Gyalshen, Tibetan Translation Program:

With Lhasey Wangmo

July thru September, 2022. Beginning July 6th, every Monday and Wednesday, thru September 28th
7AM-8:15 A.M. (Pacific Time) and 4pm to 5:15pm (Central European Time) on ZOOM.

Module 1: Classical Tibetan For Beginners 1 (3 months, meeting 2 times a week for an hour and fifteen minutes)

Objective of Module 1:

By the end of this module, you will be able to read Tibetan sentences and identify the various building blocks; you will have the basics to start translating simple sentences and identify various elements in more complex sentences.

Table of Contents

Lesson 1. How to read Tibetan

Objective: Learn how to read Tibetan and start learning vocabulary that will be used in translations

A. Lessons:
1. Alphabet and pronunciation
2. Root, suffix, vowel, subscript, prefix, superscript
3. Finding the root letter of a syllable
4. How to find a word in a dictionary
5. Syllables, words, dots (ཚིག), punctuation marks (single stroke, double strokes)

Practice examples:
Reading practice

Learn basic vocabulary (including philosophical vocab; for example, ལམ་- path, བླ་མ་ - lama, guru, etc.)

Basic translations from English to Tibetan / Tibetan to English (for example, simple sentences using the vocabulary; example: A great lama; I'm a student, A white book, etc.)

Dharma-related examples with new vocabulary: The six states of existence (with Tibetan, English and some pictures)

Looking at a short classical text and finding the punctuation marks and overall sentence structure.

Supporting materials:
The alphabet in a PDF or postcard format.
The alohabet with transliteration in Wylie (or phonetics).
YouTube video teaching the alphabet

Lesson 2: The Tibetan sentence building blocks

Objective: Learn the building blocks of Tibetan sentences in order to understand classical texts

A. Lessons
1. Nouns and their formation (agent - པ, gender - པའོ།མའོ།)
2. Adjectives
3. Demonstrative adjectives (འདི་,དེ་, etc.)
4. Indefinite articles (ཅིག་,·etc.)
5. Plural particles (རྣམས་,དག་,ཚོ)
6. Numbers
7. Anatomy of a Tibetan nominal group – how it's usually built, order of a nominal group (Noun + Adjectives + Number + Demonstrative + Plural particle)
8. Particle སོགས at the end of a list

Lesson 3: A few Tibetan particles

Objective: Know how to identify and use a few main particles.

A. Lesson:
1. Connective particles - ཀྱི་,གི་,·etc. and their various translations (of, connecting adjective to a noun, apposition); structure (Modifying word + particle + Modified word); introducing the writing rules (གི་after words ending in ག·and , etc.)
2. The emphasizing particle ནི
3. Pronouns (1ˢᵗ person ང,བདག་, 2nd person, 3ʳᵈ person); singular and plural markers
4. Terminating particles (གོ,ངོ,དོ, etc)

Supporting materials:
Tables with the various rules and sentence structures

Lesson 4: Verbs ཡིན་and ཡོད་པ

Objective: Learn how to use the verbs ཡིན་and ཡོད་པ, their different usages

A. Lesson:
      1.   Order of the verb in a sentence (often at the end, sometimes omitted, how it's used with the different pronouns) + types of verbs (the linking verb ཡིན་and the existential verb ཡོད་, transitive and intransitive verbs)
      2.   The linking verb ཡིན་ (the difference of meaning and usage with ཡོད་པ; sample sentences, negation མེ;)
      3.   The existential verb ཡོད་(formation of sentences; negation; examples of usage for location "it is there", and for possession "he has that"; introducing the ལ་དོན་particle, for example "I'm in Tibet")

Lesson 5: More Tibetan verbs – Transitive and intransitive verbs

Objective: Learn how to use verbs, the difference between transitive and intransitive verbs; introduction on how use the agentive particle (གྱིས etc.) and the ལ་དོན་laton particle

A. Lesson:
      1.   Verbs – Transitive verbs (verbs that have an agent that acts on an object) + Usage of the agentive particle གྱིས་,གི, etc. with transitive verbs; the writing rules (གྱིས་after ག་and ང) + sometimes usage of the locative particle – use simple examples to illustrate, e.g., "I eat the apple".
      2.   Verbs – Intransitive verbs (the verb as a subject but no object, it does not act on an object other than itself – e.g., to be liberated, to arise, to see vs. to look, etc.) – there's no agentive particle.
      3.   Introduction to the tenses (past, present, future, imperative), recurring patterns with each tense.

Lesson 6: More Tibetan particles

Objective: Learn more particles to be able to understand more complex sentences

A. Lesson:
      1.   The agentive and instrumental particles (གྱི, etc.) – the agent of an action; the instrument of an action, adverb;

2.   The laton particle (ལ, ྟུ, etc.) – and its various functions: location; indicates the direct object for some transitive verbs and verbs of emotions; indicates the recipient; other functions.

3.   The source particle (ནས་,ལས་)-and its various functions: source/origin; comparison; exclusion.

Lesson 7: Putting it all together – translating more complex sentences

Objective: Getting more familiar with whole sentences and their translation

A. Lesson:
A review of all that was learned before with an emphasis on reading
and identifying all elements in more complex sentences.
Advice on how to translate full sentences (what to look at first, identifying the verbs and particles, starting by looking at the beginning and the end of a sentence, etc.)

རྒྱལ་གཤེན་ཞང་བོད་སློབ་གཉེར་ཁང་།
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