

Classical Syriac

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Chapter 6

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6.1. Independent Personal Pronouns¹

Personal pronouns are words or other grammatical forms that are used when:

- the speaker wishes to refer to himself or herself directly, either as an individual or as part of a larger group (i.e. the first person—I, my, me, we, us);
- the speaker wishes to refer to the individual or group to whom they are directly speaking (i.e. the second person—you, your); or
- the speaker wishes to refer to a person, place, thing, or idea they have already spoken about but wishes to avoid using a noun or other substantive to refer to them (i.e. the third person—he, his, him, she, her, it, they, their, them).

These pronouns are referred to as *personal* pronouns because they indicate grammatical person (i.e. first person, second person, or third person) and are referred to as *pronouns* because they stand in the place of nouns.

Classical Syriac has three types of personal pronouns: pronominal suffixes, independent personal pronouns, and enclitic personal pronouns. Pronominal suffixes are personal pronouns that are directly attached to the end of a word, preposition, or particle. Independent personal pronouns, on the other hand, appear as independent words and typically function as the subject of a clause. Enclitic personal pronouns are shortened versions of independent personal pronouns (either in spelling or pronunciation) that normally appear as independent words but can also appear as suffixes on participles, adjectives, and other words. The focus of this section will be on independent personal pronouns.

¹ Cf. Nöldeke §§63, 220, 227, 309; Muraoka §§9, 74; Duval §§174, 298–99, 301; Mingana §§446–47; Brockelmann §90.

b) Independent personal pronouns can function as the subject of a verbal clause. Since the subjects of verbal clauses are typically nouns or are found within the verb itself, the use of an independent personal pronoun in a verbal clause normally places increased focus on the subject of the verb, often for the sake of contrast. Note the following examples:

| Examples | | |
|--|--|--|
| Syriac | English | Function |
| <p>ܡܗ ܕܒܝܬܐ ܕܝܥܘܒܐ . ܗܘܐ ܕܝܥܘܒܐ ܕܝܥܘܒܐ , ܕܝܥܘܒܐ .</p> | <p>He will trample your head and you will strike him on his heel. (Gen 3:15)</p> | <p>Highlights the subject for the sake of contrast—the future action of “the seed of the woman” is contrasted with the future action of the serpent.</p> |
| <p>ܐܢܝ ܒܘܬܘܒܐ ܕܡܝܘܢܐ ܕܩܘܕܫܐ . ܡܗ ܕܝܥܘܒܐ ܕܝܥܘܒܐ .</p> | <p>I baptize you in water but he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit. (Mark 1:8)</p> | <p>Highlights the subject for the sake of contrast—the baptism of John is contrasted with the baptism of Jesus.</p> |
| <p>ܡܗ ܕܝܥܘܒܐ ܕܝܥܘܒܐ .</p> | <p>Look! We have left everything. (Mark 10:28)</p> | <p>Highlights the subject for the sake of contrast—the disciples, as opposed to the rich man mentioned earlier in the passage, have left everything for the sake of Jesus.</p> |
| <p>ܡܗ ܕܝܥܘܒܐ ܕܝܥܘܒܐ ܕܝܥܘܒܐ :</p> | <p>So she went out and said to her mother (Mark 6:24)</p> | <p>Highlights the subject to indicate a change in subject from the previous clause.</p> |
| <p>ܡܗ ܕܝܥܘܒܐ ܕܝܥܘܒܐ ܕܝܥܘܒܐ :</p> | <p>Then she answered and said to him (Mark 7:28)</p> | <p>Highlights the subject to indicate a change in subject from the previous clause.</p> |

c) Independent personal pronouns can function as the subject of a participle. Participles will be dealt with in a later chapter but note the following examples:

| Examples | |
|---|---|
| Syriac | English |
| <p>ܡܗ ܕܝܥܘܒܐ ܕܝܥܘܒܐ ܕܝܥܘܒܐ .</p> | <p>And you are to call his name Isaac. (Gen 17:19)</p> |
| <p>ܡܗ ܕܝܥܘܒܐ ܕܝܥܘܒܐ ܕܝܥܘܒܐ . ܡܗ ܕܝܥܘܒܐ ܕܝܥܘܒܐ .</p> | <p>You are worshiping something that you do not know. (John 4:22)</p> |

d) Third-person independent personal pronouns can function as an equivalent for the definite article. This function is sometimes used in the New Testament Peshitta to indicate when a definite article was used in the underlying Greek text. When an independent personal pronoun

has this function before a personal name, it should be left untranslated.⁴ Note the following examples:

| Examples | |
|--|---|
| Syriac | English |
| <p>ܕܠܘ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܡܘܠܘܕܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ.</p> | <p>And the Word was with God. And the Word was God. (John 1:1)</p> |
| <p>ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ.</p> | <p>And the light shines in the darkness. (John 1:5)</p> |
| <p>ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ.</p> | <p>And he gave [it] to the girl and the girl gave [it] to her mother. (Mark 6:28)</p> |
| <p>ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ</p> | <p>But John forbade him. (Matt 3:14)</p> |
| <p>ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ:</p> | <p>But Jesus answered and said to him (Matt 3:15)</p> |

e) Independent personal pronouns can serve to clarify or further define the subject of a clause. Note the following example:

| Example | |
|---|---|
| Syriac | English |
| <p>ܕܘܠܘܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ:</p> | <p>Then Abram went up from Egypt – he, his wife, and all that belonged to him. (Gen 13:1)</p> |

f) Independent personal pronouns can be used beside a noun to place increased focus on the noun:

| Examples | |
|--|---|
| Syriac | English |
| <p>ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ.</p> | <p>For Herod himself had sent word to seize John. (Mark 6:17)⁵</p> |
| <p>ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ ܠܘܥܘܒܐ.</p> | <p>Although Jesus himself was not baptizing but his disciples. (John 4:2)</p> |

⁴ Personal names in Greek can be preceded by the definite article. When this happens, the definite article should not be translated since personal names in English, except in the rarest of circumstances, are never preceded by the definite article.

⁵ Note that ܘܢܘܥܘܒܐ does not appear beside ܠܘܥܘܒܐ because the conjunction ܘܢܘܥܘܒܐ cannot appear as the first word in a clause. See §9.3.1.

6.2. Enclitic Personal Pronouns⁶

In addition to the basic forms given above for independent personal pronouns, Classical Syriac also has another set of forms that are referred to in this textbook as **enclitic personal pronouns**.⁷

In Classical Syriac, enclitic personal pronouns usually appear as separate words and are typically shorter than regular independent personal pronouns in both pronunciation and spelling. In some cases, enclitic personal pronouns are attached directly to the end of a participle, an adjective, and, in the case of third masculine singular pronouns, to other words to form a single word.⁸ However, even when enclitic personal pronouns appear as separate words, they are still pronounced with the previous word as though they were a single word—just like the abbreviated form of the word “not” in the word “shouldn’t”. The following chart provides the forms for enclitic personal pronouns:⁹

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| 3msg | ܐܘܢ, ܐܘܢܐ, ܐ (w) ¹⁰ | 3mpl | ܐܘܢܐ |
| 3fsg | ܐܘܢܐ, ܐܘܢܐ | 3fpl | ܐܘܢܐ |
| 2msg | ܐܘܢܐ ¹¹ , ܐܘܢܐ | 2mpl | ܐܘܢܐ ¹² , ܐܘܢܐ |
| 2fsg | ܐܘܢܐ, ܐܘܢܐ | 2fpl | ܐܘܢܐ, ܐܘܢܐ |
| 1csg | ܐܘܢܐ, ܐܘܢܐ ¹³ | 1cpl | ܐܘܢܐ, ܐܘܢܐ |

Enclitic personal pronouns can be used in several ways:

⁶ Cf. Nöldeke §§63–64, 221, 311-12; Muraoka §§9–10, 104; Duval §§109, 174, 298, 302, 375; Mingana §448–51; Brockelmann §§24, 90, 204.

⁷ In other textbooks they are referred to as enclitics. Enclitics are words that are pronounced with very little emphasis, are joined in pronunciation with the previous word, and, in some situations, are combined with the previous word to form a single word. Examples of enclitics in English include the *'s* in the word *it's* (where the *'s* represents the word “is”) and the *n't* in the word *shouldn't* (where the *n't* represents the word *not*).

⁸ Participles will be discussed in a later chapter.

⁹ For the pronunciation of 3msg and 3fsg pronouns with the previous word, see Table 4.2 in chapter 4.

¹⁰ This shorter form is only used when the enclitic personal pronoun is attached directly to a participle.

¹¹ Note that the forms of the 2msg and 2fsg enclitic personal pronouns (when written as independent words) are identical to the forms of the independent personal pronouns. The difference between the pronouns lies in how closely the enclitic personal pronouns are pronounced with the previous word. The shorter forms of the 2msg and 2fsg enclitic personal pronouns are only used when attached to participles and adjectives.

¹² Note that both the ܐ and the ܐ of the 2mpl and 2fpl pronouns are not pronounced, even though the hastener line only appears above the ܐ. The 2mpl form is simply pronounced *tôn* while the 2fpl form is simply pronounced *tên*.

In some publications, the hastener line remains over the ܐ and the ܐ is simply written without a vowel, indicating that it should not be pronounced (i.e. ܐܘܢܐ).

¹³ Note that the shorter version of both the 1csg and 1cpl pronouns are used when the pronouns are attached directly to a participle.

a) Enclitic personal pronouns can be used as the subject of a verbless clause. When this happens, the enclitic personal pronoun comes immediately after the predicate (i.e. the thing that is being asserted about the subject). Note the following examples:

| Examples | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Syriac | English |
| ܩܠܝܢܟܝܢ ܕܝܚܝܘܬܐ ܕܩܝܝܡܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ. | Then why did you say, “She is my sister”? (Gen 12:19) |
| ܚܝܘܢܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ. | I am the servant of Abraham (Gen 24:34) |

b) Enclitic personal pronouns can function as the subject of a participle. When this happens, the enclitic personal pronoun comes immediately after the participle. Participles will be dealt with in a later chapter but note the following examples:

| Examples | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Syriac | English |
| ܠܐ ܚܝܘܢܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ | I do not know. (Gen 4:9) |
| ܩܝܡܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ | Look! I am sending my messenger. (Mark 1:2) |
| ܠܒܥܝܢܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ | You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene (Mark 16:6) |
| ܚܝܘܢܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ | By the hand of the living God, we are copying out... (Synodicon Orientale) |

c) Enclitic personal pronouns can be used in a way that is virtually equivalent to the present tense of the verb “to be” in English. In English grammars of Classical Syriac, this is normally referred to as the substitute for the copula (i.e. the verb “to be”). §4.3 introduced this function with third masculine and third feminine singular enclitic personal pronouns. It should be noted, however, that all three persons can be used with this function. When enclitic personal pronouns are used with this function, first-person pronouns are used when the subject is in the first person and second-person pronouns are used when the subject is in the second person. However, third-person pronouns can be used with this function whether the subject is first, second, or third person. Note the following examples:

| Examples | |
|--|---|
| Syriac | English |
| ܩܝܡܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ | You are the salt of the earth. (Matt 5:13) |
| ܩܝܡܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ | You are worshipping something that you do not know. (John 4:22) |
| ܩܝܡܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ ܕܩܝܡܐ | And I confessed that I am not the Messiah. (John 1:20) |

| | |
|--|---|
| ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ ܥܘܠܡܝܢ ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ .ܐܘܢ ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ | That which is born from flesh is flesh and that which is born from spirit is spirit. (John 3:6) |
| ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ ¹⁴ ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ .ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ | Are you greater than our father Jacob? (John 4:12) |

Third masculine singular enclitic pronouns with this function can be combined with certain words to form a single word. Note the following examples:

| Examples | | | | | |
|------------------|---|----------|---|--------------------|---------------|
| ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ (who?) | + | ܐܘܢ (is) | = | ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ | Who is? |
| ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ (what?) | + | ܐܘܢ (is) | = | ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ | What is? |
| ܐܘܢ (he) | + | ܐܘܢ (is) | = | ܐܘܢܐ ¹⁵ | It is he that |

d) Enclitic personal pronouns in the third person plural can be used as the direct object of a verb. Note the following examples:

| Examples (Simple Verbless Clauses) | |
|---|--|
| Syriac | English |
| ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ .ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ | And God set them in the solid expanse of the sky. (Gen 1:17) |
| ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ .ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ | And Jesus called them. (Matt 4:21) |

6.3. Pronominal Suffixes on Prepositions and Particles¹⁶

In addition to independent personal pronouns and enclitic personal pronouns, Classical Syriac also has pronouns that can be attached directly to the end of prepositions, nouns, verbs, and some particles. These pronouns are referred to as pronominal suffixes. The focus of this section will be on pronominal suffixes on prepositions, the particle ܐ, the particle of existence, and the particle of non-existence.

Pronominal suffixes are attached directly to the preposition or particle that governs them. When attached to the particle ܐ, the particle ܐ takes the form -ܐܘܢܐ (ܐ + ܐܘܢܐ). The following chart provides the forms for pronominal suffixes that are used with most prepositions as well as the particle ܐ

¹⁴ The words ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ ܘܥܝܢܝܗܘܢ are pronounced *at rabbat*. Note that this is not a proper transliteration of these words.

¹⁵ Note that this is an irregular form.

¹⁶ Cf. Nöldeke §§65, 69, 145, 157, 199, 225; Muraoka §§11, 16, 40–41, 46; Duval §§178, 292, 303, 305; Mingana §§453–54, 457–58, 472; Brockelmann §§91, 96, 198.

and are followed by examples of how they appear on the preposition ܐ, the preposition ܗܥ, and the particle ܐ.¹⁷

| 3msg | ܐ | ܐܠܝܘܢ (to him) | ܥܝܘܢܐ (from him) | ܐܘܝܠܝܘܢ (his) |
|------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3fsg | ܐ ¹⁸ | ܐܠܝܘܢܐ (to her) | ܥܝܘܢܐܐ (from her) | ܐܘܝܠܝܘܢܐܐ (her) |
| 2msg | ܐ | ܐܠܝܘܟܐ (to you) | ܥܝܘܟܐ (from you) | ܐܘܝܠܝܘܟܐ (your) |
| 2fsg | ܐܝܟܘܝܢܐ | ܐܠܝܘܟܐ (to you) | ܥܝܘܟܐ (from you) | ܐܘܝܠܝܘܟܐ (your) |
| 1csg | ܐ or ܐ | ܐܠܝܘܟܐ (to me) | ܥܝܘܟܐ (from me) ¹⁹ | ܐܘܝܠܝܘܟܐ ²⁰ (my) |
| 3mpl | ܐܘܚܘܝܢܐ | ܐܠܝܘܚܘܝܢܐ (to them) | ܥܝܘܚܘܝܢܐ (from them) | ܐܘܝܠܝܘܚܘܝܢܐ (their) |
| 3fpl | ܐܘܚܘܝܢܐ | ܐܠܝܘܚܘܝܢܐ (to them) | ܥܝܘܚܘܝܢܐ (from them) | ܐܘܝܠܝܘܚܘܝܢܐ (their) |
| 2mpl | ܐܘܢܝܚܘܝܢܐ | ܐܠܝܘܢܝܚܘܝܢܐ (to you) | ܥܝܘܢܝܚܘܝܢܐ (from you) ²¹ | ܐܘܝܠܝܘܢܝܚܘܝܢܐ (your) |
| 2fpl | ܐܘܢܝܚܘܝܢܐ | ܐܠܝܘܢܝܚܘܝܢܐ (to you) | ܥܝܘܢܝܚܘܝܢܐ (from you) | ܐܘܝܠܝܘܢܝܚܘܝܢܐ (your) |
| 1cpl | ܐܘܢܝܚܘܝܢܐ | ܐܠܝܘܢܝܚܘܝܢܐ (to us) | ܥܝܘܢܝܚܘܝܢܐ (from us) | ܐܘܝܠܝܘܢܝܚܘܝܢܐ (our) |

Note that pronominal suffixes can be used on the preposition ܐ to indicate the definite direct object of a verb. The only exceptions to this usage, as was mentioned earlier, are the 3mpl and 3fpl forms: the 3mpl and 3fpl enclitic personal pronouns are used as direct objects for verbs.

Note also that the endings in Table 6.3 are identical to the pronominal suffixes that are attached to singular nouns. Pronominal suffixes on nouns will be discussed in chapter 7.

¹⁷ This pattern is also used with ܐܝܢܐ (in, with, by) and ܐܠܝܘܢܐ (to, toward). Note that the vowel under the ܐ in the preposition ܗܥ has changed from *ħbāšāʿ* (ܗܥ) to *zāmāʿ pšiqāʿ* (ܗܥ). This is a reversion to an earlier vocalization of the preposition ܗܥ (ܗܥ).

¹⁸ Note that the dot above the ܐ is not a vowel but indicates that the suffix is a 3fsg suffix as opposed to a 3msg suffix. In vocalized texts, this dot is superfluous since the vowel that precedes the ܐ is sufficient to differentiate the 3fsg suffix from the 3msg suffix. In unvocalized texts or texts with limited vocalization, the dot above the ܐ is quite helpful for distinguishing the two endings. The dot is retained in vocalized texts and can serve as an additional reminder that it is a 3fsg ending as opposed to a 3msg ending.

¹⁹ Note that the suffix is not pronounced on this form. This happens whenever the word it is attached to already has a vowel in the word. The same thing is true with the word ܐܘܢܝܚܘܝܢܐ. The suffix is pronounced with the preposition ܐ because the preposition ܐ has no vowel of its own.

²⁰ Note that the pronominal suffix in this case is silent.

²¹ The ܐ of the 2mpl suffix and 2fpl suffix has a soft pronunciation despite the fact that it is preceded by a short vowel. See Rom 12:1.

In addition to the pronominal suffixes used above, Classical Syriac also has another set of pronominal suffixes that are used with the preposition ܕܠ, the particle of existence ܕܘܪܝܫܐ, and the particle of non-existence ܕܠܝܫܐ:²²

| 3msg | ܕܘܪܝܫܐܘܗܘܢ | ܕܠܘܪܝܫܐܘܗܘܢ (on him) | ܕܘܪܝܫܐܘܗܘܢܐ (is) |
|------|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 3fsg | ܕܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐ | ܕܠܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐ (on her) | ܕܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐܐ (is) |
| 2msg | ܕܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐ | ܕܠܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐ (on you) | ܕܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐܐ (are) |
| 2fsg | ܕܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐ | ܕܠܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐ (on you) | ܕܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐܐ (are) |
| 1csg | ܕܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐ | ܕܠܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐ (on me) | ܕܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐܐ (am) |
| 3mpl | ܕܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐܘܗܘܢܐ | ܕܠܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐܘܗܘܢܐ (on them) | ܕܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐܘܗܘܢܐܐ (are) |
| 3fpl | ܕܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐܘܗܘܢܐ | ܕܠܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐܘܗܘܢܐ (on them) | ܕܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐܘܗܘܢܐܐ (are) |
| 2mpl | ܕܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐܘܗܘܢܐ | ܕܠܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐܘܗܘܢܐ (on you) | ܕܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐܘܗܘܢܐܐ (are) |
| 2fpl | ܕܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐܘܗܘܢܐ | ܕܠܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐܘܗܘܢܐ (on you) | ܕܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐܘܗܘܢܐܐ (are) |
| 1cpl | ܕܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐܘܗܘܢܐ | ܕܠܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐܘܗܘܢܐ (on us) | ܕܘܪܝܫܐܗܘܢܐܘܗܘܢܐܐ (are) |

Except for the 3msg and 3fsg suffix, the connecting vowel is p̄tāhā². The connecting vowel for the 3msg suffix is zqāpā² because the diphthong ܐܘ is always spelled ܐܘ in East Syriac. The connecting vowel for the 3fsg is zlāmā² qašyā² because the diphthong ܐܘ has collapsed to ܐܘ to allow the ܐ to be pronounced. The use of the particle of existence with pronominal suffixes will be discussed further below.

Note that the endings in Table 6.4 are identical to the pronominal suffixes that are attached to plural nouns.

6.4. Possession with Particles of Existence/Non-Existence²³

In §4.4 we were introduced to the particle of existence ܕܘܪܝܫܐ (there is, there are) and the particle of non-existence ܕܠܝܫܐ (there is not, there are not). The particle of existence and the particle of non-existence can be used in combination with the preposition ܕܠ to indicate possession in the present tense. The best way to understand how to translate this construction into English is to translate the construction literally and then transform it into a clause in English with the verb “to have.” Note the following examples:

²² This pattern is also used with ܕܠܘܪܝܫܐܘܗܘܢܐ (for, instead of, on account of) and ܕܠܘܪܝܫܐܘܗܘܢܐܐ (before, ahead).

²³ Cf. Nöldeke §303; Duval §339.

| Examples with Pronominal Suffixes | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Syriac | Rough Translation | English |
| 3msg | ܟܘܒܗ ܠܗ ܡܠܟܗ | There is to him a king. | He has a king. |
| 3fsg | ܟܘܒܗ ܠܗܐ ܡܠܟܗ | There is to her a king. | She has a king. |
| 2msg | ܟܘܒܗ ܠܟܝ ܡܠܟܗ | There is to you a king. | You have a king. |
| 2fsg | ܟܘܒܗ ܠܝܚܕ ܡܠܟܗ | There is to you a king. | You have a king. |
| 1csg | ܟܘܒܗ ܠܝ ܡܠܟܗ | There is to me a king. | I have a king. |
| 3mpl | ܠܘܐ ܠܗܘܢ ܡܠܟܗ | There is not to them a king. | They do not have a king. |
| 3fpl | ܠܘܐ ܠܗܘܝܢ ܡܠܟܗ | There is not to them a king. | They do not have a king. |
| 2mpl | ܠܘܐ ܠܚܘܢ ܡܠܟܗ | There is not to you a king. | You do not have a king. |
| 2fpl | ܠܘܐ ܠܚܝܒ ܡܠܟܗ | There is not to you a king. | You do not have a king. |
| 1cpl | ܠܘܐ ܠܗ ܡܠܟܗ | There is not to us a king. | We do not have a king. |

| Examples with Nouns | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Syriac | Literal Translation | Translation |
| ܟܘܒܗ ܠܡܠܟܗ ܒܢܐ | There is to the king a son. | The king has a son. |
| ܠܘܐ ܠܕܘܘܕ ܒܢܐ | There is not to David a son. | David does not have a son. |

6.5. Use of the Particle of Existence with Suffixes²⁴

The particle of existence can be used with pronominal suffixes as an equivalent to the present tense of the verb “to be” in English.²⁵ If the subject of the clause is a noun or other substantive, the pronominal suffix matches up with the gender and number of the noun. If the clause does not have a noun or other substantive to serve as the subject, the pronominal suffix functions as the subject. Note the following examples:

| Examples | |
|---|---|
| Syriac | English |
| ܘܚܘܒܗ ܘܢܘܪܗ ܘܚܘܒܗ ܘܢܘܪܗ ܘܚܘܒܗ ܘܢܘܪܗ . ܐܘܚܘܒܗ ܘܚܘܒܗ ܘܢܘܪܗ . | For where your treasure is, there also is your heart. (Matt 6:21) |
| ܐܘܢܘܪܗ ܘܢܘܪܗ ܘܚܘܒܗ ܘܢܘܪܗ . | The eye is the lamp of the body. (Matt 6:22) |

²⁴ Cf. Nöldeke §§301–303, 313; Muraoka §109; Brockelmann §198.

²⁵ For the forms of the particle existence with pronominal suffixes, see table 6.4 above.

| | |
|---|--|
| <p> ܘܢܘܨܝܢ ܕܐܝܠܘܗܝܡ ܕܝܚܝܘܨܝܢ ܕܝܚܝܘܨܝܢ ܕܝܚܝܘܨܝܢ ܕܝܚܝܘܨܝܢ ܘܢܘܨܝܢ ܕܐܝܠܘܗܝܡ ܕܝܚܝܘܨܝܢ ܕܝܚܝܘܨܝܢ ܕܝܚܝܘܨܝܢ ܕܝܚܝܘܨܝܢ </p> | <p>And we know that the judgment of God is in line with the truth. (Rom 2:2)</p> |
|---|--|

The particle of existence with suffixes can also be used with the verb ܢܘܨܝܢ to form a compound tense. This will be discussed in chapter 12.

6.6. Vocabulary

| Verbs | |
|---------------------|--|
| ܢܘܨܝܢ ²⁶ | (P ^{ec} al) to hold, take, seize |
| ܝܚܠ | (P ^{ec} al) to eat |
| ܝܚܝܢ | (P ^{ec} al) to say |
| ܝܝܕ | (P ^{ec} al) to go down, to descend, to return |

| Nouns | | |
|----------|--------|---|
| Singular | Plural | Meaning |
| ܢܝܚܐ | ܢܝܚܝܢ | (m) sea |
| ܚܘܪܐ | ܚܘܪܝܢ | (m) priest |
| ܚܘܪܝܢ | ܚܘܪܝܢ | (m) book, writing, scripture |
| ܝܠܘܚܐ | ܝܠܘܚܝܢ | (f.) word, thing/affair, case/cause, Word |
| ܢܘܨܝܢ | ܢܘܨܝܢ | (m) law |
| ܚܘܪܝܢ | ܚܘܪܝܢ | (m) scribe, expert in scripture |
| ܚܘܪܝܢ | ܚܘܪܝܢ | (m) voice, sound |
| ܝܠܘܚܐ | ܝܠܘܚܝܢ | (f.) wind, spirit |

| Independent Personal Pronouns | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------|
| 3msg | ܘܘܗܘ | he, it |
| 3fsg | ܘܘܗܝ | she, it |
| 2msg | ܘܘܗܝܐ | you |
| 2fsg | ܘܘܗܝܐܝܝܗ | you |

²⁶ Note that the vowel under the first root letter ܢ is ܘ. This happens with verbs that begin with ܢ. The remainder of the paradigm remains the same.

| | | |
|------|---------|------|
| 1csg | ܐܢܝ | I |
| 3mpl | ܐܘܢܝ | they |
| 3fpl | ܐܘܢܝܐ | they |
| 2mpl | ܐܘܢܝܟܐ | you |
| 2fpl | ܐܘܢܝܟܝܐ | you |
| 1cpl | ܐܢܝܢܐ | we |

| Enclitic Personal Pronouns | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 3msg | ܐܘܢܐ, ܐܘܢܐ, ܐ (w) | he, it, is |
| 3fsg | ܐܘܢܐ, ܐܘܢܐ | she, it, is |
| 2msg | ܐܘܢܐܝܟܐ, ܐܘܢܐ | you, are |
| 2fsg | ܐܘܢܐܝܟܝܐ, ܐܘܢܐ | you, are |
| 1csg | ܐܢܐܝܢܐ, ܐܢܐ | I, am |
| 3mpl | ܐܘܢܐܝܢܐ | they, are |
| 3fpl | ܐܘܢܐܝܢܐ | they, are |
| 2mpl | ܐܘܢܐܝܢܐܝܟܐ, ܐܘܢܐܝܢܐ | you, are |
| 2fpl | ܐܘܢܐܝܢܐܝܟܝܐ, ܐܘܢܐܝܢܐ | you, are |
| 1cpl | ܐܢܐܝܢܐܝܢܐ, ܐܢܐܝܢܐ | we, are |

| Combinations With Enclitics | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| ܐܘܢܐܝܢܐ | It is he that |
| ܐܘܢܐܝܢܐ | Who is? |
| ܐܘܢܐܝܢܐ | What is? |

| Particles | |
|-----------|-----|
| ܐܘܢܐܝܢܐ | his |

| Proper Nouns | |
|--------------|----------|
| ܐܘܢܐܝܢܐ | Assyria |
| ܐܘܢܐܝܢܐ | Babylon |
| ܐܘܢܐܝܢܐ | Damascus |

| | |
|-------|--------|
| ܒܥܝܠܐ | Israel |
| ܩܝܘܢܐ | Persia |

6.7. Homework

- a) Using practice sheet 6.1, memorize the paradigms given for regular independent personal pronouns and abbreviated independent personal pronouns.
- b) Using practice sheet 6.2, memorize the two paradigms for pronominal suffixes on prepositions and particles in tables 6.3 and 6.4 above.
- c) Memorize the vocabulary in 6.6 above. Make sure you are able to translate the words from Syriac to English as well as English to Syriac. The following link on Quizlet can be used to help you learn the vocabulary: <https://quizlet.com/ca/730884322/classical-syriac-chapter-6-flash-cards/>.
- d) Using exercise sheet 6.3, translate the sentences from Syriac to English.

