \nu\epsilon\mu\lambda\alpha\upsilon \lambda\nu\omicron\kappa \nu\epsilon\mu \kappa\epsilon\sigma\nu\lambda\gamma$ ⁽⁴⁾ “we walked with him, I and two others”. Independent pronouns are etymologically related to the particle $\tilde{\eta}$ and they were not infrequently used in the language parallel to $\tilde{\eta}$ + noun.

Sometimes this explanatory particle $\tilde{\eta}$ is omitted; e. g. $\epsilon\upsilon\tau\omega\nu \rho\omicron\upsilon\gamma\lambda\tilde{\iota}$ ⁽⁵⁾ “where is thy husband?” lit. “where is he, thy husband?” Compare the absence of $\tilde{\eta}$ in Late Egyptian, referred to above.

Sometimes this particle n (variant m) is followed in demotic by the enclitic particle ge (old σ -) as is the case in

$\hbar b q e n' m - s n - g e ' y h t n t y - s q t - t m - g e r m ' m n t$ ⁽⁶⁾ “waste her away, thou demon; take her sleep, thou man of Amenti”, where the first $n - g e$ introduces

⁽¹⁾ ZOEGA, 397.

⁽²⁾ ZOEGA, 397.

⁽³⁾ CRUM, *Coptic Dict.*, p. 215 b, sub n-, I, d.

⁽⁴⁾ MALLON, *Grammaire*, § 350, last example.

⁽⁵⁾ ZOEGA, 346.

⁽⁶⁾ GRIFFITH-THOMPSON, *Mag. Pap.*, verso 13/2.

