

Lesson 15: Verbs V

Concessive Converb *-cibe* (This is important to learn)

The concessive converb expresses the meaning “although.” It is usually used with the final verb of the first major sub-clause in sentences of the form (“although x, but y”), but cannot end a sentence. *tere juwe niyalma ere bade bicibe, umai sabuhakū* – “Although those two people were at this place, they were not seen at all” (or “X did not see them at all”). Note that this converb has a very high degree of independence; that is to say, nearly all other converbs that precede it will be subordinate to it.

Less Common Derivational Suffixes (these are provided for your reference – it is not important to memorize them)

1. Productive suffixes *-la/-le/-lo, -ra/-re/-ro*, etc
 - a. These suffixes are used to produce verbs from other parts of speech (especially nouns) and carry no particular meaning. So *ejen* means “ruler” while *ejelembi* means “to rule” (note that a final n is often dropped from a stem). *amba* means “big” or “great” while *ambarambi* means “to do on a large scale.”
 - b. A wide variety of other suffixes can perform a similar function (producing verbs), while sometimes carrying a particular sense – for instance *-ša/-še/-šo*, which have a durative sense (that is, they are used for continuous action), and can also add that sense by being added to verb stems, is used to turn *adali* (“like” or “same”) into *adališambi* (“to resemble” which derives from the sense “to be continuously like”).
 - c. There’s no need to memorize any of these forms, but recognizing the relationship between a new verb you come across and a noun you already know (or vice-versa) can be helpful.
2. Durative suffixes *-ša/-še/-šo, -ja/-je/-jo, -ta/-te*
 - a. As above, have the meaning “to do continuously” or “to do intensively” – so *jafambi*, “to hold,” becomes *jafašambi*, “to hold continually” or “to hold for a while” while *niyecembi*, “to mend” or “to fill a post” becomes *niyecetembi*, “to mend continually” or “to fill in regularly”
 - b. To take this meaning, *-ja/-je/-jo* are usually preceded by an additional element like *-gan, -hon, or -hun*, so *erembi*, “to hope,” becomes *erehunjembi*, “to hope constantly”
3. Decausative suffix *-ja/-je/-jo*
 - a. *-ja/-je/-jo* can also have a meaning roughly opposite to the causative, basically taking a transitive verb and making it intransitive
 - b. So, where *efulembi* means “to destroy” or “to ruin,” *efujembi* means “to be destroyed” or “to be ruined”
4. Deputative suffix *-nggi* means “to send someone to do something,” so *alambi*, “to report” becomes *alanggimbi*, “to send to report.”
5. For all the above suffixes and others, the meaning of verbs using them will almost always appear independently in dictionaries, but knowing them can help save you time.

