

The *iri* of the Late Egyptian Third Future
New notices on the type of the nominal subject

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Abstract

This paper highlights the type of nominal subject after the *iri* of the Third Future. The corpus of the study includes literary and non-literary texts of dynasties 19-22. Moreover, the instances enclose the normal future construction (the so-called Third Future) and the two rare construction of the future (analogue Third Future) which are derived from the Third Future. The corpus provides new notes on the type of the nominal subject where it appeared that *iri* of the Third Future is an official form than the *iw* because *iri* is frequently attested before the names of gods/goddesses, royal names, and names of rulers of foreign countries and nobles particularly in the texts on the Battle of Qadesh and the Egyptian-Hittite Peace Treaty. On the contrary, *iw* is rarely attested before the nominal subject of the Third Future in the corpus and it frequently appears before things and other normal names.

Introduction

As known, the Late Egyptian Third Future *iw.f r sdm* is derived from the Middle Egyptian pseudo-verbal construction pattern¹. It is frequently attested in both literary and non-literary texts of Late Egyptian and is still in use in Coptic. The particle *iw* is

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1 F. Neveu, *The Language of Ramesses: Late Egyptian Grammar*, Translated by Maria Cannata, Oxford 2015, 76; A. Gardiner, *Egyptian Grammar: Being an Introduction to the Study of Hieroglyphs*, 3rd revised ed. Oxford 1957, 253-254§332.

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indispensable with the so-called Third Future because it conveys itself the futurity and not by the *r* + infinitive of the Middle Egyptian future². The *iw* precedes both nominal and pronominal subject of the Third Future. Besides *iw* of the Third Future appeared in the texts of the 19th Dynasty (KRI, I, 324 [1]) new form preceded by the particle *iri* which only attests before the nominal subject of the future. On the other hand, Kruchten³ thought that the first appearance of the *iri* was in the 18th dynasty. He presented uncertain and unclear examples from the 18th Dynasty. It is challenging to decide which one of those attestations is the so-called Third Future or a prospective *sdm.f* or other construction. This paper focuses on the type of nominal subject after *iri*. As many grammar books discussed the Third Future tense *iw.f r sdm* and *iri N r sdm*, the following part features the morphology of the *iri* and the opinion of the scholars about its origin. Then it comes to the examples of the nominal subject after *iri* and *iw* and finally the new observations on the type of the nominal subject as follows:

The morphology of the *iri*







The following table displays the forms of *iri* of the Third Future. The two forms  and  are more frequently used before the nominal subject than the other forms in the table below. The *iri* is sometimes written  after the relative *nty*⁴. Korostovtsev⁵ mentioned that *iri* is also written  as shown below.

Table 1 forms of the verb *iri*

| Morphology | Text |
|---|--|
|  | KRI, II, 64, 9; LEM 78, 6 |
|  | Neskh., II, 75-7; P. Boulaq VI, 11 [4-5]; Gardiner JEA 16 (1930:228) |






2 S. Groll, The Negative Verbal System of Late Egyptian, London, Oxford 1970, 125.

3 J. Kruchten, From Middle Egyptian to Late Egyptian, in: LingAeg 6, 1999, pp. 1-97, 42-43.

4 A. Gardiner, The Origin of Certain Coptic Grammatical Elements, in: JEA 16, 1930, pp. 220-234, 222.



5 M. Korostovtsev, Grammaire du neo-égyptien, Moscou 1973, 383.


Future

| | |
|---|---|
|  | Neskh., 21-22; Korostovtsev (1973:§426 [15]; Satzinger (1976:205) |
|  | LES 25, 15 |
|  | LES 68 [7-10] |
|  | Neskh., 21; 43-44; Korostovtsev (1973:§426 [13]; Satzinger (1976:205) |
|  | Nauri, 114-115; Gardiner JEA 16 (1930:222[18]); Korostovtsev (1973:§426 [11]) |

The origin of the *iri*

The following scholars explained the origin of *iri* as follows: Erman⁶ suggests that the verb *iw* “to be” is replaced by *iri* in LE in the case of a nominal subject.

Gardiner⁷ indicates that *iri*  might be the verb *iri* “do” because a future tense might be derived from the meaning “N will act to hear.” He also suggests that the construction  is in case of a nominal subject a mere

alternative to . He also linked between the LE constructions *iw.f r sdm* and *iri N (r) sdm* and Coptic future constructions ερεεωτϣ, and ερε- πρωϣε εωτϣ. As Coptic did not attest to any negative example in the case of the nominal subject after ερε-πρωϣε εωτϣ, he argued that the *iri* before the nominal subject is due to the adhesion of the preposition *r* to *iw*.

Korostovtsev⁸ argues that *iri* “do/make” means also “to be” like the verb *iw*. Thus, from the semantic point of view, the replacement of *iw* by *iri* does not represent any difficulty.

Junge⁹ considers *iri* as merely a graphonemic variant of *iw*.

To conclude the above explanation of the scholars, *iri* is a mere alternative with *iw* of the Third Future or is a variation of *iw*. It is clear that the *iri* is not a mere alternative with *iw* because the instances below appeared that *iri* is officially used before the

6 A. Erman, *Neuägyptische Grammatik*, 2nd revised ed. Leipzig 1933, §556.

7 A. Gardiner, in: *JEA* 16, 1930, 223-26.

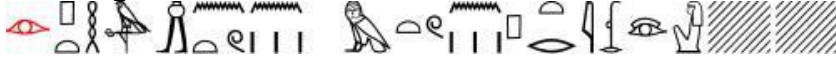
8 M. Korostovtsev, *Grammaire du neo-égyptien*, Moscou 1973, §426.

9 F. Junge, *Einführung in die Grammatik des Neuägyptischen*, 3rd revised ed. Wiesbaden 2008, 130.

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“-a thousand gods of the land of Hatti together with the thousand gods of the land of Egypt shall act to cause him to flourish and to live, together with his household, his land, and his servants.”¹³

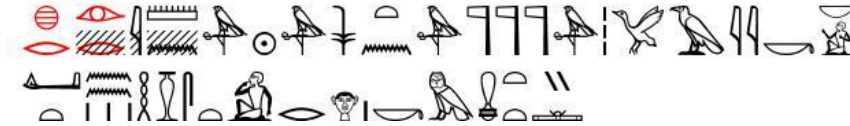
Ex.4: Leyden I 362, verso, I; KRI II, 927, 5; Bakir (1970:pl.11, verso 1)



iri Pth in.t.n mtw.n ptri [.....]

Ptah will bring us, and we will see [.....]

Ex. 5: LRL 46 [15-16] 47 [1]



hr iri Imn-R^c nsw ntrw p3y.k nb di.t n.n hst r hr.k m-mitt

“And Amun-Re, king of the Gods, your lord, shall give us favor before you as well.”¹⁴

Ex.6: KRI, VI, 448, 13



iw bn iri p3 ntr h³y m 3bd I smw hrw 14

While the god will not appear in the first month of shemu, day 14.

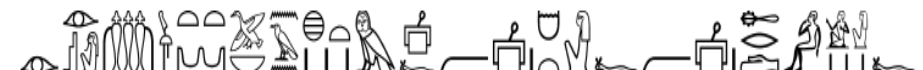
Ex. 7: KRI.I, 69, 15-16; LD.III, Taf.140 c, 18; Gardiner (1930:224 {ex.20}).



iri n.f n3 ntrw ntrywt nbw[t] hwt.i r iry-n-h³

“All the gods and goddesses of my Temple shall be to him, adversaries.”¹⁵

EX. 8: KRI, I 58, 5-6; Griffith (1927: pl. XLIII, r.113); Gardiner (1930:224 [ex. 21]).



iri Wsir hnty-imntt p3 nb n3 n ht m s3.f m-s3 hmt.f m-s3 hrdw.f

13 RITA, II, 84.

14 E. Wente, Late Ramesside Letters. Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization 33, Chicago 1967, 61.

15 J. Kruchten, in: LingAeg 6, 1999, 36; Gardiner, in: JEA 16, 1930, 224 {ex.20}.

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“Osiris, Foremost of the West, the lord of people and the lord of things, shall be (lit. is) after him, after his wife, and after his children.”¹⁶

Ex. 9 and 10: KRI VI 351, 15 - 356,2; LD.III, Taf.229, C 19; Gardiner (1930:225, 24)



ir p3 nty nb mdt im.f iri 'Imn-Rc nsw ntrw m-s3<.f> r s3<s3>.f iri mwt m-s3 hmt.f hns w m-s3 hrdw.f

“Everyboy who speaks against it, Amen-Re, the king of the gods, shall be after him to destroy him, Mut shall be after his wife, and Khons after his children.”

Ex. 11: KRI, I, 70 (3-4); Winand (1996: 133 [ex.67])



ir p3 nty nb iw.f r s sh hr wd tn iri Wsir m-s3.f iw 'Ist m-s3 hmt.f iw Hr m-s3 hrd.w.f

“As for anyone (at all) who will be deaf to this decree, - Osiris will be behind him, Isis being behind his wife, and Horus being behind his children.”¹⁷

Ex. 12: P. Sall. IV (LEM, 97 [14])



iri n.f dhwt y r iry n h3wty m r-c n mt

“Thoht shall be an adversary to him (when) in the condition of death¹⁸.”

Before Royal names

Ex. 13: KRI, II, 229, 8-9

16 A. Gardiner, in: JEA 16, 1930, 224 {ex.20}.

17 J. Winand, Les Constructions Analogiques du Future III en Néo-Égyptien, RdE 47, 1996, pp. 117-145, 133 [ex.67]. Winand forgot to put nb after *p3 nty* in ex.67, p.133.

18 R. Caminos, Late-Egyptian Miscellanies, Brown Egyptological Studies 1. London, Oxford 1954, 366.

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bn iri Wsr-M3t- R^c stp n R^c p3 hk3 n kmt r šsp.w

“– then Usirmare Setepenre, the Great Ruler of Egypt, shall not receive them.”¹⁹

Ex. 14: KRI, II, 229, 9



iri R- Msi- sw mri- Imn p3 hk3 3 n kmt di.t in.tw.w n p3 wr 3 n ht3

“(But) Ramesses II Meriamun, the Great Ruler of Egypt, shall have them brought (back) to the Great Ruler of Hatti.”²⁰

Ex. 15: KRI, II, 229, 10-11



bn iri Wsr-M3t- R^c stp- n- R^c p3 hk3 3 n kmt w3h.w

“– then Usirmare Setepenre, the Great Ruler of Egypt, shall not leave them.”²¹

Ex. 16: KRI, IV, 15, 5; Gardiner (1930:225, 25)



iri B3-n-R^c mry-Imn m-s3 msw.f

“Baenre- Meriamun shall be after his children.”

Ex. 17: RAD 57, 4-5



iri pr - 3 3nh wd3 snb di.t n.tn diw



Pharaoh, LPH, will give to you grain rations

Before rulers of foreign countries and nobles

Ex. 18: KRI, II, 229, 4-5

19 RITA, II, 83.

20 RITA, II, 83.

21 RITA, II, 83. In Examples 21 and 22 the sign  was written wrong in KRI instead of the right sign 



bn iri p3 wr 3 n [h]t3 r šsp.w iri p3 wr 3 n ht3 dit in.tw Wsr-M3t-Rc Stp-n Rc

p3 hk3 3 n kmt p3y.sn nb 3nh wd3 snb

“The great ruler of Hatti shall not receive them, (but) the great ruler of Hatti shall be brought them (back) to Usermat-re setepenra, the great ruler of Egypt, their lord living, prosperity, and health.”²²

Ex. 19: KRI, II, 229, (8-9)



iri p3 wr 3 n ht3 [...]

“The great ruler of Hatti shall [...]

Ex. 20: KRI, II, 229, (8-9)



*iri p3 wr 3 n ht3 mh im.sn*²³

The great ruler of Hatti will hold them

Ex. 21: KRI, II, 228, 7-8; Winand (1996:134[ex.70]).



ir knd R-msi- sw mry-imn [p3 hk3 3 n kmt] r b3k.w swt iw ir.sn ky t3y r.f mtw.f šm.t [r hdb.w]



iri p3 wr 3 n ht3 ir[m.f r fh p3 nty nb iw.w r knd r.w]

“If Ramesses Meriamun, [the great ruler of Egypt], is angry with servants of his, who committed a further offense against him, and he goes to[kill them], then the great ruler of Hatti shall be [with him in order to ruin everyone against whom they will be angry]

»²⁴

Ex.22: Two Brothers 17, 10; LES 27, 15

22 RITA, II, 82

23The sign  was written wrong in KRI instead of the right sign 

24 J. Winand, Les Constructions Analogiques du Future III en Néo-Égyptien, RdE 47, 1996, 134[ex.70].

Future



ir p3 nty irt t3 špsj i dd n.i

“As for what the lady will say to me.”²⁵

Ex. 23: KRI IV, 317, 9-10; HO, pl.XLVI, verso 2, 12; Allam (1973:215).



iri p3y.i nb r di.t iry.tw sb3 n t3y st-hmt r it3y p3 h3 m mitt p3 wšb

My master will cause to carry out the punishment on this woman who took the pick and the wSb-vessel.

Ex. 24: LEM 76, 4-6



iri p3y.i nb r di.t ini.tw n3 b3k.w nty h3c m pr Nbt- htp

my lord will cause to bring the servants who are left in the house of Nebethetepet.

Ex. 25: Anast. VI, LEM 78, 6



iri] p3y.i nb h3b mr-pr [y]w p3

My lord will write (to) steward Yupa.

Before Other common nouns

Ex. 26: KRI, II, 64, 9



iri h3s.wt ptr.i r sdd.t rn.i r š3c h3swt w3i n rh [tw]

“The foreign lands which behold me shall tell of my name as far as distant lands yet unknown.”²⁶

Ex. 27: Sallier, I, LEM 82 (1-2).



25 W. Simpson, The Literature of Ancient Egyptian Anthology of Stories, Instructions, Stelae, Autobiographies, and Poetry, 3rd ed., London, 2003, 89.

26 RITA, II, 9

Future

r-dd iri n.i nb.w m bwt n niwti

“Saying: Gold shall be for me an abomination unto my city³⁰.”

Ex. 33: O DM 133, KRI, VI, 425 [10-14])



*iw.f dit iry.f ḥnh n nb ḥnh wd3 snb r-dd mtw.i pnḥ r mdt ḥn iw.f hr
100 n sh n štī iri p3 3 r.f m k3b 2*

“And he made him take an oath of the lord, L.P.H., saying: If I come back on (this) matter again, (then) I (lit. He) shall suffer a hundred blows of the stick, and the donkey will be reckoned (made) against me (lit. him) double³¹.”

Ex. 34: KRI, III, 614, 6; Winand (1992: §797, [ex. 1231]).



t3 3h.t m šsr-ikr iri n3y.sn it 3h.Ø

“The field is in excellent condition, and their barley will be beautiful.”³²

Ex. 35: KRI I 324 3

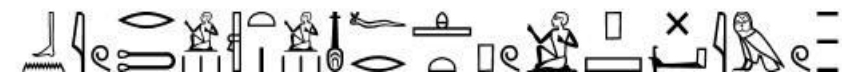


štī nty iri Nby r rdt.s n.k

Sow which Nby will bring it to you.

Nominal subject after the iw

Ex. 1: P.Naunachte, col.5, 11



bn iw rmt iswt Nfr-ḥtp pš im.w

“The workman Neferhotep shall not share in it.”³³

Ex. 2: LES 58, 10-11

30W. Simpson, *The Literature of Ancient Egypt: An Anthology of Stories, Instructions, Stelae, Autobiographies, and Poetry*, 3rd ed., London, 2003, 97.

31RITA, VI, 329

32 J. Winand, *Études de néo-égyptien*, 1: La morphologie verbale. *Aegyptiaca Leodiensia* 2. Liège, 1992, §797, [ex. 1231].

33 J. Černý, *The Will of Naunakhte and the Related Documents*, *JEA* 31, 1945, pp. 29-53, 32.

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hr ir hr- s3 ntrw iw p^ct rhy (t) htp.w m p3 nty tw.k im m-r^c

“And after the gods all mankind shall also go to rest where you are.”³⁴

Ex. 3: Adoption Extraordinary, Gardiner (1941:24, [Pl.VI a, 25-26]).



iw n3 šri.w irm t3y.w snt ʕ.t m p3 pr n P3-dj.w p3y hry ih p3y sn šri ink

“The children will be with their elder sister in the house of Padiu, this stable-master, this younger brother of mine.”³⁵

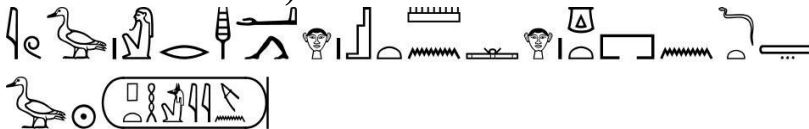
Ex. 4: LES 75, 14-16



in bn iw p3y.st nbt gmy 10 n isw m-di.i mtw.f hdb.w gr mntf

“Will not their lord find ten crews of yours and kill them also?”³⁶

Ex. 5: Fairman, JEA 33, pl.VII, column 19 (speech of Pakhet to Thoth)



iw s3.i r ʕ^c hr st mn hr nst n dt s3-r^c Sty-mry-n-Pth

“My son shall ascend the throne, abiding upon the seat for ever, (even) the son of Re Seti-mery-n Ptah.”³⁷

34 M. Lichtheim, *Ancient Egyptian Literature: A Book of Readings*, 2, The New Kingdom, Berkeley 1976, 222.

35 This sentence is also an independent sentence refers to future.

36 M. Lichtheim, *Ancient Egyptian Literature: A Book of Readings*, 2, The New Kingdom, Berkeley 1976, 229.

37 H. Fairman, and Bernhard Grdseloff. "Texts of Hatshepsut and Sethos I inside Speos Artemidos, JEA 33, 1947, pp. 12-33, 24.

It is noted that the nominal subject *s3.i* refers to the king Sethos I.

Ex. 6: Quack, Ani (1994:281[B 15, 9]).



ir tni s wšbt.f iw nst.f wd3y r hd

If a man is observed with his testimony, his tongue will be preserved from punishment³⁸.

Ex. 7: P. Pushkin, Caminos (1977: pl.10, col.4,5-6])



iw iw p3y.f š r it'i-ini n=f

"while his protest will be distorted for him"³⁹.

Conclusion

By analyzing the texts of LE, the instances has shown that the auxiliary *iri* only preceded the nominal subject from the 19th Dynasty onward, particularly in the texts of the Battle of Qadesh and the Egyptian-Hittite Peace Treaty. The corpus has shown that *iri* of the future is used before the names of gods/goddesses, royal names, the rulers of foreign countries and nobles 26 out of 35 times. On the contrary, *iw* is only attested before things and other names 7 times. To sum up, the corpus has shown that *iri* is frequently attested in official texts such as diplomatic and historical texts (the texts of the Battle of Qadesh and the Egyptian-Hittite Peace Treaty).

Table 2. Account the type of the nominal subject after *iri* and *iw*

| Auxiliary | Type of the Nominal Subject | | | |
|------------|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>iri</i> | Gods/goddesses names | Royal names | rulers of foreign countries and | Other names (scribes and things) |

38 J. Quack, Joachim F., Die Lehren des Ani: ein neuägyptischer Weisheitstext in seinem kulturellen Umfeld. Orbis biblicus et orientalis, 141, Fribourg (Schweiz); Göttingen, Universitätsverlag Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1994, 151.

39 J. Quack, in: ZÄS 128, 2001, 178 and note 107.

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| | | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|---|--------|---|
| | | | nobles | |
| | 13 | 5 | 8 | 9 |
| | Type of the Nominal Subject | | | |
| <i>iw</i> | - | - | 2 | 5 |

The following table shows the type of the nominal subject after *iw* and *iri*. The nominal subject with *iri* is attested more often in the corpus than with *iw* as follows:

Table 3. The type of the nominal subject after *iw* and *iri*

| Particle | Nominal Subject | Examples | Particle | Nominal Subject | Examples |
|-----------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------|--|--|
| <i>iw</i> | <i>rmt</i> <i>iswt</i> | P.Naunachte col.5 [5-9] | <i>iri</i> | <i>Dḥw.ty</i> | LEM 97 [13-14] |
| | <i>p^ct rhy</i> | Horus & Seth 15,8 | | <i>Pth</i> | Leyden I 362, Bakir (1970:pl.11 [1]) |
| | <i>n3 šry.w</i> | Adoption Extr. JEA 26, pl.VIa, 25-26) | | <i>Imn</i> | LRL 58 [7-8]?; ZÄS, 29 [49-50] |
| | <i>p3y.s</i> <i>nbt</i> | LES 75 [14-16] | | <i>Imn-R^c</i> | LRL 46 [15-16] 47 [1]; LD.III, Taf.229, C {19} |
| | <i>s3.i</i> | JEA 33 1947:pl.VI, 19) | | <i>R^c-ḥr-3hty</i> | Anast. V, 12 [5-6] |
| | <i>ns.t</i> [tongue] | Quack, Ani (1994:281[B 15, 9]). | | <i>Wsir</i> [2] | Griffith (1927: pl. XLIII, r.113); KRI, I, 70 (3-4) |
| | <i>p3y.f š</i> [ptotest] | P. Pushkin, Caminos (977:pl.10, col.4,5-6)) | | <i>Mw.t</i> | LD.III, Taf.229, C {19} |
| | | | <i>p3 ntr</i> | KRI, VI, 448; LES, 2 [14] [12-14]. | |
| | | | <i>n3 ntr.w</i> | KRI.I, 69, 15- | |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| | | | <i>ntr.wt</i> | 16 |
| | | | <i>ḥ3 n ntr</i> [2] | KRI, II, 230 [13]; 231 [1], [2] |
| | | | <i>Pr ʕ3</i> | Amherst, V, 4 [3], RAD 57 [4-5] |
| | | | <i>Wsr- m3^c.t-R stp-n-r^c</i> [2] | KRI, II, 229 [8-9]; KRI, II, 229 [10-11] |
| | | | <i>R- msi- sw Mry- imn</i> | KRI, II, 229 [8-9] |
| | | | <i>B3-n r^c mry- Imn</i> | KRI, IV, 15, 5 |
| | | | <i>p3 wr ʕ3 n ḥt3</i> [4] | KRI, II, 228 [4-5], [6-8]; 229 [4-5]; 231 [4-5] |
| | | | <i>t3 pt</i> | LES 68 [7-10] |
| | | | <i>ḥ3s.wt</i> | KRI, II, 64 [9] |
| | | | <i>t3 šps.j</i> | LES 27 [15] |
| | | | <i>p3y.i nb</i> [3] | LEM 76 [4-6]; 78[6]; HO, pl.XLVI, vrs.2 [12] |
| | | | <i>p3y.i sn</i> | B.M. 10052, 6 [9-10] |
| | | | <i>šry šry.t</i> | P. Turin 2021, 3[13] 4[1] |
| | | | <i>nbw</i> | LES 47 [4-5] |
| | | | <i>rmt</i> | JEA 12, Ostr.5625, pl.36, verso (4- 5) |
| | | | <i>w^c</i> | LEM 82 (1-2) |

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| | | | | |
|--|--|--|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | | | <i>n3y.sn it</i> | KRI, III, 614, 6 |
| | | | <i>p3 ʿ3</i> | O DM 133, KRI, VI, 425 [10-14]) |
| | | | <i>Nby</i> | KRI, I, 324, 3 |

[2]= appearance 2 times

[3]= appearance 3 times

[4]= appearance 4 times

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