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## THE CIRCUMSTANTIAL PRESENT AS AN ANTECEDENT-LESS (i.e. SUBSTANTIVAL) RELATIVE IN COPTIC

By ARIEL SHISHA-HALEVY

1. COPTIC disposes of two procedures to express the substantival relative clause ('he who . . .', 'that which . . .' etc.), namely, either by substituting a *substantivator* morpheme (of the π-/τ-/η- paradigm)<sup>1</sup> for the antecedent, yet in close juncture with the relative-converted<sup>2</sup> form: πετ-, πενταϥ-, πεϣαϥ-, etc.; or by having an indefinite pronoun or pronominal (ογα, ρωαε, ροεινε: 'one', 'any', 'some') as antecedent to a circumstantially converted form, as the relative : circumstantial opposition is neutralized, in favour of the latter, when adnominal to a non-π-determined substantival kernel.<sup>3</sup>

A third, rarer and obviously idiomatic procedure is that using the *bare circumstantial present form* as an antecedent-less relative, mostly equivalent to an ογ-determined, π-substantivated relative form (ογπετογααβ, ογπετπασογϥ, etc.); or, alternatively, a ογα-antecedent before the adnominal circumstantial. The Sahidic and Bohairic examples offered below (all of them either definitely or very probably translated from the Greek) represent most of the possible syntactical functions of a substantival relative.

(a) as *direct object*, though *without governing the pronominal morphophonemic alternant* (status constructus) of the infinitive:<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Not the definite article (although homonymic and certainly related to it), but belonging to a different category (paradigm): the substantivated relative may be, in many cases, further determined by π-, ογ-/ρεπ- or ο-(zero), and the relative form (ετ-) itself is not otherwise commutable with a noun. πετ- on its own is in some respects treated as a zero-determined substantive: consider the following (among many other examples): Job 11: 8 (πετ- as antecedent of the adnominal circumstantial, see n. 3); Shenoute, ed. Chassinat, 117. 32, ed. Leipoldt, III, 126. 13 etc. (ογπ-/απ-πετ-); Shenoute, ed. Leipoldt, IV, 71. 20 (πετ- πτε-); Shenoute, ed. Amélineau, I, 133. 10 (πετ- πια); Shenoute, ed. Chassinat, 63. 9, ed. Leipoldt, IV, 128. 27 (πετ- as direct and immediate object of a Bipartite Pattern predicate, in defiance of the Stern-Jernstedt rule); Mich. 3. 11 (Akhm.: 'απ-πεθαγ παει αχων'), see Polotsky, 'The Coptic Conjugation System' (in *Orientalia* 29 [1960], §§ 19, 35).

<sup>2</sup> Polotsky's conversion terminology, op. cit. §§ 10-18.

<sup>3</sup> The so-called 'pseudo' ('unecht' or 'uneigentlich') relative clause (Till, *Kopt. Gr.*<sup>2</sup> § 475: an unfortunate appellation, signifying, from the structural-descriptive point of view, precisely nothing), already commented upon by Prātorius (his review of Stern's *Gr.*, *ZDMG* 35 [181], 758). The present writer has tried, in an unpublished doctoral thesis (1972) to formulate structurally the distributional details, as well as the functioning, of the circumstantial and relative conversion-forms in the Sahidic corpus of Shenoute's works, arriving at the conclusion that there actually exists a *circumstantial* : *relative* opposition (*predicative* vs. *attributive* junction), which is neutralizable in certain environments.

<sup>4</sup> Unlike the Second Future when object of εινε in a negative predication (see Spiegelberg, *ZÄS* 58. 157). See in Shenoute, ed. Leipoldt, III, 13. 9, ed. Chassinat, 33. 14, 36.9, 73. 20. In Subakhmîmic, see *Manichaean Psalmbook* 151. 27, 156. 9 (απογπ-εγ πε ροτε), 203. 25, 207. 23. This idiom is attested also in Late Coptic: Budge, *Miscellaneous Texts* 168. 19, Drescher, *Coptic Legends*, 55. 19.

(1) Gen. 31: 8 (Sah., ed. Ciasca) . . . ⲡⲧⲉⲛⲉⲥⲟⲟϥ ⲧⲏⲣⲟϥ ϣⲡⲟ ⲉϥⲟ ⲡⲧⲟⲧⲟ ‘. . . and all the sheep bear flecked (ones).’ Boh.: ⲩⲁⲣⲉ ⲡⲉⲥⲟⲟϥ ⲧⲏⲣⲟϥ ⲙⲉⲥⲁⲟϥⲓⲁⲟϥⲁⲛ: τέξεται πάντα τὰ πρόβατα ποικίλα.

(2) Ex. 12: 9 (Sah., ed. Kasser) ⲡⲏⲧⲉⲡⲟϥⲱⲙⲉ ⲉⲃⲟⲗ ⲡⲣⲏⲧⲟϥ ⲉϥⲟϥⲱⲧ ⲟϥⲧⲉ ⲉϥⲡⲟⲥⲉ ϣⲡⲟϥⲙⲟⲟϥ ἄλλα ⲉϥϣⲏⲥ ϣⲡⲟϥⲥⲁⲧⲉ ‘You shall not eat of them what is raw, nor cooked in water, but roasted in fire’ (Ciasca . . . ἄλλα ⲉϥϣⲏⲥ *sic*(?) ϣⲡⲥⲁⲧⲉ); Boh.: ⲡⲏⲧⲉⲛⲟϥⲱⲙⲉ ⲉⲃⲟⲗ ⲡⲥⲏⲧⲟϥ ⲉϥⲟϥⲱⲧ ⲟϥⲁⲉ ⲉϥϥⲟⲥⲓ ϣⲉⲡⲟϥⲙⲉⲟϥ ἄλλα ⲉϥϣⲉϥϣⲱϥ ϣⲉⲡⲟϥϣⲣⲱⲙⲉ: οὐκ ἔδεσθε ἅπ’ αὐτῶν ὧμὸν οὐδὲ ἡψημένον ἐν ὕδατι ἄλλα ἡ ὀπτὰ πυρί.

(3) Deut. 18: 10, 11 (Boh., ed. Lagarde) ⲡⲏⲟϥϣⲓⲙⲓ ⲡⲥⲏⲧⲏ ⲉϥⲟⲣⲟ ἁⲡⲉϥϣⲏⲣⲓ ⲓⲉ ⲧⲉϥϣⲉⲣⲓ ⲉⲥⲏⲓ ϣⲉⲡⲟϥϣⲣⲱⲙⲉ, ⲓⲉ ⲉϥϣⲏⲓ ϣⲉⲡⲏⲩϣⲉⲛⲟⲣⲓ . . . ⲟϥⲁⲉ ⲉϥⲙⲟϥⲥ ⲉⲃⲟⲗ ϣⲉⲡⲟⲛⲉϣⲓ ⲟϥⲁⲉ ⲉϥϣⲟϥϣⲧ ⲉⲣⲁⲡⲉⲛⲏⲓ ⲟϥⲁⲉ ⲉϥϣⲏⲓ ⲡⲏⲣⲉϥⲙⲉⲟϥⲧ ‘Let not be found among you (one) who makes his son or his daughter pass through fire, or (one) who inquires of the diviners . . . nor (one) who ventriloquizes, nor (one) who looks for omens, nor (one) who is a necromancer’. Greek: all participles (in the nominative).

(4) Judith 12: 3 ⲉⲡⲡⲁⲉⲓⲛⲉ ⲧⲱⲛ ⲉϥⲉⲓⲛⲉ ⲡⲙⲟⲟϥ ⲉⲥⲧⲉ ⲡⲉ ‘Whence shall we bring (one) resembling them to give thee?’ πόθεν ἐξοίσομέν σοι δοῦναι ὅμοια αὐτοῖς;

(5) Epiphanius (ed. Crum, *Monastery of Epiph.* II. 313.4 f.) ⲡⲉⲡⲓⲥⲓⲛⲉ ⲉⲡⲁⲛⲟϥϥ ⲉϥⲣⲁⲡⲁⲛ ‘I have not found (one) which is good which (will) please you’. Crum completes ‘(corn)’. A post-classic, non-literary, untranslated (i.e. native Coptic) instance.

(b) as postposed actor (or grammatical subject), *unintroduced* by ⲡⲥⲓ-:

(6) Josh. 9: 29 (ed. Kasser) ⲡⲡⲉϥⲱⲥⲏ ⲉⲃⲟⲗ ⲡⲣⲏⲧⲧⲏϥⲧⲏ ⲉϥⲟ ⲡⲣⲉⲣⲁⲗ ⲁϥⲱ ⲉϥⲟ ⲡⲣⲉϥⲡⲉⲣ-ϣⲉ: οὐ μὴ ἐκλίπη ἐξ ὧμῶν δούλος οὐδὲ ξυλοκόπος ‘There shall not cease amongst you (one) who is a slave and (one) who is a wood-cutter’.

(7) 2 Kings 3: 29 (ed. Drescher) ⲡϥⲧⲡⲱⲥⲏ ⲉⲃⲟⲗ ϣⲡⲉⲡⲏⲓ ⲡⲓⲱⲁⲃ ⲉϥϣⲁⲣⲁⲩⲉ (v.l. ⲡⲥⲓ-ⲟϥⲣⲱⲙⲉ ⲡⲧⲟⲡⲟⲣⲉϥϥ) ⲁϥⲱ ⲉϥϥⲟⲃⲉ ⲉϥⲁⲙⲁⲣⲧⲉ ⲡⲟϥⲟϥⲣⲁϥ ⲁϥⲱ ⲉϥϣⲏϥ ϣⲡⲧⲥⲏϥⲉ ⲁϥⲱ ⲉϥϣⲁⲣⲁⲩⲉ ⲡⲟⲉⲓⲛ: . . . καὶ μὴ ἐκλίποι ἐκ τοῦ οἴκου Ἰωᾶβ γονορρυῆς καὶ λεπρὸς καὶ κρατῶν σκυτάλης καὶ πίπτων ἐν ῥομφαίᾳ καὶ ἐλασσούμενος ἄρτοις ‘. . . and there shall not cease in the house of Joab (one) who is impure and (one) who is leprous, (one) who grasps a crutch and (one) who falls by the sword and (one) who is in want of bread’. There seems no justification for Drescher’s *sic*-ing of ⲉϥϣⲁⲣⲁⲩⲉ, see *Corpus Script. Christ. Orient.* 314/Copt. 36, p. 86 n. 1; the circumstantial after ⲱⲥⲏ does, however, seem suspiciously like a predicative complementation of this verb.

(8) (?) John 1: 27 (Thompson’s collation, Chester Beatty MSS. A, B) ϣⲁⲣⲉ ⲁⲉ ⲉⲣⲁⲧϥ . . . ⲡⲁⲓ ⲉⲡⲧⲉⲧⲡⲥⲟⲟϥⲏ ⲁⲛ ⲡⲙⲟⲟϥ, ⲉϥⲏⲏϥ (ⲡⲉⲛ)ⲡⲥⲱⲓ (Horner: ⲡⲉⲧⲏⲏϥ ⲡⲉⲡⲏⲥⲱⲓ with ⲉϥ- *variae lectiones*): ὁ . . . ἐρχόμενος; ‘Stands . . . He, whom you know not, (one) who is to come after me’.

(c) Co-ordinated (by ⲁϥⲱ) to, or disjointed (by ⲏ, ἄλλα) from a noun *signifying a quality*, this being either the predicate of a Nominal Sentence (ⲉϥ- this expressing *an additional predication*)<sup>5</sup> or in any other syntactical status:

(9) Num. 14: 12 (Boh., ed. Lagarde) ⲟϥⲏⲩϣⲧ ⲡⲉⲥⲟⲛⲟϥ ⲟϥⲟⲣ ⲉⲡⲁϣⲱϥ ‘A great and multitudinous people’: ἔθνος μέγα καὶ πολύ.

<sup>5</sup> *Nominal* additional predication is effected by the *nota relationis* ⲡ, e.g. 1 Cor. 5: 11; Joel 2: 13 (ed. Malinine); Clemens 45. 1 (ed. Schmidt); Shenoute, ed. Leipoldt, III, 135. 10 f., ed. Chassinat, 108. 15 ff. In Bohairic this use is extended to non-predicative status, e.g. *Acta Martyrum* (edd. Balestri-Hyvernât), I, 158. 18; 164. 11; 175. 10 f.; 179. 15; 207. 3 etc.

(10) Psalms (Sah., ed. Budge) 24: 8 **ΟΥΧΡΗΣΤΟΣ ΑΥΩ ΕΥΣΟΥΤΩΝ ΠΕ ΠΧΟΕΙΣ** 'Good and (one) who is upright is the Lord' (cf. *Pistis Sophia* 80. 1 **ΟΥΑΓΑΘΟΣ ΑΥΩ ΕΥΣΟΥΤΩΝ ΠΕ**). Boh.: **ΟΥΧΡΗΣΤΟΣ ΕΥΣΟΥΤΩΝ ΠΕ**: *χρηστός καὶ εὐθής*.

(11) Psalms (Boh., ed. Burmester-Dévaud) 68: 30 **†ЩОП АНОК ОУРЯНИ ОУОЗ ЕУМОНЕ** 'I am poor and (one) who is miserable'; Sah.: **ΑΠΟΥΡЯНЕ ΕΥΡΠΚΕΜΟΝΕ**: *πτωχός καὶ ἀλγών*.

(12) Heb. 12 : 16 (Sah.) **ΑΗΠΩΣ ΟΥΠ-ΟΥΠΟΡΗΟΣ Η ΕΥΣΟΥ ΠΘΕ ΠΗΣΑΥ** *πόρνος ἢ βέβηλος* (Boh. **ΟΥСАУРЯНТ**) 'a fornicator or (one) who is impure'.

(13) *Evangelium Philippi* (ed. Ménard) 108.6 f. **ΟΥСАΡΚΗΚΟΝ ΑΗ ΠΕ ΑΛΛΑ ΕΥΘΗΗΝΥ** 'He is not a thing of the flesh, but (one) who is pure'; a Second Present (conditioned by **ΑΛΛΑ**)<sup>6</sup> interpretation is not excluded.

(14) *Nag Hammadi Codex VII* (Facsimile Edition, 1972) 125.6 **ΠΤΗ-Ο[ΥΠΠΕΥΑ]Α ΟΥΑΑΕΥ ΑΥΩ ΕΥΟΠ** (cf. *ibid.* 25 f. **ΠΤΗ-ΟΥΠΠΕΥΑΑ ΠΟΥΩΤ ΕΥΟΠ**) 'Thou art a Spirit alone and (one) who is living'.

(15) Worrell, *Freer MSS.* 280.3 ff. **ΟΥΔΙΚΑΙΟΣ ΠΕ ΠΩΩΗ ΠΙΑ ΑΥΩ ΕΥΟΥΑΑΒ** 'He is righteous in all things and (one) who is holy'.

(16) *Patres Apostolici* (ed. Lefort) 37.6 f. **ΟΥΗΟΤΕ ΠΕ . . . ΑΥΩ ΕΥΨΟΥΕΙΤ ΑΥΩ ΠΧΟΟΥΤ.** 'It is an abomination . . . and (a thing) which is vain and base'. Note the contextual association with the **Π-** (*nota relationis*) introduced attribute.<sup>7</sup>

(17) *Ibid.* 71.20 **ΩΩΣ ΑΥΨΠ-ΩΜΟΤ ΑΥΩ ΕΥΑΝΤΙΛΕΤΕ** 'as ingrate and (one) who dissents'.

(18) *Acta Pilati* (ed. Revillout) 75.1 **ΟΥΑΑΙ-ΠΟΥΤΕ ΤΕ ΑΥΩ ΕΣΗΗ ΕΠСА ΠΠΙΟΥΑΑΙ**: *θεοσεβής ἐστὶ καὶ μᾶλλον ἰουδαΐζει* 'She is God-loving and (one) who tends towards the Jews'. A Second Present interpretation is possible.

(19) Drescher, *Coptic Legends* 14.5 **ΩΕΗΝΟΘ ΑΥΩ ΕΥΧΟΕ ΠΕ**, 'They are great and exalted'.

(d) After the gloss-introducing **ΕΤΕ ΠΑΙ ΠΕ**,<sup>8</sup> glossing Greek terms; as *gloss* in Greek-Coptic (-Arabic), as *lemma* in Coptic-Arabic *scalae*:

(20) Baynes, *Gnostic Treatise* (Cod. Brucianus) L. 13 . . . **ΑΠΑΝΤΕΛΗΣ, ΕΤΕ ΠΑΙ ΠΕ ΕΥΗΗΝ ΕΒΟΛ**: *παντέλης*, i.e. '(one) who is perfect'.

(21) *Ibid.* XIV. 1 **ΟΥΠΑΝΟΚΡΑΤΩΡ ΠΕ ΠΑΥΤΟΠΑΤΩΡ, ΕΤΕ ΠΑΙ ΠΕ ΕΡΕ ΑΠΤΕΙΩΤ ΠΙΑ ΠΩΗΤ** 'He is *παντοκράτωρ* and *αὐτοπάτωρ*, i.e. (one) in whom every Fatherhood is'; a Second Present interpretation ('It is in him that every Fatherhood is') is possible.

(22) *Rylands MS.* 113 (Catalogue, p. 62) **ΩΩΣΑΕΝΟΣ ΕΥ† ΑΠΩΠΩ** '(one) who gives life'.

(23-4) *Brit. Mus. Oriental 1242(I)* (Catalogue, No. 491) **ΕΣΤΗΑΡΟΣ(?) ΕΥΣΑΕΣΟΕ** 'mighty' and **ΑΣΦΑΛΗΣΕ ΕΥΤΑΧΡΗΝΥ** 'firm', beside **ΑΓΑΘΟΣ ΠΕΤΡΨΑΥ, ΑΠΟΣ ΠΕΤΟΥΑΑΒ** and strangely **ΑΠΟΤΗΣ ΕΥΟΥΑΑΒ**.

(25-41) *Paris Copte 43, 44* (The Paris Scalae, *Vat. copt.* 71; ed. Kircher in *Lingua Aegyptiaca Restituta*, 1643):<sup>9</sup> seventeen Bohairic examples in Chapter 25 (pp. 231-4), with occasional variants and parallels quoted by Crum in the *Dictionary* under the relevant headings. Note especially **ΕΥΡΕΛΟΛΙ** 'light' (adj.) (طائش), **ΕΥΤΑΤΩΗΟΥΤ** (مجمع) (Crum 439 b or 447 b), 'congregated' or

<sup>6</sup> Polotsky, *Études de syntaxe copte* (Cairo, 1944), 52 f., ('C').

<sup>7</sup> Cf. also *Pistis Sophia* (ed. Schmidt) 275. 19; *Patres Apostolici* (ed. Lefort) 91. 7; *Athanasius* (ed. Lefort) 66. 15 f.

<sup>8</sup> See Prätorius, *op. cit.* 757, and Jelanskaja in *Palestinskij Sbornyk* 5. 68 (1960), 40 f.

<sup>9</sup> See Mallon, *Mélanges de la Faculté Orientale de l'Université St. Josef (Beyrouth)*, II (1907), 213-64.

'restrained'; ⲉϥϣⲧⲁⲙⲛⲟϥⲧ 'closed' (مفلوق), ⲉϥⲣⲉⲕⲣⲱⲛ 'putrid, scorched' (مقعر, عفن), ⲉϥⲛⲏⲛ 'peeled' (مقشر) ⲉϥⲗⲁⲛⲃⲣ 'glowing' (مروط, مروق) etc.

(e) A co-ordinated substantival unit.

(42) Josh. 11: 17 ⲁϥⲱ ⲉϥⲃⲏⲛ ⲉϩⲣⲁⲓ ⲉⲥⲏⲉⲓⲣ '... and that which goes up to ...'.

2. This phenomenon recalls the use, in classic and post-classic sources, of ⲉϥϥⲱⲧⲁⲛⲉ, ⲡⲉⲉϥ-, ⲡⲉϥ- as the *glose* (logical subject) component in a 'Cleft Sentence' ('It is ... who/that ...').<sup>10</sup> This is probably the case of the epistolary opening-formula X ⲡⲉϥϩⲁⲓ ⲡ-Y', a collateral variant of (the also more literary) X ⲡⲉⲧϩⲁⲓ and X -ⲉϥϩⲁⲓ,<sup>11</sup> as well as other epistolary and legal formulas. The circumstantial *glose*-form has a highly interesting distribution also in the literary idiom, and can be traced back to pre-Coptic Egyptian.<sup>12</sup>

3. Not to be overlooked in this context is the *adverbial* use of the self-same circumstantial present,<sup>13</sup> which may be related to its substantival function, although the exact connection is to me as yet obscure (*the Greek participle* may be a clue). Cases like our ex. (2) make a translation-transference from the so-called adverbial accusative very plausible, as do also (a) the fact that this function-form is limited to the 3rd person masc. sing. and (b) the lack of any formal means of syntactical inclusion in the two first groups exemplified above.

4. The *adnominal* circumstantial (see n. 3) which is the only verb-form adnominal to a non-determined substantival kernel, is in my opinion not directly connected with the function here discussed; it is rather a case of localized neutralization of the *relative: circumstantial* opposition, and cannot account for the substantival function, unless we assume an ellipsis of an indefinite antecedent (ⲟϥⲁ, (ⲟϥ) ⲡⲱⲙⲉ or sim.): for this there is neither any ground nor any parallel, and it would be but a restatement, not a solution, of the problem.<sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, the very existence of the above category (c), together with its statistical preponderance, seem to imply some connection with the adnominal circumstantial.

5. Functionally, this construction seems to stand on a still lower level of definition than that of ⲡⲉⲧ-, which is, after all, in many syntactical regards treated not as a zero-determined noun. In our ⲉϥϥⲱⲧⲁⲛⲉ we really have a case of zero determination: in the syntagmatics of Coptic relative constructions, this means a zero antecedent.

<sup>10</sup> For the terminology of the Cleft Sentence ('phrase coupée') analysis see Polotsky, op. cit. 57 ff., *idem*, *Orientalia* 31 (1962), 413 n. 1, 414 ff., and the references there.

<sup>11</sup> A listing of the variant formulas, with extensive documentation, in Kahle, *Bala'izah* 183 ff.

<sup>12</sup> The circumstantial *glose*-form (after nominal and adverbial '*vedettes*', or logical predicates) has been extensively discussed by the present writer in the aforementioned doctoral thesis, *The Circumstantial Sentence in Shenoute's Coptic* (Jerusalem, 1972). An interesting parallel to the non-predicative function of a participial verb-form may be found in Greek; see Rosén, 'Die "zweiten" Tempora des Griechischen. Zum Prädikatsausdruck beim griechischen Verbum', *Mus. Helvet.* 14 (1957), 133-54.

<sup>13</sup> Cf. my remarks in *JEA* 61 (1975), 256-7.

<sup>14</sup> This seems to be Stern's explanation, at least of (c): *Grammatik* § 406 (our example (11)).