Lesson 19: Verbs IX

Instrumental Converb –taí/-tei/-toi

The instrumental converb, which follows vowel harmony, is used to express an extreme degree of action, with a meaning like “to the point of.” It is commonly used with the verb bucembi (“to die”) to mean “to the death” – so bucetei daharakū means “to resist to the death” (or, more literally “to not submit/surrender even to the point of death”).

This form is particularly common in expression related to risking one’s life, but quite rare otherwise.

Prefatory converb –nggala/-nggele/-nggolo

The prefatory converb is used to express that an action has not been completed when another action takes place, and can be translated “before.” So booci tucinggele buda jefu means “eat before you leave the house” (jefu is the imperative of jembi). The word onggolo (“before” or “previous”) comes from the prefatory form of ombi.

This form is extremely uncommon.
Practice sentences

Vocab
buya = lowly, small, base, inferior
Danjin Lorbu = name of a person
ergen = life, breath
eyembi = to flow
far seme = in profusion
fašambī = to exert effort, act vigorously
funtumbī = to brave
gashūmbī = to swear, to take an oath
gosingga = loving, compassionate
hengkišembi = to kowtow repeatedly
horon = power, venom
hoton = walled city
hūlha = bandit, rebel
Ili = Ili 伊犁
karulambi = to repay
mukiyebumbi = to extinguish, to annihilate
nemembi = to add, to increase
neneme = previously
siran = succession, sequence
sujambi = to resist, to withstand
šelembī = to part with, to give up
ulhiyen = gradual
waliyambi = to throw away, to abandon
Yacingga = name of a person