

Glossed text

See p. 37 in:

Aboh, Enoch O. & Smith, Norval S.H. & Veenstra, Tonjes. 2013. Saramaccan. 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*, 27-38. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

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:

„We luku mi. Un totomboti? Hen totomboti
well look 1SG. Which woodpecker then woodpecker
"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.