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## **Possessive constructions in Tongugbe, an Ewe dialect**

Kpoglu, P.D.

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**Author:** Kpoglu, P.D.

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**1. Nar Fam.flextext (Narrating the deaf play)**

**fémó ee enū-ó kíyíé mí kpó fíé**  
 Famor ee thing-ART.DEF this PRO.1PL see now  
 Famor what we just saw

1

**ewò yé gblò enū yíé tútútú kpó lé nònòmetátá kíyíé vá yì**  
 PRO.2SG FOC tell thing this exactly PRO.2SG.see at image this VENT go  
**dzí nù**

upper.section DAT-PRO.1SG  
 tell me exactly what you saw in the film

2

3

**lè nònòmetátá kíyíé-ó vá yì mè-é**  
 be.at image this-PL VENT go interior.section-FOC  
 in the film that was just shown

4

**mè kpó bé ñùtsù álé tsó agblè-mè vá**  
 PRO.1SG see QUOT man ART.INDF from farm-interior.section come  
 I saw that a certain man came back from farm

5

6

**váyì wò dō dédé té ñú wò vá vá nò**  
 ALTR do work fatigue press-PRO.3SG skin PRO.3SG come VENT be.at:PST  
**anyī**  
 ground

he went to work he was tired he came to sit down

7

8

9

**wò dókóé-é vēvēvē**  
 do REFL-ART.DEF little.by.little  
 stretched himself a little

10

**kò edò há nò wù tá**  
 then hunger also COP -PRO.3SG kill-PROG so  
 and since he was hungry as well

11

**kò wò yó srò-ó bé né vá dó kpl̩**  
 then PRO.3SG call-HAB spouse-ART.DEF QUOT PRO.3SG.IMP VENT put table  
 he call his wife so she sets the dinning table

12

**wò vá dó kpl̩ né wò tsó asī hé kló**  
 PRO.3SG VENT put table DAT.PRO.3SG PRO.3SG take hand IT wash  
 she came to set the dinning table before him he washed his hands

13

14

**wò nù tsì-é vī alē**  
 PRO.3SG drink water-ART.DEF small ART.INDF  
 he drank a little water

15

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**kò wò dzè nū-ó qù~qù dzí**  
 then PRO.3SG be.in.contact.with thing-ART.DEF RED~eat upper.section  
 and he started eating

16

**kò wò lé qù wò lé qù**  
 then PRO.3SG COP-PRO.3SG eat-PROG PRO.3SG COP-PRO.3SG eat-PROG

**nyúíé fányì**

well fine

he ate and ate really well

17

**mè kpó bé é vè lé né vèvèvè**  
 PRO.1SG see QUOT PRO.3SG throat hold-PROG DAT.PRO.3SG little.by.little

I saw that he almost got choked

18

**kò wò tró**  
 then PRO.3SG turn

then after that he

19

**tsó tsi-é qè kó kpàlà é dzí-í**  
 take water-ART.DEF some take rinse PRO.3SG upper.surface-FOC

he used water to calm it

20

**kò wò qù-í nyúíé fányì enū-ó há vívì né**  
 then PRO.3SG eat-PRO.3SG well fine thing-ART.DEF also sweet DAT.PRO.3SG

so he ate really well, enjoyed his meal

21

**wò qó fò kò**  
 PRO.3SG full stomach then

he was satisfied; then

22

**mè kpó bé vī alē vī alē tsí wó**  
 PRO.1SG see QUOT small ART.INDF small ART.INDF stay PRO.3PL

I saw that he had leftovers between

23

**áqúté-mè wò qé fast**  
 tooth-inside PRO.3SG remove-PRO.3SG fast

his teeth; he quickly took it off

24

**kò ké-ò qé vò-á yékò**  
 then as-PRO.3SG remove-PRO.3SG finish-TOP and.then

and taking it off

25

**wò kpó bé fffíé yè qó fò yékò wò yó**  
 PRO.3SG see QUOT now PRO.LOG full stomach and.then PRO.3SG call

when he realized that he was okay, he called his

26

srò-ó bé né vá fò nū-ó kó yì  
 spouse-ART.DEF QUOT 3SG.IMP come pick thing-ART.DEF take go  
 wife to come and clear the table

27

wò vá fò-é kó yì esrò-ó vā bíé  
 PRO.3SG come pick-PRO.3SG take go spouse-ART.DEF VENT ask-PRO.3SG  
 bé oo

QUOT oh  
 she cleared it all; the wife asked him that

28

29

é dū nū-ó qó fò nyúíé haa  
 PRO.3SG eat thing-ART.DEF full stomach well PART  
 was he satisfied?

30

wò bé oo yè qó fò  
 PRO.3SG QUOT oh PRO.LOG full stomach  
 he answered that yes he was satisfied

31

é ká lé dzí ha wò bé oo yè ká  
 PRO.3SG swear at.PRO.3SG upper.section PART PRO.3SG QUOT oh PRO.LOG swear  
 lé dzí páá

at.PRO.3SG upper.section very.much  
 was he sure? he said he was very sure

32

kò wò fò nū-ó kó yì  
 then PRO.3SG pick thing-ART.DEF take go  
 so she cleared the table

33

yé-ò bé né-ò yì vò-á né wò à-vá  
 and-PRO.3SG QUOT when-PRO.3SG go finish-TOP then PRO.3SG SUBJ-come  
 he asked that she came back after she deposited the things

34

Ké-ò vá yé-ò bíé bé yè ví  
 when-PRO.3SG come and-PRO.3SG ask.PRO.3SG QUOT PRO.LOG child  
 nyànùví-é lé haa

girl-ART.DEF Q PART

when she came back he asked if his daughter was around

35

36

wò bé lé wò bé né yó-é né  
 PRO.3SG QUOT-PRO.3SG be.at.PRO.3SG PRO.3SG QUOT 3SG.IMP call-PRO.3SG DAT  
 yè

PRO.LOG

she answered that she was around and he asked for her to be called

37

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**dèví-é vá wò tsó gbè hē dó né**  
 child-ART.DEF come PRO.3SG take voice IT put.on DAT.PRO.3SG  
 when the child came, she greeted him

38

**wò bíé bé fǒ haa wò bé**  
 PRO.3SG ask-PRO.3SG QUOT-PRO.3SG wake.up PART PRO.3SG QUOT  
**yè fǒ**  
 PRO.LOG wake.up

he asked how she was doing, and she said she was doing fine

39

**é dū nū haa wò bé yè dū-í é dǒ**  
 PRO.3SG eat thing PART PRO.3SG QUOT PRO.LOG eat-PRO.3SG PRO.3SG full  
**fò haa**

stomach PART

has she eaten yet? she answered yes. Was she satisfied?

40

41

**wó bé ooo yè tàté yè-ó làmè sé**  
 PRO.3PL QUOT oh PRO.LOG father PRO.LOG-POSS body.inside strong  
**nyúíé**

well

she said father, i am feeling good

42

43

**yé-ò gblò-é né bé yè flè aló yè tsó**  
 and-PRO.3SG tell-PRO.3SG DAT.PRO.3SG QUOT PRO.LOG buy or PRO.LOG take  
 he then told her that he had bought or he had brought

44

45

**agbalē alē-ó vé né**  
 book ART.INDF-PL come-PRO.3SG DAT.PRO.3SG  
 some books for her

46

**wò bé né yè haa? tàtē-á bé oo yé yó**  
 PRO.3SG QUOT DAT PRO.LOG PART father-ART.DEF QUOT oh PRO.3SG FOC  
 she asked if it was really all meant for her the father said yes, all for her

47

48

**wò tsó-é né**  
 PRO.3SG take-PRO.3SG DAT.PRO.3SG

he gave it to her

49

**wò bé é lè nū srǒ yé haa**  
 PRO.3SG QUOT PRO.3SG COP thing learn-PROG FOC PART

he asked her if she was studying hard

50

**wò bé yè lé srǒ. é lè amè**  
 PRO.3SG QUOT PRO.LOG COP-PRO.3SG learn-PROG PRO.3SG COP person  
**bǔ haa**

respect-PROG PART

she said yes she was studying hard. Was she being polite?

51

wò bé yè éé  
 PRO.3SG QUOT PRO.LOG yes

she yes yes

52

nàñě-á lé bíé bé nyá sè  
 mother-ART.DEF hold-PRO.3SG ask-PRO.3SG QUOT-PRO.3SG issue hear-PROG

haa

PART

the mother asked her if she was paying attention

53

wò bé yè lé sè  
 PRO.3SG QUOT PRO. LOG COP-PRO.3SG hear-PROG

she replied she was

54

kò wó tsó-é né kò é vívī né  
 then PRO.3PL take-PRO.3SG DAT.PRO.3SG then PRO.3SG sweet-PROG DAT.PRO.3SG

so they gave them to her and she was happy about it

55

kò wò wò atú né nàñě-á wò váyì dzò kplá né  
 then PRO.3SG do hug DAT mother-ART.DEF PRO.3SG ALTR jump touch DAT

then she hugged her mother and jumped into the arms

56

57

wó tāté há

POSS father also

of her father as well

58

yé kò wó dè asī lé nǹú bé á-tá yì  
 so then PRO.3PL remove hand at.PRO.3SG skin QUOT PRO.3SG.POT-can go

they then allowed her to go back

59

kò ké-ò yì vò-á yé kò nyànù-ó bíé esrò-ó  
 then as-PRO.3SG go finish-TOP and then woman-ART.DEF ask spouse-ART.DEF

when she had left, the woman asked her husband

60

61

62

bé alò mé lè é tsó m-ó ha

QUOT sleep NEG COP PRO.3SG take PROG-NEG Q

if he was not feeling sleepy

63

wò bé lè yè tsó tá ké  
 PRO.3SG QUOT-PRO.3SG COP PRO.LOG take-PROG so then

he said he was, so

64

yè-ó à-yì xò-mè né wó á-váyì mló anyī  
 PRO.LOG-PL SUBJ-go room-inside so PRO.3PL POT-ALTR lie ground

they should go into the room and sleep

65

**wó wáyì mló anyī-é vò fifié ñù vá kè**  
 PRO.3PL ALTR lie ground-ART.DEF finish now day VENT open  
 after they had slept the next day

66 67  
**ḍèví-é vá yì sùkú**  
 child-ART.DEF VENT go school  
 the child went to school

68  
**kò enū-ó kiyié wó tsó né-á é lè**  
 then thing-ART.DEF this PRO.3PL take DAT-PRO.3SG-TOP PRO.3SG COP  
**vìvì né**  
 sweet-PROG DAT.PRO.3SG

and what was given her was exciting her  
 69

**wó tó-ó há wó mé tsó ḍèké vá yí**  
 PRO.3PL PRO.PR-PL also PRO.3PL NEG take none VENT go  
 her colleagues however did not bring any

70  
**Sùkú-ó mè-ò**  
 school-ART.DEF interior.section-NEG  
 to school

71  
**ké-ò vá yì-á oo é vá ḍókóé-é**  
 as-PRO.3SG VENT go-TOP oh PRO.3SG VENT-COP-PRO.3SG REFL-ART.DEF  
**tsí lé sùkú xòmè**

grow-PROG at school room-inside  
 so when she went, she started bragging in the classroom

72 73  
**é-kiyié mé lè mè sí-ò é lè yè**  
 PRO.3SG-this NEG be.at PRO.2PL hand-NEG PRO.3SG be.at PRO.LOG

**ḍèkǎ yè sí**  
 one PRO.LOG hand  
 what you do not have, she is the only one who has it  
 74

**kò ké-ò nò é-kámá-ò fíó wǒ é nò**  
 then as-PRO.3SG COP:PST PRO.3SG-that-PL all do-PROG PRO.3SG COP:PST  
**dò-mè vǔ né-ó tó-ó**  
 stomach-interior.section pain-PROG DAT-PRO.3PL PRO.PR-PL

as she did all that, her colleagues were not happy about it  
 75

**kò ḍèkǎ ḍèkò wò tsó kò zò tẹ ko tó wó mègbé kò**  
 then one just PRO.3SG get.up then walk straight then pass POSS back then  
 one of then just got up, walked straight to her and went behind her

76 77  
**vá dà dzò wó ágbálé-á ḍèkǎ**  
 come throw fire POSS book-ART.DEF one  
 and snatched one of her books



78

**káká wò bé yè à-tró álié hé**  
 just.before PRO.3SG QUOT PRO.LOG SUBJ-turn this.way TOP  
 before she could turn this way

79

**amè búbũ há gá fò é-ké wó tsó ké**  
 person another also REP pick PRO.3SG-this PRO.3PL take this  
 some other person took this, picked that

80

**wó afòkpà yéyé yié né-ó flè né há**  
 POSS footwear new this that-PRO.3PL buy DAT.PRO.3SG also  
**má lé lá sī-à**  
 2SG.NEG-SUBJ hold-PRO.3SG at hand-Q  
 instead of holding her new shoes in hand

81

**wò gá tsó-é bé yè à-dà**  
 PRO.3SG REP take-PRO.3SG QUOT PRO.LOG POT-throw  
 she tried throwing it

82

**hátí-é nyànùví há vá tsó dèkà**  
 colleague-ART.DEF girl also VENT take one  
 a colleague girl came to pick one of the pair

83

**kò wó há vá lè é flū**  
 then PRO.3PL also VENT COP PRO.3SG mock-PROG  
 there they also started teasing her

84

**kò mé dīdī fú háfí wó núfíálá vá gé lé**  
 then NEG take.long too.much before PRO.3PL teacher VENT drop at  
 not long after, their teacher came in

85

**wó dzí lé sukú-xó-me-ò**  
 PRO.3PL upper.section at school-house-interior.section-NEG  
 on them in the classroom

86

**yé-ò bíé-ó bé wò vá bíé nyànùví-é bé**  
 and-PRO.3SG ask-PRO.3PL QUOT PRO.3SG VENT ask girl-ART.DEF QUOT  
 she asked them,she asked the girl about

87

**nūká-é lè dzòdzò lé-ó dzí haa**  
 what-FOC COP RED~happen-PROG at-PRO.3PL upper.section Q  
 what was happening with them

89

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**yé-ò** **fíé** **así** **amé** **kíyíé** **vá** **dà** **dzò** **agbālè-á**  
 and-PRO.3SG show hand person this VENT throw fire book-ART.DEF  
**gbā-tó-é**  
 first-PRO.PR-FOC  
 the girl pointed at the person who first snatched the book  
 90

**wò** **fíé** **así-í** **né** **bé** **é** **vá** **dà** **dzò**  
 PRO.3SG show hand-FOC DAT.PRO.3SG QUOT PRO.3SG VENT throw fire  
**yè-ó** **agbálé**  
 PRO.LOG-POSS book  
 she pointed at him, that he had snatched her book  
 91

**nūfíélá** **bíé** **wò** **bé** **kpáó** **mé** **lè** **é**  
 teacher ask-PRO.3SG PRO.3SG QUOT never 3SG.NEG be.at PRO.3SG  
**mè-ò**  
 interior.section-NEG  
 the teacher asked but he denied  
 92

**wò** **bé** **ká** **lé** **dzí** **ha.** **wò** **bé**  
 PRO.3SG QUOT-PRO.3SG swear be.at.PRO.3SG upper.section Q PRO.3SG QUOT  
 she asked if he was sure he said  
 93

**éé** **yè** **ká** **lé** **dzí** **bé** **mé** **lè**  
 yes PRO.LOG swear at.PRO.3SG upper.section QUOT 3SG.NEG be.at  
**é** **mè-ò**  
 PRO.3SG interior.section-NEG  
 yes, he was sure it was false  
 94

**ké** **né** **wò** **ɲǎ** **è** **kpó** **like** **né** **è** **kpó** **alé** **nū-ó**  
 then if PRO.3SG INT PRO.2SG see like if PRO.2SG see manner thing-ART.DEF  
**vá** **yì** **dé** **alé** **è** **bù** **bé** **é** **là** **kó** **wù** **nu**  
 VENT go Q how PRO.2SG think QUOT PRO.3SG POT take kill mouth  
 if you observe the actions critically, how do you think it will all end?  
**lè** **é** **nuwuwú-é**  
 be.at PRO.3SG end-FOC  
 at the end  
 95

**lé** **wò** **súsú** **mè** **alé** **è** **là** **kpó** **bé** **é**  
 at PRO.3SG brain interior.section how PRO.2SG POT see QUOT PRO.3SG  
**là** **vá** **wu** **nu-ó**  
 POT VENT kill mouth-Q  
 according to you, how will it all end up?  
 96

**le** **nyè** **súsú** **mè-é** **mè** **kpó** **bé**  
 be.at PRO.1SG brain interior.section-FOC PRO.1SG see QUOT  
 according to my thinking I forsee that  
 101

**nūfíelá là gá yì dzí á-bíé bé nè ká lé**  
 teacher POT REP go upper.section SUBJ-ask QUOT FOC swear at-PRO.3SG  
**dzí bé mé yè-í tsó-é-ò ha**  
 upper.section QUOT NEG PRO.LOG-FOC take-PRO.3SG-NEG Q  
 the teacher will go on to ask if he was sure he was sure he was not the one who  
 took it

103

**mè kpó bé dèví-é à-dó ñú bé éhoo**  
 PRO.1SG see QUOT child-ART.DEF POT-answer PRO.3SG-skin QUOT no  
 i think the child will respond no

104

**vò amé yié wó nú yó-é**  
 finish person this POSS thing FOC-FOC  
 but the person to whom the thing belongs

105

**yé há à-gblò-é bé yé-é tsó-é**  
 PRO.3SG also POT-tell-PRO.3SG QUOT PRO.3SG-FOC take-PRO.3SG  
 she will also insist that he took it

106

**é fíé bé wó à-vá á-bíé**  
 PRO.3SG show QUOT PRO.3PL POT-come SUBJ-ask  
 so they will ask then

107

**né dāsé álé lè-ó sí-á wó á-dó**  
 if witness ART.INDF be.at-PRO.3PL hand-TOP PRO.3PL POT-response  
**ñú**  
 PRO.3SG-skin

if they have witnesses they will answer

108

109

**ná mé kéké vá dzè àgò-é wá hè tò**  
 if person any VENT be.in.contact.with fault-FOC PRO.3PL-POT pull ear  
 and the person who is found culpable will be punished

110

**né lé akpā má mè**  
 DAT.PRO.3SG at side that interior.section  
 in that regard

111

**ké dèví-é kiyié wó nú nyó wó xò lé sí**  
 then child-ART.DEF this POSS thing be PRO.3PL receive at.PRO.3SG hand  
**fíé né-ò yì afè-mè dé nūká là dzò-ó**  
 now when-PRO.3SG go house-interior.section FOC what POT happen-Q  
 what will happen to child from whom the items were taken when she goes back  
 home?

112

**né yì afè-mè-é**  
 if-PRO.3SG go house-interior.section-FOC  
 when she goes home

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113

**wó tàtè má tsó-é á-ké-ò**  
 POSS father NEG-POT take-PRO.3SG SUBJ-forgive-NEG  
 her father will not pardon her

114

**é là bé mé lí-é be né nū-ò**  
 PRO.3SG POT QUOT 3SG.NEG hold-HAB care DAT thing-NEG  
 he will say that she is careless

115

**lé nūká tá yó**  
 at what head FOC  
 why?

**tá yé há là hè tò né nyúíé fányì**  
 so PRO.3SG also POT pull ear DAT.PRO.3SG well fine  
 so he will punish her very well

116

**le álé wò váyì wò dò vá flè nū má né kplí gà**  
 at how PRO.3SG ALTR do work VENT buy thing that DAT.PRO.3SG and money  
 due to the fact that he toiled to buy her the items

117

119

**wò à-váyì tsó-é dà lé wó tó-ó**  
 PRO.3SG POT-ALTR take-PRO.3SG throw at-PRO.3SG PRO.3PL PRO.PR-PL  
**á-vá tsó lé gbó**  
 SUBJ-VENT take at.PRO.3SG vicinity  
 and she left it for her colleagues to take away from her

120

**á-gblò bé tá mé lè yè nù bù m-ó**  
 3SG.POT-say QUOT that 3SG.NEG COP PRO.LOG skin think PROG.NEG  
 he will say that she does not appreciate his efforts

121

**tá á-hè tò né nyúíé fányì lé gò má mè**  
 so 3SG.POT-pull ear DAT.PRO.3SG well fine at side that interior.section  
 so he will punish her in that regard

122

**akpe**  
 thanks

2. Sto/Viv.flexttext (A spontaneously invented folktale)

**mí dzé' gòmè**  
 PRO.1PL be.in.contact.with-PRO.3SG below.section  
 let us start.

1

**mè bé má tó g̀lì ná`**  
 PRO.1SG QUOT PRO.1SG-SUBJ pound folktale DAT-PRO.2SG  
 I want to tell you a story.

2

**Eg̀lì-é né vá né mí-á sè**  
 folktale-ART.DEF IMP come so PRO.1PL-SUBJ hear  
 we are ready to hear the story.

3

**Eg̀lì-á nyé bé**  
 folktale-ART.DEF be QUOT  
 this is the story:

4

**kèsé bōsò wó nyé xlò ké gbè dèkã-é kèsé vá g̀blò né**  
 monkey whale PRO.3PL be friend then day one-FOC monkey VENT tell DAT  
 monkey; whale; they are friends. Then one day, the monkey came to tell

5

6

7

8

9

**bōsò lè t̀ò tó bé né vá kpó yè gbó lá**  
 whale be.at river edge QUOT 3SG.IMP come see PRO.LOG vicinity PART  
 The whale by the riverside that he should visit him.

10

11

**fífíé alé bōsò á-wò káfí á-yì kèsé gbó-é**  
 now how whale SUBJ-do before SUBJ-go monkey vicinity-FOC  
 now the means by which the whale will go to the money

12

**é vá sésē né kèsé v̄ē**  
 PRO.3SG VENT-COP strong-PROG DAT monkey little  
 became a difficulty for the monkey.

13

**yé kèsé g̀blò né bōsò bé né tró yì ñkèkè t́ó gbé**  
 then monkey tell DAT whale QUOT 3SG.IMP turn go daytime third day  
 then the monkey told the whale that he should return on the third day

14

15

16

**né yè là vá alé wò là wò á-vá yè gbó**  
 so PRO.LOG POT VENT how PRO.3SG POT do SUBJ-come PRO.LOG vicinity  
 he will come, the means by which he will come to his end

17

18

**yè le fíé gbé ké eṅù kè t́útútú kò-à yékò**  
 PRO.LOG COP-PRO.3SG show PROSP then day open exactly then-TOP and.then  
 he will teach him. Then exactly the day after, then

19

20

21

**kèsé wáyì tsó agblè-nū kó yì tsò tó-ó nu**  
 monkey ALTR take farm-thing take IT cut river-ART.DEF mouth  
 the monkey took a hoe and went to the bank of the river

22

23  
**wò nò edò kũ ví ví ví**  
 PRO.3SG COP:PST hole dig-PROG little little little  
 and started digging little by little.

24

**né kù dò-ó' vĕ kò tsì-é hã vá**  
 if-PRO.3SG drive hole-ART.DEF a.little then water-ART.DEF too come  
 whenever he dug a little, there was a little water in it.

25

**me né kù dò-ó' vĕ kò**  
 PRO.3SG-interior.section if-PRO.3SG drive hole-ART.DEF little then  
**tsìé xá**  
 water-ART.DEF gather

**wò le dò má kù' ví ví ví etsì-é le**  
 PRO.3SG COP hole that dig-PROG little little little water-ART.DEF COP

**mè vá vù kékéké kó vá kèsé wá**  
 PRO.3SG-interior.section come-PROG until until take come monkey POSS  
**tī-é gòmè**  
 stick-ART.DEF below.section

he dug little by little, and with the water filling the holes, he managed to  
 get the river extended to under the tree

26

**yékò enù-ó gá kè , nyé ñkèkè tó gbè kò wò**  
 then daylight-ART.DEF REP open be daytime third day then PRO.3SG  
 then, the next day, three days later,

27

**wáyí gblò-é né bōsò bè fifíé á-tá vá yè gbó**  
 ALTR tell-PRO.3SG DAT whale QUOT now SUBJ-can come PRO.LOG vicinity  
 he went to tell the whale that he can now come to his place.

28

**kò bōsò-ó zò etsì-é dzí vū kò vá kèsé**  
 then whale-ART.DEF walk water-ART.DEF upper.section until then come monkey  
 then the whale swam to the monkey's.

29

**gbó ké bōsò và kèsé gbó-é**  
 vicinity when whale come monkey vicinity-FOC  
 when the whale came to the monkey,

30

**wó kó akòdí álé kó dà lé afī álé**  
 PRO.3PL take banana ART.INDF take throw at stick ART.INDF  
**dzí**  
 upper.section

a banana was placed on a certain tree.

31

**kè kèsé nyá vè v̄h̄ v̄ē yékò yé vù dù váí tsó**  
 when monkey MOD play play little then PRO.3SG run race ALTR take  
 after playing for a while, the monkey went for

32

**kòd̄i-é lè d̄ùd̄ū yé b̄ōsò bìè bé oo**  
 banana-ART.DEF COP eat~eat-PROG and whale ask-PRO.3SG QUOT oh  
 the banana and started eating. Then the whale asked him: oo

33

**n̄v̄i-nyè mà tsó n̄ū-ó d̄èké nú mà**  
 sibling-PRO.1SG 2SG-POT take thing-ART.DEF none DAT PRO.1SG-Q  
 my brother, will you not give me some of the food?

34

**yé-ò bé yè-ó yèó dé yè-ó núd̄ú**  
 and-PRO.3SG QUOT PRO.LOG-PL PRO.LOG-PL hometown PRO.LOG-PL food  
**η-kíyé**  
 be-this

he replied that, for them, this is their only meal

35

**lè wó há wó dé'**  
 be.at PRO.3PL also PRO.3PL hometwon-FOC  
 as for them,

36

**d̄è-ó n̄ tsàtsā lé t̄-mè**  
 FOC-PRO.3PL COP:PST roam-roam-PROG at river-interior.section  
 they roam in water.

37

**yé tá ke-ó lè ḡíyíé'**  
 PRO.3SG so as-PRO.3SG be.at here-FOC  
 so then, even as he was there

38

**n̄anéké mé lè t̄-mè yè là kó né**  
 nothing NEG be.at river-interior.section PRO.LOG POT take DAT.PRO.3SG  
 there was nothing in the river he could give him.

39

**Hàlèké-ò yékò b̄ōsò dó dzikũ enū yíé wò à-kpó kò-à**  
 yet-NEG then whale put.on anger thing this PRO.3SG POT-see then-TOP  
 the whale then got angry before he could say utter a word,

40

**kèsé klé kòd̄i-é hé d̄ù fíóó**  
 monkey peel banana-ART.DEF IT eat all  
 the monkey peeled and ate all the banana.

42

**yékò b̄ōsò dó dzikũ kò dzó. ké b̄ōsò dzó-é**  
 then whale put.on anger then leave then whale leave-FOC  
 the whale got angry and left. when the whale left,

43

44

316 POSSESSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS IN TONGUGBE

**bōsò wó súsú váyì gblò né yé bé eyè yè xló**  
 whale POSS brain ALT tell DAT PRO.3SG QUOT PRO. LOG PRO.LOG friend

**má nyé kèsé-é**  
 that be monkey-FOC  
 the whale conceived of the idea that, that friend of his, the monkey,

45 46  
**yè là blé á-kó vá yè gbó**  
 PRO.LOG POT deceive-PRO.3SG SUBJ-take come PRO.LOG vicinity  
 he was going to deceive him to his place.

47  
**né yè blé vá yè gbó kò-à yè**  
 when PRO.LOG deceive-PRO.3SG come PRO.LOG vicinity then-TOP PRO.LOG  
**gbó wù gbé**  
 come PRO.3SG.kill PROSP

If he managed to lure him to his place, he will then kill him.

48  
**ké kèsé yé mé nyá nànéké ò**  
 then monkey PRO.3SG NEG know nothing NEG  
 the monkey had no idea.

49  
**enū yíé vá dzò nyé bé bōsò tró kèsé váyì tsì nù**  
 thing this VENT happen be QUOT whale turn monkey ALT water drink  
**fé le tó nū**  
 place at river mouth

what happened later was that, the whale returned (hesitation) the monkey went to drink water by the river bank,

50  
**ké kèsé vá yì tsì nù fé le tó-nu kò-à**  
 then monkey VENT go water drink place at river-mouth then-TOP  
 when the monkey went to drink water by the bank,

51  
**yékò bōsò hò lá yékò**  
 then whale come.up PART then  
 then the whale popped up in the distance, and then

52  
**wò kpó kèsé yékò` vù dù vá tò-ó-nū**  
 PRO.3SG see monkey then-PRO.3SG run race VENT river-ART.DEF-mouth  
 it saw the monkey and quickly came to the bank.

53  
**yékò` bé ò yé há né vá srá yè kpó**  
 then-PRO.3SG QUOT oh PRO.3SG also 3SG.IMP come visit PRO.LOG see  
 Then he said oo he should also come and visit him .

54 55  
**yé kèsé gblò né bé**  
 and monkey tell DAT-PRO.3SG QUOT  
 Then the monkey told him that

56



ò má vá srá wò kpó hā nòví-nyè  
 oh PRO.1SG-SUBJ come visit PRO.3SG see Q sibling-PRO.1SG  
 wò bé éé  
 PRO.3SG QUOT yes  
 You really want me to come and visit you my brother? he said yes.

57

yò enyè kòdí mè ò-ó ló. wò bé ò tò-tó η-kíé  
 ok PRO.1SG banana PRO.1SG eat-HAB PART PRO.3SG QUOT oh river-edge be-this  
 òé  
 FOC

I eat bananas, he responded ooo this is a river bank,

58 59 60

kòdí-tí sòj lé yè là vá sé kòdí né  
 banana-tree lot be.at.PRO.3SG PRO.LOG POT VENT cut banana DAT-PRO.3SG  
 there are a lot of banana trees; so he will havest bananas for him

61

wà kó á-yì tò-ó-mè lé yè gbó  
 PRO.3SG-POT take SUBJ-go river-ART.DEF-interior.section at PRO.LOG vicinity  
 so he takes into the river with him.

62 63

yékò kèsé bé yò  
 then monkey QUOT ok  
 Then the monkey said okay.

64

ké nū yíé vá dzò gbè òkà nyé bé  
 then thing this VENT happen day one be QUOT  
 What happened one day was that,

kèsé váyì kplò é hátí-ó bé né-ó vá  
 monkey ALTR accompany PRO.3SG colleague-PL QUOT that-PRO.3PL come  
 yè gbó  
 PRO.LOG vicinity

the monkey called his friends and invited them to his place.

66 67

wó nò dzòdzò lá tí-é dzí nò  
 PRO.3PL COP:PST RED~jump-PROG at tree-ART.DEF upper.section COP:PST  
 dzò~dzò lá tí-é dzí vū  
 RED~jump-PROG at tree-ART.DEF upper.section until  
 They jumped up and down the tress until

68

wá kpó lá kò yékò  
 PRO.3PL-POT see PART then then  
 when they realized,

69

**kèsé nòví alá váyì tsó kójí alá wá**  
 monkey sibling ART.INDEF ALTR take banana ART.INDF PRO.3PL

**mè vè kō**  
 person two take  
 a sibling of the monkey brought two bananas,  
 70

**vé yē' wò vá tsó-é né nòví-é dèkǎ**  
 come-PRO.3SG and PRO.3SG VENT take-PRO.3SG DAT sibling-ART.DEF one  
 and he gave it to another sibling of his.

71  
**yékò kèsé mé dū kòjí-é ò**  
 then monkey NEG eat banana-ART.DEF NEG  
 Then the monkey did not eat the banana.

72  
**ké nū vá dzò nyé bé amé má há gá kpló**  
 then thing VENT happen be QUOT person that also REP accompany  
**é xló**  
 PRO.3SG friend

**búbú yiké nyé lǎ yíé-ó yó bé tòdzó lé ntí**  
 another that be animal this-PRO.3SG call-HAB QUOT cat at skin  
 What happened was that, that person also brought another friend, the cat, along.  
 73

**tòdzó yíé mé nò akòjí-é dū m-ó yé tòdzó há bé**  
 cat this NEG COP:PST banana-ART.DEF eat PROG-NEG and cat also QUOT  
 The cat did not eat banana. Then the cat also said that

74 75  
**enū yíé dzò nyé bé dè dzè bé wá tsó nūqúqú**  
 thing this happen be QUOT FOC worthy QUOT PRO.3PL-POT take food  
**búbú kó kpé lé enū-ó nū né yè há yè-à kpò**  
 another take add at thing-ART.DEF skin DAT PRO.LOG also PRO.LOG-POT see  
**dè á-dū**  
 ART.INDF SUBJ-eat

They should have added some other food on, so that he could also get something to eat;

76  
**yékò wó tètè wó vá dū akòdùí-é kò eyè há**  
 then PRO.3PL alone PRO.3PL VENT eat banana-ART.DEF then PRO.LOG also  
**yè vá tsí ànyì**  
 PRO.LOG VENT stay ground

and they have ate the bananas while he stayed without eating;

77  
**yétá yē` yè mā gá dó hà kplí**  
 so PRO.LOG PRO.LOG NEG-POT REP put.on crowd and-PRO.3SG

**hú-ò**  
 again-NEG  
 because of that, he was no more going to be a friend of his

78

**má**            **gá nyé yè-ó**            **hádóhá**    **hú-ò**  
 3SG.NEG-POT REP be PRO.LOG-POSS play.mate again-NEG  
 he will not be his mate anymore.

79

**yé kèsé**    **gblò bé**    **ò alé wó**    **kátá wó**    **vá yè**  
 and monkey tell QUOT oh how PRO.3PL all PRO.3PL come PRO.LOG  
**gbó-é**        **yè**        **là wò ɔ̀dòdò lé-ó**    **ńú**  
 vicinity-FOC PRO.LOG POT do plan at-PRO.3PL skin  
 Then the monkey said that, as they all have come to visit him, he will make  
 adequate plans for all.

80

**kéné tòdzó dzó-é**  
 when cat leave-FOC  
 When the cat left,

81

**yékò tòdzó váyì nò**    **egbè gòmè**            **tefě álé**  
 then cat ALTR be.at:PST grass below.section place ART.INDF  
 the cat sat under grass somewhere

82

**wò nò afi dí**            **né wà**            **lé**  
 PRO.3SG COP:PST mouse look.for-PROG so PRO.3SG-POT catch  
 he was looking for a mouse to catch.

83

**afi yíé dī**            **tòdzó-ó**    **nò**    **né wà**            **lé vū**  
 mouse this look.for-PROG cat-ART.DEF COP:PST so PRO.3SG-POT catch until  
 As he looked for the mouse,

84

**kò-à yékò`**            **kpó**  
 then-TOP then-PRO.3SG see  
 he saw,

85

**yé nò zò~zò**            **vū kò`**            **yì tò-tó**            **kò**  
 PRO.3SG COP:PST RED~walk-PROG until then-PRO.3SG go river-edge then  
 he walked towards the bank of the river,

86

**wò kpó bōsò lá-á.**    **ké bōsò vá`**            **gblò né ee**  
 PRO.3SG see whale at-PART then whale VENT-COP tell DAT ee  
 he saw the whale in the distance. The whale however had gone to tell,

87

88

89

**wó-tó-ó**            **lā**    **há-wò**    **bé**  
 POSS-PRO.PR-PL animal also-PL QUOT  
 his colleague animals that

90

**yè**    **lè nā~nā**    **gé kèsé**    **á-vá**    **yè**    **gbó**    **kò-à**  
 PRO.LOG COP RED-give PROSP monkey SUBJ-VENT PRO.LOG vicinity then-TOP  
 he was going to lure the monkey to his place;

91

**kò kèsé vá tsí yè gbó**  
 then monkey VENT stay PRO.LOG vicinity  
 then the monkey was going to be stuck at his place;  
 92

**kèsé má gá yì wó dé hú-ò yékò tòdzó se**  
 monkey NEG-POT REP go POSS hometown again-NEG then cat hear  
**nyà-á**  
 issue-ART.DEF

the monkey will not get to go back home. The monkey heard the story.  
 93 94

**tòdzó yé nyá tsi fúfú tá-é**  
 cat PRO.3SG know water RED~throw.limps so-PART  
 Because the cat could swim,  
 95

**yékò tòdzó bé né nyé bé eyè yì yà-é gblò né**  
 then cat QUOT if be QUOT PRO.LOG go PRO.LOG-POT-IT tell DAT  
**kèsé bé**  
 monkey QUOT

The cat thought that immediately he returned, he will tell the monkey that  
 96

**edǔ hí bōsò là tá và blé gbè dèkǎ tá-é**  
 some-PL maybe whale POT can come deceive-PRO.3SG day one so-PART  
 the whale could get to deceive him one day;  
 97

**né bōsò vá blé-è yé hǎ né dzè ayè**  
 when whale VENT deceive-PRO.3SG PRO.3SG too IMP be.in.contact.with trickery  
 and that if the whale deceived him, he should also be cunning.  
 98

**ké kèsé sè nyá kò é kó-é dé tá-mè**  
 when monkey hear issue then PRO.3SG take-PRO.3SG put.on head-interior.section  
 When the monkey heard this, he kept it in mind.  
 99

**enū yíé gá vá dzò nyé bé gbè dèkǎ kò**  
 thing this REP VENT happen be QUOT day one then  
 What happened later was that, one day,  
 100

**bōsò gá vá gblò né kèsé bé yè gbò-ó gbó**  
 whale REP VENT tell DAT monkey QUOT PRO.LOG come-HAB PRO.3SG.vicinity  
 the whale told the monkey that he was coming to visit.  
 101

**yékò kèsé bé ō yè là yì**  
 then monkey QUOT oh LOG POT go  
 The monkey then said, he will go.  
 102

yékò kèsé lɔ vù kékéké wó kátá wó nò yĩ  
 then monkey agree until until PRO.3PL all PRO.3PL COP:PST go-PROG  
 wó nò yĩ vū  
 PRO.3PL COP:PST go-PROG until

Then the monkey agreed; and they went along until  
 103

ké nū yíé dzò nyé bé wó váyì dọ tẹfě yiké tsi-é  
 then thing this happen be QUOT PRO.3PL ALTR reach place that water-ART.DEF  
 what happened was that, they got to a place where the water  
 104

kèkè lá yé bōsò gblò-é nḗ bé  
 open PART then whale tell-FOC DAT-PRO.3SG QUOT  
 was very expanded. Then the whale told him that  
 105

né vá nò yè yè-ó dzimè yé  
 3SG.IMP VENT be.at:PST PRO.LOG PRO.LOG-POSS back and  
 kèsé né vá nò yè yè-ó dzimè  
 monkey 3SG.IMP VENT COP:PST PRO.LOG PRO.LOG-POSS back  
 he, the monkey, should sit on his back.  
 106

yékò kèsé lò váyì lè bōsò wó dzimè  
 then monkey agree ALTR be.at whale POSS back  
 Then the monkey agreed and went to sit on the back of the whale.  
 107

vū kékéké wó váyì dọ t̄ wó dòmè  
 until until PRO.3PL ALTR reach river POSS mid.section  
 Then they got to the middle of the river.  
 108

ké wó dọ t̄-ó-ó dòmé yé bōsò gblò né  
 then PRO.3PL reach river-ART.DEF-POSS mid.section then whale tell DAT  
 bé fífíé  
 QUOT now

When they got to the middle of the river, the whale told him that, now,  
 109 110 111

nūqú-ó há vò lé sí  
 food-ART.DEF also finish at-PRO.3SG hand  
 he had no food,  
 112

nūqú áléké mé gá lè yè sí yè là tsó né  
 food none NEG REP be.at PRO.LOG hand PRO.LOG POT take DAT-PRO.3SG  
 hú ò  
 again NEG

he did not have food to give him,  
 113

**yé tá wó séláfé nyé kíyíé. yé kèsé gblò né bōsò bē**  
 so therefore POSS end.point be this and monkey tell DAT whale QUOT  
 so, this was his end. Then the monkey told the whale that,

114 115  
**ō nḍvī-nyè ò mè nyá ò-à**  
 oh sibling-PRO.1SG oh 2SG.NEG know NEG-Q  
 My brother, did you not know?

116 117  
**mí-ṣ kèsé-ṣ né mí tsó-é**  
 PRO.1PL monkeyPL when PRO.1PL get.up-FOC  
 for us monkeys, when we move,

118  
**mí kṣ míṣ dṣi nṣ yìyì m-ṣ**  
 PRO.1PL take-HAB PRO.1PL heart COP:PST RED~go PROG-NEG  
 we do not move with our hearts,

119  
**yé tá enyè nyè dṣi tsí e afè-mè**  
 PRO.3SG so PRO.1SG PRO.1SG heart stay erm house-interior.section  
 so my heart is back home,

120  
**káfé nyè mà dè wò dzimè**  
 before PRO.1SG PRO.1SG-POT reach PRO.3SG back  
 even before i climbed unto your back.

121  
**yé bōsò trṣ gblò-é né bé aa**  
 and whale turn.back tell-PRO.3SG DAT-PRO.3SG QUOT ah  
 Then the whale told him again that,

122  
**wó dṣi tútútú-í hié né yè**  
 POSS heart exactly-FOC need DAT PRO.LOG  
 he needed his heart,

123  
**né yè á-yì tsó né yè-ṣ-tṣ lā-ṣ**  
 so.that PRO.LOG SUBJ-go take DAT PRO.LOG-POSS-PRO.PR animal-PL  
 so that he can give it off to his fellow animals.

124  
**yé wó dṣi-í hié né yè**  
 PRO.3SG POSS heart-FOC need DAT LOG  
 His heart is what he wants

125  
**né yè á-yì tsó né yè-ṣ-tṣ lā-ṣ né**  
 so PRO.LOG SUBJ-go take DAT PRO.LOG-PL-PRO.PR animal-PL DAT  
**wá dṣi**  
 PRO.3PL-POT eat  
 so he gives to his fellow animals so they eat;

126

**ké yé tsí gámá**  
 then PRO.3SG stay there  
 so he is left all by himself.

127

**yé-ò bé ò eyè-ó kèsé-ó lá né yè-ó**  
 and-PRO.3SG QUOT oh PRO.LOG-PL monke-PL TOP when PRO.LOG-PL  
**yè-ó tsó lá dè yè-ò ò-è yè-ó dzì**  
 LOG-PL get.up TOP FOC PRO.LOG-PL remove-HAB PRO.LOG-POSS heart  
**kó dà lé dzì káfí nò yì-yì**  
 take throw at upper.section before COP:PST RED~go-PROG  
 Then he said, for they monkeys, they always leave their hearts in the trees  
 when moving out.

128

**yéé bōsò là tró á-tsó kèsé vù kékéké á-vá kó dà**  
 so whale POT turn SUBJ-take monkey until until SUBJ-VENT take throw  
**lé gò**  
 at bank

The whale then brought the monkey back to the shoreline.

129

**yé wò vá kó-é dà dè vò-ε yé kèsé gblò**  
 then PRO.3SG VENT take-PRO.3SG throw PART finish-FOC then monkey tell  
 When he had finished descending him, the monkey told

130

**né bé nòví-nyè xòlò vóqí né nyó**  
 DAT.PRO.3SG QUOT sibling-PRO.1SG friend evil 2SG.IMP be  
 him that,my brother,you are a wicked friend!

131

132

**mè nyá nū wú-ò**  
 PRO.1SG know thing than-PRO.2SG  
 I am more intelligent than you!

133

**gíyíé kèsé kplí bōsò wó xló-me nú wù lá-é**  
 here monkey and whale PRO.3PL friend-inside mouth finish PART-FOC  
**η-kíé**  
 be-this

This is how the monkey and the whale's friendship ended

134

**akpē**  
 thank  
 Thank you

135





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