

Ancient Egyptian Classifiers in a Diachronic Perspective

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT (2009)

Principal investigators: Prof. Dr. Orly Goldwasser (Jerusalem)
Prof. Dr. Frank Kammerzell (Berlin)

Signatures

Berlin, 12/29/2009

[...]

Principal investigator

Jerusalem,

[...]

Principal investigator

1. Updated time schedule

[...]

2. Abstract

[...]

3. Progress of work

3.1 Common theoretical framework and the shape of the text corpora (O. Goldwasser, F. Kammerzell, E.-S. Lincke, D. Werning)

[...]

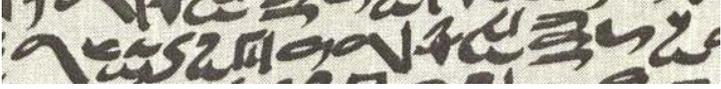
3.2 Collecting and processing of data

3.2.1 Preparatory Works (D. Werning)

In traditional scholarly transcriptions of hieroglyphic texts, classifiers are not represented. In a first step, D. Werning has developed and implemented a fast, easily applicable way to encode classifiers in transliteration in order to make encoded texts searchable and sortable. With MS Word macros it is possible to easily include classifier signs from a True Type Font in traditional Egyptological transliteration. Since the classifiers are encoded as elements font – and not e.g. as pictures – their individual font code makes it possible to search for individual classifiers as well as to sort them in a table.

3.2.2 Encoding of complete texts (F. Kammerzell, Ph.-E. Klepsch, A. Sundermeyer, D. Serova, D. Werning)

The research approach is quantitative and holistic in nature. The aim is to describe the classificatory system of complete texts and/or text groups. Therefore the student assistants started to encode complete texts in a data table with a word per line. The fields encoded are:

<i>Fields</i>	<i>example</i>
Word ID	PR11890
Word	$h^3.w^{\text{𓆎}} = k$
Classifiers	
Text passage identification	pPrisse §318 [X,6]
Text passage in transliteration	$m^c wn^{\text{𓆎}} - jb^{\text{𓆎}} = k r - h^3.w^{\text{𓆎}} = k$
German translation of the text passage	Sei nicht habgierig gegenüber deiner Verwandtschaft!
Picture of the text passage	

The following texts are now digitally encoded in a way that the classifiers are included and can be searched for:

(a) Finished

Text	Source	Script	Date	Encoding/Research
The Teachings for Kagemni (teachings)	pPrisse, 1-2	Hieratic (cursive)	20th/19th cent. BCE (XI th /XII th Dyn.)	A. Sundermeyer
The Teachings of Ptahhotep (teachings)	pPrisse, 4-19	Hieratic (cursive)	20th /19th cent. BCE (XI th /XII th Dyn.)	A. Sundermeyer
The Story of Sinuhe (biographic story)	pBerlin 3022	Hieratic (cursive)	20th /19th cent. BCE (XII th Dyn.)	Ph.-E. Klepsch
The Tale of the Eloquent Peasant (dialogues/lamentations)	pBerlin 3023 + pBerlin 3025	Hieratic (cursive)	19th cent. BCE (XII th Dyn.)	Ph.-E. Klepsch
The Tale of the Two Brothers	pD'Orbiney	Hieratic (cursive)	c. 1200 BCE (XIX th Dyn.)	F. Kammerzell
The Story of Wenamun	pMoscow 120	Hieratic (cursive)	11th cent. BCE (XXI st Dyn.)	F. Kammerzell
Book of Caverns (theological description)	9 text witnesses (13 th -4 th cent. BCE)	Hieroglyphic	13 th cent. BCE (XIX th Dyn.)	D. Werning
[Israel Stela (royal representation)	Cairo GC 34025	Hieroglyphic	13th cent. BCE (XIX th Dyn.)	D. Werning]

The Min Festival (ritual description)	Medinet Habu Temple Wall	Hieroglyphic	12th cent. BCE (XX th Dyn.)	A. Sundermeyer
--	-----------------------------	---------------------	---	----------------

(b) In the process of being encoded:

Text	Source	Script	Date	Encoding/Research
The Herdsman's Story (story)	pBerlin 3024 (finishing ' Berlin Mss ')	Hieratic (cursive)	19 th cent. BCE (XII th Dyn.)	Ph.-E. Klepsch
The story of King Kheops and the Magicians (story)	pWestcar = pBerlin 3033	Hieratic (cursive)	16th cent. BCE (XV th –XVII th Dyn.)	D. Serova

Two text groups belong to the Classic Middle Egyptian chronolect (20/19th cent. BCE) and are all written in the Hieratic cursive. Among them are two main types of text genre, i.e. stories and teachings. The envisaged encoding of the hieratic story on pWestcar dating to the 16th cent. BCE will shed some light on the diachronic perspective. Two texts belong to the Neo-Classic Middle Egyptian chronolect of the New Kingdom (13th/12th cent. BCE). These are written in hieroglyphic script. Their content is descriptive in nature and they are both accompanied by pictures.

3.2.3 Research on data

3.2.3.1 Classification systems in written language and in spoken language - (O. Goldwasser with C. Grinevald)

[...]

3.2.3.2 A functional typology of classifiers (D. Werning)

D. Werning has been working on a basic *functional typology of classifiers* which includes the whole set of signs that were traditionally called 'determinatives' (also those marginal elements which do not fit to the definition of classifier). Three groups should be differentiated according to the linguistic level they operate on (– note that one and the same grapheme can have different functions in different contexts): a) *Graphemo-Classifiers*, a kind of punctuation, b) *Grammato-Indices*, referring to grammatical (semantic) information, and c) *(Semantic) Classifiers*, referring to (non-grammatical) semantic information.

	Reference / level		Examples
Graphemo-Classifier	script: semogram indicator	semogram:LOGOGRAM	in  'manifestation' in  'on/above'
		semogram:CLASSIFIER	in <i>ḥ3ti</i>  'heart'
	script: end of word (stem)	morpheme_end:VERBAL_DEFAULT	in <i>čwj</i>  'he calls'
Grammato-Index	semantics: grammatical category	grammar:1 ST /SINGULAR/COMMUNIS	in <i>jnk</i>  'I', -w  'I', =(j)  'I'
		grammar:1 ST /SINGULAR/COMMUNIS	in <i>jnk</i>  'I', -w  'I', =(j)  'I'
		grammar:PLURAL	in <i>sn.t</i>  'sisters'
(Semantic) Classifier	semantics proper: lexeme, lemma, word, phrase	taxonomic:MAN	in <i>zh3(w)</i>  'scribe'
		taxonomic:GOD	in <i>jnpw</i>  '(God) Anubis'
		unique:RA	in <i>r^c(w)</i>  '(God) Ra'
		taxonomic:COLLECTIVE	in <i>č3č3.t</i>  'council'.
		zero:MANY	in <i>čš3</i>  'many'.

[See now: Werning 2011.I, §6]

Within the domain of semantic classifiers different scopes and reference types must obviously be differentiated. In her M.A.-thesis, E.-S. Lincke (2007: ch. 2) has devoted quite some pages to the question of classifiers in derived word forms and complex noun phrases, mainly focusing on semantic questions. She differentiated between *extensional classifiers* and *intentional classifiers* with regard to the nature of the semantic relation of a linguistic unit and its referent. But she also paid attention to the grammatical status of the basic word, derived word or phrase, differentiating between *primary classifiers* and *secondary classifiers*. (Certain combinations of these two parameters she calls *level 1 classification* and *level 2 classification*, respectively.) D. Werning has approached the very same phenomenon focusing mainly on the morpho-syntactical side of this question and the formal scope of classifiers in word derivation/grammatical transformation and 'compound' noun phrases (*basic lemma classifiers* vs. *derivate/phrase classifiers*). It seems clear by now that at least two parameters, i.e. the 'formal' scope of classifiers in words that are products of productive derivation and in compound phrases – and the nature of the relation of the classifier and the scope referent must be systematically differentiated. Compare the following table:

written form	phonetic	part of speech	translation	classifier	scope	reference
	*wbn	verbal lexeme	APPEAR	agent: SUN	lexeme(?)	abstract lexeme(?)
	*waaban	infinitive	'(to) appear'	agent: SUN	basic lemma	abstract lemma
	*waabin	participle (de- verbal adjective)	'appearing'	agent: SUN	basic lemma(deri- vation nucleus)	abstract lemma
	*waabin	nominalized participle	'the appearing one'	taxonomic: GOD	word derivation product	actual refe- rent in cotext

written form	phonetic	part of speech	translation	classifier	scope	reference
	*sn	abstract nominal lexeme	SIBLING			
	*saanat	noun	'sister'	taxonomic: FEMALE	basic lemma	abstract lemma
	*saanat	noun	'sister'	taxonomic: GODDESS	basic lemma	actual refe- rent in cotext

written form	phonetic	part of speech	translation	classifier	scope	reference
	**jmn	adjectival lexeme	WESTERN/RIGHT			
	*jamiinat	adjective:F.SG	'western'			
	*jamiinat	nominalized adjective	'the west'	taxonomic:HILL-SITE/ WASTELAND	basic lemma	abstract lemma
	*jaminatii	de-nominal adjective (nisbe)	'western'	taxonomic:HILL-SITE/ WASTELAND	basic lemma (derivation nucleus)	abstract lemma
	*jaminatii	nominalized nisbe adjective	'the western'	taxonomic:HILL-SITE/ WASTELAND	basic lemma (derivation nucleus)	abstract lemma
	*jaminatii	nominalized nisbe adjective	'the western'	taxonomic:GOD	word derivation product	actual refe- rent in cotext

written form	phonetic	part of speech	translation	classifier	scope	reference
	*jirii ^c ar	complex noun phrase	'door keeper'	component/object: ACTIVE ARM	noun phrase	abstract lemma

written form	phonetic	part of speech	translation	classifier	scope	reference
	*ca'hi'xita ^f	complex noun phrase	'the great one upon his waist'	taxonomic: SNAKE/WORM	noun phrase	actual refe- rent in cotext

[Cf. now Werning 2011.I, §§12, 37, 42]

It is currently worked on that these two perspectives conflate in a common terminological framework. And research is needed to test this future terminological framework on complete texts.

Student researchers Ph.-E. Klepsch and A. Sundermeyer are now about to start their own research on the data encoded by them until now, D. Serova will follow in spring 2010. The first research question are going to be:

- What *proportions* of individual *parts of speech* do bear classifiers, which don't?
- What *proportions* of semantically classified words have *multiple classification*?

And later:

- What *scope* and *referent* do the classifiers have?

3.2.3.3 The diachrony of Egyptian verb classifiers (F. Kammerzell & E.-S. Lincke)

[...]

3.2.3.4 On the Interrelationship of Classification and Grammaticalization (I. Diamant)

[...]

3.2.3.5 Pain and Suffering in Ancient Egypt in Diachronic Perspective (R. Shalomi-Hen)

[...]

3.2.3.6 Genre specific classification strategies (D. Werning)

Based on his encoding of the Book of Caverns (hieroglyphic, Neo-Classic Middle Egyptian, theology), D. Werning has first focused on the *genre specific classification strategies* in this theological texts. In accordance with the deviating orthographic strategies for the phonetic part of the word, also the classification system exhibits deviations as compared to secular Classic Middle Egyptian texts. Using more mono-consonantal and bi-consonantal signs instead of bi-consonantal, tri-consonantal or logographic signs, the phonological information are written in a slightly less redundant way. At the same time the partially redundant semantic information given by the semantic classifiers are reduced by means of

- (a) preferring *classifiers with a lower specificity* over more specific ones, e.g.

‘chest’, with classifier 𓆎 [stuff/object:DEAD WOOD] instead of 𓆏 [taxonomic:CHEST],

‘muscle’, with classifier 𓆑 [taxonomic:BODY PART] instead of 𓆒 [object/component:STRONG LEG].

3.3 First workshop

The first workshop of the project to be held in the last week of January 2010 at Berlin will be attended by O. Goldwasser, R. Shalomi-Hen, N. Allon, I. Diamant, D. Elharrar and all members of the German team (for justification of the late date, cf. below 4). On this occasion, each researcher, including the student assistants, will present the current state and first results of his/her research.

On the day after the workshop all participants have the opportunity to take part in a small conference on “Prototype theory in Egyptian language studies” that is held at Humboldt-Universität.

4. Visits

[...]

5. Publications

Allon, Niv (in preparation). At the outskirts of a system: Classifiers in Aramaic texts written in Demotic and Hieratic.

Goldwasser, Orly (in print). The Aten is the "Energy of Light" - New Evidence from the Script. to appear in: *Studies in the Honor of XXXX*. Ed. Zahi Hawass.

[...]

Kammerzell, Frank (in print). Egyptian verb classifiers, to appear in: *Proceedings of the Tenth International Congress of Egyptologists*, Rhodos: University of the Aegean (reviewed and accepted in 2009)

[...]

Lincke, Eliese-Sophia. 2007. *Das Schriftsystem der Pyramidentexte. Zu den Prinzipien der Klassifizierung im Altägyptischen*, Magisterial thesis, Department for North-East African Archaeology and Cultural Studies, Humboldt University Berlin (reworked publication in preparation; series: Göttinger Orientforschungen, vol. 38/6, Göttingen: Harrassowitz).

Lincke, Eliese-Sophia (in print). The “determinative” is prescribed and yet chosen. A systematic view on Egyptian classifiers, to appear in: *Proceedings of the Tenth International Congress of Egyptologists*, Rhodos: University of the Aegean (reviewed and accepted in 2009).

Lincke, Eliese-Sophia (in preparation). *Die Prinzipien der Klassifizierung im Altägyptischen*, to appear as: Göttinger Orientforschungen, vol. 38/6, Göttingen: Harrassowitz (reviewed and accepted).

6. Other activities

[...]

7. Talks

[...]