CONSTRUCTIONS WITH NEGATIVE PREFIX

AT IN THE COPTIC LANGUAGE

 $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{y}$

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ABSTRACT

The present paper handles the compound noun, the negative, and the use of the formative AT-, which is used for nouns and verbs since many abstract nouns comprise the prefix at-. Finally, all the abstract nouns negated by at are appended to. In Coptic, there are few true adjectives because the old form of the language is rich in adjective-verbs. Generally speaking, the adjective is expressed in Coptic by means of a relative clause or by substantives linked together by the genitival adjective N-. Less frequently, the noun and its qualifying substantive are in direct opposition. This adjective follows its noun in masculine and feminine forms. In this article, an analysis is made of the use of the negative prefix at- in Coptic. The examples of its use are divided into two groups: - The negative prefix at- with verbs; - The negative prefix AT with nouns. The meaning of some frequently occurring verbal and nominal roots modified by AT- is explicated and their etymological (Ancient Egyptian and Demotic) predecessors are provided. Syntactically, the compounds with AT- are abstract nouns that function predominantly as equivalents of adjectives, as Coptic has only a few adjectives in the strict sense. Consequently, the AT- compounds have adjectival syntactic functions: they modify the head noun in the nominal phrase or function as the nominal predicate in nominal sentences. They can also function as nouns, for example as the subject of the sentence. An overview of the syntactic functions of the AT- compounds examined is presented in the conclusion. In the Appendices, alphabetic overviews are provided of respectively the deverbal and denominal compounds with ar- mentioned in Crum's Coptic Dictionary. It becomes evident that the deverbal compounds by far outnumber the denominal ones».

KEYWORDS: Coptic, negation, prefix, verb, noun, adjective, Late Egyptian, Demotic.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The negative prefix **AT**- can change a word's meaning into its antonym, which forms, with nouns and verbs, a negative adjective that means «not, without, un-, in-, -less»¹.

Adjectives are expressed in three ways. The first one is the adjective followed by the noun directly. The noun is then generally in the construct form. There are comparatively few true adjectives in Coptic, e.g., φημη—little – young and πτοογ φημη «the little mountain». The second one utilizes the genitive n- placed between the noun and the adjective. In this form, the noun may either precede or follow its adjective, e.g., ὴρωμε ὴλΤ-CBW «the ignorant men». The third way is formed by means of a relative clause used ετ relative adjective, e.g., πωλχε ετcη2 «the written word»⁷.

The paper aims to compile an inventory of Coptic lexical units containing the prefix at- and classify the examples quoted according to their syntactic functions.

The examples quoted are excerpted directly from Coptic texts (primary sources) and dictionaries (secondary sources).

1. The negative prefix at with verbs.

When the complement is a verb, it can take an object. It is worth noting that when used in a passive sense, the transitive verb must take an object as a pronominal object. It can also join compound verbs to make one negative word.

■ The verb Nay⁸ = look

In late Egyptian $nw \stackrel{\sim}{\sim} 0 \stackrel{\wedge}{\searrow} \stackrel{\sim}{\sim} 9$, in Demotic nw = 10

ат-Nау (S), аө-Nау (B) + ϵ -/ ϵ po- ϵ means unseen, unseeing ϵ 11, invisible (lit. without seeing it).

The earth was invisible and empty. (Ge 12 B)

• The verb MOY^{12} = die

¹ SMITH 1999: 2.

² CRUM 1939: 18b-19a; CERNY 1976: 13.

³ PLUMLEY 1948: 12, §101ff.

⁴ VYCICHL 1983: 17-18.

⁵ ERMAN & GRAPOW (eds.): Wb. Vol.1: 46.

⁶ ERICHSEN 1954: 25, 7.

⁷ MURRAY 1927: 18- 19.

⁸ CRUM 1939: 233b; CERNY 1976: 113.

⁹ ERMAN & GRAPOW (eds.): WB. Vol.2: 218, 3ff.

¹⁰ ERICHSEN 1954: 209, 3.

¹¹ CRUM 1939: 234a.

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In late Egyptian m(w)t 13 , in Demotic mwt 14 at-moy (s), ao-moy (B) = deathless – immortal 15

Ex.2: пакаюсунн гар оуат-моу те-

For uprightness is immortal. (Sa115 S)

■ The verb **MOOGE** = walk - go¹⁶

In late Egyptian $m\check{s}^c$ 17 , in Demotic $m\check{s}^c$ 18 18 at-mooye (S), as-mooye (B) = Pathless¹⁹

Ex.3: $\phi \uparrow$ паноү † аінаорпт дарок же асіві йірнтк йже тафүхн: ефресфірі нак \bar{e} вох йже тасар ў рен оукаді йіраце нен оуна йаф-нофі діштц нен оуна йаф-нфоу O God, my God, to you, I create because my soul thirsts for you, so that my body may flourish for you in a wasteland, a pathless place, and a place without water. (Ps 621 B) Ex.4: оунню мнанесфоу аутако йпаіадалолі ауффлев йта тоі ефнанес аутніс еўнайаф-нофі йіраце.

Many shepherds have corrupted my vineyard. They have trampled my portion. They made my inheritance desolate wilderness. (Jer 12_{10} B)

The verb cei(S), $ci(SB)^{20}$ = be filled - satisfied In late Egyptian $sigma^2 sigma^2 sigma^2$, in Demotic $sigma^2 sigma^2 sigma^2 sigma^2 = become sated.$

Ex.5: оүредгіпго рен недвал нем оүгнт hat-ci : фаі hinaloy when nemaq Whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, I will not tolerate him. (Ps $100_5 B$)

■ The verb **c**wtm = hear ²⁴

In late Egyptian sdm $\stackrel{25}{\sim}$ 25, in Demotic stm (sdm) $\stackrel{26}{\sim}$ 26 at-coth = inaudible, disobedient²⁷

Ex.6: qnamooge гатецен гыпепы мы тоом ыгналас, екто ыйгнт ыйеюте енеуфире ауф нат-сфты гы тыптый гыперы гыперы

¹² CRUM 1939: 159a; CERNY 1976: 79.

¹³ ERMAN & GRAPOW (eds.): Wb. Vol.2: 165, 8ff.

¹⁴ ERICHSEN 1954: 157, 7.

¹⁵ CRUM 1939: 160 a.

¹⁶ CRUM 1939: 203b; CERNY 1976: 96.

¹⁷ ERMAN & GRAPOW (eds.): Wb. Vol.2:156,5.

¹⁸ ERICHSEN 1954: 181, 1.

¹⁹ CRUM 1939: 205b.

²⁰ CRUM 1939: 316b; CERNY 1976: 145.

²¹ ERMAN & GRAPOW (eds.): Wb. Vol.4: 14, bottom.

²² ERICHSEN 1954: 407, 5.

²³ CRUM 1939: 317a.

²⁴ CRUM 1939: 363b; CERNY 1976: 165.

²⁵ ERMAN & GRAPOW (eds.): Wb. Vol.4: 384, 4f.

²⁶ ERICHSEN 1954: 478, 4.

²⁷ CRUM 1939: 364b.

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He will walk in front of him in the spirit and power of Helias. To turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the disobedient (to walk) in the wisdom of the righteous, to prepare a people for the lord prepared.(Lu 1_{17} S)

■ The verb **EIME** = know, understand²⁸.

In late Egyptian $m = 10^{10}$ 29, in Demotic $m = 10^{10}$ 30

AT-EIME (S) = ignorant, innocent³¹.

Ex.7: пехац же пбоіс оущала \hat{n}_{a} т-емі оуоз \hat{n}_{e} очні на такоц

He said: «Lord, would you ignore someone even if he is upright?» (Ge 204 B)

■ The verb $\mathbf{e}_{\mathbf{i}}\mathbf{w}$, $\mathbf{i}_{\mathbf{a}}$, $(SB) = \mathbf{wash}^{32}$

In late Egyptian $i^{c} = 33$, in Demotic $i^{c} = 34$

ат-іа (S), аө-і**шо**у (B) = unwashed³⁵.

Ex.8: ογος αφερογω πεχας νημετοςι ερατογ μπεςμθο εφχω ήμος χε αλιογι ηναιζεώς εταθ-ίωογ εβολ ζιώτη ογος πεχας νας χε ζηππε αίωλι νημεκανομία

The angel said to those who were standing before him, «Take off his filthy clothes» Then, he said to Joshua, «See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you» (Zach 34 *B*)

Εχ.9: σε ογωμ νηιωίκ έρε νογχίχ θωλέβ έτε φαι πέχε νατ-ία τότος

They eat their bread having not washed hands. (MK 72 B)

- The verb $\kappa \omega$ (S), $\kappa \omega$ (B) (intransitive verb) = become loose, dissolved³⁶ In late Egyptian h^3 ^C 37 , in Demotic h^3 (C) 41 38 . 38 . 38 (noun (m)) = freedom, remission, forgiveness. 39 39 39
 - **Taa6o** (SB) = make to cease, heal (causative of **base**) 40

In Demotic $tj(r)lg^{41}$ = cause to stop.

Tax60 (SB) (noun (m)) = healing

ат-тахоо (SB) = not to be healed.⁴²

²⁸ CRUM 1939: 77b; CERNY 1976: 46-47.

²⁹ ERMAN & GRAPOW (eds.): Wb. Vol.1: 184, 16-20.

³⁰ ERICHSEN 1954: 60, 6.

³¹ CRUM 1939: 78a.

³² CRUM 1939: 75a; CERNY 1976: 45.

³³ ERMAN & GRAPOW (eds.): *Wb.* Vol.1: 39, 2 ff.

³⁴ ERICHSEN 1954: 48, 6.

³⁵ CRUM 1939: 75a.

³⁶ CRUM 1939: 97a.

³⁷ ERMAN & GRAPOW (eds.): Wb. Vol.3: 227, 3 ff.

³⁸ ERICHSEN 1954: 345, 7.

³⁹ CRUM 1939: 97b.

⁴⁰ CRUM 1939: 411b.

⁴¹ ERICHSEN 1954: 264, 6.

⁴² CRUM 1939: 412a.

Ex.10: $2\mu\Pi\Pi\Xi ZAP$ IC $\Pi\Xi ZOOY$ MITTOC NAT-XW EBOX OYOZ NAT-TAXOO Behold, the day of the Lord comes, cruel, with both wrath and not to be healed. (Is 139 B)

2. The negative prefix at- with nouns

■ The noun Bax 43 = eye

In late Egyptian br $\stackrel{4}{\smile}$ $\stackrel{44}{\circ}$, in Demotic bl $\stackrel{32}{\smile}$ $\stackrel{45}{\smile}$ $a\tau$ —Bax (S) (adj.) = insatiable - effronte- impudent

Ex.11: ауф деноудоор не нат-вах динеуфухн енсесооун ан исеі ден поннрос не енсесооун ан ймитсаве ауоуаадоу тнроу иса неудіооує поуа кататерміне

They are insatiable dogs that know not what it is to be filled, and they are wicked having no understanding at all and having followed their own ways, each according to his will. (Is 5611S)

■ The noun 2HT ⁴⁶ = heart, mind.

In late Egyptian $h3tj \stackrel{?}{=} v^{47}$, in Demotic $h3t \stackrel{!}{=} v^{48}$ **аонт** (**ат**- + **2нт**) (S) - (adj.) = insensitive, senseless, without mind⁴⁹ = $v^{47} = iwtj h3tj.f$ foolish (lit.not having his heart)⁵⁰.

Ex.12: хе йогоещ им ерейвалент болх йтанкаюстин сенахищие ан наент ае его йриепоры епсиц йтерограсевие агместетысоною агм агушие егони еденхию saying, «How long do you fool love ignorance, and mockers take pleasure in mockery, and foolish ones? ($Pro\ 122S$)»

■ The noun NOBe 51 = sin

In late Egyptian $\stackrel{\frown}{\triangleright}$ nb 52 , in Demotic $\stackrel{\longleftarrow}{\triangleright}$ nbj, nbj 53 at—nobe (S), ag-nobi (B) 54 (adj.) = sinless, innocent.

Ex.13: †OI NAO-NOBI EBOAZA TICNOQ NTE TIAIOMHI NOW TEN I am innocent of the blood of this just person (MT $27_{24}B$)

- The noun Noγte ⁵⁵ = god.
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⁴³ CRUM 1939: 31 b; CERNY 1976: 22.

⁴⁴ ERMAN & GRAPOW (eds.): Wb. Vol.1: 465, 5.

⁴⁵ ERICHSEN 1954: 120, I.

⁴⁶ CRUM 1939: 714 a; CERNY 1976:.298.

⁴⁷ ERMAN & GRAPOW (eds.): Wb. Vol.3: 26 bottom.

⁴⁸ ERICHSEN 1954: 289, 2.

⁴⁹ CRUM 1939: 714 b.

⁵⁰ ERMAN & GRAPOW (eds.): *Wb.* Vol.3: 27,15-16.

⁵¹ CRUM 1939: 222a; CERNY 1976: 106.

⁵² MOLLER 1842: 543.

⁵³ ERICHSEN 1954: 214, 6.

⁵⁴ VYCICHL 1983: 17-18

⁵⁵ CRUM 1939: 230b-231a; CERNY 1976: 111.

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In late Egyptian $\int ntr^{56}$, in Demotic $\int ntr^{57}$

ат—ноүте (S), аө-ноүт (B) 58 (adj.) = godless.

Εχ.14: ΜΠΡ ΚΑΑΝ ΝΟΨΚ ΝΘΕ ΝΖΕΝΑΤ-ΝΟΥΤΕ

Do not abandon us like the godless (GP 82.b22-23)

• The noun $\mathbf{c}\mathbf{k}\boldsymbol{\omega}^{59}$ = doctrine, teaching.

In late Egyptian 1 * 1 * 1 * 1 * 1 * 1 * sb3jt 60, in Demotic 4 * 23 * 41 * sb3t 61

AT—CBW $(SB)^{62}$ (adj.) = without teaching, ignorance.

Εχ.15: Θωογτ ήτογθεης θηνογ πιέθνος ήλτ-ςκω

Gather yourselves together, yes, gather together, O ignorant nation. (Zeph 21 B)

II. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we could say that there are many prefixes in Coptic that form compound nouns. However, AT-, which is added to the noun and the verb to give a negative abstract noun, is a unique formative because it converts the meaning into the antonym or vice versa. It also gives a semantic meaning.

The negative adjective, which comprises the form AT- + verb or noun follows its noun but is linked together by the genitival N-.

The syntactic functions are:

- compounds as modifiers with the linker: as examples N° . 12, 14-15;
- compounds as relatives with the morpheme: like example N° . 3, 4, 5, 7, 10;
- compounds as nominal predicates: as examples N° . 1, 2, 8, 9, 11;
- compounds as the nominal subject of the sentence: like example N° . 6, 13.

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⁵⁶ ERMAN & GRAPOW (eds.): *Wb*. II: 358, 1 ff.

⁵⁷ ERICHSEN 1954: 232, 6.

⁵⁸ VYCICHL 1983: 17-18

⁵⁹ CRUM 1939: 319b; CERNY 1976: 149.

⁶⁰ ERMAN & GRAPOW (eds.): Wb. IV: 85, 10f.

⁶¹ ERICHSEN 1954: 421, 1.

⁶² VYCICHL 1983: 17-18.

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III. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

B = Bohairic dialect

BG = Berlin Gnostic Papyrus 8502 (cf. Preuss. Akad., Sitz, xxxvi, 839), from photographs

Er = Erichsen, W., Demotisches Glosser, Kopenhagen, 1954

Ge = Genesis

GP 82.b22-23)

Is = Isaiah

Jer = Jeremiah

Lu = Luka

Mt = Matthew

Mk = Mark

Pro = Proverbs

Ps = Psalms, acc. To the LXX numeration

S = Sahidic dialect

Sa = Wisdom of Solomon

Wb = Erman, A. & Grapow, W. (Eds.), Wörterbuch der Ägyptische Sprache, 7 vols und 5 Bde

Belegstellen, Berlin/Leipzig (1926-1963)

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Zech = Zechariah

Zeph = Zephaniah

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APPENDICES

All the English translations are from Crum's Coptic Dictionary

1- ат + verb

ат + Verb	Meaning
ат-амагте	unrestrained, uncontrollable
ат-вштс	Impugnable
AT-KIM	immovable
AT-KHN	unending
ат-к ю рц (В), ат- жх п (S)	unceasing
ат-ка†	ignorant person
ат-кто (S)	irrevocable
ат-аффме (SB)	unfading
ат-мкаг (B)	without pain
ат-моүнк	unceasing, imperishable
ат-мпфа(SB)	worthless, unworthy
at-mice (S)	unborn
ат-†мате (B)	not agreeing
at-emton (B)	unquiet
ат-мееуе (SB)	without thinking
ат-міде (B)	not attacked, unhurt
ат-ноүшт (SB)	intangible
ат-ноүхб (B)	unmixedness
at-na / ag-na (SB)	pitiless
at-nkotk (SB)	sleepless
at-noein (S)	unshaking
at-nzoyp (B)	unshakable, immovable
ат-нагте/аө-нагте (SB)	unbelieving
ат-ноуже (S)	not cast
AT-HOWNE (S)	immovable, unchangeable
ат-пирх/аө-фирх (SB)	undivided, indivisible
ат-фісе (В)	unmollen
ат-пиф (S), ат-фиф	undivided, indivisible
ат-пи 2 т $+$ e вох (S)	not pouring
at-pike (SB)	without turning, unwavering
λΤ-COOγN (SB)	without knowledge
ат-сфф (B) , ат-тф (S)	undefiled
at-oyung, ab-oyung(B)	unshown, invisible
ат-оүшр2(S)	unallowed, unremitted
ат-оүфтв, аө-оүфтв (B)	immutable
at-oyxai(S)	unsound, incurable
λΤ-ΟΥΦΌΝ (S)	unbroken
хт-финг (B)	unalterable
λΤ-ω ΚΜ(<i>B</i>)	without gloom
хт- w П(SB)	unesteemed
хт-ффм (SB)	unquenchedable, unseaked
at-wxn(S)	unceasing
at-gibe(S)	unchanging, unaltered

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ат-фів †(<i>B</i>)	unchangeable
хт-фхн х(<i>B</i>)	without prayer
at-gone(B)	without sickness
ат-фіпе(В)	unashamed
at-goo t(S)	uncut
ат-фтортр(SB)	unperturbed
хт-фххе (SB)	speechless, unspeakable
at-goene(SB)	being without counsel, ill-considered
ат- -	unbearable
ат-q ω те евох (S)	ineffaceable
AT-2 $\mathbf{OM}(B)$	untrodden
ат-р-2мме (S)	unguided
AT-2 ω N (S)	unapproachable
at-2inhb (B)	without sleep
λ Т- $ otharrow$	unapproachable
λΤ-2 ΦΠ(S)	unhidden
хт-гроф (S)	without weight
at-zice(S), at-jici(B)	unwearied, without difficulty
at-zite(S), at-hat(B)	unworn, untormented
λΤ-ΧΦ (S)	ineffable
at-xwk(SB)	without end
at-x(e)na(S), at-geno(B)	unquenchable
at-gwnt (B)	untried, untempted
хт-хпоq (S)	unbegotten
ат-беро (B)	unlit
ат-хро/бро (S)	unconquerable
ат-хюрп	unimpeded
ат-х ω 2 $M(S)$, ат-б ω h $EM(B)$	undefiled
at-xa(a)xe(S)	not rough (hoarse)of voice
λ Т-бомбем (S)	untouchable
AT-XINI (B)	not to be found
at-6 ω nt(S), at-2 ω nt(B)	unangered, not to be angered
λ Т-б ω Пе (S)	not to be taken
ат-брш2(В)	without needs
λ Т-б ω ТП (SB)	without defeat, unconquered

2- **at** + Noun

ат-апе	Headless
ат-аріке	blameless
ат-аүсіп	without cargo
λΤ-λόΝΙ	stainless
AT-BEKE	wageless
АТ-ЄЮТ	fatherless

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ат-кфв	without leaven
λ т-кроц (S) , λ т-хроц (B)	guileless
αΤ-λααγ (S)	without laking any
λ Т- λ ОІбе (SB)	without cause
AT-MACIN(B)	without mark
at-maay (SB)	without mother
λ т-мооу (SB) λ ө-мооу	waterless
ат-магт(В)	without bowels of compassion
ат- NHB(<i>B</i>)	lordless
AT-NOMTE(B	without strength
AT-NEEQ(S)	without sailor
at-nez, aonez (SB)	oilless
AT-OEIK	without bread
ат-ро /аө-ршц	mouthless, not speaking the language
ат-ка/ха рф (SB)	without leaving mouth shut
ат-ро	doorless
at-pwhe(SB)	without man, friendless
at-tpan(S)	unnamed
ат-роуге	without evening
AT-CMH (B)	voiceless, soundless
ат-смот	without form
ат-сноц(SB)	bloodless
ат-снү(SB)	timeless
at-c2ime(B)	wifeless
ατ-ογτα2(B)	fruitless
\mathbf{at} -оүфн (S)	without night (sleep)
ат-кпе (SB)	numberless
ат-фах (S)	toothless
ат-ры (<i>B</i>)	without end
at-2ai(SB)	without a husband
at-21e(B)	rudderless
at-2 $\mathbf{ob}(F)$	without work
at-2a(e)ibec(S)	shadowless
λΤ-p/ep-200λe (B)	incomuptible, indestructible
at-2ai(B)	without any
at-2mot(SB)	graceless, thankless
ат-гна(а)ү	state of being without property
ат-2ап(S)	without(going to) law, in undertake-ngs to deliver,pay
ат-†бап	not judging
ат-рре(В)	lacking food
at-2at, at-6ne2at($oldsymbol{B}$)	without money, payment
ат-2нт(SB)	without mind, senseless
\mathbf{AT} -20 $\mathbf{Te}(S)$	without fear

التراكيب ذات البادئة النافية في اللغة القبطية

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مدرس بكلية الألسن / جامعة الأقصر

الملخص

تتناول هذه الورقة البحثية البادئة النافية T_A التي تدخل على الأسماء والأفعال لتكوّن اسمًا مجردًا منفيا (صفة منفية) حيث أنه يوجد العديد من الأسماء المجردة تتكون من البادئة النافية T_A . علاوة على ذلك، جميع الأسماء المجردة المنفية بالأداة T_A . ثلّحق بها. في اللغة القبطية، هناك القليل من الصفات الحقيقية، ويرجع ذلك إلى أن الشكل القديم للغة كان غنيًا بأفعال الصفات، ويتم التعبير عن الصفة في القبطية عن طريق جملة الصلة أو الأسماء المرتبطة ببعضها من خلال أداة الإضافة T_A . هذه الصفة تتبع اسمها في النوع (مذكر أو مؤنث). وقد تم إجراء تحليل لاستخدام البادئة السالبة في اللغة القبطية. حيث ينقسم استخدامها إلى مجموعتين: أو لا: البادئة النافية T_A مع الأفعال، ثانياً: البادئة النافية T_A مع الأسماء حيث تم توضيح الفارق في المعني بين أصل الفعل والاسم وبين الكلمة المسبوق ب T_A وكذلك الأصل المصري القديم والديموطيقي لكل كلمة مع الشرح المعني بين أصل الفعل والاسم وبين الكلمة النافية T_A + الفعل أو الاسم، تتبع اسمها، لكنها ترتب معًا بأداة الإضافة T_A كما أن لها وظائف نحوية وصفية: تمثل المبتدأ أو الخبر في الجملة الأسمية، ويتم تقديم لمحة عامة عن الوظائف النحوية في الاستنتاجات. في الختام، تم عمل ملحقين بهم جميع الأسماء المجردة المنفية ب T_A طبقاً لما ورد في قاموس المفردات القبطي الأسماء المتصلة ب T_A أن عدد الأفعال المتصلة ب T_A أكثر من الأسماء المتصلة ب T_A ألفعال المتصلة ب T_A ألأسماء المتصلة ب T_A ألأسماء المتصلة ب T_A ألأسماء المتصلة ب T_A

الكلمات الدالة: اللغة القبطية، النفي، بادئة، فعل، اسم، صفة، اللغة في العصر المتأخر، الديموطيقية.