The Autobiography of Admiral Ahmose

Part II

King Ahmose’s Nubian Campaign

wn. in. f hr ḫn tyt r ḫn-nfr r sksk iwntiw stiw

wn. in. f hr irt ḫwt 3 t im. sn

ḣḥ. n in. n. i ḫkt im z(i) ḫn 2 drt 3

wn. in. tw ḫr iw. i m nbw ḫr snnw. si m. k rdi. t(w) n. i ḫmt 2

nḥ t m ḫd in. hm. f ib. f 3w(. w) m ḫnt nḥt

it. n. f rs(i) w mhṭiw

The Two Rebels: Aata and Tetian

ḣḥ. n 3ḥt ḫw(. w) n rsw stkn ḫ3w. f mwt. f
ntrw šmₜₚ hr 3mₜₚ gmₜₚ(w)ₜₚ fin ḫmₜₚ m ti-nt-tₜₚₙₚₜₚ-mw

wn.in ḫmₜₚ hr intₜₚ m skr-ₜₚ nh rₜₚ m fnb m iz-hₜₚk

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The Autobiography of Admiral Ahmose: Part II

Vocabulary

- Beduin
- s(3)t  Asia
- ski, sksk  destroy
- iwnt  bow
- iwnti  desert Bowman
- sti/sti  Nubian
- h3t  corpse
- h3yt  heap of corpses
- n3i  sail, travel by boat
- kn3  valor, power
- nkh  victory
- rsi  southern
- mHti  northern
- tkn  approach, draw near
- stkn  bring on (down)
- $3w  fate
- $m$w  Upper Egypt
- 3mm  seize, grasp
- gmi  find
- iz  go (imperative)
- iz-h3k  plunder, booty, easy prey
- mg$  inexperienced/young warrior
- mh  seize, capture
- dniw  share, portion
- 3ht  field, arable land
- st3t  aurora (0.68 acre)
- nwt  town
- hrwi  enemy
- shwi  collect, assemble
- h3k  truncate
- h3k-ib  estranged
- sm3  kill, destroy
Grammar Points

King Ahmose’s Nubian Campaign

\[ hr\ m\ ht\ sm\dot{3}\ n\ hm.f\ mntiw\ s(3)tt \]

\[ wn.in.f\ hr\ hntyt\ r\ hnt-hn-nfr\ r\ sksk\ iwntiw\ stiw \]

The particle \( hr \) introduces the prepositional phrase \( hr\ m\ ht \) signaling the beginning of a sentence.\(^1\) The circumstantial \( sdm.n.f / \text{perfect} \ sm\dot{3}.n \) of the verb \( sm\dot{3} \) “kill, slay, destroy” expresses complete action “Then later, his majesty slew…”

The object is \( mntiw \) with a variant spelling of \( mnt(i)w \) “Beduins.” Combined with the noun \( s(3)tt \) “Asia” in a direct genitive, the whole phrase can be translated as the “Beduins of Asia.”

King Ahmose now turns south to conquer Nubia. Admiral Ahmose’s narrative uses the pseudo-verbal construction \( hr + \text{infinitive} \) to express this subsequent action. The infinitive of the 4ae-inf. verb \( hnti \) “sail upstream/south, go forward” is usually spelled as \( hntyty \), and here \( hnt-hn-nfr \) is another variant. Recall that the shorter form \( hnt \) of this infinitive also occurs.

\( hnt-hn-nfr \) is a region in Nubia, south to the second cataract of the Nile. The 4-lit. verb \( sksk \) “destroy” is reduplicated from the root of the 2ae-inf. verb \( ski \) with the same meaning. Here it appears in the \( r + \text{infinitive} \) construction and expresses planned action. The noun \( iwnti \) is a variant of the plural of \( iwnti \.

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\(^1\) Allen (16.6.13).
“desert Bowman” which, in turn, seems to have been derived from \(\text{iwn}\) “bow.” The archaic bow \(\text{i} \text{w}\) has phonetic value \(st\) and with the “throw-stick” determinative \(\text{i}\) it serves as the adjective/noun “Nubian.”

\[
\text{wn.in}\ \text{hm.f}\ \text{hr}\ \text{irt}\ \text{h3wt}\ \text{st}\ \text{im.sn}
\]

\[
\text{ch.n}\ \text{in.n.i}\ \text{hkt}\ \text{im}\ \text{z(i)}\ \text{nh}\ \text{drt}\ \text{3}
\]

\[
\text{wn.in.tw}\ \text{hr}\ \text{iw}.i\ \text{m}\ \text{nbw}\ \text{hr}\ \text{snw.si}\ \text{m.k}\ \text{rdi.t(w)}\ \text{n.i}\ \text{hmt}\ \text{2}
\]

The grammar in this passage has been discussed previously.

The brutality of the Nubian campaign is clear from the noun \(\text{h3wt}\) derived from \(\text{h3t}\) “corpse,” an alternative spelling of \(\text{h3yt}\) “heap of corpses.” Just like any soldier, Ahmose had to offer/present his two prisoners of war to the pharaoh. As a reward for his valor, he then received two female servants.

\[
\text{n't}\ \text{m}\ \text{hd}\ \text{in}\ \text{hm.f}\ \text{ib.f}\ \text{3w(w)}\ \text{m}\ \text{knt}\ \text{nht}
\]

\[
\text{it.n.f}\ \text{rs(i)w}\ \text{mhtiw}
\]

The change in the narrative (King Ahmose’s return home) is signaled by the narrative infinitive of \(\text{n'i}\) “sail,” and its subject, the pharaoh, is introduced by the preposition \(\text{in}\).

The king’s state of mind is described in the next clause with the stative of the adjective-verb \(\text{3wi}\) “long,” employing the Egyptian idiom \(\text{3wi}\ \text{ib}\) “happy,” lit. “long of heart.” His successful (completed) campaign is summarized by the circumstantial \(\text{sdm.n.f}\) /perfect of the verb \(\text{ihi/ihi}\) “seize, take possession of.”

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2 [ShS. 132].
The Two Rebels: Aata and Tetian

However brutal the Nubian campaign of Ahmose may have been, it was not decisive. As the current passage shows, the king had to return to annihilate new rebel forces and capture their leader Aata, possibly the succeeding king in the Nubian capital, Kerma.

The establishment of the new Nubian king to contend with is given in the first sentence employing a subject-stative construction of the verb iwi “come.”

In the next sentence the caus. 3-lit. verb stkn “bring on (down),” lit. “cause to approach” is indicative/perfective sDm.f. The subject, the fate of Aata, SAw.f, is not explicitly described in the text, but its object with the determinative of mwt “die” and the somewhat unusual appearance of the sign for “swelling, unhealthy” makes little doubt of Aata’s doom.

Divine help is acknowledged in seizing the rebel in the hr + infinitive construction “The gods of the Upper Egypt seized him.” (Due to the fact that the object of the infinitive is an attached suffix pronoun, the 2ae-gem. verb 3mm “seize, grasp” uses only the base stem.)

The attention then shifts to the pharaoh, the representative of the divine forces, who, as a result of the gods’ help pinned down the rebel. This is expressed in a result clause by the prospective/subjunctive sdm.f of the verb gmi “find,”. The location of ti-nt-t3-5-mw Tinet-taa-mu is unknown. Based on the literal rendering “she of the land of the water supply” it must be a district of the first cataract region.
The last sentence has easy grammar albeit the presence of the intrusive in the $hr$ + infinitive construction of the verb $ini$ “bring, carry off” is unclear. The noun $iz\cdot h\cdot k$ (with the imperative $iz$ “go!”) means here “plunder, booty, easy prey.”

The grammar in this passage has already been discussed. In the first sentence Ahmose now claims another feat of bravery of capturing two young warriors from the rebel’s ship.

The determinative of the variant spelling of $mg\cdot$ indicates inexperienced/young warriors or para-military force, originally a tribal name. The verb $m\cdot h$ “seize, capture” clearly indicates that the meaning of the phrase $ini\ m\ mh$ is “carry off as captive.”

In the second sentence the noun with variant spellings and $s\cdot t\cdot t$ “aurora” is the standard unit of area measure, approximately 0.68 acre.

The third adverbial sentence $irw$ “done” is the perfective passive participle of the verb $iri$ “do, make,” lit. It was done to the entire crew likewise.”

Once again there is very little new grammar here.
In the first sentence a subject-stative construction introduces another enemy, Tetian. His name, given in an A B nominal sentence, suggests that he was Egyptian, in fact, during this time period the use of this name is well-attested.

The passive participle of the verb \( h\dot{3}k \) “truncate” is used in the Egyptian idiom \( h\dot{3}k-ib \) “estranged, trouble-maker,” lit. “(one) who is truncated of heart.”

Tetian’s troops were annihilated, and this is expressed by a negated participle (modifying \( izwt.f \) “his troops”), the (feminine) participle of the negative 2-lit verb \( tm \) followed by the negatival complement \( hpr \), lit. “one who did not come into being/happen.”

Although in the last sentence several parts have been omitted, an almost identical sentence above makes its grammar and meaning clear.