

Summer 2013 / Manchu S-A

Wed 17 July

10. Notes on verb forms

I. Verb groups

The forms of most verbs (**Group 1** verbs) can be correctly predicted by using the

1. stem + ra/re/ro for the imperfective verbal noun (and other forms using that stem)
2. stem + ha/he/ho for the perfective verbal noun

There is a smaller group of 185 verbs (**Group 2**) that form these participles differently:

1. stem + ra/re/ro for the imperfective
2. stem + ka/ke/ko for the perfective

Verbs in this group very often have meanings that carry a sense of physical movement; all are marked as such in both Norman and Hu dictionaries; some common examples include:

- jurambi (juraka) – to set out
- dosimbi (dosika) – to enter
- eberembi (ebereke) – to weaken
- tucimbi (tucike) – to leave, depart
- wasimbi (wasika) – to go down
- wesimbi (wesike) – to go up
- okdombi (okdoko) – to greet, welcome
- miošorombi (miošoroko) – to become bent

There is another group of fifteen verbs (**Group 3**) that use yet another form, often to distinguish themselves from homonyms:

1. stem + n(d)ara/n(d)ere/n(d)oro for the imperfective verbal noun
2. stem + ngka/ngke/ngko for the perfective verbal noun
3. stem + mpi for the perfective converb*

These verbs are the following:

- bambi – to be lazy
- bombi – to bore, to pierce
- cambi – to pitch (a tent)
- fumbi* – to become numb (vs. fumbi, to wipe off)
- guwembi* – to chirp, clang, make a noise (vs. guwembi, to forgive)
- jembi* – to bear, to tolerate (vs. jembi, to eat)
- jombi* – to recall (vs. jombi, to cut with a knife)
- jumbi* – to clench the teeth
- juwambis* – to open the mouth
- sambi* – to stretch, to be distant (vs. sambis, to know)
- sumbi* – to freeze (vs. sumbi, to take off, remove)
- šambis* – to dry, to drain (vs. šambis, to look at)
- šumbis* – to know thoroughly
- wembi* – to melt
- yumbis* – to prefer; to soak in

There is a final group of highly irregular verbs (**Group 4**):

- bimbi, ombi, jembi, jimbi

The proper forms for these verbs must simply be memorized.

II. irregular imperative forms

1. seek bai- baisu
2. take gai- gaisu
3. be bi- bisu
4. become o- oso
5. eat je- jefu
6. come ji- jio
7. bring gaji- gaju
8. to send, deliver benji or benju

III. Negation

Manchu only has two negative verbal forms, both contractions of either the imperfect or the perfect participle and the particle *akū*.

Negative endings formed from the imperfect participle stem form (i.e., that used before *ra/re/ro*) + *rakū*

- a. *ainu jiderakū* – Why don't you come?
- b. *tere bithe be hūlarakū* – I am not reading that book
- c. *ainaha seme inde gisurerakū* – No matter what, I won't tell him.

Negative endings formed from the perfect participle (i.e., the form ending in *ha/he/ho*) + (a)*kū*:

- d. *uttu ofi uce be neihekū* – Therefore [he] did not open the door.
- e. *amba cooha sikse jihhekū* – The great army did not come yesterday.

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

- f. *alahakū bihe* - had not reported
- g. *genehekū bihe* – had not gone
- h. *onggohokū bihe* - had not forgotten

Negation of converbs: Converbs are negated with the help of the auxiliary verbs *bimbi*, *ombi*, or *sembi*

- i. *si generakū bici* – if you don't go
- j. *mimbe warakū bicibe* – even if he were not to kill me
- k. *generakū oci, uthai generakū seme hendu* – if you are not intending to go, then say that [you] will not go.
- l. *ararakū oki sembi* – I don't want to write

Negation of imperative: this is formed using the particle *ume*, “do not” + imperfective verbal noun

- m. *ume gisurere* – do not talk
- n. *ume wara* – do not kill
- o. *ume songgoro* – do not cry
- p. *Sun Guwang Sy i jergi urse be. si wesihuken i ume necire.* – Do not in the slightest provoke Sun Guangsi and those people.
(KXMaZPZZ)