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XIV

MONGOLIAN STUDIES

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LOUIS LIGETI



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

BY

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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.

A t t r i b u t i v e adverbs (both qualitative and qualitative-circumstantial ones) usually combine with verbs: *Tomootoj bajž, érdémd érchém sa j-n a a r suraaraj* (D. Cêv., 109) «Be firm, study carefully sciences.» *G é n é t dérgédéch tasalgand chögžim nižignêv* (D. Cêv., 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: *Ġin ojn dotuur s é m chödlön javlaa* (Chor., 84). «They walked cautiously through the dense wood.» *Aav Zorigt nġ saaral morio émélléž unaad chojt zig a l g u u r c h a n alchuvl-saar odov* (D. Cêv., 102). «His father, Zorigto, saddled his grey horse and started slowly towards the north.»

¹ Cf. I. I. Meščaninov, *Členy predloženiġa i časti reči* 1945. p. 69.

Sometimes other parts of the sentence can stand between the attributive adverb and the verb: *Gért b ù ù r t ù ù r gérél garav* (B. B. Ch., 10). «The fire was burning dimly in the tent.» *Urid adil šalidar bulidar aźzil chijch č gij* (Gaad., 59). «Already he was not doing the work so reluctantly.» In these cases the connection between adverb and verb is maintained by the sense relation.

Appearing in the role of the quantitative attribute of the mark, quantitative adverbs refer to adjectives and adverbs, that is, to the parts of speech denoting some mark the degree and measure of which can be expressed.²

Some quantitative adverbs denote the degree of manifestation of the mark; others point to the qualitative mark; others to the conjunction.

Adverbs denoting the degree of strengthening or weakening of the mark combine with words containing the meaning or shade of qualitiveness but permitting alterations in the degree or intensivity — whether it be adjective, adverb or verb: *maš chaluun* «very hot», *maš sandarsan* «very confused», *tun sajn* «very good, very well», *tun udtal* «very long», *déndüü churc* «extremely smart (bright)», *déndüü olon* «excessively (too) much», *daanč ért* «too early», *daanč éččichlélé* «too tired», *nilééd sürchij* «very serious», *nilééd udtal* «rather long».

Adverbs denoting quantity or measure mostly combine with substantives and verbs: *chičnéén chin* «how many people», *chičnéén gujsan č* (Cog 5/61—29) «how much he did not ask», *tóčnóón nastaj* «so many years», *ódič tódič mori* «a big quantity (a lot of) horses», *ódič tódič čarmajž oroldson* (DS., 248) «he tried very hard», *olontoo chijsén* «he did so repeatedly», *chédéntélé jatgaž úzsén* (Cog 2/62—74) «he talked it over repeatedly».

Adverbs of conjunction combine almost exclusively with verbs in their different forms: *gancaaraa niüch* «to nomadize alone», *gurvulan avč irsén* (BBCh., 34) «the three of them brought it together», *choelaa gar'ja* (BBCh., 64) «let us go out in twos», *choer gurvaar nijléldén jarilcan . . .* (DNac., 237) «they talked assembling in twos and threes».

As a rule quantitative adverbs stand directly before the word they determine.

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. Peškovskij, *Russkij sintaksis v naučnom osvješčenii*, Učpedgiz 1956, p. 118.)

Circumstantial adverbs combine with verbs and other parts of speech functioning as a predicate. Their place in the sentence is freer: *Bi margaaš irné* (DCev., 86) «I shall arrive tomorrow», *Margaaš ni namajg Tuul golyn chovóónós choer inéégéé tuugaad charž javtal . . .* (Tujaa I/1960—14) «Tomorrow when I shall drive away two of my cows from the bank of the river Tola . . .», *Za éné tuchaj margaaš értché n bosood tuchtaj jar'ja* (Cog., 5/1961—49) «Tomorrow, after getting up earlier we shall speak about it unhurriedly», *Bi bol onóódór aduu chariulž javaa chün* (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: *Tavčgaa naad chinéé char čótgoriüü* (Ž. L., 32) «Give back our man, black devils!», *Chaa bajna tēr Dugar čini* (Ž. L., 105) «Where is that Dugar of yours?», *Zadal ta nar üünič gēzgič* (Ž. 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 predicate³ 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 judgements.»⁴

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 determined by the context.

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

⁴ P. S. Popov, *Suždenie i predloženie (Voprosy sintaksisa sovremennogo russkogo jazyka)*, Moskva 1950, p. 51.

For example in the sentence: *Buu g ê n ê t ê d dugarachaa boliv* (Č. Lch., 45) «The gun unexpectedly ceased to fire» the direct theme of the utterance is the word *buu* «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 g ê n ê t buugijn duu tas chijž*... (D. Nac., 274) «From behind a gun-shot was heard unexpectedly» the grammatical subject *buugijn duu* 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. *Gênêt buugijn duu tas chijž* is the logical predicate that is, the aim of the author's utterance. If one puts the adverb *gênêt* after the word *buugijn duu* the latter enters the group of the logical subject and the sense of the utterance will change a little. The adverb *agšín zuur* «instantly, momentarily, at once» can also take different positions in the sentence: *Cóm a g š i n z u u r čagnalaa* (Cog 2) 1959—26) «At once everybody listened», *Jaachin manaj ard a g š i n z u u r bajraa solin duulz amzich ve?* (Cog 2/1959—25) «How do our Arats succeed to sing changing their places momentarily?», *Büch cêrêg nêg zêrêg ura chašgirč*... *pulemjot zoogood a g š i n z u u r buudaž êchlêv* (Chor., 84) «All the soldiers suddenly began shouting «hurrah»....., 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 *cóm* «all» that will enter the group of the predicate.

In the second sentence it is separated from the verb by the direct object *bajraa* «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 *agšín zuur* can be placed at the beginning. In that case it will relate to the whole utterance that will have the meaning: «Momentarily all the soldiers all at once began shouting «hurrah», they placed the machine-gun and began firing».

If we put the adverb in front of the adverbial participles *chašgirč* 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.: *chariu bičgijg chürgésên chünêêr daruj irüülnéüü!* (Tujaa 6/1958—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. *Gagchüü Sambuugijn usgal zöölön nüü uragš chojšoo alquurchan êrgêldênê* (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 perceptual value: *T ê n d ê l ê s ê é Dolingor naran garach zügijg êiglên, chêdên ödör javachad, jamar č saad tochioldsongüj* (DS., 176) «Dolingor 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, <i>Chürlêê, tuuž</i> , Ulaanbaatar 1960.
Gaad	—	M. Gaadamba, <i>Êlbêg dêel</i> , Ulaanbaatar 1957.
D. Nac	—	D. Nacagdorz, <i>Zochiolyn tüüvêr</i> , Ulaanbaatar 1955.
DS	—	C. Damdinsüren, <i>Tüüvêr zochiol</i> , Ulaanbaatar 1956.
DCêv	—	D. Cêvêgmid, <i>Zochiolyn tüüvêr</i> , Ulaanbaatar 1956.
Chor	—	P. Chorloo, <i>Tüüvêr zochiol</i> , Ulaanbaatar 1948.
Ž. L.	—	Ž. Lodoj, <i>Churim, žüžgüüd</i> , Ulaanbaatar 1966.
Č. Lch	—	Č. Lehamsüren, <i>Ôgüüllêg ba najruulal</i> , Ulaanbaatar 1947.