

## Preface

The present book has been written as part of the project “Die Position des Ägyptischen im Sprachraum Nordostafrika/ Südwestasien: Areale und Genetische Beziehungen” which was funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft from 1996 to 1999 within the framework of the “Schwerpunktprogramm Sprachtypologie”. My conceptions about Egyptian phonology have profited greatly from intense discussions with Dr. Frank Kammerzell who directed the project. Without his help, this book could never have been written. It is frequently impossible to determine which one of us first developed a particular view on an issue. Thus readers who find useful ideas in this book should always remember that they are not necessarily based on my inspiration alone. On the other hand, I feel fully accountable for any shortcomings of the book or any conceptions that may draw criticism.

I was very fortunate to have had the opportunity of presenting a draft of the manuscript to Prof. Dr. Antonio Loprieno (Los Angeles) and Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Schenkel (Tübingen), two leading experts currently working in the field of Egyptian linguistics. Wolfgang Schenkel read a preliminary version of the complete manuscript and not only provided me with a very fruitful and detailed written commentary but he also participated in numerous subsequent debates with me by e-mail. His friendly cooperation had a major impact on the development of this book. Antonio Loprieno paid particular attention to those of my theses which run counter to the predominant scholarly opinions and had very inspiring and helpful conversations with me. I am immensely grateful to both scholars who generously helped me strengthen my presentation while also drawing my attention to points which were (or still are) weaknesses within my theory. I would also like to thank Peter Meyer (Berlin) who examined parts of the text from a linguist's point of view and provided me with numerous important suggestions. Some of the ideas presented in this book, especially with regard to the writing system, have been developed during frequent discussions with him. I have also profited from meetings with several members of the Sprachtypologie program.

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