Lesson 20: Verbs X

Apprehensive Converb – rahū (our last verb form!)

The apprehensive converb does not follow vowel harmony. It expresses a sense of worry – that is the belief or fear that an action might take place contrary to the speaker’s desire. So it can be translated as “I am afraid that” or “I worry lest x.” So banuhūn heolen ojorahū means “I am afraid lest [he] should become lazy and negligent” or “I fear that he might become lazy and negligent.”

Rahū is frequently followed by a form of the verb sembi – ame eme nimerahū seme jobombi: “I worry that my father and mother might become ill” – since “jobombi” means “to worry,” rahū does not need to be translated directly itself, but simply marks the verb about which the speaker is worrying.
Practice sentences

Vocab
agu = sir, master (a respectful term of address for men)
ba na = local
Ci Bin = personal name, Qi Bin
cinggiya = superficial, limited in scope
doro = way
ejembi = to record
fulehe = root, origin
gucu gargan = friends and acquaintances
gūnin = intention, feeling, thought, mind, spirit
icebumbi = to be stained, to be contaminated
meiren i janggin = Lieutenant General
micihiyan = shallow
mudan = sound, tone
niyaman hūncihin = relative
onggombi = to forget
Sungyun = personal name, Songyun
tuwancihiyambi = to correct, to set aright, to instruct
ufaran = error, failure