

Lesson 4: Near Demonstrative Articles

Near Demonstrative Articles

Demonstratives refer to the English "this" and "that." The demonstrative "this" is called the near demonstrative since it refers to objects that are nearby (e.g. "this book") whereas "that" is called the far demonstrative since it refers to objects that are far away (e.g. "that book").

In Coptic, the near demonstratives can be denoted as an article attached to the noun, or as a pronoun.

Masculine (this)	Feminine (this)	Plural (these)
ⲉⲓ -	ⲉⲓⲁ -	ⲉⲓⲁⲓ -

When using the near demonstrative as an article, it describes the attached noun. You will notice that the first letter of the near demonstrative article is based on the gender and number of the object and are identical to the first letter of the definite (and possessive) articles:

- ⲉ for a masculine object
- ⲉⲓ for a feminine object
- ⲉⲓⲁ for a plural object

The rest of the article is always ⲓⲁ -.

Examples

ⲉⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	this man	ⲉⲓⲁ ⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	this woman	ⲉⲓⲁ ⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ ⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	these boys
ⲉⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	this brother	ⲉⲓⲁ ⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	this censer	ⲉⲓⲁ ⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ ⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	these hands
ⲉⲓⲁ ⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	this son	ⲉⲓⲁ ⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	this daughter	ⲉⲓⲁ ⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	these women
ⲉⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	this king	ⲉⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	this queen	ⲉⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ ⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	these fathers
ⲉⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	this priest	ⲉⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ ⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	this church	ⲉⲓⲁ ⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	these brothers
ⲉⲓⲁ ⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	this friend (m.)	ⲉⲓⲁ ⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	this friend (f.)	ⲉⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	these kings
ⲉⲓⲁ ⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	this cup	ⲉⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	this bread	ⲉⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	this body

Application

Application 1:

Biblical Examples

ⲉⲛⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ	"in the Judgment with this generation" (Matthew 12:41)

Exercises

Exercise 1: Translate to Coptic

Translate the following phrases into Coptic:

Exercise 2: Translate to English

Translate the following phrases into English:

Exercise 3: Adapt the Hymn

The Veneration hymn ⲛⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ is written for a singular male martyr. Adapt the words of the hymn to be for St Rebekah and her children (plural).

ⲛⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓⲛⲓⲁⲓ : ⲛⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ : ⲛⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓⲛⲓⲁⲓ : ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ (...) ⲛⲓⲁⲓⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ .	Delight is the church, delight is the people assembled in it, delight is the image of this martyr, Saint (...) the martyr of our Lord Jesus Christ
ⲛⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ : ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ : ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ : ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ (...)	Delight is your holy name, O chosen one of Christ, the strong courageous and blessed one, O Saint (...)
ⲛⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ : ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓⲛⲓⲁⲓ : ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓ : ⲛⲓⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓ (...).	Whenever we mention your name, we the Christians, our hearts rejoice, O Saint (...).

Compare your results with the adaptation here: <https://hymnologist.com/hymn/view/64>

Resources

- Page 46 of Sameh Younan PDF

- Page 143 of Nabil Mattar
 - Lesson 3 of Moawad Daoud
 - ACTS 2990 Introduction to the Coptic Language (Bohairic) with Hany Takla Lesson 2b
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