

Manchu A 10/18/2016

More past tense verb forms

1. Past Indefinite *-habi/-hebi/-hobi (-kabi/-kebi/-kobi)*
 - a. This form is produced by adding *bi* to the perfective participle (e.g., *genembi* has the perfective participle *genehe* and so becomes *genehebi*)
 - b. This is a finite form – it is usually used to end a sentence. It cannot modify a noun.
 - c. The negative is formed by inserting *kū* between the participle and *bi* (so *genehekūbi*)
 - d. Functions:
 - i. Facts about the past: *tere bade emu amba gurun i ejen bihebi* (The ruler of a large state lived in the place).
 - ii. Simple past action: *tere bayan niyalma i moo olhome bucehebi* (The rich man's tree dried up and died)
 - iii. Present perfect form ("has done"): *sini gurun efujeme wajihabi kai* (Your country has been completely destroyed)
 - iv. Completed action that continues into the present: *aihu bira wesihun eyefi, dergi mederi de dosikabi* (The Aihu river flows eastward and then enters the east sea).
2. Past perfect *-ha/-he/-ho (-ka/-ke/-ko) + bihe*
 - a. In this form, *bihe* is written detached from the participle (e.g. *genehe bihe*)
 - b. This is also a finite, sentence-ending form that cannot modify a noun
 - c. The negative is formed simply by adding *bihe* to the negative form of the participle (*genehekū bihe*)
 - d. The principle function is as the past perfect ("had done"): *gemun hecen de amban oho bihe* (I/He had been an official in the capital)
3. Past continuous *-mbihe*
 - a. This form is produced by adding *-he* (note that you need not worry about vowel harmony) to the *-mbi* form (e.g. *genembihe*).
 - b. Finite, sentence-ending form that cannot modify a noun
 - c. The negative is formed by adding *bihe* to the negative form of the imperfective participle (*generakū bihe*)
 - d. Expresses habitual or progressive ("was doing") action in the past: *sula sabe, manju gisun, manju bihe tacibumbihe* (The unemployed [people] were made to study the Manchu language and Manchu script).
 - e. Following a clause in the conditional (ending in *-ci*), expresses past counterfactual: *ese aika ergen funcefi tucike bici, urunakū uju jai jergi de dosinambihe* (If these had still been alive and come forth, then they surely would have been entered into the first or second class).
4. *-mbihebi* is an extremely rare form expressing frequent action in the distant past: *hūwangheo beye nimala fatambihebi* (It used to be that empresses themselves picked mulberries). Negative form is *-rakū bihebi*

Practice sentences

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

this word is
miswritten;
there should
be an
additional
tooth between
the m and f

Vocab

- aimaka*: seemingly
aiman: tribe, minority group
alban: public service, official business
alibumbi: to present a document to a superior
damtun: hostage
dangse: records, register, archive
elhe be baimbi: ask after a person's health
gamambi: to take to another place
giyalambi: to be intermittent
gūlja: Turkic name for the main city of Ili
jafambi: to seize
janggin: an official rank/military title "Adjutant" (章京)
jasigan: letter, mail
jedz: memorial (奏摺)
jurcembī: violate
kemuni: often
manggai: no more than
neneme: previously
sibe: 锡伯 (A Manchu-speaking ethnic group)
ta ceng: Tarbagatai
taifin: peace
ujen cooha = Hanjun (漢軍)