

Glossed text

See p. 57-59 in:

Devonish, Hubert & Thompson, Dahlia. 2013. Creolese. 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*, 49-60. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Background to text: The original interviews were done by Arnold Persaud and transcribed by him for Derek Bickerton. The text came to us via Dhanaiswary Jaganauth who previously received them from George Cave, former lecturer, Department of English, University of Guyana, who was a colleague of Bickerton, in the period around 1970, the approximate date of the transcription.

Langa ago wii yuuz tu plou wid aksn orli in di marning.
long ago we used to plow with oxen early in the morning.
Long ago we used to plough [farm] with oxen early in the morning.

Wii gatu get op an teek ouar breekfas an
we got.to get up and take our breakfast and
We had to get up and have breakfast, have lunch and

den tek ouar lonsh an den wii go dong a di bak wee.
then take our lunch and then we go down to the back way
then we went down to the back way.

Wii gatu waak trii or foo mailz fu fain di aksn.
we got.to walk three or four miles to find the oxen
We had to walk three or four miles to find the oxen.

Den wen wii kom bak wii gatu put aam ...
then when we come back we got.to put ahm ...
Then when we came back [returned] we had to put ahm ...

juat on dee nek. An den wii gatu put on di plou.
'juat' on the neck and then we got.to put on the plough
yoke on the [oxen's] necks. And then we had to put on the plough.

Den fram de wii hav tu ajos di plou
then from there we have to adjust the plough
Then from there we had to adjust the plough

den wii gatu staat tu plou.
then we got.to start to plough
then we had to start to plough.

Den som a di aksn das ron
then some of the oxen HAB run
Then some of the oxen would run off

an get dee fut kot op.
and get their foot cut up
get their feet cut up.

An sontaim di laan das haad
and sometime the land HAB hard
Sometimes the land was very hard

an wi das gatu chrai tu plou it.
and we HAB got.to try to plough it
and (yet) we had to try to plough it.

An wen wii finish plou a kot
and when we finish plough a row
And when we finished ploughing one row,

den a neks taim wii gatu kom bak an plou a neks kot.
then a next time we got.to come back and plough a next row
then another time we had to come back and plough a another row.

Den wen wii wii gan sbai di di padi
then when we we going.to throw the the paddy
Then when we – we would scatter the paddy (to sow it)

den wii go kom wid bush an wii gon
then we go come with bush and we going
then we would get bush and we would

baal di bush on it an kova di padi.
haul the bush on it and cover the paddy
drag the bush over it and cover over the paddy.

An wen reen faal dem staat tu groo.
and when rain fall they start to grow
And when it rained then they (the rice plants) started to grow.

Wen it groo mont or tu sotaim i ful wid gras.
when it grow month or two sometimes it full with grass
When it (the rice plants) grew for a month or two sometimes it was full of grass.

Den juring di reeni siizn laik bout juun o julai
then during the rainy season like bout June or July
Then during the rainy season, maybe about June or July

wii gatu goo an klin biizi-biizi
we got.to go and clean bizii-bizii
we had to go and clean out the bizii-bizii weeds (from the midst of the rice plants).

An den wen wii an wi gatu pach di rais.
and then when we and we got.to patch the rice
And then we had to patch the rice (possibly 'planting fresh plants where the weeds had been').

An wii finish den rong bout aagas taim wi finish.
and we finish then round about August time we finish
We would finish patching around August.

An aam ... juring about septemba tu aktoba
and ahm during about September to October
And ahm during September to October

wi staat tu kot wid gras naif.
we start to cut with grass knife.
we would start to cut with grass knives.

An wen wii finish kot wii das gatu ...
and when we finish cut we HAB got.to ...
And when we finished cutting we would have to ...

e fech it wid di aksn wid kyart
er fetch it with the oxen with cart
er use oxen attached either to a cart

ar som kain a draga an
or some kind of dragger and
or other vehicle that could be dragged,

wen wii pak op aal di straa dat wi kot
when we pack up all the stalks that we cut
to take away the cut rice plants and when we had stacked all the stalks we had cut,

wi gatu mash it wid aksn.
we got.to mash it with oxen
then we had to use oxen to trample them.

Wi gatu get baiz jraiving di aksn rong an rong.
we got.to get boys driving the oxen round and round
We had to get boys to drive the oxen around and around.

Wi gatu get a kain tu chroowe di straa.
we got.to get a kind to throw.away the straw
We had to get a kind (meaning unclear) to get rid of the chaff.

Wen wi finish wi gatu hiip op di padi.
when we finish we got.to heap up the paddy
When finished we had to heap up the paddy.

Den wi gatu win it.
then we got.to winnow it
Then we had to winnow it.

An den wi gatu transpoot it
and then we got.to transport it
After which we had to transport it

wid bul kyart tu di rais mil.
with bull cart to the rice mill
using carts pulled by bulls to the rice mill.

Weer weer wi soold di padi da tu di mila
where where we sold the paddy that to the miller
Where – where we then either sold that paddy to the miller

ar wii get it mil an sel di rais tu eni porsn iz baiin rais
or we get it mill and sell the rice to any person is buying rice.
or we milled it and sold the rice to anyone who might be buying rice.

A.P: hou it iz don tudee nou?
A. P: how it is done today now?
A.P: How is it done today?

Wel prezentli nou wii get cbrakta.
well presently now we get tractor
Well presently we have tractors.

Wi plou di raisfiel in a fiyu ouarz taim,
we plough the ricefield in a few hours time.
We plough the ricefield in a few hours time.

An den wii kom bak an wii riiplou
and then we come back and we re-plough
And then we come back another time and plough for a second time

a sekan taim an den wii braadkyaas di padi.
a second time and then we 'broadcast' the paddy
and then we sow the paddy by scattering it across the ploughed area.

Wii kova it wid chipa an wen di reen faal it groo.
we cover it with 'chipa' and when the rain fall it grow
We cover the paddy with 'chipa' (small chips of dirt?) and when rain fall it grows.

An wii wach it fram inseks an pes.
and we watch it from insects and pest
And we protect the ricefield from insects and other pests.

An wen it iz raip wii riip it wid kombain
and when it is ripe we reap it with 'combine'
And when the paddy is ready, we harvest it with combined harvesters

an wii get i:da trok ar tre:la
and we get either truck or trailer
and we use either trucks or trailers

tu teek it tu di mil weer wii soold it
to take it to the mill where we sold it
to take it to the mill where we either sell the paddy

or konvertid it tu rais.
or converted it to rice
or convert it to rice.