

*Bé-kóé*      *nè*      *gɔk*  
 young-woman    with    serpent  
 ‘Young woman and the serpent’

GS1) *ènè*      *nzél*      *tò*      *bòŋ!*  
 2P.IMP    listen      story      1S.ALIEN  
 ‘‘Listen to my story!’’

GS2) *dùŋ-ù*      *òŋ*      *bé-kóé.*  
 sit-PAST    certain      young-woman  
 ‘There was once a young woman.’

GS3) *díkà*    *náŋ*      *wâ*      *bèl-à*      *nè*      *wènè*  
 since    mother    3S.ALIEN    give.birth-PAST    PREP    3S  
 ‘who since her mother bore her,’

*à*      *tí*      *sĩ*      *mà*      *wílí*      *bé*      *ná.*  
 3S.TOP    must    marry    IMP    man    since    NEG  
 ‘she had never gotten married (lit. she must not marry man since [imperative structure in third person]).’

GS4) *kà*      *wílí*      *té,*      *à*      *sèŋ-à.*  
 when    man      come      3S.TOP    refuse-PAST  
 ‘When(ever) a man came, she refused him.’

GS5) *wílí*    *kê*      *tè-à,*      *à*      *sèŋ-à*      *kàgó.*  
 man    DEM    come-PAST    3S.TOP    refuse-PAST    like.that  
 ‘(When) this man came, she absolutely (lit. like that) refused him.’

GS6) *kê*      *òŋ*      *wílí*      *ndé*      *gbàk-tè-nè-pòndò*  
 then    certain    man    COMP    borrow-body-PREP-grass  
 ‘Then a certain man called ‘‘He-who-changes-bodies-with-the-grass’’

*nè-à*      *nè*      *séndí*      *tè*      *mé*      *tà*      *sí*      *nè*  
 go-PAST    and      change    body      CONJ    FUT      marry    PREP  
 ‘came and changed his body so that (he) could marry  
*bé-kóé*      *kè*.  
 young-woman    DEM  
 this young woman.’

GS7) *pírà*    *gbàk-tè-nè-pòndò*      *hò-â*      *kè*  
 place    borrow-body-PREP-grass    arrive-PAST.NOM    DEM  
 ‘At (lit. place) He-who-changes-bodies-with-the-grass’s arrival,

*bé-kóé*      *kè*      *ndé*      *é*      *dâ*      *wílí*      *bòŋ*  
 young-woman    DEM      COMP    EXCL    father    man      1S.ALIEN  
 ‘this young woman exclaimed that “Father, “That one,

*kà*      *tè-à*      *gô*.  
 REL      come-PAST      like.that  
 who is coming, is my husband!”

GS8) *mí*      *tà*      *sí*      *ná*      *wènè*.  
 1S      FUT      marry      FOC      3S  
 ““Him, I will marry.””

GS9) *àsé*      *wílí*      *kè*      *ná*      *gbà*      *gók*.  
 but      man      DEM      COP      big      serpent.  
 ‘But this man is really a big serpent.’

GS10) *wâ*      *sĩ-ĩ*                      *mãi*,                      *tê*                      *kál*                      *mãi*  
 3P      marry-PAST      together                      CONJ      gather      together  
 ‘They got married, then they gathered everything

*sí*              *nè*              *nè*              *á*              *ngò*              *gbà*                      *gók*.  
 return      and      go      PREP      home      big                      serpent  
 and returned to the home of the big serpent.’

GS11) *hð-â*                                      *mùá*              *á*              *dóló*              *wílí*              *kè*              *ndé*  
 arrive-PAST.NOM      3P.REFL      PREP      road              man              DEM      COMP  
 ‘At their arrival on the road, this man told

*wènè*      *á*              *kèdĩ*              *é*              *sèk*.  
 3S      AUX      wait              LOG              little  
 her to wait for him for a little.’

GS12) *pĩrá*              *wènè*              *lěà*                      *mò*                      *kè*.  
 place      3S              enter-PAST      thing              DEM  
 ‘There, he entered (the bush).’

GS13) *kà*              *bé-kóé*                      *kè*              *pí*              *lí*,  
 when      young-woman              DEM      throw      eye  
 ‘When this young woman glanced (over there)

*à*              *nzók*              *ná*              *gók*              *gà*  
 3S.TOP      see              FOC              serpent              like.that  
 it’s a serpent, she saw

*kà*              *bó*              *á*              *nè*              *ndé*              *òlò*                      *lâk*.  
 REL      say              PREP      3S              COMP      LOG.IMP      leave  
 who tells her that they will go now.’

GS14) *bé-kóé kè ndé é kédí vé*  
 young-woman DEM COMP LOG wait LOG.REFL  
 ‘This young woman said that

*ná wíli vé.*  
 COP man LOG.ALIEN  
 it’s her husband that she is waiting for.’

GS15) *gók ndé òlò lák vóló*  
 serpent COMP LOG.IMP leave LOG.REFL  
 ‘The serpent responded that they will go

*àè ná é wíli wâ.*  
 because COP LOG man 3S.ALIEN  
 because it is he who is her husband!’

GS16) *bé-kóé kè má dè náǵá á yù.*  
 young-woman DEM CON put/set feet PREP flight  
 ‘This young woman started fleeing.’

GS17) *gók má hìn wènè gó nè bâ.*  
 serpent CON chase 3S like.that and catch  
 ‘The serpent chased her and caught her.’

GS18) *wâ má làk sí né á ǵgò wíli kè.*  
 3P CON leave return go PREP home man DEM  
 ‘(Then) they left and where returning to the home of this man.’

GS19) *wâ má là á kí.*  
 3P CON sleep PREP DEM  
 ‘They slept there.’

GS20) *kàrá kè bé-kóé kè ndé é tà sí*  
 later then young-woman DEM COMP LOG FUT return  
 ‘After some time there, this young woman said that she would return

*né á ngò báŋ vè.*  
 go PREP home father LOG.ALIEN  
 ‘to her father’s house.’

GS21) *wènè má kpò yù.*  
 3S CON begin flight  
 ‘She started to flee.’

GS22) *gók má hìn wènè gó nè hó*  
 serpent CON chase 3S like.that and arrive  
 ‘The serpent chased her and (they) arrived

*á ngò ǒŋ wàn-dòl-bòlò.*  
 PREP home certain chief-fashion-iron  
 at the home of a blacksmith.’

GS23) *bé-kóé má lè, bó zù yù wà*  
 young-woman CON enter say head flight 3S.ALIEN  
 ‘The young woman entered, telling her whole story

*á wàn-dòl-bòlò kè fět.*  
 PREP chief-fashion-iron DEM all  
 to the blacksmith.’

GS24) *hà-â*                      *mé*    *gók,*                      *wàn-dòl-bòlò*                      *ná*  
 arrive-PAST.NOM    POSS    serpent                      chief-fashion-iron    FOC  
 ‘When the serpent arrived, the blacksmith struck it on

*tò-à*                      *zù*                      *gók*                      *gbé.*  
 strike-PAST            head                      serpent                      kill  
 its head, killing it.’

GS25) *à*                      *wènè*    *tè*                      *ḃó*    *á*                      *kóé*                      *kè*                      *ndé,*  
 but    3S                      come    say    PREP    woman                      DEM                      COMP  
 ‘Then he came and said to this young woman:

*kpòó*    *gók*                      *kè*                      *mè*                      *ḃòḃ,*                      *mè*                      *tí*  
 meat    serpent                      DEM                      2S.IMP    eat                      2S                      must  
 “This serpent meat, you must eat. But you must

*kù*                      *mà*                      *gbàlà*                      *gók*                      *kè*                      *lák*                      *né*                      *ná.*  
 take    IMP                      bone                      serpent                      DEM                      leave                      PREP                      NEG  
 not take any bone of this serpent with you.”

GS26) *bé-kóé*                      *kè*                      *má*                      *ḃòḃ*                      *gók,*                      *káḃ*  
 young-woman    DEM                      CON                      eat                      serpent                      carry  
 This young woman ate the serpent, but (she) carried

*òḃ*                      *gbàlà*                      *hêr*                      *á*                      *nú*                      *gòè.*  
 certain    bone                      attach    PREP    mouth                      wrap  
 away a bone tied up in her wrap.’

GS27) *lâk-â*                      *wà*                      *á*                      *kí*                      *ndé*                      *ê*  
 leave-PAST.NOM    3S.ALIEN    PREP    DEM    COMP    LOG  
 ‘When she left there, she said that she

*sí*                      *né*                      *á*                      *ngò*                      *báŋ*                      *wà.*  
 rentrer    go    PREP    home    father                      3S.ALIEN  
 would return to her father’s house.’

GS28) *hè-â*                      *wà*                      *á*                      *dóló,*  
 arrive-PAST.NOM    3S.ALIEN    PREP    road  
 ‘When she arrived at the road,

*à*                      *bùr-ù*                      *gòè*                      *ndé*                      *é*                      *nzók*                      *gbàlà*                      *gók.*  
 3S.TOP    untie-PAST    wrap    COMP    LOG    see    bone    serpent  
 she untied the wrap to see the serpent bone.’

GS29) *bùr-ú-à*                      *wà,*                      *à*                      *nzók*                      *ná*  
 untie-PAST-NOM    3S.ALIEN    3S.TOP    see    FOC  
 ‘(When) she untied (the wrap), it’s a baby serpent, she saw (that)

*bé*                      *gók*                      *kà*                      *sìgí*                      *á*                      *nù.*  
 small    serpent    REL    fall    PREP    ground  
 fell to the ground.’

GS30) *wènè*                      *má*                      *kpò*                      *yù*                      *hórò.*  
 3S                      CON                      begin                      flight                      again  
 ‘She started fleeing again.’

GS31) *kà*                      *wènè*                      *hó*                      *á*                      *sòrsí*                      *gók*                      *mà*                      *gbàŋà.*  
 as                      3S                      arrive                      PREP                      ahead                      serpent                      SIM                      grow-PAST  
 ‘As she advanced, the serpent grew.’

GS32) *wènè kà hóŋ yù.*  
3S that run flight  
'It was she who was fleeing.'

GS33) *kà wènè mà nè-à á hò á lé,*  
when 3S SIM go-PAST PREP arrive PREP village  
'When she arrived at the entrance of the village,

*gók kǐfí sọ gbà gók fét.*  
serpent become PERF big serpent all  
the serpent had already become a big serpent again.'

GS34) *kà wènè bó ndé é lé tùà mé báj*  
when 3S say COMP LOG enter house POSS father  
'When she said (to herself) that she's arrived at her father's house,

*wà, gók ná bà wènè gbè,*  
3S.ALIEN serpent FOC catch 3S kill  
the serpent caught, killed her

*gúr wènè nè kǐlí-à.*  
swallow 3S PREP whole-NOM  
(and) swallowed her whole.'



GS35) *ndé mé bé-kóé kà wílí hó á ngò*  
 COMP 2S young-woman when man arrive PREP home  
 ‘Now you, young woman, when a man arrives at your house

*mé mé tà sǐ mé, ná sónsí m̀è*  
 2S CONJ FUT marry 2S COP chance 2S.ALIEN  
 (wanting) to marry you, it is the chance that

*kà s̀ò hà há mé.*  
 REL God give BEN 2S  
 God has given to you.’

GS36) *á wílí kà té mé ná séŋ á k̀è,*  
 but man REL come 2S FOC refuse PREP DEM  
 ‘But if you refuse the man that comes,

*mé kék ná g̀enzágà ndé zúná g̀àn-à*  
 2S search FOC same.thing COMP girl ignore-PAST  
 you’ll suffer the same fate (as) that girl who ignored good counsel (did)

*mb̀rà f̀è-à f̀iyò tà zú.*  
 counsel die-PAST death without head  
 (and) die a horrible death.’

GS37) *ndé nzégìlí tò b̀òŋ g̀òè.*  
 COMP finish tale 1S.ALIEN like.that  
 ‘That is the end of my story.’

*tò m̀è é.*  
 tale 2S.ALIEN EXCL  
 ‘Your story!’