

Lesson 18: Verbs VIII, Simultaneous Action

Simultaneous Action – three new (relatively uncommon) converbs

1. Durative converb *-hai/-hei/-hoi* or *-kai/-kei/-koi*
 - a. Formed by adding *i* to the perfective converb
 - b. Indicates that an action continues while another action takes place – the action marked by the durative converb must be either continuous, frequent, or intense: *i tehei aliyambi* = “he waits sitting for a long time”; *yasa hadahai tuwambi* = “[someone] stares at [something] intently” (*hadambi* means “to fix the eyes on” so the phrase can be even more literally translated as “looks with [his] eyes continuously fixed”).
 - c. As seen from the above examples, the durative converb, like the imperfective converb *-me*, frequently has an adverbial sense (“he sitting-continuously waits”; “eyes fixed-continuously looks”); that is, a verb in the durative form modifies the sense of the main verb of the clause.
2. Simultaneous converb *-mbime*
 - a. No vowel harmony, simply add *-me* to the dictionary form (*-mbi*)
 - b. Again expresses action that takes place simultaneously with another action, but does not have an adverbial sense, nor is it used to denote that an action is continuous or frequent. It often has the sense of “it being the case that [...]” and is sometimes used to contrast the action marked by *-mbime* and the main verb: *si baita be sambi sembime, ainu takurakū* = “While you say you know about the matter, why are you not familiar with it”
 - c. Related to the lack of adverbial function, while the durative converb *-hai/-hei/-hoi* generally modifies another verb in the same clause, the simultaneous converb *-mbime* is frequently the main verb of a subordinate clause, though it cannot end a complete sentence.
3. Alternative converb *-ralame/-relame/-rolame*
 - a. Formed by adding “*lame*” (ignoring vowel harmony) to the imperfective participle
 - b. Expresses two actions that are performed at the same time: *bi yaburelame tuwambi* = “I am looking as I go along”
 - c. This is an extremely rare form – and may not appear at all in later Manchu texts, but is occasionally seen in pre-conquest texts (and later publications based on pre-conquest texts). I actually can’t find any examples in my (mostly 18th and 19th century) documents.

