COMBINABILITY OF MONGOLIAN ADVERBS
WITH DIFFERENT PARTS OF SPEECH
AND THEIR PLACE IN THE SENTENCE

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In most cases the adverb is combined with the verb and its forms (participles and gerunds). At the same time not all classes of adverbs can be combined with verbs to the same extent and the connections between them are of a different nature from this point of view.

Attributive adverbs (both qualitative and qualitative-circumstantial ones) usually combine with verbs: Tomoočej bjužj, ērdēmd ērcēm s a j n a a r suraawaj (D. Čev., 109) «Be firm, study carefully.» Ġ ē n ē t dērgēdēč ēt asalīgand chŏjzīm niźignēv (D.Čev., 109). «Suddenly (unexpectedly) the music began playing in the next room.»

However, not only attributive but also circumstantial adverbs combine with verbs. At the same time the sense connection is closer in the first case than in the second although in both cases the connection is of the parataxis type which, as is well known, is characterized by the covert word standing in combination with another one and with a sense connection between them.1

In some cases the parataxing word can be separated from the one it is parataxed to. In other words in such cases the connection between them — that is the dependent position of the first on the relation to the second — is established via sense.

The closer connection of attributive adverbs can be explained by their semantics. Giving an attributive characteristic (the category of state) to the action these adverbs describe it from the point of view of the mark-quality. On the other hand circumstantial adverbs do not denote the mark of the action but the inner circumstances of its completion. Therefore attributive adverbs have a closer connection with the verb and in most of the cases they stand directly before it: Gūn ojů dotuwr s ē m chōdlōn jēvājāa (Chor., 84). «They walked cautiously through the dense wood.» Aav Zorigt nī t svaral morio ēmētējēt whaaw chōjzī zig, l g w u r c h a n alchun-saar odov (D. Cēv., 102). «His father, Zorigto, saddled his grey horse and started slowly towards the north.»

1 Cf. I. I. Meščāninov, Člēny predloženija ĵ ēči reči 1945, p. 69.
Circumstantial adverbs combine with verbs and other parts of speech functioning as a predicate. Their place in the sentence is freer:
Bi marqar için (D.Cev., 86) 1 shall arrive tomorrow», marga aš
nį namajy Taul goyn chörösönös choer intéggê tawsaad charž jaotul . . .
(Tujaj I/1960—14) «Tomorrow when I shall drive away two of my cows
from the bank of the river Tola . . .». Za čën tuchaj marga aš čër tchéhm
bosood tuchaj jarjä (Cog., 5/1961—49) «Tomorrow, after getting up earlier
we shall speak about it unhurriedly», Bi bol ónomór adun charižğ javaa
chën (Cog/5/1961—49) «Today I shall take the horses to pasture».

Why do adverbs have different positions in the sentence when they are
free concerning place? How far is it possible to alter their place?

The fact is that word order in Mongolian is not so strict as it is supposed
to be. In most of the cases morphological markers undertake the task of
distinguishing the parts of the sentence. The predicate is expressed by
indicative or imperative forms, the subject has its marker, the complements
are morphologically formed. In such cases the syntactical role of the word
order is not significant. It can be destroyed and clearly fulfils a sense function.

Thus in oral speech and especially in dialogues the predicate can occur
at the beginning or in the middle of the sentence: Tavlegaa naad činëlë
char čëgörwéd (Z. L., 32) «Give back our man, black devils!», Chaa baajna
têr Dugar čiñë (Z. L., 105) «Where is that Dugar of yours?», Zadal ta nar
uññii gëgiiğ (Z. L., 41) «Undo her plait!».

Nevertheless word order can differentiate between the parts of the
sentence even if the Mongolian predicate is in the usual place, at the end of
the sentence.

The part of the sentence where the logical stress is laid will stand closer
to the predicate as it is the one bearing the bigger sense loading.

The significance of the logical stress, as is well-known, is to underline
some word or other in the sentence. It gives a possibility to express different
d judgements.

Bearing different sense loading adverbs can enter either the group of
theme in the utterance, that is, they can mark something given or the group
of the new essential element in the utterance.

In written speech the group of what is given and what is new is deter-
mined by the context.

2 Prof. A. M. Peškovskij wrote on the combinability of these adverbs in Russian:
«These adverbs are remarkable because they are not connected — like all the others
— indissolubly with verbs (or words formed from verbs). They even, so to speak,
prefer adjectives to verbs and cannot be united with all kinds of verbs . . .
This can be explained, of course, by their meaning as they denote degree.»  (A. M. Peškov-
skij, Russkij sintaksis v naučnom osvěščení, Účpedgiz 1956, p. 118.)

3 G. D. Sanžeev, Grammatika burjat-mongoljskogo jazyka, Moskva—Leningrad
1941, p. 105.

4 P. S. Popov, Súždenie i predloženie (Voprosy sintaksisa sovremennogo russkogo
jazyka), Moskva 1950., p. 51.
For example in the sentence: Bwu gênlê têd dzugarchaa bolî (Č. Lch., 45) «The gun unexpectedly ceased to fire» the direct theme of the utterance is the word bwu «gun». It is clear from the context that it exists but it unexpectedly misses fire in the hands of the rifleman. This is the new and essential point the author wanted to communicate. Thus the adverb enters the group of the predicate and stands after the subject. In this sentence it is possible to make an alteration — to put the adverb in the first place but then the aim of the author’s message will be the whole utterance.

In the sentence: Ar talaas gênlê bunjîn dwa tschiž ... (D. Nac., 274) «From behind a gun-shot was heard unexpectedly» the grammatical subject bunjîn dwa enters the group of the logical predicate, that is the word the logical stress falls on. Logical stress functions as a means of putting into relief the logical predicate. Gênlê bunjîn dwa tschiž is the logical predicate that is, the aim of the author’s utterance. If one puts the adverb gênlê after the word bunjîn dwa the latter enters the group of the logical subject and the sense of the utterance will change a little. The adverb așgin dwa «instantly, momentarily, at once» can also take different positions in the sentence: Côm așgin dwa egnalaa (Cog 2) 1959–26 «At once everybody listened, Jauchin manaj ard așgin dwa bažraa soliin dwiit amzich ve? (Cog 2/1959–25) «How do our Arats succeed to sing changing their places momentarily?», Bûch cêrêg nég zêrêg wra chaqgirê ... pulemjot zoogood așgin dwa bažraa buwaž écîlëv (Chor., 84) «All the soldiers suddenly began shouting “shurrah”... they placed the machine-gun and started firing at once».

In the first sentence the adverb stands directly before the verb and enters the group of the predicate together with it. The adverb can be placed at the beginning of the sentence, then the logical stress will fall on the word côm «all» that will enter the group of the predicate.

In the second sentence it is separated from the verb by the direct object bažraa «their place». This is done in order to put the latter into relief. Here also it is possible to change the place of the adverb but in that case the direct object will enter the group of the logical subject.

In the third sentence the adverb așgin dwa can be placed at the beginning. In that case the direct object will relate to the whole utterance that will have the meaning: «Momentarily all the soldiers all at once began shouting “shurrah”, they placed the machine-gun and began firing».

If we put the adverb in front of the adverbial participles chaqgirê or zoogood it will relate only to them: «they momentarily began shouting» or «they momentarily placed the machine-gun».

Adverbs bearing the logical stress always stand in front of the verb they relate to. They enter the group of the logical predicate together with the verb, e.g.: charin biêgüj chûrgên chërzêrdaraj irûldênuñ! (Tujaa6/1958 – 9) «Send the answer immediately by the messenger!».

In the cases of a distant position they are separated from the verb by other adverbs that have a closer sense connection to the verb and therefore stand directly in front of it, e. g. Gagechûa Sambuugîn ušgal zûldin nûd uragaš ehojšo o algurchan îrûldênuñ (DCêv., 100) «Only the good eyes of Sambuu looked slowly round» In other cases the adverb appears in the quality of the direct theme of the utterance consequently it bears a definite perceptional value: Tên dëlësëlê Dolinger naran garach zuqgîj éîlën, chëdën ëdor juvachad, jamar ë swad tochîoldsongøj (DS., 176) «Dolinger started from there in the direction of the rising sun, he travelled some days and he did not meet any hindrance».

To sum up, the position of the adverb in the sentence depends in every concrete case on:
1. the meaning of the adverb itself,
2. the degree of the connection of the adverb with the determined verb,
3. the sense put by the author in this or that utterance.

**Abbreviations**

BBCh — B. Baast, Chûrîlê, tuûç, Ulanbaatar 1960.
DS — C. Damdinsûren, Tuuvûr zoohiol, Ulanbaatar 1956.
DCêv — D. Cêvêgorû, Zochixûn tuuvûr, Ulanbaatar 1956.
Chor — P. Chorlooo, Tuuvûr zoohiol, Ulanbaatar 1948.
Ž. L. — Ž. Loodej, Churîn, ûzûqûlû, Ulanbaatar 1966.
Č. Lch — Č. Lehamûnûren, Õgûsûlûy ba mûrûwal, Ulanbaatar 1947.