

Glossed text

See p. 165 in:

Finney, Malcolm Awadajin. 2013. Krio. 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*, 157-166. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

A private letter written by a Sierra Leone churchman, writing primarily about the language *Krio* (Jones 1971: 91–92)

Di las tem we wi si, a bin tel yu se a
| the last time that we see I PST tell you that I
The last time we met, I told you that I

min fɔ̃ rait yu, fɔ̃ tel yu tenk fɔ̃ di atikul
mean to write you to tell you thank for the article
meant to write to you to thank you for the article

we yu put na di 'Sa Lon Mesenja'. Wi
that you put LOC the 'Sierra Leone Messenger' we
which you published in the 'Sierra Leone Messenger.' We

ɔl no se di Krio tranga fɔ̃ rait; bɔt as wi
| all know that the Krio be_strong to write but as we
all know that Krio is difficult to write, but as we

dɔn bigin fɔ̃ trai, wi go ebul am. Mɔs mek a
| PFV begin to try we FUT able it must make I
have started making attempts we will overcome the
difficulties. Please let me

no if yu min fɔ̃ rait ɔl tem so a kin aks
know if you mean to write all time so I could ask
know if you mean to write frequently so that I can ask

dɛm na Bunumbu Press na Bo, fɔ mek dɛm go
| them LOC Bunumbu Press LOC Bo to make they PROG
the people of the Bunumbu Press at Bo to

roneo yu atikul as dɛm gɛt taipraitɔ we go du
roneo you article as they get typewriter that PROG do
roneo your article since they have a typewriter which will do

am. A nɔ no mɔs i go kɔs, bɔt a tink
| it I NEG know how.much it PROG cost but I think
it. I do not know how much it will cost, but I think

se dɛn go gi mi fɔ lili ɛn natin. Yu
| that they PROG give me for little and nothing you
that they will let me have it for a reasonable price You

no se a bin di trai si if a kin ɛp
know that I PST PROG try see if I could help
know that I had been trying to see if I could help

wit sɔm transleshɔn lek di krid, di awa fada
with some translation like the creed the our father
with some translation, like the Creed, the 'Our Father',

bɔt usai, chans nɔ de! Frɔm 1938/9 na im
but where chance NEG there from 1938/9 it is
but could I? There was not enough time! It was as far back as
1938/9 that

a se mek a trai du wan pan di Gɔspel. A
I say make I try do one of the Gospel I
I decided that I should attempt one of the Gospels. I

bigin with St Mark. A du af af bɔt a nɔ
begin with St. Mark I do half half but I NEG
began with St. Mark. I did bits but was not

ebul dɔn am. Wɛl bai we a get fɔ de muf,
able finish it well by when I have to PROG move
able to finish it. Well, because I had to move often

a min wɛn a transfɑ, sɔm fɔ mi pepas dɛm
I mean when I transfer some of my papers them
– I mean when I transferred – some of my papers

kin lɔs. Dɛm wan we lef gbɔg
sometimes lost those ones which leave_s(behind) bug
got lost. White ants

gbɔg ɛp mi cham dɛm. Fɔ stat egen, na wok
bug help me chew them to start again itis work
chewed up those that were left Starting again was too great
a labour.

bra! So, yu we de trai, yu du wɛl. Wɛl
my_sfriend so you who PROG try you do well well
So for attempting anything you are to be commended. Well,

au dɛm ɔl na os? Di wɛf wɛl enti? tɛŋ
how they all LOC home the wife is_swell not_sso thank
how are they all at home? You wife is well I hope: thank

Gɔd. A no se yu bizi, so dis du so fɔs. Gɔd
God I know that you busy so this do so first God
God. I know that you are busy, so this will do for the time
being. God

bles yu. P/S Au di maskita ɔp to una na
| bless you P/S [how](#) the mosquito up to you_{PL} LOC
bless you. P/S How are the mosquitoes up you way at the

kɔləj? Dɛn wan we de ya dɛn so ɡɛt sɛns
| College [t](#)hose ones that live here they so have sense
College? The ones around here are so clever

dat a de wɔnda au di wan dɛm na kɔləj
that I PROG wonder how the one them LOC college
that I wonder how 'stupid' the ones in College

go chupit rich.
go stupid rich
are.