Glossed text

See p. 136–137 in:


This text was part of a spontaneous conversation between the author (SH) and an elderly construction worker (AF). The recording took place in Nassau in 1998. In the following excerpt, AF talks about a fishing (“fishining”) accident. Dashes indicate pauses or self-corrections.

AF: It happen uh be – was
3SG.N.SBJ happen.PFV uh 3SG.M.SBJ COP.PST
It happened ... he was

fishining, he have big bonefish – and when
fish-prog 3SG.M.SBJ have.PST big bonefish and when
fishing, he had a big bonefish, and when

be did hook the bonefish – like uh
3SG.M.SBJ PST hook ART bonefish like uh
he had hooked the bonefish ... like

be bring in the bonefish, he
3SG.M.SBJ bring.PFV in ART bonefish 3SG.M.SBJ
he brought in the bonefish, he

pull in the bonefish – in to him, and the
pull.PFV in ART bonefish in to 3SG.M.OBJ and ART
pulled in the bonefish in towards him, and the

shark – dash. The shark dash. When the
shark dash.PFV ART shark dash.PFV when ART
shark dashed. The shark dashed. When the
shark dash, he bite him right
shark dash.PFV 3SG.N.SBJ bite.PFV 3SG.M.OBJ right
shark dashed, it bit him right

on be leg. And take out a piece. And
on 3SG.M.POSS leg and take.PFV out ART piece and
on his leg and took out a piece. And

be drop – be drop in the
3SG.M.SBJ drop.PFV 3SG.M.SBJ drop.PFV in ART
he dropped, he dropped in the

water. And the boys-them what been there –
water and ART boy-PL-PL REL COP.PST there
water. And the boys who were there

had to gone and hold him –
have.PST to go.INF and hold.INF 3SG.M.OBJ
had to go and hold him,

take him up out the water.
take.INF 3SG.M.OBJ up out ART water
take him out of the water.

SH: How did they do that - be dropped in the water from the boat?

AF: And they – no, he wasn’t in – o –
and 3PL.SBJ no 3SG.M.SBJ COP.PST=NEG in o[n]
And they ... no, he was not in ... on ...

in the boat, be was on – in the sea
in ART boat 3SG.M.SBJ COP.PST on in ART sea
in the boat, he was on ... in the sea
walking. He was in the sea walking

and — and fishing. And uh when they — uh — and and fish-prog and uh when 3PL.SBJ uh and ... and fishing. And when they

pick him up, they take a
picked him up, they took a

piece of cloth and tie — you
piece of cloth and tied — you

understand, yeah. And stop the blood
understand[and].NPST yeah and stop.PFV ART blood

from — from running. They tie —
from ... from running. They tied —

see, they tie — tie it
see.NPST 3PL.SBJ tie.PFV tie.PFV 3SG.N.OBJ

like this — 'round here like that and stop
like DEM around here like DEM and stop.PFV

the blood from running, 'cause if — they
ART blood from running because if 3PL.SBJ
the blood from running, because if they
didn’t s- tie him ’round here
PST.HYPOTHEtical.NEG s- tie 3SB.M.OBJ around here
hadn’t tied him around here

like that, say be woulda bleed to death.
like DEM COMP 3SG.M.SBJ MOD.AUX bleed to death
like that, he would have bled to death.

See, so – they tie, and – yeab, and
see. NPST so 3PL.SBJ tie.PFV and yeah and
See, so they tied, and ... yeah, and

and stop the blood from running.
and stop.PFV ART blood from running
and stopped the blood from running.

SH: And then what – where did they take him?

AF: And – they carry him home. After they
and 3PL.SBJ carry.PFV 3SG.OBJ home after 3PL.SBJ
And – they carried him home. After they
carry him home, it wasn’t no
carry.PST 3SG.M.OBJ home EXIST COP.PST=NEG NEG
had carried him home, there was no
doctor in Andros at that time – they – uh –
doctor in Andros at DEM time 3PL.SBJ uh
doctor in Andros at the time. They
carry him to the midwife. That is –
carry.PFV 3SG.M.OBJ to ART midwife DEM COP.PST
carried him to the midwife. That was
SH: That’s her name?

AF: And Livy got the – yeah, Livy got the –
and Livy get.PFV ART yeah Livy get.PFV ART
And Livy got the ... yeah, Livy got the ...

ub – the tobacco – the leaf tobacco and – and
uh ART tobacco ART leaf tobacco and and
the tobacco, the leaf tobacco and ... and

put it here. Yeah. Ub-hub. And they
put.PFV 3SG.N.OBJ here yeah uh-huh and 3PL.SBJ
put it here. Yeah. And they

tie it. When they done tie it,
tie.PFV 3SG.OBJ when 3PL.SBJ COMPL tie 3SG.N.OBJ
tied it. When they had finished tying it,

they let it stay there – for – for
3PL.SBJ let.PFV 3SG.N.OBJ stay there for for
they let it stay there for ... for

weeks. And when they move that from
week.PL. and when 3PL.SBJ move.PFV DEM from
weeks. And when they moved that

there –
there
from there ...
SH: *All the flesh grown back?*

AF: *That’s right. That’s right. Uh-huh. Yeah. But –*  
DEM=COP right DEM=COP right uh-huh yeah but  
That’s right. That’s right. Yeah. But

> I never had the chance – there ain’t  
> I never had the chance ... there was  

no shark around – that want bite.  
NEG shark around REL want PFV bite INF  
no shark around that wanted to bite.

SH: *They kill people, don’t they?*

AF: *Mean shark? Yeah, yeah, peo*  
mean. NPST shark GENER yeah yeah people]  
You mean sharks? Yeah, yeah, people ...

> shark will kill you. Yeah, man –  
> sharks kill you. Yeah, man ...

you – you – only you – one in  
GENER SBJ GENER SBJ only GENER SBJ one in  
you ... you ... only you alone in

the boat, and if a boat turn over, and  
ART boat and if ART boat turn HAB over and  
the boat, and if a boat turns over, and  
your – that boat – you is fishing –  
GENER POSS DEM boat GENER SBJ HAB fish-prog  
your ... that boat ... you are fishing
when you have plenty fish inside the –
when GENER.SBJ have.HAB plenty fish inside ART
when you have plenty of fish inside the ...

that boat – and the scent of the fish, the
DEM boat and ART scent of ART fish ART
that boat and the scent of the fish, the

blood – the fish blood, you know –
blood ART fish.Poss blood 2SG.SBJ know.NPST
blood ... the fish’s blood, you know,

what gon’ bring those shark in, you know,
REL. FUT bring DEM shark.PL in 2SG.SBJ know.NPST
which will bring those sharks in, you know,

and they would – after they done eat the
and 3PL.SBJ HAB after 3PL.SBJ COMPL eat ART
and they would – when they have finished eating the

fish, then – they tackle you. They
fish then 3PL.SBJ tackle.HAB GENER.OBJ 3PL.SBJ
fish, then they will tackle you. They

kill you. Shark is the
kill.HAB GENER.OBJ shark GENER COP ART
will kill you. Sharks are the

dangerouset creature in the sea.
dangerous.SUPERL creature in ART sea
most dangerous creatures in the sea.