Glossed text

See p. 112-113 in:


The language consultant is an approximately 25-year-old female speaker. I recorded her in 2002 in her home and asked her to tell an Anaansi story. She is a typical speaker of Saintandrewan in that she knows Spanish and some English.

The plug

Debn sei wan taim Beda Taiga an Beda Gaalin
3PL say one time Brother Tiger and Brother Gawlin
They say once upon a time Brother Tiger and Brother Gawlin

wehn gwain da wan daans. Bot evribadi nuo
ANT FUT PREP ART.INDF dance but everybody knew
were going to a dance. But everybody knew

se Beda Gaalin kyaan go faa fran di pan
COMP Brother Gawlin can.NEG go far from ART.DEF pan
that Brother Gawlin could not go far from the (lavatory) pan

bikaa ibn wi didi op. So Beda Taiga tel
because 3SG.SBJ FUT shit up so Brother Tiger tell
because he would shit his pants. So Brother Tiger told

him se no, him wi len im samting
3SG.OBJ COMP NEG 3SG.SBJ FUT lend 3SG.OBJ something
him that no, he would lend him something

1 Anaansi stories are traditional stories inherited from the Gold Coast, West Africa. Anaansi, originally a spider, is the trickster who represents the slaves born in the New World.
so he would not shit his pants. And he lent him a plug and upon top of clothes and

And on top of it clothes and

so Gawlin would look good when

he would go to the party. And everybody knew [noticed] that

Gawlin was elegant. And all the girls wanted to dance with Gawlin and nobody wanted to dance with Tiger.

So Tiger got annoyed and told Gawlin: “Gawlin, give me my clothes!” Gawlin took off the clothes and

2 _And_ is a more natural translation than _but_. This kind of un-English use of conjunction is typical of San Andres Creole English and may reveal a preference for simple, not complex sentences in the course of the development history of the language.
gi Taiga. Ibn sei: “Aarait, Gaalin, gimi
give Tiger 3SG.SBJ say allright Gawlin give-1SG.OBJ
gave them to Tiger. He said: “Alright, Gawlin, give me

mi shuuz!” Gaalin tek aaf di shuuz an gi
1SG.PASS shoe Gawlin take off ART.DEF shoe and give
my shoes!” Gawlin took off the shoes and gave them to

Taiga. Ibn sei: “No, man, Gaalin, gimi
Tiger 3SG.SBJ say NEG man Gawlin give-1SG.OBJ
Tiger. He said: “No, man, Gawlin, give me

di plog bikaa if yu neva baid mai
ART.DEF plug because if 2SG.SBJ NEG.PST hide 1SG.PASS
my plug because if you didn’t use my

plog, aal dem gyal wuda de wid mit!” An
plug all DEM girl would COP.LOC COM 1SG.OBJ and
plug, all those girls would be with me!” And

wen ibn grab de³ plog, Gaalin didi op an
when 3SG.SBJ grab ART.DEF plug Gawlin shit up and
when he grabbed the plug, Gawlin shat his pants and

ron gaan bai pan an das wai Gaalin no
run GO.ANT by pan and FOC-COP why Gawlin NEG
ran to the pan and that is why Gawlin does not

lef di pan bikaazn wen ibn lef di
leave ART.DEF pan because when 3SG.SBJ leave ART.DEF
leave the pan because when he left the pan, he

³ This definite article is the realization of the English definite article the in San Andres Creole English and constitutes a small clue revealing that the speaker also uses some English.
*pan, ibn  
didi  
op.*
pan 3SG.SBJ shit up
shat his pants.