Lesson 13

The past perfect

The past perfect

- The past perfect denotes something that had happened and was still relevant at a later time before the present time or a state in the past. It corresponds to the English 'I had done' and the Swedish 'jag hade gjort'.

The past perfect in Balochi

- The past perfect uses the past participle (e.g. kortag, shotag, wártag) which is formed by adding -ag to the past stem of a verb. To form the past perfect, the past copula is added to the past participle.

- The formation of past perfect differs for intransitive and transitive verbs.

Intransitive verbs

shotagatán 'I had gone'

shotagatay 'you had gone'

shotagat 'he/she had gone'

shotagatén 'we had gone'

shotagatét 'you had gone'

shotagatant 'they had gone'

Transitive verbs

man kortagat / kortagaton 'I had done'

taw kortagat / kortagatet 'you had done'

áiá kortagat / kortagati 'he/she had done'

má kortagat / kortagaten 'we had done'

shomá kortagat / kortagató 'you had done'

áyán kortagat / kortagatesh 'they had done'

The verb can also take the plural ending, kortagatant (if the direct object is a plural entity).

Man é kár kortagatant. 'I had done these things (lit. works).'

Examples from a text, transitive verbs

Azhdiáyá anchosh hél kortagat…

The dragon had become so tame…

(azhdiá=dragon, hél kanag=to become tame, to get accustomed to)

yak andóhéay hawrá mán áiay delay ásmáná jambar bastagat …

A rain of sorrow had made clouds appear (lit. had tied clouds) on the sky of his heart…

(andóh=sorrow, hawr=rain, del=heart, ásmán=sky, jambar=cloud)

Examples from the text, intransitive verbs

Angat sháhi kasr o kóthá narasetagat …

He had not yet reached the royal palace…

(angat=still, yet, sháhi=royal, kasr=palace, kóth=palace, royal mansion)

Gotth cha é zahrnák o portaptén topákáni ácheshá hoshk butagat…

The throat had become dry from the fire of these painful (lit. poisonous) and agitating happenings…

(gotth=throat, zahrnák=bitter, posionous, painful, portapt=disturbing, agitating, topák=event, happening, áchesh/ás=fire, hoshk=dry)

Optative

Optative is a form that denotes a wish. The optative forms of the verb 'to become' are as follows:

bátán 'may I be'   bátén 'may we be'

bátay 'may you be'   bátét 'may you be'

bát 'he/she may be'   bátant 'may they be'

This form is negated by ma-
(mabátay 'may you not be')

Example from the text

Bádsháhay sará mabát parwáh
May the king be free from worries.
(lit. May there be no worry for the king.)
(parwáh=worry)

Del o jánon nadr bátant
I would die for you.
(lit. May my heart and soul be a sacrifice.)
(nadr kanag/bayag = to sacrifice/to be sacrificed)

The past tense

In the past tense there is a distiction between

1) past perfective

which denotes past events viewed as a single unit

2) the past imperfective

which denotes past events viewed as repeated or ongoing

Past imperfective

The past imperfective in Balochi adds the same

-a as in present indicative to the word preceding the verb. For an intransitive verb it is realised as follows:

Past perfective	**Past imperfective**
man shotán	man**a** shotán
taw shotay	taw∅ shotay
á shot	á∅ shot
má shotén	má∅ shotén
shomá shotét	shomá∅ shotét
á shotant	á∅ shotant

past imperfective, continued

- bachak kapt 'the boy fell (once as a completed action)'

- bachak**a** kapt 'the boy fell (several times, as a habit etc.)'

- bachak har róch**a** kapt 'the boy fell every day'

Past imperfective, negated

The past imperfective in Balochi adds the same
-a as in present indicative to the word preceding the verb.
For an intransitive verb it is realised as follows:

Past perfective	Past imperfective
man nashotán	man**a** nashotán
taw nashotay	taw∅ nashotay
á nashot	á∅ nashot
má nashotén	má∅ nashotén
shomá nashotét	shomá∅ nashotét
á nashotant	á∅ nashotant

past imperfective negated, continued

- bachak nakapt 'the boy didn't fall (once as a completed action)'

- bachak**a** nakapt 'the boy didn't fall (several times, as a habit etc.)'

- bachak hechbar**a** nakapt 'the boy never fell'

Past imperfective, transitive verbs

For transitive verbs, the past imperfective is realised as follows:

Past perfective
man nán wárt / nánon wárt
taw nán wárt / nánet wárt
áiá nán wárt / náni wárt
má nán wárt / nánen wárt
shomá nán wárt / nánó wárt
áyán nán wárt / nánesh wárt

Past imperfective
man nán**a** wárt / nánon**a** wárt
taw nán**a** wárt / nánet**a** wárt
áiá nán**a** wárt / náni**a** wárt
má nán**a** wárt / nánen**a** wárt
shomá nán**a** wárt / nánó**a** wárt
áyán nán**a** wárt / nánesh**a** wárt

Negated form:
man nán nawárt / nánon nawárt
man nán**a** nawárt / nánon**a** nawárt

past imperfective transitive verb, continued

- bachaká nán wárt 'the boy ate food (bread) (once as a completed action)'

- bachaká nána wárt 'the boy ate food (bread) (several times, as a habit etc.)'

- bachaká har róch nán**a** wárt 'the boy ate food (bread) every day'

Examples from the text

É bádsháhá chokka nabut.
This king had no children (for a long time).

Har wahdé ke préshán o deltanga but …
Whenever he got distressed and sad …
(préshán=worried, distressed, deltang=sad, longing)

á ham ráha gept …
…he, too, kept coming (lit. took way)

cf. á ham ráh gept …
…he, too, came (once) (lit. took way)