

Ussurian

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1. Introduction

Written histories began during the Age of Races, yet many of these accounts are either lost or, in the context of tales of the present time, not yet discovered. It is in these early sources that the essence of the Ussurian language can first be seen to emerge: similar alphabetical characters and words whose etymology can be traced forward to modern day equivalents can both be found.

Yet Ussurian is not the product of natural linguistic evolution alone. For the peoples of ancient eras, a specific problem routinely arose. The length and severity of each passing season brought upon the populations a seasonal separation, whereby the Blessed seasons of Spring and Autumn allowed migrations and the coalescence of regional variations of a shared language, and the Unblessed seasons of Summer and Winter separated populations by swathes of ice and desert. During these Unblessed seasons, which lasted around thirty years each, regional dialects swiftly evolved in their isolation. The variations of dialect grew ever numerous and ever disparate, yet remained similar at their core. It was decided by Mant Nukko of the Realm of Ukunur to create a static language, one that would remain unchanged and maintained by the realm. This static tongue was the beginning of the language that is now known as Ussurian.

Faced by the same problem, but arguably less severe in nature, populations of a more modern era (The Age of New Beginnings), saw the rise of a new, more fluid language. The isolated region of Gorjovak kept their own language, Gorjon, and as populations dispersed as the Age of the First Men came to a close, new dialects arose. As the settlement, now known as Mutasaih, grew ever greater in size and importance as a centre of Trade, the Mutasaian Trading Language was born to allow traders from all regions to share a common tongue. The MLT adopted Ussurian as its base for sentence structure, word formation, and use of vowel diacritics, whilst also keeping many of the same alphabetical characters or simplified variations thereof. It also adopted some Gorjon alphabetical characters and words.

The language's lexicon evolved naturally as a blend of many different regional words, however etymologies were rarely recorded for most records were of numerical type, such is the nature of trade, and the histories of words is limited mainly to the items that were exchanged. From these few examples, and the comparisons of modern-day Ussurian and Mutasaian, it seems that Ussurian has been the most influential in the Mutasaian Trading Language's evolution.

It was not long until Mutasaian Trading Language became the most common tongue, and Ussurian was soon relegated to purely ceremonial purposes: historical, legal, scientific and artistic.

Ussurian dialects and child forms can be classified into three distinct groups:

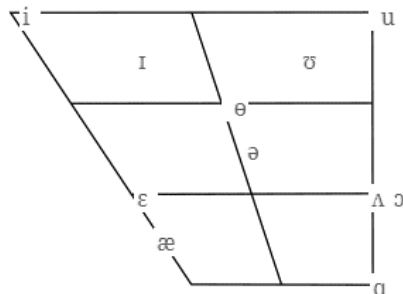
- Central
- South Western
- South Eastern

Each of these groups contain dialects that share distinct similarities between sister tongues, and distinct differences between dialects from the others. However, these will be documented independently.

2. Phonology

NOTE: Please reference Ussurian alphabet sheet for Romanised substitute characters.

2.1 Vowels



Ussurian uses many vowel sounds and numerous diphthongs, however they are each classed in a grammatical and orthographical sense as unique vowel sounds.

2.2 Consonants

	Labial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Palatal	Velar
Plosive	p b			t d			k g
Nasal	m			n			ŋ
Affricate					tʃ dʒ		
Fricative		f β	ɸ ɸ̌	s	ʃ		
Approximant						j	
L.approximant				l			
Trill				r			

Most voiceless consonants have voiced counterparts, the one exception being “S”. Instead of the voiced “Z”, its counterpart has taken the form of “š”, or “Sh”, which is in itself voiceless. It is not completely clear as to why this is, as certain Ussurian dialects of the Central region contain the phonetic “Z”, but it is hypothesised that the similar Dental phoneme “ɸ” lead to its abandonment.

2.3 Stress Rules

Ussurian follows a common pattern of syllabic stress, despite its apparent complexity.

- If a word begins with a vowel, the primary stress is first syllable (the vowel).
- If a word begins a consonant, the primary stress falls upon the second syllable.
 - o This rule is disregarded for tetra-syllabic words. Instead, the primary stress falls upon the penultimate syllable.
- The Secondary stress is always placed upon the ultimate syllable, except in the case of disyllabic words where the primary stress has fallen on the ultimate syllable. In this instance, the secondary stress naturally falls to the first syllable.

2.4 Intonation

There are two intonation “moods”: Questions and exclamations:

- Questions are signified by a drop in tone on the ultimate syllable of a phrase.
- Exclamations are signified by a sharp rise in tone on the ultimate syllable of phrase, much like the high rising terminal (high rising intonation) in heard in some forms of English.

2.5 Phonotactics

2.5.1 Disallowed Syllables

Certain phonetic clusters are disallowed. These disallowed clusters are specifically consonant clusters, as any consonant can be “expressed” by any vowel sound.

Disallowed General Clusters:

- B + [J, D, G, K, M, N, ŋ, P, S, T, ð]
- Ç + [B, D, ð, F, ʃ, G, J, K, M, N, P, S, ʒ, T, ʔ]
- D + [B, Ç, ð, F, J, K, M, N, ŋ, P, S, ʒ, T, ʔ]
- F + [B, Ç, ð, ʃ, J, K, M, P, S, T]
- ʃ + [B, Ç, D, ð, F, G, J, K, N, ŋ, P, R, ʒ, T]
- G + [B, D, ð, F, K, M, N, P, S, T]
- J + [B, Ç, D, ð, ʃ, G, K, M, N, P, S, ʒ, ʔ]
- K + [B, D, F, G, J, ŋ, P, T]
- L + [B, D, ð, G, J, K, M, N, P, S, ʒ, T, ʔ]
- M + [B, D, ʃ, G, K, N, P, S, T, ʔ]
- N + [B, D, ʃ, G, K, P, S, T, ʔ]
- ŋ + [ð, G, N]
- P + [B, D, ʃ, G, J, K, M, N, S, T]
- R + [B, Ç, D, ð, F, ʃ, G, J, K, L, M, N, ŋ, P, S, T, ʔ]
- S + [ð, F, ʃ, J, ʒ]
- ʒ + [Ç, ð, F, ʃ, J, S, ʔ]
- T + [B, Ç, D, ð, F, ʃ, G, K, M, N, P, S, ʔ]
- ʔ + [B, Ç, D, ð, F, ʃ, J, K, P, S, ʒ, T]
- ð + [B, Ç, D, F, ʃ, G, J, K, M, N, P, S, ʒ, ʔ]

Disallowed Codas:

- -D, - ð, -ʃ, -ŋ

2.5.2 Repair Strategies

A common ultimate-syllable repair strategy for words that would, under normal grammatical terms, end in these forbidden codas is to add an /a:/ sound (like in **father**) to the end of the word.

2.5.3 Common Syllables

There are a number of common syllabic sounds found in Ussurian words. Here is a non-exhaustive list of some examples:

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| - Bar /ba:/ | - Ko /kə/ | - Gor /gə:/ |
| - Ŋk /ŋk/ | - Đoo /thu:/ | - Şay /ʃeɪ/ |
| - Ut /ʌ:t/ | - Mut /mʌ:t/ | - Ç ay /çeɪ |

3. Orthography

3.1 Evolution

Much like the origins of the Gorjovakian language, Gorjon, Ussurian began as a carved language and as such, the few artefacts that show primitive Ussurian show that its alphabet has evolved from sharp, angular engravings and into the cursive alphabet of the modern era. Most modern alphabetical characters are unrecognisable compared to their historical counterparts, and records are not complete enough to display the true evolutionary change of each character over time. Unlike the hard rock of the Gorjon realm, the territories of the Central and Southern regions used soft clay-like tablets to write on, and carved into sandstone structures. Because of the fragility and susceptibility to deterioration of both materials, most examples of primitive Ussurian have been lost.

It was not long, however, until the people of the Central and Southern regions began to write with ink upon parchment. This allowed Ussurian to adopt a cursive script, and when Mant Nukko ordered the establishment of a protected Ussurian language, extra embellishments were added to the alphabetical characters to not only distinguish it from other Ussurian dialects, but to add a sense of grandeur.

3.2 Base Vowel

One important feature of the Ussurian alphabet is the “Base Vowel.” A vowel that immediately follows a consonant is referred to as an “expressed” consonant, and is written as the consonant character with a vowel diacritic written above it. However, for words that begin with a vowel or for words that have an “expressed” consonant followed by another vowel, there would be no place to write the required vowel diacritic.

To solve this problem, the “Base Vowel” character made its way into the alphabet – an addition that is found in all forms of Ussurian. The Base Vowel holds no phonetic sound, and so you would never find a Base Vowel character without an accompanying diacritic, but it allows the placement of an independent vowel sound in written form.

Vowels that are written with a Base Vowel character are *always* pronounced as independent vowels. They never transform into a diphthong, and are never dropped or ignored.

3.3 Rules

Ussurian contains minimal punctuation, opting for line breaks to denote ending sentences and/or new paragraphs.

- To mark the end of a word, a dot is placed after the word in the vertical middle of the line (similar to the way a dash “-“ is).
- To mark the end of a sentence, begin the next sentence on a new line.
- To mark the end of a paragraph, begin the first sentence of the next paragraph two lines down, leaving a line’s worth gap in between.
- Question and exclamation marks do not exist. Instead, sentences are structure to demand an answer, rather than to request one, e.g. “Did you buy the Judd?” becomes “Tell me if you bought the Judd.”

- A consonant can be “stressed”, meaning that it is spoken with a long sound. This is denoted by a dot underneath the character. If the consonant is “expressed” with a vowel sound, only the root consonant sound is stressed.

There are also some grammatical rules that are used to improve the flow of words. As described in section 3.2, a vowel that follows an “expressed” consonant are written using the Base Vowel character. However, because these vowels are pronounced independently, words that have been modified by a morpheme may end up with two or more adjacent vowels. Although there are words in the Ussurian vocabulary that contain two adjacent vowels (although these are few in number), there are never any with more than two.

Therefore, when adding suffixes or prefixes to a root word, the following rule applies:

- If a suffix begins with a vowel, remove all trailing vowels from the end of the root word until a consonant is reached (an “expressed” consonant would turn into a “non-expressed” consonant) before appending the suffix.
- If a prefix ends with two vowels, remove the ultimate vowel before prepending the prefix to the root word (rare).

3.4 Romanisation

Several characters are used in place of their IPA symbols. This is to provide a more legible orthography whilst Romanising the Ussurian script.

IPA	Example	Substitute	IPA	Example	Substitute
æ	Cat	A/a	β	Vf	III/III
ɑ	Father	Ä/ä	tʃ	Church	Ç/ç
εə	Any	Ã/ã	dʒ	Judge	J/j
eɪ	Stable	Å/å	ʃ	Shiver	Ş/ş
e	Bet	E/e			
i:	Believe	É/é			
ju	New	Ê/ê			
I	Bit	I/i			
ΛI	Bite	Í/i			
ɒ	Hot	O/o			
əʊ	Rope	Ò/ò			
ɔ:	North	Ô/ô			
ɔɪ	Noise	Õ/õ			
u	Noose	Ö/ö			
aʊ	Out	Ü/ü			
ʌ	Cut	U/u			
ɜ:	Word	Û/û			
j(ə)	Daniells	Ÿ/ÿ			

3.4 Alphabet

Throat			
IPA	Example	Substitute	New Letter
G	Grow		ɹ ɹ
ŋ	Thing		ʒ
K	Kick		ʃ

Lip			
IPA	Example	Substitute	New Letter
θ	Thin		ʒ
ð	Then		ʒ
B	Bow		ɹ
F	For		ʒ
m	Man		ʒ
P	Poor		ʒ
R	Right		ʒ
β	Vfision		ʒ

Tongue			
IPA	Example	Substitute	New Letter
tʃ	Church	ç	ʒ
D	Dad		ʒ
dʒ	Judge	j	ʒ
L	Lemon		ʒ
N	Now		ʒ
S	Silver		ʒ ʒ ʒ
ʃ	Shiver	ʃ	ʒ ʒ ʒ
T	Town		ʒ

Vowels			
IPA	Example	Substitute	New Letter
æ	Cat	a	ʒ

Vowels			
IPA	Example	Substitute	New Letter
æ	Cat	a	ʒ
ɑ	Father	ä	ʒ
εə	Any	ä	ʒ
ei	Stable	ä	ʒ
e	Bet	e	ʒ
i.	Believe	é	ʒ
ju	New	ê	ʒ
l	Bit	i	ʒ
AI	Bite	í	ʒ
o	Hot	o	ʒ
əʊ	Rope	ò	ʒ
ɔ:	North	ô	ʒ
ɔi	Noise	ô	ʒ
u	Noose	õ	ʒ
aʊ	Out	ü	ʒ
ʌ	Cut	u	ʒ
ɜ:	Word	û	ʒ
j(ə)	Daniells	ÿ	ʒ

4.2.3 Adposition-Noun Order

Adpositions are added as prepositions. There are various suffixes that can be used in some case. For example, the word “Kros” means “Place” in Ussurian, and by the appending of a range of locative suffixes, you can build words such as “Krosubun”, which means “near”, or “near the place”. This is an example of a preposition, which would be added as such: “Krosubun Repōnéno”, which means “Near her garden”; and as a postposition “Repōnéno Krosubun” would mean “Her garden nearby”.

4.2.4 Noun-Relative Clause Order

Relative clauses follow the noun. For example, the word order would be:

- “the man (*noun*) + whom I saw (*relative clause*)”

5. Nouns

5.1 Noun Cases

There are eight noun cases used in Ussurian:

- Nominative
- Accusative
- Dative
- Genitive
- Demonstrative
- Locative
- Chrono-Locative
- Seasonal

However, not all noun cases are the same. Nominative, accusative, dative and genitive cases all contain a masculine & feminine declension, personal declensions, and declensions for plurality (except for first person). Demonstrative, locative, chrono-locative and seasonal declensions use a set list of suffix declensions, which include no gender or plurality. In words that require, for example, both genitive and locative declensions, the suffixes are added as per the word construction order in section 4.1.

5.1.1 General Noun Declensions (Nominative, Accusative, Dative & Genitive)

	Singular	Two Of	Many Of
Nominative (Subject)	-kâ (m.) -nâ (f.) -mâ (f.p.) -bâ (s.p.) -pâ (t.p.)	-mô (f.p.) -bô (s.p.) -pô (t.p.)	-mô (f.p.) -bôp (s.p.) -pôp (t.p.)
Accusative (Object)	-ka (m.) -na (f.) -ma (f.p.) -ba (s.p.) -pa (t.p.)	-bâ (s.p.) -pâ (t.p.)	-bâp (s.p.) -pâp (t.p.)
Dative	-ki (m.) -ni (f.) -mi (f.p.) -bi (s.p.) -pi (t.p.)	-bû (s.p.) -pû (t.p.)	-bûp (s.p.) -pûp (t.p.)
Genitive	-kò (m.) -nò (f.) -mò (f.p.) -bò (s.p.) -pò (t.p.)	-bòç (s.p.) -pòç (t.p.)	-bòp (s.p.) -pòp (t.p.)

m. masculine
f. feminine
f.p. first person
s.p. second person
t.p. third person

Genitive case is reserved for human entities, be it in the use of pronouns or nouns that relate to a human (e.g. a human hunter's prey). For non-human entities, "bôn" (of) or "Neç" (of the) are used to add ownership or a relationship between the object and the subject.

5.1.2 Personal Pronouns

Ussurian has two words for person: one that references a person as a human being (*Uprälä*), and one that serves purely as a grammatical stand in. The latter word is "Ut", which can be used by itself in informal speech to mean "someone". By using the noun cases listed in the in section 5.1.1, and altering "Ut" by appending the appropriate suffix, the speaker (or writer) can form equivalents of he, she, him, her, his, hers, theirs and more:

- Ut + kâ » Utkâ "He"
- Ut + nâ » Utnâ "She"
- Ut + ka » Utkâ "Him"
- Ut + nò » Utnò "Hers"
- Ut + pôp » Utpôp "Them (many)"
- Ut + pòç » Utpôch "Theirs (two of)"
- Ut + mō » Utmō "We"
- Ut + bōp » Utbōp "Ours"

There exists a similar grammatical word for "it", which can be used in exactly the same way as "Ut" but is used only for non-human entities (but is used for other living things). This word is "Et". When referring to a singular object in the nominative, the base word "Et" is used. However, for other singular cases, the second-person declensions are used, and for collectives and groups (such as companies, armies, etc.) the appropriate plural case declensions are used.

5.1.3 Demonstrative Nouns

By using the grammatical word for “it” as a root word (as described in section 5.1.2), a range of suffixes can be appended to “Et” to add context. The suffixes used for demonstrative nouns are a subset of the range of inflections used for demonstrative, locative and chrono-locative noun declensions.

- Et + eka (this) » Eteka “This thing” / “This”
- Et + ekü (that) » Etekü “That thing” / “That”
- Et + ekö (some [abstract]) » Etekö “Something” / “Anything” / “A thing”
- Et + ekô (every) » Etekô “Everything” / “All things”

5.1.4 Locative Nouns

The word for “place”, “Kros”, is used as the root word to build locative nouns.

- Kros + eka (this) » Kroseka “This place” / “Here”
- Kros + ekü (that) » Krosekü “That place” / “There”
- Kros + ekô (every) » Krosekô “Every place” / “Everywhere”
- Kros + ub (which) » Krosüb “Which place” / “Where”
- Kros + ubun (near) » Krosübun “Near the place” / “Near” / “Nearby”
- Kros + ðä (top) » Krosðä “On top of the place” / “On top”
- Kros + ðö (above) » Krosðö “Above the place” / “Above”
- Kros + ðö (under) » Krosðö “Under the place” / “Under” / “Underneath”
- Kros + ðê (below) » Krosðê “Below the place” / “Below”
- Kros + ðä (behind) » Krosðä “Behind the place” / “Behind”
- Kros + ðö (before) » Krosðö “Before the place” / “Before”
- Kros + ðu (beside) » Krosðu “Beside the place” / “Beside”
- Kros + ðâ (after) » Krosðâ “After the place” / “After”
- Kros + ma (towards) » Krosma “Towards the place” / “Towards”
- Kros + mô (away) » Krosmô “Away from the place” / “Away”
- Kros + di (to) » Krosdi “To the place” / “To” / “To go to”

5.1.5 Chrono-Locative Nouns

Chrono-locative nouns use the same suffixes, where applicable, as locative nouns to describe points in time. They use the word “time”, “rona”, as the root word:

- Rona + eka (this) » Roneka “This time” / “Now”
- Rona + ekü (that) » Ronekü “That time” / “Then”
- Rona + ekô (every) » Ronekô “Every time” / “All the time”
- Rona + ub (which) » Ronüb “Which time” / “When”
- Rona + ubun (near) » Ronübun “Near the time” / “Near” / “Around”
- Rona + ðö (before) » Ronaðö “Before the time” / “Before”
- Rona + ðâ (after) » Ronaðâ “After the time” / “After”
- Rona + ðu (beside) » Ronaðu “At the same time” / “Concurrent”
- Rona + tusk » Ronatusk “During the time” / “During”

5.1.6 Seasonal Nouns

Ussurian has seasonal nouns, which describe either the contextual season in which that noun is relevant, or the sentiment attached to it. The blossoming of flora, for example, has the same root word with the seasonal suffix applied:

- Kuba (blossom) + let (summer) » Kubalet “Summer Blossom”
- Kuba (blossom) + nau (autumn) » Kubanau “Autumn Blossom”
- Kuba (blossom) + nok (winter) » Kubanok “Winter Blossom”
- Kuba (blossom) + şon (spring) » Kubaşon “Spring Blossom”

Due to the nature of the Heruvian seasons, spring and autumn are considered “Blessed”, and winter and summer are considered “Unblessed”. Using the same root word, we can apply a seasonal context:

- *Kuba (blossom) + sin (Blessed) » Kubasin “Blessed Blossom”*
- *Kuba (blossom) + dak (Unblessed) » Kubadak “Unblessed Blossom”*

In the example above, one might choose to say “Unblessed blossom” instead of “winter blossom” to convey a certain meaning, such as the reduced quantity or quality of a seasonal harvest during an unblessed season, and vice versa. However, this sentiment can be applied to non-seasonal specific nouns too:

- *Dantā (luck) + sin (Blessed) » Dantāsin “Good Luck” / “Blessed Luck”*
- *Dantā (luck) + dak (Unblessed) » Dantādak “Bad Luck” / “Unblessed Luck”*

6. Verbs

Verbs always begin with a consonant, allowing for the following verb to noun formation.

6.1 Verb to Noun Formation

Verbs can be converted to nouns by circumfixing a shortened version of the prefix “Ut” (for humans) or “Et” for everything else (by removing the ultimate character of the prefix), and a shorted version of the suffix of appropriate noun case (by removing the first character of the suffix).

- U(t)/E(t) + Root Word + Case

For example, *Galasin (hunt)*, “Hunter”:

- U (grammatical person) + *galasin (hunt)* + *kā* (nominative) » *Ugalasinkā* “Hunter (human)”
- E (grammatical entity) + *galasin (hunt)* + *ki* (dative) » *Egalasikni* “Hunter (non-human)”
- U (grammatical person) + *galasin (hunt)* + *kò* (genitive) » *Ugalasinò* “The hunter’s (human)”
- E (grammatical entity) + *galasin (hunt)* + *pāṛp* (plural, accusative) » *Egalasinārth* “Hunters (human)”

6.2 Agreement

Ussurian is a “pro-drop” language, in that verbs apply case (and therefore gender) to imply the subject and object of the verb’s application. By using tense and case, a verb can have a great deal of context applied (see section 6.3 for verb tense).

For example, *Galasin (hunt)*, “to hunt” / “hunting”:

- *Galasin (hunt) + mat* (past tense) + *nā* (f. nominative) » *Galasinmatnā* “She hunted”
- *Galasin (hunt) + dan* (present tense) + *bōṇ* (f.p. plural, nominative) » *Galasintdanbōṇ* “We are hunting”
- *Galasin (hunt) + dal* (perfect tense) + *pōṇ* (t.p. plural, nominative) » *Galasindalpōṇ* “They have hunted”

6.3 Verb Tense

As briefly demonstrated in section 6.2, verb tense can be applied through the addition of a tense suffix.

There are twelve verb aspects:

- **Present Simple:** *Galasin (hunt) + dat + mā* (f.p. nominative) » *Galasindatmā* “I hunt”
- **Present Progressive:** *Galasin (hunt) + dan + mā* (f.p. nominative) » *Galasindanmā* “I am hunting”
- **Present Perfect:** *Galasin (hunt) + dal + mā* (f.p. nominative) » *Galasindalmā* “I have hunted”
- **Present Perfect Progressive:** *Galasin (hunt) + dau + mā* (f.p. nominative) » *Galasindauṃmā* “I have been hunting”
- **Past Simple:** *Galasin (hunt) + mat + mā* (f.p. nominative) » *Galasinmatmā* “I hunted”
- **Past Progressive:** *Galasin (hunt) + man + mā* (f.p. nominative) » *Galasinmanmā* “I was hunting”

- **Past Perfect:** *Galasin (hunt) + mal + mǎ (f.p. nominative) » Galasinmalmǎ* “I had hunted”
- **Past Perfect Progressive:** *Galasin (hunt) + mau + mǎ (f.p. nominative) » Galasinmaumǎ* “I had been hunting”
- **Future Simple:** *Galasin (hunt) + cat + mǎ (f.p. nominative) » Galasinçatmǎ* “I will hunt”
- **Future Progressive:** *Galasin (hunt) + çan + mǎ (f.p. nominative) » Galasinçanmǎ* “I will be hunting”
- **Future Perfect:** *Galasin (hunt) + çal + mǎ (f.p. nominative) » Galasinçalmǎ* “I would have hunted”
- **Future Perfect Progressive:** *Galasin (hunt) + çau + mǎ (f.p. nominative) » Galasinçaumǎ* “I will have been hunting”

Passive voice is often tackled through the use of *çen* and *çeni* (or *çon* and *çoni*). For example, “I had been hunting” is written as *Galasinmaumǎ*. But what about “I had been hunted”? There exists no suffix to apply this passive tense. Instead of affixing two tense suffixes (simple past tense and past perfect progressive in this example), which would create a whole layer of confusion, Ussurian applies passive voice with tense by attributing the action of a verb to the subject or object using *çen*. For example, “I had been hunted” becomes *Utkǎ çen galasinmat*.

“It had been hunted” can be simplified as “It was hunted”. With this, we can use the simple past tense of “hunt”, “hunted” (*Galasinmat*) as an attribute of the subject using *çen*. *Et çen Galasinmat* can therefore be directly translated as “It was hunted”.

6.4. Verb Modality

Ussurian verb tense applies much needed context to a verb, but it does not allow for the expression of verb modality. Although *Galasindalmǎ*, “I have hunted”, is easily written, we are not yet able to write “I should have hunted”, or “I should not have hunted”.

To allow for this much needed addition of context, there exists a series of words that are added before the constructed verb to apply modality.

Take the example “You should not have hunted.” Taking the constructed presented perfect tense *Galasindalǎ* (“You have hunted”), we now need to construct the preceding word to apply the context “should not”. First, we take the word for should, *nankan*. To easily convert this a negative connotation, change the penultimate character “a” and convert it to an “o”. Now it becomes *nankon*, “should not”.

- *Nankon (should not) + Galasindalǎ (you have hunted) » Nankon galasindalǎ* “You should not have hunted”

Here is a list of all modal modifiers, with their positive and negative connotations:

- *Nankan/nankon*: “Should” / “Should not”
- *Upātan/upāton*: “Could” / “Could not”
- *şalan/şalon*: “Can” / “Cannot”
- *Dāpan/Dāpon*: “Must” / “Must not”
- *Baklan/Baklon*: “May” / “May not”

For example:

- *Nankan (should) + Galasindatmǎ (I hunt) » Nankan galasindatmǎ* “I should hunt”
- *Dāpon (must not) + Galasinçanmǎ (I will be hunting) » Dāpon galasinçanmǎ* “I must not be hunting”

There arises one possible complication, but this too can easily be solved: modal modifiers “have” and “will” are already included in the tense suffixes. The same negative connotation rule applies to the tense suffixes as it does to the modal modifiers. The penultimate character of the suffix is changes from “-a-“, to denote a positive connotation, to an “-o-“, to denote a negative connotation.

For example:

- *Galasin (hunt) + dot + mǎ (f.p. nominative) » Galasindotmǎ* “I do not hunt”

- Galasin (hunt) + **mon** + mǎ (f.p. nominative) » Galasinmonmǎ “I was not hunting”
- Galasin (hunt) + **çol** + mǎ (f.p. nominative) » Galasinçolmǎ “I would not have hunted”

6.5. Adjective to verb formation

Adjectives can be converted into verbs or adverbs. This can be explained via an examples in English:

- Using the verb “hunt” and converting into “hunting”.
- Using the noun “notice” and converting it into “notifying”.
- Using the adjective “horrible” and converting it into “horribly”.

Unlike English, Ussurian uses the same tense suffixes for verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs. Using the example *Nusbô*, meaning “distressing”, we can convert it into an adverb or a verb simply by using the appropriate suffixes:

- Adjective to verb: *Nusbô* (distressing) + *dat* (present simple) + *mǎ* » *Nusbôdatmǎ* “I make distressing”/“I cause distress”
- Adjective to Adjective: *Nusbô* (distressing) + *mat* (past perfect) » *Nusbômat* “Distressed”
- Adjective to adverb:
 - o *Nusbô* (distressing) + *dan* (present progressive) » *Nusbôdan* “Distressingly”/“Currently being done in a distressing manner”
 - o *Nusbô* (distressing) + *man* (past progressive) » *Nusbôman* “Distressingly”/“Done in a distressing manner”

6.6. Noun to verb formation

Whilst nouns cannot technically verbs in Ussurian, they can be considered in similar manner to differentiate between an attribute of a subject and the past/present/future effect of the noun. As per the example Section 4.2.1:

- The hunter is cold » *Ugalasinâ çen ðükâletdan*.
 - o The addition of the present progressive tense suffix *-dan* to the adjective *ðükâlet* (“cold”) describes that the hunter is undergoing the effects of being cold. It could almost be thought that the word “cold” in this sense is being used as a verb: “The hunter is *colding*”.

Therefore, one would not say in Ussurian (as a direct translation) “The cold hunter”. They would instead say “the hunter that is currently (or otherwise) cold”. This contrasts with “The Red Hunter”, which may be a title or a discerning attribute given to a specific hunter, where no tense suffix is applied. In this example it makes no sense to declare that the hunter “is currently red-*ing*”. However, if the hunter was by title “The Cold Hunter”, no tense suffix is applied as it is considered as a definite state; an attribute of the hunter that differentiates it from other hunters.