Lesson 11 Handout

Week 7: 17 October 2023

Past Indefinite *-habi/-hebi/-hobi/(-kabi/-kebi/-kobi)*

The past indefinite form is made of the perfective participle, followed by the copula *bi* in a single word. (*genembi → genehe+bi → genehebi*)

  The past indefinite is a finite form, and cannot be used to modify a noun like a participle, nor be used to mark an adverbial like a converb.

(1) Functions:

    a. Facts about the past
      *tere bade emu amba gurun i ejen bi**hebi***
      The ruler of a large state lived in this places

    b. Simple past actions
      *tere bayan niyalma i moo olhome buce**hebi***
      The rich man's tree dried up an died

    c. Present perfect form (like English 'has done')
      *sini gurun efujeme waji**habi** kai*
      Your country has been completely destroyed

    d. Completed actions that continue into the present (like Mandarin 'double 了' form)
      *aihu bira wesihun eyefi, dergi mederi de dosi**kabi***
      The Aihu river flows eastward and then enters the east sea

The negative of the past indefinite is formed by using the negative past participle with *bi* — this is equivalent to inserting *kū* between the past participle and *bi*.

(2) *gene**hebi** ↔ gene**hekūbi***

Past Perfect *-ha/-he/-ho/(-ka/-ke/-ko)* + *bihe*

In this form, the perfective participle form of *bimbi* — *bihe* — is attached as a separate word after the past participle. This is also a finite form.

(3) Function: to form the past perfect (like English 'had done'), denoting a past action that is no longer the case.
    *gemun hecen de amban o**ho** **bihe***
    He had been an official in the capital

Negatives are formed by negating the participle of the main verb (not *bihe*).

(4) *gene**he** **bihe** ↔ gene**hekū** **bihe***

Past Continuous *-mbihe*

This is formed by adding *-he* to the end of the finite *-mbi* form — *-he* does not undergo vowel harmony.

(5)   Functions:
   a.   Past states ("used to be that")
          *majige durun kemun de acana**mbihe***
          This used to fit the regulations somewhat.
   b.   Past progressive ("was doing")
          *sula sabe, manju gisun, manju bithe tacibu**mbihe***
          The unemployed [people] were being made to study the Manchu language and Manchu script.
   c.   Following a clause in the conditional (ending in -ci), expresses past counterfactual — situations that would have been the case, had the phrase before *-ci* been real
          *ese aika ergen funcefi tucike bi**ci**, urunakū uju jai jergi de dosina**mbihe***
          If these had still been alive and come forth, then they surely would have been entered into the first or second class

The negative is formed by adding bihe to the negative form of the imperfective participle (*generakū bihe*)

(6)   *gene**mbihe** ↔ gene**rakū** **bihe***

Past Habitual *-mbihebi*

The past habitual is formed from the past continuous with the addition of the copula *-bi* as a suffix. This form denotes frequent action that happened in the distant past

(7)   *hūwangheo beye nimala fata**mbihebi***
        It used to be that empresses themselves picked mulberries

The negative form is the negative imperfective participle followed by the word *bihebi*

(8)   *gene**mbihebi** ↔ gene**rakū** **bihebi***

Summary

(9)

Name	Affirmative Form	Negative Form	Breakdown
Past Indefinite	*-HAbi*	*-HAkūbi*	-PFV.PTCP + COP
Past Perfect	*-HA bihe*	*-HAkū bihe*	-PFV.PTCP + COP-PFV.PTCP
Past Continuous	*-mbihe*	*-RAkū bihe*	-IPFV.FIN-PFV.PTCP
Past Habitual	*-mbihebi*	*-RAkū bihebi*	-IPFV.FIN-PFV.PTCP-COP