

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
		Ⲛ	These are the women
		ⲱ ⲧ	This is the Son of God
		ⲱ	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.

ⲭ ⲧ ⲛ ⲙ ⲛ ...	This is the life-giving flesh
ⲧ ⲛⲧⲧ ⲛⲧⲧ ⲛⲧⲧ ⲛⲧⲧ ⲛ ⲛ	I believe, I believe, I believe, that this is in truth. Amen.

Biblical Examples

ⲛ ⲛ	"this is the king of the Jews" (Matthew 27:37)
	"this is My Body" (Luke 22:19)
ⲛ ⲧ ⲛ	"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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