

Lesson 13 Handout

Week 8: 24 October 2023

Time/Intensity-Related Suffixes

Durative -ša/še/šo-

The durative suffix -ša/še/šo- denotes permanent efforts which are made to attain a result, and so generally denotes durative and continued actions. They often combine with nouns to form verbs, or may attach to verbs to form durative versions of those verbs.

(1) Noun → Verb

- a. *buleku* ‘mirror’ → *bulekušambi* ‘to look in a mirror’
- b. *oncohon* ‘arrogant, arrogance’ → *oncohošombi* ‘to be arrogant’
- c. *saman* ‘shaman’ → *samašambi* ‘to perform shamanistic rites’
- d. *hitahūn* ‘fingernail or toenail’ → *hitahūšambi* ‘to press firmly with a fingernail’

Vowel harmony follows the same pattern as -ha/he/ho-.

(2) Verb → Verb

- a. *jafambi* ‘to grasp’ → *jafašambi* ‘to grasp continuously’
- b. *kurbumbi* ‘to turn around’ → *kurbušambi* ‘to turn around and around’
- c. *narambi* ‘to long for’ → *narašambi* ‘to linger over a long time’
- d. *olhombi* ‘to fear’ → *olhošombi* ‘to be cautious’

When -ša/še/šo- is added to stems which end in the productive suffix -ra/re/ro-, the last vowel of the stem is dropped, forming -r-ša/še/šo-.

- (3) *fatambi* ‘to pick’ → *fatarambi* ‘to use sparingly’ → *fataršambi* ‘to be in the habit of using sparingly’

When -ša/še/šo- is added to stems which end in the productive suffix -la/le/lo-, the productive suffix is dropped.

- (4) *habta* ‘wing’ → *habtalambi* ‘to wink, to blink’ → *habtašambi* ‘to wink or blink continuously’

Gradual -da/de/do-

The suffix -da/de/do- denotes gradual involvement in an action and is generally attached to noun stems to form verbs.

- (5) a. *acuhiyan* ‘slander’ → *acuhiyadambi* ‘to slander someone’
 b. *yobo* ‘fun, play, joking’ → *yobodombi* ‘to be playful, to joke around’
 c. *onco* ‘broad, generous, generosity’ → *oncodombi* ‘to be generous’

- d. *dufe* ‘dissolute, lasciviousness’ → *dufedembi* ‘to act dissolutely’

Iterative *-ta/te/to-*

The suffix *-ta/te/to-* denotes repeated action. It is used both in combination with nouns and verbs to derive verbs.

(6) Verb → Verb

- a. *anambi* ‘to push’ → *anatambi* ‘to push over and over’
- b. *debsimbi* ‘to fan’ → *debsitembi* ‘to fan over and over’
- c. *niyecembi* ‘to mend’ → *niyecetembi* ‘to constantly mend, to fill in regularly’
- d. *jafambi* ‘to grasp’ → *jafatambi* ‘to grasp repeatedly’

When used with nouns, *-ta/te/to-* generally combines with emotive nouns to denote an ongoing emotive state.

(7) Noun → Verb

- a. *gosin* ‘love’ → *gositambi* ‘to love’
- b. *tuksin* ‘anxiety’ → *tuksitembi* ‘to be anxious’

Intense Emotive *-ja/je/jo-*

In addition to its function as a decausativizing suffix, *-ja/je/jo-* can also be used to turn nouns which denote emotions into verbs denoting the intense and generally prolonged experience of having said emotion.

- (8)
- a. *golohon* ‘fright’ → *golohonjembi* ‘to be exceedingly frightened’
 - b. *gūnin* ‘thought’ → *gūninjambi* ‘to think over carefully, to reflect upon’
 - c. *murin* ‘stubborn, stubbornness’ → *murinjambi* ‘to be stubborn’
 - d. *niyenyehun* ‘weak-willedness’ → *niyenyehunjembi* ‘to be weak-willed’
 - e. *urgun* ‘joy’ → *urgunjembi* ‘to rejoice’

Suffixes Ranked by Commonness

I rank derivational suffixes roughly by how common they are. I use a star to denote suffixes for which stems involving this suffix will almost always have their own dictionary entry.

(9) a. **Most Common**

- * Productive *-la/le/lo-* and *-ra/re/ro-*
- Passive/Causative *-bu-* and *-mbu-*
- Venitive *-nji-*
- Andative *-na/ne/no-*
- Durative *-ša/še/šo-*
- Iterative *-ta/te/to-*

- b. **Less Common**
 - Decausative *-ja/je/jo-*
 - * Deputative *-nggi-*
 - Cooperative *-ca/ce/co-* and *-nu-*
 - Reciprocal *-ndu-*
 - * Intense Emotive *-ja/je/jo-*
- c. **Rare**
 - * Productive *-tu-*, *-li-*, and *-mi-*
 - * Gradual *-da/de/do-*

There are other suffixes, but these become exceedingly rare — such as the ‘thorough causative’ *-niye-* and ‘personal causative’ *-kiya/kiye/giya/hiya/hiye-*. These will almost always have dictionary entries for stems with these suffixes.

References

Gorelova, Liliya M., Denis Sinor, Nicola DiCosmo, Bertold Spuler, and Hartwig Altenmüller, ed.
2002. *Manchu grammar*, volume 7 of *Handbook of Oriental Studies Central Asia*. Leiden: Brill.