

Hieroglyphs 11

**Our first sentences: more
combinations of nouns and
adjectives**

AHAR5004

Hieroglyphs, Text and Society

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Combinations of nouns

- ❑ Noun – pronoun
- ❑ Noun – noun: connections
 - Conjunction (*and*)
 - Disjunction (*or*)
- ❑ Noun – noun: Genitive
 - Direct
 - Indirect
- ❑ **Nominal sentences**

Nominal phrases (extended with adjective)

□ *shr pn jkr* - this excellent plan

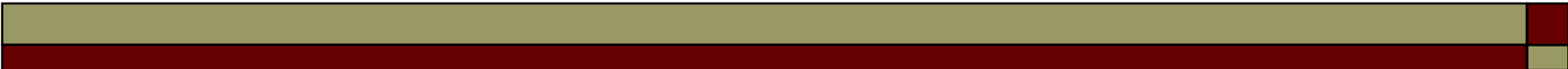
■ *shr* *pn* *jkṛ*

■ Plan this excellent

■ Noun pronoun adjective

□ = reference to a specific kind of plan, pronoun + adjective explain the characteristic of the plan

□ BUT does not say anything what is happening with the plan



(Nominal) sentences

- For this, we need sentences: to say something ABOUT words/phrases
- Every sentence contains at least TWO parts
 - Subject
 - Predicate
- Subject: is what is talked about
- Predicate: what is said about it

Our example:

- *shr* *pn* *jkr*
- Plan this excellent
- Noun pronoun adjective

□ What is missing for a sentence?

□ Predicate!

□ sentence would be *This plan is excellent.*

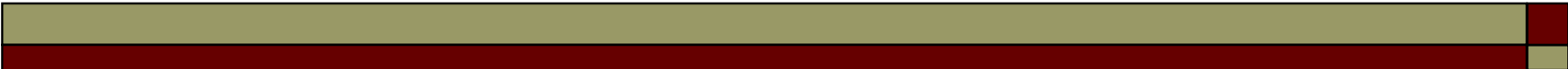
- *Plan* – noun, but in the function of a subject (this plan)
- *Excellent* – adjective, but in the function of a predicate (to be excellent)

English:

- ❑ Each sentence needs a VERB
- ❑ So: predicate consists of verb + adjective: *is excellent (to be excellent)*
- ❑ In English, each sentence MUST have a verb, either form of be or any other verb
- ❑ *This plan is excellent.*
- ❑ *This plan seems excellent.*

In Middle Egyptian

- Middle Egyptian has verbs
 - full verbs = complicated structures, not dealt with here
 - auxiliary verb → Middle Egyptian DOES NOT have them (to be)
- *This plan is excellent.* would be
- ☼ *This plan excellent.*
 - → without any verb at all!



Nominal sentences

- ❑ A sentence only formed by nominal phrases!
- ❑ Nouns
- ❑ Pronouns
- ❑ Adjectives

Nominal sentences

- For this, we need sentences: to say something ABOUT words/phrases
- **Every sentence contains at least TWO parts**
 - **Subject**
 - **Predicate**
- Subject: is what is talked about
- Predicate: what is said about it

Nominal sentences

□ A sentence only formed by nominal phrases!

□ That means:

■ Subject will be noun/pronoun

■ Predicate will be noun/pronoun

■ **Nominal predicate**

□ *The plan (is) a disaster.*

□ Subject (nominal) predicate

□ nominal phrase nominal phrase

□ noun, pronoun, or noun phrase a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase

□ construction is nonverbal

Nominal sentence types

- A – B
 - With pronouns → independent
 - With nouns
- A *pw* – *bipartite nominal sentence*
- A *pw* B – *tripartite nominal sentence*

A – B Nominal Sentences

- two elements: A and B
- A: independent pronoun or noun (phrase)
- B: noun or noun phrase
- no word can appear in between A and B, stand side-by-side, bound together
-
- *ink sš nsw*
- “I am a royal scribe” “I am the king’s scribe”

Independent pronouns



ink sš nsw

"I am a royal scribe" "I am the king's scribe"

Independent pronouns



ink sš nsw

"I am a royal scribe" "I am the king's scribe"

1s *jnk*

The signs and are determinatives and can be replaced by the other signs that are used as ideograms in writings of the 1s suffix and dependent pronouns: for example, or when the speaker is a god or king.

2MS *ntk*

2FS *ntt* ; also *ntt* (see § 2.8.3)

3MS *ntf*

3FS *nts*

1PL *jnn*

These are later spellings. This pronoun has not been found in any texts earlier than the New Kingdom, but it certainly existed in Middle Egyptian.

2PL *ntn* ; also *ntn* (see § 2.8.3)

3PL *ntsn*

A – B Nominal Sentences

□ Introduction of names:



ḏdi rn.f

"Djedi is his name"



rn n mwt m3't

"the name of his mother is Maat"

- Stress on Djedi as the name
- Stress on noun phrase: rn n m mwt over actual name

A *pw* Nominal Sentences

- only two elements: A and *pw*
- translated as “It is A.” → “it” may be replaced with other pronouns, depending on context A
- element A was the noun “son,” then “he” would be used, or if the noun “daughter,” sat in position A, “she” would be used.



ink pw

“it is I”



sš pw

“he is a scribe”



sḥty pw n sḥt hm3t

“He is a peasant of the Wadi Natrun.”

A pw B – tripartite nominal sentence

□ A is B OR B is A



pr-3 pw 3h-n-itn

"Akhenaten is the pharaoh"



itn pw it.f

"his father is Aten"

Nominal sentence types – subject (S) and predicate (P)

- $A - B \rightarrow$ both A and B can be S or P (depending on context)
 - With pronouns $\rightarrow$ independent $\rightarrow$ third person independent pronoun (*ntf*, *nts*) always P
 - With nouns $\rightarrow$ kinship: A = kinship form (father, mother etc) and S; B = P; noun phrase with *rn* = always S
- $A \text{ } pw - \textit{bipartite nominal sentence} \rightarrow$ always *pw* as S $\rightarrow$ P – S
- $A \text{ } pw \text{ } B - \textit{tripartite nominal sentence} \rightarrow$ both could be S and P, but usually A = P (when both nouns/noun phrases) $\rightarrow$ context; always A = P when A – independent pronoun