







Lesson 4 Handout

Week 2: 14 September 2023




Loan Velars: *k', g', h'*

While the split between velar and uvular sounds is predictable in native Manchu words — uvulars appear before –ATR vowels and velars appear before +ATR vowels, many languages which Manchu takes loans from consistently have velar sounds, even before –ATR vowels. In order to capture this distinction, a third set of letters is used in Manchu to designate velar sounds before –ATR vowels.

These letters are transcribed as *k', g', h'* to distinguish them from the uvular series. Generally these letters only appear before *a* and *o*, though in principle they could appear before *ū*.






Möllendorff	Pronunciation Guide	-a	-o
<i>k'</i>	[k/k ^h] Like in English or Pinyin		
<i>g'</i>	[g/k] Like in English or Pinyin		
<i>h'</i>	[ɣ] [x] No English or Mandarin equivalent between vowels Like ch in English bach or Pinyin h elsewhere		

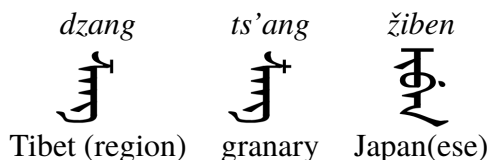
They act like *b, p* and ‘soft’ *k, g, h* with respect to incorporating teeth and loops into their letter.

<i>k'ambi</i>	<i>g'ogin</i>	<i>g'ag'ai</i>
		
abbott	widower	pers. name

Other Loan Letters: *ts', dz, ž*

The letters *ts', dz, ž* are used to represent the Mandarin sounds represented by pinyin *c, z, r* respectively. *ts', dz* both look like the letter *s* with additional strokes (one vertical stroke for *dz*, a vertical and horizontal stroke for *ts'*). The letter *ž* consists of a single vertical bar. None of these appear in coda position.








Möllendorff	Pronunciation Guide	Initial	Medial
<i>ts'</i>	[ts] Pinyin <i>ts</i>		
<i>dz</i>	[ts ^h] Pinyin <i>z</i>		
<i>ž</i>	[ʃ~ʒ] Pinyin <i>r</i>		



Representing the Apical Vowel

Mandarin includes what is often called the ‘apical’ vowel: represented in IPA with [ɿ] or [ʉ], these are the vowels which are written in pinyin as *i* after pinyin *z, c, s, zh, ch, sh, r*. In Manchu, this vowel is represented in a number of different ways depending on which consonant it follows:

- (1)
 - a. After Manchu *š* and *ž*, the letter *i* is simply used.
 - b. After Manchu *c* and *j*, the letter *i* is used in combination with a circle on the right (*fuka*) to distinguish it from *ci* and *ji*: these are transliterated *c'i* and *j'i*
 - c. After Manchu *ts'* and *s*, the vowel is represented with a letter which is written as a tooth with a small sideways v shape (a fork) which protrudes to the right of the tooth.
 - d. After *dz*, the ‘fork’ vowel may be used — but if the vowel comes last, a simple short tail (like at the end of the final form of *ū* or *r*) is added instead.

Möllendorff:	<i>dz</i>	<i>ts'y</i>	<i>sy</i>	<i>j'i/jy</i>	<i>c'i/cy</i>	<i>ši</i>	<i>ži</i>
Manchu Script:							
Pinyin:	<i>zi</i>	<i>ci</i>	<i>si</i>	<i>zhi</i>	<i>chi</i>	<i>shi</i>	<i>ri</i>
Character Examples:	子	次	思	支	池	是	日
IPA:	[tsɿ]	[tsʰɿ]	[sɿ]	[tʂɿ]	[tʂʰɿ]	[ʃɿ]	[ʐɿ~ʐʰɿ]

Loan words from Mandarin can appear as having separate Manchu words for individual Mandarin characters, as representing multiple Chinese characters with a single Manchu word, and loans can even be incorporated with native morphology (such as verb endings like with *cylembi*).



Practice

Please transliterate the following words.

