Manchu Grammar Notes


I. CASE MARKERS

There are 5 case markers in Manchu: the zero particle and the four particles, *i*, *be*, *de*, *ci*. These five cases roughly (but not entirely!) map onto the functions of the nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, and ablative cases in Indo-European languages. The particles may be written separately or attached to the noun as suffix. Personal pronouns usually take the suffixed form of the particle, whereas proper names take the separate case particle.

1. Zero Particle

The absence of a particle serves to indicate the

(1) subject (equivalent to the nominative case)
   a. *cooha mangga* – the army is strong

(2) indefinite or unspecified object
   a. *bithe hūłambi* – reading out letters

(3) adverbial modifier of time
   a. *soorin de ninju emu aniya tembi* – sitting on the throne for sixty one years (soorin-throne; ninju-sixty; aniya-year; tembi-to sit)
   b. *emu inenggi boo ahasi sabe gamame* – one day he gathered together his servants (emu – one; inenggi-day; boo – house; aha – slave; gamambi – to take)

2. *i*, *ni*

The particle *i* or *ni* (after *n*, and *ng*). It tends to be attached to nouns which end in vowels (except proper names), but written separately after *n*, and *ng*. It serves to indicate genitive case relations as well as the instrumental.

(1) possessive genitive
   a. *wang ni indahūn* – the king's dog (*indahūn*-dog)

(2) attributive genitive

(3) instrumental

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a. *fi i arambi* – writing with a pen (*fi* – pen; *arambi* – to write)

(4) marking the logical subject in a dependent clause

a. *han i banjiha kooli* – laws which the king made (*banjimbi* – to make; *kooli* – law)

b. *mafa-i tehe susu* – homeland where ones ancestors dwelt (*mafa* – ancestor; *tembi* – to dwell; *susu* – home, birthplace)

**N.B.** The *i/ni* particle is also used to link postpositions with nouns. In this case it does not express a specific case relation between the noun and the postposition but merely serves as a formal link between them.

eg. a. *sin-i emgi gisureki* – I shall speak with you (*emgi* – together; *gisurembi* – to speak)

b. *tere-i jalin gisurehe* – [someone] spoke for the sake of him (*jalin* – for the sake of)

3. *de*

The *de* particle indicates location in time or space as well as destination with verbs of motion. It also indicates indirect objects. These functions of the *de* particle correspond to the functions of the dative locative. The *de* particle also functions as an instrumental and indicates the agent in a passive construction.

(1) location in space

a. *bi giyai angga de simbe aliyara* – i will wait for you at the street corner (*giyai* – street; *angga* – mouth, opening, pass; *aliyambi* – to wait)

(2) location in time


(3) destination with verbs of motion

a. *alin de genehe* – he went to the mountain (*alin* – mountain; *genembi* – to go)

(4) indirect object

a. *morin be tere niyalma de buhe* – he gave the horse to that man (*morin* – horse; *niyalma* – man; *bumbi* – to give)

(5) agent of passive

a. *nikasa manjusa de gidabuha* – the Chinese were subdued by the Manchus (*gidabumbi* – caus. of *gidambi* – to crush)

b. *cooha de wabuha* - he was killed by the soldiers (*cooha* – soldiers; *wabumbi* – to kill)

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c. *tere-i elden de eldešeme* – being illuminated by that light (*tere* – that; *elden* – light, glory, resplendence; *eldešemi* – to shine incessantly)

(6) instrumental

a. *ejen i hese de* - by order of the leader (*ejen* – leader; *hese* – order)

4. *be*

The *be* particle indicates a direct object, in which case it is comparable to the accusative. It also marks motion through space, as well as quotations and it functions as a topic marker which marks the subject in quoted discourse.

(1) direct object

a. *aisin be gaiha* – he took the gold (*aisin* – gold; *gaimbi* – to take)

(2) motion through space

a. *meri be jihe* – he came across the ocean (*meri* – ocean; *jimbi* – to come)

(3) topic marker, marking the subject in quoted discourse

a. *musei cooha be geren sembi* – lit. as for our soldiers, he says that there are many
   > he says that our soldiers are many (*cooha* – soldier; *geren* – many)

b. *Darhan Hiya be akū oho seme donjifi* – having heard that Darhan Hiya had died
   (*akū oho* – to die; *donjimbi* – to hear)

5. *ci*

The *ci* particle indicates a point in space or time from which an action originates. It also used to construct comparative sentences. Both of these functions of the *ci* particle correspond to the functions of the ablative.

(1) point of origin

a. *alin ci wasifi* – having come down from the mountain (*alin* – mountain; *wasimbi* – to come down)

(2) comparative constructions

a. *ere tere ci sain* – this is better than that (*sain* – good)

b. *abka ci den* – higher than heaven (*den* – high)

c. *turi ci ajigen* – smaller than beans (*turi* – bean, pea; *ajigen* – young, small)

d. *i minci se ahūn* – he is older than me (*se* – 岁, *ahūn* – older)

e. *mini hebe gūwa ci encu* – my plan is different from [that of] other people (*hebe* – plan, *gūwa* – other another, *encu* – different)
II. SUBSTANTIVES

Following Norman, substantives can be divided into the following nine subclasses (1) nouns (2) pronouns (3) demonstratives (4) interrogatives (5) adjectives (6) numerals (7) postpositions (8) place words (9) time words. Substantives are words that can be followed by one of the case particles *i, be, de*, and *ci*.

1. Nouns

Nouns can be preceded by *ere* (this), *tere* (that), and other attributes, such as *geren* (many), *eiten* (all).

1.1 Plural forms *ri, si, ta (te), sa (se, so)*

Generally, only personal nouns have plural markers. The final -n of nouns is dropped before adding the plural suffix.

- **mafa**  *mafa-ri*  ancestor, grandfather
- **mama**  *mama-ri*  female ancestor, grandmother
- **haha**  *haha-si*  man
- **hehe**  *hehe-si*  woman
- **ama**  *ama-ta*  father  (back vocalic)
- **sargan**  *sarga-ta*  wife  (back vocalic)
- **eme**  *eme-te*  mother  (front vocalic)
- **ejen**  *eje-te*  lord  (front vocalic)
- **amban**  *amba-sa*  official  (back vocalic)
- **faksi**  *faksi-sa*  craftsman  (back vocalic)
- **manju**  *manju-sa*  Manchu  (back vocalic)
- **jui**  *ju-se*  son, child  (front vocalic)
- **monggo**  *monggo-so*  Mongol  (round vocalic)
N.B. Sometimes *sa* and *se* are written separately and joined with one of the case particles:

*baturu se-i* – of the heroes (noun + plural suffix + *i* particle)

*ahasi sabe* – the slaves (noun + plural suffix + plural suffix + *be* particle) [N.B. two plural markers are used in this example].

### 2. Personal Pronouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Nominative</th>
<th>Genitive</th>
<th>Dative</th>
<th>Accusative</th>
<th>Ablative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td><em>bi</em></td>
<td><em>mini</em></td>
<td><em>minde</em></td>
<td><em>mimbe</em></td>
<td><em>minci</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>you</td>
<td><em>si</em></td>
<td><em>sini</em></td>
<td><em>sinde</em></td>
<td><em>simbe</em></td>
<td><em>sinci</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>he, she, it</td>
<td><em>i</em></td>
<td><em>ini</em></td>
<td><em>imbe</em></td>
<td><em>inci</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plural</th>
<th>Nominative</th>
<th>Genitive</th>
<th>Dative</th>
<th>Accusative</th>
<th>Ablative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>we (incl.)</td>
<td><em>muse</em></td>
<td><em>musei</em></td>
<td><em>musede</em></td>
<td><em>musebe</em></td>
<td><em>museci</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>we (excl.)</td>
<td><em>be</em></td>
<td><em>meni</em></td>
<td><em>mende</em></td>
<td><em>membe</em></td>
<td><em>menci</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>you</td>
<td><em>suwe</em></td>
<td><em>suweni</em></td>
<td><em>suwende</em></td>
<td><em>suwembe</em></td>
<td><em>suwenci</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>they</td>
<td><em>ce</em></td>
<td><em>ceni</em></td>
<td><em>cende</em></td>
<td><em>cembe</em></td>
<td><em>cenci</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.1 The intensive form 'I myself,' 'you yourself' etc. is made by combining the genitive form and the word *beye* (body): *mini beye, sini beye* etc.

2.2 Possessives are formed with the genitive form of the pronoun and the suffix –*ingge*: *miningge* – mine; *iningge* – his etc.

### 3. Demonstratives *ere, tere*

*ere* and *tere* are proximate and distant demonstratives, corresponding to the English "this" and "that."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>proximate</th>
<th>Nominative</th>
<th>Genitive</th>
<th>Dative</th>
<th>Accusative</th>
<th>Ablative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;this&quot; (sg.)</td>
<td><em>ere</em></td>
<td><em>erei</em></td>
<td><em>ede (erede)</em></td>
<td><em>erebe</em></td>
<td><em>ereci</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;these&quot; (pl.)</td>
<td><em>ese</em></td>
<td><em>esei</em></td>
<td><em>esede</em></td>
<td><em>esebe</em></td>
<td><em>eseci</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>distant</th>
<th>Nominative</th>
<th>Genitive</th>
<th>Dative</th>
<th>Accusative</th>
<th>Ablative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;that&quot; (sg.)</td>
<td><em>tere</em></td>
<td><em>terei</em></td>
<td><em>tede (terede)</em></td>
<td><em>terebe</em></td>
<td><em>tereci</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;those&quot; (pl.)</td>
<td><em>tese</em></td>
<td><em>tesei</em></td>
<td><em>tesede</em></td>
<td><em>tesebe</em></td>
<td><em>teseci</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note also the following pairs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>such a (like this/ like that)</th>
<th><em>enteke</em></th>
<th><em>tenteke</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>thus (like this/ like that)</td>
<td><em>uttu</em></td>
<td><em>tuttu</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>here – there</td>
<td><em>uba</em></td>
<td><em>tuba</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>so many (as this/ as that)</td>
<td><em>utala</em></td>
<td><em>tutala</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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4. Interrogatives

we       who
ai       what
ya       who, what, which
aibi, aiba       where

We and ai occur with all the case particles. Ai-ni (gen.) is usually used in an instrumental sense.

Ya is usually used attributively: ya niyalma - which man
    ya bade - at which place

Aibi and aiba usually occur with the dative or ablative particles de and ci.
    si aibi-de bihe (dat.) where were you?

5. Adjectives and Adjectival Suffixes

5.1 Adjectives

- are never inflected for number.
- stand in front of the word they modify
  - sain morin – good horse (sain – good; morin – horse)
- may serve as predicates
  - niyalma sain – the man is good
- will occasionally take case particles:
  - sain be tuwame – looking at what is good (sain – good; tuwambi – to look)
  - suweni facuhūn be safi – seeing your disorder (facuhūn – confused, in disarray, confusion, disorder; sambi – to know, understand)

5.2 Adjectival Suffixes

(1) "somewhat", "rather" -kan/-ken/-kon

adjective + -kan/-ken/-kon

amba - large > ambakan - rather large
ujen - heavy  > ujeken - rather heavy
olhon - dry  > olhokon - somewhat dry

(2) "a bit" -liyan/ liyen
adjective + liyan/ liyen
amba  > ambaliyan - a bit large
uhuken - soft, weak  > uhukeliyen - a bit soft, weak

(3) "very" - linggu/ -linggū
adjective + linggu/ -linggū
amba  > ambalinggū - huge
ehe - bad  > ehelinggū - very bad

5. 3 Derivational Adjectives

(1) noun + -angga/-ungge/-onggo
- nimeku (sickness, disease)  > nimekungge "one who is sick" "the sick"
- enduri (spirit)  > enduringge "sacred" (that which is spirited)
- doro (Way)  > doronggo "moral, honest (having the Way)
- baita (matter, thing)  > baitangga "useful, usable"
- ba (place)  > baingge "local" (that which is of [that] place)

(2) verbal stem + -cuka/-cuke/-hun/-hūn
gelembi (to fear)  > gelecuke "frightful"
wesimbi (to ascend)  > wesihun "honorable"

6. Numerals
6.1 Cardinals
1  emu  6  ninggun
2  juwe  7  nadan

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### 6.2 Ordinals (caredinal number + \( ci \))

Ordinal numbers are formed by adding the suffix \(-ci\) to the cardinal numbers. When the cardinal number ends in \(-n\) the \(-n\) is dropped except for the case of \(juwan\) and \(tumen\).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ordinal</th>
<th>Cardinal</th>
<th>Ordinal</th>
<th>Cardinal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1\textsuperscript{st}</td>
<td>emuci</td>
<td>10\textsuperscript{th}</td>
<td>juwanci</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2\textsuperscript{nd}</td>
<td>juweci</td>
<td>11\textsuperscript{th}</td>
<td>juwan emuci</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3\textsuperscript{rd}</td>
<td>ilaci</td>
<td>100\textsuperscript{th}</td>
<td>tanggaci</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sometimes the suffix \(-ci\) is written separately: 12\textsuperscript{th} \(juwan juwe ci\)

### 6.3 Distributives \(-ta/-te/-to\)

Formed by adding the suffix \(-ta/-te/-to\) to cardinal numbers. Final \(-n\) drops except for the case of \(juwan\) and \(tumen\).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distribution</th>
<th>Cardinal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 each</td>
<td>emute (emte)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 each</td>
<td>ninggute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 each</td>
<td>juwan emute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>Substantive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 each</td>
<td>juvete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 each</td>
<td>ilata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 each</td>
<td>duite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 each</td>
<td>sunjata</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Postpositions

Group of substantives that come after nouns and indicate temporal, spatial, causal, or other relationship. They either follow nouns (often, though not always with the suffix -i), or verbs (for example sentences see Norman, pp. 13-15).

- **deri**: through, via, from
- **dabali**: across, over, exceeding
- **dari**: every, every time that
  (usually joined to the preceding word w/out gen.)
- **jalu**: completely, fully
- **jakade**: because of
- **baru**: toward, to
- **jalin, jali, jalinde**: for the sake of
- **gese**: like
- **hafu**: through
- **adali**: like
- **ishun**: toward
- **teisu**: facing, toward
- **manggi**: after, only
- **beye**: oneself
- **canggi**: only
- **emgi**: together with
- **teile**: only, to the extent that
- **sasa**: together with
- **onggolo**: before
- **anggala**: than, not only

8. Place words

Just like the above postpositions these place words are positioned after nouns (usually linked with the i-particle) or verbs. Place words of column (1) and (2) are locative in meaning; those of column (3) indicate direction; and those of column (4) are nominal forms, which means that they may occur as attributes and can take the case particles i, de, be, ci

Examples:

1. *cooha-i amala* – behind the army (*cooha* – army)
   
   *soktoho amala* – after getting drunk (*soktombi* – to get drunk)
(2) *boode bederehe amari* – after returning home (*boo*-house; *bederembi* – to return)

(3) *solho ci amasi* – northward from Korea

(4) *amargi be fiyanjilambi* – to protect the back (side) (*fiyanjilambi*-to shield)

*amargi* ten – North Pole (*ten*-extreme point)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(1) locative</th>
<th>(2) locative</th>
<th>(3) occur with verbs of motion</th>
<th>(4) nominal forms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>behind, north</td>
<td>amala</td>
<td>amari</td>
<td>amasi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>front, south</td>
<td>juleri</td>
<td>julesi</td>
<td>julergi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>top, east</td>
<td>dele</td>
<td>deleri</td>
<td>delesi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>under</td>
<td>fejile</td>
<td>fejiri</td>
<td>fusihän</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>under, west</td>
<td>wala</td>
<td>wasihän</td>
<td>war</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>middle</td>
<td>dolo</td>
<td>dolori</td>
<td>dosi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>outside</td>
<td>tule</td>
<td>tuleri</td>
<td>tulesi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>that side</td>
<td>cala</td>
<td>casi</td>
<td>cargi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>this side</td>
<td>ebele</td>
<td>eberi</td>
<td>ebsi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>surface</td>
<td>oilo</td>
<td>oilorí</td>
<td>oilorgi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Time Words

The most important time words include:

- *enenggi* today
- *niyengniyeri* spring
- *sikse* yesterday
- *juwari* summer
- *cimari* morning, tomorrow
- *bolori* autumn
- *te* now
- *tuwari* winter

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III. VERBS

Can be conceptualized as three large groups: participles, converbs, and finite verbs. No markers of gender, person, or number.

Auxiliary verbs: bi-(to exist); o-(to become, to change into), se-(to say, to call, to mean)

1. Participles.

Both the imperfective and the perfective participles are at the same time substantival and verbal forms. As substantival forms they can function as objects and attributes, and thus can take case particles and postpositions. As verbal forms they can take objects and serve as the finite verb of a sentence (see the section on finite verbs in this chapter).

1.1 Imperfective Participle ra/re/ro

Sense of imperfective: (1) habitual or frequent (2) general statement (3) action/event that will occur

-**ra** when the final syllable of the stem contains a

  afa> afara – to attack

-**re** when the final syllable of the stem contains e, i, u, ū

  gene > genere – to go

-**ro** when all the vowels of the stem are o

  toktombi> toktoro – to fix, to decide

-**rakū** the negative equivalent (invariable)

(1) functioning as object

  a. **bi arara be bahanambi** – I can do the writing (arambi – to write; bahanambi: to be able to do)

  b. **gisurere be han donjifi** – the king having heard what was being said (gisurembi – to talk; donjimbi – to hear) (N.B. in this sentence the normal word order [S.O.V.] word is changed for emphasis, to O.S.V.)
(2) functioning as attribute
   a. *tere nirure faksi* – this painter (*nirumbi* – to paint; *faksi* – artisan)
   b. *tacibure gisun* – the language one teaches (*tacibumbi* - to teach)
   c. *sara gisun* – the language one knows (*sambi* - to know)
   d. *amban ojoro niyalma* – a man who becomes an official (*ombi* – to become; *niyalma* – person)

(3) with particles and postpositions
   a. *cooha isinara onggolo* – before the army arrives (*cooha* – army; *isinambi* – to arrive; *onggolo* – before) [lit. before the arriving of the army].
   b. *afame dosire de* – when advancing to battle (*afambi* – to fight; *dosimbi* – to advance)

(4) functioning as predicate (future sense) [finite application, cf. 3.2]
   a. *bi sinde alara* – I will tell you (*alambi* – to tell)
   b. *sargan jui be sinde sargan bure* – I will give you you the girl as wife
      (*sargan jui* – girl; *sargan* – wife; *bumbi* – to give)

(5) forming the prohibitive (with *ume*) [finite application, cf. 6.4]
   a. *ume gisurere* – don’t speak (*gisurembi* - to speak)
   b. *ume wara* – don’t kill (*wambi* – to kill)

1.2 Perfective Participle *ha/he/ho* (*ka/ke/ko*)

   - *ha* verbs with back vocalic roots (*a, o, ū*)
     
     sambi> saha - known

   - *he* verbs with front vocalic roots (*e,i,u*)
     
     gisurembi>gisurehe - spoken

   - *ho* verbs with round vocalic roots
     
     toktombi>toktoho – fixed, decided

   - *akū* the negative equivalent (invariable)
(1) functioning as object

   i. **gisurehe be donjifi** – having heard what had been said

(2) functioning as attribute

   i. **mini gisurehe gisun** – the words I said [lit. the words said by me]

   ii. **jugūn de tuheke jaka** – a thing lost on the road (jugūn – road; tuhembi – to fall; jaka – thing)

(3) with particles and postpositions

   i. **jihe de** – when [he] came (jimbi – to come)

   ii. **hoton i cooha amasi bederehe manggi** – after the soldiers of the city had retreated (amasi – backward; bederembi – to withdraw)

(4) functioning as predicate [finite application, cf.

   i. **hoton de dosika** – [he] entered the city (hoton – city; dosimbi – to enter)

**Irregular Participial forms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Stem 1</th>
<th>Stem 2</th>
<th>Stem 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>to be</td>
<td><em>bimbi</em></td>
<td><em>bisire</em></td>
<td><em>bihe</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to obtain; be able</td>
<td><em>bahambi</em></td>
<td><em>bahara</em></td>
<td><em>baha</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to become bright</td>
<td><em>gerembi</em></td>
<td><em>gerendere</em></td>
<td><em>gereke</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to eat</td>
<td><em>jembi</em></td>
<td><em>jetere</em></td>
<td><em>jeke</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to come</td>
<td><em>jimbi</em></td>
<td><em>jidere</em></td>
<td><em>jihe</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to set out</td>
<td><em>jurambi</em></td>
<td><em>jurandara</em></td>
<td><em>juraka</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to change</td>
<td><em>kūbulimbi</em></td>
<td><em>kūbulire</em></td>
<td><em>kūbulika</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to be, to become</td>
<td><em>ombi</em></td>
<td><em>ojoro</em></td>
<td><em>oho</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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2. Converbs

Converbs are dependent forms, that is, they cannot end a sentence. They modify (1) another converb (2) a finite verb. Converbs only modify verbs, they never modify nouns.

2.1 Imperfective Converb *me*

(1) Simultaneous action/modifying the following verb

i. *manjurame* gisurembi – to speak Manchu

ii. *burulame* genere nyalma be ambula waha – they killed many men who were fleeing/ as they were fleeing (*burulambi* – to flee; *ambula* - many; *wambi* – to kill)

iii. *morin amba* bime akdun – the horse is large and strong (*akdun* – strong, *bimb* - to be)

iv. *manju gisun getuken* bime dacun – the Manchu language is clear and to the point (*getuken* – clear; *dacun* – sharp)

(2) Purpose (especially with verbs of movement)

i. *arame* tuwa – try to write (*arambi* – to write; *tuwambi* – to see)

ii. *alin de* abalame genehe – [they] went to the mountains to hunt (*alin* – mountain; *abalambi* – to hunt)

iii. *afame* dosire de – when advancing to battle (*afambi* - to fight; *dosimbi* - to enter, advance)

(3) Used with auxiliary verbs

i. *nure omime* muterakū – unable to drink wine (*nure* –wine; *omimbi* – to drink; *mutembi* – to be able to)

ii. *yabume* bahanarakū – unable to go (*yabumbi* – to go; *bahanambi* – to be able to)

iii. *agame* deribuhe – [it] began to rain (*agambi* – to rain; *deribumbi* – to begin)

(4) Introducing direct and indirect speech with verbs that mean 'to speak', 'think', 'answer', etc.

i. *tere duin gucu jabume, beile si buceci, be simbe dahame bucembi seme henduhe* – the four friends answered: "if you die Beile, we shall
die along with you" (duin – four; gucu – friend; jabumbi – to answer; bucembi – to die; dahame – with)

(5) Idiomatic uses of converbial forms

a. seme:
   i. enclosure of direct and indirect quotes
      - gajime jimbi seme donjifi – having heard that he would bring (gajimbi – to bring; jimbi – to come)
   ii. after onomatopoetic expressions and certain descriptive adverbs
      - keng keng seme – the sound of kowtowing "keng, keng"
      - der seme – greatly, in profusion
      - fik seme – densely
   iii. in connection with modal adverbs
      - umai seme jaburakū – he doesn't answer at all (umai - [not] at all)

b. a small group of imperfective converbs are used like postpositions:
   i. dahame – after, since, according
   ii. gojime – however, but
   iii. tehereme – around
   iv. šurdeme – around
   v. bitume – along
   vi. ninggureme – on top of
   vii. jakarame – along

2.2 Perfective Converb fi (pi, mpi)

stem + fi

(1) Indicates that one action has been completed before the next action begins

i. twafi – having looked

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ii. *songgoro be nakafi, emgeri hengkilehe* – having stopped to cry he at once kowtowed (*songgombi* – to cry, *nakambi* – to stop, *emgeri* – once, *hengkilembi* – to kowtow)

(2) Very often *ofi* can be translated with "because"

i. *tere ajige ulgiyan umesi sektu ofi, uce be neirakū* – because this little pig is very clever, it does not open the door (*ajige* – little; *umesi* – very; *sektu* – clever; *ude* – door; *neimbi* – to open)

### 2.3 Conditional-temporal converb *ći*

stem+ *ći*

(1) "if" or "when" showing the condition under which/ the time when an action occurs

i. *si buceći* – when you die; if you die

ii. *bi geneci* – if I go; when I go

(2) used with certain auxiliary verbs

a. *ći+ombi* – permission

i. *genecı ombi* – [you] may go

ii. *genecı ojorakū* – you must not go

b. *ći+ etembi/bahambi/mutembi* – to be able to, can

i. *jecı etembi/bahambi/mutembi* – [you] can eat

c. *ći+ acambi* – it is fitting, [one] should

i. *sirabucı acambi* – he should be succeeded (*sirabumbı* – caus. of *sirambi* – to continue, to follow)

ii. *bithe unggicı acarakū* – you should not send a letter (*unggimbi* – to send)

(3) Idiomatic expressions

a. desiderative (*-kī*) + *secı* – although

i. *yabuki secı* – although I wish to go

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b. *donjici* – used to introduce hearsay expressions
   
i. *donjici si te manju bithe tacimbi sembi* – I have heard that you are studying Manchu now (*te* - now)

c. *oci* used as a topic marker
   
i. *hadai guruni wan han oci,...* – as for King Wan of Hada ...

## 2.4 Concessive Converb *cibe*

stem + *cibe*

"even though"

a. *si erde bedere cibe* – even though you return early (*erde* – early; *bederembi* – to return)

## 2.5 Terminal Converb *tala/tele/tolo*

stem + *tala/tele/tolo*  
- *tala* verbs with back vocalic roots (*a*, *o*, *u*)
  
  *dosimbi* > *dositala* – until [he] enters/advances
  
  *tele* verbs with front vocalic roots (*e*, *i*, *u*)
  
  *genembi* > *genetele* – until [he] goes
  
  *tolo* verb roots that contain only *o*
  
  *songgombi* > *songgotolo* – until [he] cries

"until"

a. *tede isitala* – until he arrived there

b. *tere hecen de dositala* – until he enters that city (*hecen* – city)

## 2.6 Prefatory Converb *nggala/nggele/nggolo*

stem + *nggala/nggele/nggolo*

- *nggala* verbs with back vocalic roots (*a*, *o*, *u*)
  
  *wajimbi* > *wajinggala* – before [he] finishes
  
  *nggele* verbs with front vocalic roots (*e*, *i*, *u*)
gerembi> gerenggele – before [it] dawns

-nggolo verb roots that contain only o

ombi> onggolo – before [it] becomes

"before"

a. gisun wajinggala, yasa-i muke eyhe – before his speech was finished, tears flowed (yasa – eye; muke - water; eyembi – to flow)

2.7 Temeritive rahū

stem + rahū [originally the negative form of the imperfective participle]

"lest" - shows apprehension on the part of the speaker that something may occur; occurs in most cases with a form of the verb sembi.

a. mimbe warahū seme gelembi – he fears that they might kill me (gelembi – to fear)

b. ama eme damu nimerahū seme jobombi

hū may be omitted without any change of meaning:

i. alarahū sembi – I am afraid that he might tell (alambi – to tell, to report)

ii. alara sembi – I am afraid that he might tell

2.8 Durative Converb (hai/hei/hoi)

perfective participle (ha/he/ho) + i (genitive particle)

(1) shows that while action of the convert is continues, the action of the main verb takes place

a. su i adali sujume yabume jihei tuwaci, jugvn i dalbade emu taktu be sabumbi – when I looked up as I was rushing here like a whirlwind, I noticed a tower at the side of the road (su – whirlwind; sujumbi – to hasten; dalba – side; taktu – tower)

(2) describes a continuing state

a. uju jergi foloho jebele de beri niru sisihai emte – a first grade engraved quiver in which bow and arrow are inserted one each (uju jergi – first rank;
folombi – to engrave; jebele – quiver; beri – bow; niru – arrow; sisimbi – insert; emte – one each

2.9 Instrumental Converb (tai/ tei/ toi)

This converb is formed from the intensive infix -ta, -te, -to (see Kawachi, p.110) and the instrumental suffix -i. Attached to a verbal stem, this suffix denotes an extreme degree of action.

shows that an action is performed in a forced or extreme manner

i. buceti daharakū – [I] will not submit, even if I die (bucemi – to die; dahambi – to submit)

2.10 Simultaneous Converb (mbime)

dictionary form + me

(1) action of converb occurs/ does not occur while action of main verb takes place

i. ubade hūdašambime tubade hūdašarakū doro bio – Is there a reason for people trading here but not there? (hūdašambi – to trade; doro – way, rule, dao)

ii. suwe angga de acaki seme gisurembime, karun meni bade ibefi ukanju alime gaijara – while saying (with the mouth) that you want peace, [your] borderguards have invaded our territory and you are accepting fugitives (angga – mouth; acambi – be in harmony; karun – borderguard; ibembi – to advance, go forward; ukanju – fugitive; alimbi – to receive, accept; to take, to accept; gaimbi - to take)

2.11 Alternative Converb (ralame/relame/rolame)

stem + ralame/relame/rolame

(1) "while", "as" - shows that two actions are going on alternately or at the same time (Kawachi translates this form with the Japanese -たり ... -たりする).

i. bi yaburelame tuwambi – I am looking as I go

ii. hūralame arambi – reading out and writing

iii. gisurelame injembi – talking and laughing

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3. Finite Verbal Forms

In Manchu finite forms are ascribed to the indicative, imperative, optative or prohibitive moods.

3.1 Finite imperfective form *mbi*

stem + *mbi* [<imperfect converb + *bi* contracted to *mbi*], used for verbal entries in all Manchu dictionaries

(1) used to indicate the present tense

a. *bi hergen be arambi* – I am writing characters (*hergen* – character; *arambi* – to write)

(2) used to indicate the future tense

a. *tere han de bi beye acame genembi* – I myself shall go to meet that khan
   (*tere* – that; *beye* – myself; *acambi* – to meet)

(3) used to make general factual statements

a. *aisin na ci tucimbi* – gold comes from the earth (*aisin* – gold; *na* – earth; *tucimbi* - to come out)

3.2 Imperfective participle used as a finite form *ra/ re/ ro*

stem + *-ra*/*-re*/*-ro* (cf. 1.1)

(1) used to indicate future sense

a. *bi sinde alara* – I will tell you (*alambi* – to tell)

b. *sargan jui be sinde sargan bure* – I will give you my daughter as wife
   (*sargan jui* – girl; *sargan* – wife; *bumbi* – to give)

3.3 Perfective participle used as finite form *ha/ he /ho* (*ka/ ke/ ko*)

stem + *-ha/ -he /-ho* (*-ka/ -ke/ ko*) (cf. 1.2)

(1) used to indicate an action that took place in the past

a. *juwe di be jafaha* – he captured two gods (emperors?) (*juwe* – two; *di* – 帝; *jafambi* – to capture)

3.4 Progressive perfective *me + bihe / -mbihe*

(1) habitual perfective
a. **sahaliyan ula yaya aniya omšon biya i tofohon orin de juhe jafambihe** – on the Sahaliyan river ice would form every year on the fifteenth or twentieth of the eleventh month (*ula* – river; *yaya* – every; *aniya* – year; *omšon* – eleventh; *biya* month; *tofohon* – fifteenth; *orin* – twenty; *juhe* – ice; *jafambi* – to freeze)

(2) hypothetical perfective, often occurring in conjunction with conditional converbs

a. **simbe waci acambihe** – if I had killed you, it would be fitting [I should have killed you]

### 3.5 *fi bi*

(1) Used to indicate already completed actions in the past (similar to the Japanese *ている*).

a. **niyalma suwende ambula genefi bi** – many men have already come to you (*ambula* – many)

### 3.6 *-habi/hebi/-hobi*

perfective participle (*ha /he /ho*) + bi

(1) Used to indicate actions in the past that occurred prior to another past action ("had been")

a. **tere ba de emu amba gurun-i ejen bihebi** – A ruler of a big state had been living in that place (*ba* – place; *emu* – a, one; *ejen* – ruler)

### 3.7 *mbihebi*

*-mbihe + bi*

(1) Used to indicate usual and/or frequent actions in the distant past

a. **hūwangheo beye nimala fatambihebi** – it used to be that empresses themselves picked berries from the mulberry tree (*hūwangheo* – empress; *nimala* – mulberry tree; *fatambi* – to pick (fruit))

### 3.8 Imperative [zero suffix]

positive imperative: verbal stem [zero suffix]

For the prohibitive/negative imperative: **ume** + imperfective participle, see 1.1.6)

  *direct, informal command to a second person; impolite, potentially rude.*
Irregular Imperative forms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Stem</th>
<th>Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>seek</td>
<td>bai-</td>
<td>baidu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take</td>
<td>gai-</td>
<td>gaisu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be</td>
<td>bi-</td>
<td>bisu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>become</td>
<td>o-</td>
<td>oso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eat</td>
<td>je-</td>
<td>jefu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>come</td>
<td>ji-</td>
<td>jio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bring</td>
<td>gaji-</td>
<td>gaju</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>send, deliver</td>
<td>benji</td>
<td>benju</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.9 Polite Imperative reo/rao

- reo /-rao formed by the imperfect participle ra/ re (1.1) + interrogative suffix o

   polite command

   a. tereo – please sit (tembi – to sit)
   b. bureo – please give (bumbi – to give)
   c. ararao – please make/write (arambi – to make, to write)

3.10 Desiderative ki

stem + ki

expresses (1) desire/intention on the part of the speaker (2) polite request

   (1) desire/intention on the part of the speaker

   a. soorin be bahaki – I want to attain the throne (soorin – throne; bahambi – to obtain)

   b. very often the desiderative which expresses intention on the part of the speaker construes with the verb sembi (to say, mean) without any change in meaning
i. mini beye-i boo be araki sembi – I want to make my own house/home (boo – house; arambi – to make)

ii. ajige ulgiyan niohe imbe jeki sere be sambi – the little pig knows that the wolf wants to eat it (ajige – little; ulgiyan – pig; niohe – wolf; jemi – to eat; sambi to know)

(2) polite request

a. teki – please sit down (tembi – to sit)

3.11 Optative *kini*

stem + *kini*

expresses (1) desire or (2) permission for someone to do something, thus generally referring to the third person; however, it may also be used as a (3) polite imperative (referring to the second person)

(1) desire for someone else to do something

a. bi buceci mini sunja jui banjikini – if I die, I hope my five children will live (bucembi – to die; sunja – five; banjimbi – to live)

(2) permission for someone else to do something

a. dosici dosikini – [he] may enter [lit. if [he] enters, let him enter

(3) polite imperative

a. tuba-de dedukini – please stay there (dedumbi – to lie, stay overnight)

3. 12 Second Optative *cina*

stem+ *cina*

expresses desire for someone to do something, generally referring to the person addressed by the speaker; it is not used in the permissive sense like the first optative.

(1) si te genecina – I want you to go right now (te-now)
4. Derivational Suffixes in verbal forms

Manchu verbs can also be modified by infixation of a number of syllables. The most important ones include -bu/-mbu-, -ndu-, -ca/-ce/-co-, -nji-, -na/-ne/-no-, -ta/-te/-to-, -nja/-nje/-njo-, -nggi-. 

4.1 Causative/Passive -bu/-mbu

wesimbi – to ascend > wesimbmbi – to raise

derimbi – to enter > derimbmbi – to begin, to let begin

Depending on context and when used with the particle de the meaning can also be construed as passive

a. juse juse gemu muse de jafabuha – both the two sons were caught by us (juse – [pl. of jui] sons; jafabumbi – to cause to capture [caus. of jafambi – to capture])

4.2 Cooperative ndu, ca/ce/co

"to do something together"

dailambi – to make war > dailandambi – to make war together

injemb – to laugh > injecemb – to laugh together

a. geren donjifi gemu ambarame injechebi – everyone was laughing loudly after they heard it (geren – the various people; donjimbi – to hear; gemu – all; ambarambi – to do on a large scale)

4.3 Adventive nji

"to come to do something"

alambi – to report > alanjimbi – to come to report

4.4 Illative na/ne/no

"to go to do something"

acambi – to meet > acanambi – to go to meet

4.5 Repetitive ta/te/to, nja/nje/njo

"to do over and over," "to do in turns"

aisilambi – to help > aisilatambi – to help often
halambi – to change > halanjambi – to take turns

4.6 Deputative -nggi

"to send someone to do something"

alambi – to report > alanggimbi – to send someone to report

5. Nominalizing Constructions

5.1 Possessive nominal/adjectival suffix -ngge

The suffix -ngge serves to nominalize nouns, adjectives, and nouns "the one who", "that which"

baimbi (to take) > bairengge "the ones who are taking"; "that which is being taken"

> baihangge "the ones who have taken" “that which was taken"

sembi (to call; auxiliary)> [X] serengge "that which is called [X]"

> ......serengge . ....... inu/waka .. translates Chin. .......者，........也。 

mergen saisa-i juleri manju gisun i giyangname boolarengge yargiyan-i
derengge jabśan seme gūnime - being one who is reporting and explaining in
Manchu in front of the wise scholars, [I] think myself really honored and lucky
(mergen - scholar, wise man; saisa - scholar, gentleman; juleri - in front [of];
giyanambi - to explain; boolambi - to report; dere - face, honor; yargiyan -true, real; jabśan - good luck, good fortune; gūnimbi - to think).

! Compare this suffix to the suffixes -ngge /II. 2.2]and to derivational adjectives -angga/-engge/-onggo [II.5.3]

5.2 ba as nominalizing suffix

The noun ba ("place") can function as nominalizing particle. When used in this sense it looses its concrete meaning of "place".

a. hüwašan inu beye sume gisurehe ba akū - The monk did not argue himself [lit. it was not the case that the monk himself argued] (hüwašan - 和尚 [ Buddhist monk] inu beye - himself; sume gisurembi - to argue)

b. doro be gengiyelehe ba-be dolori alimbarakū buyehei - As I am eagerly longing for elucidation of the Way (doro - 道; gengiyelembi - to elucidate, make clear; dolori -

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inside; alimbaharakū - greatly, exceedingly; buyemi - to desire, long for [durative converb, cf. 2.8]

6. Negation of verbal forms

6.1 Negative forms rakū / hakū / hekū / hokū

Manchu only has two negative forms. They are contractions of either the imperfect or the perfect participle and the particle akū.

1. negative endings formed from the imperfect participle (-ra/-re/-ro): raku
   a. ainu jiderakū – why don't you come (ainu – why; jimbi – to come)

2. negative endings formed from the perfect participle (-ha/-he/-ho)
   hakū/ hekū / hokū
   a. uttu ofi uce be neirakū – because it was so [he] did not open the door (uce – door; neimbi – to open)

6.2 Negation of complex participial forms

In the case of complex participial forms the first component takes the negative particle:

alahakū bihe (alambi – to report); genehakū bihe (genembi – to go)

6.3 Negation of converbs

Converbs are negated with the help of the auxiliaries bimbi, ombi, and sembi.

a. si generakū bici – if you don't go
b. mimbe warakū bicibe – even though he doesn't kill me
c. generakū oci, uthai generakū seme hendu – if you are not intending to go, then say that [you] will not go.
   d. ararakū oki sembi – I don't want to write

6.4 Negation of Imperatives

As mentioned under 1.1.5, the prohibitive is formed with ume + the imperfect participle

   c. ume gisurere – don't speak (gisurembi - to speak)
IV. NEGATIVE PARTICLES

akū – "there is not"

a. minde bithe akū – I have no book

waka – [it] is not

a. bithe waka – it is not a book

unde – "not yet"

a. cooha isinjire unde – the troops have not arrived yet

V. MODAL PARTICLES

Modal particles are sentence final particles that add various modal overtones to the sentence. The most common ones include

aise – "perhaps," "supposedly"

a. genehe aise – I suppose he came

ayoo – expressing fear/ doubt/ uncertainty

a. damu acarakū ayoo – I was only afraid I wouldn't meet [you]

dere – (1) doubt or suspicion (2) emphasis [罢了]

(1) si mimbe holtombi dere – you must be deceiving me (holtombi – to deceive, lie)

(2) bithe be taciha dahame sambi dere – because we studied the script, we know it.

inu – thus, so (slight emphasis)

a. tob seme inu – it is exactly so (tob – straight, upright, right)

kai – emphatic

a. gurun-i amba baita kai – it is a great affair of the nation

nikai – emphatic

a. te isinjiha nikai – he has arrived now

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VI. INTERROGATIVE PARTICLES

\( o \) – the most common interrogative particle

a. \( ere \ sefu \ haha-o, \ hehe-o \) – is this teacher a man or a woman?

\( na \) – interrogative

a. \( sain \ na \) – how are you?

\( ni \) – interrogative

a. \( bi \ jeterakū \ ni \) – am I not going to eat? \((jembī \) – to eat\)

V. ADVERBS

Following Norman, a list of the most common adverbs include:

\begin{itemize}
  \item \( ainu \) - why
  \item \( gemu \) - all
  \item \( neneme \) - at first, beforehand
  \item \( ambula \) - greatly
  \item \( geli \) - again
  \item \( tuttu \) - this way
  \item \( baibi \) - in vain
  \item \( inu \) - also, again
  \item \( umai \) - completely
  \item \( damu \) - only
  \item \( ishunde \) - mutually
  \item \( umesi \) - very, completely
  \item \( dasame \) - again
  \item \( jai \) - again
  \item \( urunakū \) - without fail
  \item \( eitereci \) - nearly
  \item \( jing \) - just
  \item \( yala \) - truly
  \item \( enteheme \) - always
  \item \( jortai \) - on purpose
  \item \( gaitai \) - suddenly
  \item \( kemuni \) - often
\end{itemize}

Many adverbial expressions are formed with the genitive particle in its instrumental function:

\begin{itemize}
  \item \( sain-i \) – well
  \item \( emke \ emken \) \( i \) – one by one
  \item \( yargiyan-i \) – truly
  \item \( ulan \ ulan \) \( i \) – often, traditionally
\end{itemize}

Another common way to form adverbial expressions is reduplication:

\begin{itemize}
  \item \( fondo \ fondo \) – through and through
  \item \( ilhi \ ilhi \) - step by step; by degrees
\end{itemize}