



## Genitive Particle – ‘a thing of something’

### Explanation

Tibetan has a number of so called particle words that indicate a specific relationship between the words that they link. In English we have so called prepositions (of, in, at, with...) that are placed before the word. In Tibetan the particles are after the word it refers to. In most cases it makes sense to read the words around the particle backwards.

A very common particle is the ownership particle (genitive). Usually in English we have expressions such as *Buddha’s power*, the *sacred words of Dharma*, and so forth. In Tibetan this is indicated with a **genitive** particle. As an example:

ཚོས་གྱི་འཁོར་ལོ། *chö kyī khor lo* – Wheel **of** Dharma

Depending on the last letter of the first word the genitive-particle takes different shapes:

1: གྱི *kyi* after ending ད བ ས (DA BA SA). Examples:

འོད་གྱི་སྒྲུ།	<i>ö kyī ku</i>	Body <b>of</b> light
བྱང་ཚུབ་གྱི་སེམས།	<i>jang chub kyī sem</i>	Mind <b>of</b> enlightenment ( <i>bodhichitta</i> )
ཚོས་གྱི་སྤོབས།	<i>chö kyī tob</i>	Power <b>of</b> dharma

2: གྱི *gyi* after ending འ མ ར ལ (NA MA RA LA). Examples:

འཇིག་རྟེན་གྱི་ཁམས།	<i>jikten gyi kham</i>	Realms <b>of</b> the world
ལམ་གྱི་སྙིང་པོ།	<i>lam gyi nyingpo</i>	Essence <b>of</b> the path
གསེར་གྱི་དོར་ཇེ།	<i>ser gyi dorje</i>	Vajra <b>of</b> gold
སྤུག་བསྐྱེད་ལྡན་གྱི་བདེན་པ།	<i>dukngel gyi denpa</i>	Truth <b>of</b> suffering

3: འི *-i* after vowels. Note how the pronunciation changes based on the vowel

(especially o)! Examples:

སྐོམ་པའི་ལམ།	<i>gompay lam</i>	Path <b>of</b> meditation
གཉེན་པོའི་རྩིས་པ།	<i>gyenpö tokpa</i>	Power <b>of</b> the antidote (remedy)
སྐྱེ་བའི་རྒྱ།	<i>kyeway gyu</i>	Cause <b>of</b> rebirth
སྐྱེ་བའི་ཚོགས།	<i>kyebö tsok</i>	Assembly <b>of</b> people
ལམ་པའི་བཀའ།	<i>lamay kha</i>	Instructions <b>of</b> the lama
ཟབ་མོའི་ཚོས།	<i>zabmö chö</i>	Teachings (dharma) <b>of</b> the profound (or profound teachings)

4: འི *-yi*. This is sometimes used in verses instead of འི to make up the count of syllables. Examples:

རི་ཡི་རྒྱལ་པོ།	<i>ri yi gyalpo</i>	King <b>of</b> Mountains (Mount Meru)
----------------	---------------------	---------------------------------------

In many cases you could use the '**of**' word for the initial translation and remember to read the words backwards around the '**of**'. After this you could see the pattern such as the 'guest **of** the king', and use other versions such as 'the King's guest', 'guest visiting the king', and so forth, depending on what makes the context more clear.