

# Lesson 5 Handout

Week 3: 19 September 2023

## Basic Word Order

Manchu employs Subject-Object-Verb as its main word order.

- (1) 𐩺𐩣𐩠 𐩺𐩣𐩠/ 𐩺𐩣 »  
*batu buda jeke* .  
 Batu rice ate .  
 ‘Batu ate (rice).’

When the main predicate is an adjective, the sentence does not require a verb.

- (2) 𐩺𐩣 𐩺𐩣/ 𐩺𐩣 »  
*mini beye elhe* .  
 my body healthy .  
 ‘I (lit. my body) am healthy.’

Subjects and objects can be dropped if they are clear from context.

The copula *bi* is used in ‘noun is noun’ constructions, and is also used to denote simple existence.

- (3) 𐩺𐩣 𐩺𐩣/ 𐩺𐩣 »  
*ere morin bi* .  
 this horse is .  
 ‘This is a horse.’
- (4) 𐩺𐩣𐩠 𐩺𐩣/ 𐩺𐩣 »  
*ubade morin bi* .  
 at.here horse is .  
 ‘There are horses here.’

## Cases

There are five cases in Manchu: nominative, accusative, dative, genitive, and ablative. In general, cases are added to the ends of noun phrases, either as suffixes on the last word in the noun phrase, or as a separate word after the noun phrase. The only non-predictable forms of case markings appear with pronouns (as will be shown in the following section).

- 𐩺 NOMINATIVE CASE: The nominative case is unmarked. It is used to mark the following noun phrases:

- (5) a. Noun phrases which are subjects of adjectives or non-nominalized verbs.  
*batu buda jeke*. “**Batu** ate rice.”
- b. Noun phrases which are the predicate of a ‘noun is noun’ construction (with the copula *bi*).  
*ere morin bi*. “This is a **horse**”
- c. Objects which are generic or non-specific.  
*batu buda jeke*. “Batu ate **rice**.”

↵ ACCUSATIVE CASE: Accusative case is formed by adding *be* to the end of the noun phrase. It is almost always written as a separate word, with the exception of common short words (e.g. *babe* as the accusative of *ba* “place”). It is used to mark the following noun phrases:

- (6) a. Specific direct objects  
*batu buda be jeke*. “Batu ate **the rice**.” (as opposed to just any rice).
- b. Motion through something  
*Batu mederi be jimbi*. “Batu comes through the ocean”
- c. The causee of causative constructions (ie. the person or thing which is made to do something)  
*Batu ere niyalma be jebumbi*. “Batu makes **this person** eat.”

If there are multiple direct objects, only the last one needs to be marked with *be* (e.g. *Batu ama eme be hairambi* “Batu loves his father and mother.”)

➤ DATIVE CASE: Dative case is formed by adding *de* to the end of the noun phrase. It may be added as a suffix to the last word in a noun phrase unless that word ends in a consonant other than *n*. It is perhaps somewhat more common to see the *de* as separate from the word than combined. It is used to mark the following noun phrases:

- (7) a. Locations in time or space  
*juwan biyai orin de jihe* “He arrived **on the twentieth day of the tenth month**”  
*boode jakūn niyalma bi* “**In the house** there are eight people”
- b. Indirect objects  
*niru be ama de bumbi* “give the arrow to father.”
- c. Indirect agents — meaning ‘thanks to X’, or ‘on account of X’  
*ejen i kesi de gūsa de dosimbi* “Enter the banners **thanks to the lord’s grace**.”
- d. Agent of a passive verb  
*i tere niyalma de wabuha* “He was killed **by that person**”
- e. Destinations  
*alin de genembi* “Go **to the mountains**”
- f. Possessors in ‘noun has noun’ constructions  
*Batu de pingguri bi* “**Batu** has apples.” Lit. “There are apples at Batu.”

➤ GENITIVE CASE: Genitive case is formed by adding *i* to the end of the noun phrase, except in cases where the noun phrase ends in *ng*, in which case the genitive is marked with *ni*. The genitive case marker may be added as a suffix on the end of a word if the word ends in a vowel other than *i*,

otherwise it must be a separate word (e.g. *niyalmai* and *niyalma i* are both acceptable, but only *jalan i* and *tsang ni* are acceptable, not *\*jalani* or *\*tsangni*). The genitive *i*, when written as a separate word, uses a special form.

<i>i</i>	<i>i</i>
つ	ㄅ
Genitive <i>i</i>	<i>i</i> otherwise

It is used to mark the following noun phrases:

- (8)
- a. Possessors  
*ere niyalmai boo* “**this person’s** house”
  - b. Attributives  
*kubuhe fulgiyan i manju gūsa* “**bordered red** Manchu banner”
  - c. Instruments  
*batu gala i arambi*. “Batu writes **with his hand**”
  - d. Subjects of nominalized clauses (similar to the use of Japanese *no* の)  
*bi ama i tehe boode tembi*. “I live in the house that **my father** lived in.”

ㄱ. ABLATIVE CASE: Ablative case is formed by adding *ci* to the end of the noun phrase. It has the same suffix/free word distribution as dative case. It is used to mark the following noun phrases:

- (9)
- a. Point of origin in time or space  
*alin ci jimbi*. “He came **from the mountain**.”
  - b. Comparison  
*tere ereci sain*. “That is better **than this**.”

## Pronouns









➤ **PERSONAL PRONOUNS:** Manchu personal pronouns have irregular case markings: they always take the form of a single word, and are marked as below:

	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive	Ablative
1SG (I)	<i>bi</i> ᠪᠢ	<i>mimbe</i> ᠮᠢᠮᠪᠦ	<i>minde</i> ᠮᠢᠨᠳᠡ	<i>mini</i> ᠮᠢᠨᠢ	<i>minci</i> ᠮᠢᠨᠴᠢ
2SG (you)	<i>si</i> ᠰᠢ	<i>simbe</i> ᠰᠢᠮᠪᠦ	<i>sinde</i> ᠰᠢᠨᠳᠡ	<i>sini</i> ᠰᠢᠨᠢ	<i>sinci</i> ᠰᠢᠨᠴᠢ
3SG (he/she/it)	<i>i</i> ᠢ	<i>imbe</i> ᠢᠮᠪᠦ	<i>inde</i> ᠢᠨᠳᠡ	<i>ini</i> ᠢᠨᠢ	<i>inci</i> ᠢᠨᠴᠢ
1PL.INCL (we, incl.)	<i>muse</i> ᠮᠤᠰᠡ	<i>musebe</i> ᠮᠤᠰᠡᠪᠦ	<i>musede</i> ᠮᠤᠰᠡᠳᠡ	<i>musei</i> ᠮᠤᠰᠡᠢ	<i>museci</i> ᠮᠤᠰᠡᠴᠢ
1PL.EXCL (we, excl.)	<i>be</i> ᠪᠡ	<i>membe</i> ᠮᠡᠮᠪᠦ	<i>mende</i> ᠮᠡᠨᠳᠡ	<i>meni</i> ᠮᠡᠨᠢ	<i>menci</i> ᠮᠡᠨᠴᠢ
2PL (you, pl.)	<i>suwe</i> ᠰᠤᠠᠩᠠᠭᠤ	<i>suwembe</i> ᠰᠤᠠᠩᠠᠭᠤᠪᠦ	<i>suwende</i> ᠰᠤᠠᠩᠠᠭᠤᠳᠡ	<i>suweni</i> ᠰᠤᠠᠩᠠᠭᠤᠨᠢ	<i>suwenci</i> ᠰᠤᠠᠩᠠᠭᠤᠨᠴᠢ
3PL (they, pl.)	<i>ce</i> ᠴᠡ	<i>cembe</i> ᠴᠡᠮᠪᠦ	<i>cende</i> ᠴᠡᠨᠳᠡ	<i>ceni</i> ᠴᠡᠨᠢ	<i>cenci</i> ᠴᠡᠨᠴᠢ

QUESTION PRONOUNS: Manchu has a set of question pronouns (like wh-words in English). They are listed below:




		Meaning	Notes
<i>we</i>	ᡤᡠᡵᡠ	who	Regular case marking
<i>ai</i>	ᡤᡠᡵᡠ	what	Regular case marking
<i>ya</i>	ᡤᡠᡵᡠ	what kind of	Adjectival
<i>aibide</i>	ᡤᡠᡵᡠ ᡤᡠᡵᡠ	where	<i>ai + ba + de</i>
<i>aibici</i>	ᡤᡠᡵᡠ ᡤᡠᡵᡠ	from whence	<i>ai + ba + ci</i>
<i>atanggi</i>	ᡤᡠᡵᡠ ᡤᡠᡵᡠ	when	Adverbial
<i>ai erin de</i>	ᡤᡠᡵᡠ ᡤᡠᡵᡠ	when	Lit. at what time
<i>ainu</i>	ᡤᡠᡵᡠ ᡤᡠᡵᡠ	why	Adverbial
<i>adarama</i>	ᡤᡠᡵᡠ ᡤᡠᡵᡠ	how	Adverbial
<i>udu</i>	ᡤᡠᡵᡠ ᡤᡠᡵᡠ	how many	Adjectival, also means ‘several’
<i>ainambi</i>	ᡤᡠᡵᡠ ᡤᡠᡵᡠ	do what	Verbal, undergoes inflection

- **DEMONSTRATIVES:** Manchu has a set of demonstrative pronouns (like ‘this’ and ‘that’ in English). They are listed below: note that forms starting with a vowel roughly mean ‘this *x*’, while forms starting with *t* roughly mean ‘that *x*’

		Meaning	Notes
<i>ere</i>		this	Special dative form: <i>ede</i>
<i>tere</i>		that	Special dative form: <i>tede</i>
<i>ese</i>		these	
<i>tese</i>		those	
<i>uba</i>		here	
<i>tuba</i>		there	
<i>uttu</i>		in this way, thus	adverbial
<i>tuttu</i>		in that way	adverbial

The concepts of ‘this time’ and ‘that time’ are both expressed as compounds: *ere fon* and *tere fon* respectively. They are often used with dative case (*ere fonde* and *tere fonde*), but can also be seen with other cases.

- **QUESTION PARTICLES:** Manchu has a set of question particles, which appear at the end of sentences to denote a question. They may be attached as suffixes or as independent words, except for *o*, which is always a suffix.

	Meaning
<i>o</i> 	Polar (yes/no) question
<i>ni</i> 	Mild interrogation (like Mandarin 呢)
<i>na</i> 	Optional word used in sentences with wh-questions

