

H8

Grammar

Nouns and noun-phrases

HPAH4016/5066/6066 Hieroglyphs 1

Dr Katharina Zinn

Associate Professor in Egyptian Archaeology
and Heritage, UWTSD

shd 'controller'

mnw-wsr Minuser

tp dw.f
'upon his hill'



rn-nfr=f

im³hw
'revered one'

Word order

- *rn-nfr=f*
- rn – noun – “name”
- nfr – adjective – “beautiful, good, perfect”
- f – pronoun – “his”
 - His/her = ?
 - Personal pronoun
- *His perfect name*

Word order *rn-nfr=f*

- ❑ rn – noun – “name”
- ❑ NOUNS
 - Words that designate things (real or imaginary)
 - OBJECTS (cat, dragon, house), CONCEPTS (happiness), WORDS (“this”)
 - Objects = apply to many things (country, god, ...) OR one specific (Egypt, Isis)
 - Latter = “proper nouns”, “specific names” → capitalised

Nouns

- ❑ Words that designate things (real or imaginary)
- ❑ can describe both tangible (book, man, Amun) and intangible things (love, desire, justice)
- ❑ OBJECTS (cat, dragon, house), CONCEPTS (happiness), WORDS (“this”)
- ❑ Objects = apply to many things (country, god, ...) OR one specific (Egypt, Isis)
- ❑ Latter = “proper nouns”, “specific names” → capitalised
- ❑ In Middle Egyptian – nouns described by: *gender* and *number*



Stela of Pepy,
Hermitage DB-1074

Nouns

describe both tangible
(book, man, Amun)
and intangible things
(love, desire, justice)

Middle Egyptian:
nouns described by:
gender and *number*

Nouns – roots

- Nouns consists of roots and additions
- Roots:
 - *Members, membership, nonmember*
 - *Members, membership, nonmember*
- Additions:
 - Prefixe: *nonmember*
 - Suffix: *members, membership*
- Egyptian Example: *ntr*
 - *ntr* , *ntr.w*, *ntr.t* , *ntrj*
 - God, gods , goddess, divine

Nouns – Gender

- English: masculine, feminine, neuter
- Nouns can be naturally m, f, n:
 - father, mother, rock
- Others no natural gender – all 3 might apply!
 - The speaker gave his talk.
 - The speaker expresses her opinion.
 - The speaker is attached to its base.

Nouns – Gender

- ❑ Ancient Egyptian: masculine, feminine
- ❑ Must be one or the other
- ❑ Usually easy to differentiate
 - F: ending *.t* added to root (most times)
 - M: no special ending (sometimes an *.j* added, but grammatical status not clear)
- ❑ Important: *.t* is added, NOT part of the word
- ❑ Some words naturally m or f (father *jt*, mother *mwt*)

Noun Endings		
Number	Masculine	Feminine
Singular	-	⤵ <i>t</i>

Gender – Pairs of nouns

 *sn* “brother”

 *ḥq(3)* “(male) ruler”

 *ntr* “god”

 *ḥftj* “(male) enemy”

 *ḥf3w* “(male) snake”

 *snt* “sister”

(root *sn*)

 *ḥq(3)t* “female ruler”

(root *ḥq3*)

 *ntrt* “goddess”

(root *ntr*)

 *ḥftt* “female enemy”

(root *ḥft*)

 *ḥf3t* “female snake”

(root *ḥf3*).

Nouns – Number

- Differentiation, if something is one or more than one
- English: singular → plural: different ways to express plural
 - – s or –en added
 - change of form: mouse – mice
 - no change at all: one sheep, 40 sheep

Nouns – Number

- Egyptian: nouns usually singular
- When transformed into plural: .w added to the root, before the gender-marker
 - for m: full ending would be .w (w+0)
 - For f: full ending would be .wt (w+t)

Noun Endings		
Number	Masculine	Feminine
Singular	-	⤵ t
Plural	⤵ , ⤵ w	⤵ (w)t

Number and Gender

sn “brother”: *snw* “brothers”

ḥq3 “ruler”: *ḥq3w* “rulers”

ntr “god”: *ntrw* “gods”

ḥftj “enemy”: *ḥftjw* “enemies”

ḥf3w “snake”: *ḥf3ww* “snakes”

snt “sister”: *snwt* “sisters”

ḥq3t “female ruler”: *ḥq3wt* “female rulers”

ntrt “goddess”: *ntrwt* “goddesses”

ḥftt “female enemy”: *ḥftwt* “female enemies”

ḥf3t “female snake”: *ḥf3wt* “female snakes.”

Forms of writing

- Could be done by ending only
- But w = weak consonant → often not written
- “plural strokes”
 - Used horizontally
 - Vertically
 - Or as dots (horizontally, vertically)

Writing “plural strokes”

snw “brothers”

hq(3)w “rulers”

ntrw “gods”

hftjw “enemies”

hf3uw “snakes”

snwt “sisters”

hq(3)wt “female rulers”

ntrwt “goddesses”

hftwt “female enemies”

hf3wt “female snakes”

Forms of writing

- Could be done by ending only
- But w = weak consonant → often not written
- “plural strokes”
 - Used horizontally
 - Vertically
 - Or as dots (horizontally, vertically)
- Or expressed in writing determinative 3 times



ḥk3.w rulers



sn.wt sisters



ntr.w gods

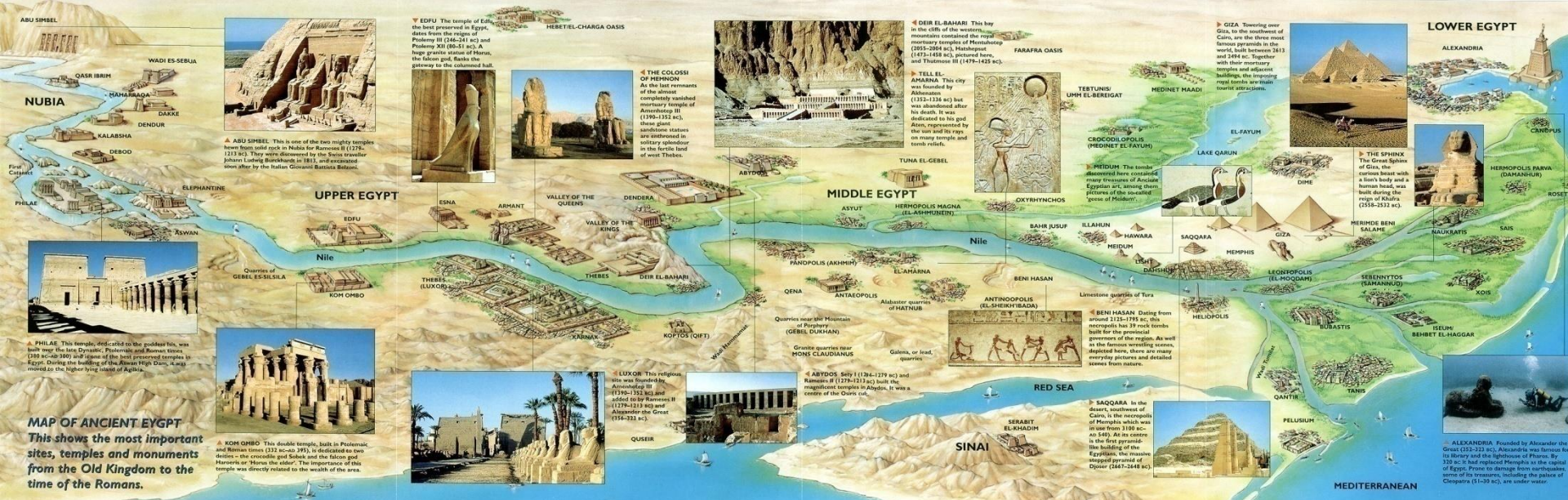
BUT – additional number!!!!

- DUAL
- Indication of TWO things

Noun Endings		
Number	Masculine	Feminine
Singular	-	◐ <i>t</i>
Plural	◐, ◑ <i>w</i>	◐ (<i>w</i>) <i>t</i>
Dual	◐◐, ◑◑ <i>wy</i>	◐◐ <i>ty</i>



Ancient Egypt

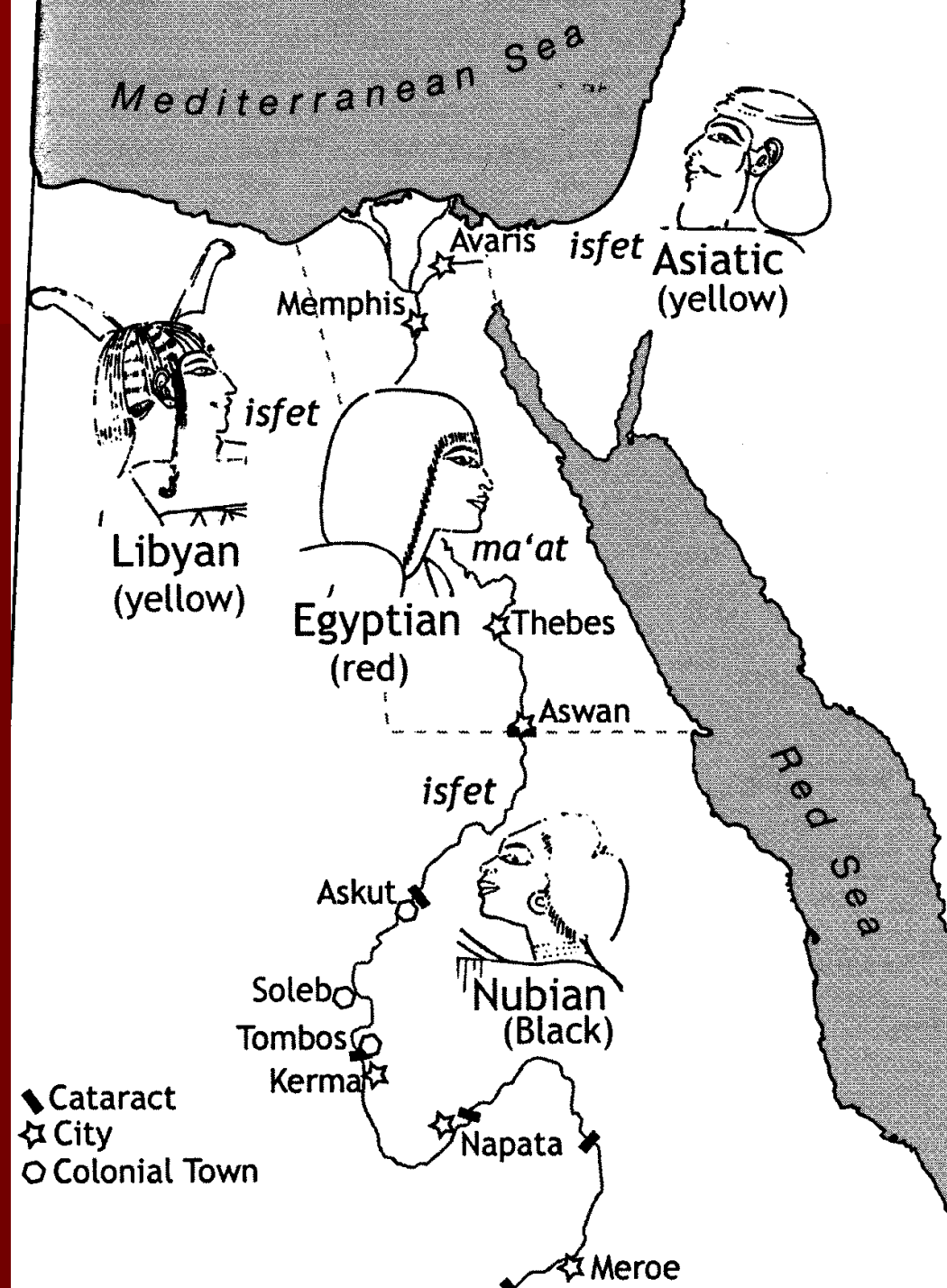




Nile and Desert



Ethnicity and culture



BUT – additional number!!!!

- DUAL
- Indication of TWO things
- Special endings

masculine $-wj$: , , or 

feminine $-tj$:  or , sometimes  or .

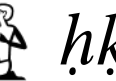
BUT – additional number!!!!

- DUAL
- Indication of TWO things
- Special endings

masculine *-wj*: , , or 

feminine *-tj*:  or , sometimes  or .

- Or doubling of determinative

   *ḥk3.wj* 2 rulers

   *sn.tj* 2 sisters

  *ntr.wj* 2 gods (can be 2 male or 1 male / 1 female)

Dual - writings



sn

brother



ḥkꜣ

ruler



ntr

god



ḥftj

enemy



ḥfꜣw

snake



snwj “two brothers”



sntj “two sisters”



ḥq(ꜣ)wj “two rulers”



ḥq(ꜣ)tj “two female rulers”



ntrwj “two gods”



ntrtj “two goddesses”



ḥftjwj “two enemies”



ḥfttj “two female enemies”



ḥfꜣwj “two snakes”



ḥfꜣtj “two female snakes.”

Beware “false” dual

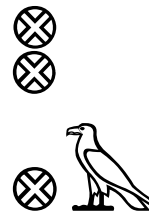
□ *pḥty*

□ (physical) strength

□ *Mn-pḥtj-R^c* Eternal is the strength of Ra – Ramses I



□ *njwtj* local



O49 and G4 (*tjw*)

□ *njwt* town



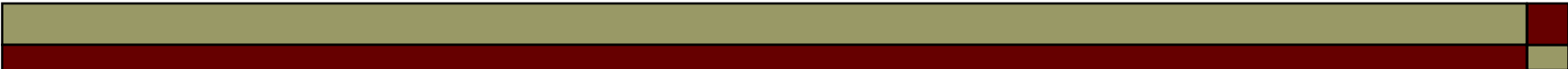
Summary of number and gender of nouns

MASCULINE

singular	ROOT	example: <i>sn</i> “brother” (root <i>sn</i>)
	ROOT + <i>j</i>	example: <i>ḥftj</i> “enemy” (root <i>ḥft</i>)
	ROOT + <i>w</i>	example: <i>ḥf3w</i> “snake” (root <i>ḥf3</i>)
plural	SINGULAR + <i>w</i>	examples: <i>snw</i> , <i>ḥftjw</i> , <i>ḥf3ww</i>
dual	SINGULAR + <i>wj</i>	examples: <i>snwj</i> , <i>ḥftjwj</i> , <i>ḥf3wwj</i>

FEMININE

singular	ROOT + <i>t</i>	examples: <i>snt</i> , <i>ḥftt</i> , <i>ḥf3t</i>
plural	ROOT + <i>wt</i>	examples: <i>snwt</i> , <i>ḥftwt</i> , <i>ḥf3wt</i>
dual	SINGULAR + <i>j</i>	examples: <i>sntj</i> , <i>ḥfttj</i> , <i>ḥf3tj</i>



Nouns – defined / undefined (the article)

- English:
 - names are always defined
 - Usage of possessive pronouns
 - usage of articles (definite the, indefinite a)
- Egyptian: NO articles in Middle Egyptian writing
- But were existent in spoken language

Summary of gender and number

All Egyptian nouns indicate both gender (masculine or feminine) and number (singular, plural, or dual). The markings for these features are:

MASCULINE

singular	ROOT	example: <i>sn</i> “brother” (root <i>sn</i>)
	ROOT + <i>j</i>	example: <i>hftj</i> “enemy” (root <i>hft</i>)
	ROOT + <i>w</i>	example: <i>hf3w</i> “snake” (root <i>hf3</i>)
plural	SINGULAR + <i>w</i>	examples: <i>snw</i> , <i>hftjw</i> , <i>hf3ww</i>
dual	SINGULAR + <i>wj</i>	examples: <i>snwj</i> , <i>hftjwj</i> , <i>hf3wwj</i>

FEMININE

singular	ROOT + <i>t</i>	examples: <i>snt</i> , <i>hftt</i> , <i>hf3t</i>
plural	ROOT + <i>wt</i>	examples: <i>snwt</i> , <i>hftwt</i> , <i>hf3wt</i>
dual	SINGULAR + <i>j</i>	examples: <i>sntj</i> , <i>hfttj</i> , <i>hf3tj</i>

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'revered one'

Word order

- *rn-nfr=f*
- rn – noun – “name”
- nfr – adjective – “beautiful, good, perfect”
- f – pronoun – “his”
 - Pro
 - Noun
 - Standing in for a noun – *Peter’s hut, the class of Katharina*

Word order *rn-nfr=f*

- rn – noun – “name”
- nfr – adjective – “beautiful, good, perfect”
- f – pronoun – “his”
 - His/her = ?
 - Personal pronoun → see handout
 - English: 4 kinds
 - Subject (he)
 - Object (him)
 - Possessive (his)
 - Reflexive (himself)

Word order

- *rn-nfr=f*
- rn – noun – “name”
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PRO-nouns

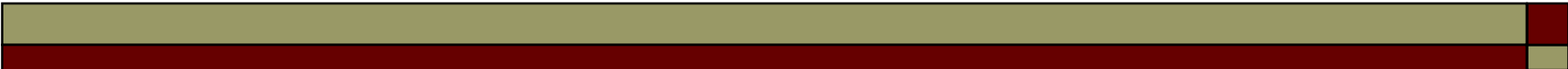
- ❑ word or phrase that is used as a substitution for a noun
 - known as pronoun's antecedent
 - antecedent = “the thing that came before”
 - Pronoun used for a word used previously
- ❑ short words
- ❑ can do everything that nouns can do
 - can act as a subject, direct object, indirect object, object of the preposition, and more and takes the place of any person, place, animal or thing

English language

- ❑ Personal pronouns – participant in conversation – 4 versions: subject, object, possessive, reflexive
 - First person (speaker)
 - ❑ Sing.: I, me, my, mine myself
 - ❑ Pl.: we, us, our, ours
 - Second person (person spoken to) – you, your, yours, yourself/yourselves
 - Third person (person / things spoken about)
 - ❑ He/him/his/himself; she/her/hers/herself; it/its/itself
 - ❑ They/them/their/theirs/themselves
- ❑ Demonstrative pronouns – point to referent
 - ❑ this, that, these, those
- ❑ Interrogative pronouns – question words

German pronouns

- ❑ Shared characteristic: pronouns replace nouns
- ❑ Differences in the German grammar:
 - personal: **ich, du, er, sie, es, wir, ihr, sie**
 - possessive: indicate ownerships – ich – **mein**. Das Haus ist **unseres**.
 - demonstrative: emphasis things Ich mag **diesen** Tisch.
 - reflexive: used with reflexive and reciprocal verbs – Ich freue **mich**.
 - relative pronouns: introduces relative clause – Der Mann, **der** die Bank überfallen hat.
 - interrogative pronouns: question words, replace the word we are asking about – **wer, was, wem, wen, wessen**
 - Indefinite: express something general or unspecific, rather than something concrete – **etwas, nichts, man, jemand, jeder** (similar to something / anything / nothing)
 - → pronouns are declined or inflected depending on what case they are in: ich, mich, mir
- ❑ Usage is depending on linguistic characteristics



Pronouns in Middle Egyptian

- Personal pronouns
 - Suffix
 - Dependent
 - Independent
 - Subject pronouns
- Demonstrative pronouns
- Interrogative pronouns

Suffix pronouns

- ❑ **Pro-noun**
- ❑ Most common Egyptian pronouns
- ❑ Called suffix, because added to the end of the word
- ❑ Always part of the word!!!!
- ❑ Could not stand on their own, no separate word
- ❑ Stand always at the end of a word
- ❑ Egyptologists separate them either by *=f* or *.f*

1S *.j*  ,  ,  ,  ; **often not written**

This suffix was just the vowel *i* (pronounced “ee”). As a result, it was often omitted in writing, like other vowels. The sign  is an ideogram, and could be replaced by other ideograms for specific speakers:  (woman),  (god),  (god or king),  or  (king),  (deceased).

2MS *.k* 

2FS *.t*  ; also  .*t* (see § 2.8.3)

3MS *.f* 

3FS *.s*  , 

1PL *.n*  ,  , 

2PL *.tn*  ,  ; also  ,  .*tn* (see § 2.8.3)

3PL *.sn*  ,  ,  , 

The 3pl suffix *.sn* was eventually replaced by a suffix *.w*, written  or  , which became the standard 3pl suffix pronoun in Late Egyptian. It occasionally appears in nonstandard Middle Egyptian texts, beginning in Dynasty 18.

You have to know

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Nouns

describe both tangible (book, man, Amun) and intangible things (love, desire, justice)

Middle Egyptian:
nouns described by:
gender and *number*

Special forms - dual

Special forms of suffix

→ Suffix usually added at the VERY end of word (after endings and after determinative)

↓  *sn.tj=f* his two sisters; ↓  *sn.w=t* your (S, f) brothers

→ BUT if suffix on dual – suffix might get own dual ending.

 *rd.wj=fj* his two feet;  *ꜥ.wj=sj* her two arms