Ancient Egyptian Classifiers in a Diachronic Perspective

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Signatures

Berlin,   [...]

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3. Research in 2010

3.3. Classifiers in Papyrus Prisse: The Teaching of Ptahhotep, The Teachings for Kagemni
(Annette Sundermeyer; mentoring: D. Werning, F. Kammerzell)

After finishing the phase of intensive data collection in 2009, Annette Sundermeyer has statistically evaluated The Teaching of Ptahhotep in four modules:

(A) *Verb classification*: an analysis along the lines of Kammerzell's 'Egyptian Verb Classifiers' (in print); including a map of semantic similarity of verbs according on their classifiers. She also collected the cases of verbs with more than one classifier referring to the same lemma (*multiple classification*), and secondary classification of de-verbal nouns (*derivate classification*).

(B) *(Primary) noun classification*: Analysis along the lines of Linke's modifications of Goldwasser's taxonomy in her *Prinzipien der Klassifikation im Altägyptischen* (2011). Analog to her presentation of the verb classifier system, she prepared a semantic similarity map of (primary) nouns depending on their classifiers.

(C) *Comparison of the sets of verb classifiers and noun classifiers*: So far it has often been perceived, that the same classifiers can be found on verbs and nouns. This perception was partially flawed by the neglect of the recently proposed distinction of *primary classification* and *derivate classification*. Inspired by the 'statistical feeling' that both sets are at least partially and statistically disparate (D. Werning), A. Sundermeyer compared the sets and found that,

(**Citation**:) Werning, Daniel A. 2011. Extracts from GIF Project No. 988 Report *Ancient Egyptian Classifiers in a Diachronic Perspective. Annual Progress Report: Period of 2010*, ed. by F. Kammerzell & O. Goldwasser, Berlin & Jerusalem (http://wwwuser.gwdg.de/~dwernin/published/Daniel_Werning-Extract_GIF_Report_2010.pdf).   2 / 6

effectively, only a rather small set of classifiers that can be found as well on verbs as on nouns in The Teaching of Ptahhotep. This raises the question of the 'heuristic' contribution of the classifier system to the identification of lemmata in the process of reading.

(D) *Adjective classification*: According to the most widespread opinion among Egyptologists, Egyptian 'adjectives' are nothing but (neutral) participles, i.e. de-verbal derivates. There are some hints, though, that a part of speech 'adjective' should be accounted for (C. Peust, in: Göttinger Miszellen. Beihefte 3, 2008; D. Werning [2011, in print]). Working with this hypothesis, A. Sundermeyer also enumerated data on the system of classifiers found on adjectives. It turns out, that the set of classifiers on adjectives and verbs do not perfectly match. This raises further questions to be investigated in the near future.

3.4. Classifiers in the 'Berlin Manuscripts pBerlin 3022–3025': The Tale of Sinuhe, Tale of the Eloquent Peasant (Philipp-Emanuel Klepsch; mentoring: D. Werning, F. Kammerzell)

After finishing the phase of intensive data collection in 2009, Philipp-Emanuel Klepsch has sorted his data on The Eloquent Peasant on Papyrus Berlin 3023 and has started to analyze it in three modules:

(A) *Noun classification*: Analysis of noun classifiers with special interest in lemma classification vs. referent classification, and primary classification vs. derivate classification; list of phrase classifiers; preparation of a semantic similarity map of (primary) nouns depending on their classifiers.

(B) *Verb classification*: Analysis along the lines of Linke's modifications of Kammerzell's agent role analysis of verb classifiers in her *Prinzipien der Klassifikation im Altägyptischen* (2011). Quantitative analysis of verb classifiers and preparation of a semantic similarity map; cf. §0, (A) above.

(C) *Adjective and Adverb classification*: enumeration of classifiers found on adjectives (cf. §0, (D) above) and adverbs.

3.5. Verb classifiers in a diachronic perspective (Frank Kammerzell, Phillip-Emanuel Klepsch, Annette Sundermeyer)

[...]

3.6. Deviation of classifiers in different copies of the Story of Sinuhe (Lital Belinco)

[...]

3.7. Man and woman, human categories in early dynastic script (Racheli Shalomi-Hen)

[...]

3.8. The 𓀀 classifier: a special phenomena on the diachronic axis (Orly Goldwasser)

[...]

3.9.   The use of the STROKE classifiers in the Book of Caverns (Daniel Werning)

Based on his taxonomy of 'determinatives', Daniel Werning, researched the use of the complex grapheme ııı as found in the Book of Caverns (13th cent. BCE).

First of all, the ııı grapheme can be used with reference to the *grammatical* meaning PLURAL (as opposed to SINGULAR or DUAL), either as

> G1)   PLURAL *classifier* after grammatical morphemes, e.g. after ⌇ =n */n/ PRON.1PL "we" or 𓏲 -w */w/ ~ */u:/ (nominal) M.PL,

or it can be used as

> G2)   PLURAL *morpho-gram* that denotes (grammatical) PLURAL morphemes of different linguistic substance: */w/ ~ */u:/ -M.PL as opposed to *ø (-M.SG), or vowel length, e.g. in */a:t/ -F:PL as opposed to */at/ -F(SG). Here it stands not *after* the morpheme but as the only written index to the morpheme.

Rarely, ııı can be used with reference to the verbal (grammatical) plurality of 'Distributive Participle' forms (as opposed to neutral verbal plurality),

> G3)   DISTRIBUTIVE, e.g. after *zꜣꜣ(ï)* "one (constantly) guarding", *qmꜣ(ï)* "one having created (many things)".

Besides this use as classifier or morphogram for grammatical nominal and verbal PLURAL, ııı is also used as a (regular) *semantic classifier* after various nouns and adjectives that are – as proven by concording elements – grammatically s i n g u l a r(!) words:

> N1)   AMOUNT, e.g. *ꜥšꜣ* "many";
>
> N2)   SET of potentially heterogeneous members, e.g. *psḏt* "group of gods; 'pantheon'"; especially also the body as set of different body parts: e.g. *ḥꜣ.t* "corps";
>
> N3)   MASS, consisting of un-countable or unknown amount of equal elements, e.g. *šꜥï* "sand", *sꜣmt* "disheveled hair (of mourning)";
> as well as FLUIT, e.g. *rḏw* "secretion",
> and fire, e.g. *nsr* "fire", and very probably also light, e.g. *ḥḏwt* "light", as a fluit(?) substance;

and very often as part of the combination ⸚ıı̇ı:

> N4)   ABSTRACTUM, e.g. *sḫr* "manner, kind";
>
> N5)   NOT_PERCEIVABLE, e.g. very possibly *jmnt* "(the) hidden", and occasionally *štꜣ* "mysterious";
>
> N6)   words for (embodied) IMAGEs, e.g. *jrw* "figure", *t{w}w* "image", *sšm* "picture", *ḫprw* "transformation".

Also, ııı is rarely used as a *semantic classifier* after various verbs and (more often) derived nouns that describe a multi-phasic *aktionsart* (Engl. lexical aspect, situation types, situation aspect):

> V1)   MULTI-PHASIC with an inherent ITERATIVE repetition of equal event phases, e.g. *srq* "(to) breathe", *srqw* "(the) breathing, breath", *mdwï* "(to) speak", probably *mdw* "speech, words; affairs", *ḥkn* "to jubilate", *hy* "jubilation", *hnw* „(pounding) jubilance", ..., *d(j)wt* "(the) yelling", *šꜥt* "(the) slaughtering".

Finally, ııı is occasionally attested as a *semantic classifier* after verbs that describe a process of aggregation of necessarily 'many' objects:

> V2)   AGGREGATE, *ẖnm* "(to) unite; (to) consort (with someone)", *kkw zmꜣw* "concentrated darkness", i.e. 'complete darkness', and probably also *ḥsfw* "(the) approaching".

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The following table summarizes the results:

ꞮꞮꞮ	Type	Carrier	Concord	Semantic
(Semantic) Classifier	classifier	adjectives	SINGULAR(!)	AMOUNT
		(singular) nouns		SET
				MASS; FLUIT, LIGHT
				ABSTRACTUM
				IMAGE
		(singular) nouns; adjectives		NOT_PERCIEVABLE
		(de-verbal nouns), verbs,	–	MULTI-PHASIC (ITERATIVE)
		verbs		AGGREGATE
Grammato-index	classifier	participles	SINGULAR(!)	DISTRIBUTIVE
		(plural) pronouns; (plural) morphemes	PLURAL	PLURAL
Grammato-gram	morpho-gram, logo-gram	(singular) nouns	PLURAL	PLURAL

[see now: Werning 2011.I, §5]

3.10. *Computer-aided identification of classifiers in hand-written hieroglyphic texts*
      (Dan Elharrar)

[...]

4. First Symposium in Paris

The first symposium of the project has been held in May 2010 at Paris, as part of a greater gathering in which many of the GIF participants took part. The first GIF symposium was attended by O. Goldwasser, R. Shalomi-Hen, N. Allon, I. Diamant, D. Elharrar, Frank Kammerzell, Daniel Werning and Eliese-Sophia Lincke. On this occasion, each researcher, presented the current state of his/her research. The Paris conference enabled us to introduce the results of the GIF research to a wider audience.
[...]

5. Visits

[...]

6. Publications

Allon, Niv. [in print]. The Outskirts of a System: Classifiers and Word dividers in Foreign
    Phrases and Texts, in: *Lingua Aegyptia. Journal of Egyptian Language Studies* 18 (2010),
    approx. 21 pages.
Goldwasser, Orly. [in print]. The Aten is the "Energy of Light": New Evidence from the Script,
    to appear in: *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt*, [...].

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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), approx. 18 pages.

Lincke, Eliese-Sophia. 2009. Review of: Petra Vomberg & Orell Witthuhn (2008), Hieroglyphenschlüssel, Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, in: *Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes* 99, 403-406,

— [2011]. *Die Prinzipien der Klassifizierung im Altägyptischen*, [Master Thesis, Humboldt University Berlin], Göttinger Orientforschungen 38, 6: Classification and Categorization in Ancient Egypt, Göttingen: Otto Harrassowitz (to appear in Spring 2011).

— [in print]. The 'Determinative' is Prescribed and yet Chosen. A Systematic View on Egyptian Classifiers, in: Proceedings of the Tenth International Congress of Egyptologists, Rhodos: University of the Aegean (reviewed and accepted in 2009), approx. 12 pages.

Werning, Daniel. [2011, in print]. Grammar, §§ 2–12, in: Werning, Daniel A., *Das Höhlenbuch. Textkritische Edition und Textgrammatik*, 2 vols., PhD Dissertation, Faculty of Philosophy, Georg-August University Göttingen, March 2010, to appear in: Göttinger Orientforschungen, IV. Reihe, Ägypten, Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 10 pages, 1 plate.

Articles in preparation:

Goldwasser, Orly & Colette Grinevald. What are Determinatives Good for?.

Kammerzell, Frank & Eliese-Sophia Lincke. Egyptian Verb Classifiers in a Diachronic Perspective.

[...]

7. Talks and posters in 2010

[...]