

Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation

**A Collection of Bamukumbit (Mankong)
Narrative Texts**

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Gloss

???	(unsure)
1d	first person dual
1p-excl	first person plural, exclusive
1s	first person singular
2s	second person singular
3p	third person plural
3s	third person singular
F	future tense
HAB	habitual aspect
P1	recent past
P2	distant past
PROG	progressive aspect

Part Of Speech

???	(unsure)
ADJ	Adjective
ADV	Adverb
ASP	Aspect Marker
CONJN	Conjunction
DEM	Demonstrative
EMPH	Emphatic pronoun
INTERJ	Interjection

LOC	Locational Adverb
N	Noun
NEG	Negative Marker
NPROP	Proper Noun
NUM	Numeral
POSSA	Possessive Adjective
POSSP	Possessive Pronoun
PREP	Preposition
PRO	Pronoun
QUE	Interrogative Pronoun
REL	Relative pronoun
TEMP	Temporal Adverb
TIT	Title
TNS	Tense Marker
V	Verb

INTRODUCTION

The Language

Bamukumbit (Mankong) [ISO639-3 code: bqt] is a Grassfields Bantu language spoken in the village of Bamukumbit, in the Balikumbat Sub-Division of the Ngo-Ketunjia Division of the Northwest Province of Cameroon. There are approximately 12,000 Bamukumbit speakers.¹

The *Ethnologue* reports the following classification of the Bamukumbit language:

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Wide Grassfields, Narrow Grassfields, Mbam-Nkam, Ngemba. (Gordon 2005: 57)

The *Atlas Linguistique du Cameroun* describes Bamukumbit as a dialect of Awing (ALCAM [917]). (Dieu & Renaud 1983: 438)

Elicitation and Recording of Texts

In Bamukumbit, Mankong children typically learn folk stories when their parents tell them stories at night around the cooking fire. The stories are told for entertainment, but may also teach a moral lesson. Children also share stories with each other, and teachers sometimes tell folk stories in primary school.

This collection of six narrative texts was elicited from two language informants. In January 2008, I met Mr. Tanila Chrysanthus Alot in the reception hall of the Bamukumbit palace, where he told me the folk stories, “The Wicked Woman”, “Tortoise and Hare”, “Frog and Chameleon”, and “Two Great Friends”. In February 2008 I met Mr. Ndokam Michael Alot at his compound in Mbanka quarter, Bamukumbit, where he told me the folk stories, “The Woman and her Child” and “Taa Kindong and the Devils.” In both cases, the folk stories were recorded on a hand-held digital voice recorder.

Mr. Tanila Chrysanthus is a retired Assistant Superintendent of Police who lives in Bamukumbit. Mr. Ndokam Michael is a retired beekeeper and schoolteacher, who lives in Bamenda.

¹ Extrapolated from 1987 census figure of 7300 (Gordon 2005: 57), based on population growth figures for Cameroon.

Transcription and Interlinearisation of Texts

The interlinear texts were prepared using the software “Fieldworks Language Explorer” (FLEX). This database program facilitates the recording and analysis of linguistic data. In particular, one can use this application to enter a corpus of texts and to interlinearise those texts, entering relevant grammatical and lexical data. A concordance and lexicon are automatically generated. A grammatical sketch can also be produced automatically.

The Mankong texts presented here are interlinearised with an English gloss and the part of speech given below each word. A free translation is also given for each sentence.

Orthography

In these interlinearised texts, the original Mankong text is transcribed using the provisional Mankong orthography (Simpson 2006). In a few cases, the transcription deviates from the proposed orthography:

1. In a string of two or more nasalized vowels, only the first vowel is marked with the diacritic (̃).
2. ‘ŋ’ rather than ‘n’ is written before ‘k’ or ‘g’.
3. Tone has been left unmarked in these transcriptions. Further study is required before implementing the proposed tone orthography.
4. Wherever reduplication occurs, the two iterations of the morpheme are written together as one word
5. Elided vowels have been written where the spelling of the word in question has been standardized. However, in cases where the appropriate spelling of a word is still in question, the word may be spelled differently for different occurrences, if the speaker pronounced it differently at different times.
6. A distinction between short and long vowels is made. Certain words are known to have a long or short vowel. In other cases, where the spelling of the word has not been standardized, the word is spelled with a long vowel when it is pronounced long and with a short vowel when it is pronounced short. In some cases, grammatical analysis may reveal that the “long” vowel is actually a short vowel that has coalesced with a second vowel that should be treated as a separate word or morpheme.

7. Some words have alternate pronunciations which cannot be explained by phonological rules. In such cases, the word has been written as the speaker pronounced it in that occurrence.

Gloss

Glosses are approximate. Noun class has not been indicated in the word-for-word gloss. However, it should be noted that the following elements have been found to agree with the class of the head noun in the Bamukumbit language: possessive adjectives (except for the first person singular), demonstrative adjectives, demonstrative pronouns, relative pronouns, “which ...?”, “How many ...?” and numerals (DeVisser 2006: 12).

Part of Speech

A thorough grammatical analysis of these texts has not yet been done. Any grammatical analysis seen in the presentation of these texts is therefore preliminary.

The Wicked Woman (Mr. Tanila Chrysanthus Alot)

Paragraph 1.

1.1.	Bɔ	bichə	bibɛ	ni	ncho	fo	bi	kwa'
	children	certain	two	P2	be	there	be	true
	N	ADJ	NUM	V	V	LOC	V	???

bishɔ .
friends
N

Once upon a time there were two boys who were very good friends.

1.2.	Ta'	chə	gi	mbɛ	shɔ	i	lele	ŋgi
	one	certain	go	visit	friend	3s	everyday	go
	NUM	ADJ	V	V	N	POSSA	TEMP	V

mbɛ	shɔ	i	lele	ki	shɔ	i	la'	mbɛ
visit	friend	3s	everyday	not	friend	3s	ever	visit
V	N	POSSA	TEMP	NEG	N	POSSA	V	V

i .
3s
PRO

One of the boys always visited the other, but his visits were never returned.

1.3.	A	ni	mbi	ale	achə	mbir	i	ŋgiɛ
	3s	P2	be	day	certain	ask	3s	say
	PRO	TNS	V	N	ADJ	V	PRO	V

shɔ	mi	a	wur	a	kə	mbɛ	go	lele
friend	1s	3s	do	3s	what	visit	2s	everyday
N	POSSA	PRO	V	PRO	QUE	V	PRO	TEMP

ki	o	bɛ	mi	.
not	2s	visit	1s	
NEG	PRO	V	PRO	

One day he asked his friend, "My friend, why is it that I always visit you, but you never visit me?"

1.4.	Shɔ	i	wa	shəə	kɔr	i	.
	friend	3s	that	shame	???	3s	
	N	POSSA	DEM	N	V	PRO	

His friend was ashamed.

1.5. **A** **yiε** **nda'** **mbi** **yʒ** **nɲi** **mbε** **o**
 3s say tell be tomorrow 1s.come visit 2s
 PRO V V V TEMP V V PRO

ti **bo'** **le** **le** .
 until 1d sleep day
 PREP PRO V N

He said, "Tomorrow I will visit you and stay overnight at your house."

1.6. **A** **kua** **fi** **a** **mu** **i** **njiε** **mbi**
 3s return tell ??? mother 3s say world
 PRO V V ??? N POSSA V N

gɔ **nda** **shɔ** **mi** **ni** **mbε** **mi** **le** **ti**
 F1 clean friend 1s come visit 1s here until
 TNS V N POSSA V V PRO LOC PREP

bi' **i** **le** .
 1p-excl 3s sleep
 PRO PRO V

So the boy went home and told his mother, "Tomorrow morning, my friend will come to visit me here and then spend the night at our house."

1.7. **Mbi** **lɔ** **shɔ** **i** **wa** **a** **gi** **a**
 world clean friend 3s that 3s go ???
 N V N POSSA DEM PRO V ???

bεε **shɔa** **bwa** .
 visit compound 3p
 V N POSSA

As morning came, his friend came to visit at their compound.

1.8. **Mu** **i** **kua** **mikuani** **miŋgwe** **mi** **mbi** **ne**
 mother 3s return evening woman which wicked cook
 N POSSA V N N REL V V

miyi .
 food
 N

The mother returned to the house in the evening, and the wicked woman prepared some food.

1.9. **A** **ndua** **a** **neni** **miyi** **lo** , **mbe'**
 ??? time 3s cook food there , take
 ??? N PRO V N LOC V

ndi' **ne'** **nɔɔ** **miyi** **a** **gɔ** **na'** **mbɔa** **shɔ**
 poison put in in food 3s F1 give to friend
 N V PREP N PRO TNS V PREP N

ma **i** **wa** .
 child 3s that
 N POSSA DEM

As she cooked food, she put poison in the portion that she would serve to her son's friend.

1.10.	Akoa	a	gq	ngab	miyi	a	fani	ni'
	time	3s	F1	divide	food	3s	err	begin
	N	PRO	TNS	V	N	PRO	V	V
mbe'e	mi	shq	ma	i	wa	na'	ni	ma
take	which	friend	child	3s	that	give	to	child
V	REL	N	N	POSSA	DEM	V	PREP	N

i .
3s
POSSA

When she served the food, she made a mistake and took the portion meant for her son's friend, and gave it to her son instead.

1.11.	Ma	i	yi	miyi	mi	a	ndi'	a
	child	3s	eat	food	which	3s	poison	3s
	N	POSSA	V	N	REL	PRO	N	PRO
ncw	nde	mbi	yεε	ndq	a	ku	.	
???	sleep	world	???	clean	3s	die		
???	V	N	V	V	PRO	V		

Her son ate the food that she had poisoned and before morning, he died.

1.12.	Shq	i	wa	le	nitu'	,	nji	njie
	friend	3s	that	sleep	night		see	say
	N	POSSA	DEM	V	N		V	V
shq	i	le	nitu'	ba'	ηku	yi	fur	,
friend	3s	day	night	thus	die	3s	leave	
N	POSSA	N	N	ADV	V	EMPH	V	
ηkar	a	yi	.					
run	???	3s						
V	???	EMPH						

During the night, the guest discovered that his friend had died, and so he ran away.

1.13.	Mbi	lq	mīngwe	mi	mbi	a	yü	njie
	day	clean	woman	???	wicked	3s	see	say
	N	V	N	???	V	PRO	V	V
ma	i	ku	.					
child	3s	die						
N	POSSA	V						

The next morning, the wicked woman saw that her child had died.

1.14.	Yi	i	ni	njie	,	ɔ	yie	a	
	3s	???	P2	say		oh no	say	3s	
	PRO	???	TNS	V		INTERJ	V	PRO	
	ni	mbe'	ba'	ndi'	fur	nda	na'	mbya	ma
	P2	take	thus	poison	leave	house	give	to	child
	TNS	V	ADV	N	V	N	V	PREP	N

i **?**
 3s
 POSSA

She said, Oh no! So I took the poison, went outside, and gave it to my child?

1.15.	Nje	niko'	.
	start	cry	
	V	V	

And she began to cry.

Tortoise and Hare (Mr. Tanila Chrysanthus Alot)

Paragraph 1.

1.1. **Kwimaŋkɔ' bua** **Anchele'** .
 tortoise and hare
 N CONJN N

The tortoise and the hare.

1.2. **Bi** **yi** **njie** , **Kwimaŋkɔ'** , **a** **ki**
 3p know say tortoise 3s not
 PRO V V N PRO NEG

a **yi** **niindɔ** **ni** **mitɔ** .
 3s know walk with power
 PRO V V PREP N

Everyone knows that the tortoise does not know how to move quickly.

1.3. **Anchele'** , **a** **kər** **andər** **ndɛ** **ŋkɔ** **mɪna**
 hare 3s run with running pass all animals
 N PRO V N V ADJ N

na .
 all
 ADJ

The hare runs faster than any other animal.

1.4. **A** **ni** **mbi** **akoa** **achə** , **Kwimaŋkɔ' kwee**
 3s P2 be time certain tortoise knock
 PRO TNS V N ADJ N V

njɔ' **a** **mbɔa** **Anchele'** **njie** , **mi** **a** **kər**
 chest to to hare that if 3s run
 N PREP PREP N V CONJN PRO V

andər **ndɛ** **i** .
 with running pass 3s
 N V PRO

Once upon a time, Tortoise boasted to Hare that he could run faster than him.

1.5. **Anchele'** **bi'nde** , **njie** **bi** **i** **wur** **ndɔmni**
 hare angry say 3p 3s do compete
 N V V PRO PRO V V

andər .
 with running
 N

Hare got angry and said that they should run a race.

1.6.	Bi	i	no'	le	bua	wur	a	ndomni
	3p	3s	set	day	3p	???	???	compete
	PRO	PRO	V	N	PRO	V	???	V

andər .

with running

N

They fixed a day that they would have the race.

1.7.	A	bi	ale	o	,	Kwimaŋkə' a	be'
	3s	be	day	that		tortoise	???
	PRO	V	N	DEM		N	???

bikwimaŋkə' ndɛɛ	chichir	ti'	ta'	kwimaŋkə' ,	ŋgi
tortoises	pass	straight	stand	one	tortoise
N	V	???	V	NUM	N

shi	nti'	ta'	kwimaŋkə' ,	ŋgi	shi	nti'	ta'
ahead	stand	one	tortoise	go	ahead	stand	one
ADV	V	NUM	N	V	ADV	V	NUM

kwimaŋkə' ti	she'	noɔ	li'	andər	gɔ	me
tortoise	until	reach	???	with running	F1	finish
N	PREP	V	???	N	TNS	V

.

The day of the race, Tortoise took other tortoises and hid them on the course, at intervals up to the finish line.

1.8.	Bua	Anchels'	ye	andər	,	a	gɔ
	3p	hare	start	with running		3s	immediately
	PRO	N	V	N		PRO	V

na'	ŋkər	ŋkebe	ŋkɔ	ŋjɔ'	ŋkə	,	kwimaŋkə' chə
give	run	a bit	enter	inside	bush		tortoise
V	V	N	V	PREP	N		N

abən	furi	shi	.
again	come out	ahead	
V	V	ADV	

They started the race. After running just a bit, Tortoise entered the bush and another tortoise came out ahead of Hare.

1.9.	Anchels'	bi'nde	,	ŋkər	ŋgie	a	bali	i
	hare	angry		run	say	3s	carry on back	3s
	N	V		V	V	PRO	V	PRO

a	kɔ	ŋjɔ'	ŋkə	,	yi	nde'	furi	shi
3s	enter	inside	bush		REL	other	come out	ahead
PRO	V	PREP	N		REL	ADJ	V	NEG

.

Hare was angry and ran to catch up to Tortoise. Meanwhile, the second tortoise entered the bush and a third came out ahead of Hare.

1.10.	Anchele'	kɨ	ɨkərkərnɨ	ndɔnjɛ	mɨ	a	ya'	i	
	hare	continue	run	so that	if	3s	overtake	3s	
	N	V	V	???	CONJN	PRO	V	PRO	
	kɨ	kɛ	,	ncho	ndɔ	ɨgiɛ	mɨ	a	ya'
	not	succeed		PROG	want	say	if	3s	overtake
	NEG	V		ASP	V	V	CONJN	PRO	V
	i	kɨ	kɛ	.					
	3s	not	succeed						
	PRO	NEG	V						

Hare continued running, trying in vain to catch up with Tortoise.

1.11.	A	kər	nɨ	mitɔ	,	tɨ	ɨgu	she
	3s	run	with	power		until	fall	ground
	PRO	V	PREP	N		PREP	V	N
	ɨku	.						
	die							
	V							

He ran quickly until he fell down and died.

1.12.	Yɔnjua	nən	njɛ	Kwimanɔkɔ'	yi	i	lɛ	yɨ
	this	show	say	tortoise	knowledge	3s	pass	which
	???	V	V	N	N	POSSA	V	REL
	ɨkɔ	mina	na	.				
	all	animals	all					
	ADJ	N	ADJ					

This shows that Tortoise is more cunning than all the other animals.

Frog and Chameleon (Mr. Tanila Chrysanthus Alot)

Paragraph 1.

1.1. **A** **ni** **mbi** **ale** **mbi** **ni** **ηκω'ni** ,
 3s P2 be day world P2 start
 PRO TNS V N N TNS V

bi **chochq** .
 3p sit
 PRO V

The day that the world began, everyone was sitting down.

1.2. **Bichə** **ηgua** **yεε** **mi** **ηɔ** **ku** **a** **kɔ'**
 certain people say when person die 3s rise
 ADJ N V CONJN N V PRO V

, **bichə** **yε** **mi** **ηɔ** **ku** **ki** **a** **kɔ'**
 other say when person die not 3s rise
 ADJ V CONJN N V NEG PRO V

Some people were saying that when a person dies he should rise again. Others were saying that when a person dies he should not rise again.

1.3. **Bi** **chab** **a** **nɔɔ** **ti** **nchɔ'** **kunchamni** **bua**
 3p talk ??? about it until choose frog and
 PRO V ??? ??? PREP V N CONJN

kuneeni , **yεε** **bua** **kər** **andər** **gi** **a** **mbɔa**
 chameleon say 3p run with running go to to
 N V PRO V ??? V PREP PREP

Mbo'mbi .
 God
 N

They talked about it until they chose Frog and Chameleon, saying that they should run to God.

1.4. **ηɔ** **a** **wq** **mbi'** **a** **shε'** **fo** **a**
 person ??? F first ??? reach there 3s
 N ??? TNS V ??? V LOC PRO

chu **yi** .
 say 3s
 V POSSP

The one who reached God first would say his own opinion.

1.5. **Kuneeni** **chu** **njie** **ηɔ** **ku** **ηki** **a** **ηkɔ'**
 chameleon say say person die not 3s rise
 N V V N V NEG PRO V

.

Chameleon was saying that when a person dies he should not rise again.

1.6.	Kunchamni	yεε	ηɔ	ku	ηkɔ'	.
	frog	say	person	die	rise	
	N	V	N	V	V	

Frog was saying that when a person dies he should rise again.

1.7.	Kunchamni	fur	kər	ndε	Kuneeni	ηgi	she'	ncɔ
	frog	leave	run	pass	chameleon	go	reach	???
	N	V	V	V	N	V	V	???

nɪŋɔ'	a	shamni	,	nchu	njie	,	Yoo	,
termites	???	come out		say	say		Hey!	
N	???	V		V	V		INTERJ	

nchi'	nchochɔ	ηkur	ηɔɔ'	mi	...
only	sit	eat	termite	1s	
???	V	V	N	POSSA	

Frog ran past Chameleon and reached a place where termites were coming out of the ground. He said, "Hey! I'll just sit and eat termites here.

1.8.	əəə	...
	ahh	
	INTERJ	

Ahhh.

1.9.	ηgwɔ	ηgiε	ηkur	ti	a	mε'ni	,	Kuneeni
	1s.F	say	eat	until	3s	finish		chameleon
	V	V	V	PREP	PRO	V		N

nchi'	mbali	?
only	approach	
ADV	V	

I will eat until they are finished. Will Chameleon even reach me by then?

1.10.	Ndani	a	no	nɪŋɔ'	ncho	ηkuru	,	Kuneeni
	???	???	about	termites	PROG	eat		chameleon
	???	???	???	N	ASP	V		N

ni	nja'	i	ηgi	nchu	mbya	Mbo'mbi	ηgiε	ηɔ
come	overtake	3s	go	say	to	God	say	person
V	V	PRO	V	V	PREP	N	V	N

ku	a	ki	ni'	ηkɔ'	.
die	3s	not	again	rise	
V	PRO	NEG	V	V	

He was so busy thinking only about the termites he was eating, that Chameleon came and overtook him, and went and told God that when a person dies he should not rise again.

1.11. **A** **wur** **anu** **o** **a** **ገጋ** **ku** **ki**
 3s do thing the 3s person die not
 PRO V N DEM PRO N V NEG

a **ni'** **ገኛ'** .
 3s again rise
 PRO V V

This is the reason why, when a man dies, he does not rise again.

Two Great Friends (Mr. Tanila Chrysanthus Alot)

Paragraph 1.

1.1.	A	ni	mbi	akoā	achə	,	bishə	bichə
	3s	P2	be	time	certain		friends	certain
	PRO	TNS	V	N	ADJ		N	ADJ
	cho	bibe	,	kua	minu	mwa	ti	ŋga'
	be	two		love	things	3p	until	disturb
	V	V		V	N	POSSA	PREP	V

Once upon a time there were two friends. They loved each other very much.

1.2.	Ta'	ŋə	bi	chirmi'	.
	one	person	be	blind person	
	NUM	N	V	N	

One was a blind man.

1.3.	Yichə	bi	kwiiri	.
	other	be	lame person	
	ADJ	V	N	

The other was a lame man.

1.4.	Bua	cho	ale	achə	,	nji	yεε	wua
	3p	be	day	certain		hunger	say	3p
	PRO	V	N	ADJ		N	V	PRO
	ba'	fe'	.					
	thus	too much						
	ADV	ADV						

One day they were very hungry.

1.5.	Wi	ŋə	yiε	ti	bo'	wə	nji	a
	one	person	say	until	1d	F	eat	???
	???	N	V	PREP	PRO	TNS	V	???

kə	,	wi	yiε	ti	bo'	wə	nji	a
what		the other	say	until	1d	F	eat	???
QUE		???	V	PREP	PRO	TNS	V	???

kə	.
what	
QUE	

They asked each other, "What will we eat? What will we eat?"

1.6.	Chirmi'	kuq	njie	ti	nji	cho	ba'	bo'
	blind person	think	say	until	hunger	be	thus	1d
	N	V	V	PREP	N	V	ADV	PRO

wur	le	.
do	how	
V	QUE	

The blind man thought, "We are so hungry, what will we do?"

1.7.	Kwiiri	chu	mbɔa	i	njiɛ	,	nji	li'
	lame person	say	to	3s	say		1s.know	place
	N	V	PREP	PRO	V		V	N
nambɔ	mbe	cho	,	ɲka	nji	niindɔ	ba'	bo'
banana	ripe	be		bunch	know	walk	thus	1d
N	V	V		N	V	V	ADV	PRO
wur	le	she'	fo	?				
do	how	reach	there					
V	QUE	V	LOC					

The lame man said to him, "I know a place where there are ripe bananas, but I can't walk. So how will we get there?"

1.8.	Mbiri	nchu	mbɔa	i	njiɛ	,	balɪ	mɪ
	again	say	to	3s	say		carry on	1s
	V	V	PREP	PRO	V		back	PRO
							V	
ncho	ntu'ni	nti	ncho	nən	ndɔ	bo'	gi	.
PROG	hold	stick	PROG	show	road	1d	go	
ASP	V	N	ASP	V	N	PRO	V	

The lame man said to him, "Carry me on your back and I will hold a stick and show you the road the road as we go."

1.9.	Chirmi'	balɪ	a	ɲkwiiri	.
	blind person	carry on back	???	lame person	
	N	V	???	N	

The blind man took the lame man on his back.

1.10.	Kwiiri	tu'ni	nti	,	nən	ndɔ	nən	ndɔ
	lame person	hold	stick		show	road	show	road
	N	V	N		V	N	V	N
ti	bua	gi	she'	li'	nambɔ	cho	.	
until	3p	go	reach	place	banana	be		
PREP	PRO	V	V	N	N	V		

The lame man held a stick and used it to show him the road until they reached the place where there were ripe bananas.

1.11.	Kwiiri	kɔɔ	nɔɔ	nambɔ	a	ni'	ncho	nji
	lame person	enter	???	banana	???	again	PROG	eat
	N	V	PREP	N	???	V	ASP	V
chi'	titu'	i	,	fi	a	chirmi'	njiɛ	nambɔ
only	only	3s		tell	???	blind person	say	banana
ADV	ADJ	PRO		V	???	N	V	N

ki	a	bε	,	chɔ'	bi	bo'	na'	mbu
not	3s	ripe		remove	which	unripe	give	to
NEG	PRO	V		V	REL	V	V	PREP

i	,	nji	bi	bεbεε	na	.
3s		eat	be	ripe	all	
PRO		V	V	V	ADJ	

The lame man dug into the bananas and ate them all by himself, and told the blind man that the bananas were not ripe. He gave the unripe bananas to the blind man, while eating all the ripe ones himself.

1.12.	Gaambi	nji	chuchur	takɔ'	chuchur	,	biri	chirmi'
	soon	see	caterpillar	big	caterpillar		ask	blind person
	???	V	N	ADJ	N		V	N

njiε	,	mi	o	yii	nambɔ	na'	a	mbo
say		if	2s	see	banana	give	???	ripen
V		CONJN	PRO	V	N	V	???	V

o	yi	?
2s	eat	
PRO	V	

Soon he saw a very big caterpillar, so he asked the blind man, "If you saw a banana that was just beginning to ripen would you eat it?"

1.13.	A	yiε	,	əʔ	.
	3s	say		yes	
	PRO	V		???	

He answered, "Yes."

1.14.	A	wε	chuchur	a	na'	a	mbu	i
	3s	catch	caterpillar	3s	give	???	to	3s
	PRO	V	N	PRO	V	???	???	PRO

.

So the lame man caught the caterpillar and gave it to the blind man.

1.15.	A	gɔ	kɔm	a	chuchur	ba'	mi'	mi
	3s	immediately	touch	???	caterpillar	thus	eyes	3s
	PRO	V	V	???	N	ADV	N	POSSA

ɲa'ni	,	mi'	mi	ɲa'ni	.
open		eyes	3s	open	
V		N	POSSA	V	

As soon as he touched the caterpillar, the blind man's eyes were opened.

1.16.	A	yε	ni'	ɲkwe'	nji	ɲka	nambɔ	mbe
	3s	say	again	look	see	bunch	banana	ripe
	PRO	V	V	V	V	N	N	V

,	kwiri	yi	i	ti	a	me	.
	lame person	eat	3s	until	3s	finish	
	N	V	PRO	PREP	PRO	V	

He saw the empty bunch of ripe bananas which the lame man had eaten up.

1.17. **Nde** **i** **bi'** , **a** **be'** **nti** **ba'**
 throat 3s bad 3s take stick thus
 N POSSA V PRO V N ADV

yεε **bo'** **kwiiri** .
 say beat lame person
 V V N

He was angry, so he took the stick and began to beat the lame man.

1.18. **Kwiiri** **lua** **she** **ηgɔ** **ni'** **ηkər** **andər**
 lame person come out of ground immediately again run with running
 N V N V V V N

, **ηkər** **a** **yi** .
 run ??? 3s
 V ??? EMPH

The lame man got up immediately and began running away.

1.19. **Ndua** **noo** **ale** **o** , **mi'** **chirmi'** **ηa'ni**
 time ??? day that eyes blind person open
 N ??? N DEM N N V

, **mikor** **kwiiri** **cho** **shi'ni** , **bwa** **ye** **nən**
 legs lame person be well 3p start thus
 N N V ??? PRO V V

chi' **bi** **nchi'** **kwa'** **bishɔ** **shi'ni** .
 only be only true friends well
 ADV V ADV ??? N ???

Since the day that the blind man's eyes were opened and the lame man's legs were healed, they began to be very good friends.

The Woman and Her Child (Mr. Ndokam Michael Alot)

Paragraph 1.

1.1.	A	ni	mbi	ale	achə	,	mɪŋgwe	chə	
	3s	P2	be	day	certain		woman	certain	
	PRO	TNS	V	N	ADJ		N	ADJ	
	bua	ma	i	gi	mɪŋgwe	bua	gi	a	ŋgy
	and	child	3s	which	woman	3p	go	to	farm
	CONJN	N	POSSA	REL	N	PRO	V	PREP	N
	njiɛ	ŋgi	tu'ni	ako'	aywa	,	ŋgi	ba'	ki
	say	go	hold	achu	3p		go	thus	not
	V	V	V	N	POSSA		V	ADV	NEG
	fer	cho	.						
	meat	be							
	N	V							

Once upon a time, a certain woman and her daughter went to the farm, carrying their achu with them. They went like that without meat (to eat with the achu).

1.2.	Bua	cho	ndi'	anɛɛ	,	ŋgwɛɛ	bikichi	,	
	3p	PROG	till	field		catch	crickets		
	PRO	ASP	V	N		V	N		
	mɪŋgwe	gɔ	yɪ	sha	ŋɔ	chə	,	mɔ'	cho
	woman	that	see	compound	person	certain		fire	PROG
	N	DEM	V	N	N	ADJ		N	ASP
	ŋkir	fo	.						
	burn	there							
	V	LOC							

As they were tilling the field and catching crickets, the woman saw someone's compound where a fire was burning.

1.3.	A	chu	a	mbɔa	ma	i	njiɛ	,	
	3s	say	???	to	child	3s	say		
	PRO	V	???	PREP	N	POSSA	V		
	be'	bikichi	bi	i	lɛ	,	ŋgi	ntɔ	nɔɔ
	take	crickets	which	3s	here		go	roast	???
	V	N	REL	PRO	LOC		V	V	???
	li'	mɔ'	kirni	li	,	ni	a	noo	.
	place	fire	burning	there		come	???	with it	
	N	N	V	LOC		V	???	???	

She said to her child, "Take these crickets, go roast them at the place where the fire is burning there, and come back with them.

1.4.	Bo'	yɪ	ako'	ayo'	o	a	no	.
	1d	eat	achu	yam	???	???	with it	
	PRO	V	N	N	???	???	???	

We will eat our yam achu with it.

1.5.	Ma child N	o the DEM	be' take V	bikichi crickets N	bwa 3p POSSA	njie say V	ngi go V	a ??? ???
	nɔɔ with it ???	li' place N	a ???	tɔ roast V	bikichi crickets N	bwa 3p POSSA	, go V	ngi ???
	sha' cross V	ma small ADJ	lar bridge N	chə certain ADJ	,	lar bridge N	shər slip V	i 3s PRO
	she in PREP	ngi water N	.					mɛ' leave V

The child took their crickets and went to the place to roast them. As she was crossing a certain small bridge, she slipped and fell into the water.

1.6.	ŋki water N	tɛ carry V	i 3s PRO	,	ngi go V	ne' put in V	a ???	she in PREP
	nila' net N	ɔɔ person N	chə certain ADJ	.				

The water carried her away and put her in a certain man's net.

1.7.	Mbi day N	lɑ clean V	,	ɔɔ person N	go that DEM	ni come V	a ???	cha' check V
	mila' nets N	mi 3s POSSA	,	ngwɛɛ catch V	ta' one NUM	nila' net N	ngi go V	njie say V
								cha' check V
								.

The next day, that man came to check his nets. He took one to check it.

1.8.	Ma child N	mɪŋgwe woman N	go that DEM	a 3s PRO	bi' P1 V	ngi go V	a to PREP	she in PREP
	ngi water N	lɔ there LOC	,	a 3s PRO	chu say V	njie say V	,	ma mother N
	ma mother N	ma mother N	ni P2 TNS	ntɔm send V	a ???	mi 1s PRO	njie say V	ngi go V
								ntɔ roast V

bikichi	,	ndi-la-bia-bia	ndom	ngwe	fɔ	bikichi	,
crickets		???	man	wife	fon	crickets	
N		???	N	N	N	N	

wɛ-la-mi-ndəgəla-te' .

???

???

The girl who fell into the water sang, "Mother, mother, mother, mother sent me to go roast crickets ... la la la ... fon's wife's boyfriend, crickets ... la la la.

1.9. **Hq** !
well
INTERJ

Well!

1.10.	Ncha'mila'mwa	,	a	kər	a	yi	ɲkua
	fisherman		3s	run	???	3s	return
	N		PRO	V	???	EMPH	V

yi	shq	i	.
3s	compound	3s	
EMPH	N	POSSA	

The fisherman ran away and returned to his compound.

1.11.	Mbi	bi	ndaq	,	bikushe	ni	mbe'	ma
	day	???	clean		devils	come	take	child
	N	???	V		N	V	V	N

mingwe	a	ngi	njo'	i	ni	bir	,	njo'
woman	the	go	rub	3s	with	camwood		rub
N	DEM	V	V	PRO	PREP	N		V

i	ni	bir	,	ngwe'	bijüri	bi	,	ngwe'
3s	with	camwood		put on	earrings	3s		put on
PRO	PREP	N		V	N	POSSA		V

kwii	bi	,	njo'	ni	mɪwur	shi'ni	,	ntɛ
beads	3s		rub	with	oil	well		carry
N	POSSA		V	PREP	N	???		V

ngi	nti'	alɛ	mu	i	.
go	stand	ceiling	mother	3s	
V	V	N	N	POSSA	

The next day, devils came and took the girl and rubbed her with camwood, put earrings and beads on her, rubbed the beads well with oil, took her and put her in her mother's ceiling.

1.12.	Mu mother N	i 3s POSSA	a 3s PRO	kua return V	ŋɣu farm N	,	ŋgɪ go V	njiɛ say V	
	a 3s PRO	kwe' blow V	mɔ' fire N	ni then ???	tɔ drop N	bir camwood N	chɪm drip V	yɛ say V	a ??? ???
	tɔ drop N	.							

Her mother returned from the farm. As she was starting her fire, a drop of camwood dripped (from the ceiling), "plop!"

1.13.	A 3s PRO	yɛ say V	,	a 3s PRO	bi be V	a 3s PRO	kə what QUE	?
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She said, "What is that?"

1.14.	Mu mother N	i 3s POSSA	ye start V	a ??? ???	kwe' blow V	mɔ' fire N	ni then ???	tɔ drop N
	miwɔr oil N	chɪm drip V	yɛ say V	tɔ drop N	.			

Her mother started to ignite her fire when a drop of oil dripped (from the ceiling), "plop!"

1.15.	A 3s PRO	yɛ say V	,	a 3s PRO	bi be V	a 3s PRO	kə what QUE	?
-------	-----------------------	-----------------------	---	-----------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------------	----------

She said, "What is that?"

1.16.	Ntɛɛ carry V	kɔ' ladder N	,	ŋkɔ' climb V	le here LOC	,	njiɪ see V	a ??? ???	
	njiɛ say V	a ???	kwe' look V	,	njiɪ see V	ma child N	i 3s POSSA	wa that DEM	cho be V
	fo there LOC	,	kwa' true ???	ndɔ like ???	fɔ fon N	miŋgwe woman N	.		

She took a ladder, climbed up, looked and saw that her child was there, like a real queen!

1.17.	A	tɕ	i	fi'	,	nti'	ncho	mwa
	3s	carry	3s	go down		stand	be	in
	PRO	V	PRO	V		V	V	PREP

nda
house
N

She took her down and put her in the house.

1.18.	Mingwe	chə	yii	nən	,	mbe'	ma	i
	woman	certain	see	thus		take	child	3s.poss
	N	ADJ	V	ADV		V	N	POSSA

bi	i	gi	a	ngy	.
3p	3s	go	to	farm	
PRO	PRO	V	PREP	N	

Another woman saw this, took her child and went with her to the farm.

1.19.	A	too	bikichi	,	na'	a	mbu	ma
	3s	dig	crickets		give	???	to	child
	PRO	V	N		V	???	PREP	N

i	,	nchu	mbu	i	ngie	,	gi	ntɔ
3s		say	to	3s	say		go	roast
POSSA		V	PREP	PRO	V		V	V

ni	a	noo	,	mi	o	gi	ncho	sha'
come	???	with it		if	2s	go	PROG	cross
V	???	???		CONJN	PRO	V	ASP	V

lar	,	o	wu	she	ŋki	.
bridge		2s	fall	in	water	
N		PRO	V	PREP	N	

She dug crickets, gave them to her child, and said to her, "Go roast these and come back with them. If you are crossing a bridge, fall into the water.

1.20.	Ma	i	wa	ni	gi	a	tɔɔ	bikichi
	child	3s	that	P2	go	???	roast	crickets
	N	POSSA	DEM	TNS	V	???	V	N

,	ngu	she	ŋki	,	ŋki	tɕ	i	,
	fall	in	water		water	carry	3s	
	V	PREP	N		N	V	PRO	

ngi	ne'	i	she	nila'	ŋɔ	chə	.
go	put in	3s	in	net	person	certain	
V	V	PRO	PREP	N	N	ADJ	

Her child went to roast the crickets, and fell into the water. The water carried her away and left her in a certain man's net.

1.21.	ἡῶ person N	go that DEM	,	mbi day N	lq clean V	cho'abua , morning N	a 3s PRO		
	yεε say V	ni come V	a ???	cha' check V	nīla' net N	,	ἡgwεε hold V	ba' thus ADV	ἡgiε say V
	ἡa' take up V	.							

The next morning, that man decided to check his nets. So he took one and pulled it up.

1.22.	Ayɔb ???	chi' only ADV	ndua as ???	wili other ???	ma child N	bi' P1 TNS	njɔbni sing V	lɔɔ there LOC	
	ἡgiε say V	,	ma mother N	ma mother N	ma mother N	ma mother N	ni P2 TNS	ntɔm send V	a ???
	mi 1s PRO	njie say V	ἡgi go V	ntɔ roast V	bikichi crickets N	,	ἡgi go V	la ???	bia-bia ???
	ndɔm man N	ἡgwe wife N	fɔ fon N	bikichi crickets N	,	wε-la-mi-ndɔgɔ-la-te' ???	.		

The same song that the other child sang there, "Mother mother mother mother, sent me to go roast crickets, la la la ... the fon's wife's boyfriend, crickets ... la la la.

1.23.	Ncha'mīla' fisherman N	a ???	,	a 3s PRO	kər run V	a ???	yi 3s EMPH	,	
	bikushe devils N	bi bad V	ni come V	,	mbe' take V	ma child N	mīngwe woman N	go that DEM	,
	nchər cut off V	abu arm N	i 3s POSSA	,	fur remove V	a ???	ta' one NUM	li' eye N	i 3s POSSA
	,	nchər cut off V	nītɔri ear N	i 3s POSSA	,	nchər cut off V	akor leg N	i 3s POSSA	,

mbe'	mbir	ɲgur	,	ɲjɔ'	ɲɔɔ	ɲɔn	i	,
take	excreta	fowl		rub	???	body	3s	
V	N	N		V	???	N	POSSA	

ntɛ	i	,	ɲgi	nti'	alɛ	mu	i	.
carry	3s		go	stand	ceiling	mother	3s	
V	PRO		V	V	N	N	POSSA	

The fisherman ran away. The bad devils came, took the girl, cut off her arm, removed one of her eyes, cut off her ears, cut off her leg, took chicken dung, rubbed it on her body, took her and put her in her mother's ceiling.

1.24.	Mu	i	kua	,	ncho	ɲkwe'	mɔ'	,
	mother	3s	return		PROG	blow	fire	
	N	POSSA	V		ASP	V	N	

ɲgiɛ	ni'	ɲjii	,	ni	tɔ	mbir	ɲgur	chim
say	begin	see		then	drop	excreta	fowl	drip
V	???	V		???	N	N	N	V

ɲgiɛ	tɔ	.
say	drop	
V	N	

Her mother returned to the house. As she was making a fire, she suddenly saw a drop of chicken dung drip down, "plop!"

1.25.	A	yɛ	a	bi	a	kə	lɛ	fɛ
	3s	say	3s	be	3s	what	here	???
	PRO	V	PRO	V	PRO	QUE	LOC	???

lɛ	?
here	
LOC	

She said, "What is this here?"

1.26.	Ntɛ	kɔ'	ɲgiɛ	ɲkɔ'	ɲkwe'	ɲjii	a	bi
	carry	ladder	say	climb	look	see	3s	be
	V	N	V	V	V	V	PRO	V

ma	i	wa	,	ni	ta'	li'	,	ni
child	3s	that		with	one	eye		with
N	POSSA	DEM		PREP	NUM	N		PREP

ta'	nitɔɔri	,	ni	kwiti	abua	,	ni	kwiti
one	ear		with	half	arm		with	half
NUM	N		PREP	???	N		PREP	???

akor	,	a	yɛ	,	wamɛɛ	,	ki	a
leg		3s	say		Oh no		not	3s
N		PRO	V		INTERJ		NEG	PRO

bi	ma	mi	,	a	ki	a	bi	ma
be	child	1s		3s	not	3s	be	child
V	N	POSSA		PRO	NEG	PRO	V	N
mi	,	a	ki	a	bi	ma	mi	.
1s		3s	not	3s	be	child	1s	
POSSA		PRO	NEG	PRO	V	N	POSSA	

She took a ladder, climbed up and saw her child, with one eye, and one ear, and half an arm and half a leg. She said, "Oh no! It's not my child! It's not my child! It's not my child! It's not my child!"

1.27.	Anu	banggo'	mi	mε	.
	thing	old times	1s	finish	
	N	N	POSSA	V	

My story is finished.

1.28.	Yi	i	le	nən	a	ba'	njie	,
	which	3s	here	show	???	thus	say	
	REL	PRO	LOC	V	???	ADV	V	

mi	o	yii	ɲɔ	fa'	anu	,	ki	a
if	2s	see	person	do	thing		or	3s
CONJN	PRO	V	N	V	N		CONJN	PRO

Mbo'mbi	chwerni	mbuya	ɲɔ	,	ki	fi'ni	.
God	arrange	to	person		not	imitate	
NPROP	V	CONJN	N		NEG	V	

So this one shows that, if you see someone doing his thing, or if you see what God has given someone, don't imitate it.

1.29.	Mi	o	fi'ni	,	o	gi	ki	a
	if	2s	imitate		2s	go	not	3s
	CONJN	PRO	V		PRO	V	NEG	PRO

yo	niindɔ	a	ndɔ	alər	Mbo'mbi	na'	a	mbu
yours	walk	???	as	???	God	give	???	to
POSSP	V	???	???	???	N	V	???	???

o .
2s
PRO

If you imitate, your own way will not work in the way that God meant for you.

1.30.	A	mε	.
	3s	finish	
	Pers	V	

The end.

Taa Kindong and the Devils (Mr. Ndokam Michael Alot)

Paragraph 1.

1.1. **ŋɔ** **chə** **ni** **ncho** **fo** , **li'** **i**
 person certain P2 be there name 3s
 N ADJ TNS V LOC N POSSA

bi **Taa** **Kindɔ** .
 be elderly father Kindong
 V TIT NPROP

There once was a man named Taa Kindong.

1.2. **Taa** **Kindɔ** **a** **ni** **mbi** **ndøømiło'** .
 elderly father Kindong 3s P2 be palm wine tapper
 TIT NPROP PRO TNS V N

Taa Kindong was a palm wine tapper.

1.3. **A** **lɛ** **gi** **a** **løø** **miło'** **ndua** **cho'abua**
 3s HAB go ??? tap palm wine time morning
 PRO ASP V ??? V N N N

He used to tap palm wine in the morning.

1.4. **Bo'** **chu** **njiɛ** **ndua** **nɔm** **tɔ** **lɔ** .
 1d say say time o'clock five there
 PRO V V N N NUM LOC

We would say around 5 a.m.

1.5. **A** **ni** **mbi** **ale** **achə** , **a** **yii**
 3s P2 be day certain 3s see
 PRO TNS V N ADJ PRO V

afinɔm **cho** **ntəə** , **a** **kua** **njiɛ** , **mbi**
 moon PROG shine 3s think say world
 N ASP V PRO V V N

biti **ncho** **ndɔa** , **mi** **a** **gi** **ndøø** **miło'**
 already PROG clean if 3s go tap palm wine
 ??? ASP V CONJN PRO V V N

mi .
 3s
 POSSA

One day he saw the moon shining and thought that it was already daybreak, so he [decided] to go tap his palm wine.

1.6. **Ki** **mbi** **mbi'** **nchi'** **ngabli** **milani** .
 not world P1 only ??? to be clean
 NEG N TNS ??? V ???

But it was not yet daybreak.

1.7.	Taa	K̄indɔ	a	tɛɛ	mimbe	mi	,	furi
	elderly	father	Kindong	3s	calabashes	3s		come out
	TIT	NPROP	PRO	V	V	POSSA		V
nti-tiə	a	mbi	,	njo'	a	ndo	bikushe	yɔbni
stand	???	world		hear	???	as	devils	sing
V	???	N		V	???	???	N	V
kwa'	abj	a	shi'ni	.				
true	dance	???	well					
???	N	???	???					

Taa Kindong took his calabashes, went out of his house and stood outside, and heard that the devils were singing a very nice song.

1.8.	Mbo	njob	nimi	,	njob	nimi	.
	???	sing	dance		sing	dance	
	???	V	V		V	V	

He heard them singing and dancing, singing and dancing.

1.9.	Taa	K̄indɔ	je	,	We	!
	elderly	father	Kindong	say	wow	
	TIT	NPROP	V		INTERJ	

1.10.	A	yɔb	mba	kə	ba'	i	?
	3s	sing	???	what	thus	3s	
	PRO	V	???	QUE	ADV	PRO	

Taa Kindong said, "Wow! Who is singing like that?"

1.11.	Mbo	nchini	,	mbo	nchini	,	mbo	nchini
	???	follow		???	follow		???	follow
	???	V		???	V		???	V
,	ti	ngi	she'	no	li'	bikushe	cho	nim
	until	go	reach	???	place	devils	PROG	dance
	PREP	V	V	???	N	N	ASP	V

abj	aywa	.
dance	3p	
N	POSSA	

So he followed the sound until he reached the place where the devils were dancing their dance.

1.12.	ŋgɔ	ŋkɔ	njo'	abj	go	,	ŋkɔ
	immediately	enter	inside	dance	the		continue
	V	V	PREP	N	DEM		V
nimi-nimni	,	ŋkɔ	nimi-nimni	,	ŋkɔ	nimi-nimni	,
dance		continue	dance		continue	dance	
V		V	V		V	V	

ηkj **nimi-nimni** , **mimbe** **mi** **shaani** **na** **na**
 continue dance calabashes 3s.poss shatter all all
 V V N POSSA V ??? ???

na **na** **na** .
 all all all
 ??? ??? ???

Immediately he entered the dance, continuing to dance and dance and dance and dance, until every last one of his calabashes were shattered.

1.13. **Ki** **a** **bi'** **ntani** **nji** , **a** **kj**
 not 3s P1 even know 3s continue
 NEG PRO TNS V V PRO V

nimi-nimni , **a** **kj** **nimi-nimni** .
 dance 3s continue dance
 V PRO V V

Without knowing it, he just kept dancing and dancing.

1.14. **ηkushe** **chə** **ni** **chu** **mbya** **i** **njie** ,
 devil certain come say to 3s say
 N ADJ V V PREP PRO V

Taa **Kindz** , **gi** **yo** , **Taa** **Kindz**
 elderly father Kindong go 2s elderly father Kindong
 TIT NPROP V EMPH TIT NPROP

gi **yo** , **o** **yii** **afinɔm** , **chu** **ηgie**
 go 2s 2s see moon say say
 V EMPH PRO V N V V

mbi **lq** .
 world clean
 N V

A certain devil came and said to him, "Taa Kindong, go away! Taa Kindong, go away! You are seeing only moonlight and thinking that it is daybreak!"

1.15. **Taa** **Kindz** , **gi** **yo** , **Taa**
 elderly father Kindong go 2s elderly father
 TIT NPROP V EMPH TIT

Kindz , **gi** **yo** , **o** **yii** **afinɔm** **chu**
 Kindong go 2s 2s see moon say
 NPROP V EMPH PRO V N V

ηgie **mbi** **lq** .
 say world clean
 V N V

"Taa Kindong, go! Taa Kindong, go! You are seeing only moonlight and thinking that it is daybreak!"

1.16. **Ki** **Taa** **Kindɔ** **yo'** .
 not elderly father Kindong listen
 NEG NPROP NPROP V

But Taa Kindong did not hear.

1.17. **Taa** **Kindɔ** **ki** **nim** **abj** **nimi** , **ki**
 elderly father Kindong continue dance dance dance , continue
 TIT NPROP V V N V V

nim **abj** **nimi** , **ti** **bikushe** **ye** **cho'** **abj**
 dance dance dance , until devils start close dance
 V N V PREP N V V N

, **mbe'** **Taa** **Kindɔ** **ngi** **a** **nɔɔ** .
 take elderly father Kindong go ??? ???
 V TIT NPROP V ??? ???

Taa Kindong kept dancing and dancing until the devils began to close their dance and took him away with them.

1.18. **A** **nən** **ba'** **njie** , **mi** **o** **cha'**
 3s show thus say , if 2s plan
 PRO V ADV V CONJN PRO V

chu **njie** **o** **lɛ** **ngi** **ali'** **o** **bi** **ndua**
 say say 2s HAB go place ??? be time
 V V PRO ASP V N ??? V N

a **ke** , **ki** **fɛ'ni** **ngi** .
 3s time , not hurry go
 PRO N NEG V V

So, this shows that, if you know that you always go to a place at a certain time, don't be in a hurry.

1.19. **Ywe'li** **ti** **ndua** **go** **ko'** , **o** **gi**
 wait until time that correct , 2s go
 V PREP N DEM V PRO V

, **o** **yi** **njie** **o** **wɔ** **ngi** **shi'ni** .
 2s know say 2s F go well
 PRO V V PRO TNS V ???

Wait until the time is right, then go, and then you know that you will go well.

1.20. **Ki** **lɔ** **ndɔ** **cho** **ndoa** **Taa** **Kindɔ** .
 not ??? ??? be like elderly father Kindong
 NEG V ??? V ??? TIT NPROP

Don't become like Taa Kindong.

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