

Lesson 13 Answer Key

Practice sentences transcribed and translated

1. cembe kooli ci jurceme holtome manju dangse de dosimbuhabi. = In violation of the statutes (he) deceitfully entered them into the Manchu registers. [Note that the final verb is causative, so someone else caused “them” (*cembe*) to enter the registers. The use of *-habi* rather than the simpler past participle *-ha* in this sentence likely reflects the continued existence of the results of this action; “they” are still in the Manchu registers.]
2. taifin erinde tarbagatai ba i alban de bifi, ta ceng ni bade sibe aiman i bo amban be inu sabuha bihe. = In the time of peace, (I) had been in government service in the area of Tarbagatai, and had also seen Minister Bo of the Sibe people in Tarbagatai City. [the *-ha bihe* form emphasizes that the author had already seen Minister Bo at a point in the past, as opposed to “at that time, I saw him once,” which would use *-ha*, or “I used to see him frequently,” which would use *-mbihe*. Note that the past perfect sense of *-ha bihe* probably applies to the prefactive converb *bifi* as well].
3. neneme amban i fiyanggū jui I janggin, tere fonde manggai juwan juwe ilan se i erin, aimaka damtun jafara gese gamafi gūlja de tebuhe bihebi. = Previously, the official’s youngest son, Adjutant Yi, at that time scarcely 12 or 13 *sui* or so, had apparently been taken in the manner of seizing a hostage, and been put in Ghulja. [Note that the use of the standard form of *i* rather than the special form used for the genitive case, which helps clarify that the boy was named Yi (or rather, that was the first character of his name when written in Chinese). The ending verb form is unusual, *-he bihebi*, which is not one of the forms covered in the handout, nor is it standard. I interpret it by applying the logic of differentiating *-ha* and *-habi* to differentiate *-ha bihe* and *-ha bihebi*. *-habi* suggests that an action in the past has ongoing effects to the present; so *-ha bihebi* would suggest that an action that had already been completed at a past reference point was continuing to have effects at that past point. So Yi had been taken hostage and, the use of *-ha bihebi* implies, was still being held.]
4. mini beye onggo si ning kašigar de tehe fonde, kemuni giyalame giyalame jasigan arafi, sini elhe be baima alibumbihe. = Previously when I was living in Xining and Kashgar, I still from time to time wrote letters, and sent them to you asking after your health. [the use of *alibumbi* suggests that the writer is treating the reader of the letter as a superior, but the basic meaning is just that he sent the reader some sort of document. The use of *-mbihe* to refer to repeated or continuous past action is made very clear by the phrase *giyalame giyalame*, “from time to time” or “intermittently”; the reduplication of the verb strengthens the sense of occasional action]
5. neneme jakūn ujen coohai wesimbure jedzi de, gemu manju hergen arambihe, amala wesimbure jedzi de, gemu nikan hergen arabuhabi. = Previously, in the memorials sent up by the Eight Hanjun (banners), all were writing Manchu script.

Later in the memorials sent up, all were made to write Chinese script. [a good contrast of past tenses here. We see habitual past action in *arambihe*, but then the second sentence deals with a specific event, when the Hanjun were told to write memorials in Chinese – note the causative *arabu-* stem. But telling the Hanjun to change the language they write memorials in has effects continuing to the present, so the verb form is *-habi*, not simply *-ha*.]