

Brilliant Corruptions.

Scribal Influence on Transmission Variation in the
Coffin Texts.

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Brilliant Corruptions

- Introduction
- Refunctionalisation
- Redaction
- Homophony

Coffin Texts

- Decoration pattern
- Middle Kingdom (± 2055-1650 BC)
- rectangular coffins (and other objects).



Inner coffin of Gua, (B1L) BM EA 30840

https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/Y_EA30840

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Coffin Texts

- Decoration pattern
- Middle Kingdom (± 2055-1650 BC)
- rectangular coffins (and other objects).
- Written (generally) inside the coffin
- Cursive Hieroglyphs



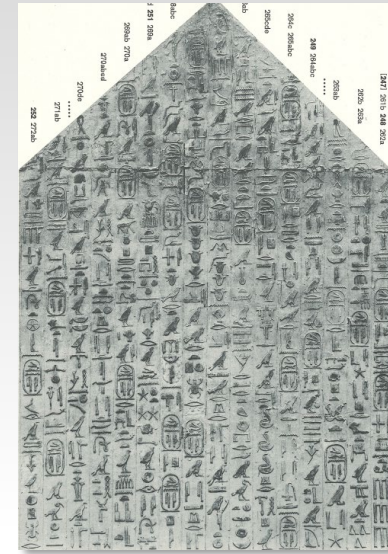
Inner coffin of Gua, view of back, (B1L) BM EA 30840

https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/Y_EA30840

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Coffin Texts

- Part of the mortuary literature tradition:
 - *Pyramid Texts* (OK)
 - *Coffin Texts* (MK)
 - *Book of the Dead* (NK).



Pyramid of Unas
Antechamber, west gable
Piankoff (1968), plate 12



Inner coffin of Gua, view of foot, (B1L) BM EA 30840
https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/Y_EA30840

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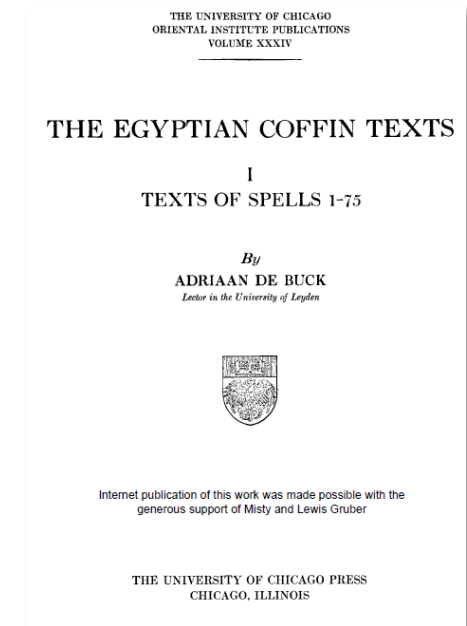


Book of the Dead of Hunefer, frame 3
https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/Y_EA9901-3

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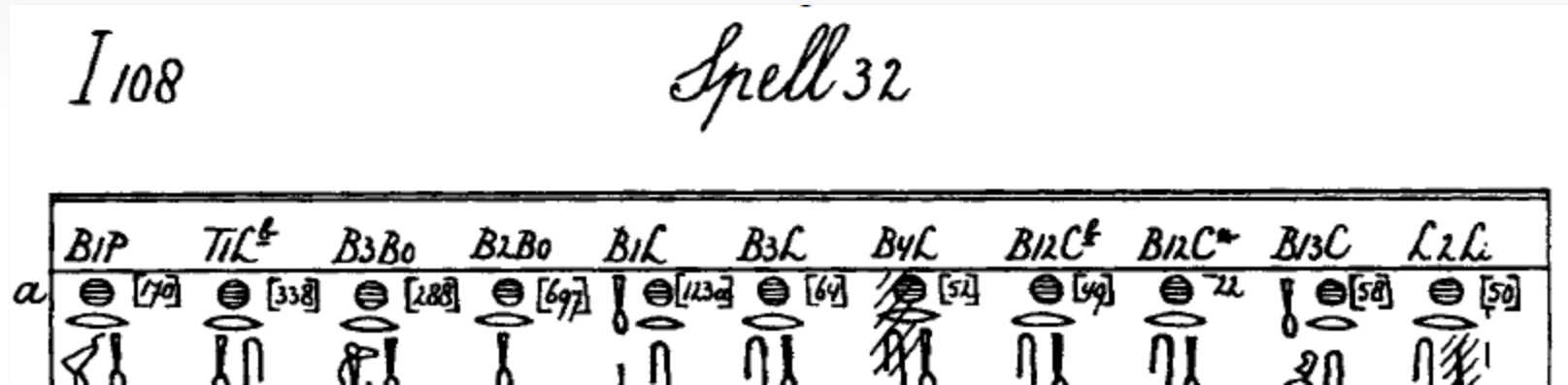
Coffin Texts and de Buck

- Published by de Buck and Allen
 - Adriaan de Buck, The Egyptian Coffin Texts I-VII (OIP 34, 49, 64, 67, 73, 81, 87)
 - James P. Allen, The Egyptian Coffin Texts, volume 8: Middle Kingdom copies of Pyramid Texts (OIP 132)



Coffin Texts and de Buck

- Coffins are described by Sigla: BH1C, B1P, G2T, S14C etc.



Adriaan de Buck (1935). *The Egyptian Coffin Texts I: Texts of spells 1-75*. Oriental Institute Publications 34. Chicago. p. 108

Coffin Texts and de Buck

- Coffins are described by Sigla: BH1C, B1P, G2T, S14C etc.
- Harco Willems, *Chests of life: a study of the typology and conceptual development of Middle Kingdom standard class coffins*. Mededelingen en Verhandelingen van het Vooraziatisch-Egyptisch Genootschap "Ex Oriente Lux" 25. p. 19-40.

Variation in the *Coffin Texts*

- Variation reflecting human behavior
 - Not conscious variation due to particularities at a local (dialectal features) personal level (idiosyncrasies), or intentional modernizations of the text

Refunctionalisation

- Variation due to an error, which was made into a functional structure.
 - Can change the meaning of a phrase drastically
 - Spell 225: CT 3, p. 234,b-c (T1L):
bw.t=f pw n wnm.n=f st
this abomination of his, he does not eat it
 - B2Bo, B4Bo, T9C:
bw.t=f pw wnm.n=f st
this abomination of his, he has eaten it

Refunctionalisation

- Spell 75 (CT 1, p. 334,a, 335,a)

- B2P:

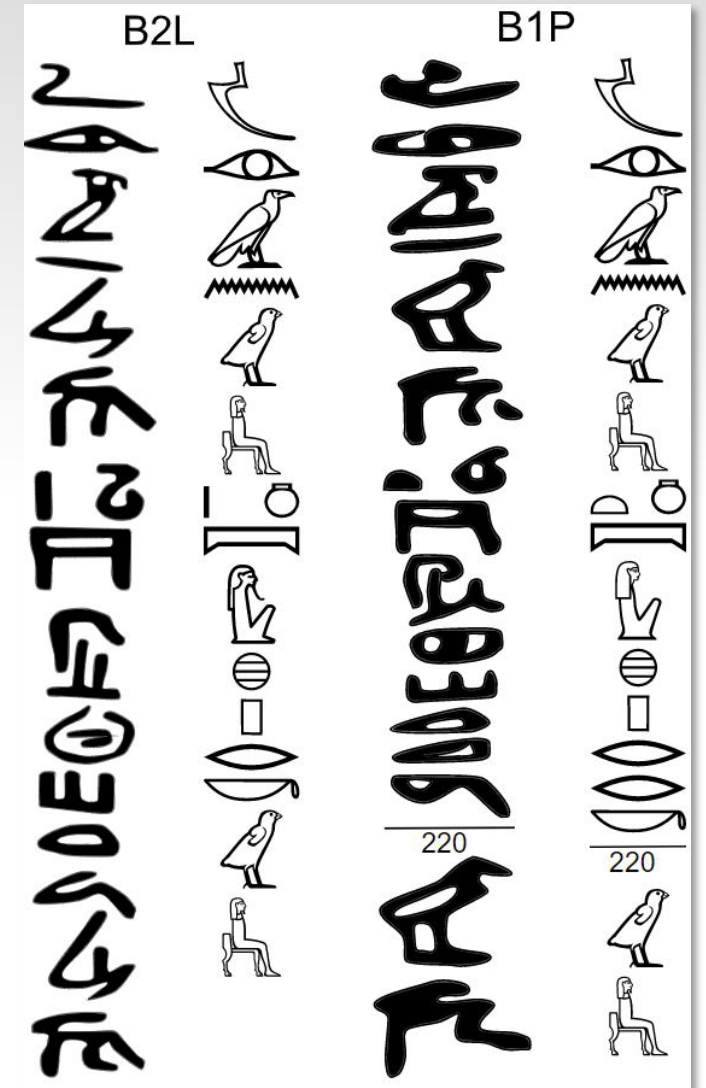
m³.n wⁱ nw.w hpr.kwⁱ

Nun saw me while I came to be

- B1P

m³.n wⁱ nw.t hpr<r>.kwⁱ

Nut saw me while I came to be



Refunctionalisation

- Spell 75 (CT 1, p. 334,a, 335,a)

- B2P:

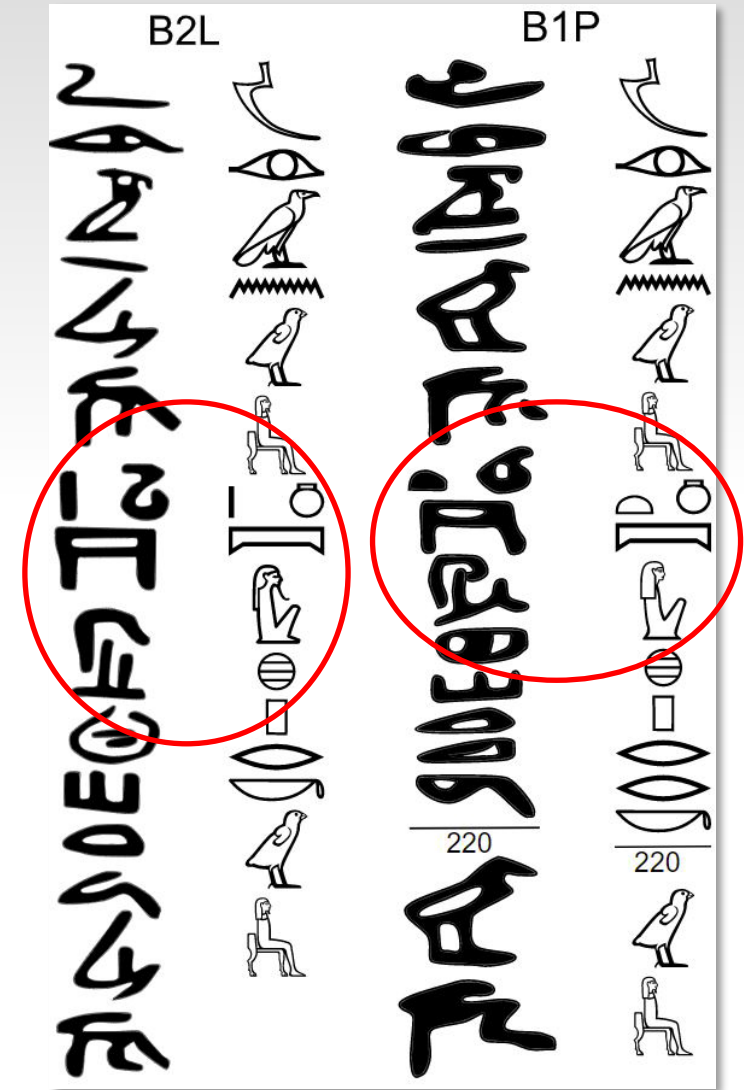
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m³.n wⁱ nw.w hpr.kwⁱ

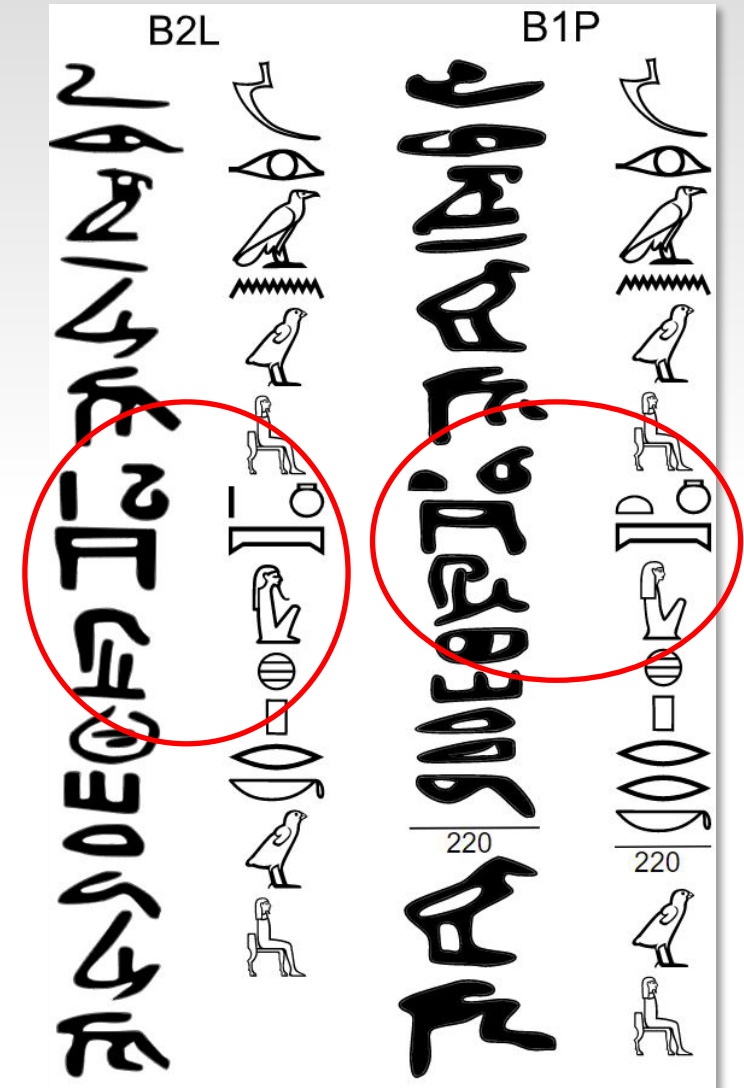
Nun saw me while I came to be

- B1P

m³.n wⁱ nw.t hpr<r>.kwⁱ

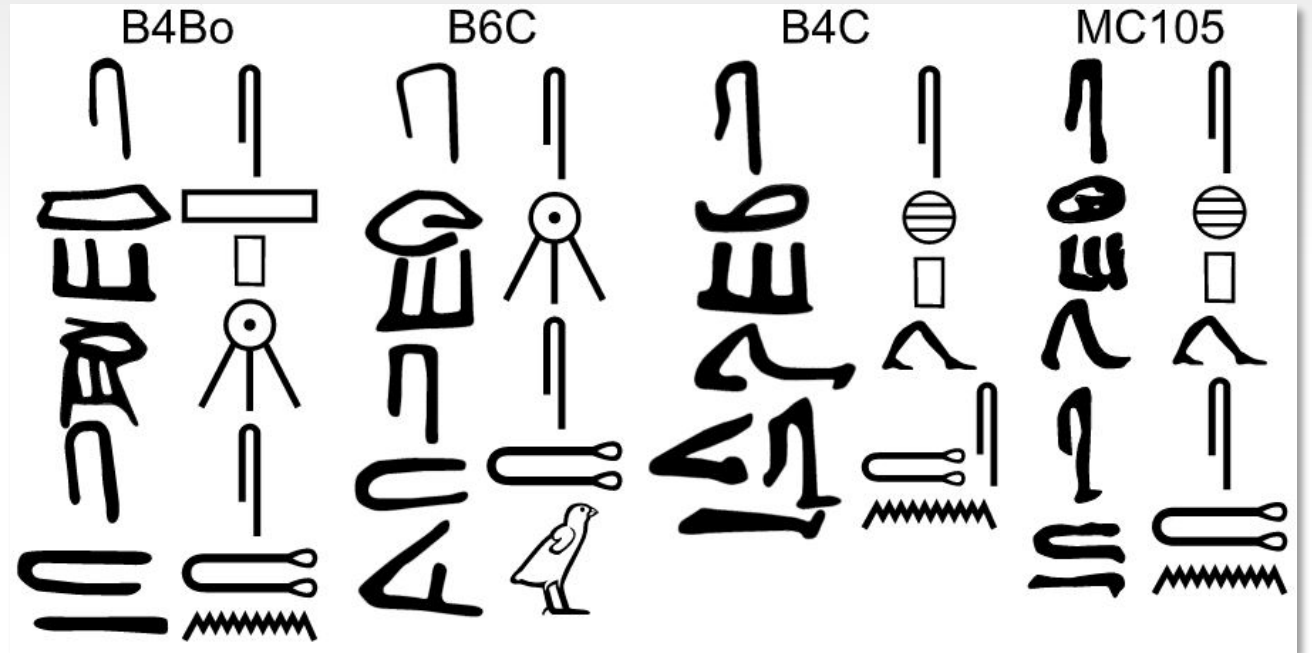
Nut saw me while I came to be

A40 - B1



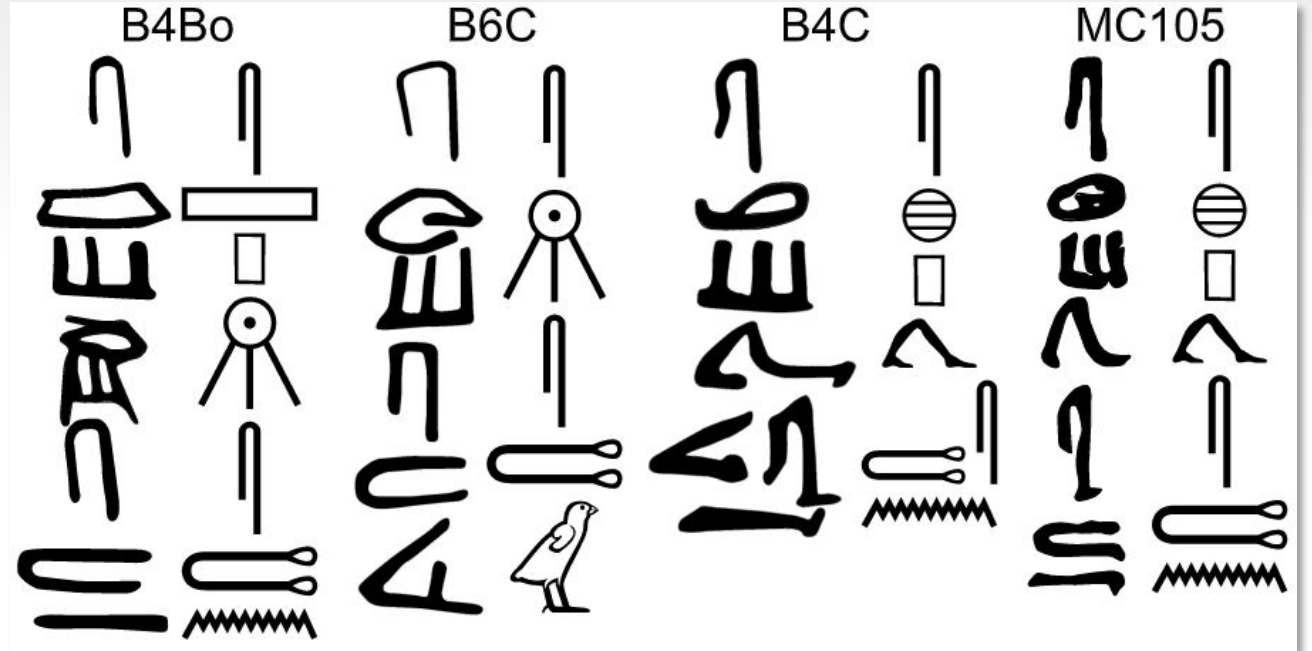
Refunctionalisation




- Spell 6 (CT I, p. 18,b)
 - Majority form (B4Bo):
sšp=*s t_w*
She will make you bright
 - B4C, MC105
shp=*s t_n*
She will conduct you



Refunctionalisation

- Spell 6 (CT I, p. 18,b)
 - Majority form (B4Bo):
sšp=*s t_w*
 She will make you bright
 - B4C, MC105
shp=*s t_n*
 She will conduct you



- Cursive form of   can be easily mistaken for  

Refunctionalisation

- Spell 154 (CT 2, p. 272-4,c-a (B9C)

d3.t^c in ḥtm r iw^c iwn.w

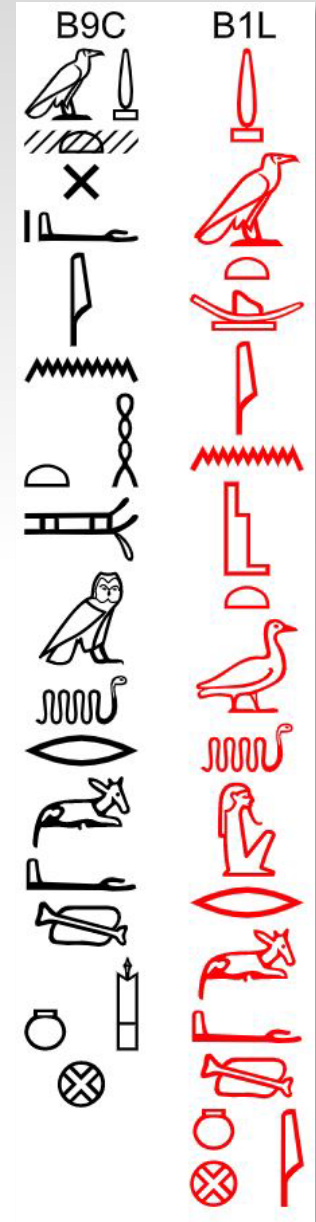
the extending of the arm by the destroyer against the heir of Heliopolis

- Variant (B1L)

d3.t^c in ḥtm r iw^c iwn.w

the crossing by the destroyer to the heir of Heliopolis

(For a discussion of this phrase and context, see Priskin (2019), p. 28-32)



Refunctionalisation

- Spell 154 (CT 2, p. 272-4,c-a (B9C)

d3.t^c in ḥtm r iw^c iwn.w

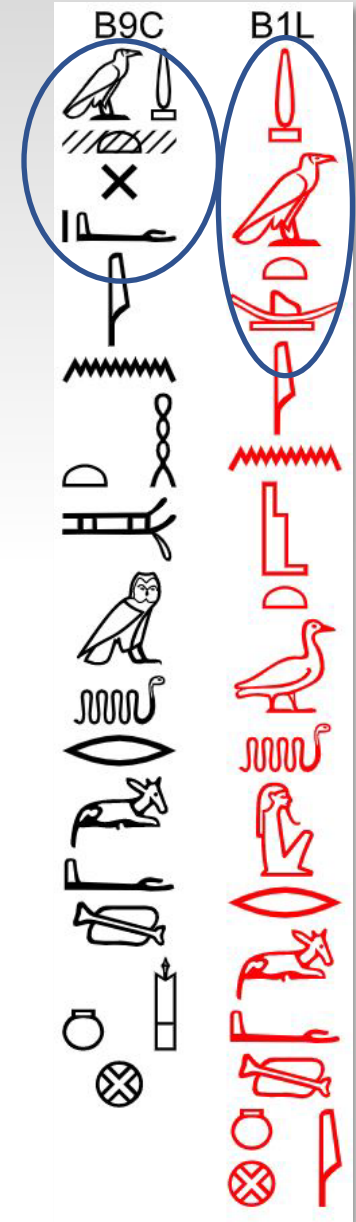
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Misinterpretation from cursive  is misread for 



Refunctionalisation

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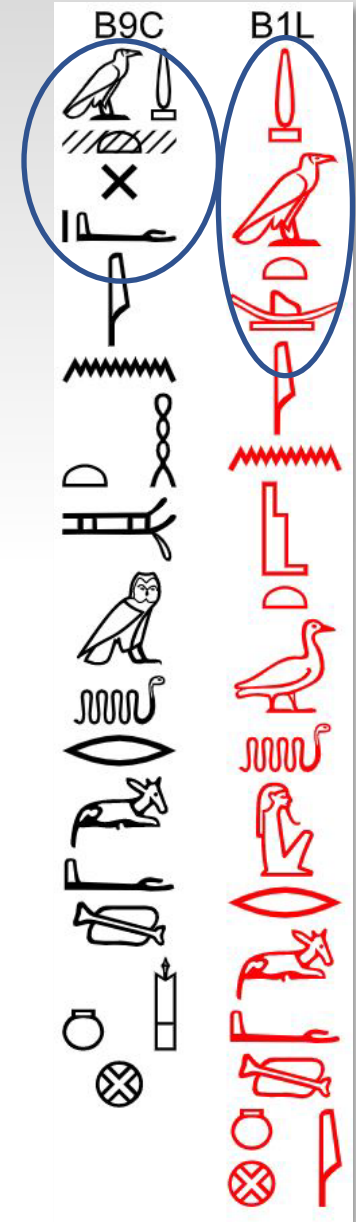
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- Variant (B1L)

d3.t^c in ḥtm r iw^c iwn.w

the crossing by the destroyer to the heir of Heliopolis

A boat in B1L: 

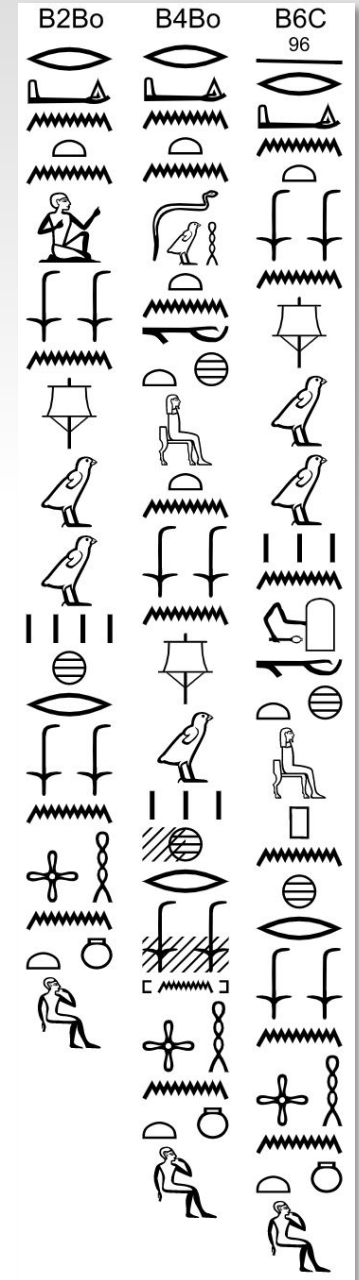


Redaction

- First person to third person (Find and Replace)
 - Personal texts (Hays (2012), p. 11)
 - Not as simple as replacing pronouns in Ancient Egyptian
 - Position of the suffix pronoun and noun is not exactly the same
 - Especially in the dative
 - Spell 162, CT 2, p. 389,b (B2Bo)

rdi.n.t(w) n=i nn t³w.w fd.w hr nn hnw.t

These four winds were given to me by this maiden

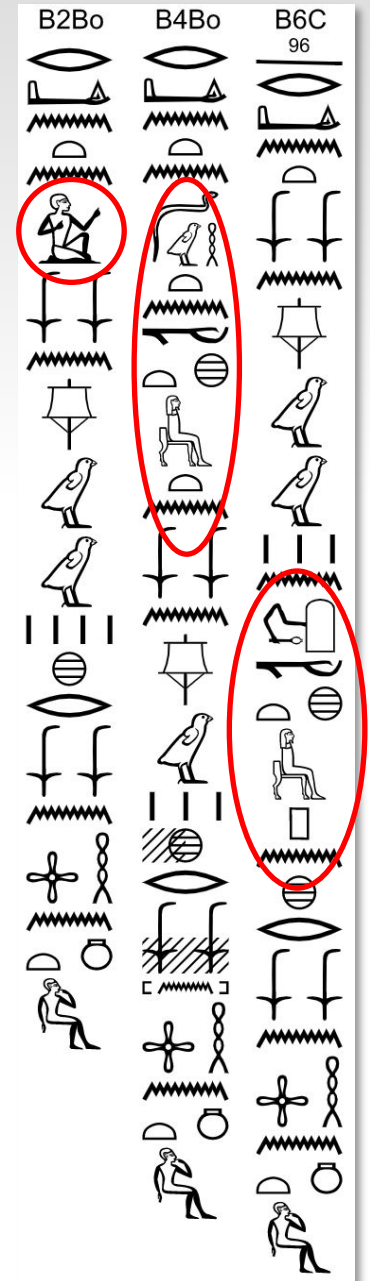


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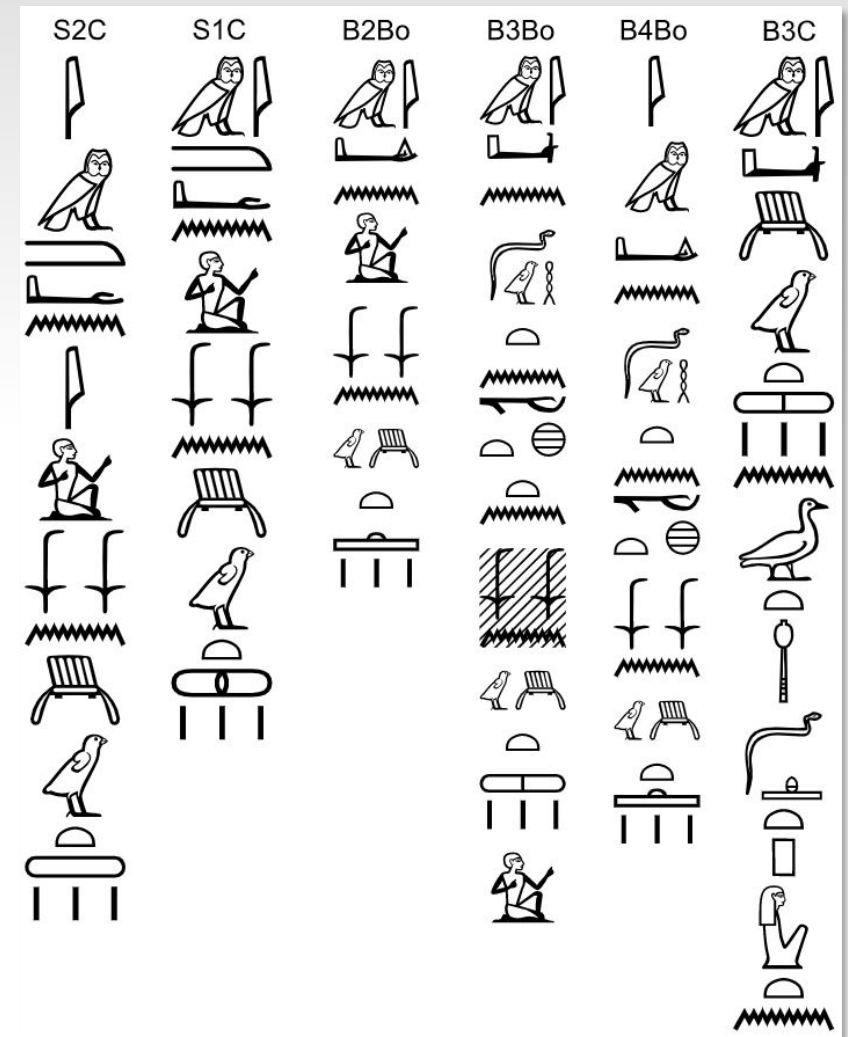


Redaction

- First person to third person (Find and Replace)
 - Spell 166, CT 3, p. 16,a (B2Bo)

imi n=i nn 3w.wt

Give me these offerings!



Redaction

- First person to third person (Find and Replace)
 - Spell 162, CT 2, p. 403-404,e-a (B2Bo)

šd.kʷ=i wiʷ im=f n mh hʷ r tp.y=f(y)

then I will hew a bark out in it, of 1000 cubits to its two heads

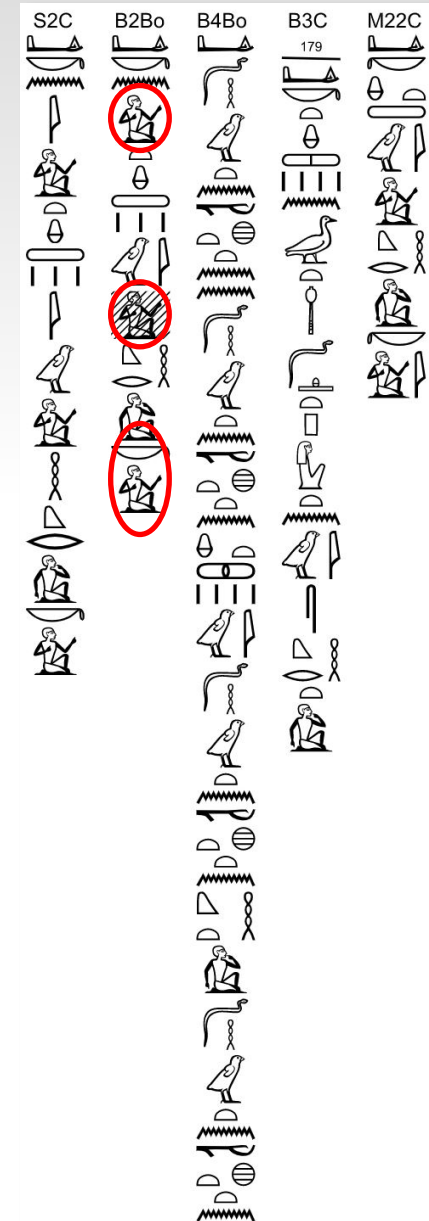


Redaction

- First person to third person (Find and Replace)
 - Spell 215, CT 3, p. 187,b (B2Bo)

di=k n=i t iw=i hkr.ki

so that you give bread to me while I am hungry

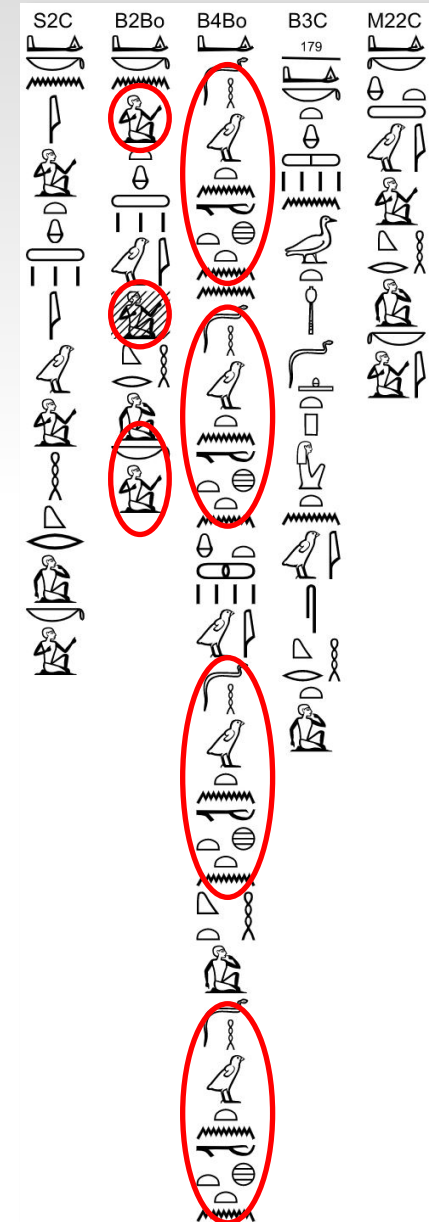


Redaction

- First person to third person (Find and Replace)
 - Spell 215, CT 3, p. 187,b (B2Bo)

di=k n=i t iw=i hkr.ki

so that you give bread to me while I am hungry



Redaction

- Skipping a line

- Spell 215, CT 3, p. 186,b

- S2C

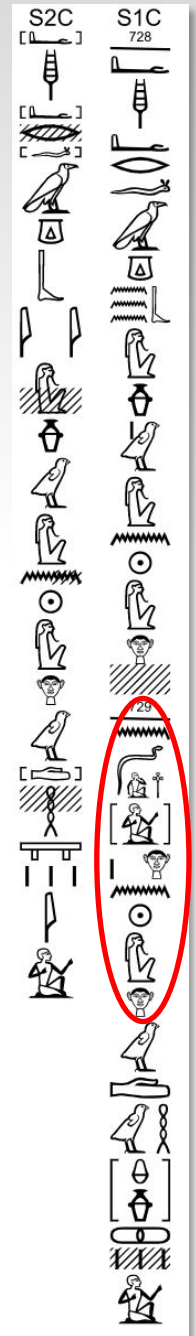
ḥ^c r[=f] ʒgb.y wdp.w n r^c ḥr w[d]ḥ.w=i

Stand, abundance, butler of Re, upon my offering tables

- S1C

*ḥ^c r=f ʒgb wdp.w n r^c ḥr **nd[=i]** ḥr **n ra** ḥr wdḥ.w.w=i*

Stand, abundance, butler of Re, because I protect the face of Re, upon my offering tables



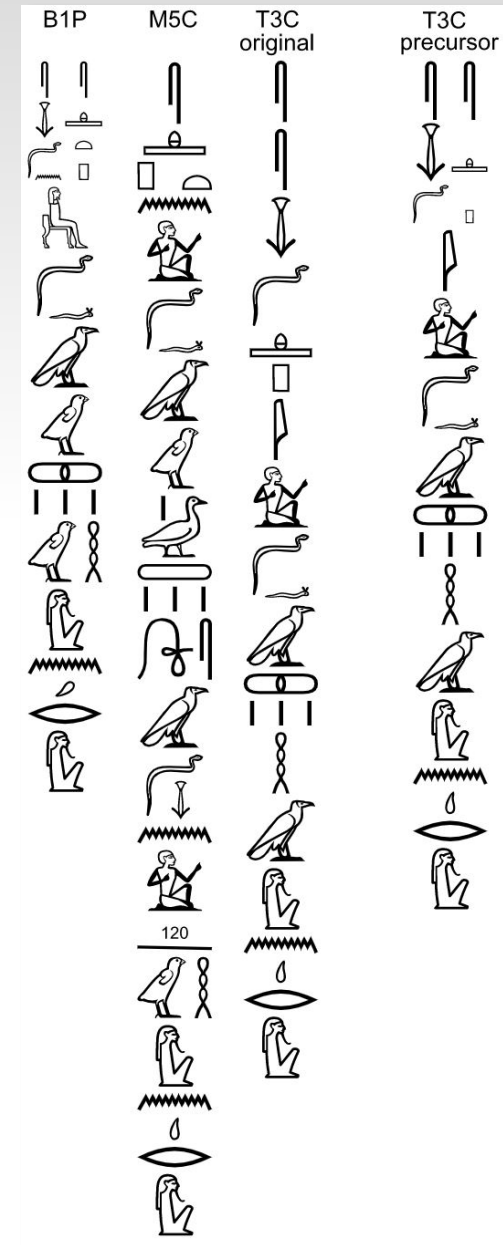
Redaction

- Double columns
 - Spell 75, CT 1, p. 350,b, 351,b (M5C)

sh̄tp.n=i df̄w sw̄d.n=i h̄w n wsir

I have made the provisions plentiful,

I have caused the food of Osiris to be fresh



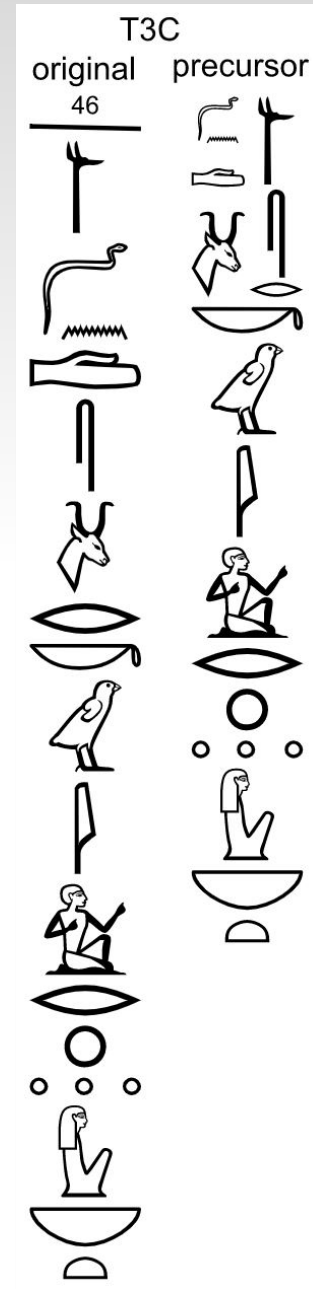
Redaction

- Double columns


- Spell 75, CT 1, p. 324-326,c-a (T3C)

wsr(.kwī) dnd.kwī r psd.t nb.t

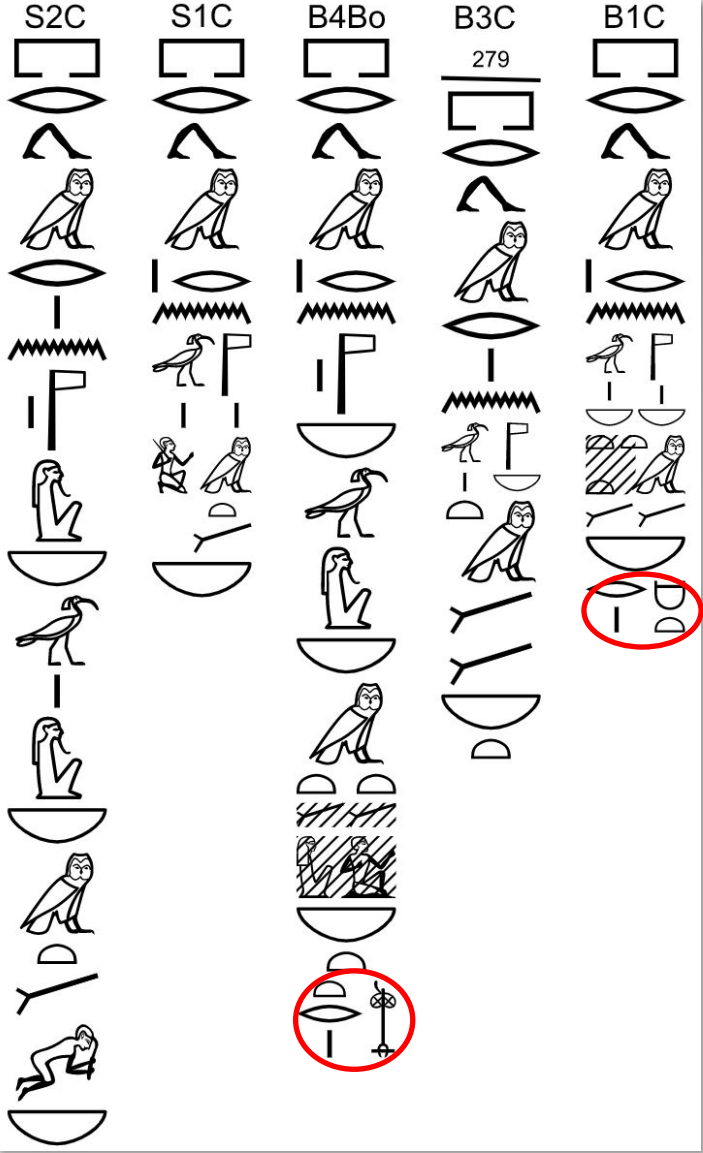
I am more powerful and raging than any Ennead



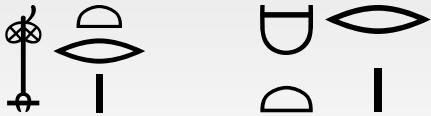
Redaction

- Etcetera (*hm.t-r*) 
 - Spell 165, CT 3, p. 8,a (B1C)

pr m r n ntr nb 3h nb mwt mwt.t nb hm.t-r
 which has gone forth from the mouth of any god,
 any spirit, any dead male or female, etcetera



Redaction

- Etcetera (*hm.t-r*) 
 - Spell 165, CT 3, p. 8,a (B1C)

pr m r n ntr nb 3h nb mwt mwt.t nb hm.t-r

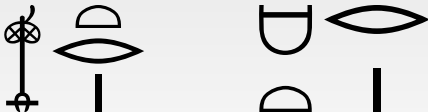
which has gone forth from the mouth of any god,
any spirit, any dead male or female, etcetera

- Spell 398, CT 5, p. 150,a-b (G1T)

h.t nb.t smh.t.n=i m mhn.t tn nis.t n=i r=s in ntr.w ipn ntyw im=sn

Everything which I have forgotten in this ferry boat, is that which is invoked for me for it, by these gods who are within them

Redaction

- Etcetera (*hm.t-r*) 
 - Recurrent phrase in spell 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12
 - Median phrase:
m^{3c}-hrw=k r hft.yw r irr.w r=k r msdd.w tw ir.t=sn wd^c-mdw hft=k m hrw pn
 May you be justified against your enemies, against those who act against you, against those who hate you, those who will do judgement in front of you on this day
 - CT 1, p. 34-35,d-c (B1P)
m^{3c}-hrw wsir spi pn r hft.yw hm.t-r ir.t=sn wd^c-mdw hft=k m hrw pn
 May you be justified against the enemies, etcetera, those who will do judgement in front of you on this day
 - CT 1, p. 40,a-c (T1C)
shr=sn n=f hft.ywt=f hm.t-r ir.t=sn wd^c-mdw hft bw³w pn m hrw pn
 while they overthrow his male and female enemies for him, etcetera, those who will do judgement against this bw³w on this day

Homophony

- *hni* (to play music) and *hni* (to row)

- Spell 7, CT 1, p. 23,b

- B3Bo

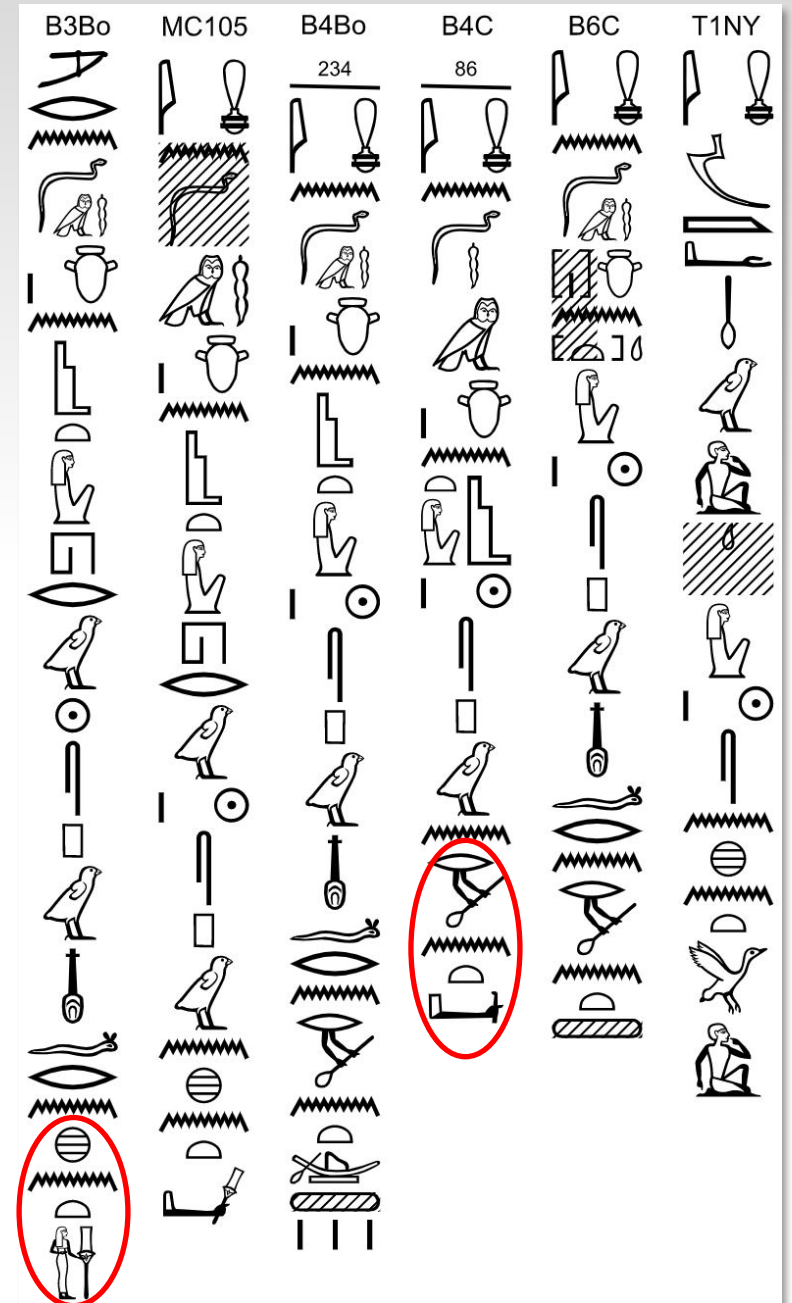
*mr ndm ib n 3s.t hrw=s pw nfr n **hn.t***

like the heart of Isis is sweet this, her good day of playing music

- B4Bo

*mi ndm ib n 3s.t hrw=s pw nfr n **hn.t***

like the heart of Isis is sweet this, her good day of rowing



Homophony

- The imperative *mi* (to come) and *imi* (to give, cause)

- Spell 162, CT 2, p. 402,c

- B2Bo

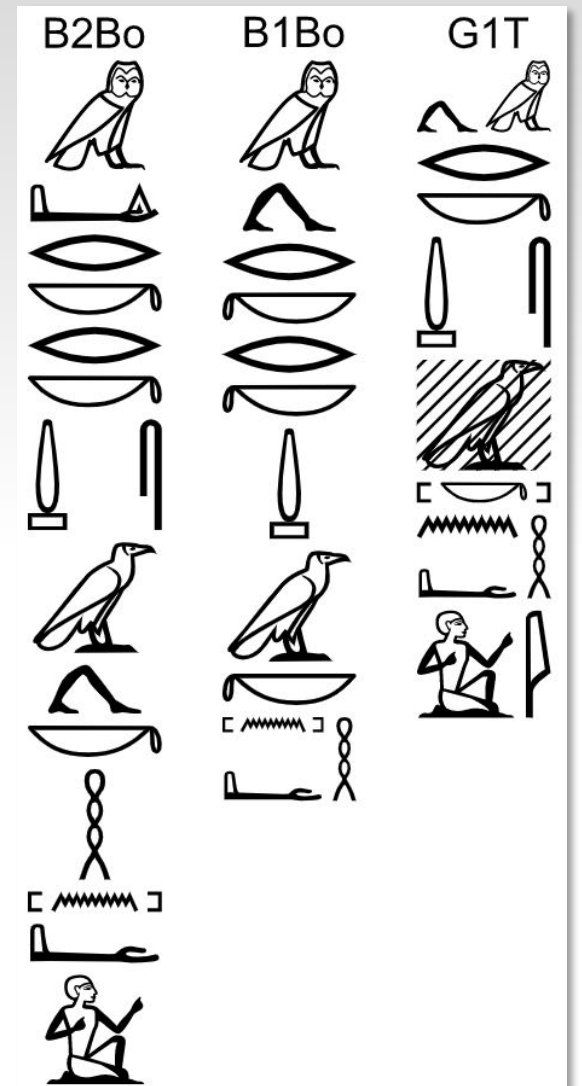
imi $r=k$ $r=k$ $sd^3=k$ $h[n]^c=i$

Cause that you travel with me!

- G1T

mi $r=k$ $sd^3[=k]$ $hn^c=i$

Come, may you travel with me



Homophony

- Puns gone wrong:

sn.wt (flagpoles) and *sn.wt* (Senut festival)

- Spell 154, CT 2, p. 278/9-280/1,e-a

- B1C

$s^c h^c = i$ hm *sn.wt* = i r=f

Indeed, I will erect my flagpoles against him

- S2C

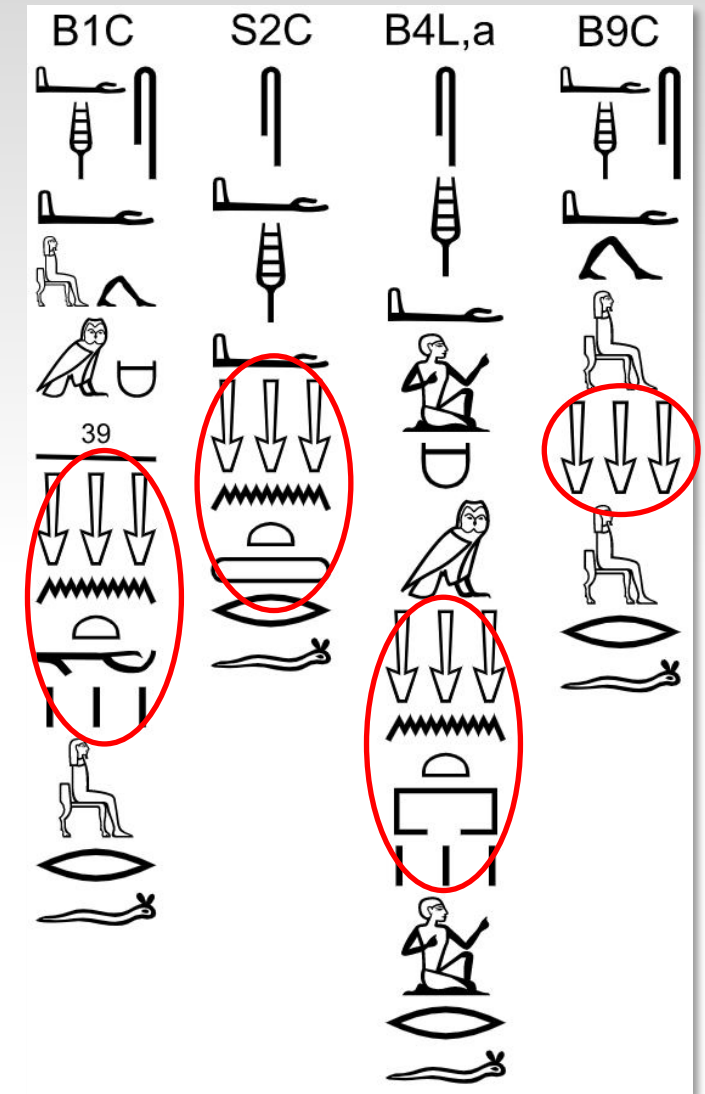
$s^c h^c$ *sn.wt* r=f

The Senut festival will be erected against him

- B4L,a

$s^c h^c = i$ hm *snw.wt* = i r=f

Indeed, I will erect my shrines against him



Homophony

- the interrogative *sy* and the noun *s* (man)

- Spell 335, CT 4, p. 286,a, 287,a

- M1NY

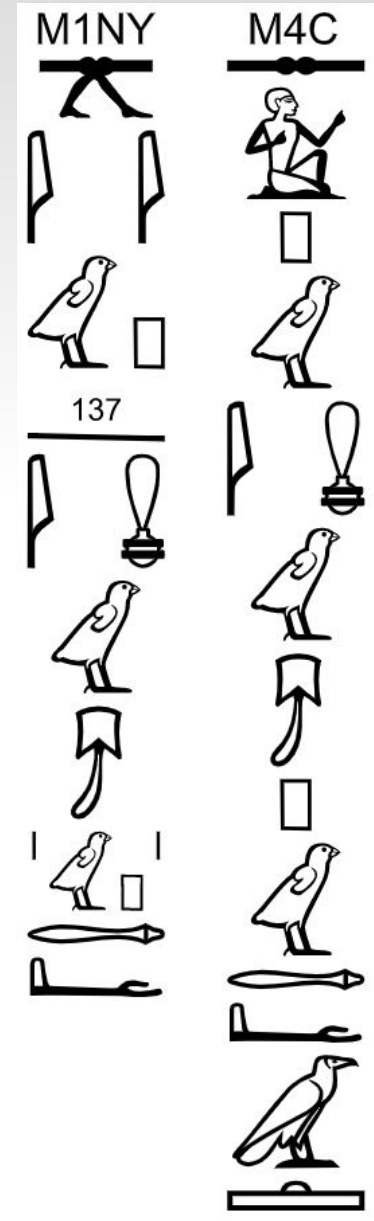
sy pw m²w pw ʕ

Who is it, this great cat?

- M4C

s pw m²w pw ʕ

It is a man, this great cat.



Homophony

- *Alternative classification (Chantrain).*

- Spell 30, CT 1, p. 104,a, 105,a

- B1L

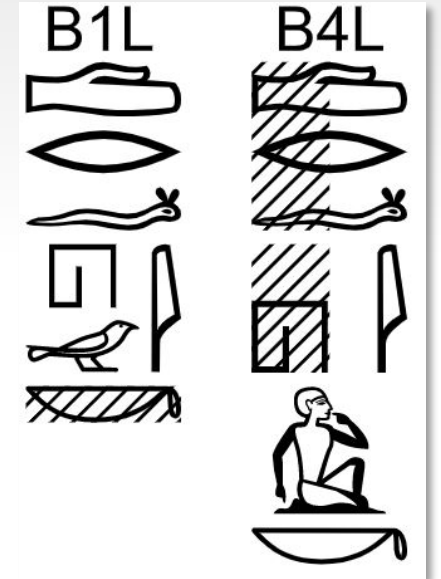
$dr=f$ $ih=k$

he will expel you pain

- B4L

$dr=f$ $ih=k$

he will expel your shout



Homophony

- *Alternative classification (Chantrain).*

- Spell 75, CT 1, p. 364,a

- B3C

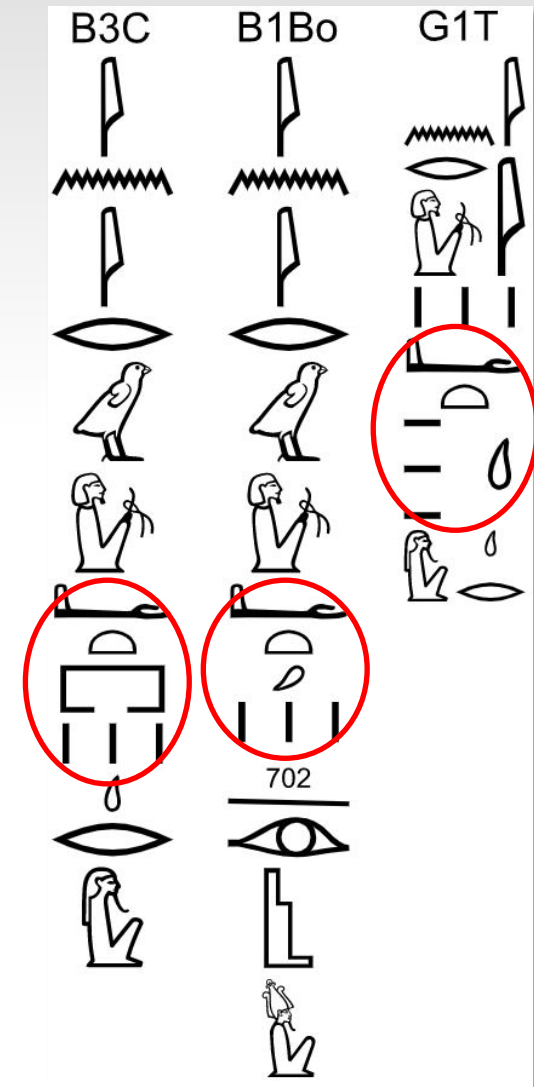
in ir.yw ^c.wt wsir

by the guardians of the rooms of Osiris

- B1Bo

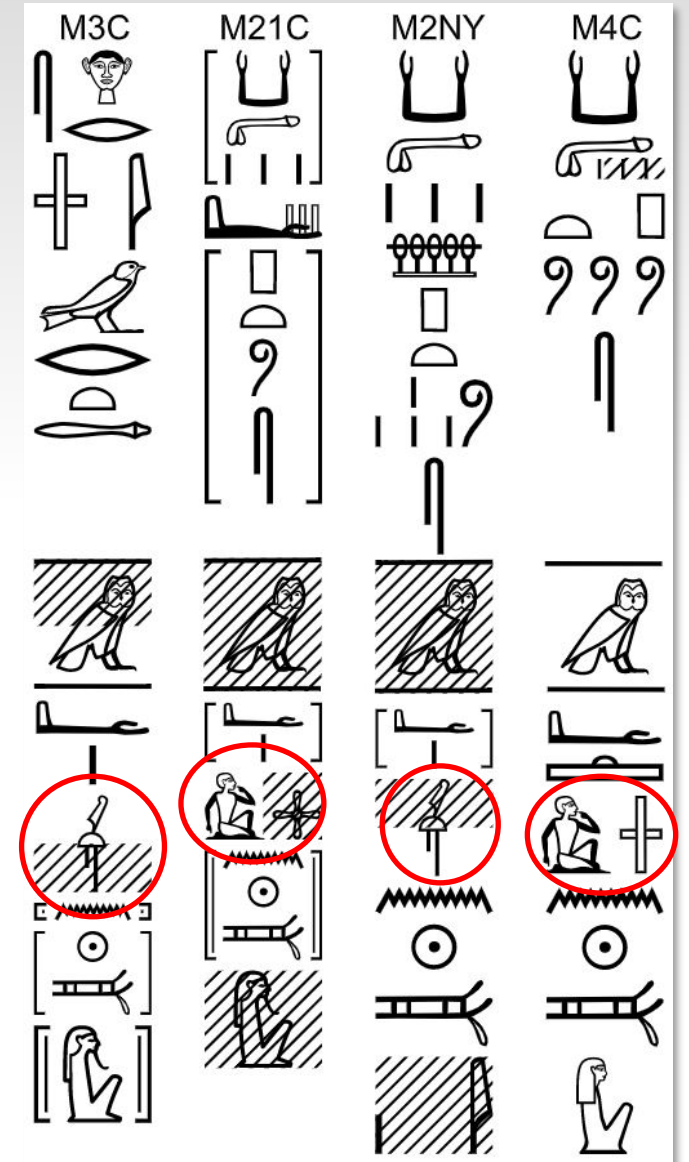
in ir.yw ^c.wt wsir

by the guardians of the limbs of Osiris



Homophony

- *wnm.y* (right) or *wnm* (to eat)
 - Spell 398, CT 5, p. 143,b
 - Müller (2012), p. 349-350: Right hand is the hand for eating
 - $m^c wnm(.y) n r^c-?itm w$
 - as the right hand of Re-Atum
 - $m^c wnm n r^c-?itm w$
 - (litt.) as the eating hand of Re-Atum



Thank you for your attention