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A GRAMMATICAL SKETCH OF MANCHU

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0.0 Introduction

This sketch deals mainly with Manchu morphology and word classes. It is hoped that there is enough systematic information contained in the explanation of forms and in the examples for the sketch to be used as a beginner's introduction to the learning of Manchu. There is no information on the Manchu writing system, but adequate descriptions of it may be found in Möllendorff, Haenisch and Harlez' grammars. The transliteration used in this sketch is that of Möllendorff. Following is a chart of the graphemes with suggested pronunciations.

Grapheme	IPA	Grapheme	IPA
a	[A]	n	[n]
e	[ʒ]	k	[k', q'] ¹
i	[i]	g	[g', g, G, G] ²
o	[ɔ]	h	[x, x] ³
u	[u]	b	[b, b]
ū	[u]	p	[p']
s	[s, ʃ] ⁴	ʃ	[dʒ, dz]
š	[ʃ]	y	[j]
t	[t']	r	[r]
d	[d, d]	f	[f]
l	[l]	w	[v]

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m	[m]	ng	[ŋ]
c	[t']	ngg	[ŋ]
k'	[k']		
g'	[g]		
oo	[o]		
in Chinese words			
	[ou]		

1. k before i, e, u is pronounced [k'], before ū, o, a [q'].
2. b, c, g, j, are voiceless and lenis initially and before other consonants, and voiced intervocally. g is [ġ, g] before i, e, u, and [Ğ, G] before ū, o, a.
3. h is [x] before i, e, u, and [χ] before ū, o, a.
4. s is [ʃ] before i. All consonants are heavily palatalized before i.
5. Stress is on the final syllable.

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1.0 Substantives

In Manchu substantives are words that may be followed by one of the case particles i, be, de, ci. They typically occur as subjects, objects, and attributes to other substantives. In this sketch nine subclasses of substantives are recognized: nouns, pronouns, demonstratives, interrogatives, adjectives, numerals, postpositions, place words, and time words. The participles or verbal nouns will be discussed in the section on verbs.

1.1 Nouns

Nouns form an open class of substantives which are characterized by their ability to be preceded by the demonstratives ere and tere and in general to be modified by other attributes.

In general only personal nouns in Manchu have plural forms; such forms as morisa 'horses' must be considered exceptional. The plural morpheme has several variants; ri, si, ta (te), sa (se so). Roots ending in -n drop the -n before adding the suffix.

A. -ri

This suffix occurs with only two words:

mafa	mafari	'ancestor, grandfather'
mama	mamari	'female ancestor, grandmother'

B. -si

This suffix also occurs with only a limited number of nouns of which the ones listed below are the most important:

aha	ahasi	'slave, servant'
haha	hahasi	'man'
hehe	hehesi	'woman'
omolo	omosi	'grandchild'
asihani	asihasi	'servant'
hojihon	hojihosi	'son-in-law'

C. -tan-te

Back vocalic words take -ta:

ahūn	ahūta	'elder brother'
sargan	sargata	'wife'
ama	amata	'father'

Front vocalic words take te:

deo	deote	'younger brother'
eigen	eigete	'husband'
eme	emete	'mother'
eshen	eshete	'father's younger brother'
efu	efute	'wifes older brother'
ejen	ejete	'lord'
meye	meyete	'husband of younger sister'

D. -san-sen-so

This suffix may sometimes be found written separately from the word with which it belongs.

Back vocalic words take -sa:

amban	ambasa	'official'
bayan	bayasa	'rich man'
faksi	faksisa	'craftsman'
fujin	fujisa	'lady'
hafan	hafasa	'lower official'
hiya	hiyasa	'guard, page'
lama	lamasa	'lama'
manju	manjusa	'Manchu'
nikan	nikasa	'Chinese'
sakda	saidasa	'old man'
sabi	sabisa	'student'
taiji	taijisa	'prince'

Front vocalic words take -se:

gucu	gucuse	'friend, comrad'
jui	juse	'son, child'
mergen	mergese	'wise man'

Round vocalic words take -so:

monggo	monggoso	'Mongol'
solho	solhoso	'Korean'

Sometimes sa, se are written separately and joined with one of the case particles:

baturu sei	'of the heroes'
ahasi sabe	'the slaves (acc.)'

In the last example notice that the plural morpheme occurs twice in two different forms.

1.2 Reduplication

Certain nouns may be reduplicated with the meaning 'the various...' or 'several'.

baba	'various places'
hacin hacin	'various kinds'
hoton hoton	'the various cities'

1.3 Case

Case relationships in Manchu are shown by the particles i, be, de, ci and by the absence of any particle.

A. No particle

When a noun serves as a subject in a Manchu sentence, it takes no marker.

Manju i <u>cooha</u> mangga.	'The Manchu army is strong.'
<u>Cooha</u> yabuha aku.	'The army didn't go.'

An unspecified or indefinite object is also unmarked.

arki omime	'drinking liquor'
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aba abalara de	'when hunting'
morin yaluha	'rode horses; rode a horse'

B. i The variant ni occurs after words ending in -ng.

The genitive case is marked by the particle i; notice that it may or may not be joined to the preceding word.

coohai morin	'soldier's horse'
morin i adun	'herd of horses'
honin i yali	'sheep's meat, mutton'
hūwai niyalma	'man of business'
mafari i erdemu	'virtue of ones ancestors'
wang ni indahūn	'the king's dog'

In a dependent clause i marks the logical subject.

mafai tehe susu	'homeland where ones ancestors dwelt'
han i banjiha kooli	'laws which the king made'

The particle i is used to show the instrument with which an action is performed.

suhe i sacimbi	'cuts with a knife'
cuwan i doofi	'having crossed by means of a boat'
fi i arame	'writing with a pen'

C. be

A specified or definite object of a verb is shown with the particle be.

ere nure be omifi	'having drunk this wine'
aisin be gaiha	'he took the gold.'
boigon be emu tanggū cooha be tuwakiyabufi	'having ordered one hundred soldiers to guard the house- hold'

The particle be occurs after the subject in quoted discourse.

musei cooha be geren sembi.	'he says that our soldiers are many.'
Darhan Hiya be akū oho seme donjifi	'having heard that Darhan Hiya had died'
Agūda gebungge amban be maksī sefi	'having told an official named Agūda to dance'

D. de

The particle de shows location in time or space, as well as destination with verbs of motion.

bi giya i angga de simbe aliyara.	'I will wait for you at the street corner.'
alin de genehe	'He went to the mountain.'
naḍan biyai orinde	'on the twentieth day of the seventh month'

The particle de also marks the indirect object.

morin be tere niyalma de buhe.	'He gave the horse to that man.'
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The agent of the passive is shown by de.

cooha de wabuha.	'He was killed by the soldier.'
nikasa manjusa de gidabuha.	'The Chinese were subdued by the Manchus.'

E. ci

The particle ci shows the point in space or time from which an action originates..

alin ci wasifi	'having come down from the mountain'
morin ci ebufi	'having gotten off the horse'
muke ci tucime	'coming out of the water'

This particle translates 'than' in comparisons.

turi ci ajigen	'smaller than beans'
ere tere ci sain	'this is better than that'

1.4 Personal pronouns

The personal pronouns are listed below as they occur with the case particles; there is some irregularity in the roots. Notice that the roots and particles are usually written joined.

	∅	i	be	de	ci
singular					
1	bi	mini	mimbe	minde	minci
2	si	sini	simbe	sinde	sinci
3	i	ini	imbe	inde	inci

In the first person plural there is a distinction between inclusive and exclusive forms; the inclusive form includes the person or persons spoken to while the exclusive does not.

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plural	ø	i	be	de	ci
1-incl.	muse	musei	musebe	musede	museci
1-excl.	be	meni	membe	rende	menci
2	suwe	suweni	suwembe	suwende	suwenci
3	ce	ceni	cembe	cende	cenci

Examples:

bi jibe	'I came'
mimbe sabufi	'having seen me'
mini bithe	'my book'
bi suwende buhe	'I gave it to you (pl.)'
cembe wahabi	'They've killed them.'

An intensive form can be made by combining the

genitive form and the word beye 'body'.

mini beye	'I myself'
sini beye	'you yourself'
etc.	

Possessives can be formed from the genitive forms

by adding the suffix -ngge.

miningge	'mine'
iningge	'his'

1.5 Demonstratives

Manchu has two demonstratives, a proximate and a distant corresponding to the English 'this' and 'that'

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respectively. They may be used attributively as well as independently. Their forms when combined with the case particles are as follows. The plural forms are not used attributively.

	ø	i	be	de	ci
<u>proximate</u>					
singular	ere	erei	erebe	ede	ereci
plural	ese	esei	esebe	esede	eseci
<u>distant</u>					
singular	tere	terei	terebe	tede	tereci
plural	tese	tesei	tesebe	tesede	teseci

The forms erede and terede will occasionally be met with in the dative-locative form.

Note also the forms:

enteke	'8	'such a (like this)'
tenteke		'such a (like that)'
aika		'what kind'
erten		'all'
ememu		'a certain'
gubci		'all'
ineku		'the afore-said'
jacin -- jai		'next'

1.6 Interrogatives

The interrogative words are we 'who', ai 'what', ya 'who, what' aibi or aiba 'where'.

We and ai occur with all the case particles: we, wei, webe, wede, weci; aini, aibe, aide, aici.

The form aini is usually used in an instrumental sense.

ya is usually used attributively:

ya niyalma 'which man'

ya bade 'at what place'

aibi or aiba occurs usually with the dative-locative or ablative particles de and ci.

si aibide bihe? 'Where were you?'¹

1.7 Adjectives

In Manchu adjectives are clearly a type of substantive. The only thing that distinguishes them from nouns is that they are more often attributes than not, and that they may occur in the comparative frame:

X Y ci _____.

Adjectives are never inflected for number. They will occasionally appear with the case particles:

¹ For the other interrogative words see the section on adverbs.

sain be tuwame 'looking at what is good'

suweni facuhūn be safi 'seeing your disorder'

Adjectives, and for that matter, any attribute stands in front of the word it modifies.

sain morin 'good horse'

golmin sanyan alin 'Long White Mountain'

Adjectives may be predicates alone:

niyalma sain. 'The man is good.'

1.8 Numerals

A. The cardinal numbers are as follows.

1 emu	2 juwe	3 ilan
4 duin	5 sunja	6 ninggun
7 nadan	8 jakūn	9 uyun
10 juwan	11 juwan emu	15 tofohon
20 orin	21 orin emu	25 orin sunja
30 gūsin	40 dehi	50 susai
60 ninju	70 nadanju	80 jakūnju
90 uyuuju	100 tanggū	101 tanggū emu
135 tanggū gūsin sunja		
200 juwe tanggū		1000 minggan
10000 tumen		

B. Ordinals- Ordinals are formed from the cardinals by the addition of the suffix -ci. When the cardinal

number ends in -n, the n drops before the addition of the suffix. The numerals juwan and tumen are exceptions; the ordinal form is juwanci and tumenci.

Examples:

1 emuci	10 juwanci
3 juweci	11 juwan emuci
4 duici	38 gūsin jakūci
5 ilaci	46 dehi ningguci
6 ningguci	100 tanggūci

-ci is sometimes written separately:

juwan juwe ci 'twelfth'

C. Distributives

Distributive forms are made by adding the variable suffix, ta, te, to; final n's drop except with juwan and tumen: nadata 'seven each'.

1 emute (emte)	6 ninggute	11 juwan emute
2 juwete	7 nadata	15 tofohoto
3 ilata	8 jakūta	30 gūcita
4 duite	9 uyute	80 jakūnjuta
5 sunjata	10 juwanta	

1.9 Postpositions.

Postpositions are a group of substantives that come after nouns and show some sort of temporal, spatial;

causal or other relationship. They are often joined to the preceding element with the genitive particle -i but not necessarily so.

deri 'through, via, from'

amargi dukai deri boode jibe 'he came into the house through the back door'.

geren coohai dorgideri 'from the midst of the soldiers'

dari (usually joined to the preceding word) 'every, every time that'

aniyadari 'every year'.

cimari dari 'every morning'.

jihe dari si boode akū 'every time I've come you've not been at home'

gisurere dari 'every time he speaks'.

baru 'toward, to'

hoto*n* i baru 'toward the city'.

mini baru gashūha gisun 'the words which he swore to me'

gese, adali 'like'

emu gurun -i gese 'like one nation'.

senggi gabtara*i* gese 'like blood shooting out'.

ere gese 'like this, in this manner'.

tasha i adali 'like a tiger'.

enteke adali 'in such a manner as this'.

nuke eyerei adali 'like water flowing'.

<u>teisu</u>	'facing, toward'
heceni wargi dukai teisu	'facing the west gate of the city'.
<u>beye</u>	'oneself'
han i beye amala genefi	'the king himself having come later'.
<u>emgi, sasa</u>	'together with'
si amala mini emgi yabu	'you go with me later'.
giran i emgi benjihe	'they brought him together with the corpse'.
ini emgi bihe gucuse	'companions who had been with him'.
ahun i sasa	'together with his elder brother'.
<u>anggala</u>	'than, not only'
aisin i anggala dele	'more valuable than gold'.
Meni hanciki gurun i anggala	'not only our neighboring countries (but....)'
<u>onggolo</u>	'before'
ama i onggolo	'before father'
weile mutere onggolo	'before the matter was finished'
<u>teile</u>	'only, to the extent that...'
giranggi teile	'only bones'
muterei teile	'as far as is possible'
<u>canggi</u>	'only'
ere ing de Solhoi canggi bi	'There are only Koreans in this camp'.

<u>manggi</u>	'after, only'
abka gereke manggi	'after the sky became light'
mani bocde manggi bimbi	'he's only in my house'
<u>ishun</u>	'toward'
daiming cocha ishun	'toward the army of Ming'
<u>hafu</u>	'through'
alin i hafu bira eyembio?	'Does the river flow through the mountain?'
<u>jalin, jali, jalinde</u>	'for the sake of'
doroi jalin	'for the sake of the way'
gurun i jalinde	'for the sake of the country'
<u>jakade</u>	'because of'
juwe niyalma bucere jalade	;'because two men died'
<u>jalu</u>	'completely, fully'
<u>dabali</u>	'across, over, exceeding'

1.10 Place words

The most important place words are shown in the table below.

	A	B	C	D
behind north	amala	amari	amasi	amargi
front south		juleri	julesi	julergi
top east	dele	deleri	delesi	dergi
under	fejile	fejiri	fusihun	fejergi
under west	wala		wasihun	wargi

middle	dolo	dolori	dosi	dorgi
outside	tule	tuleri	tulesi	tulergi
that side	cala		casi	cargi
this side	ebele	eberi	ebsi	ebergi
opposite shore	bajila			bajargi
surface	oilo	oilori		oilorgi

The forms in columns A and B are locative in meaning. Column C contains forms which occur generally with verbs of motion and indicate destination. The forms of column D are nominal and may occur as attributes and may be followed by the case particles.

Examples:

coohai amala	'behind the army'
tereai amala	'after that'
miyoo i dolo	'within the temple'
juwan i dolo ninggun bucehe.	'six out of ten died'.
galai dele	'on the hand'
dukai tule	'outside the gate'
hecen i tule	'outside the city'
horkoi fejile	'underneath the cabinet'
muke i oilo	'on the surface of the water'
soktoho amala	'after getting drunk'

boode bederehe amari	'after returning home'
enenggi ci amasi	'after today'
han i juleri	'in front of the king'
Solho ci amasi	'northward from Korea'
Monggo ci Julesi	'southward from Mongolia'
cere i dele sindafi	'having put on the table'
birai dergi ci	'from east of the river'
besergen i fejile	'under the bed'
tulergi dan i tule	'outside the outside moat'
Fe-ala ci casi	'beyond Fe-ala'
Yarhū ci ebsi	'hither from Yarhu'
Liyooha birai bajila	'on the far bank of the Liyooha River'

1.11 Time words

Some of the most important time words are listed

below:

eneggi 'today'	sikse 'yesterday'
cimari 'morning, tomorrow'	te 'now'
dobori 'night'	amala 'later, afterwards'
niyengniyeri 'spring'	juwari 'summer'
bolori 'autumn'	tuwari 'winter'

2.0 Predicatives

Although substantives are sometimes predicates, the usual situation is for the center of the predicate to be a verb; therefore in this sketch verbs and adverbs will be treated together under the heading of predicatives.

2.1 Verbs

The Manchu verb has 13 basic forms:

afa-	'to attack'
afa	imperative
afara	imperfect participle
afaha	perfect participle
afame	imperfect converb
afafi	perfect converb
afaci	conditional
afacibe	concessive
afatala	terminal converb 1
afanggala	prefatory converb 2
afaki	desiderative 1
afakini	desiderative 2
afacina	optative
afarahū	temeritive

In addition to the primary forms there exists a group of complex forms, combinations of the above simple forms plus either the verb bi 'is', the particle akū 'not', the instrumental particle i or one or both of the interrogative particles o and ni.

Examples:

afarakū	(afara + akū)
afarao	(afara + o)
afahaku	(afaha + akū)
afambi	(afame + bi)
afambihe	(afame + bihe)
afambime	(afame + bime)
afambihebi	(afame + bihebi)
afahakū	(afaha + akū)
afahabi	(afaha + bi)
afahai	(afaha + i)

The derived verbs will be taken up in 2.25-2.27.

2.11 Imperative

The imperative has no suffix:

afa 'attack !'

ere be si tuwa 'look at this !'

Certain verbs, however, have irregular imperative

forms:

<u>root</u>	<u>imperative</u>	
bai-	baisu	'seek'
gai-	gaisu	'take'
bi-	bisu	'be'
o-	oso	'become'
je-	jefu	'eat'
ji-	jio	'come'
gaji-	gaju	'bring'
benji-	benju	'bring'
	cai be benju	'bring tea !'

2.12 Imperfect participle ra / re / ro

The imperfect participle is formed by adding the variable suffix -ra/-re/-ro to the stem of the verb.

ra occurs when the final syllable of the stem contains an a.

afa- afara
gama- gamara

re occurs when the final syllable of the stem contains i, i, u or u.

ebše- ebšere 'hurry'
fonji- fonjire 'ask'
afabu- afabure 'be attacked'

ro occurs with stems containing all o's.

bodo- bodoro
tokto- toktoro

An irregular suffix -dara/-dere/-doro is added to a limited group of irregular verbs, that are mostly formed on Chinese loanwords, with a final -n :

√jon	jombi	'to mention'	jondoro
√wen	wembi	'to melt'	wendere
√ban	bambi	'to be lazy'	bandara

(The perfect participle of these verbs is also irregular; see 2.13)

Both the imperfect and perfect participles are substantival forms and as such are found as objects, attributes, and predicates; they are verbal inasmuch as they

still take objects.

as object

gisurere be han donjifi 'the king having heard what was being said'

as attribute

amban ojoro niyalma 'a man who becomes an official'
habsara niyalma 'a man who complains'
baitalara arga 'a method for using'

as predicate

sargan jui be sinde sargan bure. 'I'll give you the girl as a wife.'
bi sinde alara 'I'll tell you.'

When this form is used predicatively it may usually be translated as a future tense in English.

with particles and postpositions

cooha isinara onggelo 'before the army arrives'
mini tacibure anggala 'not only do I teach'
√sun sirire de 'while milking'
afame dosire de 'when advancing to battle'

with ume

ume plus the imperfect participle form a negative command.

ume gisurere 'don't speak !'
ume wara 'don't kill !'

Notice that when a participial form is used as a subject it generally takes the suffix -nge:

arki nure omirenge, ai sain 'how is the drinking of liquor and wine good'

2.13 Perfect participle

The perfect participle is formed with the variable suffix

ha / he / ho.

ha occurs with back vocalic roots

he occurs with front vocalic words

ho occurs with roots containing all o's

Roots containing only i or u may take either ha or he;
the occurrence is lexical.

There is a small class of verbs that have the variant
suffix ka / ke / ko. The chief ones are listed below:

-ka

algi-	'hang up'
ašu-	'hold in the mouth'
bisa-	'overflow'
dosi-	'enter'
gala-	'clear up (weather)'
gūwaliya	'change'
hami-	'approach'
isi-	'approach, reach'
jalu-	'fill up, be completed'
jila-	'pity, love'
jura-	'depart, set out'
tafa-	'ascend, climb'
tafu-	'ascend, climb'
wasi-	'descend'

-ke

je-	'eat'
te-	'sit'
dule-	'pass'
ebere-	'decline'
elde-	'shine'
fuse-	'breed, propagate'
gere-	'dawn'
mukde-	'rise'
tuci-	'go out, come out'
tuhe-	'fall, lose'
wesi-	'ascend'

-ko

colgoro-	'surpass'
okdo-	'meet, welcome'
soro-	'turn yellow (of leaves)'
tohorō-	'become quiet'

A group of verbs with a final -n root (see 2.12) have an
irregular formation:

/jōn	jombi	'to mention'	jongko
/wēn	wembi	'to melt'	wengko
/bān	bambi	'to be lazy'	bangka

Like the imperfect participle, the perfect participle is
nominal insofar as it may occur as an object, attribute, or
predicate, but verbal insofar as it may have an object.

as object

jugūn tosoho be sabufi	'having seen the blocking of the road'
gisurehe be donjifi	'having heard what was said'
gashūha be afulerakū	'will not betray what was sworn'

as attribute

mini gisurehe gisun	'the words I said'
folohe onggemu hadala	'carved saddle and bridle'
jugūn de tuheke jaka	'a thing lost on the road'

as predicate

abke de hengkileme bithe deijihe	'kowtowing to heaven, he burnt the book'
geli hoton de dosika	'again he entered the city'
wargi alin de ambula sebjelehe	'we greatly enjoyed ourselves at the Western hills'

with particles and postpositions

dain cooha tucike de	'when the enemy soldiers left'
jihe de	'when he came'
hoton i cooha amasi bederehe manggi	'after the soldiers of the city had retreated'

2.14 Imperfect converb

The imperfect converb is formed by adding the invariable suffix -me to the verb stem. Converbs are dependent forms, that is, they do not occur finally in a complete sentence. Clauses ending in converbs usually set the scene for the action of the main clause in the sentence or simply show a sequence of actions that occur before or concurrently with the action of the main verb.

The imperfect converb shows an action that is going on at the same time as the action of the main verb.

morin be dabkime, beri daraha. 'whipping up his horse, he drew his bow.'

burulame genere niyalma be ambula waha. 'They killed many men who had gone fleeing.'

Manju gisun getuken bime dacun. 'The Manchu language is clear and to the point.'

The imperfect converb is also used to show purpose.

alin de abalame genehe. '(They) went to the mountains to hunt.'

nan de acame yabu. 'go to meet the king.'

Ychei gurun be dailame genere de. 'when they were going to attack the country of Yche.'

The imperfect converb is used with auxiliary verbs:

nure omime muterakū 'can't drink wine'

yabume bahanarakū 'not able to go'

agame deribuhe 'began to rain'

Both direct and indirect speech are introduced by imperfect converbial forms of verbs meaning to speak, think, ask, answer, etc. Common verbs of this type are hendu- 'speak', se- 'say', ala- 'report, say', ara- 'write', hūla- 'read', jasi- 'send a letter', gūni- 'think', fonji- 'ask', and jabu- 'answer'.

tere duin gucu jabume, beile si buceci, be simbe

dahame bucembi seme henduhe. 'The four friends answered, "If you die Beile we shall die along with you"

A number of imperfect converbial forms have idiomatic uses.

1. seme Both direct and indirect quotations are closed with seme.

gajime jimbi <u>seme</u> donjifi	'having heard that he would bring (his)
moo saci seme hūlame	'shouting, "cut down the tree"'

seme occurs after onomatopoeic words and certain descriptive adverbs:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| kiyatar <u>seme</u> akjan akjame | 'thundering "kiyatar"' |
| hūwanggar <u>seme</u> agame | 'raining in a torrent' |
| der <u>seme</u> | 'greatly' |

fik seme 'densely'

seme is also found in connection with modal adverbs:

umai seme jaburakū 'he doesn't answer at all'

A small group of imperfect converbial forms are used like postpositions. Among the most important are the following:

1. dahame 'after; since; according to'

monggo bithebe taciha dahame 'after having read the Mongol book'

acabuha dahame 'after peace was made'

tacikūde jihe be dahame 'since he came to school'

2. gojime 'however, but'

angga de gosihon gojime, nimeku de tusa

'it's bitter in the mouth, but it is beneficial for the sickness'

3. tehereme 'around'

ing ni tehereme 'around the camp'

4. šurdeme 'around'

hecen i šurdeme 'around the city'

boo be šurdeme 'around the house'

5. bitume 'along'

birai bitume 'along the river'

birai dalin be bitume 'along the river bank'

6. ninggureme 'on top of'

hecen i ninggureme 'on top of the city wall'

7. jekarame 'along'

dergi mederi jakarame 'along the Eastern sea'

Of these forms dahame and gojime are often found with the participles. The other forms are found most often with nouns with the genitive or accusative particle.

2.15 The perfect converb

The perfect converb is formed by attaching the invariable suffix -fi to the verb stem.

tuwafi 'having looked'

bucefi 'having died'

A small number of verbs take -pi or -mpi. The occurrence of these variants is lexical, and the same verb may sometimes have -pi and sometimes -fi. The -pi suffix seems to be an archaic form of -fi. Some common verbs taking -pi and mpi are listed below:

sa-	sampi	'stretch'
juwa-	juwampi	'open the mouth'
we-	wempi	'melt'
hūwaliya-	hūwaliyapi	'harmonize'
colgoro-	colgoropi	'surpass'
yu-	yumpi	'incline to'
jo-	jompi	'cut grass; recall'
desere-	deserepi	'overflow'
dulo-	dulepi	'pass'
guwaliya-	guwaliyapi	'change'
suma-	sumapi (sumafi)	'spread'

The perfect converb shows that one action has been completed before the next begins.

songgoro be nakafi, emgeri hengkilehe

'Having stopped crying, he kowtowed once.'

yali be sindafi, mukei dolo fekuhe

'He put down the meat and jumped into the water'

2.16 The conditional-temporal converb

The conditional-temporal converb is formed by adding the invariable suffix -ci to the verbal stem; this converb shows the condition under which an action occurs or the time when it occurs. It may usually be translated by 'if' or 'when'.

si buceci 'when you die' or 'if you die'

ice bade hecen boo araci, gurun jobombi kai

'If we build a wall and houses in a new place, the country will suffer.'

bi genececi 'if I go' or 'when I go'

The conditional-temporal converb is used with certain auxiliary verbs:

si yali be jeci ombi 'you may eat meat'

jeci etembi 'can eat'

jeci bahambi 'can eat'

jeci mutembi 'can eat'

jeci acambi 'is fitting to eat, should eat'

The conditional-temporal forms of a few verbs are used idiomatically.

seci used with the desiderative in -ki means 'although'.

yabuki seci 'although I wish to go'

donjici is used to introduce hearsay expressions.

Donjici si te Manju bithe tacimbi sembi. 'I have heard that you're studying Manchu now.'

oci is used to set off the subject or topic of a sentence.

Hadae guruni wan han oci, uyun hūha be waha sembi.

'As for King Wan of Hada, they say he killed

the nine robbers.'

2.17 The concessive converb

The concessive converb is formed by adding the invariable suffix -cibe to the verbal stem. It means 'even though...'

si erda bederecibe 'even though you return early'

2.18 The terminal converb

The terminal converb is formed by adding the variable suffix tala/tole/tolo to the verb root; -tala is added to back vocalic roots:

bahatala

dositala

-tele is added to front vocalic roots:

eletele

genetele

-tolo is added to o-vocalic words:

otolo

songgotolo

The terminal converb may be translated 'until...'

tede isitala 'until he arrived there'

tere hecen de dositala 'until he enters that city'

2.19 The prefatory converb

The prefatory converb is formed by adding the variable suffix -nggala / -nggele / -nggolo to the stem of the verb.

-nggala is added to back vocalic roots:

wajinggala

-nggele is added to front vocalic words:

gerenggele

-nggolo is added to o-vocalic words:

onggolo

The prefatory converb may be translated 'before...'

gisun wajinggala, yasai muke eyehe 'Before his
speech was finished, tears
flowed'.

abka gerenggele 'before it became light'

2.20 Imperative

The imperative coincides with the stem of the verb:

afa-	afa !	'attack !'
isabu-	isabu !	'bring together!, cause together !'
wa-	wa !	'kill !'
te-	te !	'sit !'

The imperative expresses a direct command to the second person. This is an impolite and, in some situations, rude form. A polite command is expressed by the circumlocution imperfect participle plus the interrogative suffix:

tereo	'please sit'
burao	'please give'

2.21 Desiderative

The desiderative is formed by adding the invariable suffix -ki to the stem of the verb:

afaki
songgoki
jeki

The desiderative shows a desire or intention to perform an action on the part of the speaker.

Soorin be bahaki. 'I want to attain the throne'.

Bi nonome geneki. 'I shall go first'.

Suweni gisun be donjiki. 'I'll listen to what you have
to say'.

2.22 The optative

The optative is formed by adding the invariable suffix

-kini to the verb stem:

banjikini

afakini

jekini

The optative shows a strong desire on the part of the speaker that some action be performed. It generally refers to the third person.

Bi buceci mini sunja jui banjikini. 'If I die, I hope
my five children
will live !'

It may be used as a polite imperative:

Tubade dedukini. 'Please stay there'.

It is also used to express permission; in this usage it is especially common to have the optative form preceded by a conditional form of the same verb:

dosici dosikini 'he may enter; lit., if he enters,
let him enter'.

2.23 The Second Optative

The second optative is formed by adding the invariable suffix -cina to the stem of the verb:

afacina
ocina
gūnicina

This form expresses a desire on the part of the speaker that an action be performed either by the person he is speaking to (or more rarely by some other person). It is very similar in meaning to the -kini form; it is not used in the permissive sense however.

Nure be omire be nakacina. 'I hope he will stop drinking wine'.

Si te genecina. 'I want you to go right now'.

2.24 The Temeritive

The temeritive is formed by adding the invariable suffix -rahū to the same stem that the imperfect participial ending is added to:

afarahū
ojorahū
tuherahū

This form shows apprehension on the part of the speaker that something may occur.

ama nimerahū seme jobombi 'he is worried lest his father be ill'

mimbe warahū seme gelembi 'he fears that they may kill me'

2.25. Negative forms

The Manchu verb has only two negative forms; both are contractions of the participles and the negative particle akū 'without, not'.

The ending of the imperfect participle ra / ro / ro fuses with the negative particle to give the form -rakū.

bi sinde abdarakū 'I don't trust you'.

ainu jiderakū ? 'why don't you come ?'

The negative imperfect participle of sembi 'to know' usually appears as serkū. The negative particle fuses with the ending of the perfect participle to give the following forms:

ha + akū --: hakū (kakū)

he + akū --: hekū (kekū)

ho + akū --: hokū (kokū)

jihekū 'he didn't come'

umai jaka jiekū 'he didn't eat anything at all'

sorokokū 'it didn't turn yellow'

2.26 The simultaneous converb

The simultaneous converb is formed by adding the instrumental particle -i to the perfect participle:

jihei

afahai

sorokoi

The simultaneous converb shows that the action of the verb continues while another action is performed.

songgohoi gonehe 'he went weeping'

aliyahai sadahabi 'he became tired while waiting'

2.27 The verb bimbi

The verb 'to be' bimbi has all the forms possessed by other verbs:

bisu	imp.
bisire	imper. part.
bihe	perfect part.
bime	imper. converb
bifi	perfect converb
bici	cond. converb
bicibe	conc. converb
bitele	terminal converb
bisirenggele	preparative converb
biki	desiderative 1
bikini	desiderative 2
bicina	optative

In addition to these forms it also has a special finite imperfect form bi :

emu oyonggo baita bi 'it is an important matter'

aibide bi ? 'where is it ?'

emu bade sain okto bi 'There is good medicine in a certain place'.

The various forms of bimbi occur with the participles and converbs of other verbs to give various aspectual shades of meaning. Many of these forms have not been studied in detail and their precise meaning can only be hinted at.

The most important of these peraphrastic forms with bimbi consists of the imperfect converb plus bi. This form is usually contracted to -mbi; it is the action form used in all dictionaries of Manchu. It is a general finite imperfect form.

It may refer to future time:

cimari bi genembi 'I'll go tomorrow'

It may be used to make general factual statements.

aisin na ci' tucimbi 'gold comes from the earth'

si sambio ? 'do you know ?'

It may show a progressive action.

Alin ci muke eyembi. 'Water is flowing from the mountain'.

Tuwame bi. 'He is watching'.

Sefu i omgi nure omicame bi. 'He was (is) drinking wine with his teacher'.

Other forms of bimbi occur with the imperfect converb.

Following are some examples:

-me + bime

emu derei toombime emu derei songgome 'on the one hand cursing, on the other hand weeping'

-me + bihe

This form has several uses:

a) It may be a habitual past.

Sahaliyan ula yaya aniya om⁵son biya i tofohon orin de juhe jafambihe. 'On the Sahaliyan river ice would form every year on the fifteenth or twentieth of the eleventh month'.

b) It may serve as a hypothetical, especially when

preceded by a clause containing a conditional form.

Nomina naikada alanaraku bihe bici, nikan wailan be bahambihe. 'If Nomina and Naikada hadn't gone and told him, we would have caught Nikan Wailan'.

simbe waci, acambihe 'If I had killed you, it would be fitting' ('I should have killed you')

The imperfect converb occurs with any of the other forms of bimbi; in each case the form has a progressive or habitual meaning.

cooha be tuwame bisu	'be watching the soldiers'
ulha ujime bikini	'let them feed the stock (habitually)'
tere dobori tuwakiyame bifi	'that evening, after he had been watching'

Forms of bimbi occurring with perfect converb show that an action has already taken place.

niyalma suwende ambula geneffi bi	'many men have already come to you'
-----------------------------------	--

Forms of bimbi occur with the negative participles to show various moods and aspects:

si generekū bici	'if you don't go'
bi sarkū bihe	'I didn't know'
mimbe warakū bicibe	'even though he doesn't kill me'

2.28 Adverbs

Adverbs are words that occur attributively before the verbal and adjectival expressions. Some of the most common ones are the following:

ainu	'why'
ambula	'greatly'
baibi	'in vain'
damu	'only'
dasame	'anew, again'
eitereci	'nearly'
enteheme	'always'
galtai	'suddenly'
gemu	'all, in all cases'
geli	'again'
inu	'also, again'
ishunde	'mutually'
jai	'again'
jing	'just'
jortai	'on purpose'
kemuni	'often'
neneme	'at first, beforehand'

tuttu	'this way'
umai	'completely'
umesi	'very, completely'
urunakū	'without fail'
yala	'truly'

A large number of adverbial expressions are morphologically instrumental:

sain i	'well'
yargiyan i	'truly'
emke emken i	'one by one'
ulan ulan i	'often, traditionally'

Another common type of adverbial expression consists of reduplicated forms:

fondo fondo	'through and through'
ilhi ilhi	'step by step; by degrees'
teisu teisu	'each in order'

2.29 Clause Particles

Clause particles are words that occur after clauses and various modal overtones to the clause. Some of the more common ones are discussed below:

1. aise This particle means 'perhaps, supposedly'

bi jimbi aise 'Perhaps I will come'

genehe aise 'I suppose he came'

2. aku The particle aku negates the existence of something; its use in conjunction with the participles has already been discussed (see 2.25).

Minde bithe aku. 'I have no book; lit., to me there is no book'.

dere de fi akū 'There is no pen on the table'.
 cocha oci baturu akū 'As for the soldiers, they are
 not strong'.
 muse juwe nofi ehe umai akū 'We two are not bad at
 all'.

3. ayoo Ayoo expresses fear, doubt, or uncertainty
 about some event.

damu acarakū ayoo 'I was only afraid I wouldn't
 meet you'.

aikabade morin akū ayoo 'if there are no horses
 (as is to be feared)'

4. dere The particle dere shows doubt or supposition.

giyang be doome wajiha dere 'They have probably
 already finished
 crossing the river'.

si mimbe holtombi dere 'You must be deceiving me'.

It is also used in an emphatic sense:

dain be etembi dere 'We shall surely win the
 battle'.

5. inu This particle originally means

'thus', 'so' as in inu 'is it so?' At the end of
^{is}
 a clause it/used to add a slight emphasis.

tere fujin han i eme inu 'That lady is the mother
 of the King'.

tob seme inu 'It is exactly so'.

sini bithe inuo 'Is it your book then?'

6. kai This word is a particle of emphasis.

gurun i amba baita kai 'It is a great affair of the
 nation'.

muse de jekui ku akū kai 'We have no granaries'.

In translation of Chinese classical texts, it often

translates the Chinese particle ye.

7. na Na is an interrogative particle.

Sinde fi bi na? 'Do you have a pen?'

Sain na? 'How are you?'

Generakū na? 'Isn't he going?'

8. ni. This is also an interrogative particle.

bi jeterakū ni? 'Am I not going to eat?'

9. nikai Nikai is an emphatic particle.

hala bu nikai. 'his family name is Tu'.

te isinjihā nikai. 'he has arrived now'.

10. -o This is probably the most common interrogative
 particle. It is usually written joined to the preceding
 word.

ere sefu hahao, heheo. 'Is this teacher a man or a
 woman?'

tere sini bithe inuo? 'Is that really your book?'

geneci ombio? 'Is it o.k. for me to go?'

aika baita bio? 'Is there anything wrong?'

11. unde A negative particle like akū and waka, unde means
 'not yet'.

hono dabure unde 'The lamp is not yet lit'.

cooha isinjire unde 'The troops have not arrived yet'.

12. waka The particle waka negates nominal predicates.

haha niyalma wake 'It is not a man'.

tere gemu sain niyalma waka 'They are not all good
 people.'

ini baita waka 'It is not his affair'.

Notice the difference between fi akū 'there is no pen'
and fi waka 'it is not a pen'. This particle always carries the
implication 'not ..., but (the reverse)!'.

sain waka 'it is not good (,but bad)'