

Portland State University

PDXScholar

Mani, a Disappearing Language of Sierra Leone
and Guinea

Endangered Languages of Sierra Leone and
Guinea

4-20-2005

A Man and His Four Wives (Part 3)

George Tucker Childs

Portland State University, childst@pdx.edu

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](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Citation Details

Childs, George Tucker, "A Man and His Four Wives (Part 3)" (2005). *Mani, a Disappearing Language of Sierra Leone and Guinea*. 3.

<https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/mani/3>

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. Please contact us if we can make this document more accessible: pdxscholar@pdx.edu.

28.0 English (mt transcription, brief review)

ətɛn nɔpɔkən 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 ncɛ,
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 cɛ,
a gben ka nmɔ cɛ
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.

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 ncɛ,
a gben wɔ ka rɔnka cɛ,
puwa wɔ nyalɛ, cɛn kulii.
(I gave her the breast,
I gave her the medicine,

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

yan ɲaa e, mɔ nɔ mi anun ɲaa.

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 ɲaa e mɔnɔ mi, anun ɲaa.

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 cɛ,
a gben ka nmɔ cɛ
puwa wɔ nyalɛ, 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 cɛ,
a gben ka nmɔ cɛ
puwɔ nyalɛ cen yemay.
anun ɲoaye mɔnɔ mi anun ɲaa.

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.