Mani, a Disappearing Language of Sierra Leone and Guinea

Endangered Languages of Sierra Leone and Guinea

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Herbalist (Part 2)

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Transcription # 25

The herbalist (tc rev)
nyànɔ̀ǹrɔ́m

[do-person-ncm-medicine]

by Amara Camara

mɔkɛ cɔ̀ŋ dicɛy, ɛɛ... awaa, pɛŋkən nun mɛkən kol.

mɔ̀ké-cɔ̀ŋ	di-cɛ	ɛɛ	áwà	à	pèŋkɔ́n	nùn	mùnkún kól
ord-two	ncm-def	uh	okay	1sg	reach.boundary??	now	stop there

The second one, uh- okay, I have reached a stopping point, let's stop there.
tc: may be related to pèn 'boundary'

mɔ yema si fɔlən

mɔ̀	yèmá	sǐ	fɔ́l-ùn
you	want	we	stop-mid

Do you want to stop?

aŋ! si fɔlən nuŋ, agbendi pɔrən.

ń-ǹ	sǐ	fɔ́lùn	nùn	à	gbén-đi	pɔ̀rɔ́n
interj	1pl	stop	now	1sg	finish-perf	forget

Yes, let's stop now, I've completely forgotten!

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awa, yomu yi pum wɔ kace lɔ deli wɔ kɛtɛm.

áwà	yóm	ù-nyǐ	pòm	wɔ̀	kácè
alright	grandfather	ncm-1pl	some	3sg	formerly

One of our grandfathers

lɔ̀	lél	ǐ-wɔ̀	kɛ̀tɛ̀m
pro	name	ncm-3sg	Ketem

whose name was Ketem,

wonɛɛ nrɔm yo maten ko tifɔlɔ nma ceŋ tumɔ;

wɔ̀nɛ́	ǹ-rɔ́m	yo	màtɔ́n	kò	tǐ-fɔ̀lɔ̀	ǹ-mà	cè-ɛ́n	tún	yɔ̀
dem	ncm-cure	prt?	hide	to	ncm-world	emph-pro	aux-neg	find	rel

The man's cures were hidden to the world. There was no medicine that he could not find.

mba, fɔ nɔ wu ye.

mbà	fɔ́	nɔ́-wù-yé
all right	must	peron-dead-emph

Okay, it must be (except when it was) a dead person.

boŋ, kɔnɔ wolɛ wunɔ rɔm, pɛ́ - ɲanɔnrɔm, wunɔ

bɔ̀n	kɔ̀nɔ̀	wɔ̀	lé	wú-nɔ̀-rɔ́m	pɛ́
alright	but	3sg	cop	dead-people-medicine	oops!
nyà-nɔ̀-ǹ-rɔ́m				wú-nɔ̀	

do-person-ncm-medicine   dead-person
Good, but he was a doctor-for-dead-people, oops! He was a native doctor.

kɔnɔ pɛ wɔ koe dɛdɛ
kɔ̀nɔ̀   pɛ̀   wɔ̀   kwɛ̀   dɛ̀-ó-dɛ̀
but   pro   3sg   grab   land-dist-redup
People would summon him from everywhere

wɔ lɔ ka kɔn ali kɔ ɲa nrɔm.
wɔ̀lɔ̀   kà   kɔ́-n   àlí   kɔ̀   nyà   ǹ-rɔ́m
3sg   past go-mid   for   go   make   ncm-medicine
to go make medicine.

kɛrɛ nrɔm [p.55] uŋ wɔ ce gbaŋsaŋ ŋɔ la.
kɛ̀rɛ̀   ǹ-rɔ́m   ǹ-wɔ̀   cɛ̀   gbànsàŋ   ŋɔ̀   là
but   ncm-medicine   ncm-3sg   cop   magic   pro   pro
But his cures were magical.

nrɔmuŋ wɔ cɔn tibul ta, ta bi.
ǹ-rɔ́m   ǹ-wɔ̀   cɔ́n   ti-bul   tà   tà   bǐ
ncm-medicine   ncm-3sg   song   ncm-one   foc   pro   have
His cures it was one song they had (he accompanied application with singing).

kɛnɛ mɔrɔlaŋyi wɔ pɛrɛ ŋɔ lɔy.
kɛ̀nɛ̀   mɔrɔlaŋyi   wɔ̀   pɛ̀rɛ̀   ŋɔ̀lɔ̀
but   rubbings   3sg   also   pro
But he also had verses.

nrɔmuŋ wɔ wɔ gbo kɔ ali kɔ dɛrɛk nɔy.
ǹ-rɔ́m   ǹ-wɔ̀   wɔ̀   gbó   kɔ̀   àlí   kɔ̀   dɛ̀rɛ̀k-nɔ̀
ncm-medicine   ncm-3sg   3sg   just   go   for   go   cure-person
He rubbed his medicines on people

mɔrɔlaŋyi wɔ gbɛt! ŋɔ kɔ [...].
mɔrɔlaŋyi   wɔ̀   gbét   ŋɔ̀   kɔ̀ [...]
verses   3sg   only   pro   go […]
Only his salves [missing part].

bɔlɔ ə puŋ tun koyŋ cɛ. ə sɛmiyɛ mɔ.
bɔ̀lɔ̀   ù   púŋ   tùn   kòn   cɛ́   ù   sɛ́m-ǐ-yɛ́   mɔ̀
and   3sg   rub   bunch frond def   3sg   stand-cs-stat   2sg
And he rubs a bunch of palm fronds. He makes you stand,

xa nak nɔcɛ wɔ la, bɔlɔ n hinɛ,
xa   nák-nɔ̀   cɛ́   wɔ̀   là   bɔ̀lɔ̀   ǹ   hǐn-yɛ́
if?   sick-person   def   3sg   pro   and   2sg   lie.down-stat
if it is the sick person is it, and you are lying down,

tc: xa?

xa ceŋ bɔ hini, xa n cem bɔ sɛmi,
nà   cè-én   bɔ́ hin-i   nà   ǹ   cè-én bɔ́ sɛm-ǐ
with aux-neg can lie.down-cs with   2sg aux-neg can stand-cs
If you are not able to lie down, if you are not able to stand,

bɔlɔ n hinɛ,
bɔ̀lɔ̀ ǹ   hín-yɛ́
and   2sg lie.down-stat
then you are lying down,

xa n cem bɔ sɛmi bɔlɔ n cala,
nà ǹ   cè-én bɔ́ sɛ̀m-ǐ   bɔ̀lɔ̀ ǹ   cál-à
with 2sg aux-neg can stand-cs and   2sg sit-ev
if you cannot stand then you sit down.

ə hun ə puŋt ma ko pɛpɛ cɛ ayi.
ù   hùn   ù   púnt mà kò   pèpè   cɛ́ àyǐ
3sg come 3sg squish pro to   calabash def inside
He then squishes it inside (against the sides of) the calabash.

i təpɛ wɔm mɔrɔlaŋyi wɔ.
ǐ   cə́p-yɛ́ wɔ̀-n   mɔrɔlaŋyi wɔ̀
pro start-stat 3sg-emph verses   3sg
He then begins rubbing the medication.

ya wo sinaŋdoo yaŋka koto bali kuyoŋtomu tabayee. kɔyɛ
[p.56] kɔtɛ bərɛ, kɔyɛ, kɔŋpoyna koŋ-kaw zodoy zada. baŋ, tɔk sɔrnɛ kətɛnɛ kubu wo
roku sororoo. nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ, woy nbɛ nbɛ ye, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ. nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya nbɛ
nbɛ,
(no translation)

anya mi, aɲa mi buleŋ- nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ,
à-nyá   à-mǐ   à-nyá à-mǐ   búléŋ,   ɔya nbɛ nbɛ,
ncm-people ncm-my ncm-friend ncm-my all   ?
- my people, my people, everybody - nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ,

-abɛn ami buleŋ- nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ,
a-bɛn   à-mǐ   búléŋ,   nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ,
ncm-old   ncm-1sg   all   ?
my elders all, - nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ,

-kodipalacok buleŋ- nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ, əwoy nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya
kɔ̀ dipalacok buleŋ   nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ, əwoy nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya
ncm Palatugu   all
Palatugu, everybody-

-aɲa mi buleŋ- nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ, hali poto nɔce wɔ la nbɛ nbɛ,

a-ɲa   a-mi   buleŋ   hàlí   pòtònɔ̀   cɛ́   wɔ̀   là

ncm-friend ncm-my all   for   white.man def   pro   pro

-my people, everybody- nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ, this is to the White person, nbɛ nbɛ,

hali amara wɔ la nbɛ nbɛ, hali mɔmɔ wɔ la nbɛ nbɛ,

hàlí àmárà   wɔ̀   là   nbɛ nbɛ,   hàlí   mɔ̀mɔ̀   wɔ̀ là   nbɛ nbɛ,

for   Amara 3sg   pro   ?   for   Momo

this is to Amara: nbɛ nbɛ, this is to Momo: nbɛ nbɛ,

hali mari wɔ la nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ, woy nbɛ nbɛ yo, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ.

this is to Mari: nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ, woy nbɛ nbɛ yo, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ.

awa, si mɛknəŋ kol. ndɔyɛ. lɔŋta.

awa,   sǐ   mɛkən kól.   lɔ̀   yɛ̀.   lɔnta.

okay,   1pl   stop   there,   pro   prt   *lɔ̀ntà*

Let's us stop here. That's it. (The final word is a Temne word usually used at the beginning of a story.)

áwà, màmó, ŋɔ́y kɛ̀lɛ̀ŋ.

áwà   màmó   ŋɔ́-ǐ   kɛ̀lɛ̀ŋ.

okay   thanks   pro-*ǐ*   good

All right, thank you. It's good.

The herbalist/native doctor (toneless version, mp)
ɲanɔrɔm

by Amara Camara

mɔkɛ cəŋ dicɛy, ɛɛ... awaa, pɛŋkən nun mɛkən kol.

mɔkɛ	cəŋ	di-cɛ	ɛɛ	awa	pɛŋkən	nun	mɛkən	kol
afterwards/following	two/second	ncm-def	uh	alright	?	?	stop	there

Afterwards comes the second, ehh... Let me stop here.

mɔ yema si fɔlən?

mɔ	yema	si	fɔlən
you	want	we	stop

Do you want to stop?

aŋ! si fɔlən nuŋ, agbendi pɔrən.

aŋ	si	fɔlən	nuŋ	a	gben-di	pɔrən
exclamation	we	stop	?	I	finish-perf	forget

Yes, let's stop, I've forgotten!

(Story)

awa, yomu yi pum wɔ kace lɔ deli wɔ kɛtɛm.

awa	yomu	yi	pum	wɔ	kace	lɔ	deli	wɔ	kɛtɛm
alright	grandfather	our	some	3sg	in the past	be	name	his	Kɛtɛm

There was one of our great grand-fathers whose name was Kɛtɛm.

wonɛɛ nrɔm yo maten ko tifɔlɔ nma ceŋ tumɔ;

wonɛɛ	n-rɔm	yo	maten	ko	ti-fɔlɔ	n	ma	ce-ŋ	tum-ɔ
that one	ncm-medicine	prt	hide	in/at/on	ncm-world	?	it	aux-neg	?-?

There was no cure in the world that this man couldn't find.

nba, fɔ nɔ wu ye.

nba	fɔ	nɔ	wu	ye
alright	except	person	dead	?

Except for a dead person.

boŋ, kɔnɔ wolɛ wunɔ rɔm, pé - ɲanɔnrɔm, wunɔ

boŋ	kɔnɔ	wo	lɛ	wunɔrɔm	pé	ɲanɔnrɔm	wunɔ
alright	but	3sg	be	doctor for dead people	oops![1]	native doctor	dead-person

Alright, but he was a doctor for dead people, oops, he was a native doctor (for dead people?)

kɔnɔ pɛ wɔ koe dɛdɛ wɔ lɔ ka kɔn ali kɔ ɲa nrɔm.

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[1] The storyteller makes a lapsus linguae

kɔnɔ pɛ wɔ koe dɛdɛ wɔ lɔ ka kɔn ali kɔ ɲa nrɔm
but imp 3sg pick everywhere 3sg there ? go to go make medicine
People would call him from everywhere to go and cure them.

kɛrɛ nrɔmuŋ² wɔ ce gbaŋsaŋ ŋɔ la.
kɛrɛ nrɔmuŋ wɔ ce gbaŋsaŋ ŋɔ la
but medicine his aux ? it be?³
But his cures were not just like that.⁴

nrɔmuŋ wɔ cɔn tibul ta, ta bi.
nrɔmuŋ wɔ cɔn ti-bul ta bi
medicines his song ncm-one nc.pro have
His cures had one song.

kɛnɛ mɔrɔlaŋyi wɔ pɛrɛ ŋɔ lɔy.
kɛnɛ mɔrɔlaŋyi wɔ pɛrɛ ŋɔ lɔ
but verse? his also it loc
But there were also verses. ⁵

nrɔmuŋ wɔ wɔ gbo kɔ ali kɔ dɛrɛk nɔy.
nrɔmuŋ wɔ wɔ gbo kɔ ali kɔ dɛrɛk nɔ
medicines his 3sg just go to to rub person
He rubbed his medicines on people

mɔrɔlaŋyi wɔ gbɛt! ŋɔ kɔ [missing part].
mɔrɔlaŋyi wɔ gbɛt! ŋɔ kɔ []
verses his only it go []
and just recited his verses [missing part].

bɔlɔ ə puŋ tun koyŋ cɛ. ə sɛmiyɛ mɔ.
bɔlɔ ə puŋ tun koyŋ cɛ ə sɛmi-yɛ mɔ
and 3sg pound?/chop/break looked for frunts def 3sg stand-? 2sg
And looked for and prepared dried palm frunts. He would make you stand,

xa nak nɔcɛ wɔ la, bɔlɔ n hinɛ,
xa nak nɔ-cɛ wɔ la bɔlɔ n hin-ɛ
if? sick person-def nc.pro be and 2sg lie (down)-?
if you are the sick person, and lie down.

xa ceŋ bɔ hini, xa n cem bɔ sɛmi, bɔlɔ n hinɛ,
xa ce-ŋ bɔ hin-i xa n ce-n bɔ sɛm-i bɔlɔ n hin-ɛ

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² I'm not sure if this should be transcribed this way. Maybe this [u] is just epenthesis between the noun rɔm and the morpheme ŋ in nrɔm ŋ wɔ

³ This structure appears often. It seems to be formed by a noun class pronoun + la (kɔ la, ŋɔ la, ma la).

⁴ fb: But his medicines were not just like that; He was miraculous in his work.

⁵ fb: But he was also having some words that he recites and rubs on the whole external parts of the sick person.

if? aux-neg can   lie down-? if? 2sg   aux-neg can   stand-? and   2sg   lie
(down)-?
If you cannot lie, if you cannot stand, and you lie down,

xa n cem bɔ sɛmi bɔlɔ n cala,
xa n   ce-n   bɔ sɛm-i bɔlɔ n   cal-a
if? 2sg   aux-neg can   stand-? and   2sg   sit (down)-?
if you cannot stand you sit.

ə hun ə puŋt ma ko pɛpɛ cɛ ayi.
ə hun ə puŋt ma   ko pɛpɛ   cɛ ayi
he come 3sg   put? it/them   to calabash def inside
He then put it in the calabash.

i təpɛ wɔm mɔrɔlaŋyi wɔ.
i   təp-ɛ wɔm mɔrɔlaŋyi   wɔ
he start-?   now verses   his
He starts now his rubbing action and verses[6],

'ya wo sinaŋdoo yaŋka koto bali kuyoŋtomu tabayee. kɔyɛ kɔtɛ bərɛ, kɔyɛ, kɔŋpoyna
 koŋ-kaw zodoy zada. baŋ, tɔk sɔrnɛ kətɛnɛ kubu woroku sororoo. nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya nbɛ
nbɛ, woy nbɛ nbɛ ye, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ. nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ,

(no translation)

-aɲa mi, aɲa mi buleŋ- nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ,
a-ɲa   a-mi   a-ɲa   a-mi   buleŋ
ncm-peoplencm-my ncm-friend ncm-my all
- my people, my people, everybody - nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ,

-abɛn ami[7] buleŋ- nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ,
a-bɛn   a-mi   buleŋ
ncm-old ncm-my all
my elders, everybody- nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ,

-kodipalacok buleŋ- nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ, əwoy nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya
ko-dipalacok   buleŋ
ncm-palatugu all
Palatugu, everybody- nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ, əwoy nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya

-aɲa mi buleŋ- nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ, hali poto nɔcɛ wɔ la nbɛ nbɛ,
a-ɲa   a-mi   buleŋ   hali poto nɔ-cɛ   wɔ   la
ncm-friend ncm-my all   for White   ncm-def nc.pro be
-my people, everybody- nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ, this is to the White person, nbɛ nbɛ,

hali amara wɔ la nbɛ nbɛ, hali mɔmɔ wɔ la nbɛ nbɛ,
this is to Amara: nbɛ nbɛ, this is to Momo: nbɛ nbɛ,

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[6] fb now says "accents"

[7] The most common form is 'aben acɛ'; however, we find this expression again in Hamidou's text.

hali mari wɔ la nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ, woy nbɛ nbɛ yo, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ.
this is to Mari: nbɛ nbɛ, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ, woy nbɛ nbɛ yo, ɔya nbɛ nbɛ.

awa, si mɛk nuŋ kol. ndɔyɛ. lɔŋta.
Let's us stop here. That's it; .

awa, mamo, ŋɔy kɛlɛŋ.
All right, thank you. It's good.