

Lesson 5: Pronouns and Question Words

Basic Manchu Sentence Structure

1. Normal sentence order: subject-object-verb (SOV)
2. Many simple sentences do not require a verb. E.g. *mini beye elhe*: I (literally, “my body”) am well.
3. The subject of a sentence is often left unstated if context makes it clear.
4. The simple copula, *bi*, is used at the end of sentences of the form *noun is noun*. More commonly, though, *bi* at the end of a sentence is a form of the verb *bimbi*, and expresses existence.

Personal pronouns:

I	<i>bi</i>
you	<i>si</i>
he/she/it	<i>i</i> (different form than genitive case <i>i</i>)
we (inclusive of the conversation partner)	<i>muse</i>
we (exclusive)	<i>be</i>
you (plural)	<i>suwe</i>
they	<i>ce</i>

Question words:

who	<i>we</i>
what	<i>ai</i>
what kind of (<i>attributive</i>)	<i>ya</i>
where	<i>aibide</i>
when	<i>atanggi, ai erin de</i>
why	<i>ainu</i>
how many	<i>udu</i>

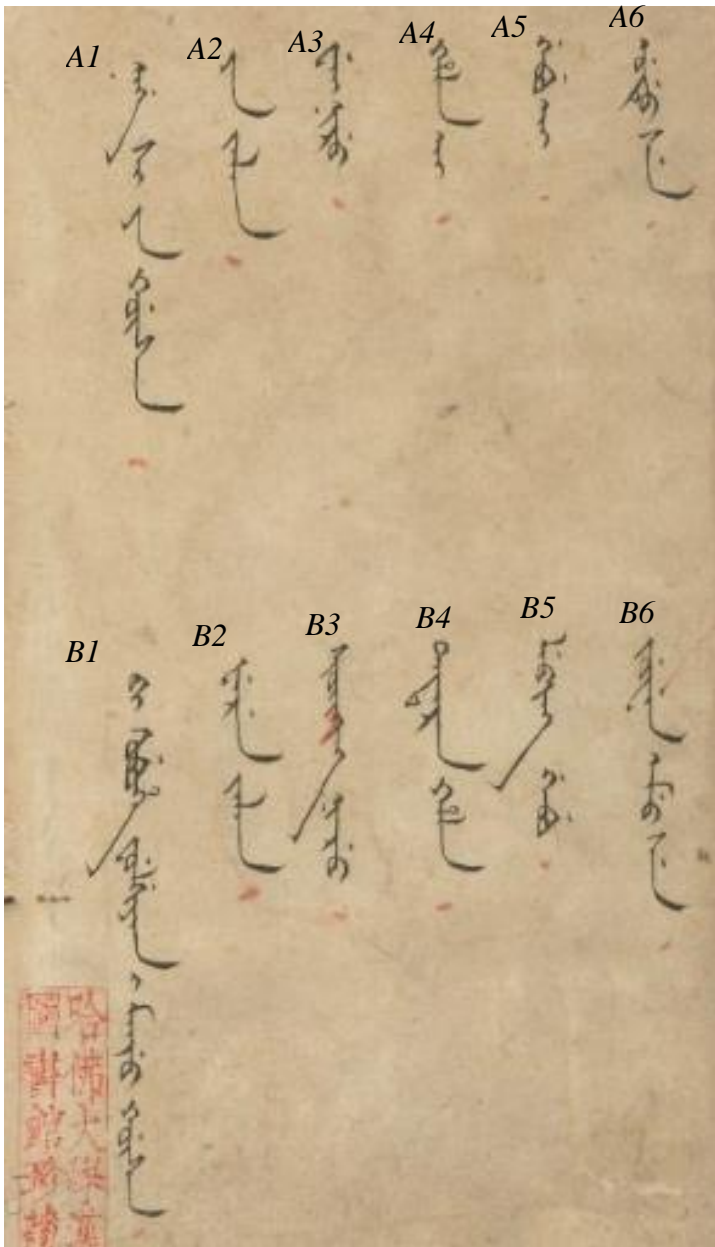
Interrogative particles:

<i>o</i>	yes/no: <i>jekeo?</i>
<i>na</i>	mild interrogation: <i>sain na? (si saiyūn?) – How are you?</i>
<i>ni</i>	Question word + <i>ni</i> (optional): <i>ere ai jaka ni?</i>

Example Sentences

10. תִּיבֵּן אֲנִי חַיִּים (יָד) » (אֲנִי = to live)
9. אֲנִי אֲכַל אֶת הַלֶּחֶם (אֲכַל = to eat)
8. אֲנִי אֲכַל אֶת הַלֶּחֶם (יָד) » (יָד = whose) אֲנִי אֲכַל אֶת הַלֶּחֶם (אֲנִי = his)
7. אֲנִי אֲכַל אֶת הַלֶּחֶם (אֲנִי = good)
6. אֲנִי אֲכַל אֶת הַלֶּחֶם (אֲנִי = good)
5. אֲנִי » (as response to אֲנִי אֲכַל, means <I am well>, note the dropped subject)
4. אֲנִי אֲכַל » (אֲכַל = special question form for אֲנִי = good, well)
3. אֲנִי אֲכַל אֶת הַלֶּחֶם (אֲנִי=this, אֲכַל = writing, אֲכַל = Manchu)
2. אֲנִי אֲכַל אֶת הַלֶּחֶם » (אֲנִי = my, אֲכַל = body, אֲכַל = peaceful, healthy)
1. אֲנִי אֲכַל אֶת הַלֶּחֶם » (אֲנִי = in the house)

Homework: Read and attempt to translate the following short dialogue



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Vocab: 色 色 色