Glossed text

See p. 99 in:


(From G. Escure's unpublished fieldtapes from 1985)

The Seacat

Three fishermen (R, D and B) discuss the dangers faced on the sea, in particular the encounter of some Guatemalan fishermen with seacats (species of fish).

R. Dat di tajm Bobo en Seli en di
that the time Bobo and Seli and the
That happened when Bobo and Seli and the

bale de. B. Dej tu ava kajn.
guy LOC 3PL two of a kind
 guys were there. Those two are something else.

D. Di bale se im onli watf di panja
the guy say 3SG only watch the spaniard
The boy said that he actually saw the Spanish man

de gudon en kumop. Wen im luk
IPFV go down and come up when 3SG look
 go down [in the sea] then come up again. When he looked

im si wan flatu fowm ran da bitf, so
3SG see a flutter foam round that bitch so
he noticed some foaming turbulence around him, so
dej gaan de en dej tia wej, dej tia wej,
3PL gone there and 3PL tear away 3PL tear away
they went there as fast as they could,

bika dem de tajm di sikat gat bot tri
because 3PL LOC time the seacat got about three
because by that time there were about three or four

o fia di tin de gen di rak, en i
or four. of the thing LOC against the rock and it
of those seacats there hanging by the rocks and

gat wan plasta lang di panja bedsajd.
got one plaster along the Spaniard headside
there was one attached to the side of the
Spanish man’s head.

R.  En dem de sok an, dej no luk fo lego.
and 3PL LOC suck 3SG 3PL NEG look for let.go
And they applied suction on him,
they would never let go.

D.  Im gat op tu maak wen dej pap an lus a
3SG got up to mark when 3PL pop 3SG loose 1SG
There was a mark [on his neck] when
they pulled it loose, I

min aal dem jep an dem batan lef lang i
mean all 3PL shape and 3PL button left along 3SG
mean all those shapes and those
buttons imprinted on his

nek. bwaj i me gat an gud, dud.
neck boy 3SG ANT got 3SG good dude
neck boy, he had it rough, dude.
All the same, if they had not got to him quickly

he would have drowned.