CHAPTER XVII

THE INFINITIVE — MORPHOSYNTAX (CONT.)

It remains to survey the functions of the infinitive in adverbial expressions, viz. in constructions with a preposition. These formations are the most ubiquitous of all the usages of the infinitive and might be considered such a commonplace as to warrant little special attention. However, it will be seen that these adverbial phrases form an essential part of the message in many verbal and even some non-verbal clauses in the EA letters. The WS word order that generally prevails in the EA texts from Canaan affects the place assigned to the adverbial vis à vis the governing verb. Examples gleaned from the EA texts in question will be discussed below under their respective semantic headings and according to the governing preposition. Of the 160 or so instances of prepositional phrases with infinitives, only a representative selection can be cited here. Emphasis will be on especially clear examples illustrating the main categories of usage, plus certain passages exhibiting unusual word order and/or semantic nuance

EXPRESSIONS OF PURPOSE

Over 100 examples, nearly two thirds of the entire collection, serve to express purpose. Except for a very few cases, the preposition involved is ana (Aro 1961:119-214)

ana. Moran (1950a:81) had observed that prepositional phrases with ana governing the infinitive were widely used in the Byblos texts, but he also noted that such was typical Akkadian usage anyway (GAG:202, §150h). The distinguishing feature of the EA texts from Canaan is that these adverbial complements generally follow the verb which governs them. Some typical examples are:
ù yu-wa-ši-ra / 1 LÚ.GAL a-na na-ša-ri-ia "So may he send one official to protect me!" (EA 64:12-13); li-dí-nam-mi šá-ru 1 ME LÚ.MEŠ ma-an-ša-ar-taṣ / a-na na-ša-ri URU.KI-šu "May the king send one hundred garrison troops to guard his city!" (EA 244:34-36); ki-i-me e-nu-ma / ip-qi-id-ni LÚ.GAL be-li-ia / a-na na-ša-ri URU-šu "As when the king, my lord, appointed me to guard his city" (EA 148:20-22; cf. also EA 155:49-50); ù ip-šu-ru-ni GÎŠMÁ.MEŠ-šu-nu / GÎŠ.GIGIR.MEŠ-šu-nu ERÎN.MEŠ GÎR-šu-nu / a-na ša-ba-ti URÎSUr-ri GEME LÚ.GAL "And they have assembled their ships, their chariots, (and) the foot soldiers in order to capture Tyre, the handmaiden of the king" (EA 149:61-63).

In all of these particular passages, the direct object of the governing verb is the subject of the infinitive. The direct object of the infinitive is dependent upon it, either as a suffix pronoun or as a noun in the dependent case.

For emphasis, the adverbial may be placed at the head of its clause, before the governing verb:

a-na ḫal-li-iq / KUR LÚ.GAL EN-ia yu-ba-á²-ú 4Mil¹-ki³-[i] "It is to subvert the land of the king that Milkili is seeking" (EA 250:55-56).

In this passage, as in many others, the subject of the governing verb is also the subject of the infinitive of purpose, e.g.

ù ŠEŠ-ia TUR iš-tu ia-ti / i-na-karš-mi URÎGub-laKI / a-na na-da-ni URU.KI-li / a-na DUMU.MEŠ IR¹-A-ši-ir-ti "And my younger brother has alienated the city of Byblos from me in order to give the city to the sons of ʿAbdi-Ashtira" (EA 137:16-19).

It should be noted in this example that, though the infinitive is in construct with its direct object, it carries an -i suffix rather than the customary -O. As mentioned previously (supra, pp. 383-384), there is no way of knowing for sure whether this is just a reflection of the prevailing situation in Canaanite (i.e. case