

Lesson 4

4.1 Relative Clause: Coptic uses three forms of the relative pronoun. They are used with nouns of either gender or number as well as verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. The forms are as follows:

ⲉⲓ ⲉⲧⲓ ⲉⲧⲉⲓ

The most common form is ⲉⲧⲓ. They all are translated in English as, 'who', 'whom', or 'which'. They are usually used with sentences containing adverbial predicates, examples:

ⲡⲓ.ⲣⲱⲙⲓ	ⲉⲧ.ⲉⲛ	ⲡ.ⲙⲓ	The man who is in the house
ⲡⲉⲛ.ⲓⲱⲧ	ⲉⲧ.ⲉⲛ	ⲛⲓ.ⲫⲟⲩⲱⲓ	Our father who is in the heavens

4.1.1 The relative pronoun ⲉⲧⲓ functions as the subject of the relative clause:

Affirmative

ⲧ.ⲥⲉⲓⲙⲓ	ⲉⲧ.ⲉⲛ	ⲫ.ⲙⲱⲓⲧ	The woman who is on the road
ⲛⲓ.ⲉⲗⲗⲟⲓ	ⲉⲧ.ⲉⲛ	ⲧ.ⲉⲕⲕⲗⲏⲥⲓⲁ	the monks who are in the church

Negative

ⲛⲓ.ⲉⲗⲗⲟⲓ	ⲉⲧ.ⲉⲛ	ⲧ.ⲉⲕⲕⲗⲏⲥⲓⲁ	ⲁⲛ	the monks who are not in the church
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4.1.2 The relative clause cannot be used to modify an indefinite noun.

4.2 Relative Nouns: Nouns can be formed out of adjectives by prefixing the definite article to the relative pronoun and attaching the new prefix to an adjective, as follows:

Singular Masculine

ⲡⲉⲧⲓ ⲡⲉⲧⲉⲓ

Plural

ⲛⲉⲧⲓ ⲛⲉⲧⲉⲓ

Examples:

ⲡⲉⲑ.ⲟⲩⲁⲃ	The holy one, the one who is holy
ⲡⲉⲧ.ⲉⲩⲱⲩ	The evil one, the one who is evil

4.3 Demonstrative Adjectives - Far Objects: The demonstrative for the far objects trails the noun it modifies. It is formed from a combination of the relative pronoun 'ⲉⲧⲉⲓ' and the adverb 'ⲙⲙⲁⲩ'. In English it is translated as 'that' for singular and 'those' for plural. However Coptic has one form for either gender or number, as follows:

ⲡⲓⲣⲱⲙⲓ ⲉⲧⲉⲙⲙⲁⲩ	that man
ⲧⲓⲥⲓⲙⲓ ⲉⲧⲉⲙⲙⲁⲩ	that woman
ⲛⲓⲥⲛⲏⲟⲩ ⲉⲧⲉⲙⲙⲁⲩ	those brothers

4.4 Greek Nouns: A typical Coptic text contains a large number of Greek loan-words, mostly nouns. Greek masculine and feminine nouns retained their gender when they were used in Coptic. Neuter nouns were treated as masculine nouns. All Greek nouns came into Coptic in the nominative singular case and such form is kept the same in all other cases in Coptic, examples:

ⲡⲓⲁⲩⲩⲉⲗⲟⲥ	m.	The angel
ⲧⲓⲉⲡⲓⲥⲧⲟⲗⲏ	f.	The letter
ⲡⲓⲡⲛⲉⲩⲙⲁ	n..	The spirit

4.5 Vocabulary 4:

ⲙⲙⲁⲩ	adv.	there	ⲱⲉⲣⲓ	f.	daughter, girl
ⲛⲁⲓⲣⲉⲛ	prep	in the presence of	ⲱⲛⲣⲓ	m.	son, child, boy
ⲛⲟⲩⲧ	m.	god	ⲓⲣⲉⲛ	prep.	at the entrance of
ⲫⲛⲟⲩⲧ	m.	God	ⲓⲱⲟⲩ	adj.	evil
ⲣⲟ	m.	door, gate, mouth	ⲃⲟⲓⲥ	m.	master, owner
ⲣⲱⲟⲩ	pl.	doors, gates	ⲡⲃⲟⲓⲥ	m.	the Lord
ⲭⲁⲕⲓ	m.	darkness	ⲃⲓⲥⲉⲩ	pl.	masters, owners
ⲭⲣⲟ	m.	shore, bank	ⲧⲱⲓ	m.	village

Greek Nouns

ⲁⲩⲩⲉⲗⲟⲥ	m.	angel, messenger	ⲙⲁⲑⲏⲧⲏⲥ	m.	disciple, pupil
ⲉⲕⲕⲗⲏⲥⲓⲁ	f.	church	ⲡⲟⲗⲓⲥ	f.	city
ⲉⲡⲓⲥⲧⲟⲗⲏ	f.	letter, epistle	ⲧⲁⲫⲟⲥ	m.	tomb
ⲑⲁⲗⲁⲥⲥⲁ	f.	sea			

4.6 Exercises 4: Translate the following into English:

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| <p>A 1. ϣⲓⲣⲉⲛ ⲥⲉⲕⲕⲗⲏⲥⲓⲁ</p> <p>2. ⲉⲛ ⲡⲓⲣⲁⲛ ⲙⲓⲡⲓⲃⲟⲓⲥ</p> <p>3. ⲛⲁⲉⲣⲉⲛ ⲡⲓⲟⲩⲣⲟ</p> <p>4. ⲡⲓⲭⲣⲟ ⲙⲓⲡⲓⲁⲣⲟ</p> | <p>5. ⲟⲩⲉⲕⲕⲗⲏⲥⲓⲁ ⲛⲧⲉ ⲡⲓⲥⲙⲓ</p> <p>6. ⲛⲓⲭⲱⲙ ⲙⲓⲡⲓⲙⲁⲑⲏⲧⲏⲥ</p> <p>7. ⲡⲓⲃⲟⲓⲥ ⲙⲓⲡⲓⲭⲟⲓ</p> <p>8. ⲉⲛ ⲟⲩⲭⲁⲕⲓ</p> |
| <p>B 1. ⲡⲓⲱⲛⲓ ⲉⲧⲉⲛ ⲥⲉⲙⲣⲱ</p> <p>2. ⲛⲓⲁⲩⲉⲗⲟⲥ ⲉⲧⲉⲛ ⲧⲓⲡⲉ</p> <p>3. ⲡⲓⲭⲁⲕⲓ ⲉⲧⲉⲛ ⲥⲓⲡⲟⲗⲓⲥ</p> | <p>4. ⲛⲓⲣⲱⲙ ⲛⲧⲉ ⲥⲓⲡⲟⲗⲓⲥ ⲉⲧⲉⲙⲙⲁⲩ</p> <p>5. ⲛⲓⲉⲕⲕⲗⲏⲥⲓⲁ ⲛⲧⲉ ⲥⲓⲡⲟⲗⲓⲥ</p> <p>6. ⲛⲓⲱⲛⲓ ⲙⲓⲡⲓⲃⲱⲕ ⲉⲧⲉⲙⲙⲁⲩ</p> |