

Manchu A 09/08/2016

Manchu Script, continued (See also Roth-Li, pp. 21-27)

Finishing up consonants (what we didn't cover last time)

f/w

ng (additional point not mentioned in Tuesday's handout: there is no dot on the g of the ng sequence)

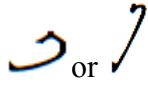
s/š

j/c/y

r

p

Consonant finals (except n/ng):

1. Most words ending with a consonant end with either n or ng (which we have already covered in the final position)
2. Words ending with other consonants are quite frequently onomatopoeia or foreign names
3. The other consonants that can end a word are: k (in two different forms), b, s, t, l, m, and r
4. Things to look out for
 - a. The front k ending form in Roth-Li's chart is different from how the letter is usually written. You will usually see a shape more like this:  or 
 - b. Final b looks a bit like final o, but the tail extends much farther to the left, and often a bit up at the end
 - c. Final s and final m both have very little space between the letter shape (which is approximately the same as in middle position) and the tail, which enables you to distinguish between them as final sa or final ma
 - d. Final l is written as if you are writing a final a, but with a right-angled turn upwards at the right side of the tail
 - e. Final t is written like middle t, with the tooth turned into a standard right facing tail (just like a or n in the final position). You may find that final t looks quite like final on. The easiest way to distinguish is spelling – final t will always follow a vowel, final on will always follow a consonant. In addition, analogous to the distinction between initial a and initial en, there is usually a bit more space between the semicircle of the o and the tail of the n, than between the semicircle of the t and its tail
 - f. Final r has a tail going to the left

Chinese loan-letters

1. k'/g'/h' follow the same rules for writing as does the front k/g/h sequence (that is, the shape of a vowel following them will look the same as the shape of an analogous vowel following front k/g/h), but they are always accompanied by a back vowel (in fact, always by either a or o)
2. dz and ts are both written using the basic shape of an s and are distinguished by the position of the vertical crossing line (just to the right of the letter for dz)
3. When writing the Manchu version of the *pinyin* ci or si, a unique form of i is used

--- A game with consonants: Manchu onomatopoeia! (shamelessly stolen from Bian He)
Please spell out the Manchu word first, then guess its meaning by matching it with one term in the opposite column.

1.		the sound of storm/wind and rain	5. 	hard, heavy (said of things striking/falling)
2. 		the sound of an arrow piercing an object	6. 	the sound made by chopping wood
3. 		the sound of grasshoppers flying	7. 	the sound of quarreling and shouting
4. 		the fluttering of butterfly	8. 	very quietly

[seme: from sembi = to say]

Examples of consonant finals

lak

dek

cas

gib

ūlet

bar kul

arum

Examples of special letters for representing Chinese/foreign sounds

G'an su

Sycuwan

tsanjiyang

jyši

cylembi

ži ben

dzungdu

More reading practice; transliterate the following words

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

©2020 David Porter This work is licensed under a CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 license