

Addressee agreement in Siwi demonstratives

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In Siwi, a Berber language of western Egypt, medial demonstratives may be divided into two bound morphemes, one agreeing in number and gender with the referent, the other with the addressee. While rarely analysed in the literature, this phenomenon has parallels in other languages, such as Qur'anic and Razihi Arabic. An examination of the full paradigm reveals that this phenomenon does not extend to the first and third persons, precluding the possibility of treating the addressee agreement synchronically as a prepositional phrase. Examples suggest that agreement is obligatory irrespective of the demonstrative's syntactic role, while revealing that in direct quotations it depends on the addressee of the quoted clause rather than of the current discourse. Apart from its typological interest, this phenomenon raises the question of how to annotate inflection which constrains, rather than refers to, the addressee.