

Glossed text (Ecury 1984; Maurer 1995: 170)

See p. 179 in:

Maurer, Philippe. 2013. Papiamentu. In: Michaelis, Susanne Maria & Maurer, Philippe & Haspelmath, Martin & Huber, Magnus (eds.) *The Survey of Pidgin and Creole Languages, Vol. II: Portuguese-based, Spanish-based and French-based Languages*, 163-181. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

The following poem, written by the Aruban poet Nydia Ecury, was published with an English translation provided by the poet herself. In some parts, her translation, which I reproduce here, does not correspond exactly to the Papiamentu version, but with the help of the glosses the Papiamentu text should be clear for the reader.

*Habai*¹

Old Lady

Machi bieu, /² ta resa bo ta resa // òf t'un bon konseho // bo ta
mummy old FOC pray 2SG PROG pray or FOC.a good advice 2SG PROG
Lil' old lady // are you saying prayers // or do you keep repeating // some sound advice //

sigui ripiti, // ku bo boka slap // kontinualmente // ta kou
go.on repeat with 2SG.POSS mouth slack continuously PROG chew
that your shapeless mouth // chews constantly //

sin djente // den un ritmo di bo so? // Machi leu, hei! //
without tooth in a rhythm of you only mummy far hey
in a rhythm all of your own? // Silly old lady, //

Ta strika bo ta strika // dril ku kaki ku kashimir // òf ta un karisia //
FOC iron 2SG PROG iron drill with kaki with cashmere or FOC a caress
are you ironing // your family's laundry once again // or do you wish // to bring to life //

di den pasado // bo ke rebibá // ku bo mannan korkobá //
of in past 2SG want revive with POSS.2SG hand.PL crooked
a caress of years gone by, // that your gnarled hands

den konstante moveshon? // Machi kèns, // ta friu bo tin // den tempu
in constant motion mummy crazy FOC cold 2SG have in time
are so busily occupied? // Daft old lady, // do you feel cold // in summer

di kalor // òf ta miedu di etèrnidat // ta pone bo garganta //
of heat or FOC fear of eternity PROG put POSS.2SG neck
heat // or does your sinewy neck // upon a call from eternity //

¹ *Habai* is a district of Willemstad, Curaçao, where an institution for aged people with the same name is located.

² The double slashes (/) indicate the end of a verse.

tur na lòpchi // tambaliá // pa indiká ku // nò, // ainda nò? //
all in spangle shake for indicate COMP no yet not
shake to indicate // your need // to stay with us, // yet another little while?

Machi prenda, // ku bo benanan di kalki, // bo lomba di baul,³ //
mummy jewel with POSS.2SG vein.PL of lime POSS.2SG back of trunk
Sweet old lady, // with your clogged up veins, // your widow's hump //

bo wowonan sin lus, // mi ke bo pa mi bebi: //
POSS.2SG eye.PL without light 1SG want 2SG for POSS.1SG baby
your eyes opaque, // I'll have you for my baby, //

zoyabo – yayabo – stimabo // maske ta ún anochi, // promé bo bira
rock.2SG spoil.2SG love.2SG even.if COP one night before 2SG become
for a single night, at least, // to hug you – kiss you – love you // before you cease

inmóbil, // promé bo bira kos, // ketu ... // friu ...
immobile before 2SG become thing still cold
the movements, // before you turn into an object, // cold and still ...

³ *tin lomba di baul* means 'be hunchbacked'.