

## Lesson 17: Plurals + Verbs VII, T

### Terminal converb *-tala/-tele/-tolo* (fairly rare, but appears in the next reading)

The converb *-tala/-tele/-tolo* (following vowel harmony) is used to express the meaning “until” – that is, it expresses that the action marked by the main verb continues until the end of the action marked by the verb ending in *-tala/-tele/-tolo*. Example: *bucetele hūsun tucike* (he worked hard until he died – *hūsun tucimbi* means “to exert oneself”).

By extension, instead of “until,” this form can sometimes be translated as “to the point that” or “up to.” For instance, *silhi meijetele gelefi* means “they were afraid to the point that they lost their nerve.”

The form *otolo*, from *ombi*, is frequently used to refer to the passage of a certain amount of time, e.g. *emu biya otolo* = “until one month had passed”

### Plurals (taken from handout by MCE)<sup>1</sup>

Most Manchu nouns can be pluralized by adding an adjective such as *geren* (“many”), *eiten* (“all”); by adding an adverb such as *gemu* (“all”); or by directly indicating number (*juwe*, *ilan*, *minggan*, *tumen*, and so forth). Plural can also be shown by a postposition such as *gubci* (“entire, all”), *tome* (“each”), and *jergi* (“etc.”). Reduplication of nouns (as in Chinese and Japanese) is another way of marking the plural, e.g., *hacin hacin* (“all sorts of,” lit. “sort-sort”), but usually not by the substantive itself.

In addition, many Manchu nouns – mostly personal nouns (i.e., names for people, esp. family relationships; the best known exception is the plural form of *morin* “horse,” which is *morisa*) – have distinctive plural form endings. These are: *-ri*, *-si*, *-ta/-te*, *-sa/-se/-so*. Final *-n* is usually dropped before adding the plural suffix.

Only two words end in *-ri*:

*mafa* “grandfather”    *mafari*  
*mama* “grandmother”    *mamari*

A few end in *-si*:

*aha* “slave, servant”    *ahasi*  
*haha* “man”    *hahasi*  
*hehe* “woman”    *hehesi*  
*omolo* “grandchild”    *omosi*  
*hojihon* “son-in-law”    *hojihosi*

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Others end in *-ta/-te*:

(back vocalic)		(front vocalic)	
<i>ahūn</i> "elder brother"	<i>ahūta</i>	<i>deo</i> "younger brother"	<i>deote</i>
<i>sargan</i> "wife"	<i>sargata</i>	<i>eigen</i> "husband"	<i>eigete</i>
<i>ama</i> "father"	<i>amata</i>	<i>eme</i> "mother"	<i>emete</i>
		<i>ejen</i> "lord"	<i>ejete</i>

But the most common plural ending (accounting for about 85% of all nouns) is *-sa/-se/-so*:

(back vocalic)		(front vocalic)	
<i>amban</i> "official"	<i>ambasa</i>	<i>juj</i> "child"	<i>juse</i>
<i>faksi</i> "craftsman"	<i>faksisa</i>	<i>gucu</i> "friend"	<i>gucuse</i>
<i>hafan</i> "official"	<i>hafasa</i>	<i>beile</i> "prince"	<i>beise</i>

Note the effects of vowel harmony:

<i>monggo</i> "Mongol"	<i>monggoso</i>
<i>solho</i> "Korean"	<i>solhoso</i>

Sometimes pluralizing *-sa* or *-se* gets used independently (that is, it is not attached as a suffix to the noun it modifies), as in *wang* "prince," pl. *wang sa*. This usage is also seen in the use of *se* (never *sa*) in the beginning of a memorial as a pluralizing form after an individual's name (e.g., *Fuk'anggan se*) to indicate that more than one person is submitting the memorial (the full list of memorialists can usually be found at the end of the document).

