

Why dogs have no names (ed tc m/m w/tones).....2

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ùtén tùmè cé, by Kaba Camara (ka)

Note: There are some unusual pronoun agreement patterns, singular and plural seem to be interchangeable in places (jd agrees)

tén tùmè cé  
story dog def  
The story of a dog.

à tǎpí?  
à cǎp-ǐ  
1sg.sm start-i  
Am I to start?

awa, aben acɛ, pɛ hele mi pale a huŋ yom ten  
áwà à-bèn à-cé pɛ yél-yé mǐ  
okay ncm-old ncm-def pro call-stat 1sg  
All right, elders, they called me for gossip

pálè à húŋ yóm tén  
say 1sg come agree story  
It is said I come agreed (to tell) a story.

kɔnɔy, kɔnɔy ɔten cɛ kɔ hi yom ki.  
kɔnɔ-ǐ kɔnɔ-ǐ ù-tén cè kò hǐ yóm kǐ  
but but ncm-story def pro 1pl tell now  
but- but it is a story that we are telling.

lɔ fɔ ŋɔ yomɔ. nya ki kaba.  
lò fɔ ŋò yóm-ò ñ-yà kǐ kàbà  
if must pro tell-ev emph-1sg here Kaba  
If it must be told, here is Kaba.

nlɔ pɛ kom mi ka.  
ñ-lò pè kóm mǐ kà  
emph-pro pro bear me here  
This is where someone gave birth to me here.

a gbendi sɔtɔ tinen itɔy ɲɔl nuŋ waŋ ka ki.  
à gbén-ǎ sɔtò tǐ-nén ǐ-tɔŋ-ǐ-nyòl-núŋ-wàŋ kàkǐ  
1sg.sm finish-cmp get ncm-year ncm-twenty-ncm-four-and-ten here now  
I am fifty (actually says 'ninety'!) years old.

awa, kol nlɔyɛ.  
áwà kól ñ-lò yè

okay there emph-pro prt  
All right, there it is.

awa, a ka gbentdi tume ce yo,  
áwà à ká gbènt-dí tùmè cé yó  
okay 1sg.sm past catch-cmp dog def prt.emph  
Ok, I caught the dog.

tume ce nwɔ kom, ntoe lay?  
tùmè cé ñ-wò kóm ñ tòé là-ì  
dog def emph-3sg bear 2sg hear it q  
The dog gave birth, do you hear?

ə komdi apɔm agber.  
ù kóm-dí à-pòmò à-gbér  
3sg bear-cmp ncm-child ncm-a lot/many  
It bore many puppies.

nlɔa wuŋ ce kol haŋ,  
ñ-ló ñà hùn cè kól háán  
emph-pro 3pl come cop there until  
It's there they are until

pale ali semiyɛ leli,  
pàlé àlí sém-ì-yé léí  
say for stand-cs-stat name  
they say (the time) for giving names

fɔ ɲa tun sikuluŋ  
fó ɲà tún sǐ-kùlùn  
must 3pl search ncm-goat  
they must look for goats (for the sacrifice).

əfo nɛ kɔnɔ kɔ huŋ foni kɔ tun sikuluŋ,  
ù-fó ñ-cé kònò kò hún fó-n  
ncm-go.out ncm.def dem go come go.out-mid  
That search, it comes to go out  
tc: weird agreement for 'search'

ì kò tún sǐ-kùlùn  
sm go search ncm-goat  
to go looking for goats,

ə tun, ə tun, ə tun, ə ken, ə sɔten.  
ù tún ù tún ù tún ù kè-én ù sòt-én  
3sg search 3sg search 3sg search 3sg see-neg 3sg get-neg  
he looked, he looked, he looked, he didn't see any and he didn't get any.

ñḡ kɔ wɔŋ hun yɔy,  
 ñ-ḡ kɔ wɔ-n hùn yð-ĩ  
 emph-pro go 3sg-emph come rel-i  
 When he came,

tumɛ cɛ ɲa gbendi wɔŋ pal.  
 tùmè cé ḡà gbén-ɗi wð-n pál  
 dog def 3pl finish-cmp 3sg-emph grow  
 the dog(s) had finished growing (they had become mature).

ə ɲalɛ 'nbay,' ə ɲalɛ 'nbay, nbay, apɔm acɛ ɲa ki.  
 u ɲalɛ mbà ù ɲalɛ mbà mbà à-pðm à-cé ḡà kĩ  
 3sg say ok 3sg say ok ok ncm-child ncm-def 3pl here  
 They say "Ok," they say "Ok, ok, the puppies are here.

nɔnɔ koe ə ha wɔ.  
 nð-ó-nð kwè ù ḡà wð  
 person-dist-person take 3sg? 3pl prt  
 Every one takes their name. ?

awa, ḡḡ gbo wɔŋ koe ha wɔ yɔy,  
 áwà ñ-ḡ gbó wð-n kwè ḡà wð yð  
 okay emph-pro just 3sg-emph take 3pl 3sg rel  
 Okay, they have taken their names

bɔlɔ pɛ hale 'mɔn, n kɔ wɔŋ bey lel.'  
 bðlð pè nyalɛ mð-n ñ kð wð-ḡ bé ì-lél  
 and pro say 2sg-emph 2sg go 3sg-emph put ncm-name  
 and they say "You, go give it a name."

awa, tumɛ sicey ndo sɔtɔ lel kol.  
 áwà tùmè sɪ-cé ñ-lð sòtò lél kól  
 okay dog ncm-def emph-pro get name there  
 Okay, the dogs got their names there.

ndabilay tumɛ cɛ biyen lel  
 ñ-là bɪlà tùmè cé bĩ-yé-én lél  
 emph-pro why dog def have-stat-neg name  
 This is why dogs don't have names

fɔ n koyɛ wɔ mɔ wɔ bo koe,  
 fó ñ kwé wð mɔ wð bó kwè  
 must 2sg take 3sg 2sg 3sg pick can take  
 Unless you take the one you are able to take,

mɔ wð bo yɔki,

mó ẁ̀ bó ỳ̀k  
 2sg 3sg can bring  
 you can give it (a name).

b̀̀l̀̀ ə k̀̀ s̀̀t̀̀ l̀̀l. ñ̀̀d̀̀ỳ̀, ə̀t̀̀n bul k̀̀ỳ̀.  
 b̀̀l̀̀ ù k̀̀ s̀̀t̀̀ l̀̀l ñ̀̀-l̀̀-è ù-t̀̀n b̀̀l̀̀ k̀̀ ỳ̀  
 and 3sg go get name emph-loc-prt ncm-story one pro rel  
 and he gets a name. That's it, that's one (the first) story.