

Lesson 15

Ongoing states, past and present
present participle
prolonged and repeated events
ability

Ongoing states: present and past

In English and Swedish ongoing states which started in the past and have/had not yet ended are expressed with present perfect / past perfect.

I have lived in Uppsala for 20 years (and I still live here).
Jag har bott i Uppsala i 20 år (och jag bor här fortfarande).

I had lived in Uppsala for 20 years (and I still lived here) when I got married.

Jag hade bott i Uppsala i 20 år (och jag bodde här fortfarande) när jag gifte mig.

Ongoing states: present and past Balochi

In Balochi, ongoing states in the present take the present tense.

Sáláni sál ent ke áiy bádsháhi bágá yak azhdiáé mán ent.
'There has been a dragon in his royal garden for years and years.' (It is still there.)

Dah sál ent ke man edá kára kanán.
'I have worked here for ten years.' (I am still working here.)

Ongoing states: present and past

Balochi

In Balochi, ongoing states in the past take the past tense, the past continuous form.

Sáláni sál at ke áyiy bádsháhi bágá yak azhdiáé mán at.

(For this verb there is no special past continuous form separate from the ordinary past tense form.)

'There had been a dragon in his royal garden for years and years.' (It was still there.)

Dah sál at ke man ódá kára kort wahdé nokén wáhondé átk.

'I had worked there for ten years when there came a new owner.'

(wáhond=owner)

Present participle

The Balochi verbs construct a present participle by adding -án to the present stem of the verb.

kanag (present stem: kan) > kanán 'doing'

rawag (present stem: raw) > rawán 'going'

janag (present stem: jan) > janán 'hitting'

sochag (present stem: soch) > sochán 'burning'

kandag (present stem: kand) > kandán 'smiling'

bayag (present stem: bay) > bayán 'becoming'

gwazag (present stem: gwaz) > gwazán 'passing'

Uses of the present participle in Balochi

1. The present participle can be used as an adjective:

Delá kandán but...

‘He rejoiced (lit. he became smiling...’

Prolonged and repeated events present tense

(man) kár kanán án 'I keep working'

(taw) kár kanán ay 'you.SG keep working'

(á) kár kanán ent 'he/she keeps working'

(má) kár kanán én 'we keep working'

(shomá) kár kanán ét 'you.PL keep working'

(á) kár kanán ant 'they keep working'

Prolonged and repeated events past tense

(man) kár kanán atán 'I kept working'

(taw) kár kanán atay 'you.SG kept working'

(á) kár kanán at 'he/she kept working'

(má) kár kanán atén 'we kept working'

(shomá) kár kanán atét 'you.PL kept working'

(á) kár kanán atant 'they kept working'

Uses of the present participle in Balochi

2. The present participle together with the copula is used for prolonged and repeated (iterative) events. A good English translation is often 'keep doing'.

róch ke gwazán atant

'as the days passed (kept passing)'

(gwazag=to pass (about time))

Wazir ham hamé dardnákén wadáray ásá sochán at

The minister was also in torture by waiting and asking himself
(lit. burning in the fire of this painful waiting)

(wazir=minister, dardnák=painful, wadár=waiting, ás=fire)

To be able to

There is a construction in Balochi to express ability with the past stem of the main verb + the verb kanag in the present / past tense. This construction is always treated as a transitive verb construction.

(man) shota kanán 'I can go'

(taw) shota kanay 'you.SG can go'

(á) shota kant 'he/she can go'

(má) shota kanén 'we can go'

(shomá) shota kanét 'you.PL can go'

(á) shota kanant 'they can go'

To be able to, past tense

With the past tense, this construction means that something was possible and did happen. This construction follow the pattern of transitive verbs:

(man) shot kort 'I could go (and went)'

(taw) shot kort 'you.SG could go (and went)'

(áiá) shot kort 'he/she could go (and went)'

(má) shot kort 'we could go (and went)'

(shomá) shot kort 'you.PL could go (and went)'

(áyán) shot kort 'they could go (and went)'

To be able to, past tense, cont.

If the past continuous is used it means that something was possible but it did not happen:

(man) shota kort 'I could have gone (but didn't)'

(taw) shota kort 'you.SG could have gone (but didn't)'

(áyíá) shota kort 'he/she could have gone (but didn't)'

(má) shota kort 'we could have gone (but didn't)'

(shomá) shota kort 'you.PL could have gone (but didn't)'

(áyán) shota kort 'they could have gone (but didn't)'

Examples from the text

Sharrén shawré borreta nakant.

‘He cannot take a good decision.’

(shawr borrag=take a decision)

Past tense (specific incident):

Sharrén shawré borret nakort.

‘He could not take a good decision (in a specific case)’

Past continuous tense (general):

Sharrén shawré borreta nakort.

‘He could not take a good decision (at all for any issue).’

Sometimes an extra *kort* is inserted

Kay passaw dát korta kant?

Who can answer?

Also with the same meaning:

Kay passaw dáta kant?

A reduction of kort to kot

When the verb itself is kanag in the ability construction, past tense, one would get e.g.

*Man kár kort kort. 'I could work (at a specific time).'

but then the first kort is reduced to kot

Man kár kot kort. 'I could work.'