The *iri* of the Late Egyptian Third Future
New notices on the type of the nominal subject

Mohamed Farag Sabra
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**Abstract**

This paper highlights the type of nominal subject after the **iri** of the Third Future. The corpus of the study includes literary and non-literary texts of dynasties 19-22. Moreover, the instances enclose the normal future construction (the so-called Third Future) and the two rare construction of the future (analogue Third Future) which are derived from the Third Future. The corpus provides new notes on the type of the nominal subject where it appeared that **iri** of the Third Future is an official form than the **iw** because **iri** is frequently attested before the names of gods/goddesses, royal names, and names of rulers of foreign countries and nobles particularly in the texts on the Battle of Qadesh and the Egyptian-Hittite Peace Treaty. On the contrary, **iw** is rarely attested before the nominal subject of the Third Future in the corpus and it frequently appears before things and other normal names.

**Introduction**

As known, the Late Egyptian Third Future *iw.fr sdm* is derived from the Middle Egyptian pseudo-verbal construction pattern. It is frequently attested in both literary and non-literary texts of Late Egyptian and is still in use in Coptic. The particle **iw** is

* I am grateful to my supervisor Professor Dr. Helmut Satzinger for his reading and for his comments on this paper. I also would like to thank Professor Dr. Günter Vittmann for his reading and for his comments. I acknowledge support for this work by the Egypt Ministry of Higher Education (Joint Supervision program from the Egyptian Cultural Affairs Sector and Missions) under the Fifth Mission Plan for the year 2014–2015, as well as DLE Forschungsservice und Nachwuchsförderung fund (Abschlußstipendium), University of Vienna year 2020.


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indispensable with the so-called Third Future because it conveys itself the futurity and not by the $r +$ infinitive of the Middle Egyptian future$^2$. The $iw$ precedes both nominal and pronominal subject of the Third Future. Besides $iw$ of the Third Future appeared in the texts of the 19$^{th}$ Dynasty (KRI, I, 324 [1]) new form preceded by the particle $iri$ which only attests before the nominal subject of the future. On the other hand, Kruchten$^3$ thought that the first appearance of the $iri$ was in the 18$^{th}$ dynasty. He presented uncertain and unclear examples from the 18$^{th}$ Dynasty. It is challenging to decide which one of those attestations is the so-called Third Future or a prospective $sdm.f$ or other construction. This paper focuses on the type of nominal subject after $iri$. As many grammar books discussed the Third Future tense $iw.f r sdm$ and $iri N r sdm$, the following part features the morphology of the $iri$ and the opinion of the scholars about its origin. Then it comes to the examples of the nominal subject after $iri$ and $iw$ and finally the new observations on the type of the nominal subject as follows:

The morphology of the $iri$

The following table displays the forms of $iri$ of the Third Future. The two forms $\text{ぁ }$ and $\text{ゎ }$ are more frequently used before the nominal subject than the other forms in the table below. The $iri$ is sometimes written $\text{ゃ}$ after the relative $nty^4$. Korostovtsev$^5$ mentioned that $iri$ is also written $\text{ょ}$ as shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1 forms of the verb $iri$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Morphology</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\text{ぁ }$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\text{ゎ }$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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3 J. Kruchten, From Middle Egyptian to Late Egyptian, in: LingAeg 6, 1999, pp. 1-97, 42-43.

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The origin of the *iri*

The following scholars explained the origin of *iri* as follows:

Erman⁶ suggests that the verb *iw* “to be” is replaced by *iri* in LE in the case of a nominal subject.

Gardiner⁷ indicates that *iri* might be the verb *iri* “do” because a future tense might be derived from the meaning “N will act to hear.” He also suggests that the construction *iri* is in case of a nominal subject a mere alternative to *iw*.*r sdm*. He also linked between the LE constructions *iw.f r sdm* and *iri N (r) sdm* and Coptic future constructions *ερεωτμ* and *ερεεποιειωτμ*. As Coptic did not attest to any negative example in the case of the nominal subject after *ερεεποιειωτμ*, he argued that the *iri* before the nominal subject is due to the adhesion of the preposition *r* to *iw*.

Korostovtsev⁸ argues that *iri* “do/make” means also “to be” like the verb *iw*. Thus, from the semantic point of view, the replacement of *iw* by *iri* does not represent any difficulty.

Junge⁹ considers *iri* as merely a graphonemic variant of *iw*.

To conclude the above explanation of the scholars, *iri* is a mere alternative with *iw* of the Third Future or is a variation of *iw*. It is clear that the *iri* is not a mere alternative with *iw* because the instances below appeared that *iri* is officially used before the

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sacred names or the names of nobles, while the *iw* is used before the things names or sometimes before person names such as the scribe names. Now, I will let my attestations speak for themselves. The nominal subject of the *iri* could be classified into:

**Examples of the Nominal subject after *iri***

**After names of deities**

Ex.1: Anast. V, 12, 5, LEM 62, 9-10

\[ \text{*iri p3 Rc- hr - 3hty hr}^{10} 11 \text{ dit iry.k 3h. w k3} \]

Re- Harakhte will grant to have a long time of life.


\[ \text{ir p3 nty bn lw.fr s3w.sn *iri b3 n ntr n p3 b3 n b3} \text{ m-di n ntr n p3 t3 n kmt r fh p3y.fr pr p3y.fr t3 n3y.f b3k.w} \]

"As for who (ever) shall not keep them- a thousand gods of the land of Hatti together with the thousand gods of the land of Egypt shall destroy his house, his land, and his servants."\(^{12}\)

Ex. 3: KRI, II, 231: 1; 3.

\[ \text{iri b3 n ntr n p3 b3 n b3 m-di b3 n ntr n p3 t3 n kmt r di.t snb r di.t cnh.fr irm n3y.fr pri.t irm p3y.fr t3 irm n3y.fr b3k.w} \]

10 Gardiner mentioned in JEA 16 (1930:222-223) that the preposition *hr* occurs before the infinitive as a pseudo-archaism in all kinds of Late-Egyptian constructions. As *hr* before the infinitive is only attested once before the infinitive, Gardiner also see that the example with *hr* is entirely without grammatical significance.

11 A. Gardiner, Late-Égyptian Miscellanies, Bibliotheca Aegyptiaca 7, Bruxelles 1937, 62a [10 a]. He pointed out that the preposition *hr* is not necessary here. May be it is written wrong instead of the preposition *r*

12 RITA, II, 84.

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“...a thousand gods of the land of Hatti together with the thousand gods of the land of Egypt shall act to cause him to flourish and to live, together with his household, his land, and his servants.”

Ex. 4: Leyden I 362, verso, I; KRI II, 927, 5; Bakir (1970:pl.11, verso 1)

*iri* Ptḥ *in.t.n mtw.n ptri* […….]

Ptah will bring us, and we will see […….]

Ex. 5: LRL 46 [15-16] 47 [1]

*hr* *iri* Imn-RÊ *nstw ntrw p3y.k nb dl.t n.n hst r hr.k m-mitt*

“And Amun-Re, king of the Gods, your lord, shall give us favor before you as well.”

Ex. 6: KRI, VI, 448, 13

*īw bn iri p3 ntr* *h’y m 3bd 1 šmw hw 14*

While the god will not appear in the first month of shemu, day 14.

Ex. 7: KRI.I, 69, 15-16; LD.III, Taf.140 c, 18; Gardiner (1930:224 [ex.20]).

*iri* *n.f n3 ntrw ntrw întt nbw[ī] hwī.i r irī-n-ḥ3*

“All the gods and goddesses of my Temple shall be to him, adversaries.”

EX. 8: KRI, I 58, 5-6; Griffith (1927: pl. XLIII, r.113); Gardiner (1930:224 [ex. 21]).

*iri* Wsīr ħnty-imntt *p3 nb n3 n ḥt m s3.f m-s3 ħmt.f m-s3 hrdw.f*

13 RITA, II, 84.
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“Osiris, Foremost of the West, the lord of people and the lord of things, shall be (lit. is) after him, after his wife, and after his children.”

Ex. 9 and 10: KRI VI 351, 15 - 356.2; LD.III, Taf.229, C 19; Gardiner (1930:225, 24)

> ir p₃ nty nb mdt im.f *iri Imn-Rc nsw ntrw m-s₃(<f>) r s₃<s₃> f *iri mwt m-s₃ hmt.f hnsw m-s₃ hrdw.f

“Everybody who speaks against it, Amen-Re, the king of the gods, shall be after him to destroy him, Mut shall be after his wife, and Khons after his children.”

Ex. 11: KRI, I, 70 (3-4); Winand (1996: 133 [ex.67])

> ir p₃ nty nb iw.f r s sh ḫr wd tn *iri Wsir m-s₃ f iw Ist m-s₃ hmt.f iw ḫr m-s₃ hrd.w.f

“As for anyone (at all) who will be deaf to this decree, - Osiris will be behind him, Isis being behind his wife, and Horus being behind his children.”

Ex. 12: P. Sall. IV (LEM, 97 [14])

> *iri n.f ḫḥwty r iry n ḫḥwty m r-nc n mt

“Thoth shall be an adversary to him (when) in the condition of death.”

Before Royal names

Ex. 13: KRI, II, 229, 8-9

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bn *iri* Wsr-M3śt- Rć stp n Rć p3 ḫk3 n kmt r šsp.w
“– then Usirmare Setepenre, the Great Ruler of Egypt, shall not receive them.” 19

Ex. 14: KRI, II, 229, 9

*iri* R– Mśi– sw mṛi– ḫm n p3 ḫk3 ḫ3 n kmt di. in.tw.w n p3 wr ḫ3 n ḫt3
“(But) Ramesses II Meriamun, the Great Ruler of Egypt, shall have them brought (back) to the Great Ruler of Hatti.” 20

Ex. 15: KRI, II, 229, 10-11

bn *iri* Wsr-M3śt– Rć stp n– Rć p3 ḫk3 ḫ3 n kmt w3h.w
“– then Usirmare Setepenre, the Great Ruler of Egypt, shall not leave them.” 21

Ex. 16: KRI, IV, 15, 5; Gardiner (1930:225, 25)

*iri* B3-n-Rć mṛy-Imn m-s3 msw.f
“Baenre- Meriamun shall be after his children.”

Ex. 17: RAD 57, 4-5

*iri* pr - 3 ʾnḥ wd3 snb di. t n.tn  diw
Pharaoh, LPH, will give to you grain rations

Before rulers of foreign countries and nobles

Ex. 18: KRI, II, 229, 4-5

19 RITA, II, 83.
20 RITA, II, 83.
21 RITA, II, 83. In Examples 21 and 22 the sign was written wrong in KRI instead of the right sign.

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bn *iri* pꜣ wr 3 n [h]tꜣ r šsp.w *iri* pꜣ wr 3 n hꜣ r dit in.tw Wsr-M3t-RŠ Stp-n Rꜣ

pꜣ hkꜣ 3 n kmt pꜣ y.sn nb nh wdꜣ snb

“The great ruler of Hatti shall not receive them, (but) the great ruler of Hatti shall be brought them (back) to Usermat-re setepenra, the great ruler of Egypt, their lord living, prosperity, and health.” 22

Ex. 19: KRI, II, 229, (8-9)

*iri* pꜣ wr 3 n hꜣ […………]

“The great ruler of Hatti shall [………]

Ex. 20: KRI, II, 229, (8-9)

*iri* pꜣ wr 3 n hꜣ mh im.sn 23

The great ruler of Hatti will hold them

Ex. 21: KRI, II, 228, 7-8; Winand (1996:134[ex.70]).

ir knd R-msi- sw mry-imn [pꜣ hkꜣ 3 n kmt] r bꜣ k.w swt iw ir.sn ky ḫy r.f mtw.f.šm.t [r ḫd.w ]

*iri* pꜣ wr 3 n hꜣ ir[m.f ḫ] pꜣ nty nb iw.w r knd r.w

“If Ramesses Meriamun, [the great ruler of Egypt], is angry with servants of his, who committed a further offense against him, and he goes to[ kill them], then the great ruler of Hatti shall be [with him in order to ruin everyone against whom they will be angry]” 24

Ex. 22: Two Brothers 17, 10; LES 27, 15

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22 RITA, II, 82

23The sign  was written wrong in KRI instead of the right sign 2


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*ir p3 nty *ir t3 špsj i dd n.i

“As for what the lady will say to me.”

Ex. 23: KRI IV, 317, 9-10; HO, pl.XLVI, verso 2, 12; Allam (1973:215).

*iri p3y.i nb r di.t iry.tw sb3 n t3y st-ḥmt r iḥ3 y p3 ḡ3 m mtt p3 wšb

My master will cause to carry out the punishment on this woman who took the pick and the wŠb-vessel.

Ex. 24: LEM 76, 4-6

*iri p3y.i nb r di.t ini.tw n3 h3k.w nty ḡ3 m pr Nbt-ḥtpt

my lord will cause to bring the servants who are left in the house of Nebethetepet.

Ex. 25: Anast. VI, LEM 78, 6

*iri p3y.i nb h3b mr-pr [v]w p3

My lord will write (to) steward Yupa.

Before Other common nouns

Ex. 26: KRI, II, 64, 9

*iri h3s.wt ptr.i r sdd.t rn.i r 33  h3swt w3i n rh [tw]

“The foreign lands which behold me shall tell of my name as far as distant lands yet unknown.”

Ex. 27: Sallier, I, LEM 82 (1-2).
nn iri w smit (= i ) n p3y.i nb hr ɛk
“No one among them shall report me to my lord on account of food.”

Ex. 28: Oracles, Blackman JEA 12, Ostr.5625, pl.36, verso (4-5)

Ex. 29: P. BM 10052, 6, 9-10.

Ex. 30: P. Turin, 2021, Černý JEA 13, pl. XIV, p.3 (13), pl. XV, 4 (1)

Ex. 31: Wenamun 2,14; LES 68, 9

Ex. 32: LES 47 (4-5)

28 T. Peet, The Great Tomb-Robberies of the Twentieth Egyptian Dynasty, Hildesheim, 1977, 149.

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\[ r-dd \text{ *iri* n.i nb.w} m bwt n niwti \]

“Saying: Gold shall be for me an abomination unto my city."

**Ex. 33:** O DM 133, KRI, VI, 425 [10-14])

\[ iw.f \text{ dit iry.f} \text{ *n*h n nb} \text{ *n*h wd3 snb r-dd mtw.i} \text{ pn*} \text{ r mdt} \text{ *n* iw.f} \text{ hr} \text{ 100 n sh* n sti} \text{ *iri* p3 *f m k3b} 2 \]

“And he made him take an oath of the lord, L.P.H., saying: If I come back on (this) matter again, (then) I (lit. He) shall suffer a hundred blows of the stick, and the donkey will be reckoned (made) against me (lit. him) double.”

**Ex. 34:** KRI, III, 614, 6; Winand (1992: §797, [ex. 1231]).

\[ i3 \text{ 3h.t m ssr-ikr} \text{ *iri* n3y.sn it} \text{ 3h.} \phi \]

“The field is in excellent condition, and their barley will be beautiful.”

**Ex. 35:** KRI I 324 3

\[ sti nty \text{ *iri* Nby r rdt.s n.k} \]

Sow which Nby will bring it to you.

**Nominal subject after the iw**

**Ex. 1:** P. Naunachte, col.5, 11

\[ bn \text{ iw rmt iswt Nfr-hip p*} \text{ im.w} \]

“The workman Neferhotep shall not share in it.”

**Ex. 2:** LES 58, 10-11

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31 RITA, VI, 329


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\[ hr \ ir \ hr- \ s3 \ ntrw \ tw \ p^t \ rhy \ (t) \ htp.w \ m \ p3 \ nty \ tw.k \ im \ m-r^c \]

"And after the gods all mankind shall also go to rest where you are." 34

**Ex. 3:** Adoption Extraordinary, Gardiner (1941:24, [Pl.VI a, 25-26]).

\[ tw \ n3 \ šri.w \ irm \ t3y.w \ snt \ c3.t \ m \ p3 \ pr \ n \ P3-dj.w \ p3y \ hry \ ih \ p3y \ sn \ šri \ ink \]

“The children will be with their elder sister in the house of Padiu, this stable-master, this younger brother of mine." 35

**Ex. 4:** LES 75, 14-16

\[ in \ bn \ tw \ p3y.st \ nbt \ gmy \ 10 \ n \ isw \ m-di.i \ mtw.f \ hdb.w \ gr \ mntf \]

“Will not their lord find ten crews of yours and kill them also?” 36

**Ex. 5:** Fairman, JEA 33, pl.VII, column 19 (speech of Pakhet to Thoth)

\[ tw \ s3.t \ r \ "h^c \ hr \ st \ mn \ hr \ nst \ n \ dt \ s3-r^c \ Sty-mry-n-Pth \]

“My son shall ascend the throne, abiding upon the seat for ever, (even) the son of Re Seti-mery-n Ptah.” 37

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35 This sentence is also an independent sentence refers to future.

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It is noted that the nominal subject *s3.l* refers to the king Sethos I.

**Ex. 6:** Quack, Ani (1994:281[B 15, 9]).

*iri тын s wšbt.f  iw nst.f  wd3y r ḫd*

If a man is observed with his testimony, his tongue will be preserved from punishment[^38].

**Ex. 7:** P. Pushkin, Caminos (1977: pl.10, col.4,5-6)

*IW iw p3y.f  $ r iṯl-ǐnī n=f*

"while his protest will be distorted for him"[^39].

**Conclusion**

By analyzing the texts of LE, the instances has shown that the auxiliary *iri* only preceded the nominal subject from the 19th Dynasty onward, particularly in the texts of the Battle of Qadesh and the Egyptian-Hittite Peace Treaty. The corpus has shown that *iri* of the future is used before the names of gods/goddesses, royal names, the rulers of foreign countries and nobles 26 out of 35 times. On the contrary, *iw* is only attested before things and other names 7 times. To sum up, the corpus has shown that *iri* is frequently attested in official texts such as diplomatic and historical texts (the texts of the Battle of Qadesh and the Egyptian-Hittite Peace Treaty).

**Table 2. Account the type of the nominal subject after *iri* and *iw***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Auxiliary</th>
<th>Type of the Nominal Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>iri</em></td>
<td>Gods/goddesses names</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Royal names</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>rulers of foreign countries and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other names (scribes and things)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[^38]: J. Quack, Joachim F., *Die Lehren des Ani: ein neuägyptischer Weisheitstext in seinem kulturellen Umfeld*, Orbis biblicus et orientalis, 141, Fribourg (Schweiz); Göttingen, Universitätsverlag Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1994, 151.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of the Nominal Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>iw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iri</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following table shows the type of the nominal subject after *iw* and *iri*. The nominal subject with *iri* is attested more often in the corpus than with *iw* as follows:

**Table 3. The type of the nominal subject after *iw* and *iri***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particle</th>
<th>Nominal Subject</th>
<th>Examples</th>
<th>Particle</th>
<th>Nominal Subject</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>iw</em></td>
<td><em>rm티</em></td>
<td>P.Naunachte col.5 [5-9]</td>
<td><em>iri</em></td>
<td><em>Dḥw.ty</em></td>
<td>LEM 97 [13-14]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>iswt</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Ptḥ</em></td>
<td>Leyden I 362, Bakir (1970:pl.11 [1]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>pꜣš rḥy</em></td>
<td>Horus &amp; Seth 15,8</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>ʾmn</em></td>
<td>LRL 58 [7-8]; ZÄS, 29 [49-50]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>n3 šrıy.w</em></td>
<td>Adoption Extr. JEA 26, pl.VIa, 25-26)</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>ʾmn-Rꜣ</em></td>
<td>LRL 46 [15-16] 47 [1]; LD.III, Taf.229, C {19}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>s3.i</em></td>
<td>JEA 33 1947:pl.VI, 19</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Wsir</em></td>
<td>Griffith (1927: pl. XLIII, r.113); KRI, I, 70 (3-4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>nṣ.t</em> [tongue ]</td>
<td>Quack, Ani (1994:281[B 15, 9]).</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Mw.t</em></td>
<td>LD.III, Taf.229, C {19}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*p３y.fš [ptotest ]</td>
<td>P. Pushkin, Caminos (977:pl.10, col.4,5-6))</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>p３ ntr</em></td>
<td>KRI, VI, 448; LES, 2 [14] [12-14].</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>n3 ntr.w</em></td>
<td>KRI.I, 69, 15-</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th><strong>ntr.wt</strong></th>
<th>16</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>h3 n ntr</strong></td>
<td>KRI, II, 230 [13]; 231 [1], [2]</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Pr ē3</strong></td>
<td>Amherst, V, 4 [3], RAD 57 [4-5]</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Wsr- mē3.t-R</strong></td>
<td>KRI, II, 229 [8-9]; KRI, II, 229 [10-11]</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>stp-n-rē</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>R- msi-sw</strong></td>
<td>KRI, II, 229 [8-9]</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Mry-imn</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>B3-n rē</strong></td>
<td>KRI, IV, 15, 5</td>
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<td><strong>mry-Imn</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>pē3 wr ē3</strong></td>
<td>KRI, II, 228 [4-5], 229 [4-5]; 231 [4-5]</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>n htē3</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>tē3 pt</strong></td>
<td>LES 68 [7-10]</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>hē3s.wt</strong></td>
<td>KRI, II, 64 [9]</td>
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<td><strong>tē3 šps.j</strong></td>
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[2]= appearance 2 times
[3]= appearance 3 times
[4]= appearance 4 times

**References**


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