



Phases of Egyptian

Egyptian is one of the longest lived languages in history. This Afroasiatic language knew the following phases:

- 1) **Old Egyptian** (ca. 2700–2000 BC)
- 2) Middle Egyptian (ca. 2000–1400 BC)
- 3) Late Egyptian (ca. 1300–700 BC)
- 4) Demotic (7th century BC to 5th century BC)
- 5) Coptic (4th to 14th century CE)

Aim of this research work

It is a semantic and syntactic analysis of Old Egyptian MULTIWORD EXPRESSIONS (MWEs) consisting of a head word + *ib* “heart”.

Old Egyptian uses the noun “heart” with a metonymic meaning to form MULTIWORD EXPRESSIONS as do some modern languages, for example:

“Listen to your heart” / (G.) “Höre auf dein Herz” / (Sp.) “Escucha a tu corazón”

It is an opportunity to check the validity of the universal categorization of MWEs based mostly on modern Indo-European languages.

Applying the definition of a MWE to Old Egyptian

(see Savary et al. 2018: 92–93 and Baldwin/Kim 2010: 269)

A MWE is a sequence of words with the following properties:

- a) It shows some degree of orthographic, morphological, syntactic and semantic idiosyncrasy.
- b) It has at least two lexicalized components including a head word and another syntactically related word.

Typology

Old Egyptian MWEs consisting of a head word + *ib* can be classified into:

1) **NOMINAL MULTIWORD EXPRESSIONS (NMWEs)** if the head word is a noun. There are two types of NMWEs:

- a) Noun/infinitive + *ib*.
- b) Adjective/participle + *ib*. This type corresponds to the Sanskrit construction known as *bahuvrīhi*.

2) **PREPOSITIONAL MULTIWORD EXPRESSIONS (PMWEs)** if the head word is a preposition.

3) **VERBAL MULTIWORD EXPRESSIONS (VMWEs)** if the head word is a verb. There are two types of VMWEs:

- a) Light-verb constructions (LVCs).
- b) Verbal idioms (IDs).

The poster shows one of the **earliest occurrences of MWEs** in a cross-linguistic perspective. It also contains **a list of 63 *ib*-MWEs** in Old Egyptian.

Idiosyncrasy of Old Egyptian MWEs

A word stem can be used in different types of MWEs

- 1) A verb stem in a VMWE can be transformed into an infinitive in a NMWE.
- 2) Most of NMWEs derive from a verb stem.
- 3) A preposition in a PMWE can be used as a nisba adjective in a NMWE.
- 4) The meaning of a MWE can change due to syntactic reasons.

