

Lesson 14 Handout

Week 8: 26 October 2023

Concessive *-cibe*

The concessive converb *-cibe* denotes the meaning of ‘although’. It is typically used in complex sentences of the form *X-cibe Y*, where X and Y are phrases, and has the meaning of ‘Although X, but Y’. It cannot end a sentence.

- (1) *tere juwe niyalma ere bade bicibe, umai sabuhakū*
Although those two people were at this place, they were not seen at all.

Generally, most converbs that precedes *-cibe* in a sentence are subordinate to it.

Simultaneous Action Converbs

Durative Converb *-hai/hei/hoi/kai/kei/koi*

The durative converb is formed by combining the perfective participle with the suffix *-i*. It denotes an action that continues while the other one takes place. The action denoted by the durative converb thus must be either continuous, frequent, or intense. It can often be translated into English using a secondary predicate, as in below, giving it an adverbial flavor like *-me*.

- (2) a. *i tehei aliyambi*
He waits, **sitting for a long time**.
b. *yasa hadahai tuwambi*
(He/She) stares, **eyes fixed**. (*hadambi* = to fix the eyes on something)
c. *weihu eyen be dahame wasime genehei, muke ganara dogon de isinaha*
The boat went to arrive at the ford where (people) collect water, **going down following the current**

In this way, the durative converb is used to describe a main event (the main clause) by using a description of the event with some simultaneous action.

Simultaneous Converb *-mbime*

The simultaneous converb is a combination of *-mbi* and *-me*, and involves no vowel harmony. It expresses an action that occurs simultaneous to another, but rather than describing the main event like the durative converb, the simultaneous converb is typically used to contrast the main event with the embedded event. In this way it is typically translated into English as ‘it being the case that X’, or ‘while X’.

- (3) a. *si baita be sambi sembime, ainu takurakū?*
While you say you know about the matter, why are you not familiar with it

- b. *fudzi hendume, tacimbime* gūnirakū oci, *mekele ombi, gūnimbime* tacirakū oci, *jecuhuri ombi*.

The Master (Confucius) said: “If **one studies but** does not reflect, it is futile. If **one reflects but** does not study, it is unstable.”

子曰：「學而不思則罔，思而不學則殆。」

mekele = futile, vain; *jecuhuri* = undecided, wavering

Alternative Converb *-ralame/relame/rolame*

The alternative converb is formed by adding *lame* (ignoring vowel harmony) to the imperfective participle. It expresses two actions are performed at the same time, similar to Mandarin 一邊... 一邊.../一边... 一边... or English ‘doing X as/while doing Y’.

- (4) *bi yaburelame tuwambi*
I am looking **as I go along**

This form is much rarer than the others in this lesson, and is generally seen in earlier documents (such as preconquest texts).