SCRIPTORIUM Part-of-Speech Tagsets for Sahidic Coptic

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1. Preamble

This document details guidelines for part-of-speech tagging Sahidic Coptic according to the SCRIPTORIUM project scheme. The tagging procedure assumes the text has already been normalized to the orthography and morpheme based segmentation described in the SCRIPTORIUM tokenization guidelines, which are closely related to the conventions found in Layton's (2004) grammar. In case of doubt we refer to Layton (2004) as well as Shisha-Halevy (1988).

As in all tagging projects, the aim is to achieve a practicable compromise between linguistic accuracy/usefulness, speed and reliability of human tagging, and performance of automatic tagging software. This means that in many cases concepts that are linguistically distinct are not distinguished since they are difficult to tell apart in practice in many cases, or determining some distinctions is too costly in terms of annotation time. Additionally, the project is using the CMCL lexicon, kindly provided by Prof. Tito Orlandi, which has its own, much more detailed scheme, so that in some cases the categories used here are chosen to be derivable from the CMCL scheme (see http://cmcl.let.uniroma1.it/).

There are two proposed tagsets, a coarse tagset with fewer tags for projects wishing to save annotation time, and a finer tagset with more detailed subcategories for some of the coarse grained tags, which is also expected to yield lower accuracy in automatic tagging. Links to the latest training models are provided from the SCRIPTORIUM website and have been tested and developed using the freely available TreeTagger (Schmid 1994, see http://www.cis.uni-muenchen.de/~schmid/tools/TreeTagger/).

2. Tagsets

The two tagsets described below are compatible with each other in that the fine-grained tagset uses the same overarching categories of the coarse one, but with further categories distinguished. The tag names are built 'hierarchically', so that additional letters in the name of a tag specify a special type of the superordinate category, e.g. all pronoun tags being with P, though not all tags with P are pronouns, as in PREP for prepositions.

In the coarse-grained list below, tags that have multiple fine-grained variants are followed by [*] (this is **not** part of the tag within the course-grained tagset).

Additionally, both tagsets admit certain cases where a single form contains two categories and must therefore be assigned two tags. This results in special underscore separated **portmanteau tags**, which are described in Section 2.3.

2.1 Coarse-Grained Tagset

Tag	Name	Examples
A[*]	Auxiliary tripartite base	ձ[զ], мє[զ], трє[զ],
ADV	Adverb	ввох, он, пшс
ART	Article	$\pi(\varepsilon)$, $\tau(\varepsilon)$, $n(\varepsilon)$, zen, ke
C[*]	Converter	€, €T€, N€,
CONJ	Conjunction	аүш, н, мн, каі, єітє,
COP	Copula	пє/тє/иє
EXIST	Existential/possessive	оүн/ми
FM	Foreign material	пара тоүто
FUT	Future	Nλ
IMOD	Inflected modifier	тнр[ч], εωω[т],
N[*]	Noun	аөнт, ршме, архн,
NEG	Negation	n, an, ти[сшти]
NUM	Numeral	oya, cnay,
PDEM	Pronoun, demonstrative	πει/παι, τει/ται, Νει/Ναι
PINT	Pronoun, interrogative	oy, nim
PPER[*]	Pronoun, personal	५,с,1,†, n,анок,ан г ,
PPOS[*]	Pronoun, possessive	πεϥ,τετν,πογ,πλ,πωι,
PREP	Preposition	єтвє, ₂ й, и, ймо[q],
PTC	Particle	ДЄ, NG1, XЄ,
PUNCT	Punctuation	· , ·
UNKNOWN	Unknown morph, lacuna	B,OC,,
V[*]	Verb	сшти, сштп, сотп, еіре, о, арі,
VBD	Verboid	иδиоγ[q], пехδ[q], пехе,

2.2 Fine-Grained Tagset

For descriptions of the added fine-grained tags, marked in cursive type, see the coarse tag descriptions below.

AAOR	ALIM	AOPT
ACAUS	ANEGAOR	APREC
ACOND	ANEGJUS	APST
ACONJ	ANEGOPT	ART
ADV	ANEGPST	CCIRC
AFUTCONJ	ANY	CFOC
AJUS		CPRET

CONJ	NPROP	PREP
COP	NUM	PTC
CREL	PDEM	PUNCT
EXIST	PINT	UNKNOWN
FUT	PPERI	V
IMOD	PPERO	VBD
N	PPERS	VIMP
NEG	PPOS	VSTAT

2.3 Portmanteau tags

In certain cases, one indivisible form corresponds to what normally constitutes two categories. This can happen either because of a phonological merger of two units, or because the formal marker of one category can be 'zero', i.e. have no form at all (usually in the case of 2nd person singular feminine forms). Portmanteau tags currently supported by the SCRIPTORIUM tools are:

tag	example	notes
AOPT_PPERS	ече(сфтм)	Personal pron. within optative є_є. Note that єрє(сютм) for 2nd
		pers. sg. fem. is also AOPT_PPERS, but nominal ере(проме
		сюти) is only AOPT.
ACOND_PPERS	ечфаи(сфти)	Personal pron. within conditional e_ayan. Note that
		ерам(сати) for 2nd pers. sg. fem. is also ACOND_PPERS,
		but nominal ерфан(проме сотм) is only ACOND.
ACONJ_PPERS	та(сшти)	Truncated conjunctive 1st person (instead of мтасшти)
ANEGPST_PPERS	мпє(сютм)	Fused negative past 2nd pers. sg. fem. form.
APST_PPERS	ар(сшти)	Fused positive past 2nd pers. sg. fem. form.
CCIRC_PPERS	ере(сшти)	Fused circumstantial 2nd pers. sg. fem. form.
CFOC_PPERS	ере(сшти)	Fused focalized 2nd pers. sg. fem. form.
CPRET_PPERS	иере(сати)	Fused preterit 2nd pers. sg. fem. form.
CREL_PPERS	етере(сшти)	Fused relative 2nd pers. sg. fem. form.
IMOD_PPERO	ммиммо	The 2nd pers. sg. fem. form of 'yourself' (not to be confused
		with мынмыо(q) etc.)
PREP_PPERO	€РО	Any preposition where a 2nd pers. sg. fem. is realized as zero
		(not to be confused with epo(q) etc.)
V_PPERO	ти(р)	Verb forms with a fused 1st pers. sg. object, e.g. NT 'bring me'
		from eine 'bring', where the presuffixal form nt= is merged with
		the 1st pers. object marker -T)

Note that in all cases, coarse grained tags can be substituted for fine grained ones, e.g. CCIRC_PPERS and CFOC_PPERS both become C_PPER. Further combination tags are not ruled out and new ones will therefore be added if they are determined to be necessary.

3. Guidelines

The following guidelines describe the recommended assignment of part of speech tags to segmented morphemes. Fine-grained tags are given in the section describing the corresponding coarse-grained tag. In each example, the area corresponding to the tag under discussion is underlined. Vertical lines ('pipes') are used to segment morphemes for added clarity only.

3.1 Auxiliaries (A)

Auxiliaries include all conjugation bases in the tripartite patterns described in Layton (2004:251-290). These include both negative and positive variants and cover all lexical material preceding the subject noun or pronoun, e.g.:

- (1) <u>Δ|</u>q|cωτū (3rd person masculine past tense)
- (2) Δρε|cωτμ (2nd person feminine past tense, with zero subject)
- (3) นิท|เcccтนี (negative past tense)

Note that when used with pronominal subjects, the optative and conditional conjugation encompass the subject pronoun, leading to a portmanteau tag like AOPT_PPERS (or A PPER in the coarse grained tagset):

- (4) eqe/AOPT_PPERS cort (optative and 3rd pers. masc. pronoun)
- (5) eqwan/ACOND_PPERS cwтй (conditional and 3rd pers. masc. pronoun)

Fine-Grained Tags

The different individual fine-grained tags cover all distinct conjugation bases, making auxiliaries the largest fine-grained tag group. They are divided as follows:

APST	Auxiliary, past	λ
ANEGPST	Auxiliary, negated past	$\bar{M}\Pi(\varepsilon)$
ANY	Auxiliary, 'not yet'	$ar{M}$ П $AT(ar{\epsilon})$
AAOR	Auxiliary, aorist	ሟል, ሟል ዖ €
ANEGAOR	Auxiliary, negated aorist	ме(ре)
AOPT	Auxiliary, optative	ϵ [q] ϵ , ϵ p ϵ
ANEGOPT	Auxiliary, negated optative	พิทธ
AJUS	Auxiliary, jussive	мар (ϵ)
ANEGJUS	Auxiliary, negated jussive	ӣпӯҭрє
APREC	Auxiliary, precursive ('after')	$\bar{N}TEP(\mathbf{\varepsilon})$
ACOND	Auxiliary, conditional	є[ч]фан, єрфан
ALIM	Auxiliary, limitative ('until')	ω ant(ϵ)
ACONJ	Auxiliary, conjunctive	$\bar{N}(T\varepsilon)$
AFUTCONJ	Auxiliary, future conjunctive	angle
ACAUS	Auxiliary, causative	трє

3.2 Adverbs (ADV)

Adverbs include indeclinable native Egyptian and Greek lexemes that modify verbs and other phrases as in the following examples.

(6) τααγχανε μπου εματε/ADV 'I shall glorify him greatly'
(7) πετ|μπαγ/ADV 'the one (who is) there'
(8) μπρμού κακως/ADV 'don't die badly'

The first part of 'complex prepositions' is also tagged as an adverb, as in the following examples:

(9) <u>εΒολ</u>/ADV <u>ε</u>ν/PREP 'from, out of' (lit. 'out in')
(10) <u>εξογν</u>/ADV <u>ε</u>ν/PREP 'in towards' (lit. 'inside at')

This does not apply to etymologically complex one-word prepositions derived e.g. from nouns for body parts (see the tag PREP for details), nor is the initial ε in words such as εBOA separated from the adverb (see segmentation guidelines).

3.3 Articles (ART)

Articles include definite articles, indefinite articles and article-like words such as $\kappa\epsilon/6\epsilon$ 'other'. The following examples illustrate some variants:

(11) $\underline{\pi}/ART$ pome/N 'the man'

(12) τε/ART κληρονομια/N 'the inheritence'

(13) ογ/ART νομος/N 'a law'

(14) ген/ART гвнуе/N '(some) deeds'

(15) <u>ке</u>/ART поннрос/N 'another wicked one'

Note that possessive pronouns like πeq are not tagged as articles (see PPOS) and relative articles like πleτ are segmented to contain a relative converter (see C and CREL).

Articles followed by a noun beginning with 2 and consequently spelled Θ or Φ e.g. Θ 'the way' are normalized and tokenized as τ and Θ before part-of-speech tagging, so that τ etc. can be tagged as an article alone (see segmentation guidelines).

3.4 Converters (C)

The class of converters, which is syntactically heterogeneous, is described in Layton (2004: 319-366). It includes four types of converters which have several realizations depending on their syntactic environment. In the coarse tagset, all converters are tagged as C, allowing for lower error rates in automatic tagging (especially by removing the distinction between circumstantial and relative conversions, which can be ambiguous). The examples below are for the four fine grained classes:

CCIRC Converter, circumstantial ϵ , ϵ [α], ϵ p ϵ

CFOC Converter, focalizing (a.k.a. 2^{nd} tenses) ϵ , $\epsilon p \epsilon$, $\epsilon T \epsilon$, $\bar{n} T [a]$,	ент[а]
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CPRET Converter, preterite NE, NEPE

CREL Converter, relative $\varepsilon \tau \varepsilon$, $\varepsilon \tau$, $\bar{n}\tau[a]$, $\varepsilon n\tau[a]$, $\varepsilon \tau \varepsilon p\varepsilon$

Note that a following conjugation base is segmented separately from the converter (cf. segmentation guidelines), e.g.:

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(16) NT/CREL α/APST q|CMOY 'which he blessed'
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The converter includes only NT, while a is a separate auxiliary base.

3.5 Conjunctions (CONJ)

Conjunctions are indeclinable words of Greek and Egyptian origin which link phrases and clauses. No distinction is made between subordinating conjunctions which introduce clauses ('because', 'lest') and coordinating conjunctions which connect phrases (e.g. 'and', 'or').

- (17) αγω/CONJ αιειβεγ 'and I became thirsty'
- (18) еіхю миос <u>хе</u>/CONJ мипоте/CONJ таєїве 'saying [that:] <u>lest</u> I become thirsty'

In the first example, the coordinating conjunction $\chi \chi \omega$ 'and' appears. Note that it is still tagged as a conjunction even if the first coordinated phrase is missing. In the second example, two consecutive conjunctions appear: $\chi \varepsilon$ 'that, saying' introduces the direct speech and the Greek origin mhthote 'lest' is a conjunction within the direct speech clause. Also note that the word $\chi \varepsilon$, originally derived from $\chi \omega$ 'say' is not considered a verb in this usage.

3.6 Copulas (COP)

Copulas are markers in so-called nominal sentences which express predications of the sort A is B. The copula forms are πε/τε/νε. The tag COP is given also to copulas following a verbal clause for focalizing emphasis (i.e. 'it is the case that...'), as illustrated below.

- (19) ογαειν πε/COP 'he is a doctor'
- (20) нечтове мпхоетс <u>пе</u>/СОР (it <u>is</u> that) he prayed to God'

In the latter example, it is less obvious that πe is the copula, as its predicate is formally a clause and the form never changes its gender or number (i.e. as τε/νε; this is also referred to as 'invariable πe'). Though the English translation cannot convey the presence of the copula adequately, these types of cases are still tagged as COP (see Layton 2004:223).

3.7 Existentials (EXIST)

Existentials include the unique lexemes $o\gamma\bar{n}$ and $m\bar{n}$ in both pure existential and possessive forms, positive and negative, illustrated in the following examples.

- (21) ογ̄ν/EXIST ογὰ εψείνε μμοκ 'there is one who is like you'
- (22) <u>μπ</u>/EXIST επελλ εγχοςε επεγχοεις 'there is no servant who is above his master'

The same tag is also used for the indefinite durative present and the fixed phrase $oy\bar{n}$ som 'be able' literally 'there is power'.

(23) ογντα/EXIST N/PPERO μμαγ/ADV μπενειώτ αβραβαμ

'we have Abraham our father', lit. 'exists to us ... of Abraham...'

(24) μμν/EXIST 60μ μτε τε τε σολ εβολ 'scripture cannot be broken'

Note that the possessor pronoun is segmented apart from oynta and tagged as a pronoun, and the accompanying mmay is an adverb.

3.8 Foreign Material (FM)

Foreign material includes text that is lexically and syntactically from a foreign language. It is distinct from loan words. Loan words are lexical entries that originate in another language (e.g., Greek, Latin) but are used in Coptic with Coptic syntax. Foreign material consists of words, especially multiword expressions, with foreign syntax. The writer has momentarily switched languages rather than embedded a loan word into a Coptic construction

(25) оу пара тоуто/FM ноу євох ан гмпсшна тє it is therefore not part of the body'

3.9 Future Marker (FUT)

The future marker NA, derived from the verb 'go' is not considered an independent verb form when introducing a second verb and marking future tense. The following example illustrates the construction.

(26) † <u>ма</u>/FUT готвек 'I <u>will</u> kill you'

In rare cases, forms other than NA can be considered for the future marker, e.g. a in:

(27) NEP/CPRET PPERS a/FUT coop 'you would despise' (2nd pers. fem.)

Contractions of multiple n are usually restored in the normalization, so that a diplomatic sequence like tetnaphmeege 'you will think' are usually normalized and only then tagged as follows:

(28) τετη/PPERS ης/FUT p/V

3.10 Inflected modifiers (IMOD)

Inflected modifiers are a somewhat heterogeneous class of suffixally inflecting non-verboids, including the quantifier THP= 'all of', the focus particle oyaa(T)= 'only' and the reflexive munumo= 'oneself' (see Layton 2004: 118-123 and contrast the tag VBD). The suffix itself is tokenized apart and tagged as PPERO. These items are tokenized apart even within larger phrases, as in the second examples below.

- (29) ανοκ <u>εωω/IMOD τ/PPERO</u> 'I, <u>as for</u> me / me <u>too</u>'
- (30) ε π τηρ/IMOD q 'in all of it, at all, wholly'

If the suffix is a 2nd pers. sg. fem. realized as zero, a portmanteau tag is assigned:

(31) MMINMMO/IMOD PPERO 'yourself (2nd pers. sg. fem.)'

3.11 Nouns (N)

The tag N is used for all nouns, common and proper, though the fine-grained tagset offers the specific tag NPROP for proper nouns.

(32) πεν ειωτ/Ν 'our father'(33) αντωνιος/ΝΡRΟΡ 'Antonius'

Note that verbal infinitives in the durative patterns and elsewhere, though technically and etymologically nominal in nature, are nevertheless tagged as verbs in order to facilitate the retrieval of verbal lexemes across constructions.

(34) † micteye/V epnoyte "I trust in God"

3.12 Negations (NEG)

The tag NEG is used for independent negative items that are not part of an auxiliary base. The following lexemes are given the tag NEG: n, λn , $\tau \bar{n}$. The former two tags can occur in the same sentence, in which case one NEG tag is used for each. The latter tag negates infinitives and is tokenized separately from the verb and surrounding auxiliaries.

- (35) <u>N□</u>/NEG q□ наканрономы ммок <u>an</u>/NEG 'he will <u>not</u> inherit you'
- (36) $eygen t\bar{n}/NEG cot\bar{n}$ 'if they do <u>not</u> listen'

3.13 Numerals (NUM)

The tag NUM is given to numerals and numerical constituents of complex numerals, as well as suffixed numerals as in the last example below.

(37) †oy/NUM noeik 'five (loaves) of bread'

(38) xoyt/NUM aqte/NUM 'twenty-four'

(39) NICETI CNAY/NUM 'two times, twice'

Note that the indefinite article oy 'a, one' preceding a noun is tagged as ART, not NUM. Letters being used as numbers are considered NUM (including an alpha preceding a noun for the quantity 'one')

3.14 Demonstrative pronouns (PDEM)

The demonstrative pronouns, both attributive to the noun and substituting for a noun are tagged as PDEM.

(40)	н <u>те</u> ı/PDEM ге	'in <u>this</u> way'
(41)	<u>τ</u> 1 /PDEM τε τ εε	' <u>this</u> is the way'

3.15 Interrogative pronouns (PINT)

This tag is used for the interrogative pronouns oy 'what', NIM 'who', TON 'where', AO 'which', OYHP 'how much'. This is also true when they are used in complex phrases, as in the examples below.

(42)	єтвє/PREP <u>oy</u> /PINT	'what for, why?'
(43)	ε/PREP των/PINT	'where to?'

3.16 Personal pronouns (PPER[*])

Personal pronouns generally receive the tag PPER, with three subtypes in the fine-grained subset for subject pronouns (PPERS), object pronouns (PPERO) and independent pronouns (PPERI).

(44)	а <u>q</u> /PPERS сштй єро <u>к</u> /PPERO	' <u>he</u> heard <u>you</u> '
(45)	єтвнит <u>c</u> /PPERO	'for <u>her</u> '

Note that 'object' pronouns include objects of prepositions and all suffixed pronouns except the subject markers of verboids of the type [Nanoy]q, [nexa]q etc., which are tagged as PPERS.

The independent pronouns are reserved for emphatic uses and nominal sentences, including nominal sentence subject forms like $\Delta N\bar{\Gamma}$ 'I' and the full forms of the type ΔNOK 'I'.

Also note that possessive pronouns like πeq 'his' are not segmented and receive a separate tag, PPOS.

3.17 Possessive pronouns (PPOS)

Much like demonstratives, all possessive pronouns, both attributive and standing in for a noun are tagged as PPOS. The personal suffix at the end of the pronoun is not separated, rather the entire forms, including πeq 'his', πa 'my' and 'the one that belongs to', πeq 'your (fem.)', πeq 'mine' etc. The following example illustrates these different types of possessives:

(48) <u>Ta/PPOS πa/PPOS con Tω/PPOS τε</u> 'the one of my brother is mine'

3.18 Prepositions (PREP)

This tag is used for all prepositions in both independent, prenominal states and presuffixal forms (which are tokenized apart from following suffixes). Note that prepositions that are historically derived from univerbized phrases but are now unsegmentable are tagged as one preposition, but complex prepositions involving a separable adverb are given two tags, ADV and PREP (cf. the tag ADV). Additionally, the *nota relationis* and accusative marker n/mmo is regarded as a preposition. The following examples illustrate these principles.

- (49) <u>etbe/PREP oy</u> 'for what? why?'
- (50) ввох/ADV g\(\bar{n}\)/PREP 'from, out of' (lit. 'out in')
- (51) $\underline{\varepsilon x \bar{n}}/PREP$ 'upon, on account of' (from 'to head of')

Also note that 2nd pers. sg. fem. objects often lead to portmanteau tags, e.g.:

(52) <u>ммо/PREP_PPERO</u> 'you (2nd pers. sg. fem. accusative)'

If in doubt as to whether a lexicalized combination is considered a single preposition, please refer to the formatted CMCL lexicon supplied with the project's tokenization module. This lexicon will be updated with future versions of the guidelines to accommodate dubious cases as they arise.

3.19 Particles (PTC)

The class of particles contains all indeclinable words that do not belong to one of the other classes, most notably and frequently the apposition marker Not 'that is...' and a large number of, mostly Greek origin, sentence modifying particles that tend to appear in the second, Wackernagel position as they do in Greek as well (e.g. Ae, rap).

3.20 Punctuation (PUNCT)

All punctuation marks, including periods at any height in the line, commas (including punctuation added in editions when annotating edited texts) or even question marks, colons etc. if they are used, are all given the uniform tag PUNCT. If decorations are

tokenized (tildes, clusters of dots etc.), they may also be tagged as PUNCT, though refer to the tokenization guidelines for recommendations on normalizing text before tagging.

3.21 Unknown, damaged and lost items (UNKNOWN)

The tag UNKNOWN is given to fragmentary word forms damaged or missing beyond the ability to reach a reliable part-of-speech assignment. It is understood in the case of larger lacunae that the string used to encode the visible part of a word may in fact contain several words. In cases where it is clear where word divisions occur, multiple tokens with corresponding UNKNOWN tags are given.

- (53) e[...]/UNKNOWN '?'
- (54) ϵ [...]/UNKNOWN π [...]/UNKNOWN '?'

Generally UNKNOWN tags are given even if the range of possibility is limited, i.e. even if we are certain a damaged morpheme is either an article or a possessive pronoun, an uncertain case is usually tagged as UNKNOWN.

3.22 Verbs (V[*])

The coarse tag V is given to all lexical verb forms that are not conjugation bases, also not including verboids, which receive a separate tag even in the coarse tagset due to their distinct syntax (see the tag VBD). In the fine-grained tagset, normal verb forms (V) are distinguished from stative verb forms (VSTAT) and imperatives (VIMP) as shown in the examples below. Note that verbal infinitives in the durative present are still tagged as verbs, although they are historically nominalized in this position, whereas nominalized infinitives following an article are understood as nouns, as in the last example. Verbs are tagged as VIMP only when they appear in the specific imperative form.

- (55) $\alpha q \cot \overline{\mu}/V \text{ epo } \kappa$ 'he heard you'
- (56) † ове/VSTAT 'I am thirsty'
- (57) $\Delta x_1/VIMP c$ 'say it!'
- (58) εμπ <u>cooγn/N μπ noyte</u> 'in the <u>knowledge</u> of God, the knowing of God'

Also note that in rare cases, object pronouns that are realized as zero will lead to portmanteau tags, e.g.:

(59) τετη/PPERS ητ/V_PPERO 'you bring me'

Since NT = as the presuffixal form of EINE ends in T, the object pronoun -T 'me' is subsequently dropped. However the portmanteau tag reflects the presence of a grammatical object.

For compound verbs (see §180 in Layton), the entire compund is considered "a single unit in boundness, syntax, and meaning." Therefore, the entire compound is tagged V.

The components of the compound may be annotated further on a morph level annotation. (See Transcription guidelines for more information on bound groups, morphemes, and word segmentation.) Common examples include compound verbs formed with †-, p-, and x1-.

- (60) $\epsilon T/CREL рнове/V$
- (61) ε/CCIRC κ/PPERS †cbω/V

3.23 Verboids (VBD)

The category VBD is given to a small class of suffixally inflected predicates described in Layton (2004: 297-304), including the common πεχε-/πεχε 'say', νενογε 'be good' etc., but not including possessive existentials of the type ογντε- (see the tag EXIST). The personal suffix following a VBD is tagged as its subject, i.e. PPERS (or simply PPER in the coarse tagset).

- (62) πεχα/VBD q/PPERS 'he said'
- (63) NANOY/VBD c/PPERS 'she/it is good'

4. References

Layton, Bentley (2004), *A Coptic Grammar*. Second Edition, Revised and Expanded. (Porta linguarum orientalium 20.) Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.

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