

4-20-2005

## A Man and His Four Wives (Part 2)

George Tucker Childs

Portland State University, childst@pdx.edu

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/mani>



Part of the [African Languages and Societies Commons](#), and the [Applied Linguistics Commons](#)

---

### Citation Details

Childs, George Tucker, "A Man and His Four Wives (Part 2)" (2005). *Mani, a Disappearing Language of Sierra Leone and Guinea*. 2.  
<https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/mani/2>

This Interview is brought to you for free and open access. It has been accepted for inclusion in Mani, a Disappearing Language of Sierra Leone and Guinea by an authorized administrator of PDXScholar. For more information, please contact [pdxscholar@pdx.edu](mailto:pdxscholar@pdx.edu).

\*\*\* 05 04 20 mma Man and Wives \*\*\*\*\*

Mani (no review) 2

English (mt transcription, brief review) 5

Mani-English (l/l, partially done as of 19 Aug 06) 8

Mani (no review).....1

English (mt transcription, brief review).....4

Mani-English (l/l, partially done as of 19 Aug 06).....7

mma, 20 Apr 05

Tales 6 Palatougou

“A man and his four wives”

Record # 27 in Transcriptions

Based on recording # 34

Plan now is to try to figure out what the story’s about by doing a line-by-line translation.

19 Aug: Started by simply trying to match the two.

18 Aug 06: data not entered – entered.

## Mani (no review)

əten nɔpokan pum nun alakana wɔ (“The story of a man and his wives”)

Material in brackets tc

p. 64 nya pe hun yom ten bul ki. yan mahawa kɔnte ko nkarankɔnɛ. ten bul ka pe hun yom ki. nla hun ki.

awa. nɔpokan pum wɔ ka bi alakan hiɔl. kɔnɔ alakana cɛ. ŋanay bul wɔ tere.

əcen hin koko p. 65 wɔ ncent [nearer].

apuma cɛ tun la hin. awa. əyɔk wɔ ko anya wɔ. əŋale, wɔnɔ ki, əŋɔa cala koko

bulen əcen hin koko mi. əŋale, ŋa fɔm wɔ la. fɔ ətila nyant wɔ. bɔlɔ a hine koko wɔ.

əŋale, e - nyant mi. awayire ya wɔ tila. wɔn kɔ fɔm nɔkɔ wɔ. wɔnɛ pɛrɛ kɔmɛn.

wɔn kɔe nyant cɛ wɔnɔ wɔn ka wɔ. buk cɛ wɔnɔ wɔn kɔyɛ nka wɔnɔy. kɔnɔ yant cɛ wɔ kul. wɔnɛ

biyen nmɔ. əŋale, e - wotan, yan ŋɔa nyaa. pale ha. nyant cɛ wɔnɔ fɔ mbi wɔ. ala gbo aken sɔtɔ bate p.

66 di ɛ. lɔxɔ lan ŋɔ nyant ɛ fɔkɔ pokan ɛ hali wɔ. kɛrɛ nyant ɛ pɛrɛ gbendi kɔ tɔrɔ ŋanɛ. əhun wɔn bil (?) yant ɛ. əŋalɛ, e - puwa ŋɔa jun nyaa. palɛ e nkuli nyant ɛ. əŋalɛ, e - abiyɛn (?) nmɔ. ŋɔa nyaa.

a gben wɔ ka rɔnka ɛ,  
a gben wɔ ka nmɔ nɛ,  
puwɔ wɔ nyalɛ, cɛn kulii.  
(I gave her the medicine,  
I gave her the breast,  
Her father said she doesn't drink.)

yan ŋa-ye mɔ nɔ mi. anun ŋɔaa.

a gben wɔ ka rɔnka ɛ,  
a gben ka nmɔ ɛ  
puwa nyalɛ əcɛn ku-lii.  
(I gave her the medicine,  
I gave her the breast,  
Her father said she doesn't drink.)

yan ŋa ye mɔ nɔ mi, anun ŋɔaa.

a gben wɔ ka rɔnka ɛ,  
a gben wɔ ka nmɔ nɛ,  
puwɔ wɔ nyalɛ, cɛn kulii.  
(I gave her the medicine,  
I gave her the breast,  
Her father said she doesn't drink.)

yan ŋa-ye mɔ nɔ mi. anun ŋɔaa.

lɔxɔ lan ŋɔ wanca ɛ sɔtɔ ndɛn wɔ. əkɔɛ nyant ɛ əboya wɔy. kɔnɔy ŋɔa boya nyant ɛ nɔwɔ cɛn, nɔwɔ sɔnkɔ ki. nyant ɛ wɔ sɔnkɔ. ŋɔa hun naa. palɛ koni fɔ ndinyɛ. fɔ nɛrɔaa,

a gben wɔ ka nmɔ nɛ,  
a gben wɔ ka rɔnka ɛ,

puwɔ wɔ nyale, cen kulii.  
yan ŋa-ye mɔ nɔ mi. anun ŋaa.  
a gben wɔ ka rɔnka ce,  
a gben ka nmo ce  
puwɔ wɔ nyale, cen yemay.  
anun ŋa ye mɔnɔ mi anun ŋaa.

a ŋɔ mɔ ŋaa. ŋɔ mɔ nyaa. ŋɔ nya nyant ce ya.

a gben wɔ ka nmo ce.  
a gben wɔ ka rɔnka nce,  
a gben wɔ ka nmo nce,  
puwɔ wɔ nyale, a cen yemay.  
anun ŋa ye mɔnɔ mi anun ŋaa.

awa. nda ace kol han nyant ce sɔtɔ, nyant ce sɔtɔ di we. aŋ -

p. 69 asimi ce koye.

nda cɔpe kol han pokan ce, asɔtɔ pokan ce. alakana dɔkɔa ce bulen ŋa gben kɔn.  
wɔn dok po wɔ. kɔnɔ agbendi hun koe wanca ce aka wɔ langban ce.  
aka wɔ ŋɔ lakan ce wɔne. wɔn komen. kɔnɔ nyant ce loxo loxo wɔ can.  
wɔɔ cɔnɔk. lɔxɔ lɔxɔ wɔ peni. lɔxɔ wɔ peni. e - wotan, ŋa nyaa.  
lakan ce biyen pe lom. wɔɔ po awɔk nmon wɔ. wanca ce wɔ kɔ peni kol.  
abiye lan. alako asɔtɔ powɔ. akoye nyant ce etila wan cem. p. 70 dikale nnye.  
a dikatɛl puwa. acen sɔtɔ nden wɔ. akoe nyant ce etila wɔ pe. ali nopokan ce.

(These questions, the first was asked by someone, the answer was given by the storyteller.)

sɛka mɔn ŋɔn ke nɔya  
a yom wanca ce

etila wɔ ali hant. wɔ wɔn bil (?), gbanta yant ce, ŋa mɔ nya ya. wɔ wɔy bil agbanta wɔ əŋale, ndinye.

a gben wɔ ka rɔnka ce,  
a gben wɔ ka nmo nce,  
puwɔ wɔ nyale, cen kulii.  
anun ŋa ye mɔnɔ mi anun ŋaa.

a gben wɔ ka rɔnka cɛ,  
a gben wɔ ka nmɔ nce,  
puwɔ wɔ nyale, cen yemay,  
anun ŋɔa ye mɔnɔ mi anun ŋɔaa.

awa. la cɔpɛ a munkɔndi.

## English (mt transcription, brief review)

ɔtɛn nɔpokan pum nun alakana wɔ (“The story of a man and his wives”)

I am also coming to tell one story. I, M’Mahawa Conteh at Karankone. I am coming to tell one story again. That’s why I came.

Okay. There was a man having four wives. But these wives only one that he doesn’t love. He doesn’t usually sleep with her. Only the others that he sleep with.

Okay. She took him to her parents and said, “This one, since I stayed with him, he has never slept with me.” He said, “Tell her till she sold his child. Before I sleep with her.” She said, “Eh! my child. Okay, no problem. I will sell her.”

She went told her friend. That one also didn’t (give birth to any [children]). She took this child and gave it to her. “Is this only child that you took again and gave her to this one?” But the child was still feeding with the breast. That one doesn’t have the breast (milk). “Eh, my dear, what am I going to do?” They said, “This child till you have to be with it so that you can get (be) the belovedness.” Is that day that the child was removed from his own part. But the child also disturbed those ones over there. He held the child and said, “Eh, Father, how am I going to do?” She started singing by herself,

a gben wɔ ka rɔnka cɛ,  
a gben wɔ ka nmɔ nce,  
puwɔ wɔ nyale, cen kulii.  
(I gave her the medicine,  
I gave her the breast,

Her father said she doesn't drink.)

yan ɲa-ye mɔ nɔ mi. anun ɲɔaa.

a gben wɔ ka rɔnka cɛ,

a gben ka nmɔ cɛ

puwa nyalɛ ɛcen ku-lii.

(I gave her the medicine,

I gave her the breast,

Her father said she doesn't drink.)

yan ɲa ye mɔ nɔ mi, anun ɲɔaa.

It was on that day the woman got her days of sleeping with her husband. He took the child and made a gift of her to another person. But when he made her a gift, the child was always crying. Normally shouting. The child always shout. "How am I going to do?" They said, "Except [unless] you take a patient. You try it. (she again sang,)

a gben wɔ ka nmɔ nɛɛ,

a gben wɔ ka rɔnka cɛ,

puwa wɔ nyalɛ, cen kulii.

(I gave her the breast,

I gave her the medicine,

Her father said she was not fed with the breast.)

yan ɲɔa e, mɔ nɔ mi anun ɲɔaa.

a gben wɔ ka rɔnka cɛ,

a gben ka nmɔ cɛ

puwɔ nyalɛ cen yemay.

(I gave her the medicine,

I gave her the breast,

Her father said he doesn't want her.)

yan ɲɔa e mɔnɔ mi, anun ɲɔaa.

Okay. She stayed there until the child got health. Yes, (that was the spoiling [that is to spoil]). There they started until the man, she got the man. The rest of all the wives went away. She remained with her husband. But she had took the girl and had given her to the old man. He gave her to him. That woman don't have child (give birth to a child). But every day the child cry. She sang for her. Every day she shouted. She was shouting every day. "Eh, people. How am I to do?" The woman again didn't have any voice (sound). Every time she ready, she depressed the breasts. The child shouting over there she doesn't care. So that, she can get her husband. She took the child and sold her for someone's sake. For man's sake. Yes, for man's sake. He sold her once a time. So difficult, right? Ah – so difficult Father/Fatter (?). She had not been getting her days period of sleeping to her husband (man's) sake.

Sheka you, how do you see it?

I will avoid the girl.

He sold her for child's sake. She was at that now, holding the child and hitting her with her hand. "What am I going to do with you?" She held the child hit her and said, "You wait,

a gben wɔ ka rɔnka ce,  
a gben ka nmɔ ce  
puwa wɔ nyale, cen kuli.

(I gave her the medicine,  
I gave her the breast,  
Her father said she was not fed with the breast.)

a gben wɔ ka rɔnka ce,  
a gben ka nmɔ ce  
puwɔ nyale cen yemay.  
anun ŋoaye mɔnɔ mi anun ŋaa.

Okay. When I started, I have to stop.

This is the meaning of the song. *rɔnka* is a kind of leaf used as medicine for young children, i.e.,

(I gave her the medicine,  
I gave her the breast.

Her father said she was not nursing.)

I gave her the medicine,

I gave her the breast,

Her father said he doesn't want her.

## Mani-English (1/1, partially done as of 19 Aug 06)

əten nɔpokan pum nun alakana wɔ ("The story of a man and his wives")

nya pɛ hun yom ten bul ki.

nya pɛ hun yom ten bul ki.  
2pl also come agree story one here

I am also coming to tell one story.

yan mahawa kɔntɛ ko nkarankɔnɛ.

I, M'Mahawa Conteh at Karankone.

ten bul ka pɛ hun yom ki. nla hun ki.

I am coming to tell one story again. That's why I came.

awa. nɔpokan pum wɔ ka bi alakan hiɔl.

Okay. There was a man who had four wives.

kɔnɔ alakan a-cɛ. ŋanay bul wɔ tɛrɛ.

kɔnɔ a-lakan a-cɛ. ŋana-i bul wɔ tɛrɛ.  
but ncm-wife ncm-deg dem-i one 3sg dislike?

But there was one wife he didn't love.

əcen hin koko wɔ ncent [nearer]. apum a-cɛ tun la hin.

ù-cè-én hin koko wɔ ncent [nearer]. apum a-cɛ tun la hin.

He wasn't lying down next to her. It was the others he would seek to lie down with.

awa. əyɔk wɔ ko anya wɔ. əŋale,





buk            cɛ            wɔnɔ            wɔ    n            koe-yɛ            n            ka  
                   wɔnɔ-y  
 child? def    dem            3sg    2sg    take-stat?    2sg    give    dem-i  
 “Is this only child the one you took and gave to her?”

kɔnɔ yant cɛ wɔ kul.  
 But the child was still nursing.

wɔnɛ biyen nmɔ. əɲalɛ,  
 That one (the fourth wife) doesn't have the breast (milk). She said,

e - wotan, yan ɲɔa nyaa. pale ha,  
 “Oh dear, what am I going to do?” They said,

nyant cɛ wɔnɔ fɔ mbi wɔ.  
 yant            cɛ            wɔnɔ    fɔ            n            bi            wɔ.  
 child            def    dem    must    2sg    have    3sg,  
 “This child you must have it

ala gbo aken sɔtɔ batɛ di cɛ.  
 ala            gbo    akɛ            n            sɔtɔ    batɛ    di-cɛ.  
 so.that just    alone?            2sg    get    treasured    ncm-def  
 so that you alone are the beloved one.”

lɔxɔ lan ɲɔ nyant cɛ fokɔ pokan cɛ hali wɔ.  
 lɔkɔ    lan    ɲɔ            yant            cɛ            fokɔ            pokan    cɛ  
                   hali    wɔ  
 day    pro    pro    child            def    come.out    man            def    for            3sg  
 It was on that day that the child came to the man for him.

kere nyant cɛ pere gben-di kɔ tɔrɔ ɲane.  
 kere    yant    cɛ            pere    gben-di            kɔ            tɔrɔ            ɲane.  
 but    child    def    also    finish-cmp    pro    suffer            dem  
 But the child really disturbed them.

əhun wɔn bil yant cɛ. əɲalɛ,

He (She?) held the child and said,

e - puwa ηᵛa jun nyaa. pale

e           poa           ηᵛ           ya           hun           nya   ya  
eh           father          how 1sg   come       do           q,

“Eh, Father, what am I coming to do?”

pa           le           e           n           kul-i                   yant   ce.  
pro   say   eh           2sg   drink-cs       child   def

Someone said, “Eh, make the child drink!”

əᵛale, e - abiyen (?) nmᵛ. ηᵛa nyaa.

u           nyale, e           a           bi-en           n-mᵛ.                   ηᵛ  
a           nya   ya.  
3sg   say           eh           1sg   have-neg   ncm-milk   how 1sg   do  
q

She replied, “I do not have (breast) milk. What am I to do?”

(She started singing to herself,)

a gben wᵛ ka rᵛnka ce,	I have given her the medicine.
a gben wᵛ ka nmᵛ nce,	I have given her the breast.
puwᵛ wᵛ nyale, cen kulii.	Her father said she won't drink.
yan ηᵛa-ye mᵛ nᵛ mi. anun ηᵛaa.	?
a gben wᵛ ka rᵛnka ce,	I have given her the medicine.
a gben wᵛ ka nmᵛ nce,	I have given her the breast.
puwᵛ wᵛ nyale, cen kulii.	Her father said she won't drink.
yan ηᵛa ye mᵛ nᵛ mi, anun ηᵛaa.	?
a gben wᵛ ka rᵛnka ce,	I have given her the medicine.
a gben wᵛ ka nmᵛ nce,	I have given her the breast.
puwᵛ wᵛ nyale, cen kulii.	Her father said she won't drink.
yan ηᵛa-ye mᵛ nᵛ mi. anun ηᵛaa.	

yan                   nya   ye   mᵛn   ᵛ           mi.   anun           ηᵛ  
a                   ya  
1sg-emph   do           ?   breast   ncm? 1sg   with,           how 1sg   q

What do I do with my breasts? How will I manage?

lɔkɔ lan ŋɔ wanca cɛ sɔtɔ ndɛn wɔ.

lɔkɔ lan ŋɔ wàncà cɛ sɔtɔ ndɛn wɔ.  
day pro pro.focwomandef get time? 3sg

It was on that day that the woman got her opportunity to sleep with her husband.

əkoe nyant cɛ əboya wɔy.

u koe yant cɛ u boya wɔ-i.  
3sg take child def 3sg give 3sg-i

He (She?) took the child and made a gift of her to another person.

kɔnɔy ŋɔ boya nyant cɛ nwɔ can, nwɔ sɔnkɔ ki.

kɔnɔ-i ŋɔ boya yant cɛ n-wɔ can, n-wɔ  
sɔnkɔ ki.

but-i emph-how give child def emph-3sg cry, emph-3sg scream here  
But when she made the gift, the child began crying. She was screaming.

nyant cɛ wɔ sɔnkɔ. ŋɔa hun naa.

yant cɛ wɔ sɔnkɔ. ŋɔ ya hun naa.  
child def 3sg screamhow 1sg come

The child is always screaming. “What am I going to do?”

pale koni fɔ ndinyɛ. fɔ ncɛraa,

pa lɛ koni fɔ n din ye. fɔ n  
traya ye,

pro say ? must 2sg ? prt must 2sg try? prt  
They said, “You must be patient. You must try.”

(she again sang,)

a gben wɔ ka nmɔ nce,

I have given her the breast,

a gben wɔ ka rɔnka cɛ,

I have given her the medicine,

puwɔ wɔ nyale, cen kulii.

Her father said she was not nursing.

yan ŋa-ye mɔ nɔ mi. anun ŋɔaa. ?

a gben wɔ ka rɔnka cɛ,

I have given her the medicine.

a gben ka nmɔ cɛ

I have given her the breast.

puwɔ wɔ nyale, cen yemay.  
anun ŋɔa ye mɔnɔ mi anun ŋɔa.

Her father said he doesn't want her.

?

a nŋɔ mɔ ŋaa. nŋɔ mɔ nyaa. nŋɔ nya nyant cɛ ya.

a n-ŋɔ mɔ nya ya. nŋɔ mɔ nyaa. nŋɔ nya yant cɛ ya.  
that emph-how 2sg do q

“What am I going to do? What am I going to do? What will I do with this child?”

(she resumes)

a gben wɔ ka nmɔ cɛ.  
breast.

I have given her the

a gben wɔ ka rɔnka nɛɛ.  
medicine.

I have given her the

a gben wɔ ka nmɔ nɛɛ,  
puwɔ wɔ nyale, a cen yemay.

I have given her the breast.

Her father said he doesn't want her.

anun ŋɔa ye mɔnɔ mi anun ŋɔaa.

awa. nda əcɛ kol han nyant cɛ sɔtɔ, nyant cɛ sɔtɔ di wɛ.

awa. ŋa əcɛ kol háán yant cɛ sɔtɔ, yant cɛ sɔtɔ  
dìwè.

okay 3pl? stay? there until child def get, child def get health

Okay. She stayed there until the child became healthy.

añ - əsimi cɛ kɔyɛ. nda cəpɛ kol han pokan cɛ, əsɔtɔ pokan cɛ.

an ù-simi cɛ kɔ yɛ.

yes ncm-spoil def pro prt

Yes, that was the spoiling.

nda cəpɛ kol han pokan cɛ, əsɔtɔ pokan cɛ.

ŋà cəp-ɛ kól háán pokan cɛ, ù sɔtɔ pokan cɛ.

3pl begin-stat there until man def 3pl get man def

There they (she and the man) continued until the man, she got [won over] the man.

alakana dɔkɔa cɛ bulen ŋa gben kɔn.

a-lakan a-dɔkɔ a-cɛ bulen ŋa gben

kɔ-n.  
 ncm-wife ncm-remaining ncm-def all 3pl finish  
 go-mid  
 All of the other wives had left.

wɔn dok po wɔ.  
 wɔ-n dok po wɔ.  
 3sg-emph stay? husband 3sg  
 She remained with her husband.

kɔnɔ əgbendi hun koe wanca cɛ aka wɔ langban cɛ.  
 kɔnɔ u gben-di hun koe wanca cɛ u ka  
 wɔ langban cɛ  
 but 3sg finish-cmp come take girl def 3sg give 3sg man  
 def  
 But she had already taken the girl [child] and had given her to the man.

əka wɔ ŋɔ lakan cɛ wɔnɛ. wɔn komen.  
 u ka wɔ ŋɔ lakan cɛ wɔnɛ. wɔ-n  
 kom-ɛn.  
 3sg give 3sg pro womandef dem. 3sg-emph bear-neg  
 He gave her to him [pronoun antecedents?]. That woman is barren.

kɔnɔ nyant cɛ loxo loxo wɔ can. wɔɔ cɔnɔk.  
 But every day the child cried. She (the woman) sang for her (the child).

lɔxɔ lɔxɔ wɔ pɛni. lɔxɔ wɔ pɛni.  
 day-dist-day  
 Every day the child wailed. She was screaming every day.

e - wotan, ŋɔa nyaa. lakan cɛ biyɛn pɛ lom.  
 “Oh my. What am I ever to do?” The woman had even lost her voice.

wɔɔ po əwɔk nmɔn wɔ.  
 wɔ u po u wɔk n-mɔ n-wɔ.  
 3sg 3sg arise 3sg press ncm-breast ncm-3sg

Every time she woke up, she would squeeze her breasts.

wanca cɛ wɔ kɔ pɛni kol. əbiyɛ lan.

The child shouting over there she doesn't care.

alako əsɔtɔ powɔ.

So that, she can keep her husband.

əkoyɛ yant cɛ ətila wan cɛm.

ù kòè-yé yant cɛ u tila wan  
cɛm.

3sg take-stat child def 3sg sell daughter ? time?

She took the child and sold her daughter? for someone's sake.

dikələ nnyɛ. a dikatəl puwa.

dikələ, nnyɛ. a dikatəl puwa.

difficult? not.so

For man's sake. Yes, for man's sake.

əcen sɔtɔ ndɛn wɔ. əkoe nyant cɛ ətila wɔ pɛ. ali nopokan cɛ.

She had not been getting her sleeping days (with her husband). She took the child and sold her, for the man[']s sake].

?? Seems like the child was disturbing the man, so she sold him, the child was not hers because she was barren – the child cried because she had no milk

sɛka mɔn ŋɔn ke nɔya

sɛka mɔ-n ŋɔ n ke ŋɔ ya

Sheka 2sg-emph how 2sg see pro q

Sheka, how do you see it?

(Why does he call the old lady “Sheka”?)

a yom wanca cɛ

I would [?] avoid the girl.

ətila wɔ ali hant.

u            tila    wɔ    ali            yant  
 3sg    sell    3sg    for            child  
 She sold her for [the] child. ?

wɔ wɔn bil, gbanta yant cɛ,  
 She was holding her, beating the child.

ɲɔa mɔ nya ya  
 “What am I going to do with you?”

wɔ wɔy bil əgbanta wɔ əɲalɛ, ndinyɛ.  
 wɔ    wɔ-i            bɪl            u            gbanta wɔ    u            ɲalɛ,    ndinyɛ.  
 3sg    3sg-i            hold    3sg    beat            3sg    3sg    say    patience?  
 She was holding her and beating her. She said, “You wait,

a gben wɔ ka rɔnka cɛ,	I gave her the medicine.
a gben wɔ ka nmɔ nɛɛ,	I gave her the breast.
puwɔ wɔ nyalɛ, cen kulii.	Her father said she was not nursing.
anun ɲɔa ye mɔnɔ mi anun ɲɔaa.            ?	
a gben wɔ ka rɔnka cɛ,	I gave her the medicine.
a gben wɔ ka nmɔ nɛɛ,	I gave her the breast.
puwɔ wɔ nyalɛ, cen yemay,	Her father said he doesn't want her.
anun ɲɔa ye mɔnɔ mi anun ɲɔaa.            ?	

awa. la cəpɛ a munkɔndi.  
 awa.    la            cəpɛ                            a            munkun-di.  
 okay    pro    begin-stat            1sg    stop-cmp  
 Okay. I started and now I have to stop.