Glossed text

See p. 259-260 in:


This text, published in Kriegel, Ludwig & Henri (2009), is the transcript of a spontaneous conversation recorded in October 2004 between a young interviewer (Fabiola Henri = F) and several members of a family living in the rural area of Roche Terre, the main interlocutor being 92 year old Ramdhaneep Churitter (R). Mala (M), 49 years old, is his nephew’s wife. While this glossed text is entirely in Mauritian Creole, code switching between Mauritian Creole and Bhojpuri is very frequent within this family circle as well as in much of rural Mauritius as a whole.

R: *Aváñ nu ti pàs bùku mizèr.*
    before 1PL PST endure a.lot.of hardship
R: In the past we endured a lot of hardship.

F: *Bùku mizèr.*
    a.lot.of hardship
F: A lot of hardship.

R: *Wì, bùku bùku mizèr. Mo kòne Mòris*
    yes a.lot.of a.lot.of hardship 1SG know Mauritius
R: Yes, an awful lot of hardship. I know how this
    Mauritius

  *la kìma li ti ète. Zot dìr astèr la “li*
    DEM how 3SG PST be 3PL say now PCL 3SG
    used to be. Nowadays they say it

  ’n vin pàradi”.
    PRF become paradise
    has become a paradise.
F: Ti Ḟ-house work a.lot
F: Did you have to work a lot?

R: Wí; lér la mo ti rès sèz ań,
yes hour PCL 1SG PST remain sixteen year
R: Yes. At that time I was only sixteen

dizwìt ań. Mo ti ańvil. Mo ti pe apràn
eighteen year 1SG PST in.town 1SG PST PROG learn
or eighteen years old. I was living in Port Louis. I was
learning

travày. Típti lakàz tòl. Lari bùrboń, lari
work tiny house sheet.metal street Bourbon street
a job, and living in tiny sheet metal houses, in Bourbon
Street,

legliz, lari defòrz.
Church street Desforges
Church Street, and Desforges Street.

F: Porlwì sá?
Port.Louis PRO
F: Are they in Port Louis?

R: Partù. Porlwì, típti ti-lakàz tol
everywhere Port.Louis tiny DIM-house sheet.metal
R: Everywhere in Port Louis there were tiny little sheet
metal houses.

ti èna. Wí, típti;
PST have yes tiny
Yes, they were tiny.
F: Pà ti gàny bùku kàs?
   NEG PST get a.lot.of money
F: You didn’t get much money?

R: Wi, lepók mo ti... mo ti a... mo ’n rès
   yes period 1SG PST 1SG PST ? 1SG PRF stay
R: That’s right. At that time I was... I stayed

bukù... sóz... Labà aîvil. Abéî, a.lot what’s.its.name down.there in.town oh.well
a lot at.. what’s-its-name.. down there in Port Louis.

mo kòn tü. Ìsi lakaùp... ìsi lakaùpány 1SG know all here countryside here countryside
I know all about that. Here in the countryside

ti bwà. Wi. Me astér la partù.
PST wood yes but now PCL everywhere
it was woodland. Yes. But right now everywhere...

everywhere nicely.arranged very.impressive house
F: Everywhere has been neatly laid out. R: Large,
impressive houses.

yes PRF develop yes
F: Yes M: A nicely developed area. F: Yes.

R: Sá mo ’n tûrve.¹ Wi.
   PRO 1SG PRF see yes
R: That’s what I’ve seen. Yes.

¹ Turve ‘see, find’ (long form; the corresponding short form is tur) is a variant form of truve.
F: *Ti pe travày bukù lóntaṁ, nóni?*
    PST PROG work a.lot formerly no
F: In the past, you had to work very hard, didn’t you?

R: *Wi, lóntaṁ bùku mizèr nu ⁿ pàse, nù.*
    yes formerly a.lot.of hardship I PL PRF endure us
R: Yes, in the past we suffered a lot of hardship, we really did.