

Portland State University

PDXScholar

Mani, a Disappearing Language of Sierra Leone
and Guinea

Endangered Languages of Sierra Leone and
Guinea

10-30-2005

Herbalist (Part 2)

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, "Herbalist (Part 2)" (2005). *Mani, a Disappearing Language of Sierra Leone and Guinea*. 16.

<https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/mani/16>

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.

[The herbalist \(tc rev\).....2](#)
[The herbalist/native doctor \(toneless version, mp\).....6](#)

Transcription # 25

Notes: This is the second story in the order in which he presented them.

The herbalist (tc rev)

nyàndòró

[do-person-ncm-medicine]

by Amara Camara

màke cəŋ dicey, ɛɛ... awaa, pɛŋkən nun mekən kol.

màkɛ-cəŋ di-cɛ ɛɛ áwà à pɛŋkən nùn m̀nkún 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'

mə yema si fələn

m̀ yemá s̄i fəl-ùn
you want we stop-mid

Do you want to stop?

aŋ! si fələn nuŋ, agbendi pərən.

ń-ń s̄i fəlùn nùn à gbén-d̄i p̀rən
interj 1pl stop now 1sg finish-perf forget

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

p. 54

awa, yomu yi pum wə kace lə deli wə ketem.

áwà yóm ù-nyĩ pòm ẁ kácè
alright grandfather ncm-1pl some 3sg formerly

One of our grandfathers

l̀ lél ĩ-ẁ kètèm

pro name ncm-3sg Ketem

whose name was Ketem,

wonɛɛ nrəm yo maten ko tifələ nma ceŋ tumo;

ẁné ñ-róm yo m̀tən k̀ ñ-f̀l̀ ñ-mà c̀-én tún ỳ
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, fə nɔ wu ye.

mbà f́ nɔ-ẁ-yé
all right must peron-dead-emph

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

boŋ, kənɔ wole wunɔ rəm, pé - janɔnrəm, wunɔ

b̀n k̀ǹ ẁ lé ẃ-ǹ-róm pé
alright but 3sg cop dead-people-medicine oops!

nyà-ǹ-ñ-róm ẃ-ǹ

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

wɔ lɔ ka kɔn ali kɔ ja nrɔm.
wɔ̀lɔ̀ kà kó-n àlì kò nyà ñ-róm
3sg past go-mid for go make ncm-medicine
to go make medicine.

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

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

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

nrɔmuŋ wɔ wɔ gbo kɔ ali kɔ dɛrɛk nɔy.
ñ-róm ñ-wɔ̀ wɔ̀ gbó kò àlì kò dɛ̀rɛ̀k-nò
ncm-medicine ncm-3sg 3sg just go for go cure-person
He rubbed his medicines on people

mɔ̀rɔ̀lɔ̀ŋyi wɔ gbɛt! ŋɔ kɔ [...].
mɔ̀rɔ̀lɔ̀ŋyi wɔ̀ gbɛ̀t ŋɔ̀ kò [...]
verses 3sg only pro go [...]
Only his salves [missing part].

bɔlɔ ə puŋ tun koyŋ cɛ. ə semiye mɔ.
bɔ̀lɔ̀ ù púŋ tùn kòn cé ù sém-ĩ-yé m̀ò
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 hine,
xa ná-k-nò cé wɔ̀ là bɔ̀lɔ̀ ñ hĩn-yé
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 bə hini, xa n cem bə semi,
nà cè-én bə hin-i nà ò cè-én bə sem-ĩ
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,

bəlo n hine,
bəlò ò hín-yé
and 2sg lie.down-stat
then you are lying down,

xa n cem bə semi bəlo n cala,
nà ò cè-én bə sèm-ĩ bəlò ò 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 cé àyĩ
3sg come 3sg squish pro to calabash def inside
He then squishes it inside (against the sides of) the calabash.

i tɔpɛ wəm mɔrɔlaŋyi wə.
ĩ cáp-yé wə-n mɔrɔlaŋyi wə
pro start-stat 3sg-emph verses 3sg
He then begins rubbing the medication.

ya wo sinaŋdoo yaŋka koto bali kuyon̄tomu tabayee. kɔye
[p.56] kɔte bəre, kɔye, kɔŋpoyna kɔŋ-kaw zoday zada. baŋ, tɔk sɔrne kətene kubu wo
roku sororoo. nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, woy nbe nbe ye, ɔya nbe nbe. nbe nbe, ɔya nbe
nbe,
(no translation)

anya mi, aŋa mi buleŋ- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,
à-nyá à-mĩ à-nyá à-mĩ búléŋ, ɔya nbe nbe,
ncm-people ncm-my ncm-friend ncm-my all ?
- my people, my people, everybody - nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,
-aben ami buleŋ- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,
a-ben à-mĩ búléŋ, nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,
ncm-old ncm-1sg all ?
my elders all, - nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,

-kodipalacok buleŋ- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, əwoy nbe nbe, ɔya
kò dipalacok buleŋ nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, əwoy nbe nbe, ɔya
ncm Palatugu all
Palatugu, everybody-

-aṅa mi buleṅ- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, hali potɔ nɔce wɔ la nbe nbe,
a-ṅa a-mi buleṅ hali pòtònò cé wò là
ncm-friend ncm-my all for white.man def pro pro
-my people, everybody- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe, this is to the White person, nbe nbe,

hali amara wɔ la nbe nbe, hali mómò wɔ la nbe nbe,
hali àmàrà wò là nbe nbe, hali mòmò wò là nbe nbe,
for Amara 3sg pro ? for Momo
this is to Amara: nbe nbe, this is to Momo: nbe nbe,

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

awa, si məkənə kol. ndoye. lɔṅta.

awa, si məkən kól. lò yè. lɔnta.

okay, 1pl stop there, pro prt *lòntà*

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, ṅóy kèlèṅ.

áwà màmó ṅó-ĩ kèlèṅ.

okay thanks pro-ĩ good

All right, thank you. It's good.

The herbalist/native doctor (toneless version, mp)

ᵛanɔrɔm

by Amara Camara

mɔkɛ cɛŋ dɪcɛy, ɛɛ... awaa, pɛŋkɛn nun mɛkɛn kol.
mɔkɛ cɛŋ di-cɛ ɛɛ awa pɛŋkɛn nun mɛkɛn kol
afterwards/followingtwo/second ncm-def uh alright ? ? stop there
Afterwards comes the second, ehh... Let me stop here.

mɔ yema si fɔlɛn?
mɔ yema si fɔlɛn
you want westop
Do you want to stop?

aŋ! si fɔlɛn nuŋ, agbendi pɔrɛn.
aŋ si fɔlɛn nuŋ a gben-di pɔrɛn
exclamation westop ? I finish-perf forget
Yes, let's stop, I've forgotten!

(Story)

awa, yomu yi pum wɔ kace lɔ deli wɔ ketɛm.
awa yomu yi pum wɔ kace lɔ deli wɔ ketɛm
alright grandfather our some 3sg in the past be name hisKetɛm
There was one of our great grand-fathers whose name was Ketɛm.

wonɛɛ nrɔm yo maten ko tifɔlɔ nma cɛŋ tumɔ;
wonɛɛ n-rɔm yo maten ko ti-fɔlɔ n ma cɛ-ŋ tum-ɔ
that one ncm-medicine prthide 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 wɔlɛ wunɔ rɔm, pɛ - ᵛanɔnrɔm, wunɔ
boŋ kɔnɔ wɔ lɛ wunɔrɔm pɛ ᵛanɔnrɔm 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 dede wɔ lɔ ka kɔn ali kɔ ᵛa nrɔm.

¹ The storyteller makes a lapsus linguae

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

kɛrɛ nɾɔmuɲ² wɔ cɛ gbaɲsaɲ ɲɔ la.
kɛrɛ nɾɔmuɲ wɔ cɛ gbaɲsaɲ ɲɔ la
but medicine hisaux ? it be?³
But his cures were not just like that.⁴

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

kɛnɛ mɔrɔlaɲyi wɔ pɛrɛ ɲɔ lɔy.
kɛnɛ mɔrɔlaɲyi wɔ pɛrɛ ɲɔ lɔ
but verse? hisalso it loc
But there were also verses.⁵

nɾɔmuɲ wɔ wɔ gbo kɔ ali kɔ dɛrɛk nɔy.
nɾɔmuɲ wɔ wɔ gbo kɔ ali kɔ dɛrɛk nɔ
medicines his3sg just go to to rub person
He rubbed his medicines on people

mɔrɔlaɲyi wɔ gbɛt! ɲɔ kɔ [missing part].
mɔrɔlaɲyi wɔ gbɛt! ɲɔ kɔ []
verses hisonly it go []
and just recited his verses [missing part].

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

xa nak nɔcɛ wɔ la, bɔlɔ n hine,
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 cɛɲ bɔ hini, xa n cem bɔ sɛmi, bɔlɔ n hine,
xa cɛ-ɲ bɔ hin-i xa n cɛ-n bɔ sɛm-i bɔlɔ n hin-ɛ

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 ɲ in nɾɔm ɲ wɔ

³ This structure appears often. It seems to be formed by a noun class pronoun + la (kɔ la, ɲɔ 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 semi bɔlɔ n cala,
xa n ce-n bɔ sem-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 tɔpɛ wɔm mɔrɔlɔŋyi wɔ.
i tɔp-ɛ wɔm mɔrɔlɔŋyi wɔ
he start-? now verses his
He starts now his rubbing action and verses⁶,

'ya wo sinaŋdoo yaŋka koto bali kuyɔŋtomu tabayee. kɔye kɔtɛ bɛrɛ, kɔye, kɔŋpɔyna
koŋ-kaw zodoy zada. baŋ, tɔk sɔrne kɔtene kubu woroku sororoo. nbe nbe, ɔya nbe
nbe, woy nbe nbe ye, ɔya nbe nbe. nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,

(no translation)

-aŋa mi, aŋa mi buleŋ- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,
a-ŋa a-mi a-ŋa a-mi buleŋ
ncm-people ncm-my ncm-friend ncm-my all
- my people, my people, everybody - nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,

-aben ami⁷ buleŋ- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,
a-ben a-mi buleŋ
ncm-old ncm-my all
my elders, everybody- nbe nbe, ɔya nbe nbe,

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

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

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

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 nbe nbe, oya nbe nbe, woy nbe nbe yo, oya nbe nbe.
this is to Mari: nbe nbe, oya nbe nbe, woy nbe nbe yo, oya nbe nbe.

awa, si mek nuη kol. ndoye. lɔηta.
Let's us stop here. That's it; .

awa, mamɔ, ηoy keley.
All right, thank you. It's good.