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Girgis Mattha

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

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

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

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

If the defining word is a pronoun, this latter is the independent pronoun : $\lambda\sigma\mu\omega\iota \nu\epsilon\mu\lambda\alpha \lambda\sigma\kappa \nu\epsilon\mu \kappa\epsilon\sigma\sigma\lambda\upsilon$ ⁽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. $\epsilon\gamma\tau\omega\sigma\iota \rho\omicron\upsilon\gamma\lambda\tilde{\iota}$ ⁽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.

