Lesson 12 Handout

Week 7: 19 October 2023

Derivational Suffixes are added to the end of a verbal stem to change the meaning of the verb, typically modifying the directional deixis (action towards or away from the perspective holder) and argument or event structure (how many arguments there are, what cases they get, how the event occurs).

Derivational suffixes are distinguished from inflectional suffixes (participles, converbs, and finite verb endings) because while inflected verbs are 'complete' and can be used in a sentence, verbs with derivational suffixes are still 'incomplete' — they do not have any information about aspect or finiteness, and still need to be completed.

In this way, verbs can have any number of derivational suffixes on them (we will see in readings, it is common for three or more derivational suffixes to be added to a root).

(1)   Structure of *omicanabuhabi* "has made (people) come to drink together"

omi	*-ca*	*-na*	*-bu*	*-habi*
Root	Deriv. 1	Deriv. 2	Deriv. 3	Infl

Stem (Root)
Stem (Root + Deriv. 1)
Stem (Root + Deriv. 1 + Deriv. 2)
Stem (Root + Deriv. 1 + Deriv. 2 + Deriv. 3)
(Inflected) Word

To be clear with terminology: I use the term *stem* to refer to the root of a verb (the verb, not including any derivational or inflectional suffixes), or the root plus any number of derivational affixes. I use the term *(inflected) word* to refer to the verb once it has an inflectional suffix.

Productive Suffixes

These derivational suffixes take nominal stems and turn them into verbal stems. Generally which productive suffix is paired with which nominal stem appears random. You need not memorize these, as they should be listed in dictionaries, but it is good to recognize the relationship between these verbs made with productive suffixes and the nouns they come from

(2)   *-la/le/lo-*

    a.   *aba* 'hunt' → *aba**la**mbi* 'to hunt'
    b.   *ejen* 'ruler' → *eje**le**mbi* 'to rule'
    c.   *genggiyen* 'clear, clarity' → *genggiye**le**mbi* 'to make clear'
    d.   *hahi* 'urgent, urgency' → *hahi**la**mbi* 'to act quickly or hurriedly'
    e.   *songko* 'trace, footprint' → *songko**lo**mbi* 'to follow the tracks of, to imitate'
    f.   *untuhun* 'emptiness, empty' → *untuhu**le**mbi* 'to be empty'

(3)   *-ra/re/ro-*

    a.   *colgon* 'peak' → *colgo**ro**mbi* 'to surpass'
    b.   *ehe* 'evil' → *ehe**re**mbi* 'to be or become evil'

    c.   *gisun* 'language, speech' → *gisurembi* 'to speak'
    d.   *amba* 'large, largeness, size' → *ambarambi* 'to do on a large scale'
    e.   *monggo* 'Mongolian' → *monggorombi* 'to do in a Mongolian way'

Note that the nominal forms drop their final *-n* when adding *-la/le/lo-* and *-ra/re/ro-* suffixes. *-ra/re/ro-* can also attach to verb roots to form similar verbs.

(4)   *sacimbi* 'to chop' → *sacirambi* 'to hack, to chop into pieces'

Some roots can combine with both *-ra/re/ro-* and *-la/le/lo-*

(5)   *gohon* 'hook' →

    a.   *goholombi* 'to put on a hook'
    b.   *gohorombi* 'to bend, to form the shape of a hook'

Note that the vowel harmony for derivational suffixes *-ra/re/ro-* and *-la/le/lo-* follows the vowel harmony pattern of perfective participles, not imperfective participles.

(6)   a.   *sacira = saci-ra* = imperative with derivational morphology
           "hack (it) into pieces!"
    b.   *sacire = saci-re* = participle with no derivational morphology
           "it is chopping"

(7)   Other rarer productive suffixes

    a.   *-tu-* (no *-n* dropping)
           ulin 'property' → *ulintumbi* 'to bribe'
    b.   *-li-* (with *-n* dropping)
           monggon 'neck' → *monggolimbi* 'to wear on the neck'
    c.   *-mi-* (with *-n* dropping)
           tohon 'button' → *tohomimbi* 'to button (up)'

There are other suffixes which can act as productive suffixes, but which have other main functions. These will be noted through the handout. All other derivational suffixes we will look at generally turn verbs into other verbs.

Valency Changing Suffixes

These suffixes mainly function to add or remove arguments from the verb.

Passive/Causative *-bu-* and *-mbu-*

The most often seen suffix is *-bu-*, which can be used both to form passive and causative constructions.

Passive use of *-bu-*

When used as a passive, the stem *X-bu-*, for a given stem *X* means 'was X-ed' or 'got X-ed'. In this case, the patient of the verb (the thing which is X-ed) takes nominative case (or optionally drops), and the agent (the X-er) may be dropped, or optionally appear in dative case.

(8) a. *bi ere baita de uša**bu**ha*
        I was burdened by the matter
    b. *inde gida**bu**ha*
        (Someone) was pressed by him
    c. *ubade tehe niyalma gemu wa**bu**ha*
        The people who lived here were all killed

Note the change in case marking, morphology, and (default) word order between active and passive sentences.

(9) I crossed the Sahaliyan River:

    a. Active
        [bi] [sahaliyan ula be] doombi
    b. Passive
        *[sahaliyan ula] [minde] doo**bu**mbi*

Causative use of *-bu-*

When used as a causative, the stem *X-bu-*, for a given stem *X* means 'made (someone/thing) X' or 'got (someone/thing) to X'.
    In this case, transitive verbs will have three arguments instead of two: a patient (the thing being X-ed), an agent/causee (the X-er), and the causer (the one who makes the X-er X). The patient keeps whatever case it is typically assigned, while the causee gets accusative case, and the causer gets nominative case.

(10) a. *ce buya niyalma be waka be ulhi**bu**mbi*
        They make the normal person realize his mistakes
    b. *terebe baita icihiya**bu***
        Make him arrange the matters!

For intransitive verbs, there will be two arguments instead of one: a patient (the thing which X-es) and the causer (the one who makes the patient X). In this case, the patient will get accusative case, and the causer will receive nominative case.

(11) a. *i mimbe gele**bu**he*
        He made me scared
    b. *elhebe bulduri**bu**mbihe*
        (Someone) made the livestock trip

Note the change in case marking, morphology, and (default) word order between active, passive, and causative sentences.

3

(12)   (Tana made) Batu eat/ate mother's pickled cabbage:

a.   Active (Batu ate mother's pickled cabbage)
        [batu] [emei nasan sogi be] jehe
b.   Causative (Tana made Batu eat mother's pickled cabbage)
        *[tana] [batu be] [emei nasan sogi be] je**bu**he*
c.   Passive (Mother's pickled cabbage was eaten by Batu)
        *[emei nasan sogi] [batu de] je**bu**he*

Difference between *-bu-* and *-mbu-*

Zakharov (1879) which reports access to speakers of standard Manchu notes that the *-bu-* and *-mbu-* forms were understood to have different 'flavors' of meaning, rather than being variants of one another. It is unclear exactly how to capture this difference, but it appears that *-mbu-* is generally used to refer to communicative actions or correcting behavior.

(13)   a.   *jombi* 'to recall' → *jo**mbu**mbi* 'to mention'
          b.   *wembi* 'to transform, to convert' → *we**mbu**mbi* 'to transform someone, to make cultured'
          c.   *algimbi* 'to be known' → *algi**mbu**mbi* 'to propagate, to make known'

This may be most clearly seen where *-bu-* and *-mbu-* form contrasting pairs

(14)   a.   *wesimbi* 'to rise'
                 (i)   *wesi**bu**mbi* 'to lift up'
                 (ii)   *wesi**mbu**mbi* 'to memorialize, to promote'
          b.   *wasimbi* 'to descend'
                 (i)   *wasi**bu**mbi* 'to lower down'
                 (ii)   *wasi**mbu**mbi* 'to edify, to announce to subordinates'

Decausative *-ja/je/jo-*

Less often seen is the decausative *-ja/je/jo-*, which acts to take a verb which has some kind of causative meaning, and remove the sense of causation. This generally results in a meaning similar to the passive, but without the availability for an agent — think English passive 'The boat was sunk' vs decausative 'The boat sank'.

Often if the stem ends in *-le*, then the *-le* deletes befor *-ja/je/jo-* is added.

(15)   a.   *debkelembi* 'to untwist' → *debke**je**mbi* 'to become loose'
          b.   *fondombi* 'to pierce' → *fondo**jo**mbi* 'to be torn through'
          c.   *abtalambi* 'to break off' → *abta**ja**mbi* 'to fall off, to come apart'

Note the change in case marking, morphology, and (default) word order between active, passive, and decausative sentences.

(16)   a.   Active (Tana broke off these three feathers)
                 [tana] [ese ilan dethe be] abtalambi

      b.   Passive (These three feathers were broken off (by Tana))
           *[ese ilan dethe] (tana de) abtala**bu**mbi*
      c.   Decausative (These three feathers broke off)
           *[ese ilan dethe] abta**ja**mbi*

Note that there is no agent in the decausative case, and no agent can be expressed (similar to how in English 'Tana these feathers broke off' is bad).

Deputative *-nggi-*

The deputative *-nggi-* is a special form of the causative used when the causer sends the causee to do something (or otherwise 'deputizes' the causee to enact something). It is rather specific and not used with many verbs.

(17)   a.   *alambi* 'to tell' → *ala**nggi**mbi* 'to send to tell'
        b.   *tuwambi* 'to see' → *tuwa**nggi**mbi* 'to send to see, to send to examine'
        c.   *boolambi* 'to report' → *boola**nggi**mbi* 'to send to report'

Generally these can be seen as contractions of the converbial form being used with *unggimbi* 'to send'

(18)   *ala**nggi**mbi* ≡ *alame unggimbi*

Directional Suffixes

These suffixes mainly function to add information about the movement of the verb with respect to the perceiver of the event.

Venitive *-nji-*

The venitive *-nji-* suffix denotes that the event described by the verb is done in motion towards the perspective holder, and is generally translated as 'come to X'

(19)   a.   *alambi* 'to tell' → *ala**nji**mbi* 'to come to tell'
        b.   *doombi* 'to cross (a river)' → *doo**nji**mbi* 'to come to cross (a river)'
        c.   *omimbi* 'to drink' → *omi**nji**mbi* 'to come to drink'

Rarely, *-nji-* will drop it's *-n* in some fixed words, like *gajimbi* 'to bring (here)'. Stems which end in *-nji* have a special imperative formed by changing the final *i* in *-nji* into *u*.

(20)   a.   'come to tell' *ala**nji**mbi* ↔ *ala**nju***
        b.   'send here' *be**nji**mbi* ↔ *be**nju***
        c.   'bring' *ga**ji**mbi* ↔ *ga**ju***

Andative *-na/ne/no-*

The andative *-na/ne/no-* suffix denotes that the event described by the verb is done in motion away from the perspective holder, and is generally translated as 'go to X'

(21)   a.   *alambi* 'to tell' → *ala**na**mbi* 'to go to tell'
           b.   *doombi* 'to cross (a river)' → *doo**na**mbi* 'to go to cross (a river)'
           c.   *omimbi* 'to drink' → *omi**na**mbi* 'to go to drink'
           d.   *eyembi* 'to flow' → *eye**ne**mbi* 'to flow (away from the perceiver)'
           e.   *obombi* 'to wash' → *obo**no**mbi* 'to go to wash'

The andative *-na/ne/no-* sometimes can attach to noun stems as well, to denote a kind of self-productive process, generally discussing how natural things such as plants 'go and' grow certain fruit, leaves, etc.

(22)   a.   *abdaha* 'leaf' → *abdaha**na**mbi* 'to grow leaves'
           b.   *bongko* 'flower bud' → *bongko**no**mbi* 'to bud flowers'
           c.   *eifun* 'boil, pimple, swelling' → *eifu**ne**mbi* 'to grow a boil or acne, to swell'
           d.   *suihe* 'an ear of grain' → *suihe**ne**mbi* 'to put forth ears (of grain)'
           e.   *umiyaha* 'worm' → *umiyaha**na**mbi* 'to get worms (of a fruit)'

Associative Suffixes

Cooperative *-ca/ce/co-* and *-nu-*

The cooperative *-ca/ce/co-* and *-nu-* suffixes denotes that an action is performed by several participants together.

(23)   *-ca/ce/co-*

           a.   *amgambi* 'to sleep' → *amga**ca**mbi* 'to sleep together'
           b.   *ilimbi* 'to stand' → *ili**ca**mbi* 'to stand together'
           c.   *omimbi* 'to drink' → *omi**ca**mbi* 'to drink together'
           d.   *tembi* 'to sit' → *te**ce**mbi* 'to sit together'

(24)   *-nu-*

           a.   *afambi* 'to fight' → *afa**nu**mbi* 'to fight together'
           b.   *dosimbi* 'to enter' → *dosi**nu**mbi* 'to enter together'
           c.   *kicembi* 'to strive' → *kice**nu**mbi* 'to strive together'

Differences between *-ca/ce/co-* and *-nu-*

The only major difference between *-ca/ce/co-* and *-nu-* is that *-ca/ce/co-* appears before passive/causative morphology, while *-nu-* appears after passive/causative morphology.

(25)   a.   *te**ce**mbi* 'to sit together' → *te**cebu**mbi* 'to make sit together'
           b.   *dosi**nu**mbi* 'to enter together' → *te**bunu**mbi* 'to make enter together'

Reciprocal *-ndu-*

The reciprocal *-ndu-* suffix denotes an action in which two or more participants (or two or more groups of participants) are acting as the agent and patient of the verb to one another. It is similar to the use of the adverb *ishunde* 'mutually, to one another'.

(26) a. *afambi* 'to fight' → *afandumbi* 'to fight against one another'
      b. *aisilambi* 'to help' → *aisilandumbi* 'to help one another'
      c. *sirambi* 'to connect, to follow' → *sirandumbi* 'to follow after one another'
      d. *huwekiyembi* 'to rouse (oneself)' → *huwekiyendumbi* 'to rouse one another'

Stacking Derivational Suffixes

Manchu is relatively free in terms of the ordering of derivational suffixes, though differences in order may bring about differences in meaning (see *-ca/ce/co-* and *-nu-* for exceptions).

(27) a. *ili-bu-nji-mbi* 'come to make stand'
          hafan tacikū boo be g'ansu de ilibunjiha
          The official came to establish (make stand) the schoolhouse in Gansu
      b. *ili-nji-bu-mbi* 'make to come stand'
          hafan cooha niyalma be g'ansu de ilinjibuha
          The official made the soldier (army person) come to station (stand) in Gansu

Derivational suffixes can appear more than once if it affects their meaning. For example, double causatives will be seen fairly often, especially when a verb+causative form has taken on its own meaning.

(28) a. *[bi] [manju gisun be] tacimbi*
          I study Manchu language
      b. *[mini eyun] [mimbe] [manju gisun be] tacibumbi*
          My older sister teaches (made-study) me Manchu language
      c. *[mini eme] [mini eyun be] [mimbe] [manju gisun be] tacibubumbi*
          My mother makes my sister teach (made-study) me Manchu language

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.
Zakharov, Ivan. 1879. Grammatika man'čžurskogo jazyka [Manchu Grammar]. *St. Petersburg, Russia* .