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On “Insubordination” as Expressed by the Converbs in Khalkha Mongolian

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1. Introduction

In this paper¹, we will discuss insubordination expressed by converbs in the Khalkha dialect of Mongolian (hereafter referred to as Mongolian). Mongolian is an SOV-type language in which converbs are widely used to form subordinate clauses. In their canonical function, converbs introduce subordinate clauses that are structurally dependent on the main clause to form a complete sentence. This paper investigates insubordination marked by converbs in Mongolian. In actual discourse, however, converb-marked subordinate clauses are often used without an overt main clause and function as independent utterances. Such uses represent a departure from the canonical subordinate structure and fall under what has been described as de-subordination (Aikhenvald 2004) or insubordination (Evans 2007), that is, the conventionalized use of formally subordinate clauses in main-clause functions. The contrast between complete sentences and insubordination in Mongolian is illustrated by the paired examples in (1) and (2). In a canonical complete sentence, a conditional clause co-occurs with an overt finite predicate in the main clause, as shown in (1).

Complete sentence

- (1) Ger-iin+daalgavar-aa xii-g-ee-gūj bai-**val** bi
homework-REFL do-E-PTCP.IPFV-NEG be-CVB.COND I
uurla-na=šüü.
get.angry-IND.FUT=FP
'If you do not do your homework, I will get angry.'

¹ The example sentences in this paper are transcribed into Roman characters according to the Cyrillic orthography of the Mongolian script as follows: а = a, б = b, в = v, г = g, д = d, е = je, ё = jo, ж = ž, з = z, и = i, й = j, к = k, л = l, м = m, н = n, о = o, ө = ö, п = p, р = r, с = s, т = t, у = u, ү = ü, ф = f, х = x, ц = c, ч = č, ш = š, шч = šč, ъ = “, ы = y, ь = ', э = e, ю = ju, я = ja. Since each suffix has a variant form due to vowel harmony, its vowel part is capitalized as its representative form. Unless otherwise noted, the glosses in this paper are those of the author.

Although the clause in (2) is formally subordinate, it achieves pragmatic completeness through discourse context and the converb *baival* together with the question marker =*UU*. Such constructions therefore resist analysis in terms of main clause elision, and instead seem to suggest a systematic extension of subordinate clause morphology to the function of an independent clause.

Insubordination

- (2) Ger-iin+daalgavar-aa xii-g-ee-güi bai-**val**=**uu**
 homework-REFL do-E-PTCP.IPFV-NEG be-CVB.COND=Q
 ‘If you haven’t done your homework (I will get angry.)’

Although Mongolian converb exhibit syntactic functions only within subordinate clauses, they can appear at the end of sentences. This paper surveys examples of end-of-sentence usage and argues that these instances represent what is known as “unfinished speech.” This paper points out that when Mongolian verb forms appear at the end of a sentence, they express modality, and discusses the kinds of meanings these examples express.

2. Previous studies

Evans (2007) defines insubordination as the conventionalized independent use of a formally subordinate clause. The criterion ‘formally subordinate’ can refer to any formal feature primarily associated with subordinate clauses in the relevant language: non-finite verb forms; subordinating conjunctions and other complementizers (e.g., case markers with clausal scope); logophoric pronouns and long-distance reflexives; switch-reference markers; or special word order normally confined to subordinate clauses.

Shirakawa (2009) provides a systematic description of insubordinate sentences in Japanese, arguing that such sentences are not fragments occurring mid-sentence but function as independent utterances. Kazama (2013) discusses insubordination in Altaic languages, showing that these languages exhibit insubordination through converb forms and presenting examples from Turkish, Mongolian, and Manchu. However, Kazama (2013) does not offer a comprehensive survey of all Mongolic and Turkic languages, indicating the need for further research. As noted by Kazama (2013), insubordination with strong modality meanings is easier to form in many languages, and such types of insubordination can therefore be found widely across languages.

Khal (Khalkha Mongolian)

- (3) ug=n’ nadad möngö baj-san=**bol**.
 actually=3POSS 1SG.DAT money be-PTCP.PST=COND
 ‘If only I had much money.’

Kazama (2013: 38)

Although it is not a very stable expression, it is said that such a sentence as (4), which is expressed by converb form, is also possible (Kazama 2013: 38).

Khal (Khalkha Mongolian)

- (4) ter dandaa=l uurla-ǰ baj-dag-ijg=n',
 3SG always=FP get.angry-CVB.IPFV be-PTCP.HBT-ACC=3POSS
 med-seer baj-ǰ, (tege-ǰ xel-e-x
 know-CVB.DUR be-CVB.IPFV to.do.so-CVB.IPFV say-E-PTCP.NPST
 xereg-güj baj-san=jum).
 thing-NEG be-PTCP.PST=SFP
 ‘Although you know that he is quick-tempered... (why did you say such a thing in such a way!?)’

Kazama (2013: 38)

Manchu provides an instance of insubordination involving a conditional converb. The Manchu example (5) below is cited in Kazama (2013: 39), originally from Tsumagari (2000: 140).

Man (Manchu)

- (5) bi umai šolo baha-rakū, šolo baha-ci
 I entirely free.time find-NEG free.time find-CVB.COND
 esi ji-ci.
 certainly come-CVB.COND
 ‘I do not have time to come; if I find it, of course I will come.’

Yamakoshi (2021) describes insubordination in Sironomic languages and Mongolic languages. He states that Sironomic languages have a well-developed conditional converb insubordination while Central Mongolian and its surrounding languages do not have such a well-developed insubordination. The following examples are from the Khalkha dialect mentioned in Yamakoshi (2021: 129). According to Yamakoshi (2021), in (6), it is possible to finish the utterance by conditional converb, but the main clause that follows is assumed, making it difficult to judge that the sentence is complete. On the other hand, he points out that the conditional converb =*bol*, as in (7), appears at the end of the sentence to express the counterfactual hypothesis.

- (6) gedes öls-**böl** guanz-a-n-d id-eerej.
 stomach hungry-CVB.COND cafeteria-E-E-DAT eat-HON.IMP
 ‘If you get hungry, eat at the cafeteria’

- (7) xervee bi tüünij tuxaj sons-son=**bol**
 if 1SG 3SG.GEN about to.hear-PTCP.PST=COND
 bi čam-taj uulz-a-x baj-laa.
 1SG 2SG-COM meet-E-PTCP.NPST be-PST
 ‘If I had heard about it, I would have met you.’

Furthermore, according to Yamakoshi (2021), the conditional particle =**bol** also functions as a topic marker and appears as a sentence-final particle in interrogative clauses expressing self-questioning or confirmation with the listener (8).

- (8) dorž xen-tej jari-lc-san=**bol**?
 PSN who-COM talk-RCP-PTCP.PST=COND
 ‘Who did Dorj talk to?’

As mentioned above, studies on insubordination concerning the Mongolian language have dealt with only some of the forms, so it is necessary to conduct research using more forms to clarify the scope of Mongolian insubordination use. In this paper, we point out that converbs in Mongolian express the meaning of modality when they appear at the end of sentences, and discuss what kind of meanings these examples express.

3. Analyses

3.1 Data and method

This paper² searches converbs in the corpus that appear at the end of sentences, and extracts examples that may indicate insubordination. This paper deals with not only converbs but also personal possessive particles, focus particles and sentence-final particles that immediately follow them. Mongolian has personal possessive clitics that indicate person and are basically used to express possessive relations by attaching to nouns. Specifically, the first person is marked by =**min**’ (singular) and =**maan**’ (plural), the second person by =**čin**’ (singular) and =**tan**’ (plural), and the third person by =**n**’.

² This study uses the Mongolian National Corpus (1,160,000 words), a web corpus developed by Corpus Technologies between 2007 and 2009, which is searchable on the Web. In the corpus search, an asterisk (*) was used as a wildcard preceding each suffix. During the data filtering process, examples used as conjunctions (e.g. bol- “to be”+**-xAAr**=boloxoor “so”) are excluded. Furthermore, I exclude terms such as **boloxoor** because they correspond to verb forms containing sub-verbs that are search targets, but have been lexicalized as conjunctions. I am a native speaker of the Khalkha dialect of Mongolian. Therefore, I judge the grammatical acceptability of the examples below through introspection. If necessary, I may also include examples from my own work or examples collected through Google searches as supplementary data. In such cases, I ask two native speakers to review the examples, and only those that both judge to be natural sentences are included. The native speakers are N. T., a female native speaker of the Khalkha dialect of Mongolian from Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, born in 1999, and P. D., a male native speaker of the Khalkha dialect of Mongolian, born in 1967.

These clitics primarily attach to noun phrases and express possession, as illustrated by examples such as *minij ger* ‘my house’, *bodol čin* ‘your idea’, and *eež n* ‘his/her mother’. By contrast, Mongolian sentence-final particles exhibit several common characteristics. Namely, (i) they occur only with the predicate of a clause, (ii) they do not undergo inflection, and (iii) they have the ability to terminate a sentence independently.

The focus particle =č corresponds to “also/even/too,” imparting additive focus to various elements within a sentence through its co-occurrence with indefinite expressions and conjunctive constructions. The restrictive focus particle =l corresponds to “only/just,” functioning to restrict focus to nouns, adverbs, predicative phrases, and similar elements. Depending on the context, these particles may undergo semantic weakening and may also appear as part of fixed expressions. The contrast between č and l clearly highlights the semantic opposition between addition and restriction.

The converb suffixes searched in the corpus are perfective *-AAr*, conditional *-vAl*, durative *-sAAr*, limit *-tAl*, immediative *-mAgc*, immediate-after *-xlAAr*, simultative *-ngUUt*, simultaneous *-ngAA*, degree³ *-xAAr*, conditional *-mAAžin* (*-mAAž* will also be represented in the following as *-mAAžin*), modality⁴ *-xAd*, condition (ii) *-vAAs*. The sentence-final particles =*mon*, =*yum*, =*šuu*, =*šiv*, =*dAA*, =*dAg*, and =*sAn*, as well as the personal possessive clitics =*min*’, =*čin*’, and =*n*’, the particle =*l*, and the emphatic particle =*č*, will be analyzed.

The results of the corpus survey are shown in Table 1 below (N/A: no examples).

Table1: Converbs appearing at the end of sentences based on a corpus survey

Form			Personal possessive			Particle		Sentence-final Particle		Total
			Ø	min'	čin'	n'	l	č	dAA	
Converb	-sAAr	64	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	N/A	70
	-xAd	5	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6
	-vAl	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1	5	9
	-xAAr	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2
	-AAr	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1

Among the 12 types of converbs investigated, only the five forms shown in Table 1 were

³ Yamada (2025) points out that the form *-xAAr* has a variety of meanings, but that a distinction should be made between *-xAAr* representing purpose and *-xAAr* representing temporality. The examples of *-xAAr* treated in this paper have the gloss DEG=degree. Looking at the two examples obtained from the corpus, while they do express meanings such as “to the extent that / to the degree that / to the extent of,” they do not indicate quantity or comparison per se. Rather, they represent a usage that expresses the speaker’s subjective evaluation or sense of degree.

⁴ As for “*-xAd*” many researchers have treated it as a “particle verb +dative”, but in this paper, I will treat it as a converb and use it in a modality sense, so I will gloss it as MDL.

confirmed to appear at the end of sentences. As Table 1 indicates, the only sentence-final particles confirmed to co-occur with these sentence-final examples were the sentence-final particle =*dAA* and the interrogative =*UU*. Additionally, the corpus yielded 64 instances of *-sAAr* and 6 instances where *-sAAr* was followed by the restrictive particle =*l*. However, while these examples appear at the end of sentences, they likely constitute copula sentences with the auxiliary verb *bai-* omitted. Therefore, whether to classify them as “incomplete utterances” remains open to discussion; nevertheless, this paper includes them in the analysis.

In contrast, for the converb forms *-tAl*, *-mAgc*, *-xlAAr*, *-ngUUt*, *-ngAA*, *-mAAžin*, and *-vAAs*, no examples occurring at the end of a sentence were confirmed. That is, since there were no end-of-sentence examples, these forms are not shown in Table 1. Based on the above, these forms are likely restricted to uses forming subordinate clauses and are not employed as independent utterances.

3.2 The insubordination by converbs

The corpus survey reveals that the converbs *-sAAr*, *-xAd*, *-vAl*, *-xAAr*, and *-AAd* can be used to express insubordination. Below are examples of *-sAAr*, *-xAd*, *-vAl*, *-xAAr*, and *-AAd*.

① Example of usage with *-sAAr*

From the corpus, we extracted 64 examples of *-sAAr* without any following particles and 6 examples of *-sAAr* followed by the limiting particle =*l*, respectively. However, all of these examples appear at the end of the sentence, but they seem to be formed by the ellipsis of the auxiliary verb *bai-* in copula sentences. Accordingly, although the question remains as to whether or not these examples can be regarded as insubordination, we have chosen to include them here. These are considered to be literary expressions in the written language.

- (9) Xüü gajx-a-n gölör-söör.
 boy surprise-E-CVB.MOD look.closely-CVB.DUR
 ‘The boy was surprised and remained still.’

- (10) Nar öglöö-nij-x-tej-g-öö adil amgalan tajvn-aar
 sun morning-GEN-EXST-COM-E-REFL same peaceful calm-INS
 xöör-söör.
 climb-CVB.DUR
 ‘The sun is still rising slowly as in the morning.’

- (11) Gunig-taj=č alx-saar=l.
 sad-PROP=FP walk-CVB.DUR=FP
 ‘I remain lonely, but I keep walking.’

② Example of usage with -xAd

The following (12-15) are examples with **-xAd**, and (16-18) are examples with **-xAd=čín’**. Although these examples could also be considered inverted or omitted, they are taken as important because the sentence ends with a converb.

- (12) Aa jamar ongiroo ilžig=ve či. Toglo-ž baj-xad. . .
 aa which boastful donkey=Q 2SG play-CVB.IPFV be-CVB.MDL
 ‘You egotistical fool, you. I’m joking with you...’

- (13) Juu gesen üg=ve! Tanaj-x=čín’ uraldaan-d
 what that word=Q 2PL.GEN-EXST=2POSS competition-DAT
 türүүл-eed až+axujn avarga bol-o-x gež baj-xad.
 win-CVB.PFV association winner to.become-E-PTCP.NPST that be-CVB.MDL
 ‘What a surprise! All this time you guys came in first place and won the competition (why are you guys trying to move out?).’

Examples (12) and (13) are used in conversational contexts in which the speaker expresses dissatisfaction or reproach toward the interlocutor. A salient feature of these examples is that they function as rhetorical utterances conveying a negative evaluation or irony toward the interlocutor’s utterance or action, rather than as genuine information-seeking questions.

By contrast, example (14) illustrates a case in which the speaker displays a defensive and resistant stance in response to teasing or a provocative remark by the interlocutor. The utterance **durla-xad** produced by speaker B is formally a converbial phrase; however, by occurring in sentence-final position, it functions as an independent utterance, expressing a rhetorical and indignant response equivalent to “So what if I fall in love?”

- (14) A: Ajagüj=bol xar xüüxen-d durla-x baj-x=aa.
 maybe=COND black women-DAT like-PTCP.NPST be-PTCP.NPST=SFP
 ‘Maybe (you) will like black women.’

- B: Jaa-dag=jum. durla-xad.
 what-PTCP.HBT=SFP like-CVB.MDL
 ‘So what’s the point, even if (I) fall in love.’

- (15)A: Či nad-taj xamt jav-a-x-aas-aa
 2SG 1SG.DAT-COM together go-E-PTCP.NPST-ABL-REFL
 aj-g-aad baj-g-aa=jum=uu?
 afraid-E- CVB.PFV be-E-PTCP.IPFV=SFP=Q
 ‘Are you afraid or are you going with me?’
- B: Bi juu bol-loo gež aj-ž baj-x=jum=be.
 1SG what to.become-PST that afraid-CVB.IPFVbe-PTCP.NPST=SFP=Q
 Zügeer=l xol javgan jav-a-**xad**. . .
 just=FP far on.foot walk-E-CVB.MDL
 ‘There would be no reason for me to be afraid. Just walk farther...’

Furthermore, in example (15), while speaker A’s utterance takes the form of a question inquiring into the interlocutor’s psychological state, speaker B’s response adopts the structure “*juu bolloo gež ajž bajx=jum=be*” and is used as a counter-argumentative utterance that rejects the very presupposition of being asked for a reason. Although it contains the interrogative marker =*be*, the utterance in effect presents the judgment that there is “no reason to be afraid,” thereby strongly conveying a modality of self-justification and rebuttal. The subsequent phrase “*Zügeer=l xol javgan javaxad*” is added to supplement the utterance with a justificatory explanation, providing additional discourse context.

In this way, the constructions found in examples (12-15), which involve sentence-final converb forms and interrogative markers, commonly function not as simple interrogatives or subordinate structures, but as independent utterances expressing the speaker’s evaluative stance and emotional attitude.

- (16)Xürg-eed ög’-je gež baj-**xad**=č**in**’.
 deliver-CVB.PFV give-VOL that be-CVB.MDL=2POSS
 ‘(I’m) offering to give you a ride...’

Thus, when the personal possessive =*č**in***’ follows the converb at the end of the sentence as in (16), there seems to be a stronger sense of “sentence completion”. This point is again raised as an issue below. On the other hand, some sentences express the speaker’s desire by combining a verb with the -*mAAr* suffix and the auxiliary verb *bajxAd=č**in***’. However, since I could not find any examples of this in the corpus I will present an example by the author below. In this case, as well, it seems that the speaker remains dissatisfied with the other person.

- (17) Bi bas xool id-meer baj-**xad=čín**.
 1SG too food eat-DES be-CVB.MDL=2POSS
 ‘I want to eat food too.’ (created by the author)

- (18) Bi=č bas ger-t-ee xari-maar baj-**xad=čín**.
 1SG=FP too home-DAT-REFL go-DES be-CVB.MDL=2POSS
 ‘I want to go home too.’ (created by the author)

The above examples (16-18) express feelings of dissatisfaction with the person one is talking to or their actions. In the context of (16), it expresses the nuance “*he wanted to give her a lift, but the other person had already gone,*” while (17-18) express the nuance “*I wanted to eat too, but he didn’t let me*” and “*I wanted to go too, but he didn’t let me go,*” respectively. In these examples, too, the sentence seems to be complete, perhaps because of the **=čín**. In other words, there is no sense that some subsequent element has been omitted.

③ Example of usage with -val

From the corpus, we extracted two examples with **-val** alone, one example with **-val** followed by the cumulative particle **=č**, one example with **-val** followed by the sentence-final particle **=dAA**, and five examples with **-val** followed by the interrogative word **=UU**. The examples (19-20) indicate a solicitation to the other party, “*You might (should) do it*”. These are accompanied by a feeling of omission of some subsequent element.

- (19) Öglöö ertxen Baga nuur-yn ereg deer oč-**vol**...
 morning early PLN lake-GEN shore on go-CVB.COND
 ‘If you go to the shore of Lake Baga early in the morning...’

- (20) Nansalmaa-g vanseemberüü cecg-ijn dund sar’dg-ijn tašlan-d
 PSN-ACC vanseemberuu flower-GEN among summit-GEN slope-DAT
 zogs-oo-g-ood zur-**val**.
 stand-CAUS-E-CVB.PFV draw-CVB.COND
 ‘If you draw Nansalmaa standing in the middle of the Vansenberuu flower around the slope of Horidol Salidag Mountain.’

On the other hand, (21) below has a rhetorical negation meaning of “*do not ~*”, while (22-24), with the sentence-final particle **=dAA** followed by the interrogative word **=UU**, represent an insubordination commanding through a rhetorical negation function that is different from other insubordination. In other words, it hides the meaning of a command to warn the listener, as in “*If you do ~, you will regret it later*” or “*If you do ~, I will pay*

you back’. (21) could also indicate solicitation depending on the context. The examples (22-24) seem to be complete sentences, perhaps because they are accompanied by a particle.

- (21) Ijm zol zavšaan-taj xereg toxio-ld-o-ž
 like.this luck opportunity-COM thing happen-RCP-E-CVB.IPFV
 baj-xad saad xij-**val=č**
 be-CVB.MDL obstacle do-CVB.COND=FP
 ‘If we interfere when such good things are happening...’

- (22) Xarin daxiad zevseg bar’-san baj-**val=daa** ge-lee.
 rather more weapon to.hold-PTCP.PST be-CVB.COND=SFP say-PST
 ‘If you ever carry a weapon again (I won’t allow it), I said.’

- (23) Či ene xojor-yg mori-n-d tegne-ž xojt suman deer
 2SG this two-ACC horse-E-DAT put- CVB.IPFV north village on
 baj-g-aa ceregt ög.
 be-E-PTCP.IPFV soldier give(3.IMP)
 Avaač-i-ž ög-öö-güj baj-**val=uu**.
 deliver-E-CVB.IPFV give-PTCP.IPFV-NEG be-CVB.COND=Q
 You must put these two on your horse and give them to the soldiers in the village to the north. ‘If (you) hadn’t delivered (them) ... (You’ll regret it later.)’

- (24) Öör ilüü dutuu jum čalč-san baj-**val=uu**.
 other more partial thing to.talk-PTCP.PST be-CVB.COND=Q
 ‘(You) If you talk about many other things...(You’ll regret it later.)’

④ Example of usage with -xAAr

Two examples of extraction from the corpus by the **-xAAr** suffix are shown below. The **-xAAr** suffix has a variety of meanings, but in the following, it is used in the sense of degree and possibility.

- (25) A: Aan tijm, xüüxd-ijn gutal baj-na=uu?
 Oh yes child-GEN shoes be-IND.FUT=Q
 ‘Oh, do you have shoes for the kids? ’

B: Bojtog=uu?
 Baby.shoes=Q
 ‘baby shoes? ’

A: Ügüj ügüj. Manaj bandi-d taar-a-**xaar**.
 NEG NEG 1PL.GEN son-DAT fit-E-DEG
 ‘no, no, (shoes) that fit my son.’

(26) Kanad oron ter+čig-eer-ee Baffalo-d, HSBC ordon-d
 PLN country whole-INS-REFL PLN-DAT PLN hall-DAT
 nüü-g-eed ir-čix-sen=jum=uu gež bod-o-gd-o-**xoor**.
 to.move-E-CVB.PFV come-PFV-PTCP.PST=SFP=Q that think-E-PASS-E-DEG
 ‘Canada is such a country that it seems as if all (of its people) have moved to Buffalo,
 to the HSBC hall...(A huge crowd of people came to this hall).’

Although no clitics are observed at the sentence-final position in these examples, the sentences as a whole are nevertheless perceived as pragmatically complete.

⑤ Example of usage with -AAd

As for the **-AAd** suffix, only one example could be extracted. It seems to express a feeling of “sorry” or “polite hesitation mixed with thanks” toward the other party.

(27) Xar öglöögüür ažil ud-a-ž xool xij-g-eed.
 black morning work bother-E-CVB.IPFV food do-E-CVB.PFV
 ‘(You) made dinner early in the morning (thank you, you didn’t have to).’

In this case, there is a feeling that some element has been omitted.

4. Conclusion

In this paper, we examined converbs that appear at the end of sentences and discussed their functions as insubordination. The results of the corpus survey show that there are many examples of **-sAAr**, **-xAd**, **-vAl**, **-xAAr**, **-AAd**. These forms represent the speaker’s various modality meanings.

Table 2: Modality Meanings of Converbs Appearing Sentence-Finally

Converbs	Modality meaning represented
-xAd	<i>complaining about the other person or being angry at the other person</i>
-xAd=čün'	<i>the speaker’s dissatisfaction with the other person</i>
-vAl	<i>the speaker’s solicitation of the other person</i>

-vAl=č	<i>the speaker's mild dissatisfaction with the other person or soliloquy</i> <i>-vAl=dAA and -vAl=UU represent "a strong rhetorical negation command to the speaker's partner,"</i>
-xAAr	<i>speaker's subjective evaluation or sense of degree</i>
-AAd	<i>gratitude to the speaker's partner</i>

The sense of completion is stronger when a converb is followed by particles. There are some cases in which the sentence does not seem to be complete and the auxiliary verb *baina* seems to be omitted, but because they appear at the end of the sentence and each expresses a different modality nuance, these cases can be considered to be examples of insubordination. However, in the case of **-sAAr**, it does not express any modal meaning and seems to be established by omitting the auxiliary verb *bai-* in the copula sentence. Therefore, the question remains as to whether these should be viewed as insubordination regarding only **-sAAr**. Since this study was conducted only in Khalkha Mongolian, future research should include other dialects and Mongolic languages.

Abbreviations

-	suffix boundary	E	epenthesis	PFV	perfective
=	clitic boundary	EMPH	emphatic	PLN	place name
+	compound word boundary	FP	focus particle	POSS	possessive
1	1st person	FUT	future	PROP	proprietary
2	2nd person	GEN	genitive	PSN	personal name
3	3rd person	HBT	habitual	PST	past
ACC	accusative	HON	honey	PTCP	participle
CAUS	causative	IMP	imperative	Q	question
COM	comitative	IND	indicative	RCP	reciprocal
COND	conditional	INS	instrumental	RED	reduplication
CVB	converb	IPFV	imperfective	REFL	reflexive
DAT	dative	MDL	modality	SG	singular
DEG	degree	MOD	modal	VOL	voluntive
DES	desirous	NEG	negative		
DUR	durative	NPST	non-past		

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Corpus

<http://web-corpora.net/MongolianCorpus/search/> (Accessed: 2025/11/30)

Summary

This paper focuses on converbs that appear at the end of Khalkha Mongolian sentences and examines whether they can express insubordination. This paper searches converbs in the corpus that appear at the end of sentences, and extracts examples that may indicate insubordination. The results of the corpus survey show that there are many examples of *-sAAr*, *-xAd*, *-vAl*, *-xAAr*, *-AAd*. These forms represent the speaker’s various modality meanings. Furthermore, we found that these converbs can be followed by various particles, and in that case, the sense that the sentence is complete is strengthened. In the previous study, it was pointed out that Mongolian conditional converbs can form insubordination, and in this paper, it is pointed out that other converbs besides the conditional verb can also express insubordination by appearing at the end of a sentence.

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