



Old Egyptian Multiword Expressions consisting of a head word + *ib* "heart"

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Meaning of *ib*

The noun *ib* has a literal meaning "heart" and a metonymic idiosyncratic meaning "desire", "wish" and "mind", cf.:

Literal meaning (in a mortuary ritual):

 *ib* heart-M.SG
 *sk* =2SG.M
 *n* for:PREP
 *sk* =2SG.M

"Your heart is for you."

Metonymic idiosyncratic meaning:

 *h'k* be hostile:PTCP(M.SG)
 *ib* heart-M.SG
 *nb* every-M.SG

"Everyone who is hostile of heart (i.e. mind)." > "Any evil-minded person."

Earliest attestation

The earliest instances of *ib* used with a metonymic idiosyncratic meaning occur in NMWEs from the Early Dynastic Period (ca. 2900–2730 BC), e.g.:

 *im* be kind:PTCP(M.PL)
 *ib* heart-M.SG

"One who is kind of heart."

"A well-liked one."



Typology

In Old Egyptian, three types of *ib*-MWEs can be distinguished depending on the morphology of the head word:

1) NOMINAL MULTIWORD EXPRESSIONS (NMWEs) if the head word is a noun, an infinitive, an adjective or a participle, e.g.:

 *m'* see:INF
 *šmh* amuse:INF
 *ib* heart-M.SG
 *nb* every-M.SG
 *nfr* nice-M.SG

"Seeing every nice amusement of the heart."

"Seeing every nice entertainment."

2) PREPOSITIONAL MULTIWORD EXPRESSIONS (PMWEs) if the head word is a preposition. This type of MWE usually gives rise to complex prepositions, e.g.:

 *šmh* forget:IMP
 *šw* =3SG.M
 *n* for:PREP
 *ib* heart-M.SG
 *n* of-M.SG
 *hr(w)* children-M.PL
 *z(n)* =2PL

"Forget it for the heart of your children."

"Forget it for the sake/love of your children."

3) VERBAL MULTIWORD EXPRESSIONS (VMWEs) if the head word is a verb. They can be LIGHT-VERB CONSTRUCTIONS (LVCs) or VERBAL IDIOMS (IDs), eg.:

Example of a LVC:

 *ir* do:IMP
 *r* according to:PREP
 *ib* heart-M.SG
 *(i)* (=1SG)

"Do according to (my) heart."

"Act according to (my) will."

Example of an ID:

 *n'cm* be sweet:SBIV
 *ib* heart-M.SG
 *n(i)* of-M.SG
 *[Wniš]* Unas-NAME

"The heart of Unas shall be sweet."

"Unas shall be kind."

Idiosyncratic features

A word stem can be used in different types of MWEs (see 1, 13, 20, 21, 22, 29, 33, 38, 42, 51 and 52). The following features should be noted:

1) A verb stem in a VMWE can be transformed into an infinitive or a participle used as a noun in a NMWE, cf.:

VMWE: *hw.t ibsk*

 *hw* be long:SBIV
 *ib* heart-M.SG
 *sk* =2SG.M
 *č.t* eternally:ADV

"Your heart shall be long eternally."

"You shall be glad eternally."

VMWE: *š:htp ib*

 *š:htp* satisfy:FUT
 *šf* =3SG.M
 *ib* heart-M.SG
 *sk* =2SG.M

"He will satisfy your heart."

"He will satisfy you."

NMWE with infinitive used as a noun: *hw.t ib*

 *t'* earth-M.SG
 *m* in:PREP
 *hw.t* length-F.SG
 *ib* heart-M.SG

"The earth is in length of heart."

"The earth is in joy."

NMWE with a participle used as a noun: *š:htp ib*

 *š:htp* satisfier:PTCP
 *n(i)* of-M.SG
 *ib* heart-M.SG
 *nb* lord-M.SG
 *šf* =3SG.M

"The satisfier of the heart of his lord."

"One who satisfies his lord."

2) Most of NMWEs consist of an infinitive or a participle used as a noun derived from a verb stem. There are only a few NMWEs consisting of a noun as a head word:

 *s'* son-M.SG
 *ib* heart-M.SG
 *n* of-M.SG
 *šw* Shu-GN

"The son of Shu's heart."

"Shu's dearest son."

3) A preposition in a PMWE can also be used as a nisba adjective in a NMWE, cf.:

PMWE: *hr ib*

 *hr* on:PREP
 *ib* heart-M.SG
 *Nw.t* Nut-GN

"(...) on the heart of Nut (the goddess of heaven)."

"(...) inside the heaven"

4) The meaning of a MWE consisting of the same word stem and *ib* can change if the syntactic structure of the two expressions is different, cf.:

 *mh* fill:PTCP(M.SG)
 *ib* heart-M.SG
 *šf* =3SG.M
 *m* in:PREP
 *Mnw* Min-GN
 *pr* house-M.SG

"(My) lord filled his heart with (me)."

"One who earns his trust (i.e. his confidant) in the temple of Min."

 *mh* fill:PTCP
 *nb* lord-M.SG
 *(i)* (=1SG)
 *ib* heart-M.SG
 *šf* =3SG.M
 *im* with:PREP
 *(i)* (=1SG)

"(My) lord filled his heart with (me)."

"(My) lord trusted (me)."

A prototypical form of an Old Egyptian MWE is defined by the following features

1) It consists of a word stem as its head and a phrase containing the word *ib* as its modifier.

2) It is the primary expression from which other types of MWEs are derived.

3) It is formulated in a non-negated form and in the third person m. sing.

If the prototypical form with these three features is not preserved, it can be reconstructed. An asterisk (*) indicates that it is a reconstructed prototypical form.

Prototypical form	Type	Attestation	Literal meaning	Free translation
(1) <i>hw.t ibsk</i>	NMWE	<i>hw.t ib</i>	length + heart	joy
	VMWE	<i>hw.t ibsk</i>	shall be long + your heart	you shall be glad
(2) <i>šgbg ibsk</i>	VMWE	<i>šgbg ib n(i)</i>	shall quiver + heart (of sb.)	(sb.) shall shudder with joy
(3) <i>iršf r ib</i>	LVC	<i>iršf r ib</i>	I shall do + according to + heart	I shall act according to the will
(4) <i>q' ibsk</i>	VMWE	<i>q' ibsk</i>	shall be great + his heart	he shall be proud
(5) <i>nh' ibsk</i>	VMWE	<i>nh' ibsk</i>	shall be alive + your heart	you shall be lively
(6) <i>kšf ib (*)</i>	NMWE	<i>k' ib</i>	one who enters + heart	a confidant
(7) <i>w'q' ibsk (*)</i>	NMWE	<i>w'q' ib</i>	one who gets ready + heart	one who is ready
(8) <i>w'ibsk hr ib</i>	VMWE	<i>w'ibsk hr ib n(i)</i>	I was rooted + on + heart (of sb.)	I was pleasant to (sb.)
(9) <i>w'ibsk</i>	VMWE	<i>w'ibsk r</i>	shall be set down + his heart + towards	he shall care about
(10) <i>wrč' ibsk (*)</i>	VMWE	<i>n wrč' ibsk</i>	not + be weary + your heart	you will not give up
(11) <i>wčšf ibsk (*)</i>	VMWE	<i>wčšf ibsk</i>	Lift up + your heart	rejoice
(12a) <i>w'šf nrw m ibsk</i>	LVC	<i>iw w'f.n KN nrw m ibšn</i>	KN + put + fear + in + their hearts	KN instilled fear in them
(12b) <i>(w)šf ir ibsk</i>	LVC	<i>(w)šf ir ibsk</i>	put + to + your heart + (sth.)	take (sth.) to heart
(13) <i>wč' ibsk</i>	NMWE	<i>wč' ib</i>	healing + heart	happiness
	VMWE	<i>wč' ibsk</i>	shall be hale + your heart	you shall be happy
(14) <i>pg'šf ib (*)</i>	NMWE	<i>pg'šf ib</i>	one who opens + heart	an open-hearted
(15) <i>pč' ibsk</i>	VMWE	<i>pč' ibsk</i>	shall stretch (himself) out + his heart	he is pleased
(16) <i>m ibsk (*)</i>	NMWE	<i>im(i) ib</i>	one who is in + heart	a favourite one
(17) <i>m š.t ibsk (*)</i>	NMWE	<i>[im(i).w š.t ib(w)]</i>	those who are in + place + hearts	favourite ones
(18) <i>mr ibsk</i>	VMWE	<i>mr ibsk</i>	shall be sick + her heart	she shall have compassion
(19) <i>mrj' ibsk</i>	NMWE	<i>mrj' ibsk</i>	which desires + his heart	which he wishes
(20) <i>mh ib (*)</i>	NMWE	<i>nn mh.t ib</i>	without + forgiveness + heart	without forgetting
	VMWE	<i>n mh.n ib(i)</i>	cannot forget + (my) heart	(I) am not forgetful
(21) <i>mhšf ibsk</i>	NMWE	<i>mh ib</i>	one who fills + heart	one who earns (sb.'s) trust
	VMWE	<i>mh nbsi ibsk imš</i>	filled + my lord + his heart + with me	my lord trusted me
(22) <i>n ibsk (*)</i>	PMWE	<i>n ib n(i)</i>	for + heart + of	for the sake/love of
	NMWE	<i>n(i) ib</i>	one who belongs + heart	a favourite one
(23) <i>n š.t ib (*)</i>	NMWE	<i>n(i) š.t ib</i>	one who belongs + place + heart	a beloved one
(24) <i>n'' ibsk (*)</i>	NMWE	<i>n'' ib</i>	one who is smooth + heart	a calm one
(25) <i>nhšf m ibsk (*)</i>	NMWE	<i>nhšf m ibsk</i>	one who has wrath + in + his heart	a grim/furious one
(26) <i>nh'hr ibsk</i>	NMWE	<i>nh'hr <r> hr ib</i>	is joyful + heart (of sb.)	(sb.) is joyful
(27) <i>nh' ibsk</i>	NMWE	<i>nh' ibsk</i>	strength + his heart	his persistence
(28) <i>nhnh' ibsk</i>	VMWE	<i>nhnh' ib</i>	shall be glad + heart (of sb.)	(sb.) shall be glad
	NMWE	<i>nčm ib</i>	sweetness + heart	kindness
(29) <i>nčm ibsk</i>	VMWE	<i>nčm ib</i>	shall be sweet + heart (of sb.)	(sb.) shall be kind
(30a) <i>rčšf (...) n ibsk (*)</i>	VMWE	<i>čsk (...) n ibsk</i>	you should give (...) + to + your heart	you should try
(30b) <i>čšf ib (*)</i>	VMWE	<i>im ib</i>	give/cause + heart	be careful!
(31) <i>hrj' š.t ibsk (*)</i>	NMWE	<i>hr š.t ib</i>	one who is pleased + place + heart	a content one
(32) <i>h' ibsk</i>	VMWE	<i>h' ib</i>	while rejoices + heart (of sb.)	while (sb.) is happy
(33) <i>hr ibsk</i>	PMWE	<i>hr ib</i>	on + heart	in the midst of / inside
	NMWE	<i>hr(i) ib</i>	one who is on + heart	one who dwells
(34) <i>htp ibsk</i>	VMWE	<i>htp ibsk</i>	is satisfied + his heart	he is satisfied
(35) <i>hntj' ibsk</i>	VMWE	<i>hntj' ibsk</i>	is glad + his heart	he is glad
(36) <i>hr.t ibsk</i>	NMWE	<i>hr.t ibsk</i>	condition + his heart	his wish
(37) <i>hšf ibsk (*)</i>	VMWE	<i>n hšf(w) ibsk</i>	not + will be reproved + his heart	his desire will not be frustrated
(38) <i>h'nm ibsk</i>	NMWE	<i>h'nm ibsk</i>	seal + his heart	firmness
	PMWE	<i>n h'nm n(i) ib(i)</i>	for + seal + of + (my) heart	due to (my) firmness
(39) <i>h'k ibsk (*)</i>	NMWE	<i>h'k ib</i>	one who is hostile + heart	an evil-minded one
(40) <i>s' n(i) ibsk</i>	NMWE	<i>s' n(i) ib(i)</i>	son + of + (my) heart	(my) dearest son
(41) <i>sk ibsk</i>	VMWE	<i>sk ib(i)</i>	is excavated + (my) heart	(?)
	NMWE	<i>š.t ib</i>	place + heart	a will/desire/wish
	PMWE	<i>mr š.t ib</i>	like + place + heart (of sb.)	at the request (of sb.)
(42) <i>š.t ibsk</i>	PMWE	<i>r š.t ib</i>	according + place + heart (of sb.)	according to (sb.'s) wish
	PMWE	<i>hft š.t ib</i>	corresponding to + place + heart (of sb.)	corresponding to (sb.'s) wish
(43) <i>š:wšf n ibsk</i>	VMWE	<i>š:wšf n ibsk</i>	he will lengthen + to + his heart	he will make him glad
(44) <i>š'k ib</i>	NMWE	<i>š'k ib</i>	one who pulls together + heart	a self-possessed one
(45) <i>š:i' ibsk</i>	NMWE	<i>š:i' ibsk</i>	to make stride + his heart	to assist him
(46) <i>š'ir ibsk (*)</i>	VMWE	<i>n š'ir ib</i>	not + be deprived + heart (of sb.)	sb. will not be in need
(47) <i>š'nb ib</i>	NMWE	<i>š'nb ib</i>	health + heart (euphemism)	hunger
(48) <i>š:nfr ibsk</i>	NMWE	<i>š:nfr ib</i>	one who makes perfect + heart (of sb.)	one who pleases (sb.)
(49) <i>š:nh'ih' ibsk</i>	NMWE	<i>š:nh'ih' ib</i>	to make dangle + heart (of sb.)	to gladden (sb.)
(50) <i>š'nk ib</i>	NMWE	<i>š'nk ib</i>	dark + heart	a reserved one
	NMWE	<i>š:nčm n ib</i>	to make sweet + heart (of sb.)	to comfort/inform (sb.)
(51) <i>š:nčmšf (n) ibsk</i>	VMWE	<i>š:nčmšf n ibsk</i>	he will make sweet + to + his heart	he will comfort/inform him
	NMWE	<i>š:htp n(i) ib</i>	satisfier + of + heart (of sb.)	one who satisfies (sb.)
	VMWE	<i>š:htpšf ibsk</i>	he will satisfy + your heart	he will satisfy you
(53) <i>š'hm ibsk</i>	VMWE	<i>š'hm ibsk</i>	shall be powerful + your (f.) heart	you (f.) shall be stout-hearted
(54) <i>š'hmh' ib</i>	NMWE	<i>š'hmh' ib</i>	to amuse + heart	to take recreation/entertain
(55) <i>ššm ib</i>	VMWE	<i>ššm čw ibsk</i>	shall guide + you + your heart	your will shall guide you
(56) <i>ščmšf n ibsk (*)</i>	VMWE	<i>ščm n ibsk</i>	listen + to + his heart	obey him
(57) <i>šmš'f ib (*)</i>	NMWE	<i>šmš'f ib</i>	one (f.) who follows + heart (desire)	a pleasure-seeking (f.)
(58) <i>š'n' ibsk</i>	NMWE	<i>š'n' ib(i)</i>	which repulses + (my) heart	which (I) dislike
(59) <i>šsp ibsk</i>	PMWE	<i>hft šsp ibsk</i>	corresponding to + reception + his heart	whenever he feels like doing it
(60) <i>kbb' ibsk</i>	VMWE	<i>kb ibsk</i>	may be cool + your heart	you may be calm/satisfied
(61) <i>kn' ibsk (*)</i>	NMWE	<i>kn.t ib</i>	bravery + heart	an act of bravery
(62) <i>č'w š'f'f ib</i>	NMWE	<i>č'w š'f'f ib</i>	man + warm + heart	a hard-working man
(63) <i>č't.n ibsk</i>	VMWE	<i>č't.n ibsk</i>	said + his heart	he decided

