

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 *-rakū oci* 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 *-ci 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 oci, 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 *oci* as a topic marker]
6. *bi tuwaci, ne i erin be gūnici, 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*]