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The Determinatives in the Pyramid Texts Writing System

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Summary

The Thesis is devided into 4 chapters, the topic of the Thesis is :

"Determinatives in the Pyramid Texts Writing System"

Introduction

The essence of Egyptology is the combination of a wide range of different kinds of evidence. Textual sources, written in an ancient language using hieroglyphs and their derivatives, not only sketch out Egyptian history but also provide a profound insight into the ancient mind and into the socio-economic affairs that are central to all complex societies.

The Pyramid Texts

The pyramid texts are the oldest collection of religious spells known to us from ancient Egypt. This collection forms the basis of much of the later religious theology and literature of ancient Egypt. The passages were eventually separated and categorized, as will as illustrated and eventually evolved into the Book of the Dead.

The determinatives

Determinatives, are signs needed in a specific word in specific text to gave the word its general meaning, they are very important; with the absence of the vowels in the Egyptian writing they could have a role to secure the pronunciation of the words in which they appear, because they were originally prototypes signs had a specific pronunciations which were well-known to the people before writing, and then used after the invention of writing to help people for pronunciation the words. In such cases it might be more truly said that the phonogram determined the sound of the ideogram, than that the ideogram determines the sense of the phonograms.

I discussed the problems concerning the definition of ideograms, phonograms and logogram, etc. It is not in first place about terminology, it is about the hieroglyphic writing system. Once the elements or units of the system have been identified and the relations between these units have described the naming of the unit is of secondary importance. What is important is how the units are defined according to their function in the system.

Then I mentioned the importance of the determinative as a classifier of word in ancient Egypt

Chapter 2

In chapter 2, I collected all the determinatives from the nine pyramids typologically and classified them in tables according to the distribution of Gardiner. In addition to some other determinatives that were mentioned in the pyramid texts in detail and were found in different shapes (e.g. fire determinatives; meat determinatives; sceptre determinatives) which were written very accurately and in different shapes to show the normalisation in the writing system of the Pyramid Text.

Chapter 3

In chapter 3, the main body of my dissertation, I began with a full study of the above table analysis; the epigraphic evidences were made to each topic.

Chapter 4

In chapter 4, I focused on the normalisation and the dissimilation of the determinatives with full study of their contributions and role in defining the word they determined.

Conclusion

I presented all my results and discussions and tried to come out with the conclusion about the determinative in the writing system of the Pyramid Texts.

Key Words:

Determinatives.

Pyramid Texts.

Human determinatives.

Boats Determinatives.

Animal determinatives.

Birds determinatives

Trees and plants determinatives

Warfare determinatives.

Ropes determinatives.

Writing and games determinatives.

Loaves and Cakes determinatives.

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

"قَالُواْ سُبْحَانَكَ لاَ عِلْمَ لَنَآ إِلاَّ مَا
عَلَّمْتَنَآ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَلِيمُ الْحَكِيمُ]"

صدق الله العظيم

[سورة: البقرة – الآية: 32]

اهداء

Dedication

الي روح ابي العزيز وامي الحبيبة

اهدي لهما ثمرة مجهودي

الي زوجي

To the Soul of my Mother and Father

I dedicate my work

To my husband

With the utmost love and affection.

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