

LOCATIVE ABSOLUTE

A locative-absolute construction is a complete or partial sentence that expresses a condition in which something takes place or some type of accompanying circumstance. It is one of the most common syntactic structures for creating complex sentences. The most common occurrence is with an expression of absence formed with a negated verb or the existential verb of absence, མེད་. While a reason clause often indicates a direct causal connection to what follows, a locative-absolute construction can convey similar generic information in a less causal sense and merely indicate an accompanying circumstance or condition. Although, as noted, this construction is seen most commonly in negated form, it can also occur without negation. Such phrases still convey “a condition or accompanying circumstance” but do so in a positive sense.

FUTURE PARTICIPLES AND GERUNDIVES

The future participle expresses an action that is yet to be performed. In Tibetan, the future participle is indicated by a verbal suffix, the future participle lexical particle, ལྟེན་. For example,

ཉོན་མོངས་སྤོང་བྱ་མེད།

Afflictions *to be abandoned* do not exist.

or

There are no afflictions *to be abandoned*.

Another example of this construction can also be seen in a modifying clause with the verbal collocation ལྟེན་སྟོན་:

འཇིག་རྟེན་ནི་བའི་ལམ་ལ་འཇུག་པ་དང་། རབ་ཏུ་སླིན་དང་ལྟེན་སྟོན་བྱ་ཡི་གཟུགས། གང་ཡིན་དེ་
ཡང་འདིར་ནི་རྟག་གནས་ཏེ།

The bodies—by which worldly beings initially enter the path of
quiescence (i.e., nirvāṇa),

[In the middle,] are ripened [in the Great Vehicle,] and [finally,]
are to be prophesized [in their enlightenment],

Always dwell in this [basic element of the truth body
(*dharmadhātu*)].

Once again, as with previously mentioned constructions, since here the lexical particle ལྟེན་ is a homograph with the noun ལྟེན་ (“cause”), attention must be paid to contextual clues, especially when dealing with verse.