

# It is really excellent, tried and tested a million times

Tanya Blake: 43123821

## BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

The ancient Egyptians performed rituals because of the belief that they would provide effective protection from harm or disease. From the vast corpora of spells and healing recipes known to exist throughout the pharaonic period of Egypt, only a tiny number of these have indications of their efficacy. That is, indications that they worked.



## CURRENT RESEARCH

No study or research that explores the significance of spells and healing recipes with annotations of efficacy has been identified to date.



## ZONE ONE ACTIVITIES

The Zone One activities were designed to stretch the mind; to look at things from different perspectives. These activities demonstrated that no matter how seemingly disparate the discipline, there is always common ground, even if it is abstract. The research seminars were particularly useful as it allowed insight into methods and methodologies employed by other scholars. They assisted in shaping not only the thesis topic, but the underlying research as well.

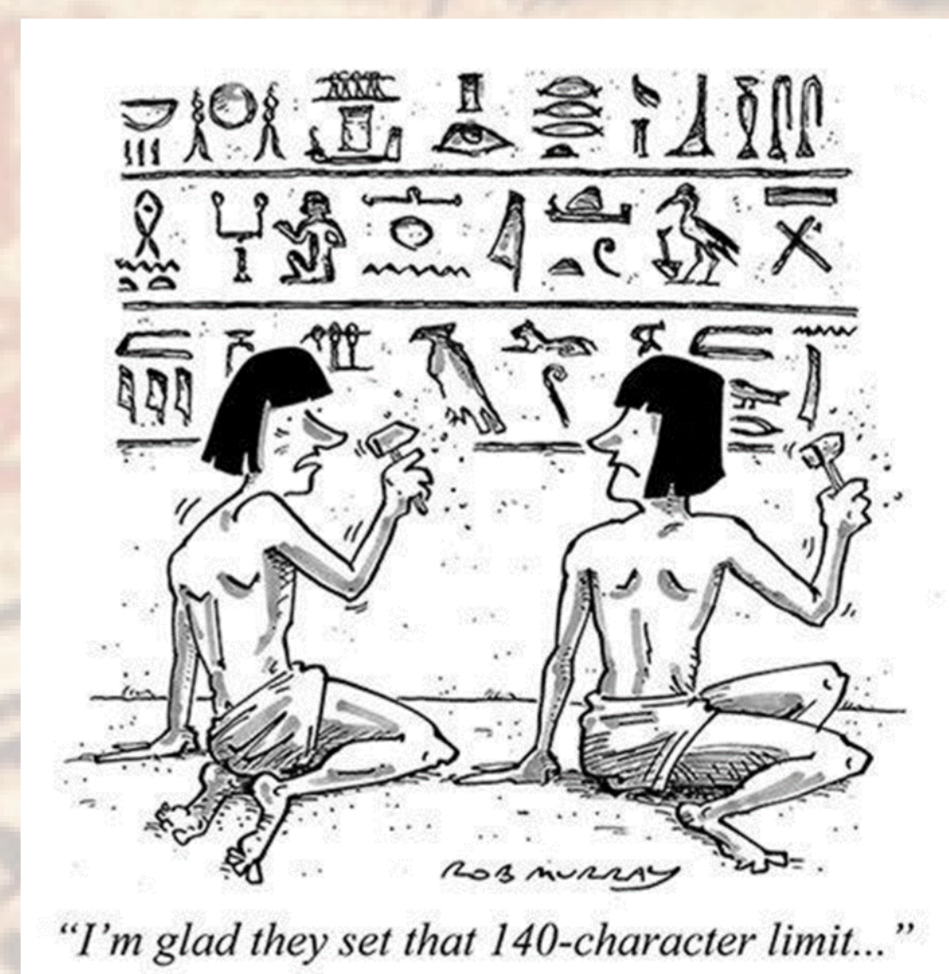
## ZONE TWO ACTIVITIES

The units audited under this requirement were:

- **Advanced Hieroglyphics: Egyptian Religious Documents**
  - **AHIS3100: Late Egyptian**
- These units not only solidified the knowledge of grammar conventions utilized from the Old Egyptian through to the Late Egyptian, but also addressed the polysemic attributes of the language in order to get a more authentic translation.

## APPLICATION OF KNOWLEDGE

The knowledge obtained throughout the academic year was instrumental in developing a thesis topic. The thesis will consist of a textual analysis of annotated spells and healing recipes. It will examine through the lens of Cognitive Linguistics (Croft & Cruze: 2004)\* whether ancient concepts (in this case, efficacy) may be accessed from the textual record. If successful, this study has the potential to lay the foundation of how concepts are understood in the history of ancient science and religion.



\*Croft, W., & Cruz, D. A., (2004), *Cognitive Linguistics*, Cambridge University Press

## CONCLUSION

By tapping into current research, ideas were formulated and expanded upon. Workshops have sparked the requisite courage to apply a theoretical framework that has hitherto not been applied to linguistic research of ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphics. It has engendered innovation and creativity for an MRes thesis.