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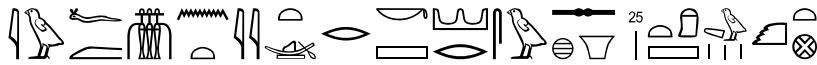
The Autobiography of Admiral Ahmose

Part III

The Nubian Campaign of Amenhotep I



wn.in.i hr hnt nswt biti DSR-K3-R^c m3^c-hrw



iw.f m hntyt r k(3)š r swsh tšw kmt



wn.in hm.f hr skr iwnti sti pf m hr ib mš^c.f



in.w(i) m gw3w3 nn nhw.sn



wthw m dy hr gs mi ntiw ni hpr



ist wi m tp n mš^c.n iw h3.n.i r wn-m3^c



m3.n hm.f knt.i in.n.i drt 2 mz n hm.f



wn.in.tw hr hihi rmt.f mnmnt.f



h^c.n in.n.i skr-nh mz n hm.f



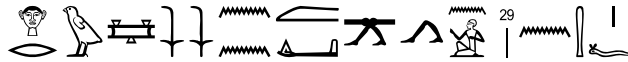
in.i hm[.f] m hrw 2 r kmt m hnm̄t-hrw



ḥḥn.tw hr iwḥ.i m nbw



ḥḥn in.n.i hmt 2 m ḥ3k



hrw nn n mz.n.j n hm̄.f



wn.in.tw hr rdit (w)i r ḥ3wti n ḥk3

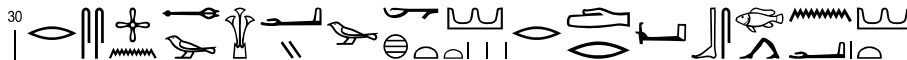
The Nubian Campaign of Thutmose I



wn.in.i hr hnt nswt biti ʕ3-HPR-K3-Rḥ m3ḥ-hrw



iw.f m hnty[t] r hnt-hn-nfr



r ssw̄n ḥ3ḥi(t) ht ḥ3sw̄t r dr bz n ḥ3st



wn.in.i hr knt m b3ḥ.f m p3 mw bin



m p3 s3s3 p3 ḥḥw hr t3 pnḥyt








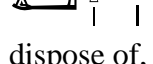
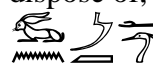


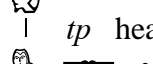




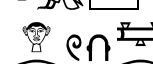





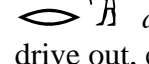
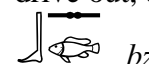
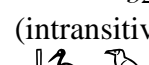

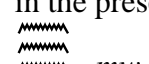


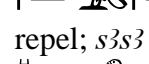

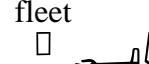



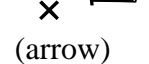

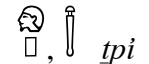
wn.in.tw hr rdit.i r ḥri hnyt



wn.in hm̄.f ḥnh(.w)-(w)d3(.w)-s(nb.w) [...]

Vocabulary

 *kš* Kush (northern Sudan)
 *swsh* broaden, widen
 *tšš* border, boundary
 *kmt* Egypt, lit. Black (land)
 *hr(i)-ib* (noun) middle
 *gw3w3* strangle-hold, choke
 *wthw* fugitive
 *di hr gs* kill, destroy, dispose of, show partiality
 *wn-m3c* reality, true being
 *h3* fight
 *tp* head, top
 *mz* bring, present
 *hihi* seek, pursue
 *mmnt* herd (of cattle)
 *hrw* day, daytime, (day's) duty
 *hnmt* well, cistern
 *hrw r* apart from, besides
 *h3wti* warrior
 *hk3* ruler
 *sswn* destroy, crush; (noun) destruction

 *h3yt* stife, rebellion, civil war
 *dr* subdue/repel (enemies), drive out, expel
 *bzi* (transitive) introduce; (intransitive) enter
 *b3h* presence; *m b3h* in the presence of
 *mw* water
 *bin* bad, evil
 *s3s3* drive back, repel; *s3s3 hr* force/tow ship over rapids
 *h3w* ships; *p3 h3w* the fleet
 *pn3yt* cataract
 *h3r* rage
 *3by* leopard, panther
 *wdi* place, set, throw, shoot (arrow)
 *šsr* arrow
 *tpi* first
 *mn* firm, established; *mn m* fixed to, attached to
 *šnbt* breast, chest
 *bdš* become faint, weak, exhausted
 *nzrt/nsrt* uraeus

3t moment (of attack)

hbyt carnage, slaughter

3mmt grasp

hzi (adjective-verb) wretched, miserable, vile

shd upside down; *m shd* head downwards

bik falcon

ipt-swt Karnak temple

rtnw Retjenu

(Lebanon and Syria)

i'i wash

nhrn Naharin (Mesopotamia)

t3z tie, knot

skiw troops

tnwt number, quantity

tni grow old

i3wi old age

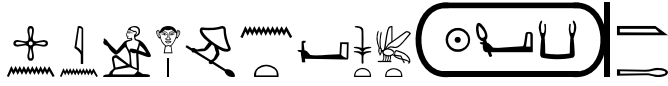
hzt favor

h3p (adjective-verb) content, calm, pleased, happy, peaceful

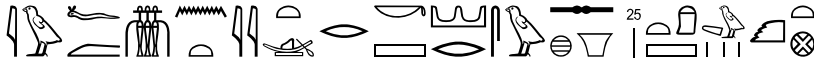
hrt tomb

Grammar Points

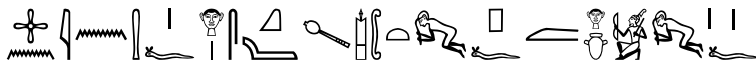
The Nubian Campaign of Amenhotep I



wn.in.i hr hnt nswt biti DSR-K3-R^c m3^c-hrw



iw.f m hntyt r k(3)š r swsh t3šw kmt



wn.in hm.f hr skr iwnti sti pf m hr ib mš^c.f



in.w(i) m gw3w3 nn nhw.sn




wthw m dy hr gs mi ntiw ni hpr

There are only a few new grammar points in this passage.

In the first sentence we learn that Ahmose served under Amenhotep I since *DSR-K3-R^c* is the throne name of this pharaoh. The particle *iw* introduces an adverb clause: “(when) he sailed south to Kush to enlarge the borders of Egypt.”

The second sentence describes how the pharaoh smote the Nubian Bowmen in the middle of his army.

In the third sentence the verb form of *ini* “bring” in the composition  *in.w(i)* is (transitive) stative expressing state: “they were carried off in chains/fetters,” lit. “in strangle-hold/choke.” (There is a possibility of the passive *inw* with subject *iwnti sti pf* “that Nubian bowman” since it is a noun phrase (not a pronoun). On the other hand, in the next adverb clause the enemy appears in plural as indicated by the suffix pronoun *.sn*.)

The phrase *nn nhw.sn* can be compared with a similar phrase in the Story of Ship-

wrecked Sailor: *nn nhw n mš^c.n*. In our present translation “missing” is more fitting than “loss.”

In the following adverbial sentence (*m* of predication) the phrase *di hr gs* has the first of its two meanings: “kill, destroy, dispose of” and “show partiality,” lit. “put/place on the side.” The verb form of *di* here is a perfective passive participle.

Finally, in the last relative clause *ni hpr* (with suppressed subject) stands for *ni hpr.sn*, where the suffix pronoun refers back to “the fugitives, the fleeing.” This construction is a negated indicative/perfective *s_dm.f*.

It is interesting to compare the two negations of *hpr* in the text: *tmt hpr* (negated participle), and *ni hpr* (negated indicative/perfective).

ist wi m tp n mš^c.n iw ḥ3.n.i r wn-m3^c

m3.n ḥm.f knt.i in.i drt 2 mz n ḥm.f

The particle *ist* allows the adverb clause *wi m tp n mš^c.n* (with adverbial predicate) to stand in front of the main clause (introduced by the particle *iw*). When the subject is a personal pronoun, after *ist* it is always the dependent form that is used.

Ahmoose once again shows his valor in front of the army, with true (*wn-m3^c*) fighting spirit expressed by the circumstantial *s_dm.n.f*/perfect of the verb ḥ3 “fight.” His bravery once again is noticed by the pharaoh (circumstantial *s_dm.n.f*/perfect of the verb of *m33*), and he presents the (right) hands of the two slain (with *mz* “bring;” infinitive) to the king.

wn.in.tw hr ḥiḥi rmt.f mnmnt.f

ḥ^c.n in.n.i skr-ḥḥ mz n ḥm.f

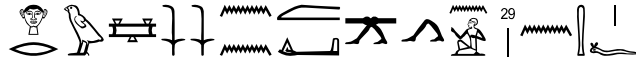
in.i ḥm[.f] m hrw 2 r kmt m ḥnmt-ḥrw



ḥ^cn.tw ḥr iw^c.i m nbw



ḥ^c.n in.n.i ḥmt 2 m ḥ3k








ḥrw nn n mz.n.j n ḥm.f




wn.in.tw ḥr rdit (w)i r ḥ3wti n ḥk3

Once again the text is somewhat repetitive, and in this passage there is not much new

grammar. The meaning of the 4-lit. verb  *hihi* “seek” that appears in a *ḥr* + infinitive construction should be changed to the more aggressive “pursue.”

The name of the ship is a noun phrase of apposition, where the first noun is   *hnmt* “well,cistern” and the second is  *ḥrw* “top, the upper part” clearly related to the prepositional nisbe  “*ḥri* “upper.” This name can be translated as “Upper-Well.”

The adverb + preposition combination  *ḥrw-r* (with omitted *r*) has the literal meaning “apart from.”

The title that Ahmose received at the end is an indirect genitive with the first noun being a variant spelling (and containing a graphic transposition) of  of *ḥ3wti* “warrior.”

The Nubian Campaign of Thutmose I



wn.in.i ḥr ḥnt nswt biti 3-HPR-K3-R^c m3^c-ḥrw



iw.f m ḥnty[t] r ḥnt-ḥn-nfr

³⁰

r sswn h3^ci(t) ht h3swt r dr bz n ^c h3st

The grammar here is almost identical with the initial passage in the Nubian campaign of Amenhotep I. ³-HPR-K3-R^c is the throne name of Thutmose I, the successor of Amenhotep I to the Egyptian throne. The two *r* + infinitive constructions express purpose and have the meaning: “in order to.” The verb *bzi* is used here intransitively as an active participle, and the literal meaning “(he) who enters” can be translated as “intruder.” *n^c* lit. “through the hand” has the same meaning as the compound preposition *m^c* “from.”

wn.in.i hr kni m b3h.f m p3 mw bin

m p3 s3s3 p3 ^ch^w hr t3 pn^cyt

wn.in.tw hr rdit.i r hri hnyt

In the first sentence the *hr* + infinitive construction is applied to the adjective-verb *kni* “be brave.” This has been discussed previously. The meaning of the noun phrase *mw bin*, lit. “bad water” becomes clear in the subsequent passage when Ahmose relates that they towed the fleet over the cataract. The infinitive of the 4-lit. verb *s3s3* functions as a noun here since it receives the demonstrative pronoun (definite article) *p3* and it is governed by the preposition *m*: “in the towing.”

In the second sentence it is this act of rescuing the fleet for which he receives the title *hri hnyt* “crew/naval commander” mentioned at the very beginning of his autobiography.

wn.in hm.f ^cn^h(.w)-(w)d3(.w)-s(nb.w) [...]

³³

h^cr.in hm.f r.s mi 3by

wdt hm.f šsr.f tpi mn(.w) m šnbt nt hr pf

The *s_{dm.in.f}* verb form applied to the verb *h^cr* “rage” expresses subsequent action, but what the pharaoh was reacting to is hidden in the lacuna. One may only guess that his rage was triggered by having learned some action of the Nubians.

In the next sentence the narrative infinitive of the verb *w_{di}* “shoot” signals the beginning of the real action. The noun phrase *šsr.f tpi* “his first arrow” serves as the object of *w_{di}* as well as the preposed subject of the subsequent subject-stative construction. The verb *mn* in question should be intransitive here (expressing past or perfect), and along with the preposition *m* it carries the literal meaning “be attached to/stuck in.” The situation is quite clear in that the (first) arrow of Thutmose I pierced the enemy’s chest.



w_{n.in} n[n n ...]bdš.w(i) n nsrt.f



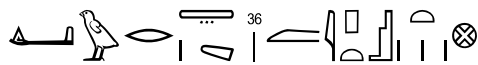
irw im m 3t hbyt inw h[r]w.sn m škrw-^cnh



n^ct m hd in hm.f h3swt nbt m 3mmt.f



iwnti-sti pf hz m shd m h3t bik n hm.f



diw r t3 m ipt-swt


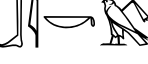

The determinative is suggestive to the meaning of the verb *bdš* “become faint, weak, exhausted.” Despite the lacuna, it is clear that it is stative referring to the subject *nn n ...* “those [enemies].” What causes the enemy to be exhausted is the royal serpent



nsrt/nzrt “the uraeus” (with an alternative spelling) and a fitting choice of the translation of the preposition *n* is “because of.”

In the next sentence the passive of the verb *iri* with object *hbyt* depicts the situation: “carnage/ slaughter was made,” and the adverbial phrase *im m 3t* (moved forward) specifies that this happened right there and right that moment. In a perfect symmetry the passive of the verb *ini* relates what happened to the “underlings.”

The break in the narrative once more is marked by the narrative infinitive of the

verb *nʿi*.

This is followed by an adverb clause describing the gruesome fate of “that Nubian bowman” with the suggestive determinative . The ship determinative clearly indicates that  *bik* “falcon” is the name of the royal vessel, therefore  *h3t* “front” must be the bow.

In the last sentence  *diw r t3* with the verb *di* is passive: “land,” lit. “it was put to land.” Finally,  *ipt-sw* “Ipet-sut” is the name of the temple of Karnak, lit. “most select of places.”

The Syrian Campaign of Thutmose I



m ht nn wd3 r rtnw r iʿt ib.f ht h3swt



spr hm.f[r] nhrn gmt hm.f ʿnh(.w)-(w)d3(.w)-s(nb.w) hrw pf



t3z.f skiw

The object of the compound preposition *m ht* is the demonstrative pronoun *nn* used by itself: “after this.” In the first sentence the verb form of *wd3* “proceed” (*r* “to”) is narrative infinitive with suppressed subject (the Pharaoh). In the *r* + infinitive construction expressing purpose, the Egyptian idiom *iʿt ib* means “vent (one’s) wrath,” lit. “wash (one’s) heart.”

In the beginning of the second sentence the adverb clause is initial hence emphatic so that the verb form of *spr* is a non-attributive perfective relative form. The verb form of *gmi* in the main clause clearly indicates that it is infinitive again, and its object, as we have seen previously, is the adversary referred to as *hrw pf* “that enemy,” a singular noun phrase. The grammar of the last short clause containing the circumstantial *sdm.f*/imper-

factive *t3z.f* is subject to several interpretations.¹ First, the *t3z.f* clause may be an unmarked relative clause modifying *hrw pf*: “that enemy which marshals his troops.” Second, it can be an adverb clause “that enemy marshalling his troops. Finally, *hrw pf* can be the noun/subject in a noun + circumstantial *sdm.f/* subject-imperfective construction functioning as a noun clause and the object of the narrative infinitive *gmt*: “his majesty lph found that that enemy is marshalling his troops.”



wn.in hm.f hr irt h3wt 3t im.sn



nn tnwt m skrw-nh inn hm.f m nhwt.f

The first sentence is identical to one discussed previously.

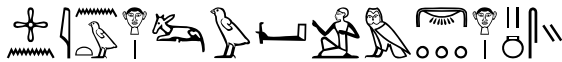
The particle *nn* is used in the second, a typical negated adverbial sentence in which *nn tnwt* can be translated as “innumerable,” lit “no number/without number.” The relative form of the verb *ini* “bring” governs the subsequent relative clause.



ist wi m tp n ms-c.n m3.n hm.f knn.i




in.i wrwt ssm.s nti hr.s m skrw-nh mz n hm.f



wn.in.tw iw-c.i m nbw hr snnw.si

Most of the grammar has been discussed previously. The suffix pronoun *.s* refers to the

chariot (with a variant spelling , and the relative adjective *nti* that introduces a relative clause is used here as a noun “he who...”



tni.kw ph.n.i i3wi h3wt.i mi tpt.s mr [...]



[htp m] hrt irt.n.i ds.i

¹ Allen (20.14).

In the last two lines of his autobiography Ahmose describes himself as an old man. The first line is a good example of the fact that the stative for intransitive verbs (such as *tni* “grow old”) and the circumstantial *sdm.n.f*/perfect for transitive verbs (such as *ph* “reach” with object *ibwi* “old age”) are counterparts of each other. For the nisbe *tpi* the preposition *tp* should be translated as “before.”

The bottom part of the text where the verbal predicate supposedly was written is damaged but the clearly visible *hrt* “tomb” suggests an appropriate verb form of *htp* “rest.”

Finally, Ahmose emphasizes that his tomb was created by himself with the perfect relative form of the verb *iri*.