NEGATIVE AORIST FORMS FROM AMARNA

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Abstract
When the Egyptian language was transformed from Middle Egyptian to Late Egyptian, new morphemes appeared, such as the new negative particles $bw$ and $bn$. The appearance of these new morphemes led to the emergence of new negative forms. The Amarna period saw the change of the negative particle $n$ with the new one $bw$. Before the Amarna period, there are no negative aorist forms with the new negative particle $bw$. There are only the two classical aorist forms $n$ sDm.n.f and $n$ rx.f. The Amarna period presented the new negative aorist forms $bw$ sDm.n.f and $bw$ rx.f.

Keywords: Amarna language, Aorist, Negative aorist, Late Egyptian negative particles, $bw$ sDm.n.f form, $bw$ rx.f form

1. Introduction
The Amarna period attested not only many political and religious changes but also it presented many new features which led to the emergence of the new phase. It can be said that the Amarna period had the major role in the development of language from middle Egyptian to late Egyptian. Before the Amarna period there are no negative aorist forms with the new negative particle $bw$. There are only the two classical aorist forms $n$ sDm.n.f and $n$ rx.f. was preceded by a noun phrase [8]. The noun phrase is the subject of the sentence, while the adverbial phrase is the predicate [8]. Winand supposed that this form had only one occurrence in the eighteenth dynasty, from the time of Horemheb, in what is called by him "néo-égyptien particulier" and "néo-égyptien mixte" [2,7]. The attestation is from the decree of Horemheb [9-11]

Ex. (1) $hr$ iw $bw$ gm.n.tw ply dHri m-f.sn
"But one cannot find this leather with them."

But before this instance, this form also occurs on a statue, now in New York, of the general Horemheb from the time of Tutankhamun [10,12].

Ex. (2)

bw sḫm.n.i šṯr n ḥm.f

"I do not forget a counsel of his majesty."

Moreover, bw śdm.n.f is one of the innovations of the language of Amarna [1] and did not appear before the Amarna period [13-15]. It came into being when the new morpheme bw were used more frequently than the old one śdm. It appears during the Amarna period in royal (monumental), private tombs texts and Hieratic papyri, It was formed in many instances

Ex. (3) "First instance is from the boundary stelae [10,16].

ptr bw gm.n<.i> sy...

"Behold, I do not/cannot find it..."

Ex. (4) "Second is from the tomb of Meryre"

bw nm<.h> n p3-śdm śrw nb di ḥm.f m ḫ.f [17,18]

"The one, who hears every counsel, which his majesty puts (it) in his mind, will not become poor" [19].

Ex. (5) Third instance is from the tomb of Rames.

bn nmH.n di tw m ḫ.f bw ḡd.n.f ḥi n.i wnn.f ḫr mtn Ṿfr r ḫ.H mnǐh ḫ [18,20]

"He who puts you into his heart will not be poor. He cannot say: Would that I have, while he is upon a good road until he reach honour".

Ex. (6) The forth and fifth instances are from the tomb of Tutu.

di.k n.i rn.i mn ḫ.H iry.k bw ḫ.H.i n rn n p3-ḥsy.k [18,20]

"May you cause my name to endure on all that you have made. The name of the one whom you have favored does not go". [8,21]

Ex.(7)

bw ms.n ḫh n ḏkw iw.k Ṿn.p ti m Ṿɒ-ɪm "ḥ.ti ḫ Ṿn hḥ [10,18,22]

"Millions of youths cannot give birth and you are vigorous like Aten. You will live forever, eternally."

Moreover, it could be noted that śdm.n.f on a letter form the time of Akhenaten.

Ex.(8)

bw ir.n.i mtw[k] ḫhb n.i ḫr p3-nty nb iw.i r ḏ... [23]

"I cannot act, and (you) will send to me about all what I shall say...".
Bw in this instance is written with the form 𓊭 which was used on the Hieratic Papyri [23] and docket [24]. The bw 𓊧𓊨.n.f form continued in usage in the nineteenth and twentieth dynasties in all genres of texts. In addition, it was not restricted to any location [1]. It exists alongside with the other negative aorist form bw 𓊧𓊨.f; the main aorist form in the historical and monumental texts or what is called by Winand "néo-égyptien partiel" and "néo-égyptien mixte" during this period [2]. But it must be noted that, the negative aorist form bw 𓊧𓊨.f is not attested in any texts from Amarna or the eighteenth dynasty [2].

1.2. bw 𓊧.f form

This form is the successor of the classical negative aorist form n 𓊧.f [3,7,25]. bw 𓊧.f is more similar to the synthetic system of Middle Egyptian and it was not made periphrastic before the Demotic phase. Its periphrastic form bw 𓊧.f rx is supposed to be attested in the twenty-fifth dynasty [2,3,26], although the writings claimed for it are more likely to be due purely to phonetic reasons [2,10,27]. Although the form bw 𓊧.f is more similar to the negative past form bw 𓊧𓊨.f, it does not indicate the past tense but it denotes present tense [8]. bw 𓊧.f is the negative counterpart of the first present form sw 𓊧.w [26,28]. The bw 𓊧.f form is attested in personal names during the Middle Kingdom [29,30]. In these names the negative particle bw was written abbreviated with the sign 𓊝 only and not in its complete form 𓊝. The bw 𓊧.f form has four occurrences in the texts of Amarna. Two are from the boundary stelae, one is from a private tomb and other is on a Hieratic letter. All the forms of bw 𓊧.f have the full written form of bw 𓊝. The first instance, which is from the boundary stelae, is destroyed.

Ex. (1) this instance is destroyed

bw rx... [16]

Ex. (2) the second instance is

p3-kd sw ds.f m 𓊧.f rx sw hmw [10,16,31]
"The one who fashioned himself with his own hands, whom the creator does not know him".

Ex. (3) the third instance from the tomb of Tutu

bw 𓊧 sr irr.f n ply.f iry [10,18,21]
"An official does not know what can he do to his companion".

Ex. (4) the last instance is on a Hieratic letter

bw rx.i gm... [24]
"I cannot find..."

The late Egyptian periphrastic form bw 𓊧.f 𓊧 for which Winand supposed the first attestation in the end of the third intermediate period in the twenty-fifth dynasty occurs in the later New kingdom. It is dated from the end of nineteenth dynasty or the beginning of twentieth dynasty.
"One does not recognize out a little one, but it is the skilled one who is found".

2. Conclusion

From the thirty-three occurrences of the morpheme bw in the royal monumental, tombs texts, Hieratic papyri and dockets there are only two occurrences of bw with the short writing b. One is from the boundary stelae and the other is on a Hieratic docket. All the others attestations were written with the complete bw, twenty-seven attestations were written b and four were written b, tab. (1). All the
forms with 𓊨 are on Hieratic papyri and dockets, while the other form 𓊩 were used on the boundary stelae and tombs texts. In the boundary stelae, the classical negative particles n and nn do not appear. Also in some private tombs, specifically those of Rames and Tutu there are no appearance to the particles n and nn. The new morphemes bw and bn which were used in the texts of Amarna are already attested previously. The difference is that these morphemes were used more frequently in Amarna texts than before. Also, these new morphemes were used in the tomb texts, which were rare before and after the Amarna period. In Amarna period there was a tendency to use the new morphemes such as the negative particles bw and bn. If we keep in mind that the boundary stelae had been erected before the private tombs, it can be said that the officials followed the king in the usage of these new language features. The morpheme bw in this period is still an extra element and was not yet combined with the verb which followed it, pĐ or iri which occurred in the Late Egyptian texts. In the Amarna texts there are no occurrences of the aorist form bw sDm.f, all the forms bw sDm.f are the negative perfect bw sDM.f.

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References


