CHAPTER TEN

THE VERB: THE PREFIXING FORMS

Introduction

The Prefixing Form of the verb comprises three distinct subforms: (i) Prefixing Form A, the reflex of West Semitic *yaqtulu*, (ii) Prefixing Form B, the reflex of West Semitic *yaqtul* and (iii) Prefixing Form C, the reflex of West Semitic *yaqtula*. In Phoenician, as in Classical Arabic and Old Aramaic, the three prefixing forms were mutually distinct in morphology: Form A in the Pl. 2. M. and Pl. 3. M. exhibited the inflection -ūn (-N); in contrast, Forms B and C ended in -ū (-O; Pu -'). This difference in inflection was consistently and scrupulously maintained, in marked contrast to Ugaritic and Hebrew, in which the forms were often used in free variation. Form C differed from Forms A and B in the Sg. 1. C. and Sg. 3. M. exhibiting word-final -a, but this inflectional ending appears in the writing of the form only in the Punic and Neo-Punic Latin-letter orthography.

I. Prefixing Form A

A. Morphology

Forms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strong</th>
<th>Ph</th>
<th>BT bit</th>
<th>Ph</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;P'L</td>
<td>Ph</td>
<td>26 C III 17 (“I shall make”)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;S'L</td>
<td>Ph</td>
<td>48.2/3 (“I ask”)</td>
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<td>IIIy</td>
<td>Ph</td>
<td>13.4 (“I possess”)</td>
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<tr>
<td>este</td>
<td>Pu</td>
<td>Poen. 1141 (“I shall drink”)</td>
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<tr>
<td>y-t-n</td>
<td>Pu</td>
<td>89.2 (“I give”)</td>
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<td>'T(N)</td>
<td>Pu</td>
<td>98.2</td>
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### Sg. 2. M.

**Strong**

- **TP[L]** tip‘al: Ph Byb 9 B 3 (“you shall make”)
- **TPTH** tiptah: Ph 13.7 (“you shall open”)
- **TPQ** tipūq: Ph 13.3 (“you shall acquire”)
- **TȘT** tisīt: Ph Byb 10.13 (“you shall place”)

### Sg. 3. M.

**Strong**

- **Y'MR** yūmer: Ph 26 C III 14/15 (“he shall contemplate”)
- **YŽBH** yizbaḥ: Pu 69.15 (“he shall sacrifice”)
- **YHMD** yaḥmod: Ph 26 A III 14 (“he loves”)
- **Y'MS** ya‘mos: Ph 14.7 (“he shall carry off”)
- **YP'L** yip‘al: Ph 26 A III 16 (“he shall make”)
- **YPTH** yiptah: Ph 14.7 (“he shall open”)
- **YȘ'T'** yista‘: Ph 26 A II 4 (“he used to fear”)

**In**

- **YȘ'** yissa(‘): Ph 14.7 (“he shall take away”)
- **YS'** yissa(‘): Ph 26 A III 15,17 (“he shall pull out”)

### IIwy

- **YKN** yakūn: Ph 26 A IV 2 9 (“it shall be”)
- **YMH** yimhe: Ph Byb 1.2; 26 A III 13 (“he shall erase”)

### Sg. 3. F.

**h-l-k**

- **TLK** telek: Ph 26 A II 5 (“she walks”)

### Pl. 1. C.

**IIIy**

- **neste** neste: Pu *Poen.* 1142 (“we shall drink”)

### Pl. 2. M.

**Strong**

- **timlacun**
  - **timlakān**
- **thymlachun**
  - **timlakān**

**NPu** *Poen.* 931 (“you rule”)

**NPu** *Poen.* 940P (“you rule”)