A private letter written by a Sierra Leone churchman, writing primarily about the language Krio (Jones 1971: 91–92)

Di las tem we wi si, a bin tel yu se a
the last time that we see I PST tell you that I
The last time we met, I told you that I

min fɔ rait yu, fɔ tel yu tenk fɔ di atikul
mean to write you to tell you thank for the article
meant to write to you to thank you for the article

we yu put na di ‘Sa Lon Messenja’. Wi
that you put LOC the ‘Sierra Leone Messenger’ we
which you published in the ‘Sierra Leone Messenger.’ We

ɔl no se di Krio tranga fɔ rait; bɔt as wi
all know that the Krio be strong to write but as we
all know that Krio is difficult to write, but as we

ɔm bigin fɔ trai, wi go ebul am. Mɔs mek a
PFV begin to try we FUT able it must make I
have started making attempts we will overcome the
difficulties. Please let me

no if yu min fɔ rait ɔl tem so a kin aks
know if you mean to write all time so I could ask
know if you mean to write frequently so that I can ask
dem na Bunumbu Press na Bo, fọ mek dem go
them LOC Bunumbu Press LOC Bo to make they PROG
the people of the Bunumbu Press at Bo to

doneo yu atikul as dem get taiprait a we go du
doneo you article as they get typewriter that PROG do
doneo your article since they have a typewriter which will do

am. A no no ṣẹ mọ i go ọkọ, bọ a tink
it I NEG know how much it PROG cost but I think
it. I do not know how much it will cost, but I think

se den go gi mi fọ lili en natin. Yu
that they PROG give me for little and nothing you
that they will let me have it for a reasonable price You

no se a bin di trai si if a kin ẹp
know that I PST PROG try see if I could help
know that I had been trying to see if I could help

witi yẹm transleshin lek di krid, di awa ẹdá
with some translation like the creed the our father
with some translation, like the Creed, the ‘Our Father’,

bọt usai, chans no de! From 1938/9 na im
but where chance NEG there from 1938/9 it is
but could I? There was not enough time! It was as far back as
1938/9 that

a se mek a trai du wan pan di Gospel. A
I say make I try do one of the Gospel I
I decided that I should attempt one of the Gospels. I
bigin with St. Mark. A du af af but a no
begin with St. Mark I do half half but I NEG
began with St. Mark. I did bits but was not

ebul dm am. Wel bai we a get fs de muf;
able finish it well by when I have to PROG move
able to finish it. Well, because I had to move often

a min wen a transf, sm of mi pepas dem
I mean when I transfer some of my papers them
– I mean when I transferred – some of my papers

kin ls. Dem wan we lef gbg
sometimes lost those ones which leave (behind) bug
got lost. White ants

gbg ep mi cham dem. Fs stat egen, na wok
bug help me chew them to start again it is work
chewed up those that were left Starting again was too great
a labour.

bra! So, yu we de trai, yu du wel. Wel
my friend so you who PROG try you do well well
So for attempting anything you are to be commended. Well,

au dem sl na os? Di wef wel enti? ten
how they all LOC home the wife is well not so thank
how are they all at home? You wife is well I hope: thank

Gxd. A no se yu bizi, so dis du so fs. Gxd
God I know that you busy so this do so first God
God. I know that you are busy, so this will do for the time
being. God
bles yu. P/S Au di maskita yp to una na bless you P/S how the mosquito up to you PL LOCA bless you. P/S How are the mosquitoes up you way at the

kôlej? Den wan we de ya den so get sens College those ones that live here they so have sense College? The ones around here are so clever

dat a de wonda au di wan dem na kôlej that I PROG wonder how the one them LOC college that I wonder how ‘stupid’ the ones in College

go chupit rich.
go stupid rich are.