

# Lesson 16 Handout

Week 9: 2 November 2023

## Nominal *-n*

The most common nominal ending you will see is *-n*. This forms a generic noun, designating the object of an action, or the abstract notion of the action.

- |     |                |                         |              |           |
|-----|----------------|-------------------------|--------------|-----------|
|     | <i>acambi</i>  | ‘to meet’               | <i>acan</i>  | ‘meeting’ |
| (1) | <i>efimbi</i>  | ‘to play’               | <i>efin</i>  | ‘game’    |
|     | <i>jabumbi</i> | ‘to answer, to respond’ | <i>jabun</i> | ‘answer’  |

You will often see *-n* attach to verbs which already have derivational morphology, especially *-bu-*, *-la/le/lo-*, and *-ra/re/ro-*.

- |     |                 |                    |                   |             |                 |              |
|-----|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
|     | <i>banjimbi</i> | ‘to be created’    | <i>banjibumbi</i> | ‘to create’ | <i>banjibun</i> | ‘a product’  |
| (2) | <i>gisun</i>    | ‘language, speech’ | <i>gisurembi</i>  | ‘to speak’  | <i>gisuren</i>  | ‘discussion’ |
|     | <i>waka</i>     | ‘wrong’            | <i>wakalambi</i>  | ‘to blame’  | <i>wakalan</i>  | ‘fault’      |

Many nominals end in *-n* in Manchu, and it is sometimes unclear whether they derive from a *-n* suffix or if the stem involves *-n*, which drops in certain contexts.

## Nominal *-gan/gen/gon/han/hen/hon*

The nominal ending *-gan/gen/gon/han/hen/hon* is used to denote the object of some verbs. It can be translated roughly as ‘that which is X’.

- |     |                |                          |                |                              |
|-----|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
|     | <i>jasimbi</i> | ‘to send’                | <i>jasigan</i> | ‘a letter’                   |
| (3) | <i>bodombi</i> | ‘to plan, to think over’ | <i>bodogon</i> | ‘a plan’                     |
|     | <i>nirumbi</i> | ‘to draw, to paint’      | <i>nirugan</i> | ‘picture, map, painting’     |
|     | <i>sujambi</i> | ‘to support’             | <i>sujahan</i> | ‘supporting pole, a support’ |

## Instrument Nominal *-ku/kū*

The instrument nominal *-ku/kū* (matching vowel harmony), is used to form verbal nouns which denote instruments and utensils, occupation, profession and rank.

- |     |                  |            |                 |                     |
|-----|------------------|------------|-----------------|---------------------|
|     | <i>anambi</i>    | ‘to push’  | <i>anakū</i>    | ‘key’               |
| (4) | <i>hašambi</i>   | ‘to scrub’ | <i>hašakū</i>   | ‘a scrubbing brush’ |
|     | <i>berilembi</i> | ‘to drill’ | <i>berileku</i> | ‘drill’             |

When used with a verb that is causative, it often denotes an individual who performs the action (considered a ‘human instrument’ for the purpose of performing that action).

- |     |                |                 |                   |                |                  |              |
|-----|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|
|     | <i>acambi</i>  | ‘to fit’        | <i>acabumbi</i>   | ‘to harmonize’ | <i>acabukū</i>   | ‘flatterer’  |
| (5) | <i>hafumbi</i> | ‘to comprehend’ | <i>hafumbumbi</i> | ‘to translate’ | <i>hafumbukū</i> | ‘translator’ |
|     | <i>tacimbi</i> | ‘to learn’      | <i>tacibumbi</i>  | ‘to instruct’  | <i>tacibukū</i>  | ‘instructor’ |

## Instrument Nominal **-tun**

Another common instrument-denoting nominal suffix is *-tun*, which is used very similarly.

- |     |                |                         |                |                                  |
|-----|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| (6) | <i>alimbi</i>  | ‘to receive’            | <i>alitun</i>  | ‘cup, small table for offerings’ |
|     | <i>bodombi</i> | ‘to plan, to calculate’ | <i>bodotun</i> | ‘computer’ (modern Manchu/Sibe)  |

## Abstract Nominal **-cun**

The suffix *-cun* is used to denote abstract concepts.

- |     |                 |                        |                 |                  |
|-----|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
|     | <i>akambi</i>   | ‘to grieve’            | <i>akacun</i>   | ‘sadness, grief’ |
| (7) | <i>akdambi</i>  | ‘to trust, to rely on’ | <i>akdacun</i>  | ‘trust’          |
|     | <i>suilambi</i> | ‘to suffer hardship’   | <i>suilacun</i> | ‘distress’       |
|     | <i>ulhimbi</i>  | ‘to understand’        | <i>ulhicun</i>  | ‘understanding’  |

## Professional Nominal **-si**

The professional nominal suffix *-si* is attached to both verbs and nouns to designate kinds of people according to their skills, occupations, ranks, trades, and business surrounding that noun or verb.

- |     |                 |             |                |                    |
|-----|-----------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------|
|     | <i>bithe</i>    | ‘book’      | <i>bithesi</i> | ‘scribe’           |
| (8) | <i>kumun</i>    | ‘music’     | <i>kumusi</i>  | ‘musician’         |
|     | <i>sejen</i>    | ‘cart, car’ | <i>sejesi</i>  | ‘driver, coachman’ |
|     | <i>beidembī</i> | ‘to judge’  | <i>beidesi</i> | ‘judge’            |

*-si* can be attached to verbs with derivational morphology.

- (9) *ulambi* ‘to pass down’ → *ulandumbi* ‘to pass to each other’ → *ulandusi* ‘postman, letter carrier’

There are other, rarer suffixes, which also give nominal meanings: *-sun*, *-fun*, *-msi*, *-ci*, *-ji*, *-lji*, *-mji*, *-nju*, and *-ki*. Words with these suffixes are less commonly seen and will almost always have a dictionary entry.