ANDERSON ACADEMY

EGYP 101 B · Introduction to Egyptian Hieroglyphs Middle Egyptian (Brief course)

Lecture 4 · about 6 min

Determinatives, Nouns, Gender, and Number



A library of university-level courses

This lecture

- Determinatives
- Masculine and feminine
- Singular, dual, plural
- Plural strokes

¶ 4.1

and then introduces Egyptian nouns: their two genders, and their three numbers, singular, dual, and plural. These topics belong together,

Why determinatives

- No vowels, so many look-alikes
- A picture shows the meaning
- Marks the end of a word
- No spaces between words

¶ 4.2

the scribe told the reader which word was meant.

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Determinatives for people

Sign	Classifies
A1 seated man	Men, male names
B1 seated woman	Women, female names
A2 hand to mouth	Eat, speak, think

¶ 4.3

The man with his hand to his mouth, A2, marks words to do with the mouth and the mind:

Determinatives distinguish words

- Same consonants, different words
- The final picture decides
- Writing kit for writing words
- Look at the end first

¶ 4.4

With the writing kit, Y3, the word sS, to write, is distinguished from other look-alike roots.

Determinatives for actions and ideas

Sign	Classifies
D54 walking legs	Motion
Y1 papyrus roll	Abstract ideas
A24 man striking	Force and effort

¶ 4.5

The man striking with a stick, A24, marks words of force and effort, such as to strike, to teach,

Determinatives for places

Sign	Classifies
O49 crossroads in a circle	Towns and cities
N25 three hills	Foreign lands, desert
O1 house plan	Buildings

¶ 4.6

which to an Egyptian living in the flat valley were the hill country.

More determinatives

Sign	Classifies
N5 sun disc	Time, light
G7 falcon on standard	Gods, king
G37 sparrow	Small, bad, weak

¶ 4.7

The small bird, a sparrow, G37, marks things that are small, bad, or weak.

Masculine and feminine

Masculine

- sn, brother
- Hm, servant
- nTr, god

Feminine

- snt, sister
- Hmt, woman, wife
- nTrt, goddess

¶ 4.8

So sn is brother, and snt is sister.

Plural endings

Singular	Plural
nTr	nTrw, gods
nTrt	nTrwt, goddesses
snt	snwt, sisters

¶ 4.9

So nTr, god, becomes nTrw, gods, and nTrt, goddess, becomes nTrwt, goddesses.

Family and home

Masculine

- sA, son
- it, father
- rmT, people

Feminine

- sAt, daughter
- mwt, mother
- niwt, town

¶ 4.10

Notice how sA, son, and sAt, daughter, differ only by the feminine t,

Plural strokes

- Three strokes, Z2, after the word
- Or a sign written three times
- Three means many
- The w ending often omitted

¶ 4.11

Three was the Egyptian picture of many: one is one, two is a pair,

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The dual

Singular	Dual
sn, brother	snwy, two brothers
snt, sister	snty, two sisters
tA, land	tAwy, the Two Lands

¶ 4.12

So sn, brother, has the dual snwy, two brothers, and snt, sister, the dual snty, two sisters.

The Two Lands

- tAwy: the Two Lands
- Upper Egypt: the southern valley
- Lower Egypt: the northern Delta
- nb tAwy: lord of the Two Lands

¶ 4.13

The king is often called nb tAwy, lord of the Two Lands.

Logogram nouns

Sign	Word
D21 mouth with stroke	r, mouth
D2 face with stroke	Hr, face
N16 strip of land	tA, land

¶ 4.14

With the plural strokes and the right endings, these logograms combine with everything you have learned so far.

Reading drill

Signs: s, n, t, seated woman

▼

Read: snt, sister

▼

Add plural strokes

▼

Read: snwt, sisters

¶ 4.15

Now add the plural strokes after the determinative.

Review

- Determinatives: silent, at the end
- Feminine: t
- Plural: w, wt, three strokes
- Dual: wy, ty

¶ 4.16

In the next lecture we move from words to sentences, with pronouns, adjectives, the genitive, prepositions,