Lesson 4: Negative Nominal Sentence Construction

Indefinite Pronoun -??-

An indefinite pronoun is a pronoun that does not refer to any person, place, or thing in particular. Some examples of indefinite pronouns in English are: "anything" - "something" - "anyone" - "anywhere" - "someone" - "somewhere" - etc. The infix -□□ - is a noninflectional word element that is inserted between the noun prefix and the noun. It expresses the meaning "other" and can be used with definite or indefinite articles, demonstrative articles and possessive articles.

□□□□□□□	the other man	Definite Article (m.)
□□□□□□□	the other men	Definite Article (f.)
†□□ `□ 2□□	the other woman	Definite Article (pl.)
□□□□□ *	another man	Indefinite Article (s.)
2□□□□□□□	some other men	Indefinite Article (pl.)
□□□□□□□□	this other man	Demonstrative Article (m.)
□□□□□□□	my other man	Possessive Article (1s.)

*Note that for the singular indefinite noun, the singular indefinite article □□ is dropped. However, in the case of the plural, the plural indefinite article 2□□ is kept.

Nominal Sentences: Negative Construction

All of the nominal sentences we have taken so far are of positive construction (e.g. "This man is my father"). Negating the sentence (e.g. "This man is not my father") is achieved by placing the particle`□ (sometimes`□) before the object and □□ before the copula. Below, we will discuss negating both types of bipartite sentences, and all four types of tripartite sentences that we have taken thus far.

When do we use`□ versus`□ ?`□ is used when the following letter is: □ □ □ □ □

<Object> <Copula>

□□□□ □□	he is my father

`□□□□□□ □□ □□	he is not my father
□□□□□□□□□□□ □□	he is a bishop
`□□□□□□□□□□□□ □□ □□	he is not a bishop

<Subject><Object>

This sentence type cannot be negated. To negate it, you will need a copula which will make it a tripartite sentence.

<Definite Subject> <Copula> <Definite Object>

□□□□□□□ □□ □□□□□	this man is my father
□□□□□□□ □□ □□ `□□□□□□	this man is not my father
□□□ □□ □□□□□□	this is the man
□□□ □□ □□ `□□□□□□□	this is not the man

<Definite Object> <Copula> <Definite Subject>

□□□□□□□ □□ □□□□□	my father is this man
`□□□□□□□□ □□ □□ □□□□□	my father is not this man

<Definite Subject> <Indefinite Object> <Copula>

□□□□□ □□□□ ɘ □□	my mother is a teacher
□□□□□ `□□□□□ ɘ □□ □□	my mother is not a teacher

<Indefinite Object> <Copula> <Definite Subject>

□□ `□ 2□□□ □□ □□□□	I am a woman
`□□□ `□ 2□□□ □□ □□ □□□□	I am not a woman

Application

Application 1:

This is an excerpt from the Orthodox Creed.

□□□□□□□□ `□□□□ ⲉ□□ □□□□□□□□ : □□□□□ ⲧ`□□□ `□□□□ `□□□□ ⲉ□□ □□□□□ ⲧ` □□□ `□□□□ .□□□□□□ □□ □□□□□□□ □□ □□ : □□ `□□□□□□□□□ □□ □□□ `□□□□	light of light; true God of true God; begotten not created, of one essence with the Father

1. □□□□□□ □□ - he is begotten
2. □□□□□□□ □□ □□ - he is not created
3. □□ `□□□□□□□□□ □□ □□□ `□□□□ - he is one essence with the father

Exercises

Exercise 1: Translate to Coptic

Translate the following into Coptic:

1.

Exercise 2: Translate to English

Translate the following phrases into English:

1.

Resources

"A Study in Bohairic Coptic" by Nabil Matar; p162

See Moawad Daoud Lesson 2

See Sameh Younan page 59 in the PDF

ACTS 2990 Introduction to the Coptic Language (Bohairic) with Hany Takla Lesson 3A

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