

## Philological Development of *šdi.t* until the End of the Middle Kingdom

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This research paper aims to study philological development of the noun *šdi.t*, which is equivalent to *Cayman Faris*, the hieroglyphic name of the ancient city of Fayoum until the end of the Middle Kingdom of Egypt. The paper presents a novel translation for the noun in terms of connotation and derivation, different from those rendered by the German Egyptologists Heinrich Karl Brugsch and Ludwig David Morenz. According to Morenz, the noun *šdi.t* is derived from the verb *šdi*, which is equivalent to the verb “to drill”; thus, the noun *šdi.t* means “the land formed by drilling”. While Brugsch concludes that the noun means “clay soil”, based on the evidence that appeared during the reign of the Eighteenth Dynasty. However, the researcher believes that the noun is derived from the verb *šdi*, which is equivalent to the verb “to derive”, therefore the noun *šdi.t* means “derived from”, based on the fact that *šdi.t* of *Cayman Faris* is 23 meters above sea level, as the seawater rose approximately 30 meters above sea level during Paleolithic Age which resulted in submerging the current Fayoum depression.

Since the Predynastic Period of ancient Egypt, the seawater had receded from the depression to reach 23 meters below the Earth's surface, and thus, *šdi.t* was drained from water, and was never flooded again throughout its history until present times. The paper also presents an early reading of the noun *Sdi.t* dating back the Protodynastic Period (Naqada III) through the title of the ancient Egyptian deity, *Sbk šdi.ty* found on a cylindrical seal from Tarkhan, Punjab in cemetery number 414, where the shape of the north house or al- *serekh* symbol appears surmounted by the head of a mummified bull or gazelle; that shape symbolizes the hieroglyphic noun throughout ancient texts inscribed on the walls of the Pyramids (1564 BCE). Therefore, this reading precedes the earlier interpretations of the noun since the Second Dynasty of Egypt through the title *hr šdi*, which appeared on the seal of King Khasekhemwy of Abydos. Moreover, the research paper addresses the alphabetical development of the noun during three periods in

the history of ancient Egypt: the Old Kingdom, the First Intermediate Period and the Middle Kingdom, based on religious texts as well as biographies of distinguished characters at the time inscribed on the walls of the Pyramids and their tombstones, along with antiquities, offering tables and cylindrical seals.