

## WORD ORDER VARIATION OF THE VERBAL SENTENCE IN A JERUSALEM-AMARNA LETTER, EA 290

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### ABSTRACT

The reason for the correspondence between the vassals of Syria-Palestine and their sovereign, the pharaoh of Egypt, is instigated by the external and internal turmoil in Syria-Palestine during the Late Bronze Age. These letters were written in the Western Peripheral Akkadian dialect (WPA) with some West Semitic (WS) trends, by the scribes of the vassals in Israel and the scribes of the pharaoh. One such trend is the word order, and variations from it, in the verbal sentences. This variation in word order was to effect some special emphasis or some nuance of the appropriate element in the specific sentence. The variation in word-order was brought about by certain (emphasising) words such as *anuma*, *šanita*, *inuma* and *amurmi* and/or constructions such as subject fronting or object fronting, parallel sentence arrangement and chiasmic sentence arrangement. However, even this word order and the variation thereof shows no consistency. The investigation of the word order and its variation functioning in the verbal sentences of the Jerusalem-Amarna letters as in EA 285-290 to the pharaoh shows that these Amarna letters — even those with similar content as in the other letters to the pharaoh — must have been written by the different scribes of the vassals. This leads to the conclusion that each scribe had his own version of an “interlanguage” that he used in his correspondence.

### INTRODUCTION

#### Brief historical background

Before proceeding with the topic of this paper, it would seem appropriate to present a very brief summary of the historical background pertaining to the reasons for these petitions to and from the pharaoh.

These petitions were activated by disrupting incessant external as well as internal turmoil in Syria-Palestine between the different vassals themselves, as well as between

them and the Hittites and the Hurrians (Mittani) during a politically insecure period.<sup>1</sup> In the late bronze age, this being the reason for the correspondence between the vassals of these areas and their sovereign, the pharaoh of Egypt. These letters written by the scribes of the vassals (and those of the pharaoh), were written in the “interlanguage”, Western Peripheral Akkadian (WPA), a Peripheral Akkadian (PA) dialect with some West Semitic (WS) trends, Albright has a perceptive view regarding the nature of the letters found in Palestine with regard to Archaisms, Canaanisms, a mixture of Accadian and Canaanite, a diplomatic jargon, (cf. “The position of Jerusalem Amarna-Akkadian, in the sphere of linguistics”, *infra*).<sup>2</sup>

### Word order variation of the verbal sentences in EA 290<sup>3</sup>

Word order variation in the ensuing study relates to the word order adopted by the scribe of the Jerusalem-Amarna vassal, concerning this letter, deviating from the standard word order, by using the Amarna-Akkadian in his correspondence.

An in-depth treatment of word order variation for any of the Amarna letters, as in this Jerusalem-Amarna letter, as well as those from Egypt, is a very much neglected topic, except for Bohl’s 1909 study and Gianto’s 1990 study of the Byblos letters, as also Liverani’s 1979 study of the pharaoh’s letters to Rib-Adda, as well as defining the SA.GAZ/ “APIRU (*ḥapiru*), (cf. Muntingh, 1991:180f.).

The aim of the present study is an investigation of word order variation for the verbal sentences in the Amarna-Akkadian of the Jerusalem letter EA 290, from the vassal ‘Abdi-Ḥebah to the pharaoh.<sup>4</sup> *Ad loc.* the term “word order” refers to the sequence of the major components of a sentence — namely verb, subject, object and (various adverbials functioning as) complement (V. S. O. and C.) — employed to construe a verbal sentence.

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Reviv (1969:286) as well as Hachman (1970:68–69) and Lemche (1985:392) “all against all wars”.

<sup>2</sup> Albright (1957:208-210, 212, 225 and 279), Cochavi-Rainey (1990:5), cf. also Albright (1969:489) as well as CAH (1970–1975:1964).

<sup>3</sup> A useful translation of EA 290 is found in Moran (1992:333). Cf. also Albright (1969:489).

<sup>4</sup> Cf. Noth (1972:32, fn. 2 and fn. 3 on p. 190).

## Verbal sentence

## Predicative structure

V            S            O            C

*li-iš-me* (wish particle “precativē” *lū* + *išme*) *šarri a-na abdi-ḫi-ba ardi-ka ù lu-ma-šir šâbē pi-da-ti ù lu-ti-ra mâṭ šarri a-na šarri*.

May the king give heed to ‘Abdi-Ḫeba, your servant, and may he send archers and may they restore the land of the king to the king (EA 290:19).

The fact that variant word orders do exist beside the primary normal word orders (Gianto 1990:2 n.1), will become clear from the data presented hereafter. This study has as its ultimate goal to describe the use of word-order variation in a verbal sentence.

In the dominant word order (SOV) of standard Akkadian (cf. GAG § 130a), the verb functions at the end of the sentence (cf. Finley 1979:8, 23 and Huehnergard 1979:93f., Gianto 1990:3 and Izre’el 1991/I:347–349) and any deviation from this must be attributed to some special reason — for example, emphasis (cf. Huehnergard 1979:93). However, in the corpus of our letter, EA 290, based on the Amarna-Akkadian from south of Syro-Palestine, the primary word order is, as in Classical Hebrew, VSO (cf. Gesenius 1910:455 § 142, Finley 1979:11, 23, 33 and 57–74, and Gianto 1990:4); any variation of this word order must be ascribed to some distinctive reason.<sup>5</sup>

The VSO predominance of the Amarna-Akkadian in this letter from the Jerusalem vassal (EA 290), is in strict contrast to the SOV word order as found in standard Akkadian. Each case of variation from the predominant word order will be considered in context, to determine the possible motivations for the variation. With respect to the position of C, this is best considered in its relation to the entire predicative structure, that is the V-S-O complex, irrespective of its order (cf. van der Westhuizen 2012:376).

<sup>5</sup> Not so in Ugaritic-Akkadian where word-order variation is arbitrary (Huehnergard 1979:288).

## The position of Jerusalem Amarna-Akkadian in the sphere of linguistics

The Amarna-Akkadian of the Jerusalem letters from the local scribes, as represented in EA 290, is undoubtedly a non-native family of the Akkadian language. As such, it should not be classified as a dialect of Akkadian, as is done in the case of the related Babylonian and Assyrian, of the various periods. Furthermore, the Amarna-Akkadian correspondence from the scribes of the vassals in Palestine, as in Jerusalem, EA 290, should not be regarded as mere examples of incorrect grammar (van der Westhuizen 2012:377).

The “non-standard” Akkadian word order VSO, generated by the scribe of this letter, is in accordance with the WS native VSO word order (cf. Huehnergard 1979:95, Finley 1979:4, 57, Gianto 1990:10 and Izre’el 1991/I:349). This would mean that SV and OV arrangements will have to be considered as either fronting of the subject or fronting of the object to the left of the verb (cf. Gianto 1990:10 and Izre’el 1991/I:349–354) (cf. van der Westhuizen 2012:376).

The mingling of features of one language with another is a common process in second language acquisition; this is an intermediary system, to provide the learner, of the other (new) language, with a means to understand and reproduce the target language and is best referred to as “interlanguage” (cf. Selinker 1972, Hock 1986:472–531 and Romaine 1988:209–210). This is a situation similar to that in southern Syria-Palestine during the Amarna period, where “Akkadian” was used as the language of communication between the local courts and the Egyptian court. Due to the absence of native speakers of Akkadian or well-versed scribes in the local courts and the Egyptian court, the use of this “interlanguage” was perpetuated without its being corrected as to the forms and usages as in standard Akkadian. The non-native variety of Amarna-Akkadian is in actual fact a result of “institutionalised interlanguage”. If it had been widely employed by generations of the local population and the correspondence with their sovereign, such “interlanguage” could have become a “diplomatic jargon” or Pidgin or even Creole. (cf. van der Westhuizen 2012:376).

## Method of investigation

The text of the letter to be considered is established on the basis of Knudtzon (1915, Vol. I) in conjunction with the texts published by Winckler (1889), Bezold and Budge (1892) and Schroeder ([1915] 1973), as well as new collations by Moran (1992) and Muntingh (1995).<sup>6</sup>

The first step is to locate this verbal sentence in EA 290, within the corpus of the Jerusalem letters and analyse it in terms of its components. The real treatment and analysis of the verbal sentence is based on the substance of the data of its components.

The second step will be the classification of the SV sentences into two groups — first, the group where the subject consists of a word or an expression which tends to function at the beginning of the sentence, such as a pronoun or an expression of totality namely *kalû* or *gabbu* (“all”), and, secondly, the group where no such tendency is perceptible.

An initial reading of our letter shows that OV word order is of less frequent occurrence than SV word order (cf. relevant discussions *infra*). This may be considered as evidence that OV has a more significant usage than SV. In the section “Subject-verb word-order” below this will receive further consideration.

As for the complement C, there is enough data to demonstrate the usage of various types of complements. The question to be answered is whether these complements follow a constant determined order in relation to both predicative structure, namely VSO-C,<sup>7</sup> and to each other (cf. Gianto 1990:13).

Note: in the examples to be quoted in the discussion, the Akkadian counterpart of a word — rather than its Sumerian logogram — will be given, except when otherwise found necessary (cf. van der Westhuizen 2012:377–378).

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<sup>6</sup> For the sake of simplicity and clarity, emendations and reconstructions to the transliterated text will be identified in footnotes, but will not be marked in the text, except when really essential.

<sup>7</sup> Not so for the complement of time which normally precedes the predicative structure.

## INTRODUCTORY FORMULAE AND ESTABLISHED WORD ORDER

### Contrast between letters from the vassals and letters from the pharaoh

In contrast to the letters from the vassals to the pharaoh, with their introductory formulae consisting of two components, namely the heading (an addressee-sender formula) and a greeting (the obeisance formula), the letters from the pharaoh to the vassals have no such formulae. What we do have in the letters from the pharaoh is the absence of any honorifics at the beginning of the letter. The letters begin only with a note identifying the addressee by title and geographic area, followed by the specification that the message is from the pharaoh.<sup>8</sup>

In EA 290 there are two sentences forming a parenthesis culminating as an “adjunct” to Moran’s title of the letter: “Three against one” (cf. Moran 1992:333). Lines 1–3 form the first member of the parenthesis, the greeting, namely:

[*a-na*] *šarri bêli-ia [qi-]bi-ma um-ma [abdi-]ḥi-ba ardu-ka-ma.*

[To] the king, my lord, [sa]y: thus [‘Abdi]-Ḥeba your servant.

As an adjunct to the first member of the parenthesis, we have the following obeisance formula:

*a-na 2 šêpē [šarri]-bê[l]i-ia 7-ta-a-an ù 7-ta-a-an am-qut.*

At the 2 feet of the [king,] my l[o]rd, 7 times and 7 times I fell down.

This is the normal exordium, but in this case in a special sense or context.

In lines 5–10, the second member of the parenthesis, we have the matter of the vassal’s concern:

[*a-m*]ur i[*p-š*]a ša *e-pu šu-ni mil-ki-lu ù šu-ar-da-tum a-na mâṭ šarri bêli-ia mu-ḥi-ru šâbē<sup>alu</sup> ga-az-ri šâbē<sup>alu</sup> gi-im-ti ù šâbē<sup>alu</sup> ki-il-ti.*

[Beh]old the f[at]e that Milkilu and Suardata executed to (against) the land of the king, my lord; they hired troops from Gazru, troops from Gimtu and (also)troops from Qiltu.

The opening lines, in which the pharaoh is addressed, are followed by a detailed exposition of ‘Abdi-Ḥeba’s concern regarding the conduct and actions taken by

<sup>8</sup> Cf. Hess (1990:139).

Milkilu and Šuardatu and their appropriation of troops from Gazru, Gimtu and Qiltu, emphasising the fundamental theme of the letter, namely, “the three against one”, viz. “Jerusalem”. ‘Abdi-Ḥeba in his further actions and conduct must decide to follow the pharaoh, and rely upon his commitment and actions, or he must accept the conduct and actions of the enemies of the pharaoh, since he cannot do both. The letter, EA 290, describes and discuss the actions of ‘Abdu-Ḥeba — the suggested involvement of the pharaoh and the possible consequences of all the activities concerning and related to the situation in and with regard to Jerusalem (cf. van der Westhuizen 2012:377–378).

### Words with established position

Certain words or phrases require no special analyses, because they do not display any variation of their position in a sentence. Such words that do occur in our letter to be investigated will be noted here since they may assist in the clarification of problems relating to the variation of word order to be discussed in the course of this study.

### Performance words

These are words, common in Amarna-Akkadian, such as conjunction particles *šanita* and *ù*; the interjections *amur*, *allû*, *šumma* and *adi*; the coordinators *ù* and *šumma ... ù*; the subordinator *inuma*; the relative particles *ša* and *ašar*; and the sentence adverbs *anuma*, *inanna*, *kiamma* and *kinanna*.

Such words perform various functions, either to indicate the relation of a sentence to a previous sentence or to modify the complete sentence (cf. Finley 1979:182–199 and Rainey 1988:209). Invariably these words precede the VSO-C structure<sup>9</sup> as may be illustrated by the following selected examples:

1)

*li-iš-me-šarri a-na<sup>1</sup> abdi-ḥi-ba...ù lu-ma-šir, šâbē pi-da-ti ù lu-ti-ra mât šarri a-na šarri.*

May the king give heed to ‘Abdi-Ḥeba ... and may he send archers and may

<sup>9</sup> In the letters from northern Syria-Palestine, with predominant word order SOV, the presence of a conjunction apparently has some correlation with a VSO word order (cf. Finley 1979:39 and 62).

they restore the land of the king to the king. (EA 290:19–21, conjunction *ù*).

2)

*ù i-na-an-na a-pu-na-ma al mâṭ ú-ru-sa-lim ... àl šarri pa-ṭa-ra-at [a]-šar amēlūt<sup>alu</sup> ki-il-ti.*

And now besides this a city of the country Jerusalem ... a city of the king has gone over to the [s]ide of the men of Qiltu. (EA 290:14–18, conjunction *ù* and adverb *inanna*).

3)

*[am]ur i[p-š]a ša e-pu-šu-ni mil-ki-lu ù šu-ar-da-tum a-na mâṭ šarri bê-li-ia.*

[Beh]old the f[at]e, that Milkilu and Šuardatu executed, to (against) the land of the king, my lord, (EA 290:5–7, interjection *amur*, relative particle *ša* and coordinator *ù*).

4)

*ù šum-ma ia-a-nu šâbē pi-da-tum pa-ṭa-ra-at mâṭ šarri a-na<sup>amēlūtu</sup> ḥa-pi-ri*

And (But) If there are no archers, the land of the king will go down to the Ḥapiru. (EA290:22-24, conjunction *ù* and interjection *šumma*. Cf. van der Westhuizen (2012:392).

Note: however, if any of these words in a combination occur together, they follow the order in which they are quoted in the paragraph at the beginning of this section as in examples 2) and 4):

1) as in 2) above EA 290:14 (*ù* and *inanna* ).

2) as in 4) above EA 290:22–24 (*ú* and *šumma*).

### Interrogative pronouns

In our case we have no examples of any interrogative pronouns (cf. van der Westhuizen 2012:379–380).

### Imperative mood verbs

Note: the precative, as wish and asseverative can also function as an imperative (cf. Riemschneider 1969:95 § 13.5). Normally the imperative precedes its object and



complement,<sup>10</sup> as in the following examples:

1)

[a-m]ur i[p-š]a ša e-pu-šu-ni mil-ki-lu ù šu-ar-da-tum ...

[Be]hold the [fat]e that they (Milkilu and Šuardatu), executed (EA 290:5–6).

2)

li-iš-me šarri a-na 'abdi-ḥi-ba ... ù lu-ma-šir, šâbē pi-da-ti ù lu-ti-ra mâṭ šarri  
a-na šarri.

May he (the king) give heed to 'Abdi-Ḥeba ... and may he send archers ... and may they restore the land of the king to the king (EA290:19–21; cf. van der Westhuizen 2012:380–381).

### Volitive mood words

Note: the precative indicates the structure (a desire or request) of a verb and the volitive the meaning or the function, expressing “the wish” of that verb.

The volitive functions at the beginning of the sentence, except in cases when the sentence is introduced by a *ù*, in which case the volitive moves to second position.

At this stage only a few examples need to be quoted, since the influence of volitive verbs on the word order will be considered in the appropriate sections below:

1)

li-iš-me-šarri a-na 'abdi-ḥi-ba ardi-ka.

May the king give heed to 'Abdi-ḥe-ba, your servant (EA 290:19–21).

2)

ù lu-ti-ra mâṭ šarri a-na šarri.

and may they restore the land of the king to the king (EA 290:21).

The use of relationals and modifiers, as well as imperatives and volitives, seemingly has no effect on the VS0-C word order. However, certain words, due to their functional purpose, carry some emphasis and consequently they always take up the initial position in a sentence, without influencing the word order of that particular sentence.

<sup>10</sup> The subject being morphologically included in the verb there are no cases attested of a subject pronoun being used to reinforce the command.

## QUANTIFIERS *kalû* AND *gabbu*

Note: in the corpus of our investigation there are no cases of the quantifiers *kalû* and *gabbu*.

## WORD-ORDER VARIATION INVOLVING THE INDEPENDENT PRONOUN

### Introductory remarks

In the Semitic languages, thus in Akkadian, including WPA, the pronominal subject of a finite verb is expressed by means of the inflection of that verb. This being the case, using an independent pronoun in conjunction with a verbal form actually becomes redundant, though it is frequently used in this pleonastic way as an expression of some type of emphasis (cf. Finley 1979:65f., Huehnergard, 1979:191f. and GAG § 41a).

However, the scribe of EA 290 found it unnecessary, in his letter, to apply this type of construction, the pronominal subject with the relevant inflected verb. In such cases, with the inflected verb, he implicated as subject the relevant name or names pertaining to the verb in question as in EA 290:5,

*i[p-š]a ša e-pu-šu-ni mil-ki-lu ù šu-ar-da-tum.*

The f[at]e that (they), Milkilu and Šuardatu executed ...

In the corpus under discussion we have a few cases where the subject is employed in conjunction with the inflected (finite) verb and precedes the verb, resulting in a SVO word order, as in EA 290:15,

*àl mât u-ru-sa-lim... àl šarri<sup>ri</sup> pa-ṭa-ra-at ... [a]-šar amêlūt<sup>alu</sup> ki-il-ti.*

a city of (belonging to) country Jerusalem ... a city of the king, has gone down ... to the [si]de of the men of Qiltu.

In some cases, however, a noun, by implication related to a finite inflected verb functions as subject to, and by implication precedes, that verb, e.g., EA 290:5–6 and 8.

*... i[p-š]a ša e-pu-šu-ni mil-ki-lu ù šu-ar-da-tum ... mu-ḫi-ru šâbē<sup>alu</sup> ga-az-ri ...*

the f[at]e they executed, Milkilu and Šuardatu, ... they hired troops from Gazru ... SVO (cf. van der Westhuizen 2012:383–384).

## Intensification

In this case the immediate context of the sentence suggest that the subject, pronoun or noun (proper or by implication), is used mainly to indicate a higher degree of emotion, as indicated in the example above EA 290:5–6 and 8. See also the following examples:

1) EA 290:11,

*ša-ab-tum mât<sup>alu</sup> ru-bu-te.*

They (Milkilu and Šuardatu) conquered the country of the city Rubutu.

2) EA 290:14–18,

*ù i-na-an-na ... àl mât u-ru-sa-lim ...<sup>alu</sup> bît-<sup>ilu</sup> nin-ib àl šarri pa-ṭa-ra-at [a]-šar amêlūt<sup>alu</sup> ki-il-ti.*

And now..., a city of (belonging to), Jerusalem ... Bit<sup>d</sup> NIN-URTA by name, a city of the king<sup>11</sup> ... has gone over to the [si]de of the men of Qiltu (cf. van der Westhuizen 2012:384–385).

## Contrastive juxtaposition

In this case the emotive emphasis becomes secondary since the subject expresses an explicit contrast with the immediate context as in the following examples:

1)

*... i[p-š]a ša e-pu-šu-ni ... a-na mât šarri-bêli-ia mu-ḫi-ru šâbê<sup>alu</sup> ga-az-ri...ù ...<sup>alu</sup> ki-il-ti ... ù i-na-an-na ap-pu-na-ma àl mât u-ru-sa-lim ... àl šarri pa-ṭa-ra-at [a]-šar amêlūt<sup>alu</sup> ki-il-ti.*

... the f[at]e they (Milkilu and Šuardatu) executed to (against) the land of the king, my lord, they hired troops from Gazru ... and (also)... from Qiltu ...

And now, besides this a city of (belonging to) country Jerusalem ... a city of the king has gone over to the side of the men of Qiltu. (EA 290:5–8, 10, 14–15 and 17–18).

Note: they hired troops of/from Qiltu ... a city of the king joined the side of Qiltu (contrast based on emotive emphasis, hiring troops of Qiltu against the land of the king and now a city of the king joined the side of the men of Qiltu).

<sup>11</sup> Cf. Noth (1972:31–32, 80, 81, 189).

2)

... *li-iš-me* (prec. *lū* + *išme*) + *šarri a-na ... ardi-ka* ù *lu-ma-šir*, *šâbē pi-da-ti*  
 ù *lu-ti-ra mât šarri ...* ù *šum-ma ia-a-nu šâbē pi-da-tum pa-ṭa-ra-at mât šarri*  
*a-na* <sup>*amēlūtu*</sup> *ḥa-pi-ri*.

May the king give heed to ... your servant and may /let) he send archers and may they restore the land of the king ... And (But) if there are no archers, the land of the king will go over to the Ḥapiru (EA 290:19, 20–21, 22–24).

3)

*ip-šu mât[t]i an-ni-ú [l]u-[n]a-ka mâr mil-ki[-li] [ù l]u-[n]a[-k]a mâr[š]u-ard*  
*d]a-[t]i šâbê al[u gi-in<sub>8</sub>-ti] ù li-is-ki-i[n] šar[r]i a-na mât[i] [-šu].*

This (hostility) fate of (against) the land was [a]t the order of the son of Milki[lu and a]t the order of the son of [Šuard]atu, [together w]ith troops of Gint[i]. So may the king provide for [his] land (EA 290:25–30, a very fragmentary text; cf. van der Westhuizen 2012:386–387).

### Contrastive focus

The subject, noun or pronoun (proper or by implication) is really the one who does something, and no one else. In the following few selected examples the pronouns used are mainly by implication:

1)

*[a-m]ur i[p-š]a ša e-pu-šu-ni mil-ki-lu ù šu-ar-da-tum.*

[Be]hold the f[at]e that they (Milkilu and Šuardatu) executed (EA 290:5–6).

2)

*mu-ḥi-ra šâbē* <sup>*alu*</sup> *ga-az-ri* <sup>*ki*</sup> ... ù *šâbē* <sup>*alu*</sup> *ki-il-ti*.

they (Milkilu and Šuardatu) hired troops from Gazru...and (also) troops of (from) Qiltu (EA 290:8–10).

3)

*pa-ṭa-ra-at mât šarri a-na* <sup>*amēlūtu*</sup> *ḥa-pi-ri*.

She (The land of the king) went over to the Ḥapiru (EA 290:12–13).

4)

*li-is-me šarri a-na ... ardi-ka ù lu-ma-šir, šâbē pi-da-ti ... .*

May he (the king) give heed to ... your servant and may/let he send archers ...

(EA 290:19–20).

5)

*ù šum-ma ia-a-nu šâbē pi-da-tum pa-ṭa-ra-at mâṭ šarri a-na ... ḥa-pi-ri.*

And (But) If there are no archers, she (the land of the king) will go over to the

Ḫapiru ... (EA 290:22–23; cf. van der Westhuizen 2012:387–388).

### Verb-subject word order with pronoun as subject

The following examples, though already discussed *supra* as examples 3 twice and 4 *supra*, will be presented here but in another capacity, to illustrate the use of VS word order:

1)

*pa- ṭa-ra-at mâṭ šarri a-na <sup>amēlūtu</sup> ḥa-pi-ri.*

The land of the king went over to the Ḫapiru (290:12–13).

The main concern of this matter or situation is the conduct of Milkilu and Šuardatu culminating in their deed to hire troops from the enemies of the pharaoh and eventually having caused the land of the king to go over to the Ḫapiru.

2)

*ša-ab-tum mâṭ <sup>alu</sup> ru-bu-te.*

They (the troops from Gazru ... and troops from Qiltu) conquered the country of city Rubutu (EA 290:11).

3)

*li-iš-me-šarri a-na abdi-ḥi-ba ardu-ka,*

May he (the king) give heed to ‘Abdi-Ḫeba, your servant (EA 290:19).

4)

*ù lu-ma-šir, šâbē pi-da-ti,*

and may/let he (the king) send archers (EA 290:20),

5) *ù lu-ti-ra mâṭ šarri a-na šarri*

and may they (the archers) restore the land of the king to the king (EA 290:21)

6)

*ù šum-ma ia-a-nu šâbē pi-da-tum,*

And (But) If there are no archers (EA 290:22),

7)

*pa-ṭa-ra-at mâṭ šarri a-na<sup>amēlūtu</sup> ḥa-pi-ri.*

the land of the king will go down to the Ḥapiru (EA 290:23–24).

8)

*ip-šu...an-ni-ú [l]u-[n]a-ka mâr mil-ki[-li] [ù l]u-na[-k]a mâ[r šu-ar-d]a-[t]i.*

This fate (hostility)... was [a]t the order of (ordered by) the son of Milki[lu and a]t the order of (ordered by) the son of [Šuard]atu (EA 290:25–30).

NOTE: in the above sentences, numbers 2), 4) and 5), the subject as pronoun does not function in a direct sense but, by implication, functions in an indirect sense. (cf. van der Westhuizen 2012:388–389).

## SUBJECT-VERB WORD-ORDER

### The extent of the study

As previously stated a feature of Canaanite syntax, as in W.P.A. of Amarna (Jerusalem) letters, as well as letters from Egypt treated in the present study, is VSO-C, that is, fronting of the verb. There are, however, a number of cases where the subject precedes the verb (SVO). Hence, the focus must be on cases when one of the other components in the sentence is fronted.

### Contrast and subject-verb word order

*mil-ki-lu ù šu-ar-da-tum... mu-ḥi-ru šabē...ù šâbē<sup>alu</sup> ki-il-ti<sup>ki</sup> ..., ù i-na-an-na ... àl šarri pa-ṭa-ra-at [a]-šar amēlūt<sup>alu</sup> ki-il-ti.*

Milkilu and Šuardatu ... they hired troops... and (also) troops from Qiltu ..., and now ... a city of the king has gone over to the [s]ide of the men of Qiltu. (EA 290:6, 8, 10, 11, 14 and 17–18).

## Some other emphatic constructions and subject-verb word-order

Though the primary function of SV word order is for emphasis of the subject, this prominence occasionally does coincide with other emphatic expressions and constructions as may be seen from the following examples. Emphasising words *amur(mi)*, *annû* and *anuma*, as also relative clause expanding the subject to enhance the prominence of the subject, to become the comment which as such is fronted.

### Emphasising words *amur (mi)*, *annû* and *anuma*

1)

[a-m]ur i[p-š]a ša e-pu-šu-ni mil-ki-lu ù šu-ar-da-tum a-na mât šarri-bêli-ia.

[Beh]old the [fa]te that Milkilu and Šuardatu executed against the land of the king, my lord (EA 290:5–7).

2)

ša-ab-tum mât <sup>alu</sup>ru-bu-te pa-ṭa-ra-at mât šarri a-na <sup>amêlûtu</sup>ḥa-pi-ri.

They the (troops from Gazru,...) conquered the country of city Rubutu. The land of the king went over to the Ḥapiru (EA 290:11–13).

3)

iṣ-šu mâ[t]i an-ni-ú [l]u-[n]a-ka mâr mil-ki [li] ...

This fate of (against) the land was [a]t the order of the son of Milki[lu ...] (EA 290:25–26).

### Relative clause expanding the subject

1)

... i[p-š]a ša e-pu-šu-ni mil-ki-lu ù šu-ar-da-tum ...

... the [fa]te that Milkilu and Šuardatu executed ... (EA 290:5–7).

### Parallel subject-verb word order sentences

1)

[a-m]ur i[p-š]a ša e-pu-šu-ni mil-ki-lu ù šu-ar-da-tum...mu-ḥi-ru šâbê <sup>alu</sup>ga-az-ri... ù šabê <sup>alu</sup>ki-il-ti ... ša-ab-tum mâr <sup>alu</sup>ru-bu-te.

[Beh]old the [fa]te that Milkilu and Šuardatu executed ... they hired troops of Gazru ...and (also) troops of/from Qiltu. They (by implication Milkilu and Šuardatu) conquered the country of city Rubutu

2)

*ù i-na-an-na ap-pu-na-ma... àl mât u-ru-sa-lim... àl šarri pa-ṭa-ra-at [a]-šaramlélūt<sup>alu</sup> ki-il-ti.*

And now, besides this, a city belonging to country Jerusalem,<sup>12</sup> a city of the king, has gone over to the [si]de of the men of Qiltu (EA 290:14–18; cf. van der Westhuizen 2012:388–389).

## SUBJECT WORD-ORDER IN DISCOURSE FUNCTIONS

In the foregoing section, contrastive constructions or emphasers, used in the SV sentences to make them emphatic, were discussed. There are, however, SV sentences where no emphasers or the like are used. In such cases the use of SV word order accentuates the identity of the subject in such a way that it becomes central to the discourse. Note the following examples:

1)

*[a-na ] šarri...[qi-]bi-ma umma [abdi-]hi-ba ardu-ka-ma.*

[To] the king...[s]ay thus (message of) [‘Abdi-]Ḫe-ba, your servant (EA 290:1–2).

2)

*a-na 2 šêpē [šarri] beli-ia 7- ta-a-an ù 7-ta-a-an am-qut.*

At the 2 feet of the [king,] my lord, 7-times and 7-times I fell down (EA 290:3–4).

3)

*[a-m]ur i[p-š]a ša e-pu-šu-ni mil-ki-lu ù šu-ar-da-tum a-na mât šarri-bêli-ia.*

[Be]hold the [fa]te that Milkilu and Šuardatu executed to / against the land of the king, my lord ... (EA 290:5–7).

<sup>12</sup> Noth (1972:81, fn. 1).



4)

*mu-ḥi-ru šābē<sup>alu</sup> ga-az-ri ... ù šābē<sup>alu</sup> ki-il-ti ša-ab-tum mât<sup>alu</sup> ru-bu-te...*

They hired troops from Gazru ... and (also) troops (of) from Qiltu they conquered the country of city Rubutu ... (EA 290:8–11).

5)

*pa-ṭa-ra-at mât šarri a-na<sup>amēlūtu</sup> ḥa-pi-ri.*

The land of the king went over to the Ḥapiru (EA 290:12–13).

6)

*ù i-na-an-na... àl mât ú-ru-sa-lim ... àl šarri pa-ṭa-ra-at [a]-šar amēlūt<sup>alu</sup> ki-il-ti.*

And now ... a city of (belonging to) country Jerusalem... a city of the king<sup>13</sup> has gone over to the [s]ide of the men of Qiltu (EA 290:14–18; cf. van der Westhuizen 2012:393).

## SUBJECT-VERB AND CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

### Conditional sentences using *šumma*

In the letter under discussion we have only one example of a conditional sentence using *šumma*:

1)

*ù šum-ma ia-a-nu šābē pi-da-tum pa-ṭa-ra-at mât šarri a-na<sup>amēlūtu</sup> ḥapiri.*

(And/ But) If there are no archers, the land of the king will go over to the Ḥapiru (EA 290:22–24).

### Conditional sentences not using *šumma*

In the letter under discussion there is one probable example of a sentence not using *šumma*:

1)

*li-is-me šarri a-na abdi-ḥi-ba ... ù lu-ma-šir<sub>9</sub> šābē pi-da-ti ...*

<sup>13</sup> Noth (1972:190, fn. 3).

May the king give heed ... to ‘Abdi-Ḫeba ... and may/let he send archers ...  
(EA 290:19–20)

Note: To enhance the conditional sense of the above sentence the following translation is suggested: “If the king shall listen to ‘Abdi-Ḫeba ...and/to send archers ...”

Conditional sentences also indicate that the use of SV word order assigns special prominence to the subject. In such cases where SV coincides with no other expression of emphasis, fronting of the subject is meant to highlight the identity of the subject, or to indicate a transition to another subject matter in the discourse (cf. van der Westhuizen 2012:393).

## **OBSERVATIONS ON THE USE OF SUBJECT-VERB WORD ORDER**

The use of SV has as result the moving of attention from the event or action described in the sentence to the subject, namely, the instigator of the action. The use of SV gives special prominence to the subject, even when no contrast is expressed.

When two or more SV sentences follow in a row, the subject of both sentences becomes equally prominent.

Note: conditional sentences also indicate that the use of SV word-order assigns special prominence to the subject. In such cases where SV coincides with no other expression of emphasis, fronting of the subject is meant to highlight the identity of the subject, or to indicate a transition to another subject matter in the discourse (cf. van der Westhuizen 2012:395).

## **OBJECT-VERB WORD ORDER**

Though the majority of the SV sentences coincide with one or other expression of emphasis, in the OV sentences the use of emphasisers is infrequent. This suggests that object fronting (OVS) is more significant than subject fronting. For this reason the procedure of analysis followed in the present chapter will differ from that followed in the section on subject fronting. Initially, the discussion will consider the effect of

object fronting, and various cases of this effect will then be presented and finally special cases of object fronting will be considered. Nevertheless, although the basic word order in the Amarna dialects, as well as for the letters from Egypt, is also VSO, the object, as is the case with the subject, can move to the left of the verb (OVS). Thus, the suggestion is that fronting of the object is just as significant as fronting of the subject. This would mean that special emphasis of the object, turning it into the comment, can lead to its fronting.

### Emphasis and object-verb word order

To illustrate the effect of object fronting, the following examples are offered, it will be apparent that fronting of the object leads to greater prominence of the object:

1)

[*a-na* ] *šarri-bêli-ia* [*qi-*] *bi-ma um-ma* [*abdi-*] *ḥi-ba ardu-ka-ma a-na* 2  
*šêpē[šarri] bê[l]i-ia...am-qut.*

[To] the king, my lord, [s]ay, thus (message of) [‘Abdi-]Ḥeba, your servant. At the 2 feet of the [king,] my l[or]d ... I fell down (EA 290:1–4).

2)

... *i[p-š]a ša e-pu-šu-ni milkilu ù šu-ar-da-tum a-na mâṯ šarri-bêli-ia ...*

... The [fa]te (of/against the land) that Milkilu and Šuardatu executed to (against) the land of the king, my lord ... (EA 290:5–7).

3)

*àl mâṯ ú-ru-sa-lim ... àl šarri pa-ṯa-ra-at* [*a-*] *šar amêlūt<sup>du</sup> ki-il-ti*

a city of (belonging) to country Jerusalem, ... a city of the king has gone over to the [s]ide of the men of Qiltu (EA 290:15–18).

*ip-šu mâ[t]i an-ni-ú* [*l*] *u[-n]a-ka mâṯ mil-ki[-li]* [*ù l*] *u[-na[-k]a mâ[r šu-ar-d]a-*  
*[t]i...*

This fate of (against) the country was [a]t the order of the son of Milki[lu and a]t the order of the son of [Šuard]atu ... (EA 290:25–27).

Note: comments on the foregoing sentences.

1) ‘Abdi-Ḥeba, has an important message concerning the land of the king, a matter of

which he, the king, should concern himself. Hence to capture the attention of the king, ‘Abdi Ḫeba commences by addressing the king, the object of the sentence

- 2) The matter of concern, the fate (misconduct), the object, against the land of the king, a matter that should urgently, be brought to the attention of the king.
- 3) A city of country Jerusalem, the object, a city of the king, found it necessary to go over to the side of the men of a city, Qiltu, from which troops were originally hired against the land of the king.
- 4) This negative deed against the land of the king, the object of the sentence, was eventually instigated by the son of Milkilu and the son of Šuardatu.

### Climactic intensification and object-verb word order

The use of OV word order as a conclusion to a recording of a series of similar corresponding incidents, in a VO or other non-OV word order, intensifies the climactic progression of these incidents or events as for example in the following cases:

1)

[a-na ] šarri-bêli-ia [qi-]bi-ma um-ma [abdi-]ḫi-ba ardu-ka-ma a-na 2  
 šêpē[šarri]-bê[l]i-ia... am-quit. ... [a-m]ur i[p-š]a ša e-pu-šu-ni ...a-na mâ  
 šarri-bêli-ia

[To] the king, my lord, [sa]y: Thus (Message of) [‘Abdi]-Ḫeba, your servant, at the 2 feet of the [king,] my l[o]rd ... I fell down...[Be]hold the [fa]te that they executed to (against) the land of the king, my lord (EA 290:1–7; OV, SOV, OV).

2)

mu-ḫi-ru šâbē<sup>alu</sup> ga-az-ri...ù šâbē<sup>alu</sup> ki-il-ti ša-ab-tum mâ<sup>alu</sup> ru-bu-te pa-ṭa-ra-at  
 at mâ<sup>alu</sup> šarri a-na<sup>amêlūt</sup> ḫa-pi-ri ù i-na-an-na...àl mâ<sup>alu</sup> ú-ru-sa-lim...àl šarri pa-  
 ṭa-ra-at [a]-šar amêlūt<sup>alu</sup> ki-il-ti;

they (Milkilu and Šuardatu) hired troops from (of) Gazru ... and (also) troops from (of) Qiltu. They conquered the country of city Rubutu. The land of the king went over to the Ḫapiru. And now... a city of (belonging to) country Jerusalem ...a city of the king has gone over to the [s]ide of the men of Qiltu

(EA 290:8-18; (S+V) O, (S+V) O, SVO, OVO).

3)

*li-iš-me šarri a-na abdi-ḥi-ba...ù lu-ma-šir, šâbē pi-da-ti ù lu-ti-ra mât šarri a-na šarri ù šumma ia-a-nu šâbē pi-da-tum pa-ṭa-ra-at mât šarri a-na<sup>amēlūu</sup> ḥa-pi-ri ip-šu mât[ti] an-ni-ú [l]u-[n]a-ka mâr mil-ki[-li] [ù l]u-na[-k]a mât[r šu-ar-d]a-[ti] ù šâbē al[u gi-in<sub>8</sub>-ti.]*

May the king give heed to ‘Abdi-Ḥeba ... and may he/ to send archers and may they restore the land of the king to the king. And (But) if there are no archers the land of the king will go over to the Ḥapiru. This fate of the land was at the order of the son of Milki[lu and a]t the order of the son of [Šuard]atu and [together w]ith the troops of Ginti (EA 290:19–30; VSO, [SV]O, [SV]O, VS, VSO, O, VS, VS, OV ).

### Other emphatic constructions and object-verb word-order

Though OV word order in itself may be sufficient for various reasons or conditions to emphasize the object, there are, however, other emphatic expressions and constructions, such as *inter alia* constructions using emphasizing words, one of which is *amur(mi)*, used in conjunction with OV word order to enhance this emphasis. There are two such examples in the present study, namely:

1)

*[a-m]ur i[p-š]a \ e-pu-šu-ni mil-ki-lu ù šu-ar-da-tum a-na mât šarri-bêli-ia*  
[Beh]old the [fa]te that Milkilu and Šuardatu executed to (against) the land of the king, my lord (EA 290:5–7).

2)

*ù i-na-an-na ap-pu-na-ma àl mât ú-ru-sa-lim ... àl šarri pa-ṭa-ra-at [a]-šar amēlūt<sup>alu</sup> ki-il-ti*

And now, besides this, a city of (belonging to) the country Jerusalem ... a city of the king has gone over to the [s]ide of the men of Qiltu (EA 290:14–18).

Note to example 2) *supra*: following is the situation and circumstances, involving the subject that led up to the situation described in EA 290:14–18. Sentence 1) above

followed by, and to precede sentence 2) above,

*i[p-š]a \ ša e-pu-šu-ni mil-ki-lu ù šu-ar-da-tum a-na mât šarri-bêli-ia mu-ḫi-ru šâbē ...<sup>alu</sup> ki-il-ti ša-ab-tum mât<sup>alu</sup> ru-bu-te ...*

The [fa]te that Milkilu and Šuardatu (the subject of the entire situation) executed against (to) the land of the king, my lord, they hired troops ... and (also) troops of (from) Qiltu. They conquered the country of city Rubutu ... (EA 290:5–11).

### Object-verb word order and chiasmatic with parallel emphatic sentences

Fronting of the object (preceding the verb) may coincide with a chiasmatic arrangement in a sentence in which case emphasis merges with the contrastive effect of chiasmus. There is only one probable extensive case of this type of sentence construction in the study under hand, namely:

*[a-m]ur i[p-š]a ša e-pu-šu-ni a-na mât šarri-bêli-ia mu-ḫi-ru šâbē<sup>alu</sup> ga-az-ri ... ù šâbē<sup>alu</sup> ki-il-ti ... ù i-na-an- na ap-pu-na-ma àl mât ú-ru-sa-lim ... àl šarri pa-ṭa-ra-at [a]-šar amêlūt<sup>alu</sup> ki-il-ti.*

[Beh]old the [fa]te that they (Milkilu and Šuardatu) executed against the land of the king, my lord, they hired troops from Gazru ... and (also) troops from Qiltu ... And now, besides this, a city of (belonging to) country Jerusalem ... a city of the king, has gone over to the [s]ide of the men of Qiltu (EA 290:5–10 and 14–18; cf. van der Westhuizen 2012:395–401).

### THE COMPLEMENT AND ITS POSITION IN THE VERBAL SENTENCE

The complement — Finley (1979:52) terms it a “prepositional phrase” — is employed for the different expressions that modify the entire predicative structure, namely the VSO complex, irrespective of its order.

## The temporal complement

However, the complement of time normally has the form of a noun phrase in the adverbial accusative (cf. Gianto 1990:137f.).

According to Gianto (1990:138 and 158) all complements normally follow the predicative structure, except the complement of time that normally precedes the predicative structure. Any deviation from this procedure and these positions must be assigned to special reasons. This is in agreement with the view of Finley (1979:52f., 69–72) on adjunct phrases; yet on the other hand, Finley suggests that to make any hypotheses as to the position of the complement would be too tentative. Even though complements generally have a fixed position, there may be some deviations that prevent them from filling the expected slot. Hence, just as with any other element of the predicative structure, a complement can deviate from its expected position.

## Beneficiary complement (Indirect object /dative)

In the corpus of the text under discussion, there are quite a number of cases where we have examples of this type of complement, of which only a select number will be discussed.

1)

[*a-na* ] *šarri-bêli-ia* [*qi-*] *bi-ma um-ma* [*abdi-*] *ḥi-ba ardu-ka-ma a-na* 2  
*šêpē[šarri] bê[l]i-ia ... am-qt.*

[To] the king, my lord, [s]ay: Thus (Message of) [‘Abdi-]Ḥeba, your servant, at the 2 feet [of the king], my l[o]rd, ... I fell down (EA 290:1–4, dative twice).

2)

... *i[p-š]a ša e-pu-šu-ni ... a-na mât šarri-bêli-ia.*

... The [fa]te they (Milkilu and Šuardatu), executed... to (against) the land of the king, my lord, ... (EA 290:5–7).

3)

*li-iš-me šarri a-na* <sup>1</sup>*abdi-ḥi-ba ardi-ka* *ù lu-ma-šar šâbē pi-da-ti* *ù lu-ti-ra mât šarri a-na šarri.*

May the king give heed to ‘Abdi-Ḥeba, your servant, and let he / to send

archers and let they restore the land of the king to the king (EA 290:19–21).

4)

ù *šum-ma ia-a-nu šâbē pi-da-tum pa-ṭa-ra-at mât šarri a-na* <sup>amēlūtu</sup> *ḥa-pi-ri.*

And (But) If there are no archers the land of the king will go over to the Ḥapiru (EA 290:22–24).

### Locative complement

In accordance with the ratio of the total number of locative examples in the corpus of the letter under discussion, about two thirds of the examples (two of six) quoted *ad loc* follow the non-normal word order, since in this case the complement precedes the predicative structure, as in numbers 1) and 3) below:

1)

*a-na 2 šépē [šarri] bê[l]i-ia ... am-qut.*

At the 2 feet of the [king,] my l[or]d, ... I fell down (EA 290:3–4).

2)

*ša-ab-tum mât* <sup>alu</sup> *ru-bu-te.*

They conquered the country of the city Rubutu (EA 290:11).

3)

ù *i-na-an-na ap-pu-na-ma àl mât ú-ru-sa-lim ... àl šarri pa-ṭa-ra-at [a]-šar*  
*amēlūt* <sup>alu</sup> *ki-il-ti.*

And now, besides this, a city of (belonging to) country Jerusalem ... a city of the king, has gone over to the [s]ide of the men of Qiltu (EA 290:14–18).

4)

*... ù lu-ti-ra mât šarri a-na šarri*

...and may they (to) restore the land of the king to the king (EA 290:21).

### Committative complement

In this case the subject performs an action with another person or persons. From the examples below we note that there are a few cases of virtual committatives as well as some examples of real committatives:



1)

[a-m]ur i[p-š]a ša e-pu-šu-ni mil-ki-lu ù šu-ar-da-tum a-na mât šarri-bêli-ia mu-ḫi-ru šâbē...ù šâbē<sup>alu</sup>ki-il-ti.

[Be]hold the [fa]te that they Milkilu and (together with) Šuardatu, executed to (against) the land of the king, my lord,they hired troops ... and (also) troops from Qiltu (EA 290:5–10).

2)

ù i-na-an-na ... àl mât ú-ru-sa-lim ... àl šarri pa-ṭa-ra-at [a]-šar amêlūt<sup>alu</sup>ki-il-ti.

And now ... a city of (belonging to) country Jerusalem,... a city of the king went over to the [s]ide of the men of Qiltu (EA 290:14–18).

3)

ip-šu mâ[t]i an-ni-ú [l]u-[n]a-ka mâr mil-ki[-li] [ù l]u-na[-k]a mâ[r šu-ar-d]a-[t]i ù šâbē al[u gin<sub>s</sub>-ti].

This fate of (against) the land was [a]t the order of the son of Milki[lu and a]t the order of the son of [Šuard]atu, [together w]ith troops of the city of Gint[i] (EA 290:25–28).

## Modal complement

With this complement the way or manner by which the action of the predicative structure is accomplished is more closely defined as illustrated below:

1)

a-na 2 šêpē [šarri]-bê[l]i-ia 7-ta-a-an ù 7-ta-a-an am-qut.

At the 2 feet [of the king], my l[or]d, I fell down 7 times and 7 times (EA 290:3-4).

2)

...i[p-š]a ša e-pu-šu-ni mil-ki-lu ù šu-ar-da-tum...mu-ḫi-ru šâbē...ù šâbē<sup>alu</sup>ki-il-ti.

...the [fa]te that Milkilu and Šuardatu executed ... they hired troops ...and (also) troops of (from) Qiltu (EA 290:5–10).

3)

ù lu-ma-šir, šâbē pi-da-ti... ù šumma ia-a-nu šâbē pi-da-tum pa-ṭa-ra-at mât  
šarri a-na <sup>amêlûtu</sup> ḥa-pi-ri.

And may he send archers ... And (But) If there are no archers the land of the king will go over to the Ḥapiru (EA290:20–24).

## Temporal complement

As suggested above, the complement of time normally precedes the predicative structure.

In this letter we have only one example of a temporal complement, namely with *inanna*, as follows:

ù i-na-an-na ap-pu-na-ma àl mât ú-ru-sa-lim ... àl šarri pa-ṭa-ra-at [a]-šar  
amêlût <sup>alu</sup>ki-il-ti.

And now (at that stage/time) besides this, a city of (belonging to) country Jerusalem ... a city of the king, has gone over to the [s]ide of the men of Qiltu. (EA 290:14–18). (cf. van der Westhuizen 2012:401–407).

## DEPENDENT CLAUSES

### Main sentence and dependent clauses

Dependent clauses, in standard Akkadian, are formally marked in different ways. In Amarna Akkadian, however, these distinctions between independent sentences and dependent clauses are somewhat blurred. The preference of VS word order together with the independent pronoun as subject is determined by the position of the clauses as dependent clauses, each expressing a factual or contemplated consequence. The different types of dependent clauses will be investigated in this section and their position in relation to the main sentence will be described. Since dependent clauses closely define the action described in the main sentence, these clauses have certain fixed positions relative to the main sentence. The position of the dependent clause in relation to the main sentence determines the preference of the VS word order in

conjunction with the independent (subject) pronoun.

## Consequential clauses

This type of clause is used to describe the factual consequences of an incident or state of affairs related in the main sentence and may be introduced by the conjunctions *inuma* or *ú* (cf. Hays 1984 :319) as in the following examples:

1)

... *i[p-š]a ša e-pu-šu-ni... mu-ḫi-ru šâbē<sup>alu</sup> ga-az-ri ... ù šâbē<sup>alu</sup> ki-il-ti*  
 ... the [fa]te that they executed ... hiring troops of (from) Gazru ... and (also)  
 troops from Qiltu ... (EA 290:5–10).

2)

*ša-ab-tum mâ<sup>alu</sup> ru-bu-te<sup>ki</sup> pa-ṭa-ra-at mâ<sup>alu</sup> šarri a-na amêlûtu<sup>alu</sup> ḫa-pi-ri.*  
 They conquered the country of city Rubutu. The land of the king went down to  
 the Ḫapiru (EA 290:11–13).

3)

*ù i-na-an-na ap-pu-na-ma ... àl šarri ... pa-ṭa-ra-at [a]-šar amêlûtu<sup>alu</sup> ki-il-ti.*  
 And now besides this, ... a city of the king, ... has gone over to the [s]ide of  
 the men of Qiltu (EA 290:14–18).

4)

*ù šum-ma ia-a-nu šâbē pi-da-tum pa-ṭa-ra-at mâ<sup>alu</sup> šarri a-na amêlûtu<sup>alu</sup> ḫa-pi-ri.*  
 And(But) if there are no archers, the land of the king will go over to the Ḫapiru  
 (EA 290:22–24).

5)

*ip-šu mâ[t]i an-ni-ú [l]u-[n]a-ka mâ<sup>alu</sup> mil-ki[-li] [ù l]u-na[-k]a mâ[r šu-ar-d]a-  
 [t]i ù šâbē al[u gin<sub>8</sub>-ti] ù li-is-ki-i[n] šar[r]i a-na mâti-šu.*

This fate of (against) the land was [a]t the order of the son of Milki[lu and a]t  
 the order of the son of [Šuard]atu and [together w]ith) troops of Gint[i]. So  
 may the king provide for [his] land (EA 290:25–30).

Note: in the above examples 3) should be read in conjunction with 1).

## Final/Purpose clauses

With this type of clause a contemplated result – not a factual consequence of an action, related in the main sentence, is expressed.

Final clauses are attested in the form of coordinated clauses only, either in the form of an infinitive construct (GAG § 150h and Ungnad 1992:118 § 109h a) or introduced by the conjunction *ù* (cf. Gianto 1990:163). The mood of the final clause should be congruent with the mood of the verb in the main sentence (Moran 1960:11). Nevertheless, occasions do occur where the verb of the main sentence is in the volitive mood (EA 290:19), while the verb in the final clause is in the indicative mood (cf. v.d. Westhuizen 1991:69–70 and 1994:141–143). In the following example we have a double case of a final/purpose clause:

1)

*li-iš-me šarri a-na ... ardi-ka ù lu-ma-šir, šâbē pi-da-ti ù lu-ti-ra mâš šarri a-na šarri.*

May the king give heed ... to your servant, and may he / to send archers and may they restore the land of the king to the king (EA 290:19–21).

Note: in the above sentence the verbs of the main sentence as well as those of the final clause are all in the precative.

## Causal clauses

For the logical explanation of an event or state of affairs as described in the main sentence a causal clause is used. The majority of causal clauses are introduced by *inuma* followed by the verb (cf. Van Soldt 1991:465 and Gianto 1990:164). In the present study there are four virtual causal clauses:

1)

*... i[p-š]a ša e-pu-šu-ni... a-na mâš šarri-bêli-ia mu-ḥi-ru šâbē... ša-ab-tum mâš<sup>alu</sup> ru-bu-te pa-ta-ra-at mâš šarri a-na<sup>amêlūu</sup> ḥa-pi-ri ...*

...The f[a]te that they executed to (against) the land of the king, my lord, ...they hired troops, ... conquered the country of city Rubutu. The land of the king went over to the Ḥapiru (EA 290:5–13).

2)

ù i-na-an-na ap-pu-na-ma ... àl šarri pa-ṭa-ra-at [a]-šar amēlūt<sup>alu</sup> ki-il-ti.

And now, besides this,...a city of the king, has gone over to the [s]ide of the men of Qiltu (EA 290:14–18).

3)

ù šum-ma ia-a-nu šâbē pi-da-tum pa-ṭa-ra-at mâṭ šarri a-na<sup>amēlūtu</sup> ḥa-pi-ri.

And (But) If there are no archers, the land of the king will go over to the Ḥapiru (EA 290:22–24).

ip-šu mât[t]i an-ni-ú [l]u-[n]a-ka mâr mil-ki[-li] [ù l]u-na[-k]a mât[r šu-ar-d]a-  
[t]i...ù li-is-ki i[n] šar[r]i a-na mâti [-šu].

This fate of (against) the land was [a]t the order of the son of Milki[lu and a]t the order of the son of [Šuard]atu ... So may the king provide for [his] land (EA 290:25–30).

Note: other suggested translations for the examples *supra*:

- 1) Because of the “fate” against the land of the king, the land of the king went over to the Ḥapiru.
- 2) Due to all the misfortune, caused by the involvement of the different cities including Qiltu, against the land of the king, a city of the king went over to the side of the men of Qiltu.
- 3) The lack of archers, to restore the land of the king to the king, caused the land of the king to go over to the Ḥapiru.
- 4) The cause of the “fate” was the expectation that the king may/ should provide for his land.

## Temporal clauses

A temporal clause is employed to specify an event that occurs or is contemplated, before, during or after, the event referred to in the main sentence. The temporal clause may be introduced by the conjunction *inuma* (Gianto1990:166), or an adverb of time *inanna* (Riemschneider 1969:150 § 22.15) or by a type of *consecutio temporum*, without a formal marker (Ungnad 1992:120 §§ 111 and 124 as also § 115a). In the

corpus of the present study there is only one case of a virtual temporal clause, viz.:

1)

*ù i-na-an-na ... àl šarri pa-ṭa-ra-at [a]-šar amélūt<sup>alu</sup>ki-il-ti.*

And now (at this time / stage) ... a city of the king, has gone over to the side of the men of Qiltu (EA 290:14–18).

Note: *inanna* is an adverb of time (Riemschneider 1969:150 § 22.15) (as in EA 290:14–18).

### Substantival sentences/noun clauses

A substantival sentence or a noun clause is a comprehensive predicative structure functioning either as a subject or as an object in another predicative structure. In the corpus under discussion there are quite a number of examples of object clauses as well as subject clauses:

#### Object clauses

1)

*[a-na ] šarri bêli-ia [qi-]bi-ma um-ma...ardu-ka-ma a-na 2 šêpē [šarri] bê[l]i-ia 7-ta-a-an ù 7-ta-a-an am-qut.*

[To] the king, my lord, [sp]oke thus... your servant. At the 2 feet of the [king.] my l[or]d, 7 times and 7 times I fell down (EA 290:1–4).

2)

*[a-m]ur i[p-š]a ša e-pu-šu-ni ... a-na mâṭ šarri-bêli-ia mu-ḥi-ru šâbē...ù šâbē<sup>alu</sup>ki-il-ti.*

[Be]hold the [fa]te they executed against the land of the king, my lord, they hired troops ... and (also) troops of (from) Qiltu (EA 290:5–10).

3)

*ša-ab-tum mâṭ<sup>alu</sup>ru-bu-te.*

They (the troops from the various cities) conquered the country of the city Rubutu (EA 290:11).

4)

*ù i-na-an-na ...àl šarri pa-ṭa-ra-at [a]-šar amēlūt<sup>alu</sup>ki-il-ti.*

And now...a city of the king, has gone over to the [s]ide of the men of Qiltu (EA 290:14–18).

5)

*li-iš-me šarri a-na abdi-ḥi-ba ardi-ka ù lu-ma-šir, šâbē pi-da-ti ù lu-ti-ra mât šarri a-na šarri.*

May the king give heed to ‘Abdi-Ḥe-ba, your servant, and may he/to send archers and may they restore the land of the king to the king (EA 290:19–21).

6)

*ù šum-ma ia-a-nu šâbē pi-da-tum pa-ṭa-ra-at mât šarri a-na<sup>amēlūt</sup>ḥa-pi-ri.*

And (But) If there are no archers, the land of the king will go over to the Ḥapiru (EA 290:22–24).

7)

*ip-šu mâ[t]i an-ni-ú [l]u-[n]a-ka mâr mil-ki[-li] [ù l]u-na[-k]a mâ[r šu-ard]a-[t]i ù šâbē alu gin<sub>8</sub>-t[i].*

This fate of (against) the land was [a]t the order of the son of Milki[lu and a]t the ord[e]r of the son of [Šuard]atu and (together with) troops of Gint[i] (EA 290:24–28).

8)

*ù li-is-ki-i[n] šar[r]i a-na mâti[-šu].*

And (So) may the ki[n]g provid[e] for [his] land (EA 290:29–30).

### Subject clauses

As stated above, in the corpus under discussion we also have quite a number of subject clauses. In some cases the actual subject is removed from the applicable verb, due to some other matters or facts of concern:

1)

*[a-na ] šarri-bêli-ia [qi-]bi-ma um-ma [abdi-]ḥi-ba ardu-ka-ma a-na šêpē[šarri] bê[l]i-ia ... am-qut.*

[To] the king, my lord, say thus / message of [‘Abdi-]Ḫeba, your servant. At the 2 feet [of the king], my l[o]rd ... I fell down (EA 290:1–4).

2)

... *i[p-š]a ša e-pu-šu-ni mil-ki-lu ù šu-ar-da-tum a-na mât šarri-bêli-ia mu-ḫi-ru šâbê ... ù šâbê<sup>alu</sup> ki-il-ti ša-ab-tum mât<sup>alu</sup> ru-bu-te.*

The [fa]te that Milkilu and Šuardatu executed to (against) the land of the king, my lord, they hired troops ... and (also) troops of (from) Qiltu. They conquered the country of city Rubutu (EA 290:5–11).

3)

*pa-ṭa-ra-at mât šarri a-na<sup>amêlūtu</sup> ḫa-pi-ri.*

The land of the king went over to the Ḫapiru (EA 290:12–13).

4)

*ù i-na-an-na... àl mât ú-ru-sa-lim ... àl šarri pa-ṭa-ra-at [a]-šar amêlūt<sup>alu</sup> ki-il-ti.*

And now ... a city of (belonging to) the country Jerusalem a city of the king went over to the [s]ide of the men of Qiltu (EA 290:14–18).

5)

*li-iš-me šarri a-na ... ardi-ka ù lu-ma-šir, šâbê pi-da-ti ù lu-ti-ra mât šarri a-na šarri.*

May the king give heed to...your servant, and may he/to send archers and may they restore the land of the king to the king (EA 290:19–21).

6)

*ù šum-ma ia-a-nu šâbê pi-da-tum pa-ṭa-ra-at mât šarri a-na<sup>amlūtu</sup> ḫapi-ri.*

And (But) If there are no archers, the land of the king will go down to the Ḫapiru (EA 290:22–24).

7)

*ip-šu mâ[t]i an-ni-ú [l]u-[n]a-ka mâr mil-ki[-li] [ù l]u-na[-k]a mâ[r šu- ar-d]a- [t]i ù šâbê al[u gin<sub>8</sub>-ti].*

This fate of (against) the land was [a]t the order of the son of Milki[lu and a]t the order of the son of [Šuard]atu and [together w]ith the troops of Ginti (EA



290:25–28).

8)

ù li-is-ki-i[n] šar[r]i a-na mâti[-šu].

And (So) may the king provide for his land (EA 290:29-30).

## CONCLUSION

Letters actually from Egypt are few in number (cf. Moran, 1992:xvii). Akkadian of the Jerusalem letters, as in EA 290 is misleading, a non-native family of the Akkadian language. Letters are typified by their place of origin, not where they were found, EA 290 was found in Egypt. Though the origin of EA 285–290 is Jerusalem.<sup>14</sup> Yet the Egypt-Amarna material are not to be considered as an example of faulty grammar, but rather to be considered as a variant of Amarna-Akkadian.

The mingling of features of one language with that of another language is regarded as a common phenomenon in the process of a second language acquisition. This intermediary process or system is termed “interlanguage” by Selinker (1972) as well as by other scholars. This interlanguage was perpetuated by the communication between the local courts in Palestine and the Egyptian court. Employed in succession by these courts in their correspondence, this interlanguage could have become a diplomatic jargon, and eventually becoming Pidgin or even Creole. (cf. van der Westhuizen 2012:413–414).

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<sup>14</sup> Cf. Noth (1972:190, fn.3).

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