Lesson 1: Near Demonstrative Pronouns

Near Demonstrative Pronoun

Masculine (this)	Feminine (this)	Plural (these)
□□□	□□□	□□□

A pronoun is a word that takes the place of a noun. For example, instead of saying "the man" we may say "him." Or instead of saying "the big brown chair," we may say "it." Demonstrative Pronouns work in the same way. When using the near demonstrative as a pronoun, it takes the place of a noun. For example instead of saying "this man" (and having the demonstrative "this" describe the subject "man"), you may want to say "this is the man" where the demonstrative "this" acts as a pronoun and the subject of the sentence, and "man" acts as the object.

Examples

<Definite Subject>	□□ /□□ /□□	<Definite Object>	Translation
□□□	□□	□□□□□□	This is the man
□□□	□□	□□ ⲥ□□□□	These are the women
□□□	□□	`□ ⲱ□□□ `□□□□□ †	This is the Son of God
□□□	□□	□□ `□□□□□	These are my brothers

Emphatic Construction

There is a special set construction in Coptic that uses both the Near Demonstrative Article and the Near Demonstrative Pronoun as a way of emphasis.

□□□□□□□ □□□ **:** Translating this literally would render "this chalice this" which is nonsense. A better way to translate the emphasis on the demonstrative is: "this very chalice."

We will see this construction in Application 1 below.

Application

Application 1:

This is an excerpt from the Thanksgiving Prayer as prayed by the priest during the Divine Liturgy, the Crowning Ceremony and the Consecration of the Waters of Baptism.

[illegible]	...take them away from us and from all Your people, and from this table, and from this Your holy place.
[illegible]	and from this bridegroom and bride
[illegible]	and from this basin

1. [illegible] - "All Your people"
    - The use of [illegible] ϥ (and [illegible], [illegible], etc.) will be covered in a future lesson, but it is commonplace and you should have a rough understanding of it by now

2. [illegible] - "this very table"

3. [illegible] - "this very place that is holy that is Yours"

4. [illegible] - "this very bridegroom and bride"
    - The noun here [illegible] can mean bride or groom and in the plural typically means both.
    - In Arabic this is translated as العروسين, but there is no single word to represent that in English ("newlywed" might be the closest) so we translate it as "the bridegroom and bride."
    - Although it is plural, you see that in both Arabic and English we translated it as dual (Arabic through conjugation, English through listing two subjects). This is due to the context (i.e. a Crowning Ceremony with one bridegroom and one bride).

5. [illegible] - "this very basin"

Application 2:

These are responses from the Institution Narrative in the Divine Liturgy.

[illegible]	This do in remembrance of Me
[illegible]	This is in truth. Amen.
[illegible]	This also is in truth. Amen.

Application 3:

These are excerpts from the Confession Prayer at the end of the Liturgy (the priest's confession as well as the deacon's confession).

ϫ□ □□□ □□ ϯ□□□ `□□□ ϥ□□□ ϧ□ ...	This is the life-giving flesh
ϯ□□ ϩϯ ϯ□□ ϩϯ ϯ□□ ϩϯ ϫ□ □□□ □□ ϧ□□ □□□□□□□□ □□□□	I believe, I believe, I believe, that this is in truth. Amen.

Biblical Examples

□□□ □□ `□□□□□ `□□□ □□□□□□□□	"this is the king of the Jews" (Matthew 27:37)
□□□ □□ □□□□□□	"this is My Body" (Luke 22:19)
ϧ□□ ϯ□□□□□□ □□□ □□□ ϫ□□□	"in the Judgment with this generation" (Matthew 12:41)

Exercises

Exercise 1: Translate to Coptic

Translate the following phrases into Coptic:

Exercise 2: Translate to English

Translate the following phrases into English:

Resources

- Page 46 of Sameh Younan PDF
- Page 143 of Nabil Mattar
- Lesson 3 of Moawad Daoud
- ACTS 2990 Introduction to the Coptic Language (Bohairic) with Hany Takla Lesson 2b

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