Glossed text

See p. 37 in:


The following text excerpt is part of a traditional story. In this story, water is hidden under a rock. All the birds are invited to try to break the rock, but nobody succeeds. Then the woodpecker shows up. This fragment is taken from Amoida (1982).

Hen totomboti taa we a o du luku tu. then woodpecker said well he IRR do look too Then the woodpecker said that he would try too.

Gaama, mi o go naki luku. Hen dee otowan Granman, 1SG IRR go hit look then DEF.PL other "Chief, I am going to try to hit it." Then the others

taki taa: Ku un-buka, i langa bakabedi di say that with which-beak, 2SG long back.head REL said: "With what beak, you long back-of-the-head,

ku di gaan taku fi=i de? Um-fa with DEF.SG big ugliness for=2SG there which-fashion with your great ugliness? How are you going to break

a du ufo i sa booko en? U tuu we... luku 3SG does before 2SG POT break 3SG 1PL all FOC look it? All of us [have tried] ... look

di bigi de ku mi, Woko. Gbanini taa: DEF.SG bigness there with 1SG, woko Hawk say how big I, Woko, am." The hawk said:
"Well, look at me [how big I am]. Which woodpecker [is going to try such a thing]?"

waka te ko dou. Hen a tjoko di sitonu
walk till come arrive then 3SG stab DEF.SG rock
Then the woodpecker walked out there. Then he pecked at the rock.

kookookoo. Hen a waka go seeka taampu.
IDEO then 3SG walk go arrange stand
Peck! Peck! Peck! Then he walked to [another place] and got himself ready.

[The woodpecker finally succeeds in breaking the rock, and thus provides water for all the birds. However, since that time the woodpecker has not been able to stop pecking at things.]

Hen a taa an sa disa soni u naki moon.
then 3SG say 3SG.NEG POT quit thing for knock more
After that, he said that he can’t stop hitting any more.