Lesson 8 Answer Key

Transcription and translation of example sentences

1. geneci uthai genembi seme hendu. generakū oci uthai generakū seme hendu. = If you are going, say “I am going.” If you are not going, say “I am not going.” [note the use of -rākū oći to indicate a negative condition. Note the use of seme to mark quotation. The command “say” comes exclusively from the verb hendu, seme simply marks the content of what the listener is supposed to say.]

2. absi emu buyecuke etuku, sinde teisu akū, minde bucina. = What a very cute outfit! It doesn’t look good on you (literally: “it’s not compatible with you”); please give it to me!

3. manju gisun be tacici, manju hergen i araha bithe be hūlaci acambi. = If you are studying the Manchu language, you should read books written with Manchu script. [note the use of the idiom -ći acambi, meaning “should”]

4. amban tere bade genefi, minde bithe arakini. = Let the official go to that place and write me a letter. [“let” here is an indirect imperative: “let it be done.” -kini frequently appears in official documents with this sense. Note that the converb genefi is subordinate to the main verb arakini, meaning that this imperative sense applies to both verbs]

5. ama oći, alin de teneki sere niyalma bi. = As for father, he is a person who wants to live in the mountains. [Note the use of -ki sere to allow the optative sense of -ki to appear in the noun clause modifying niyalma; note also the use of oći as a topic marker]

6. bi tuwaci, ne i erin be günici, abkai fejergi tumen gurun ishunde hafure erin bi. = It seems, when I think about the present time, that it is a time in which all the countries of the world are connected with one other. [note the idiomatic use of tuwaci]