Glossed text

See p. 79-80 in:


(Maurer 2009: 185f)

*Ubuka ki ka fa ben ka fa malí*¹ Têtuuga² mouth REL GENER say good GENER say bad turtle
The mouth that says good things also says bad things. Turtle

*pwè pɔxta ki arè ya ubuka ki a fa ben* put bet with king COMP mouth REL GENER say good
made a bet with the mouth that says good

*a fa mali. Èli arè f e: “N sa po* GENER say bad then king say 3SG 1SG IPFV can
things [also] says bad things. The king said to him: “I cannot

*konkoda ña. Mo ubuka k’ a fa ben ka* agree NEG manner mouth REL GENER say good GENER
agree. How can a mouth that says good things

*po fa mali?” “Kè, Sun Arè, ubuka ki a fa ben* can say bad oh Mr King mouth REL GENER say good
say bad things?” “Well, King, the mouth that says good

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¹ Lusitanisms are indicated in the footnotes, with a Principense translation.

² The original audio file has Èli bè ki pwè pɔxta, literally ‘he also put bet’, but, as this makes no sense out of context, I have replaced it by têtuuga ‘turtle’.
ka fa mali.” Eli è kumbina ki aré: “Amanba gener say bad then 3sg settle with king tomorrow things also says bad things.” Then he agreed to make a bet with the king: “Tomorrow

n keka pa n da Sun prova³ ya ubuka 1sg fut.come purp 1sg give Mr. proof comp mouth I shall come to give you proof that the mouth

ki a fa ben ka fa mali.” Pemyan Tëtuuga rel gener say good gener say bad morning turtle that says good things also says bad things.” In the morning Turtle

kume minu⁴ kwa-kwa ki è té, xiga palasu. “Ben, eat child thing. red rel 3sg have arrive palace well ate some food he had and went to the palace. “OK,

n vika za pa non fêê nêgôxyô.” “Sim, 1sg come already purp 1pl make business yes I’ve come already for us to settle our bet.” “Yes,

Senbor⁵ So è fa: “Sun Aré sêbê kwa Sun ka Sir then 3sg say Mr. King know thing Mr. fut Sir.” Then he said: “Your Majesty, you know what you will

fêzê? Sun ka pega n, gbene uman pwê taaxi, mara do Mr. fut take 1sg tie arm put back bind do? You will take me, tie my arms behind my back, tie my

³ Lusitanism for pova.
⁴ minu ‘child’ is also used as a diminutive.
⁵ Lusitanism for Nhán-xi Sun me [yes-so Sir my].
Nhanxi Sun foot put LOC road LOC interior sun yes.so Sir feet, and put me on the road in the sunshine.” “Yes, Sir.”

The king called his servants and put the Turtle’s

hand put back tie tie foot lay.across put road arms behind his back, tied them together, tied his feet and laid him across the road

in the sunshine.