

8. Constructions and expressions with the conditional/temporal –ci

1. *-ci acambi* “would be good to, is proper”
fafun gisun i songkoi yabuci acambi dere.
“It is doubtless proper to obey the word of the law.”
(MBRT)

mimbe Cahar ci wesihun tuwaci acambi.
“It is right to hold me in higher regard than the Chakhar.”
(MBRT)

dabali baitalara. fulu mamgiyara be dasame fafulaci acambi.
“To prohibit by law excess and waste is correct.”
(YZMaZPZZ)
2. *-ci mutembi/-ci etembi* “is able to, succeed at”
Acitu mini mentuhun i gūnirengge. Manju halangga niyalma. yaya be tacici muterakūngge akv.
“I, Acitu, am thinking that those in the Manchu family are capable of anything if they try.”
(KXMaZPZZ)

[ere niyalma] hūdašaci mutere dursun akū.
“[This person] doesn’t look like he could be in business.”
(Kawachi)
3. *-ci bahambi* “is able to, get to, manage to”
niyamniyara de fulukan i niyamniyaci bahafi urebure be dahame
“Since we practice mounted archery in order to be able to do it better”
(YZMaZPZZ)

nadan jin i orho emu fulmiyen de emte fun i menggun de. uthai udaci bahambihe.
“[We] thus managed to buy one seven-*jin* bundle of straw for one *fen* of silver.”
(YZMaZPZZ)

gisun de acabume yabume muterei akū be. bi aici bahafi sambikai. kice.
“How am I to know whether or not you are able to perform according to your promise? Persevere.”
(YZMaZPZZ)
4. *-ci ombi* “is okay to, may, should, ought”
niyalma be holtoci ombi dere, abka be holtoci ombio
It may be fine to deceive a person, but is it permitted to deceive Heaven?”
(MBRT)

enduringge ejen i gese Manju cooha be ujire ujen ningge akū. biyadari bahara cianliyang. niowanggiyan tu i cooha urse ci ubui fulu bime. aniyadari emu niyalmai bahara bele ududu anggala be ujici ombi.
“There are none who are supported as generously by His Majesty as the Manchu soldiers. The money they receive every month is many times more than that received by the Green Standard troops; the grain one man gets for the year should be enough to support many mouths.”
(YZMaZPZZ)

ere jergi ehe tacin be enteheme geterembuci ombime. ereci amasi coohai urse fafun de geleme. an be tuwakiyame. ini cisui banjire doro bahaci ombi.

“It is necessary to eliminate forever this sort of evil habit; after this, soldiers will fear the law and will observe [proper] customs, and they should be able to manage their own livelihoods.”

(YZMaZPZZ)

5. *-ci ojarahū* “will not do to, must not, cannot”
ere erinde amba cooha yabuci ojarahū
“the great army cannot move at this time”
(MBRT)

te inenggi biya goidara jakade. hulen sula ofi. feniye acafi arki nure omire jiha efiyere be akū seci ojarahū.

“Now the days and months have gone by, and [they] have become indolent and idle; it cannot be said that there is no getting together in large numbers to drink and gamble.”

(YZMaZPZZ)

baicaci Tiyan Jin de mukei coohai ing bicibe. hafan coohai giyarime feliyere hahi oyonggo baita bifi mejige isibure de. morin akv oci ojarahv

“Upon investigation, though the garrison at Tianjin is a naval camp, when the officers and men tour on patrol, or when there is some urgent matter, news of which must be reported, there cannot not be horses.”

(QLMaZPZZ)

NB *boljoci ojarahū* “unknowable, uncertain; perhaps, possibly” (lit., “cannot be decided”)

buya urse xolo be tuwame hvlhame damtulara be inu boljoci ojarahv

“It could also be that villains [lit. small people], seeing the opportunity, may illegally pawn [their weapons].”

6. *-ci . . . -ci* “whether X or Y, . . .”

amba gurun be ajigen obuci. ajigen gurun be amba obuci. gemu abkai ciha kai.

“Whether a great country/dynasty becomes lesser, or a lesser country/dynasty becomes great is all the will of Heaven.” (MBRT)

7. various expressions with *-ci*

oci “if”

han i hesei jihe oci

“if it comes with the emperor’s edict”

oci “as for” (topic marker)

fejergi de oci ama mafa be eldembume. wargi ba i gebungge jiyanggiyvn ofi suduri bithe de tutabure be bi ambula erembi.

“As for [us] below, we glorify our fathers and forefathers; I very much hope I will remain in the history books as the ‘general of the western regions’.”

donjici . . . sembi “they say that, it is said that; I hear tell that”

duibuleci “for example” (from *duibulembi*, “to compare”)

eitereci “in general, by and large” (from *eiterembi*, “to do thoroughly”)

embici, eici “or”

akūci “if not”

aici “what kind of”