The Admonitions of Ipuwer: Difficult version

The text was composed during the Middle Kingdom, but the surviving manuscript is Papyrus Leiden 344, dating to the 19th dynasty. Our excerpt begins at line 2.3 due to the fragmentary nature of the previous lines.

ỉwms ḥʿpy ḥr ḥwỉ

Surely/indeed, Hapy/the Nile is overflowing;

Sentence structure: Subject + *ḥr* + infinitive (present tense)

n skɜ.tw n=f s nb ḥr ḏd

one does not plough for it/him. Every man is saying:

Sentence structure: *n* + *sḏm.tw=f* (negation); *ḥr* + infinitive

n rḫ=n ḫprwt ḫt tȝ ỉwms ḥmwt wšr

‘We do not know what has happened/is happening throughout the land. Indeed, women are barren.

Sentence structure: *n* + *sḏm=f*; plural feminine participle; subject + stative

n ỉwr.n.tw n ḳd.n ḫnmw m-ᶜ sḫrw tȝ

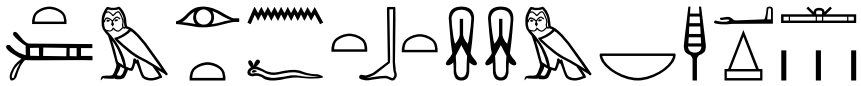
One cannot conceive; Khnum cannot build because of the condition of the land.

Sentence structure: *n* + *sḏm.n.tw=f* (passive; inability to do something)

ỉwms šwȝww ḫpr(.w) m nbw špssw

Indeed/surely, poor men have become lords/owners of riches/wealth/possessions.

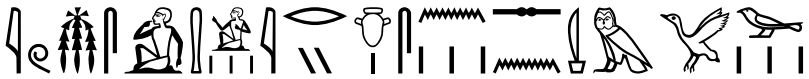
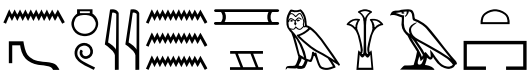
Sentence structure: Subject + stative; construct state (two nouns together to produce a possessive effect)



tm ỉrt n=f tbty m nb ꜥḥꜥw

The one who could not make for himself a pair of sandals (is) the lord/owner of riches/wealth/heaps/tombs.

Sentence structure: Ambiguous verb construction (perhaps negated participle)



is obscure; Gardiner suggests ‘to lack’.