

Glossed text

See p. 12-13 in:

van den Berg, Margot C. & Smith, Norval S.H. 2013. Early Sranan. In: Michaelis, Susanne Maria & Maurer, Philippe & Haspelmath, Martin & Huber, Magnus (eds.) *The Survey of Pidgin and Creole Languages, Vol. I: English-based and Dutch-based languages*, 3-14. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

The following lines, taken from the play in van Dyk's (c1765) language manual, present a detailed account of a plantation funeral that is generally considered to be true to life (van Trier-Guicherit 1991).

Zwarte Officier: Tappe kissi myki wi go mastra negere
close coffin make 1PL go master black
Black Overseer: 'Close the coffin, let's go. Gentlemen,

oenno zikkese zomma ope da homen
2PL six person lift DET.SG woman
you six persons, lift up the woman.

hoe ply den homan lange negere alle
Q place DET.PL woman with black all
Where is the woman with all the blacks?

oenno wakke na hippi kry man moe
2PL walk LOC heap wail man must
You must walk as a group, the wailers must

wakke na fessi oenno no vergiti wan
walk LOC face 2PL NEG forget one
walk at the front. Don't forget a

zanti kongo-kongo.
thing come-go
thing! Come, come!

Zangers: Da zo wi jarri didde zomma go mi jan do,
that so 1PL carry dead person go 1SG play
Singers: 'That's how we carry the dead away. I celebrate. We

wi zarri fo joe alle da joe go lassi zo, na
1PL regret for 2PL all that 2SG go expire so LOC
are very sorry for you. It is you who died like this.

tra moen wi za troy watere moffe gi
other moon 1PL FUT throw water mouth give
Next month we will offer up water, so your mouth

joe no dry joe trokke man lassi ô! mi jan do
2SG NEG dry 2SG precentor expire o 1SG play
will not be dry. The precentor dies, o! I will

za alle tem.
so all time
celebrate like this always.'

Zwarte Officier: Potti na gron gimi klossi doe
put LOC ground give.1SG cloth do
Black Overseer: 'Place (the coffin) on the ground. Give me
some cloth to

aber kissi kotti da klossi lange
across coffin cut DET.SG cloth with
cover the coffin, cut the cloth with a

neffi krassi abere potti na ini
knife scratch across put LOC inside
knife across. Lower the coffin in

gron potti dotti bon na tappe kaba
ground put dirt good LOC top finish
the ground, cover it good with dirt on top.

kaba a bon zo.
finish 3SG good so
Done, done, it's good like this.'