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On the Late Egyptian negative *bwpwy* 𓂏𓂛𓂏𓂛

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Abstract

The paper entitled "On the Late Egyptian negative *bwpwy* 𓂏𓂛𓂏𓂛" deals with literally texts from Late Egyptian, in which *bwpwy* seems to negate some types of tenses in Late Egyptian. In brief, it draws attention to the role of using *bwpwy* in negation and shows how and why this Late Egyptian negative morpheme was using? It is introduced with explanation of the beginning of appearance and forms of it in late Egyptian. Following with many examples show its role, location and form of *bwpwy* in sentences.

Introduction

Late Egyptian have a lot of negative morphemes, *bwpwy* is consider one of the most common morphemes in Late Egyptian, due to its special form and role of negation for some types of tenses in late Egyptian. Although *bwpwy* is one of the distinctive forms of late Egyptian, it did not appear suddenly, in fact it has descent from Middle Egyptian from which it has derived. The origin of this Late Egyptian negative morpheme is 𓂏𓂛𓂏𓂛 *n p3* which was used in negation in Middle Egyptian; it passed some stages till reached to this familiar form, *n* turns into *bw* and *p3* turns into *py* in Late Egyptian, then it became *bwpwy* 𓂏𓂛𓂏𓂛. It has a fixed role in negation especially past tenses; it is classified as follow

- Perfective *sdm.f*
- Perfective Passive *sdm.f*
- Circumstantial first present (*iw bwpwy.tw sdm.f*)
- After relative pronoun (*nty +bwpwy.f sdm*)

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- First present indicating past time

1- Preliminary

bwpw in Coptic **Mpe**, negative auxiliary verb introduc the predication sentence in past with the Infinitive. With suffix pronoun read *bwpwy*, it had been

written  also  and rare  without Determinative, with Det.

 ,  (¹).

2-Forms of *bwpwy* through language periods

bwpwy appeared in different forms in late Egyptian from the midst of 18th dynasty till 25th dynasty(²). The most common forms of it can be listed as follow,

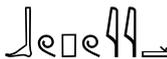
Dynasty 18:19:

The most common forms were;

 , 

Ramesside period:

The most common forms were;

 ,  ,  ,  ,  ,
 , 

Dynasty 21:

The most common forms were;

 , 

Dynasty 22 to 24:

The most common forms in these dynasties were;

 , 

(¹)A. Erman, & H. Grapow, Wörterbuch der Ägyptischen Sprache, vol I, Berlin-Leipzig, 1957, p. 45.

(²)J. Winand, Etudes de néo-égyptien, 1 le morphologie verbale, Aegyptiaca leodiensia; 2, Liège, 1992, p. 208.

Dynasty 25:

The most common forms were;



3- Uses

3-1- Perfective *sdm.f*

This form is limited to transitive verbs, it expresses the past. It is the descendant of the *iw sdm.n.f* form of classical language⁽¹⁾. This tense had been used in the Speech, whether it was narrative or not. It is used mainly in Past narrative to describe objectively and timely events happened in the past⁽²⁾. The function of the perfect active *sdm.f* expresses actions and events in the past, and it is used in direct speech only. The perfective *sdm.f* also deals with preceding particles, conjunction or date and it is used in judicial texts⁽³⁾.

As for the forms of the perfective *sdm.f*, it has many forms such as; *iw sdm.f*, *iw sdm.n.f*, *sdm.f* & *sdm.n.f* from Old Egyptian, *iw p3.f sdm* from ME⁽⁴⁾, and finally *iri.f sdm* from LE as we will speak about it soon.

Before going to explain the negation of Perfective *sdm.f* in Late Egyptian by using *bwpwy*, it should discuss some notes about Perfective *sdm.f* in affirmative and negative from Middle Egyptian till Late Egyptian and Coptic to know how it became in this form?

Previously we mentioned that *bwpwy* as a negative auxiliary verb of Perfective *sdm.f* corresponds in Coptic negative auxiliary verb **Mpe**, this auxiliary

⁽¹⁾F. Neveu, La Langue des Ramsès, Grammaire du Néo-égyptien, Paris, 1998, p. 59.

⁽²⁾Ibid, p. 59.

⁽³⁾P. J. Frandsen, An Outline of the Late Egyptian Verbal System, Copenhagen, 1974, p 2.

⁽⁴⁾Ibid, p. 1-2.



iri.i smtr.f gm.i s 3 mnḥ 1⁽¹⁾

I looked (him) and I found three men and a helper

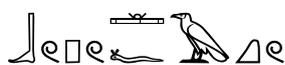
Ex. 3.1(3):



bwpwy n3 it3w rh ph.f⁽²⁾

The thieves did not reach to his end

Ex. 3.1(4):



bwpwy.f 3k⁽³⁾

He did not perish

After the completion of the previous analysis, one can know that first perfect tense in Coptic is an extension of the Perfective *sdm.f* in Middle and Late Egyptian in affirmative or negative form, as follow in this table;

State	Middle Egyptian	Late Egyptian	Coptic
Affirmative	<i>sdm.n.f / iw sdm.n.f / p3.f sdm</i>	<i>i.iri.f sdm</i>	afswtM
Negative	<i>np3.f sdm</i>	<i>bwpwy.f sdm</i>	MpFswtM

After what has been mentioned, now going to explain the using of *bwpwy* 𓂏𓂏𓂏𓂏 in Late Egyptian to negate the Perfective *sdm.f* Tense. Noted that the construction of Perfective *sdm.f* in negation in Late Egyptian was as follow;

⁽¹⁾KRI IV, 81, 1-2.

⁽²⁾KRI VI, 470, 15-16.

⁽³⁾LRL, 15, 7.



bwpwy.f sdm

"He did not hear"

"Černy" mentioned that this form is opposite in Coptic "MpefswtM"⁽¹⁾, the origin source of this Aux. verb is ⁽²⁾ *n p3* which was used in negation in Middle Egyptian, *n* turns into *bw* and *p3* turns into *pwy* in LE⁽³⁾, negation of *p3*-sentence, can be identified through following example ;

Ex. 3.1(5):



iw p3.n sdm mitt ⁽⁴⁾

We have heard the like

The default negation of this sentence will be as follows:

Ex. 3.1(6):



n p3.n sdm mitt

We have not heard the like

p3 has a great role from beginning of Old Egyptian with negative particle *n*, *n sp*⁽¹⁾. This verb makes with the infinitive which followed it verbal form

⁽¹⁾J. Černy, & S. I. Groll, op.cit, p. 227. A. Erman, Neuägyptische Grammatik, Leipzig, 1933, p. 394. A. M. Elsayd, Past tense in verbal forms in ancient Egyptian Language till Late period, Unpublished Master Thesis, Faculty of Archaeology, Cairo university,2005, p. 62.

⁽²⁾*p3*: or *p3(w-?)*, (have done in the past), Auxiliary verb with Infinitive, it had been written , , , for more, R. Faulkner, A Concise Dictionary of Middle Egyptian, Oxford, 1976, p. 87. A.H. Gardiner, Egyptian Grammar, Oxford, 1957, p. 565.

⁽³⁾P. J. Frandsen, op.cit, p. 9.

⁽⁴⁾Sinai, 90, 11.



ih pw p3y.k itt 2 tbtv mtw.k itt p3y.imtw.k tm ini p3 ⁽¹⁾

What that means that you took my Sandels? And took the ...of me? And you will not bring the ...?.

Verb *p3* also is the etymological of the verbal construction **peje** in Coptic, some translated it "Said" another translated it "What he said was", as it Consists of two parts, **pe** from Hieroglyphic *p3* and **je** from Hieroglyphic *idd*⁽²⁾.

dd.f → *p3 idd.f* → **pejef**

Ex. 3.1(11):

ouox peje pqois 9abram je amou ebo5 4en pekkaxi

What the God said to Abram was; "Go forth from your land."⁽³⁾

It originally evolved from the Middle Egyptian formula *n sdm.f* and *n sdm.n.f*, which were used in Middle Egyptian to negate verbal forms⁽⁴⁾, as in;

Ex. 3.1(12):



n wsb.f n nn srw⁽⁵⁾

He did not replay to these officials.

In Middle Egyptian the perfect is often used after negation *n* (ni). Like the perfect itself, the negated perfect is tenseless. Although it expresses the negation of completed action, however, in this use it is not equivalent to the English perfect or past

⁽¹⁾Sauneron, Ostr. D. M., recto, 562, 2-4.

⁽²⁾H. M. Kamal, Auxiliary verbs in Verbal Forms of ancient Egyptian language, Unpublished PhD Thesis, Cairo University, 1995, p. 148.

⁽³⁾The Bible, Genesis, Chapter 12, Verse 1.

⁽⁴⁾B. Gunn, Studies in Egyptian Syntax, Paris, 1924, p.96.

⁽⁵⁾Peasant, B1/50-1.

Ex. 3.1(17):



ir p3y.k dd r-dd bwpwy.k h3b n.i(1)

As for your saying: "you have not written to me."

3-2- Perfective Passive *sdm.f*

It's derived from Middle Egyptian form *iw sdm.f* "passive"⁽²⁾. This tense is attested in Late Egyptian from the 18th until the end of the 20th dynasty⁽³⁾. In Late Egyptian it was used with a limited number of verbs (such as; *iri* , *rđi* , *ini* , *gmi*) and some actions⁽⁴⁾. In fact, it was exactly like its predecessor in form and analysis⁽⁵⁾. The most important function of Perfective passive *sdm.f* is expressing a statement⁽⁶⁾.

There is no special form to negate Perfective passive *sdm.f*, the nature or indefinite pronoun *tw* and also sometimes \emptyset (zero) were used with *bwpwy*⁽⁷⁾. Then *bwpwy* was used to negate Perfective passive in its normal form either *bwpwy.tw sdm* or *bwpwy. \emptyset sdm*.

Nominal subject	Pronominal subject
<i>bwpwy. \emptyset sdm</i>	<i>bwpwy.tw sdm</i>

Examples;

-Nominal subject;

⁽¹⁾LRL 32, 13-15.

⁽²⁾Neveu, op.cit, p. 63.

⁽³⁾J. Winand, op.cit., p.303.

⁽⁴⁾J. Černy, & S. I. Groll, , op.cit, p. 242. Neveu, op.cit, p. 63.

⁽⁵⁾Neveu, op.cit, p. 63.

⁽⁶⁾P. J. Frandsen, op.cit, p. 30.

⁽⁷⁾B. Lalanne, Cours de Néo-égyptien, 2008. p, 97. Neveu, op.cit, p.65.

Ex. 3.3(2):



hr tw.n di hms.ti m t3-Hwt iw.k rh.tw p3y.n shr hms nty twt.n im.f⁽¹⁾

We are now living here in the mansion, and you know the way of life we have to put up.

As well as it appear from the material, *bwpwy* was used to negate present patterns in certain cases, it is believed that the reason for this is the complete absence of negative first present patterns expressing past time, habitual and customary action, it does not seem unreasonable to assume that *bn* can negate first present patterns only when they convey a synchronous or progressive action, or an action in the near future, and consequently that recourse was had to *bwpwy.f sdm* in cases of first present patterns denoting past time and habitual action⁽²⁾.

So there are some statues were negated with *bwpwy*. Summarizing this point appears from following table;

Circumstantial first Present		
	Active	Passive
Affirmative	<i>iw.f (hr) sdm</i>	<i>iw.f sdm.Ø</i>
Negative	<i>iw bn sub. (hr) sdm</i>	<i>iw bwpwy.tw sdm.f</i> ⁽³⁾

This schedule clears all previous explanation of using *bwpwy* to negate a type of present patterns, as it appears in these examples;

⁽¹⁾LRL, 23, 11-12.

⁽²⁾P. J. Frandsen, op.cit, p. 76:77.

⁽³⁾Neveu, op.cit, p. 202.

3-4- After relative pronoun "*nty + bwpwy.f sdm*"

Particle *nty* was one of Relative clause particles in Middle Egyptian, it Correspond in English relative pronouns *who, which, and that*⁽¹⁾. Relative clause is the name given to that kind of subordinate clause which is equivalent to an adjective. It can, as an adjective, used as either epithet or noun⁽²⁾.

When negated Relative clause in Middle Egyptian was negated by using the negative forms of Relative Adjectives⁽³⁾, as we will see in following table:-

Affirmative Relative Adjective			Negative Relative Adjective		
<i>nty</i>		Sing. Masc.	<i>iwty</i>		Sing. Masc.
<i>ntt</i>		Sing. Fem.	<i>iwt</i>		Sing. Fem.
<i>nti</i> <i>w</i>		Plu. Masc.	<i>iwtiw</i>		Plu. Masc.
<i>nti</i> <i>wt</i>		Plu. Fem.	<i>iwtiywt</i>		Plu. Fem.

But in late Egyptian the Negative relative adjective became very rare in used, and to negate relative clause in Late Egyptian they were used particle *nty* plus the suitable negative auxiliary verb or particle of the tens which used(as *bn, bw...etc*)⁽⁴⁾.

bwpwy also used to negate some of relative clauses. Some scholars consider that this form (*nty + bwpwy.f sdm*) is represented negation of participle⁽⁵⁾. This type of formula is used when subject identical with antecedent⁽⁶⁾.

The question that arises here, Is it possible to consider the combination (nty + bwpwy.f sdm) as participle although the particle nty used as relative adjective for another tenses (such as, First Present and Third Future)?

⁽¹⁾J. Allen, op.cit, p. 134.

⁽²⁾A.H. Gardiner, op.cit, p. 147.

⁽³⁾Ibid, p.150-153. A. Lobrieno, Ancient Egyptian, Cambridge, 1995, p.158-159.

⁽⁴⁾F. Neveu, op.cit, p.150- 156.

⁽⁵⁾B. Lalanne, op.cit, p. 135. M. A. El-Tokhy, Active and Passive Participle in Late Egyptian Grammar, Unpublished Master Thesis, Sohag University, 2012, P. 102-103.

⁽⁶⁾F. Neveu, op.cit, p. 156.

When the first present indicating past time, it is negated by *bwpwy* not by using *bn* the main negative auxiliary verb of first present in Late Egyptian, *bn* here is incompatible⁽¹⁾.

Affirmative	Negative
<i>tw.i šm.kwi</i> (Active)	<i>bwpwy.i šm</i>
<i>tw.i sdm.kwi</i> (Passive)	<i>bwpwy.tw sdm.i</i>

As this schedule has shown the method of negation of first present, but one should note that this statue comes only when first present indicating past time and with intransitive verbs. KRI VI, 238, 2.

Ex. 3.4(1):



dd.f m3' tw ptr.f tw.i šm.kwi irm.f ⁽²⁾

He said; "I did not see him, and I did not go with him".

This example shows the using of *bwpwy* to negate perfective *sdm.f* and first present with predicate of pseudo-participle (old perfective), the affirmative form of this sentence is (*dd.f m3' tw ptr.f tw.i šm.kwi irm.f*) *He said; "I saw him, and I went with him"*⁽³⁾.

Ex. 3.4(2):



bwpwy.tw gm.f iw rh.f st nb im wpw (hr) t3 st 2 ⁽⁴⁾

It was not found that he knew of any place there except the two places.

⁽¹⁾J. Černy, & S. I. Groll, op.cit, p. 310.

⁽²⁾KRI VI, 814, 12-13.

⁽³⁾Neveu, op.cit, p. 81.

⁽⁴⁾Abbot, 5, 5-6.

4-Conclusion

Study concludes importance of *bwpwy* as new Late Egyptian negative morpheme as follows;

- This morpheme always refer to past tense, so it is considered as indication to past in sentences which it appears in them. (Note; there is an exception in it *bwpwy* comes after converter *iw*, in this case it follows tense on the sentence. (See point 3-3).

- This Morpheme considers one of the distinctive forms of late Egyptian, but it did not appear suddenly; in fact it has descent from Middle Egyptian from which it had been derived. The origin source of this Late Egyptian negative morpheme is  *n p3* which was used in negation in Middle Egyptian; then it passed some stages till reached to this familiar form, *n* turn into *bw* and *p3* turn into *pwy* in Late Egyptian,

than it became *bwpwy* 𓂏𓄀𓄁𓄁.

n sdm,n.f → *n p3.f sdm* → *bw p3y.f sdm* → *bwpwy.f sdm*. (See point 3-1)

- The Main use of *bwpwy* is to negate Perfective *sdm.f* (Active/Passive) in Late Egyptian (*bwpwy.f sdm*), which became in Coptic **Mpa f cwt M** and Coptic philologists called it First Perfect tense. (See point 3-1)

- In some cases it used, as exceptional case, to negate Circumstantial first present (*iw bwpwy.f sdm*), after converter *iw* in non-initial sentences. (See point 3-3)

- It using after relative pronoun *nty* (*nty + bwpwy.f sdm*), referring to negation of relative First perfect tense not participle as some thought. (See point 3-4)

-*bwpwy* also used to negate a type of first present when the predicate is pseudo-participle (old perfective) and indicating for past time. (See point 3-5)

<i>Case</i>	<i>Tenses</i>	<i>Late Egyptian</i>	<i>Coptic</i>
<i>Affirmative</i>	<i>Active Perfective sdm.f</i>	<i>i.iri.f sdm</i>	afswtm
	<i>Passive Perfective sdm.f</i>	<i>i.iri tw sdm</i>	—
	<i>Circum. First Present</i>	—	—
	<i>After relative nty</i>	—	
<i>Negative</i>	<i>Active Perfective sdm.f</i>	<i>bwpwy.f sdm</i>	Mpefswtm
	<i>Passive Perfective sdm.f</i>	<i>bwpwy.tw sdm</i>	—
	<i>Circum. First Present</i>	<i>iw bwpwy.f sdm</i> (<i>active</i>) <i>iw bwpwy.f sdm</i> (<i>Passive</i>)	— —
	<i>After relative nty</i>	<i>nty bwpwy.f sdm</i>	eteMpefswtm

(Schedule show role of *bwpwy* in negation)

(Late Egyptian and Coptic)

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