

Summer 2013 / Manchu S-A

Tues 2 July

Derivational suffixes

Manchu verbs make use of several different consonant-vowel clusters called "derivational suffixes" to lend greater specificity to describing how an action is performed. Though called "suffixes," they are really infixes, as they go in the middle of a word, between the stem and the verb ending. Sometimes the words thus formed are listed separately in dictionaries, but often not. Knowing these suffixes will help you break down an unfamiliar word into its constitutive parts and deduce the stem (which you can then look up) if necessary.

1. causative/passive

-bu/-mbu-

wesimbi wesimbumbi
to ascend to raise

jafambi jafabumbi
to capture to make capture

Depending on the context, when used with the particle *de*, the meaning can be construed also as passive, e.g.:

juwe juse gemu muse de jafabuha

Both the two sons were caught by us. (lit., two sons both us-by were caused to be caught)

2. cooperative ("to do something together")

-ndu-

-ca/-ce/-co-

dailambi dailandumbi
to make war to make war together (on someone else)

injembi injecembi
to laugh to laugh together

geren donjifi gemu ambarame injecehebi

Everyone was laughing loudly all together after they heard it.

3. adventive ("to come to do something")

-nji-

alambi alanjimbi
to report to come to report

4. allative ("to go to do something")

-na/-ne/-no-

acambi acanambi
to meet to go to meet

5. repetitive ("to do over and over," "to do in turns")

-ta/-te/-to-

-nja/-nje/-njo-

aisilambi aisilatambi
to help to help often

halambi halanjambi
to change to take turns

6. reciprocal ("to do to one another")

-nu-

afambi afanumbi
to attack to attack one another

7. missive/deputative ("to send someone to do something")

-nggi-

alambi alanggimbi
to report to send someone to report