PART THREE
MORPHOSYNTAX
SECTION A
THE PRONOUN

§ 39. Personal pronouns

a) Whether conjunctive or disjunctive, a personal pronoun in the first or second person, refers to the speaker(s) or the person(s) spoken to respectively. Thus 'that I am wearing' A2.1:6; 'about you we worry' ib.8; 'you, issue an order!' A6.3:7. The reference may be "personalised" and applied to a non-human living object, animal or plant: "The [bramble] dispensed to [the] pomegranate, saying, '... How goodly is the abundance of your thorns' " C1.1:101; "The lambs ... said to him [= the bear], 'Carry (away) what you will from us' ib.169.

b) A pronoun in the third person, by contrast, may refer not only to a person or persons spoken of, but also to an inanimate object or objects, often with no implication of personalisation. For example, "my son ... he (יהו) will succeed me" C1.1:18; 'he is wise' ib.28; 'his daughter' B2.3:3; 'she is my wife' B2.6:4, but 'its measurements [= of the property]' B2.3:3f. Such a pronoun must agree in gender and number with the noun to which it refers: 'it (= האבקה) is yours' B3.10:11. The 3ms ויה may even refer back to a whole notion or thought as in 'it is a punishment from gods' C1.1:128. In such a case it is difficult to identify a single noun or noun phrase to which the pronoun refers: "Give him as much as (למכשך) you can. It is not a loss for you (לא חつき ולו לכם) if it is so according to these words' A6.11:3; 'it is your responsibility' D7.5:10, and perhaps 'it is hired for him' D7.20:3. A variation on such use of ויה is equivalent to "i.e., namely" in an explanatory gloss: 'one karsh, that is, 1, three shekels, that is 3' B3.12:5; ויה ויה ויה.
c) In addition to the uses described above, used as a direct object of a verb form other than the infinitive and the participle, whereas the rest of the pronouns are synthetically attached to the verb as conjunctive pronouns: 'I shall reclaim them' B6.4:8; אַל אֶאֶחַּשׁ אֶלֶּה נִשְׁנָתִי 'I did not bring them' A3.3:10. The use of כָּלֶה וְרָאָה 'the garment which you brought for me (to) Syene—_that_ I am wearing' A2.1:6 is exceptional. The pronoun יָד, however, is not of the same kind as הם or היא, for the participle וָלֶּכֶה cannot take a conjunctive pronoun as its object. See above § 37 f (5) and below § 74 h.

d) The third person plural disjunctive pronoun הוא or היא is, in addition to the uses described above, used as a direct object of a verb form other than the infinitive and the participle, whereas the rest of the pronouns are synthetically attached to the verb as conjunctive pronouns: 'I shall reclaim them' B6.4:8; אַל אֶאֶחַּשׁ אֶלֶּה נִשְׁנָתִי 'I did not bring them' A3.3:10. The use of כָּלֶה וְרָאָה 'the garment which you brought for me (to) Syene—_that_ I am wearing' A2.1:6 is exceptional. The pronoun יָד, however, is not of the same kind as הם or היא, for the participle וָלֶּכֶה cannot take a conjunctive pronoun as its object. See above § 37 f (5) and below § 74 h.

e) The finite verb, namely a verb form other than the infinitive and participle, has a built-in marker of the categories of person, number, and gender. Yet we often find a disjunctive personal pronoun used next to, and preceding, such a finite verb. In our corpus it almost always appears immediately before the verb. It is most common in the first and second persons.

720 We would rather assume a scribal error of instead of a difficult instead as ptc.act. (so Joüon 1934:39). On a peculiar use of יָד in the sense of "idem, ditto" in a list of names (C3.15:6,26,27,28), see Joüon 1934:66-67.

721 For similar syntax, cf. הַלְֹשַׁלְֹה יָדָה 'to expel him' 1QS 7.16 and הַלְֹשַׁלְֹה יָדָה 'to kill him' CD 9.1 in Qumran Hebrew (Qimron 1986:76).

722 Driver's view (1957:78) that a pronoun is required because the [written] form of the verb does not distinguish the 1st and 2nd persons is most unlikely.

723 The imperative lacks the first and third persons.

724 Except in cases discussed under (iv) below.

725 In a seeming exception such as הַלְֹשַׁלְֹה יָדָה 'I shall not be able—I, Mahseiah, son or daughter of mine ...—to bring suits against you' B2.11:7 we may note that the long multiple subject introduced by הַלְֹשַׁלְֹה יָדָה is, in fact, in apposition to the subject latent in הַלְֹשַׁלְֹה יָדָה. So