

**Cairo University** 

**Faculty of Archaeology** 

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# The Idioms of Time in Ancient Egypt until the End of New Kingdom Period

"Linguistic and Cultural Study"

Thesis submitted to obtain a degree of M.A. in Egyptology and Archaeology

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## The Idioms of Time in Ancient Egypt until the end of the New Kingdom (Linguistic and Cultural Study)

This study dealt with the revealing of the significance of time through linguistic and cultural concepts, where time had an effective influence on the beliefs of the ancient Egyptian. This study includes the general framework of time in ancient Egypt through clarifying the linguistic and civilizational essence of time, this is due to the role played by time as the main axis formed by the mind of the ancient Egyptian and surrounded by a halo of holiness and awe, where the time was embodied in a particular idol or vest many of the qualities of time for those who want to be sanctified. The study was divided into four chapters, each complementing the other according to the content of the study title, where the first chapter deals with an entry or preface to time in ancient Egyptian thoughts through the most important mundane and religious concepts, including the most important mundane concepts such as calendar and astronomy in ancient Egypt and then how to measure time in night-time and daytime. The measurement of time at night was put first because darkness precedes the light in the beliefs of the ancient Egyptian, where the world was in total darkness in the phase of primeval water, expressing of chaos "isft", then the universe was created and the evidence of life beside the beginning of time along with the emergence of light and day and the cosmic system "mAat" was emerged. The study dealt with the most important religious concepts such as the idea of creation and the beginning of time, time and eternity in the beliefs of the ancient Egyptian and then the destruction of the cosmos and the end of time according to the ancient Egyptian beliefs. The second chapter contains several ideas reflecting the most important indications, significances and meanings of time in ancient Egypt, providing an introduction or display to the symbols and symbolism in ancient Egypt, **nHH** and **Dt** and their symbolism to the time, the **anx** and **dd** and their meanings for the time, the Sbt as an offering and as a reference of time, the Sn as a time indication and a cosmic system then the snake or serpent as a symbol and an embodiment of time in ancient Egypt. The third chapter deals with the idioms of time in ancient Egypt; this was through the linguistic and cultural study, these terms were dealt with in alphabetical order. The fourth chapter dealt with the most important terminology of time through the ancient Egyptian sources. This study used some vocabulary and synonyms during the Greco-Roman periods, since there are some terms of time, their names appear only in the Greco-Roman eras, and therefore the time structure of this study will extend to the Greco-Roman periods to give the final form of the subject of the study. The study is followed by the conclusion, which includes the most important results of the research and then the list of sources, Arabic, translated and foreign references, and then the appendix and lists of figures, illustrations and vocabulary indexes.