

Lesson 5: Genitive

Genitive

The Genitive is a preposition that is used to denote possession (i.e. when some noun or pronoun belongs to some other noun or pronoun). In Coptic, the Genitive can be denoted by one of the articles ⲁ or ⲓ, or the preposition ⲛⲓ.

Articles ⲁ and ⲓ

<possessed noun> ⲁ<possessor> when the possessor noun starts with ⲁ ⲓ ⲛ ⲛⲓ ⲛⲓⲛ.

<possessed noun> ⲓ<possessor> in all other cases.

Examples:

ⲁⲓⲁ ⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	the house of the man
ⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ ⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓⲁ	the king of the city
ⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ ⲓⲁⲓⲁ ⲁⲓⲱⲱⲓⲁ	the fruit of the tree
ⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ ⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	the door of the Paradise
ⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁ ⲁⲓ ⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	the coming of Christ
ⲁⲓ ⲱⲓⲁ ⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ ⲁⲓ	the depth of the riches
ⲁⲓⲁ ⲛⲓⲁ ⲁⲓ ⲛⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	the womb of the Virgin
ⲁⲓ ⲱⲓⲁ ⲱⲓⲁ ⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	the pride of the virgins
ⲛⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ ⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ ⲓⲁⲓⲁ ⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ	the Theotokia of Thursday

Preposition ⲛⲓ

<possessed noun> ⲛⲓ<possessor>

The use of ⲛⲓ for the possessive can be used in any situation, but is especially used in the following situations:

1. After an indefinite noun (e.g. ⲛⲓⲁⲓⲁ ⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ ⲛⲓⲁⲓⲁ ⲛⲓⲁⲓⲁ)
2. Nouns with demonstrative prefixes (ⲛⲓⲁⲓⲁ ⲛⲓⲁⲓⲁ ⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ ⲛⲓⲁⲓⲁ)
3. Nouns with a following modifier (ⲛⲓ ⲱⲓⲁ ⲁⲓ ⲓⲁⲓⲁ ⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ ⲁⲓⲁⲓⲁ)

Examples:

אשר ישרא־ל־אֱלֹהִים	a servant (f.) of God
סֵפֶר אֲבִי אֶחָד	this book of my brother
בֶּן אֶחָד מִבְּנֵי הָאִישׁ	the lame son of the man
אֲנִי אֱלֹהֵי אֲבֹתֵיכֶם	I am the God of your fathers
הַלּוֹגוֹס הָאֵלֹהִים	the Logos of the Father
אֶתְּכָרֶם מִפְּאֵר עַמֵּנוֹ	the pride of our race

Pronominal Possessor

<possessed noun> אֵלֶּם=

The pronominal form of the prepositionאֵלֶּם isאֵלֶּם =

1st Person S	My	אֵלַי
2nd Person M	Your (m.)	אֵלֶיךָ
2nd Person F	Your (f.)	אֵלֶיךָ
3rd Person M	His	אֵלָיו
3rd Person F	Her	אֵלֶיהָ
1st Person P	Our	אֵלֵינוּ
2nd Person P	Your (p.)	אֵלֵיכֶם
3rd Person P	Their	אֵלֵיהֶם

Examples:

אשר ישרא־ל־אֶלַי	a servant of yours
סֵפֶר אֲבִי אֶחָד אֵלָיו	this book of his
שְׁלֹשָׁה בְּנֵי אִשָּׁתָהּ	three sons of hers

Possessive Pronouns

These pronouns are used in place of a possessive noun ("My <noun>")

	English	m. Object	f. Object	p. Object
1st Person S	Mine	אֵלַי	אֵלַי	אֵלַי
2nd Person M	Yours (m.)	אֵלֶיךָ	אֵלֶיךָ	אֵלֶיךָ
2nd Person F	Yours (f.)	אֵלֶיךָ	אֵלֶיךָ	אֵלֶיךָ
3rd Person M	His	אֵלָיו	אֵלָיו	אֵלָיו
3rd Person F	Hers	אֵלֶיהָ	אֵלֶיהָ	אֵלֶיהָ

1st Person P	<i>Ours</i>	ⲙⲓⲛⲓ	ⲙⲓⲛⲓ	ⲙⲓⲛⲓ
2nd Person P	<i>Yours (p.)</i>	ⲙⲓⲛⲓⲛⲓ	ⲙⲓⲛⲓⲛⲓ	ⲙⲓⲛⲓⲛⲓ
3rd Person P	<i>Theirs</i>	ⲙⲓⲛⲓ	ⲙⲓⲛⲓ	ⲙⲓⲛⲓ

Examples:

ⲙⲓⲛⲓ ⲙⲓ ⲙⲓⲛⲓ	Yours is the power
ⲙⲓⲛⲓ ⲙⲓ ⲙⲓⲛⲓ ⲙⲓⲛⲓ ⲙⲓⲛⲓ ⲙⲓ	Yours is all the earth
ⲙⲓⲛⲓ ⲙⲓ ⲙⲓⲛⲓⲛⲓ ⲙⲓⲛⲓ ⲙⲓⲛⲓⲛⲓ ⲙⲓ	Yours is the glory forever
ⲙⲓⲛⲓ ⲙⲓⲛⲓ ⲙⲓ ⲙⲓⲛⲓ	this ship is his

Exercises

Exercise 1: Translate to Coptic

Translate the following into Coptic:

1.

Exercise 2: Translate to English

Translate the following phrases into English:

- 1.
- 2.

Resources

"A Study in Bohairic Coptic" by Nabil Matar; p424

See Moawad Daoud Lesson

See Sameh Younan page in the PDF

ACTS 2990 Introduction to the Coptic Language (Bohairic) with Hany Takla Lesson