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Identification and Annotation of Body Part Multiword Expressions in Old Egyptian

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1. Definition of Body Part Multiword Expression

A body part MWE may be defined as a sequence of at least two lexicalized components, one of which is a body part name, whose semantic idiosyncrasy results from the association of a body part with a figurative meaning and another component(s), for example:

1. English:
LM: "Listen to your heart."
FT: "Act according to your feelings."

2. Latin (Plaut., *Asin.* 729):
nec caput nec pes
neither-neg head nor-neg foot
LM: "Neither head nor foot."
FT: "Completely wrong."

2. Methodology

The selection and identification of Old Egyptian body part MWEs was carried out through a series of verification tests:

Test 1. Does the body part noun have a literal meaning?

- Yes ⇒ It is not an MWE, for example:

3. Pyramid Texts § 49 Nt:

<i>nčr</i> seize:IMP	<i>n</i> for:PREP	<i>šk</i> =2SG.M	<i>r'</i> arm-M.SG	<i>f</i> =3SG.M

LM: "Seize for yourself his arm."

FM: "Seize his arm!"

- No ⇒ Test 2:

Test 2. Does the body part noun have a metonymic meaning?

- Yes ⇒ It is a potential MWE ⇒ Test 3, for example:

4. Pyramid Texts § 1675b:

<i>ššm</i> guide:SBJV	<i>čw</i> =2SG.M	<i>ib</i> heart-M.SG	<i>šk</i> =2SG.M

LM: "Your heart shall guide you."

FT: "Your will shall guide you"

- No ⇒ It is not an MWE, see test 1:

Test 3. Is the body part noun used with an idiosyncratic meaning in close syntactic relationship with a head word?

- Yes ⇒ It is an MWE, for example:

5. Pyramid Texts § 116a:

<i>inč</i> ask:SBJV	<i>(z)i</i> =1SG	<i>hr</i> face-M.SG	<i>šk</i> =2SG.M

LM: "May (I) ask your face."

FT: "Hail to you!"

- No ⇒ It is a fuzzy MWE consisting of a body part noun with a metonymic meaning (see test 2).

Test 4. Is the body part noun used in a lexicalized expression with an idiosyncratic meaning?

- Yes ⇒ It is an MWE. This is the usual case for complex prepositions (CPs), for example:

6. Pyramid Texts § 54b:

<i>β</i> lift up:IMP	<i>ḥft</i> in front:PREP	<i>hr</i> face-M.SG	<i>šk</i> =3SG.M

LM: "Lift up in front of his face."

FT: "Lift up before him."

Note: Body part MWEs are clearly identified when their figurative meaning results from the close association of the body part noun with its head word, for example:

7. Pyramid Texts § 22b:

<i>kb</i> be cool:SBJV	<i>ib</i> heart-M.SG	<i>šk</i> =2SG.M

LM: "Your heart may be cool."

FT: "You may be calm (i.e. satisfied)."

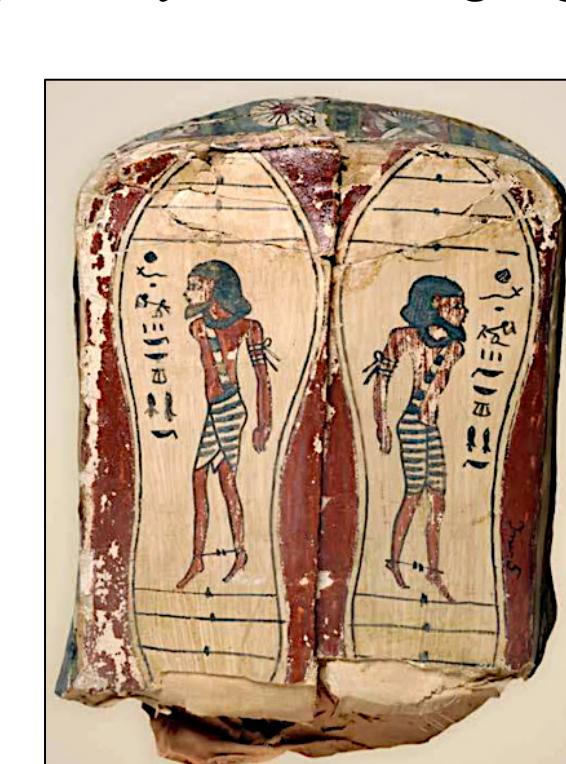
In Egyptian the **figurative meaning** of a body part MWE is often related to the idiosyncrasy of this language, as the following example shows:

8. Pyramid Texts § 417b:

<i>im.(i)</i> one who is on-MSG	<i>rt</i> foot-M.SG

LM: "One who is on foot"

FT: "Enemy"



3. List of body part nouns used in Old Egyptian MWEs

	<i>iwf</i>	flesh
	<i>ib</i>	heart
	<i>ir.t</i>	eye
	<i>'</i>	arm
	<i>n.t</i>	nail
	<i>r'</i>	mouth
	<i>rmn</i>	shoulder
	<i>rt</i>	foot
	<i>hr</i>	face
	<i>h³.t</i>	forehead
	<i>h³.ti</i>	heart
	<i>hpš</i>	strong arms (biceps)
	<i>h.t</i>	belly
	<i>š'</i>	back
	<i>šni</i>	hair
	<i>tp</i>	head
	<i>č.t</i>	body
	<i>čb'</i>	finger
	<i>čr.t</i>	hand

4. Typology

Old Egyptian body part MWEs can be classified according to a universal typology as nominal, prepositional and verbal.

4.1 Nominal Multiword Expressions

The head word accompanying the body part noun can be a noun, an infinitive, an adjective or a participle:

<i>čy(.w)</i> man-M.SG	<i>šrf</i> warm-M.SG	<i>ib</i> heart-M.SG

LM: "A warm man of heart."

FM: "A hard-working man!"

4.2 Prepositional Multiword Expressions

Body part nouns are used as modifiers in prepositional multiword expressions. Two types of PMWEs can be found in Old Egyptian: prepositional idioms (PIs) and complex prepositions (CPs):

<i>hr</i> under:PREP	<i>'</i> arm-M.SG	<i>š'</i> son-M.SG	<i>(z)i</i> (=1SG)

LM: "... under the arm of (my) eldest son."

FT: "... under the care of (my) eldest son."

4.3 Verbal Multiword Expression

Body part nouns are also modifiers in VMWEs. Old Egyptian body part VMWEs are usually verbal idioms (IDs) consisting of a verb as a head and a body part noun with a figurative meaning:

<i>mh.n</i> fill:PST	<i>f</i> =3SG.M	<i>r'</i> mouth-M.SG	<i>n(i)</i> of-M.SG

LM: "... he filled the mouth of Unas."

FT: "... he fed Unas."

5. Conclusion

Research on MWEs in Egyptian will be continued following these phases:

- Publication of the selected examples in PARSEME after having annotated them manually in the Universal Dependencies treebank "Egyptian-Ujaen".
- Identification and classification of new Old Egyptian MWEs following the rules discussed in this paper.
- Once the synchronic study of MWEs in Old Egyptian is completed, their analysis in later stages of Egyptian will follow in order to identify changes during their historical development.

