Glossed texts

See p. 282-283 in:


Text 1

The following is an excerpt from the Berbice Dutch version of Jack and the beanstalk, as it was relayed to me by Ernest King. This passage tells of Jack’s return from the market, where he has sold his mother’s cow for a handful of beans.

`an o draite fi mama sondro kop
an o draite fi mama sondro o kopu
and 3SG turn-PFV 3POSS mother without 3SG buy

And he returned to his mother without buying

`je$xi, di mama bi “aw $jak, da was ju
je$xi di mama bi aw $jak, da wa-so ju
food DEF mother say aw Jack COP what-FOC 2SG food. The mother says “Aw Jack, what have you

`mjatex? an fi mama dja dekte di an o
mja-te an fi mama djas deki-te di an o
do-PFV and 3POSS mother just take-PFV this and 3SG done?” and his mother just took this and she

`goite di fenschar, tafn titi, fruku
gui-te di fensrer anga, tafn titi, fruku
throw-PFV DEF window LOC afternoon time morning
threw it to the window, in the afternoon.
In the morning when he got up, the beans had grown long and Jack bi, “mama ek ma tandi di ben dida an eke ma.

Jack say mother 1SG IRR climb DEF bean DEM and 1SG IRR and Jack says, “Mother, I will climb that bean and I will

la way ek papa riki jenda”,
la wanga eke papa riki jen-da”,
reach where 1SG father riches COP-there
get to where my father’s riches are”.

Text 2

The following text constitutes the opening of an Anancy story, told to me by Hennie Hartman.

Anancy PST be poor man like 1SG have money NEG, Anancy was a poor man, like me, (he) had no money,

babu bita ka, we eniwe, o ba fi kali, ifi
babu bita ka, wel eniwe, o ba(bu) fi kali, ifi
have clothes NEG well anyway 3SG have 3POSS small 1PL.
no clothes, well anyway, he had his little, we

1 It appears that the speaker could not recollect the Berbice Dutch word bono ‘pea, bean’; he adapted the Creolese form biin instead.
2 Note the use of the Creolese copula bi here. Other Creolese forms in this text include eniwe ‘anyway’, daf ‘Dutch’.
rupo banabu, da dağı ju ninte, o wa call 3SG benab COP Dutch 2SG know-PFV 3SG PST call it ‘benab’, that is Dutch you know, he

ba fi kali banabu wanga das mu mo kori? wati ba(bu) fi kali banabu wanga das mu mu kori wati have 3POSS small benab where HAB go go work what had his little ‘benab’. Where does he go to work? What

kori o wa mja, wel did eke nimi bik ek kori o wa mja wel dida eke nimi (ka) bika eke work 3SG PST do well that 1SG know(NEG) because 1SG kind of work he was doing, well that I don’t know, because I

wa forda meto o das mu mu kori, wa furu-da mete o o das mu mu kori, PST be.absent-there with 3SG 3SG HAB go go work wasn’t there with him. He goes to work,

tafn titi o kum, o fendé fi kali jefi tafn titi o kum, o fendé fi kali jefi afternoon time 3SG come 3SG find 3POSS small food in the evening when he comes home, he finds his bit of food

jenda, jefi, koki alma gutu met, o, jen-da, jefi, koki-te alma gutu met, o, be.there-there food cook-PFV all thing with oh there, food, cooked with everything, oh,

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3 Berbice Dutch banabu ‘benab’ refers to a thatched-roof shelter.
wisa kokî? o wa babu en kene ka, o
wi-sa koki-te? o wa babu en kene ka, o
who-FOC cook-PFV 3SG PST have one person NEG 3SG
who cooked for him? He had nobody,

wa babu toko ka, bat o lurlur di gutu so
wa babu toko ka, bat o luru-luru di gutu so
TNS have child NEG but 3SG look-look DEF thing so
he had no children, but he keeps watching the thing like this

*tutu en daka o bi, o ma finde.*
tutu en daka o bi, o ma finde.
until one day 3SG say 3SG IRR find
until one day he says, he will find out.