

Glossed text

See p. 47-48 in:

Mous, Maarten. 2013. Mixed Ma'a/Mbugu. In: Michaelis, Susanne Maria & Maurer, Philippe & Haspelmath, Martin & Huber, Magnus (eds.) *The Survey of Pidgin and Creole Languages, Vol. III: Contact Languages Based on Languages from Africa, Asia, Australia, and the Americas*, 42-49. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

The leopard

This story was recounted on my request by William Mboko in [Magamba](#) in February 1993. It was difficult to gather stories in Mixed Ma'a/Mbugu. Most texts that I collected were of the oral history type. There seemed to be no traditional verbal arts among the Mbugu. This story and a story about the Mbugu planting banana trees for the chief (see Mous 2003a) come closest to a tale but both are presented as history rather than fiction. I did manage to record a few songs in Ma'a/Mbugu, but no riddles. The story reports on an episode how a traveller (the narrator) outwits a leopard.

1 *Ihlé* *ghó ni-sé-we* *William.* *Iazé* *i-wé*
name my 1SG-call-PASS.PRF William day 5-one
My name is William. One day

2 *n-ékú-li* *kinbko saa já chá magherí,*
1SG-COND-come.from [Kinhko](#) hour 10:CONN at evening
I came from Kinko in the evening

3 *saa ikumi na nú ni-líta na i'í maghambá.*
hour ten with two 1SG-come with here Magamba
at six o'clock, to come to here to Magamba.

4 *Ni-tábó-ya* *hé-ngwé.* *Ni-be-hé* *aré hé-kwáblí.*
1SG-pass-APPL:FV 16-forest 1SG-16-arrive there 16-path
I am passing through the forest. I arrived at the path.

- 5 *Ni-te-kó kígí chí-ni-dosa líya.*
 1SG-IRR-hear thing 7-1SG-follow backwards
 I heard something following me from behind.
- 6 *Ní-be-súngíríja kwá anháó ni-bó ní-ábo ní*
 1SG-16-turn.around with care is-16:REL 1SG-see is
 When I turned around carefully, I saw it was
- 7 *shubé. Shubé y-éku-ká'a miberégha ná aná*
 leopard leopard 9-FPST.COND-put.up arms with high
 a leopard. The leopard put up his arms;
- 8 *í-dúmu ku-ni-wesía b-o ni-aghá-e. Kái ní*
 9-want 15-1SG-look.at 16-REL 1SG-match-SBJ if is
 it wanted to see where I match; if I
- 9 *m-gitutú ku-zídi ú. Basi i-múru ku-ni-gá'a.*
 1-small 15-be.more s/he well(Sw) 9-can 15-1SG-kill
 am smaller than him. Well, it can kill me.
- 10 *Kwátó né-ló ikoti ghó ló-n-'óróye*
 thus 1SG:FPST-have coat my 5:REL-1SG-close.APPL:PRF
 Well I had my coat that I wore,
- 11 *na ibrangéti na ndaté. Ni-te-ká'a hú ikoti ghó*
 with blanket with stick 1SG-IRR-put.up that coat my
 a blanket and a stick. I take my coat,
- 12 *na hú ndaté n-té-i-bútu bé-ikoti-zá.*
 with that stick 1SG-IRR-9-put.in 16-coat-inside
 and that stick I put into the coat.
- 13 *N-ka-ká'a aná ku'éja kubá ni mw-ezá ilái.*
 1SG-CSEC-put.up high 15-show that is 1-long there
 Then I put it up to show that I am tall there.

14 *N-dába anháó n-be-wesía-wa ni-ábo é-té-gbesha*
 1SG-walk care 1SG-16-look.at-PASS 1SG-see 1-IRR-try
 I walk carefully, I am looked at I see that he attempts,

15 *bú shubé í-té-gbesha ku-ká'a na aná mirá*
 that leopard 9-IRR-try 15-put.up with high but
 that leopard; he tries to get up high but

16 *yá m-bé ni mw-ezá tó kwátó n-kú-wesia-wa.*
 this 1-man is 1-long just thus 1SG-COND-look.at-PASS
 he just sees that this man is taller, this is the way I am looked at.

17 *N-bo í-ábo há kavé kwa anháó sana ni-ábo*
 is-16:REL 9-see with surprise with care very(Sw) 1SG-see
 Very carefully I see

18 *í-te-kiríi a anháó anháó. Yáni ná-kwá*
 9-IRR-return CONN care care well(Sw) 1SG:PAST-be
 that he carefully returns. Well I was

19 *mw-ezá, kwátó te-í-ka-muru kwátó n-be-wesía*
 1-long thus NEG-9-CSEC-can thus 1SG-16-look.at
 taller thus he was unable. Thus when I see

20 *ni-ábo y-áa-so-isha y-á-teka na ngwé-za.*
 1SG-see 9-PST-go-CAUS 9-PST-lost with forest-inside
 that he walks a lot, that he is lost into the forest,

21 *Kwátó aní n-te-dába anháó anháó mpaká*
 thus I 1SG-IRR-walk care care until
 Thus I walk on carefully until

22 *n-ka-bé maghambá kwa kubá ku-lí*
 1SG-CSEC-arrive Magamba with that 5-come.from
I arrive in Magamba. From

23 *kinbko mpaká maghambá ni muda w-á ma-dámo*
Kínko until *Magamba* is time 3-CONN 6-time
Kinko to Magamba it is a period

24 *ma-bái tó kwá ku-dába na amá. Bási ni-be-bé*
6-four there with 15-walk with night well 1SG-16-arrive
of four hours walking by night. Well I arrived

25 *aná n-bó ni-'élezea ká-báli chó*
home is-16:REL 1SG-explain DEM2-other 7:REL
home and I explained how

26 *y-é-kwá-be. Ká ní mbúrí ghó au kighano ghó*
9-FPST-be-16 DEM2 is reason my or story my
it was. This my thing, or my story

27 *chó né-abó-ye wé kwa wé.*
7:REL 1SG-see-APPL:PRF one with one
that I saw at once.