



How did Mongols use the Tibetan script in communication?

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Since 17th century in Mongolia Buddhism spread and developed widely. Many monk scholars of Mongolia went to Tibet and they studied and learned out the five minor and major sciences and carried their knowledge in Mongolian land and developed its culture. They also compiled and printed a lot of books on Tibetan. Nowadays they are counted over 300 scholars. Their books are used among the Mongolian and Tibetan scholars still.

Before the 1930s in Mongolia over 100.000 monks were living and they know Tibetan well, and most of ordinary people also know Tibetan alphabet. Among the monks and ordinary people, who do not know Mongolian Scripts were required to communicate on scripts and to send letters to each other. The Mongols could find way of such communication. They used Tibetan script and could record words on Mongolian. In this way scholars compiled Tibet Mongolian dictionary, poems and pilgrimage books. For example, on Tibet Mongolian dictionary by Ishidorj was written as following:

mun'ba (Tibetan) ba'lar mung'hag (Mongolian).

Mongolian language has 7 short vowels but Tibetan 5 vowels. Scholars used Tibetan 2 vowels to mark Mongolian ö and ü. For example: Mongolian ö by Tibetan [ou]. The Mongolian language has long vowels, but Tibetan has not long vowels. Mongolian scholars used Tibetan 5 vowels to mark long vowels. For example: Mongolian e could mark z*z*.

During the 1930s the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party printed six magazines for monks on Tibetan and Mongolian scripts. Those were only on Mongolian language. Half of the laymen know also Mongolian script. Therefore the majority of Mongols were literate people.