Lesson 13: Verbs III, Complex Past Tenses

- 1. Past Indefinite -habi/-hebi/-hobi (-kabi/-kebi/-kobi)
 - a. This form is produced by adding *bi* to the perfective participle (e.g., *genembi* has the perfective participle *genehe* and so becomes *genehebi*)
 - b. This is a finite form it is usually used to end a sentence. It cannot modify a noun.
 - c. The negative is formed by inserting $k\bar{u}$ between the participle and bi (so $genehek\bar{u}bi$)
 - d. Functions:
 - i. Facts about the past: *tere bade emu amba gurun i ejen bihebi* (The ruler of a large state lived in the place).
 - ii. Simple past action: *tere bayan niyalma i moo olhome bucehebi* (The rich man's tree dried up and died)
 - iii. Present perfect form ("has done"): *sini gurun efujeme wajihabi kai* (Your country has been completely destroyed)
 - iv. Completed action that continues into the present: *aihu bira* wesihun eyefi, dergi mederi de dosikabi (The Aihu river flows eastward and then enters the east sea).
- 2. Past perfect -ha/-he/-ho (-ka/-ke/-ko) + bihe
 - a. In this form, bihe is written detached from the participle (e.g. genehe bihe)
 - b. This is also a finite, sentence-ending form that cannot modify a noun
 - c. The negative is formed simply by adding *bihe* to the negative form of the participle (*genehekū bihe*)
 - d. The principle function is as the past perfect ("had done"): *gemun hecen de amban oho bihe* (I/He had been an official in the capital)
- 3. Past continuous –*mbihe*
 - a. This form is produced by adding -he (note that you need not worry about vowel harmony) to the -mbi form (e.g. genembihe).
 - b. Finite, sentence-ending form that cannot modify a noun
 - c. The negative is formed by adding *bihe* to the negative form of the imperfective participle (*generakū bihe*)
 - d. Expresses habitual or progressive ("was doing") action in the past: *sula sabe, manju gisun, manju bithe tacibumbihe* (The unemployed [people] were being made to study the Manchu language and Manchu script).
 - e. Following a clause in the conditional (ending in -ci), expresses past counterfactual: *ese aika ergen funcefi tucike bici, urunakū uju jai jergi de dosinambihe* (If these had still been alive and come forth, then they surely would have been entered into the first or second class).
- 4. —*mbihebi* is an extremely rare form expressing frequent action in the distant past: $h\bar{u}wangheo$ beye nimala fatambihebi (It used to be that empresses themselves picked mulberries). Negative form is $-rak\bar{u}$ bihebi

Practice sentences

W لمِين فيخرر المدينميو مِن تعمل كيرنيسك چير صهراً ميشر ، ديوند ريكيبير ريكيبير هريميس سعندر ، مين جين وي فيعير سيمهرودي » * 1 3

Vocab

aimaka: seemingly aiman: tribe, minority group alban: public service, official business alibumbi: to present a document to a superior damtun: hostage dangse: records, register, archive elhe be baimbi: ask after a person's health gamambi: to take to another giyalambi: to be intermittent gūlja: Turkic name for the main city of Ili *jafambi*: to seize janggin: an official rank/military title "Adjutant" (章京) jasigan: letter, mail jedz. memorial (奏摺) *jurcembi:* violate kemuni: often manggai: no more than *neneme*: previously sibe: 锡伯 (A Manchu-speaking ethnic group) ta ceng: Tarbagatai taifin: peace *ujen cooha* = Hanjun (漢軍)