A grammar of Mundabli : a Bantoid (Yemne-Kimbi) language of Cameroon
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Glossed texts

16.1 Song by Yung Henrik, "It is eating me up"

16.1.1 Introduction

This song was written by Yung Henrik who died from a disease shortly after this song was recorded. Besides being a farmer, Yung Henrik was a gifted musician who composed his own songs and accompanied them on the guitar. The song is a so-called 'bottle-dance', which is a popular music style of North-West Cameroon. During the performance, the audience taps the rhythm on bottles. The song treats some of the problems society is facing due to more and more young girls leaving the village in search of a better life.

16.1.2 Text

(1) ḿ = bő   gàn   wú   lā, yɛ̄   bwɛ̄   à   gàn
     1sg = ask(b) go(a) cl1pp dat comp cl1/2.friend 2sg go(a).ipfv
     fḭ́   tí   nà̰
     pass(b).ipfv surprisingly where

     'I ask her: friend, where are you going?'

(2) wù fò̩ tʃú mɪ́ lā, yɛ̄ lòŋ b-ɔ́
CL1 tell(a).IPFV come(b).IPFV 1SG.PP DAT COMP CL8.suffering CL8-DET
yɪ́ nìm tí mɪ̄
eat(b).IPFV sit(a).IPFV surprisingly 1SG

'She told me: I am suffering.'

(3) nɪ́ ŋgɪ̄ nìm tsã́ kṹ, yɛ̄
CL1/2.mother CL1;1SG.POSS live(a).IPFV Tsa home_village.LOC COMP
nɪ́ ŋgɪ̄ nìm tsã́ kṹ,
CL1/2.mother CL1;1SG.POSS live(a).IPFV Tsa home_village.LOC
bwɛ̄
CL1/2.friend

'My mother lives in Tsaku. My mother lives in Tsaku, my friend.'

(4) ḿ=bṹ gàn wú lā, yɛ̄ nɪ́, à gàn
1SG=ask(b) go(a) CL1PP DAT COMP CL1/2.mother 2SG go(a).IPFV
fí̩ tí nā ō
pass(b).IPFV surprisingly where INTERJ

'I asked her: mother where are you going?'

(5) nɪ́ mɪ́ fò̩ tʃú mɪ́ lā, yɛ̄ mɪ̄
CL1/2.mother CONSEC tell(a).IPFV come(b).IPFV 1SG.PP DAT COMP 1SG
wān, ń=lyà fí̩ ɲɛ̀
CL1.child 1SG=go_to_bush(a).IPFV pass(b).IPFV leave(a).IPFV
bō̄ ŋgɪ́
CL3/7a.stroll CL3;1SG.POSS

'My mother told me: my child, I am wandering.'

(6) lòŋ b-ɔ́ yɪ́ nìm tí mɪ̄,
CL8.suffering CL8-DET eat(b).IPFV sit(a).IPFV surprisingly 1SG
lòŋ b-ɔ́ yɪ́ nìm tí mɪ̄
CL8.suffering CL8-DET eat(b).IPFV sit(a).IPFV surprisingly 1SG

'Suffering is eating me up. Suffering is eating me up.'

(7) *better* nìm gàn mɪ́ lā, yɛ̄ ń=dzɛ́
better sit(a) go(a) 1SG.PP DAT COMP 1SG=miss_track(c).IPFV
lɛ̀ ɲɛ̀ tò̩m b-ɔ́ yɨ̀ŋ
get_lost(a).IPFV leave(a).IPFV CL7/8.palm_village CL8-DET bush.LOC

'It would be better for me to leave and get lost in the bush of any village.'

(8) bī kù dzɨ́ gàn kyēn mī, yɛ̄ bī kù
CL8 cry(a) walk_around(b) go(a) CL7/8.soul in COMP CL8 cry(a)
dzɨ́ gàn kyēn mī
walk_around(b) go(a) CL7/8.soul in

'She is crying in her soul. She is crying in her soul.'

(9) bī mɨ́ nìm f-ắnɨ́ (ē), bī dzé nìm tí
1PL CONSEC sit(a) PROX-there INTERJ 1PL speak(b) sit(a) surprisingly
mɛ̌ yɛ̄, lòŋ bɔ́ dɨ́ tá mɛ̌ yɛ̌n lā, bī
only COMP CL8.suffering CL8-DET be(b) specifically only Y. DAT CL8
kwó fúbɔ̌ bí ŋgɔ̄
enter(c) also 1PL.PP upon

'And we are sitting here, saying that only Yain is suffering, but the suffering has also attacked some of us.'

(10) lòŋ b-ɔ́ yɨ́ fúbɔ̌ bī (e), bī dzé nìm
CL8.suffering CL8-DET eat(b).IPFV also 1PL INTERJ 1PL speak(b) sit(a)
mɛ̌ ā mɔ̀ wù-mwò
only COM CL1.person CL1-one

'The suffering is also eating us up and we are only talking about one person.'

(11) à kyɛ́ wān nɛ̌ yū (e),
2SG look(c) CL1.child CL1/2.mother.2SG.POSS buttock.LOC INTERJ
mɔ̀ dzū kyɛ́ fúbɔ̌ á yū
CL1.person CL1.other look(c) also 2SG.PP buttock.LOC

'If you talk against your brother or your sister, somebody will also talk against you.'

(12) bī kù dzɨ́ gàn kyēn mī, yɛ̄
1PL cry(a).IPFV walk_around(b).IPFV go(a).IPFV CL7/8.soul in COMP
bī kù dzɨ́ gàn kyēn mī, yo
1PL cry(a).IPFV walk_around(b).IPFV go(a).IPFV CL7/8.soul in INTERJ

'We are crying in our soul, we are crying in our soul.'

(13) bə̄ dzé gàn bɔ̌ lā yɛ̄ bán bò ắ
IMPERS say(b) go(a) CL2PP DAT COMP CL1/2.outside be_bad(a) ADVLZ
kī-lī
NMLZ-be_strong(a)

'They are telling them that [the world] outside is very bad.'

(14) bɔ̌ fɔ̰̀ tʃú bí lā yɛ̄ bɔ̌ tsè
CL2 tell(a).IPFV come(b).IPFV 1PL.PP DAT COMP CL2 search(a)
dzɨ́ gàn kpő
walk_around(b) go(a) CL3/7a.money

'They are telling us that they are searching for money.'

(15) tō nɔ̰̄ dzwàn kɔ̌ b-ɔ́ bɔ̌ (e), bɔ̌
CL7/8.day SUBORD CL9.illness catch(b) CL8-REL CL2 INTERJ CL2
mɨ̄ nìm gàn tí f-ɔ́ gbɔ́ (e)
CONSEC sit(a) go(a) surprisingly PROX-there house.LOC INTERJ

'The day that an illness has attacked them they will be there, staying
in the house.'

(16) bɔ̀-tǐ bɔ̌ yɨ́ nɨ̄m tí lòŋ
CL2-father 3PL.POSS eat(b).IPFV sit(a) surprisingly CL8.suffering
(e), nín bɔ̌ yɨ́ nɨ̄m tí
INTERJ CL1/2.mother 3PL.POSS eat(b).IPFV sit(a) surprisingly
lòŋ (è)
CL8.suffering INTERJ

'Their father will be suffering and their mother will be suffering.'

(17) tō mɨ́ wě ʃḭ̀ tí (é), wù
CL7/8.day CONSEC dawn(b) go_down(a) surprisingly INTERJ CL1
gwān nɨ̄m f-ɔ́ gbɔ́ (o)
be_sick(a) sit(a) PROX-there house.LOC INTERJ

'When the day has dawned, she is there with an illness in the house.'

(18) bī bú gàn wú lā, yɛ̄ nɨ̌, à
1PL ask(b) go(a) CL1PP DAT COMP CL1/2.mother.1SG/PL.POSS 2SG
gwàn tí mān yɛ̄
be_sick(a) surprisingly what QUOT.Q

'We ask her: mother, why are you ill?'

(19) bī dzé gàn bɔ̌ lā yɛ̄, tō fɨ̄ ā
1PL speak(b) go(a) CL2PP DAT COMP be_smart(b) pass(b) COM
yū y-ā (ò)
CL9/10.buttock CL9-2SG.POSS INTERJ

'We always tell them that they should be very careful with their sex
life'

(20) yū y-ɔ̄ bò ɲwɛ́n ắ kī-lī
CL9/10.buttock CL9-DET be_bad(a) now ADVLZ NMLZ-be_strong(a)
(e)
INTERJ

'Sex is very dangerous these days.'

(21) lòŋ b-ɔ́ yí̠ nìm tí bǐ (e),
CL8.suffering CL8-DET eat(b).IPFV sit(a).IPFV surprisingly 1PL INTERJ
bī yí̠ fúbɔ̌ bī (o)
CL8 eat(b).IPFV also 1PL INTERJ

'Suffering is eating them up and it is also eating some of us up.'[1]

(22) à bɔ̀ŋ gàn kpé (é), wù dzé tʃú̠
2SG call(a) go(a) CL1.woman INTERJ CL1 say(b).IPFV come(b).IPFV
wá lā yɛ̄ (o)
2SG.PP DAT COMP INTERJ

'If you call a woman, she will tell you that'

(23) kpɓ́ wǘ dǐ̠ mɛ̌ kām bī-kpɔ̄n,
CL3/7a.money CL3;3SG.POSS be(b) only CL7/8.thousand CL8-five
bwɛ̄
CL1/2.friend

'her price is always 5000 francs, my friend.' (lit.: her money)

(24) tō nɔ̠̄ lòŋ kɔ̌ b-ɔ́ wù
CL7/8.day SUBORD CL8.suffering catch(b) CL8-REL CL1
kām b-ɔ́ bī-kpɔ̄n ā dǐ̠ wɔ̄
CL7/8.thousand CL8-DET CL8-five NEG be(b) NEG

'The day that suffering attacks her, the 5000 francs are not there.'

(25) nǐ̠ mī̄ yí̠ nìm tí
CL1/2.mother;3SG.POSS CONSEC eat(b).IPFV sit(a).IPFV surprisingly
lòŋ (è), tǐ̠ mī̄ yí̠
CL8.suffering INTERJ CL1/2.father.3SG.POSS CONSEC eat(b).IPFV
nìm tí lòŋ (e)
sit(a).IPFV surprisingly CL8.suffering INTERJ

'Her mother is suffering and her father is suffering.'

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[1]The Class 8 pronoun is used to refer to a group of people in an abusive way.

(26) tō   mɨ̄   wé   ʃɪ̀   tí   (e),
      CL7/8.day CONSEC dawn(b).IPFV go_down(a).IPFV surprisingly INTERJ
      wù kū   nɨ̄m f-ɔ́   gbɔ́,   (o)
      CL1 cry(a) sit(a) PROX-there house.LOC INTERJ

      'When day has broken, she is still there in the house crying.'

(27) nɨ́   bú   ʃɪ̀   tí   wú lā, yɛ̄
      CL1/2.mother.3POSS ask(b) go_down(a) surprisingly CL1PP DAT COMP
      mɨ̄ wān,   ɲwɔ́m   w-ā   dɨ́ tí   nā
      1SG CL1.child CL1.husband CL1-2SG.POSS be(b) surprisingly where
      (o)
      INTERJ

      'And the mother will ask her: My child, where is your husband?'

(28) wù dzé   gàn nɨ́   lā yɛ̄,
      CL1 speak(b) go(a) CL1/2.mother;3POSS DAT COMP
      nɨ́,   ā   n=dɨ́   wɔ̄ ā   mɔ̀nɔ̄
      CL1/2.mother;1POSS NEG 1SG=be(b) NEG COM CL1.male

      'and the daughter will say: Please mother, I don't have a man.'

(29) bɨ̄ mɨ̄   dzě   gàn bɔ̌ lā, yɛ̄ nǐm nɨ́   ā
      1PL CONSEC speak(b) go(a) CL2PP DAT COMP sit(a) IMP.PL COM
      mɔ̀   kwɛ́   (e)
      CL1.man CL3/7a.home_village INTERJ

      'We are telling them: Stay and get married to a native man!'

(30) bɔ̌ dzé   ʃú   bí   lā yɛ̄, ɲwɔ́m
      CL2 speak(b).IPFV come(b).IPFV 1PL.PP DAT COMP CL2.husbands
      kwɛ́   ā   fyá   tí   wɔ̄ bɨ̄
      CL3/7a.home_village NEG give(b).IPFV surprisingly NEG 1PL

      'and they are telling us that native men are not giving us.'

(31) *better* dɨ̌ yɛ̄ bɨ̄ bí   ɲɛ̄   gān
      better be(b) COMP 1PL go_out(b).IPFV leave(a).IPFV go(a)
      tɔ̰́m   b-ɔ́   yɪ̰̀ŋ   (...)
      CL7/8.palm_village CL8-DET bush.LOC

      'It is better for us to go out to other home villages.'

(32) tō   mɨ̄   wě   ʃì   tí   (e),   bɔ̆
CL7/8.day CONSEC dawn(b) go_down(a).IPFV surprisingly INTERJ CL2
tʃú   tí   bɛ̃~bɛ̃   (e)
come(b).IPFV surprisingly CL7/8.half~RED INTERJ

'And then day has broken and they will be coming back half way."
(i.e. attacked by illness, lost weight)

(33) tō   mɨ̄   wě   ʃì   tí   (e),
CL7/8.day CONSEC dawn(b) go_down(a).IPFV surprisingly INTERJ
lòŋ   b-ɔ́   yɪ́   nɨ̄m tí   ắ   bɔ̆
CL8.suffering CL8-DET eat(b).IPFV sit(a) surprisingly ADVLZ CL2
(e)
INTERJ

'And then day has broken and the suffering is only attacking them.'

(34) bɨ̄   kò   dzɪ̄   gàn kyɛ̄n   mɨ̄ (ē),   bɨ̄
1PL cry(a) walk_around(b).IPFV go(a) CL7/8.soul in INTERJ 1PL
kò   dzɪ̄   gàn kyɛ̄n   mɨ̄ (e)
cry(a) walk_around(b).IPFV go(a) CL7/8.soul in

'They are crying in their soul, they are crying in their soul.'

(35) bɨ̀   bú   gàn bɔ̌   lā, yɛ̄   bɛ̄n læ̀   dzɪ̄
1PL ask(b) go(a) CL2PP DAT COMP 2PL do(a).IPFV walk_around(b).IPFV
tí   mān
surprisingly what

'We are asking them: What are you doing [aimlessly]?'

(36) lòŋ   b-ɔ́   yɪ́   nìm bɔ̌ (e),   lòŋ
CL8.suffering CL8-DET eat(b).IPFV sit(a) CL2 INTERJ CL8.suffering
b-ɔ́   yɪ́   fúbɔ̌ bɨ̄   (e)
CL8-DET eat(b).IPFV also 1PL INTERJ

'The suffering is still eating them up and it is also eating us up.'

(37) bɨ̄   dzé   gàn bɔ̌   lā, yɛ̄   nɪ̌,
1PL speak(b) go(a) CL2PP DAT COMP CL1/2.mother.1SG/PL.POSS
lòŋ   b-ɔ́   yɪ́   bɨ̄   (e)
CL7/8.suffering CL8-DET eat(b).IPFV 1PL INTERJ

'We are telling them: Please, the suffering is eating us up.'

(38) wù dzé   tʃʉ́   mɨ́   lā, yɛ̄ lʊ̀ŋ   b-ɔ́
      CL1 say(b).IPFV come(b).IPFV 1SG.PP DAT COMP CL8.suffering CL8-DET
      yɨ́   fúbɔ̌ mɨ̄ (e)
      eat(b).IPFV also 1SG INTERJ

'And she will also tell us that the suffering is also eating her up.'

(39) bī kù   dzɨ́   gàn (e)
      CL8 cry(a).IPFV walk_around(b).IPFV go(a) INTERJ

'They are crying'

(40) bī dzé gàn tí   (e)
      CL8 say(b) go(a) surprisingly INTERJ

'and they keep on talking.'

(41) bī mɨ̄ dzě tʃʉ́   wá lā yɛ̄, bán
      1PL CONSEC say(b) come(b) 2SG.PP DAT COMP CL1/2.outside
      bò   ǎ   kɨ̄-lɨ̄
      be_bad(a) ADVLZ NMLZ-be_strong(a)

'We are talking to you, saying that [the world] outside is very bad.'

(42) bɛ̄n mù   kɔ́   bén fɔ́   yɛ̄
      2PL take(a) CL8a.intelligence 2PL.PP head.LOC QUOT

'You should be careful and put some sense in your heads.'

(43) tō   mɨ̄ wě   ʃɨ̀   tí   (e)
      CL7/8.day CONSEC dawn(b) go_down(a).IPFV surprisingly INTERJ

'When day has broken'

(44) nɛ̌   mɨ̄ dzě gàn wá lā (e)
      CL1.mother.2SG.POSS CONSEC speak(b) go(a) 2SG.PP DAT INTERJ

'your mother will tell you.'

(45) bī ā   wʉ́   wɔ́ ɲɔ́   nɨ́
      CL8 NEG hear(b).IPFV NEG CL8a.talk CL1/2.mother

'They will not be hearing their mother's advice.'

(46) bɔ́ mɨ̄ kù   nìm tí   (e), nɨ̌
      CL2 CONSEC cry(a) sit(a) surprisingly INTERJ CL1/2.mother.1POSS
      mɨ̄ kù   nìm tí   (e)
      CONSEC cry(a) sit(a) surprisingly INTERJ

'They will still be crying, and our mother will still be crying.'

(47) à   mī   syɛ́   nìm á   dzǽ,   à   mī
      2SG CONSEC expose_teeth(b) sit(a) 2SG.PP mouth.LOC 2SG CONSEC
      syɛ́   nìm á   dzǽ
      expose_teeth(b) sit(a) 2SG.PP mouth.LOC

      'and you will still be exposing your teeth, and you will still be exposing
      your teeth.'

(48) nɛ́   mī   kʊ̀   nìm tí   (e),   yɛ̄
      CL1.mother.2SG.POSS CONSEC cry(a) sit(a) surprisingly INTERJ COMP
      mī   wān   gàn fɨ́   tí   nə̄
      1SG CL1.child go(a) pass(b) surprisingly where

      'Your mother will still be crying: Where is my child going?'

(49) mī   wān   gàn fɨ́   tí   nə̄,   mī   wān   gàn
      1SG CL1.child go(a) pass(b) surprisingly where 1SG CL1.child go(a)
      fɨ́   tí   nə̄
      pass(b) surprisingly where

      'Where is my child going? Where is my child going?'

(50) bī yɨ́   nìm mī (o), bī yɨ́   nìm mī (o)
      CL8 eat(b).IPFV sit(a) 1SG INTERJ CL8 eat(b).IPFV sit(a) 1SG INTERJ

      'It is eating me up, it is eating me up.'

(51) bī yɨ́   nìm mī (o), bī yɨ́   nìm mī (o)
      CL8 eat(b).IPFV sit(a) 1SG INTERJ CL8 eat(b).IPFV sit(a) 1SG INTERJ

      'It is eating me up, it is eating me up.'

16.2   Recipe for corn beer

16.2.1   Introduction

The following text is a spontaneous presentation of a recipe for corn beer. As such, it is not necessarily a correct or complete recipe, but serves to present Mundabli in use.

16.2.2   Text

(1)   bə̄   ʃə̄   bə̄ fyē   nə̄   bə̄   kɤ̌
      IMPERS want(a).IPFV IMPERS learn(a) SUBORD IMPERS HAB
      lǽ   ná ŋkà̄
      make(a).IPFV as CL6.corn_beer

      'We want to learn how to make corn beer.'

(2)   ká   à   mū   ʃú   gɛ̄   w-ɔ́   à   mī̄
      COND 2SG take(a) come(b) CL3/7a.maize CL3-DET 2SG CONSEC
      kpè   wǔ ŋgī̄   mī̄ sɤ̌   yɤ́-ʃyē
      soak(a) CL3 CL6.water in CL9/10.day CL10-two

      'When you take the corn and soak it in water for two days,'

(3)   à   mī̄   wú   bɤ́   yá   mű
      2SG CONSEC drain(c) go_out(b) go_up(c) CL6

      'you then remove it [the corn],'

(4)   à   mī̄   tɛ́n   wű kyà   mī̄
      2SG CONSEC pour(c) CL3 CL9/10.basket in

      'and put it into a basket.'[2]

(5)   *after*, à   mī̄   tǎn   tʃű   yán   ŋgɔ̄m
      after 2SG CONSEC cut(b) come(b) CL3/7a.leave CL1/2.plantain

      'After that, you collect plantain leaves.'

(6)   à   mī̄   bǎŋ   kɤ́ tʃɤ́n wɔ̄
      2SG CONSEC lock(b) CL7 there on

      'and you cover the corn with them.'

---

[2]In order to drain out the water.

(7) kə́ mū bí sɨ̌ yí-ǹdē *or* yī-kpɔ̄n à
COND CL6 germinate(b) CL9/10.day CL10-four or CL10-five 2SG
mɨ̄ mū kɛ́ bɨ̌ yá mɨ́ ā mɨ̄ gwɔ̀
CONSEC take(a) return(c) go_out(b) go_up(c) CL6 2SG CONSEC grind(a)

'After it has germinated for four or five days, you then remove it [the corn] and grind [it].'

(8) ká à gwō tʃú mɨ́, *either* mɛ̀ʃîn mɨ̄ *or*
COND 2SG grind(a) come(b) CL6 either CL1/2.machine in or
ɲē wɔ̄ à mɨ̄ tʃǔ wɔ̀ŋ mǔ
CL3/7a.lower_grinding_stone on 2SG CONSEC come(b) squish(a) CL6

'When you have ground it, either in the machine or on the grinding stone, you then mash it.'

(9) dʒī dɑ̌ yí-ʃyē à kɑ̄ lɑ̄ ŋkɑ̀
CL9.path be_still(b) CL10-two 2SG COND make(a) CL6.corn_beer

'There are two ways of making corn beer:'

(10) *either* à wɔ̀ŋ mǔ, kə́ mū gé à tǔ fɨ̀
either 2SG squish(a) CL6 COND CL6 settle(b) 2SG scoop(b) pass(b)
bì yá fɔ̄ w-ɔ́ à dʒyè tsɑ̄lì
go_out(b) go_up(c) CL3.head CL3-DET 2SG cook(a) CL7/8.chaff
b-ɔ́ ā mū-ntʃīm m-ɔ́
CL8-DET COM CL6-thick CL6-DET

'either you wash and leave it to settle, then you remove the head and cook the chaffs with the thick one (liquid)'

(11) *or* à sé mɨ́ n-sē kwɛ́ mɨ̄
or 2SG heat(c) CL6 INF-heat(c) CL3/7a.home in

'or you cook it in the local traditional way.'

(12) *then after*, ká à dʒyē mɛ̄ mɨ́, *the first day*
then after COND 2SG cook(a) finish(a) CL6 the first day

'Then after you've finished cooking, the first day'

(13) tō ā m-bāŋ b-ɔ́, ká à dʒyē mɛ̄
CL7/8.day COM INF-follow(b) CL8-DET COND 2SG cook(a) finish(a)

'the first day when you've finished cooking'

(14) *then,* kə́   tō   wé   kɛ̄   ʃī,   à   mɨ̄
     then COND CL7/8.day dawn(b) return(c) go_down(a) 2SG CONSEC
     dʒyē   kpɛ̀   mǔ
     cook(a) complete(a) CL6

     'then the next day you finish cooking.'

(15) ká   à   dʒyē   kpɛ̄   mɨ́, à   mɨ̄   mū   ʃú
     COND 2SG cook(a) complete(a) CL6 2SG CONSEC take(a) come(b)
     ŋkā   mū-nkɔ̄n   m-ɔ́,   à   mɨ̄   nūŋ
     CL6.corn_beer CL6-strong_corn_beer CL6-DET 2SG CONSEC add(a)
     kwó   ʃī   tʃɨ́n ŋgɔ́
     enter(c) go_down(a) there upon

     'When you are done with cooking, you take the strong corn beer and
     add [it].'

(16) *then* kə̃́   tō   wé   kɛ̄   ʃī   mū mɨ̄
     then COND CL7/8.day dawn(b) return(c) go_down(a) CL6 CONSEC
     nɨ̄m ɨ̃́   bə̄   kə̄   mɨ́
     sit(a) LOC IMPERS so_that drink(b)

     'then the next day it will be ready for drinking'

(17) *so* bə̄   mɨ̄   yē   m-mṵ̀
     so IMPERS CONSEC start(a) INF-drink(b).IPFV

     'So, people will then start drinking.'