Glossed text

See p. 237-239 in:


NC: Kan mo te ti boug, zafè te si move mo te
when 1SG PST little guy thing PST so bad 1SG PST

NC: When I was a boy, things were so bad, I used to

\[ di \ \text{Mam}, \ "E \ \text{Mam, kon m a vini dèt} \]
tell Mom hey Mom when 1SG FUT come COP
tell Mom, “Hey, Mom, when I grow up [lit. come to be a man],

\[ en \ \text{nòm m ale kouri travay, n ale monje} \]
DET.INDF man 1SG FUT go work 1PL FUT eat
I’m going to go to work, we’ll eat

\[ tou sa n ole!" \ Paskè nou te pa <even> \]
all what 1PL want because 1PL PST NEG even
all we want!” Because we didn’t even

\[ gen ase pou monje. \ Nou te pa g— to te \]
have enough for eat 1PL PST NEG 2SG PST
have enough to eat. We didn’t ha— you didn’t

\[ pa \ gen ase pou monje. <a \ St. >John> \]
NEG have enough for eat at St. John\(^1\)
have enough to eat at St. John.

\(^1\) St. John is the name of the plantation outside of the town of St. Martinville where the speaker grew up.
TK: *To te---* NC: *<oh yeah!>*
2SG PST
TK: You were--? NC: Oh yeah!

TK: *Vouzòt te fen?* NC: *<Oh yeah! Oh yeah.>*
2PL PST hungry
TK: You were hungry? NC: Oh yeah! Oh yeah!

TK: [*...*] *manje?*
[*...*] eat
TK: [*...*] eat?

NC: *Mo kouri o <store> a <St. John.> Nou kite*
1SG go to store at St. John 1PL leave
NC: I went to the store at St. John. We left

la mezon a set-ër l maten.
DET.DEF house at seven-hour DET.DEF morning
the house at seven o’clock in the morning

*On en mèkredi. <Uh> sa se te*
on DET.INDF Wednesday DEM COP PST
on a Wednesday. Uh, that was [reserved]

*pou le moun blan, on mèkredi. Me*
for DET.DEF.PL person white on Wednesday but
for white folks, on Wednesdays. But

*nou te, nou te pa gen aryen pou monje.*
1PL PST 1PL PST NEG have nothing for eat
we, we didn’t have anything to eat.

*<So> nou kouri o— Mam voye nouzòt o <store>*
so 1PL go to Mom send 1PL to store
So we went to—Mom sent us to the store,
my sister and me, early in the morning.

To get a gallon of rice and a piece of salt meat and a can of tomato. You know what time they served us?

Two-thirty in the afternoon. It was so hungry I could hardly

see anymore. So there was a guy— Well,

each time they’d start to serve us,
si en blan k se vini, “He! Me twa
if DET.INDF white REL IRR come hey put 2SG
if a white person would come, (they’d say), “Hey! Step

a kote!” La kon mo monde kèsyon, mo di,
at side then when 1SG ask question 1SG say
aside!” Then when I asked a question, I said,

“<Well>, nou, nou isi dipi bonmaten !” Boug
well 1PL 1PL here since early.morning guy
“Well, we, we’ve been here since this morning!” The

la di, “(Me), to, to <smart> ti
DET.DEF say but 2SG 2SG smart little
guy said, “(Well), you’re, you’re a smart little

neg, m a met en baton on twa!"
Nigger 1SG FUT put DET.INDF stick on 2SG
Nigger, I’m going to take a stick to you!”

<So> ena en boug blan (i) di “Me,
so there.is DET.INDF guy white (3SG) say but
So there was a white guy, (he) said,

to min b-- t ap di mon ye bin la
2SG mean 2SG PST PROG say 1SG 3PL COP.PST here
“But, you mean—you’re telling me they’ve

dipi bomaten, » li di “me komon zôt sèrv
since early.morning 3SG say but how 2PL serve
been here since this morning?” He said, “Well why

pa s-- pa [unclear]?” En, en boug
NEG NEG DET.INDF DET.INDF guy
don’t you serve them?” A, a white man.
blan (la). I di, « Me t ape, t ape pran white there 3SG say but 2SG PROG 2SG PROG take He [i.e., the storekeeper] said, “So you’re taking up

pou nèg ye? » <So> i di, “Me non, me for Nigger PL so 3SG say but no but for the Niggers?” So he said, “Well no, but

ti-boug la fen!” <So> i mande mon si little-guy DET.DEF hungry so 3SG ask 1SG if the little boy is hungry!” So he asked me if I

mo te fen mo di, “O wi, mo fen!” <So> 1SG PST hungry 1SG say oh yes 1SG hungry so was hungry, I said, “Oh yes, I’m hungry!” So

i kouri dan sokèn (chòz) i dòn mon, 3SG go in 3SG.POSS (thing) 3SG give 1SG he reached [lit., went] into his own (thing [i.e., bag?]), he gave me,

eub, <baloney>, e dipen. Avon li toune uh baloney and bread before 3SG turn uh, baloney, and bread. Before he’d turned

so do mo te monje sa deja, i 3SG.POSS back 1SG PST eat that already 3SG his back I’d already eaten it, he

di, “Mè, to monje sa deja?!” (mo) di “Wè, say but 2SG eat that already (1SG) say yes said, “But, you ate that already?!“ (I) said, “Yes,

mo, mo fen!” <So> i dòn mo en 1SG 1SG hungry so 3SG give 1SG DET.INDF I, I’m hungry!” So he gave me a
big bottle pop^{2} say 1SG but look take that big bottle of pop, told me, “Well look, take this!”

So he gave me the wh—he gave

me the whole—all package 1SG and me the whole—whole package. Me and

my sister.

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^{2} Pop is a common shortened term for “soda pop,” or soft drink (such as Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Sprite, 7-Up, etc.).