

SCRIPTORIUM Part-of-Speech Tagsets for Sahidic Coptic

Amir Zeldes¹ & Caroline T. Schroeder²

1. Georgetown University

2. University of the Pacific

Version: 1.1.6_2015.12.07

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 coarse-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	α[ϕ], με[ϕ], τρε[ϕ], ...
ADV	Adverb	εβολ, ον, πως
ART	Article	π(ε), τ(ε), ν(ε), ζεν, κε
C[*]	Converter	ε, ετε, νε, ...
CONJ	Conjunction	αυω, η, μη, και, ειτε, ...
COP	Copula	πε/τε/νε
EXIST	Existential/possessive	ουν/μν
FM	Foreign material	παρα τουτο
FUT	Future	να
IMOD	Inflected modifier	τηρ[ϕ], ζωω[τ], ...
N[*]	Noun	αθητ, ρωμε, αρχη, ...
NEG	Negation	ν, αν, τμ[σωτμ]
NUM	Numeral	ογα, αναγ, ...
PDEM	Pronoun, demonstrative	πει/παι, τει/ται, νει/ναι
PINT	Pronoun, interrogative	ογ, νιμ
PPER[*]	Pronoun, personal	ϕ,ς,ι,τ,ν,ανοκ,αντ̄,...
PPOS	Pronoun, possessive	πεϕ,τετ̄ν̄,πογ,πα,πωι,...
PREP	Preposition	ετβε, ζ̄ν̄, ν, μ̄μο[ϕ], ...
PTC	Particle	δε, ν̄σι, δε, ...
PUNCT	Punctuation	, , ' ...
UNKNOWN	Unknown morph, lacuna	в _ _ _ , _ _ _ _ , ...
V[*]	Verb	σωτμ, σωτπ, σωτπ, ειρε, ο, αρι, ...
VBD	Verboid	νανογ[ϕ], πεχα[ϕ], πεχε,...

2.2 Fine-Grained Tagset

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

<i>AAOR</i>	<i>AJUS</i>	<i>ANY</i>
<i>ACAUS</i>	<i>ALIM</i>	<i>AOPT</i>
<i>ACOND</i>	<i>ANEGAOR</i>	<i>APREC</i>
<i>ACONJ</i>	<i>ANEGJUS</i>	<i>APST</i>
<i>ADV</i>	<i>ANEGOPT</i>	<i>ART</i>
<i>AFUTCONJ</i>	<i>ANEGPST</i>	<i>CCIRC</i>

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

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	ερε(σωτη)	Personal pron. within optative ε_ε. Note that ερε(σωτη) for 2nd pers. sg. fem. is also AOPT_PPERS, but nominal ερε(πρωμε σωτη) is only AOPT.
ACOND_PPERS	ερωαν(σωτη)	Personal pron. within conditional ε_ωαν. Note that ερωαν(σωτη) for 2nd pers. sg. fem. is also ACOND_PPERS, but nominal ερωαν(πρωμε σωτη) is only ACOND.
ACONJ_PPERS	τα(σωτη)	Truncated conjunctive 1st person (instead of ντασωτη)
ANEGPST_PPERS	μπε(σωτη)	Fused negative past 2nd pers. sg. fem. form.
APST_PPERS	αρ(σωτη)	Fused positive past 2nd pers. sg. fem. form.
CCIRC_PPERS	ερε(σωτη)	Fused circumstantial 2nd pers. sg. fem. form.
CFOC_PPERS	ερε(σωτη)	Fused focalized 2nd pers. sg. fem. form.
CPRET_PPERS	νερε(σωτη)	Fused preterit 2nd pers. sg. fem. form.
CREL_PPERS	ετρε(σωτη)	Fused relative 2nd pers. sg. fem. form.
IMOD_PPERO	μινιμο	The 2nd pers. sg. fem. form of ‘yourself’ (not to be confused with μινιμο(q) etc.)
PREP_PPERO	ερο	Any preposition where a 2nd pers. sg. fem. is realized as zero (not to be confused with ερο(q) etc.)
V_PPERO	(q)ντ	Verb forms with a fused 1st pers. sg. object, e.g. ντ ‘bring me’ from εινε ‘bring’, where the presuffixal form ντε is merged with the 1st pers. object marker -τ)

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_PPERS. Further combination tags are not ruled out and new ones will therefore be added if they are determined to be necessary.

2.4 Part of speech in conversion

In rare cases, a part of speech may appear in a syntactically unusual position. For example, an adverb or preposition may follow an article if they begin a phrase that is treated as a nominal phrase syntactically: the word ⲉⲃⲟⲗ is tagged as an ADV, although in the sequence ⲟⲩⲥⲃⲟⲗ ⲉⲙⲓⲛⲓⲙⲁ ‘one (which is) out of the body’, it appears to behave like a noun. We consider such cases of ‘conversion’ between categories to be a syntactic phenomenon, and we therefore continue to tag ⲉⲃⲟⲗ morphologically as an adverb.

An exception to this rule is the tagging of verbal infinitives following an article. In essence, almost any Coptic infinitive may be used as a noun, for example ⲛⲓⲧⲱⲉⲙ ‘the call’. Cases such as these are widespread and are tagged as nouns, not as verbs, when the infinitive is used in this way.

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) ⲁⲩⲓⲛⲓⲙⲁ (3rd person masculine past tense)
- (2) ⲁⲛⲉⲛⲓⲙⲁ (2nd person feminine past tense, with zero subject)
- (3) ⲙⲛⲓⲛⲓⲙⲁ (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_PPERS in the coarse grained tagset):

- (4) ⲉⲩⲉ/AOPT_PPERS ⲙⲛⲓⲙⲁ (optative and 3rd pers. masc. pronoun)
- (5) ⲉⲩⲉⲁⲛ/ACOND_PPERS ⲙⲛⲓⲙⲁ (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	ⲁ
ANEGPST	Auxiliary, negated past	ⲙⲛⲓⲛⲓⲙⲁ

ANY	Auxiliary, ‘not yet’	ἥπατ(ε)
AAOR	Auxiliary, aorist	ᾠα, ᾠαρ(ε)
ANEGAOR	Auxiliary, negated aorist	με(ρε)
AOPT	Auxiliary, optative	ε[ϰ]ε, ερε
ANEGOPT	Auxiliary, negated optative	ῆνε
AJUS	Auxiliary, jussive	μαρ(ε)
ANEGJUS	Auxiliary, negated jussive	ἥπῑτρε
APREC	Auxiliary, precursive (‘after’)	ῆτερ(ε)
ACOND	Auxiliary, conditional	ε[ϰ]ᾠαν, ερᾠαν
ALIM	Auxiliary, limitative (‘until’)	ᾠαντ(ε)
ACONJ	Auxiliary, conjunctive	ῆ(τε)
AFUTCONJ	Auxiliary, future conjunctive	ταρ(ε)
ACAUS	Auxiliary, causative	τρε

3.2 Adverbs (ADV)

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

- (6) τααῤζανε ἥμοϣ εματε/ADV ‘I shall glorify him greatly’
(7) πετ|ἥμαϣ/ADV ‘the one (who is) there’
(8) ἥπρμοϣ κακωσ/ADV ‘don’t die badly’

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

- (9) εβολ/ADV ῥῆ/PREP ‘from, out of’ (lit. ‘out in’)
(10) εροϣν/ADV ῥι/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 εβολ separated from the adverb (see segmentation guidelines).

3.3 Articles (ART)

Articles include definite articles, indefinite articles and article-like words such as κε/σε ‘other’. The following examples illustrate some variants:

- (11) ἡ/ART ρωμε/N ‘the man’
(12) τε/ART κληρονομια/N ‘the inheritance’
(13) οϣ/ART νομος/N ‘a law’
(14) ῥεν/ART ῥβηγε/N ‘(some) deeds’
(15) κε/ART πονηρος/N ‘another wicked one’

Note that possessive pronouns like $\pi\epsilon\varsigma$ are not tagged as articles (see PPOS) and relative articles like $\pi\iota\epsilon\tau$ are segmented to contain a relative converter (see C and CREL).

Articles followed by a noun beginning with ϱ and consequently spelled θ or ϕ e.g. $\theta\epsilon$ ‘the way’ are normalized and tokenized as τ and $\varrho\epsilon$ 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 , $\epsilon[\lambda]$, $\epsilon\rho\epsilon$
CFOC	Converter, focalizing (a.k.a. 2 nd tenses)	ϵ , $\epsilon\rho\epsilon$, $\epsilon\tau\epsilon$, $\bar{\nu}\tau[\lambda]$, $\epsilon\bar{\nu}\tau[\lambda]$
CPRET	Converter, preterite	$\bar{\nu}\epsilon$, $\bar{\nu}\epsilon\rho\epsilon$
CREL	Converter, relative	$\epsilon\tau\epsilon$, $\epsilon\tau$, $\bar{\nu}\tau[\lambda]$, $\epsilon\bar{\nu}\tau[\lambda]$, $\epsilon\tau\epsilon\rho\epsilon$

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

- (16) $\bar{\nu}\tau$ /CREL λ /APST $\varphi\lambda\varsigma\mu\omicron\gamma$ ‘which he blessed’

The converter includes only $\bar{\nu}\tau$, while λ 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) $\lambda\gamma\omega$ /CONJ $\lambda\iota\epsilon\iota\beta\epsilon\gamma$ ‘and I became thirsty’
 (18) $\epsilon\lambda\chi\omega$ $\bar{\mu}\mu\omicron\varsigma$ $\chi\epsilon$ /CONJ $\mu\eta\pi\omicron\tau\epsilon$ /CONJ $\tau\lambda\epsilon\iota\beta\epsilon$ ‘saying [that:] lest I become thirsty’

In the first example, the coordinating conjunction $\lambda\gamma\omega$ ‘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: $\chi\epsilon$ ‘that, saying’ introduces the direct speech and the Greek origin $\mu\eta\pi\omicron\tau\epsilon$ ‘lest’ is a conjunction within the direct speech clause. Also note that the word $\chi\epsilon$, 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) οὐσαειν πε/COP ‘he is a doctor’
(20) νεφτωβρ μπχοεις πε/COP ‘(it is that) he prayed to God’

In the latter example, it is less obvious that πε 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 πε’). 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 οὐν and μν in both pure existential and possessive forms, positive and negative, illustrated in the following examples.

- (21) οὐν/EXIST οὐα εφεινε μμοκ ‘there is one who is like you’
(22) μν/EXIST ρμρλαλ εφχοσε επεφχοεις ‘there is no servant who is above his master’

The same tag is also used for the indefinite durative present and the fixed phrase οὐν βομ ‘be able’ literally ‘there is power’.

- (23) οὐντα/EXIST ν/PPERO μμαγ/ADV μπενειωτ αβραζαμ
‘we have Abraham our father’, lit. ‘exists to us ... of Abraham...’
(24) μμν/EXIST βομ ντε|τε|γραφη βωλ εβολ ‘scripture cannot be broken’

Note that the possessor pronoun is segmented apart from οὐντα and tagged as a pronoun, and the accompanying μμαγ 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) οὐ παρὰ τοῦτο/FM νογ εβολ αν ρμπωμα τε ‘it is therefore not part of the body’

3.9 Future Marker (FUT)

The future marker $\kappa\alpha$, 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) $\dagger \kappa\alpha/\text{FUT } \rho\omicron\tau\beta\epsilon\kappa$ ‘I will kill you’

In rare cases, forms other than $\kappa\alpha$ can be considered for the future marker, e.g. λ in:

- (27) $\kappa\epsilon\rho/\text{CPRET_PPERS } \lambda/\text{FUT } \kappa\omega\omega$ ‘you would despise’ (2nd pers. fem.)

Contractions of multiple κ are usually restored in the normalization, so that a diplomatic sequence like $\tau\epsilon\tau\kappa\alpha\rho\iota\mu\epsilon\epsilon\gamma\epsilon$ ‘you will think’ are usually normalized and only then tagged as follows:

- (28) $\tau\epsilon\tau\kappa/\text{PPERS } \kappa\alpha/\text{FUT } \rho/\text{V}$

3.10 Inflected modifiers (IMOD)

Inflected modifiers are a somewhat heterogeneous class of suffixally inflecting non-verboids, including the quantifier $\tau\eta\rho$ ‘all of’, the focus particle $\omicron\gamma\alpha\alpha(\tau)$ ‘only’ and the reflexive $\mu\iota\mu\iota\mu\iota\mu\omicron$ ‘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) $\lambda\omicron\kappa \rho\omega\omega/\text{IMOD } \tau/\text{PPERO}$ ‘I, as for me / me too’
(30) $\epsilon \pi \tau\eta\rho/\text{IMOD } \varsigma$ ‘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) $\mu\iota\mu\iota\mu\iota\mu\omicron/\text{IMOD_PPERO}$ ‘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) $\pi\epsilon\tau\epsilon\iota\omega\tau/\text{N}$ ‘our father’
(33) $\lambda\alpha\tau\omega\nu\iota\omicron\varsigma/\text{NPROP}$ ‘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) $\dagger \mu\iota\varsigma\tau\epsilon\gamma\epsilon/\text{V } \epsilon\pi\iota\theta\epsilon$ ‘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: ν, αν, τῃ and μη (negative imperative marker). The first two can occur in the same sentence, in which case one NEG tag is used for each. The third negates infinitives and is tokenized separately from the verb and surrounding auxiliaries. The fourth is also a separate token and is not considered a verb form or part of the verb ειπε (this also applies to its lemmatization as an independent item, see lemmatization guidelines)

- | | | |
|------|--|----------------------------------|
| (35) | <u>ν</u> /NEG <u>ῥ</u> ηακκληρονομεῖ <u>ῃ</u> μοκ <u>αν</u> /NEG | ‘he will <u>not</u> inherit you’ |
| (36) | <u>ε</u> γῶ <u>αν</u> <u>τῃ</u> /NEG <u>σ</u> ω <u>τῃ</u> | ‘if they do <u>not</u> listen’ |
| (37) | <u>μη</u> /NEG <u>μ</u> ογ <u>κ</u> α <u>κ</u> ω <u>ς</u> | ‘ <u>don</u> ’t die badly!’ |

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.

- | | | |
|------|--|----------------------------|
| (38) | <u>π</u> ο <u>υ</u> /NUM <u>π</u> ο <u>ε</u> ικ | ‘five (loaves) of bread’ |
| (39) | <u>χ</u> ο <u>υ</u> τ/NUM <u>α</u> ρ <u>τ</u> ε/NUM | ‘twenty-four’ |
| (40) | <u>ν</u> <u>ς</u> ε <u>π</u> <u>ς</u> η <u>α</u> υ/NUM | ‘ <u>two</u> times, twice’ |

Note that the indefinite article ογ ‘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.

- | | | |
|------|--|---------------------------|
| (41) | <u>ν</u> <u>τ</u> ε <u>ι</u> /PDEM <u>ζ</u> ε | ‘in <u>this</u> way’ |
| (42) | <u>τ</u> α <u>ι</u> /PDEM <u>τ</u> ε <u>τ</u> <u>ζ</u> ε | ‘ <u>this</u> is the way’ |

3.15 Interrogative pronouns (PINT)

This tag is used for the interrogative pronouns ογ ‘what’, νηι ‘who’, των ‘where’, αφ ‘which’, ογηρ ‘how much’. This is also true when they are used in complex phrases, as in the examples below.

- | | | |
|------|--|--------------------------|
| (43) | <u>ε</u> τ <u>ς</u> ε/PREP <u>ο</u> γ/PINT | ‘ <u>what</u> for, why?’ |
| (44) | <u>ε</u> /PREP <u>τ</u> ω <u>ν</u> /PINT | ‘ <u>where</u> 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).

- (45) Ɑ ɥ/PPERS cəwt̪m̪ ɛrɔ ɕ/PPERO ‘he heard you’,
(46) ɛt̪v̪n̪nt̪ ɕ/PPERO ‘for her’,

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

- (47) πεχλ q/PPERS 'he said'

The independent pronouns are reserved for emphatic uses and nominal sentences, including nominal sentence subject forms like $\lambda\eta\bar{\iota}$ 'I' and the full forms of the type $\lambda\eta\sigma\kappa$ 'I'.

- (48) $\underline{\text{ANOK}}/\text{PPERI}$ $\zeta\omega\omega$ $\underline{\text{T}}/\text{PERO}$ $\underline{\text{AN}}/\text{PPERI}$ $\pi\epsilon\zeta$ $\zeta\bar{\text{M}}\zeta\lambda\lambda$
 ‘I, as for me, I am his servant’

Also note that possessive pronouns like *neq* ‘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 $\pi\epsilon\alpha$ ‘his’, $\pi\alpha$ ‘my’ and ‘the one that belongs to’, $\pi\omicron\gamma$ ‘your (fem.)’, $\pi\omega\iota$ ‘mine’ etc. The following example illustrates these different types of possessives:

- (49) $\tau\alpha$ /PPOS $\pi\alpha$ /PPOS CON $\tau\omega\iota$ /PPOS $\tau\epsilon$ ‘the one of my brother is mine’

3.18 Prepositions (PREP)

This tag is used for all prepositions in both independent, pronominal states and presuffixal forms (which are tokenized apart from following suffixes). Note that prepositions that are historically derived from unverbized 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.

- (50) εΤΒΕ/PREP ογ ‘for what? why?’

- (51) εβολ/ADV χῆ/PREP ‘from, out of’ (lit. ‘out in’)
 (52) εχῆ/PREP ‘upon, on account of’ (from ‘to head of’)

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

- (53) μμο/PREP_PPERO ‘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 ἵνα ‘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. ἀε, ῥα).

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.

- (54) ε[...]/UNKNOWN ‘?’
 (55) 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.

- (56) α υ αωτῃ/V ερο κ ‘he heard you’
 (57) † οβε/VSTAT ‘I am thirsty’
 (58) αχι/VIMP c ‘say it!’
 (59) ρῃ π κοογν/N ῃ π νογτε ‘in the knowledge 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.:

- (60) τετν/PPERS ντ/V_PPERO ‘you bring me’

Since ντ as the presuffixal form of εινε ends in τ, the object pronoun -τ ‘me’ is subsequently dropped. However the portmanteau tag reflects the presence of a grammatical object.

For compound verbs (see §180 in Layton), the entire compound 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 χι-.

- (61) ετ/CREL ρνοβε/V
 (62) 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-/πεχαε ‘say’, νανογε ‘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).

- (63) πεχα/VBD υ/PPERS ‘he said’
 (64) νανογ/VBD c/PPERS ‘she/it is good’

For the form μεωαε note that two analyses exist. When it is declinable and literally means ‘X does not know’ (also prenominal μεωε-), then it is VBD. When it is the lexicalized adverb form μεωακ meaning ‘maybe’ (etymologically from ‘you never

know’), it is a single unit, tagged ADV. Note that the latter form does not agree with the addressee if they are not masculine singular. Contrast the following examples from Layton (2004:303):

- (65) μεωδ/VBD ϣ/PPERS μπναγ ετϣνακω νωϣ μπκοσμοσ
‘he does not know when he will leave the world’
- (66) μεωδκ/ADV †νασω ζατετηγτη ‘maybe I’ll stay with you’

In the latter example, the addressee is plural (τηγτη), but the form remains μεωδκ, indicating that it is an unanalyzed adverb.

4. References

- Layton, Bentley (2004), *A Coptic Grammar*. Second Edition, Revised and Expanded. (Porta linguarum orientalium 20.) Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.
- Schmid, Helmut (1994), Probabilistic part-of-speech tagging using decision trees. *Proceedings of the Conference on New Methods in Language Processing*. Manchester, UK, 44–49.
- Shisha-Halevy, Ariel. 1988. *Coptic Grammatical Chrestomathy. A Course for Academic and Private Study*. (Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta 30.) Leuven: Peeters.