Lesson 12: Numbers II, Ordinal and Distributive Numbers and Dates

Fun with numbers

- 1. Ordinal numbers (1st, 2nd, etc) are formed by adding a –*ci* to the cardinal number (e.g. *emu* becomes *emuci*) *ese gemu sunjaci jergi ci wesihun hafan* ("these are all officials of above the fifth rank")
 - a. Note that a final n in a number is often dropped (*ilan* becomes *ilaci*, *duin* becomes *duici*, etc), but there are exceptions (*juwan* becomes *juwanci*)
 - b. Ordinal numbers are used for years in dates *abkai wehiyehe i orin ningguci aniya ilan biyai juwan duin* ("the 14th day of the 3rd month of the 26th day of Qianlong)
 - c. Note that though *emuci* and *juweci* are used for larger numbers (i.e. *orin emuci* for 21st) and *juweci* is used for 2nd when writing dates, they are almost never used to express 1st or 2nd, and are instead replaced by either *uju* or *sucungga* in the case of *emuci* and *jai* in the case of *juwe*. In addition, though *emuci* is used as part of larger numbers in dates (e.g. *hūwaliyasun tob i juwan emuci aniya* the 11th year of Yongzheng), in the case of the first year of a reign period, *sucungga* is used (e.g. *elhe taifin i sucungga aniyai* the first year of Kangxi).

2. More about dates

- a. Just as with the first year of a reign period, the first month of a year is usually not called *emu biya*, but *aniya biya*.
- b. Instead of *juwan emu biya* and *juwan juwe biya*, there are special words for the 11th and 12th months of the year *omšon biya* for the 11th month and *jorgon biya* for the 12th month.
- c. Similarly to Chinese 初, in official documents, the first nine days of a month are often prefaced by *ice* (so *omšon biyai ice nadan* is the 7th day of the 11th month). The first day of a month is given simply as *ice*, without a following number.
- 3. Distributive numbers are formed by adding a *ta* or *te* (following vowel harmony) to the end of the number (e.g. *juwe* becomes *juwete*)
 - a. Distributive numbers are used to indicate that the number applies to each member of some group and is usually paired with the word *tome* (meaning each) *niyalma tome sunjata yan menggun be baha* (each person obtained 5 taels of silver)
 - b. As with ci, the final n of a number is usually dropped in forming the distributive number ($jak\bar{u}n$ becomes $jak\bar{u}ta$) with juwan as an exception. Note also that emu has a special form -emte.

Practice sentences

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Vocab

akta morin = gelding (騸馬) $ba = \mathbb{H}$ (unit of distance) bodombi = to think, to calculate, to plan boigon = household, family boobai = treasure booi sonjoho cooha = "Household Selected Soldiers" a particular division of bannermen den = high, tall eyembi = to flow *gebungge* = named genggiyen = clear, azurite blue *geo* = female animal $giyang = \Xi$ *golmin* = long *hethe* = property, possessions honin = sheep *ilibumbi* = to set up, to add to one's possessions nicuhe = pearl (珍珠) ninggu = top*niowanggiyan tu* = Green Standards (綠旗) omo = lake *oron* = position, vacant post *sidehunjeme* = to do alternately *šanggiyan* = white *šurdeme* = around tana = pearl, especially a freshwater pearl from rivers of Manchuria (東珠) *ubu* = portion, share, fraction unahan = colt, foal (馬駒子) uniyen = milk cow urse = people