

Postpositions

Whereas in English and many other European languages we are accustomed to prepositions (on, at, in, over, under, before, after, behind, below, to, along, with), in Manchu, extensive use is made of postpositions, i.e., words that come after nouns and verbs to indicate spatial, temporal, causal, and other sorts of relationships. Very often, though not always, these are accompanied by the genitive particle.

1. Temporal postpositions

A. "after" – *amala, amari, amasi, manggi*

a. *Yoo Jeo-i niyalma musei cooha genehe amala. musei juse hehesi be wambi.* (MBRT)
After our troops go, the people of Yaozhou will kill our children and women.

b. *tere amala. meni cooha Ula-i ihan alin de genehede* (MBRT)
After that, when our troops went to Cow Mountain in Ula, . . .

c. *han. tangse weceme genehe amari. pan tūre be donjiha.* (MBRT)
After the khan went to sacrifice in the tangse he heard the gong being struck.

d. *ereci amasi. juwe gurun-i irgen jase dabame ukaci* (MBRT)
After this, if the people of our two countries should escape across the border, . . .

e. *tere elcin jihe manggi* (MBRT)
After that emissary came . . .

Note that *amari* and *manggi* follow verbs; *amala* can follow either verbs or nouns; and *amasi* usually follows nouns and pronouns. Note also that both *amala* and *amasi* can also come before a verb to indicate action "back":

f. *jai tulergi goloi geren ukanju be amala baicafi unggire* (MBRT)
Also, sending back all the escapees from the outer regions . . .

g. *gajihā temen morin be gaihaku amasi bederebuhe.* (MBRT)
[He was] sent back without the camels and horses [he had] brought being taken.

h. *han hiyabun dabume amasi hecen dosika.* (MBRT)
Lighting a lantern, the khan went back into the city.

B. "while, as" – *fonde, sidende*

i. *dade abka de alame gashūre fonde* (MBRT)
At first, when declaring an oath to Heaven . . .

j. *burulaha cooha be bošome genehe cooha be isinjire sidende* (MBRT)
While the troops that fled were being urged on and the soldiers who had gone were arriving . . .

C. "suddenly" – *andande*

k. *tere emu bigan de. majige andande tere juwe tumen yafahan cooha be gemu waha.* (MBRT)

On that one plain, those 20,000 infantrymen were all killed in the space of a moment.

D. "since" – *ebsi* (with *ci*)

l. *muse juwe gurun-i dain deribuhe ci ebsi* (MBRT)
Since the fighting began between our two countries . . .

- E. "not yet" – *unde*
 m. *hoton weilere niyalma de. neneme emu jergi buhe dabsun jeme wajire unde kai.* (MBRT)
 The salt already given on one occasion to the people building the city has not yet been eaten up.
- n. *Ula-i birai juhe jafara erin unde seme.* (MBRT)
 It is not yet the time for the Ula River to freeze.
- F. "before" – *onggolo*
 o. *šun tucire onggolo*
 Before the sun rises . . .
- p. *ere biyai orin-i onggolo gene* (MBRT)
 Go before the twentieth of this month.
- G. "every time" – *dari, deri*
 q. *te ba ba-i Monggo jihe dari ambula šangnara . . . be dahame* (MBRT)
 Since now every time Mongols from everywhere come they are given much . . .
- r. *biyadari daiming gurun de bithe unggime* (MBRT)
 Sending letters monthly to the Ming . . .

2. Locative postpositions (mostly with *ï*)

- A. "in front of" – *juleri*
 s. *dz gung ni juleri hengkileki sembi* (YZMaZPZZ, YZ13)
 Saying, "[I] wish to pay my respects before the coffin"
- B. "behind" – *amala*
- C. "above, on top of" – *dele*
- D. "under, below" – *fejile, wala*
- E. "within" – *dolo*
- F. "without" – *tule*
 t. *te jase tule tehengge Nikasa umesi labdu* (YZMaZPZZ, YZ13)
 There are today very many Chinese living outside the passes.
- G. "on the surface" – *oilo*
- H. "this side" – *cala*
- I. "that side" – *eberle*
- J. "opposite side" – *bajila*
- K. "alongside" – *andala*
- L. "in between" – *sidende*
 u. *jiyan šan. amba da šan juwe alin i sidende.* (YZMaZPZZ, YZ13)
 In between the two peaks of Jian shan and Amba da shan
- M. "facing" – *teisu*

3. Directional postpositions (mostly with *i*)

- A. "toward" – *baru, ishun, ergide*
v. *te Nikan gurun i baru eherekī seme* (YZMaZPZZ, YZ1)
Now saying [they] will become hostile to the Chinese *gurun*
- B. "along the shore" – *dalirame, cikirame*
- C. "along the foot" – *butereme*
- D. "into, inward" – *dosi*
- E. "outward" – *tulesi*
- F. "through" – *hafu*
w. *ba na i eiten baita be yooni hafu saha erinde* (YZMaZPZZ, YZ4)
Once everything about the locale is understood through and through
- G. "this way" – *casi*
- H. "that way" – *ebsi*
- I. "northward" – *amasi*
- J. "southward" – *julesi*
- K. "eastward" – *delesi*
- L. "westward" – *wasihūn*
- M. "upward" – *wesihūn*
- N. "downward" – *fusihūn, wasihūn*
- O. "via" – *deri*
x. *babade mejige be gaimbime aha geli fejergi deri dacilaci* (YZMaZPZZ, YZ4)
Gathering information everywhere, when [your] servant again made inquiries through the grapevine (lit., "via below")

4. Restrictive postpositions

- A. "as far as" – *aname* (with *ci*)
y. *enduringge ejen i ten i genggiyen. ser sere ba ci aname. hafu bulekušehekūngge akū.*
(YZMaZPZZ, YZ4)
[My] sacred lord's supreme brilliance [extends] even unto the most minute; there is nothing that has not been clearly perceived.
- B. "only" – *canggi, teile* (with *i*)
- C. "not only [but also]" – *anggala* (with *ci*)
- D. "besides, apart from, excepting" – *tulgiyen* (with *ci*)
z. *jakūn gūsai ing fang ni alban i boode tebuhe urse ci tulgiyen* (YZMaZPZZ, YZ3)
Apart from those people living in the public housing of the Eight Banners . . .
- E. "exceeding" – *dabali*

5. Causal postpositions

- A. "because" – *jakade* (with imp. v.n.), *jalin* (with *i*), *dahame* (with *be*), *turgunde* (with perf. v.n.)
aa. *mimbe Monggo sere jakade. taiji hūlara niyalma inu bi* (YZMaZPZZ, YZ3)
Because I am known to be a Mongol, some people even call me "taiji."

6. Evidential postpositions

- A. "like" – *adali*, *gese* (both with *i*)
- B. "according to, following" – *songkoi*
bb. *han ama i songkoi. Manju sebe sonjome baitalaha ci tulgiyen* (YZMaZPZZ, YZ3)
Following in the footsteps of my khan-father, in addition to employing Manchus in office
- C. "unlike, in contrast to" – *encu* (with *ci*)
cc. *Manjusai kutule. axxara. arbuxara. gisun mudan. gemu Nikasa ci encu. gvwa golo de ainaha seme geneci ojurakv ofi* (YZMaZPZZ, YZ12)

7. Cooperative postpositions

- A. "with" – *emgi*, *sasa*, *emde* (all with *i*)
dd. *aha Li Ts'an i emgi sula gisun be gisurere de* (YZMaZPZZ, YZ4)
When your servant was gabbing with Li Can . . .