

Recorded Texts

11 15 09

Selling Oil

Nuhum:

àmùsòrò báì ná ɔ́ ná lèè nà ɲè bùfì nà jàlá ?

1.SG.POSS.friend how FOC 2.SG.SUBJ IMPF DO IMPF see oil IMPF sell

My friend, what do you do to find and sell oil?

Akimu:

ńm̩ [bon] bùfì bɔ̀jáláká kántimá kì ò kàṅkír ná,

hmm good oil sale POSS.WORK NEG AGR be.strong NEG

Well, the work of selling oil is not difficult

ámá ɔ̀mànɔ́ ɔ̀ jògò kà ntsòṅ

but traveling AGR be.a.lot FOC inside

but there is a lot of traveling.

ɔ́ ná ! á wálá gítá!ní bóṅó wàà ɔ̀ tá ! á tsí tí fì bùfì,

2.SG.SUBJ FUT 2.SG.SUBJ gather money finish that 2.SG.SUBJ FUT 2.SG.SUBJ go TAM buy oil

If you finish gathering money so that you can go buy oil,

féé á mànà à ʔféé¹ jèè gèdú ù

TAM? 2.SG.SUBJ travel INF go.TAM search place REL

you have to travel to go look for the place where

á ɲò à fì kòjògò ná à pí tí ná jàlá bùdóṅ dón àtìjá??

2.SG.SUBJ see INF buy POSS.a.lot and INF come TAM IMPF sell one one here

you will find a lot to buy and come (back) and sell one by one here

nà ɲè ikpáká ʔfèi ʔfèi mà.

IMPF see benefits a.little a.little SUB

finding benefits little by little.

tòò ì dà wàà ɔ̀ tá ! á sírá à tsí kòtónɔ̀,

DISC it be.there that 2.SG.SUBJ FUT 2.SG.SUBJ be.able INF go Cotonou²

So, it is that you can go to Cotonou,

ɔ̀ tá ! á sírá à tsí ʔfáráfì kóó à tsí lòmè.

2.SG.SUBJ FUT 2.SG.SUBJ be.able INF go Tchamba³ or INF go Lomé⁴

you can go to Tchamba, or go to Lomé

ámá ká!já k ì lèè ìdòṅkónò ná, ìdé fəl!fəl

but theirs??(prices) NEG they do same NEG 3.SG.IMPERS.DEM.FAR be.different

But their (prices) are not the same

1 This is a contraction of tsí tí, 'go TAM'

2 The biggest city in Benin

3 A city in Togo near Bassila

4 The capital of Togo

ìkpáká ! gbóó í ná kòn gòjá ògùdèé ɔ̀ ɲè à jí mà ná.
benefits also AGR IMPF follow market REL 2.SG.SUBJ see INF buy SUB FOC
(your) benefits also follow the price you found to buy

ɔ̀ tá ! ɲó à jí ná sòòfí àkí ! ɲó ìkpáká ! gbóó idé dòr̀ ɲèi.
2.SG.SUBJ TAM see INF buy with better 2.SG.FOC 2.SG.SUBJ see benefits also they(benefits) be.heavy a.little
If you find a better price, you, you will see benefits (that are) also a bit better (lit. heavier)

ɔ̀ tá ! ɲó bɔ̀ tà kàṅkír̀ gòjá idé wòdà gòjá ògùdèé
2.SG.SUBJ TAM see it.CL.G TAM? be.strong market they? have market REL
You might? find it (the oil) at a high price, (but) it has a price that

ká á jò à jálá à dó ná mà.
NEG 2.SG.SUBJ know INF sell INF put.down NEG SUB
you can't sell above

[donc] àkí !? ɲó ìkpáká ! gbóó à fáná!fáná.
SO 2.SG.FOC 2.SG.SUBJ?? see benefits also INF be.equal????
So, you will find benefits that also aren't great???????

tòò ɔ̀ tá náá?? tsí ɔ̀fí ɔ̀ tá ! á tóó lóórì àtíjá à tsí ɲáráfí
SO 2.SG.SUBJ TAM FUT? go purchase 2.SG.SUBJ FUT? 2.SG.SUBJ take vehicle here INF go Tchamba
So, if you go buying, you will take a car from here to Tchamba,

ì tà ɲí wàà ɲáráfí ná ɔ̀ ná ! á jí
it TAM eat that Tchamba FOC 2.SG.SUBJ FUT? 2.SG.SUBJ buy
If it's like that, it is in Tchamba that you will buy (it),

àkí jéè [magasin] àbòmbòndò dón ní òkòṅ à jí,
2.SG.OBJ search store big one in there INF buy
you will look in a big store there to buy (it)

ná à jéè lóórì à kùló à pí ná mà ná
and INF? search vehicle AGR? gather INF come with SUB FOC??
and then search for a vehicle to gather (it) and bring (it)

ààì ì tà ɲí wàà ɔ̀ ná ! tsí lòmè ná ɔ̀ tá ! á kpá lóórì à tsí lòmè.
no it TAM eat that 2.SG.SUBJ TAM go Lomé FOC 2.SG.SUBJ TAM 2.SG.SUBJ arrive vehicle INF go Lomé
If it's the case that you are going to Lomé, you will go into a vehicle to go to Lomé

ì tà ɲí wàà lòmè ná ká ! á sírá à pí kúfilé ! ná,
it TAM eat that Lomé FOC NEG 2.SG.SUBJ be.able INF come POSS.day NEG
If it is Lomé, you can't come (back) in one day,

ìfilé ìní ɔ̀ ní ɔ̀ ná ! á léé ná à pí
days two FOC 2.SG.SUBJ FUT 2.SG.SUBJ do and INF come
it is in two days⁵ that you will go and come.

5 The example given was leaving on Sunday, coming back Tuesday. Not sure yet if that's about the counting of days, or this sentence is only talking about travel time.

ò tá ! kpá bùfi bèsíká káádú [donc] bá ná kòh ítání gòjá ì ó tònò mà,
2.SG.SUBJ TAM arrive oil buying? POSS.place so 3.PL.SUBJ TAM follow money market REL 2.SG.SUBJ load SUB
If you arrive at the oil-buying place, so, they follow the amount of money that you brought,

ná [bidon] gòjá ì ó ná jèè á fí mà ná à jálá à jèé àkí.
and container(s) price that 2.SG.SUBJ search 2.SG.SUBJ INF buy SUB FOC INF sell INF give 2.SG.OBJ
and the number of containers you want to buy to sell to you (i.e. establish a price)

àkí ndéè ó ná ! á pí tí nà jèè á fí [bidons] tíb mà,
2.SG.FOC REL 2.SG.SUBJ FUT? 2.SG.SUBJ come TAM IMPF search 2.SG.SUBJ buy containers ten SUB
You who will come and want to buy ten containers,

dáá bà jálá à tó àkí mà
since 3.PL.SUBJ sell INF give 2.SG.OBJ SUB
how (at what price) they will sell to you

ìfáló n árè ndéè á ná jèè à fí hànóh mà
different with person REL 3.SG.SUBJ IMPF search 3.SG.SUBJ buy five SUB
is different from the person who wants to buy five.

ndéè á ná jèè à fí [bidons] ifinóh mà idzítání
who 3.SG.SUBJ IMPF search 3.SG.SUBJ buy containers 100 SUB 3.SG.POSS.money
(someone) who wants to buy 100 containers, his money

ndéè bà lè ní gbóó mà
REL 3.PL.SUBJ say 3.SG.OBJ also SUB
that they tell him also

ì tí ì fáló ná ndéè á ná jèè à fí ibídóh ifiníó mà
it FUT it be.different with REL 3.SG.SUBJ IMPF search 3.SG.SUBJ buy containers 40 SUB
it will be different from (someone) who wants to buy 40 containers

dáá bùfi kágòjá gò dà mà ná góh
since oil POSS.market AGR be.there SUB and like.that
It's like that, the selling of oil.

ò tá jèé? kpá ná àkìdzá òpá ! ní òpómò àkí !? tí jálá bìdóh ní.
2.SG.SUBJ TAM TAM arrive with yours town in now 2.SG.FOC 2.SG.SUBJ?? TAM sell container in
When you bring yours (your oil) to the town, now you will sell in containers (one at a time)

àmá ì dà gbóó wàà ùdóh dà
but it be.there also that someone be.there
It could be also that someone is there,

k à wòdá gítání à tà à máná à tsí tí fí ná
NEG 3.SG.SUBJ have money 3.SG.SUBJ FUT 3.SG.SUBJ travel INF go buy NEG
he didn't have the money so he can travel to go and buy (oil)

àmá à tí jèè à fí dáá bìdóh hànóh mà àkásól.
but 3.SG.SUBJ IMPF search 3.SG.SUBJ buy like container(s) five SUB 2.SG.POSS.at.home?
but he wants to buy about five containers from you (at your place)

[donc] **ká ! á jálá à jèé ! ní dáá ɔ ná ! á jálá ùdòṅ dónṅ mà ná**
SO NEG 2.SG.SUBJ sell INF give 3.SG.OBJ since 2.SG.SUBJ FUT 2.SG.SUBJ sell one one SUB NEG
So, you can sell to him since you are selling one by one,

àkí kòó fàá ! ní àkòdónṅ ! gbóó.
2.SG.FOC TAM diminish 3.SG.OBJ something also
And you can diminish (the price) again for him a little, too.

àdé ! gbóó àdé ! jí ná à kón kíḍḍà ìkpáká ! dé gbóó à ḍjí.
3.SG.DEM.FAR also 3.SG.DEM.FAR buy and INF follow POSS.his? benefits DEM.FAR also INF eat
Him, too, he will buy and get his own benefits to keep????

dáá gí ná sàrà ná bùjì kántimá mà ná gónṅ.
since 1.PL.SUBJ IMPF walk with oil POSS.work SUB and like.that
It's like that we do the oil work

jàà gádónṅ gà kòò sàá má pélé ?
or one⁶ AGR TAM stay I add
Or maybe there is still something (some words) to add?

Nuhum:

dáá gí ná lèè gónṅ mà bàríká dáá gí ná ! tí ná jìdà wàà [douane] mánà? mà
since 2.PL.SUBJ IMPF do like.that SUB trappers since 1.PL.SUBJ TAM?? TAM IMPF call that customs FOC?? SUB
Since you do it like that, the trappers, that we call customs,

kì bà ná?? dè àpínṅ ìfèi? àà ?
NEG 3.PL.SUBJ TAM?? put 2.PL.OBJ difficulty QUEST
They don't bother you?

Hakimu:

mím kè bà ná dè ìfèi ná
DISC NEG 3.PL.SUBJ IMPF put difficulties NEG
Hmm, they don't bother?

àdòwàà bífèi ìdóká k ì góró ná
because 3.PL.POSS.difficulties putting NEG AGR be.a.lot NEG
Because their way of bothering isn't much.

í ḍjí bóṅó ló wàà ɔ tá tònó ná à kpá
it eat finish say that 2.SG.SUBJ TAM transport and INF arrive
If it's already the fact that you will?? transport to arrive

ì tà ḍjí wàà dáá tògòò mà ná bà sè ɔ̀p̀ǹt̀f̀á lánṅ.
it TAM eat that like Togo SUB FOC 3.PL.SUBJ sit road on
If it's in Togo, they stay on the road

bèdé bə ló gítání ògìdèè ɪ sɪlá mà.
3.PL.DEM.FAR 3.PL.SUBJ say money REL 2.PL.SUBJ pay SUB
They will say the amount that you need to pay

6 This agrees with gáléi, i.e. word

ì tà dǵí wàà bàfídí àtìjá nà
it tam eat that Bassila here FOC
If it is?? here in Bassila,

gí wòdà àrè ndèè á ná lèè òtìmá ná [douane] mánà bágàno mà
1.PL.SUBJ have person REL 3.SG.SUBJ IMPF do work with customs FOC?? 3.PL.POSS.mouth SUB
we have a person who is working in customs at their place

[donc] ɔ tá ! kpá à tà à kídé mbòdèè, ɔ tòno à kpá mà
SO 2.SG.SUBJ TAM arrive 3.SG.SUBJ FUT 3.SG.SUBJ watch REL 2.SG.SUBJ carry INF arrive SUB
So when you arrive there, he will look at what you brought

ná à? ló àkí wàà àwàá ná ɔ ná ! á jéé.
and 3.SG.SUBJ say 2.SG.OBJ that amount and 2.SG.SUBJ FUT 2.SG.SUBJ give
And he will tell you the amount that you should give

àkí jéé gà bóŋ.
2.SG.FOC give AGR⁷ be.finished
you give (it) and it is finished

àmá ɔ tá ná ! á nm nà tsí nà lùgò ná ! ní
but 2.SG.SUBJ TAM FUT 2.SG.SUBJ steal IMPF go IMPF hide with 3.SG.OBJ
but if you steal while going, hiding (stuff) from him,

bà tà tí rì àkí òkòŋ ná ɔ ná silà itání ikàŋkír
3.PL.SUBJ TAM TAM trap 2.SG.OBJ there FOC 2.SG.SUBJ IMPF pay money be.hard?
if they catch you, it is there that you will pay a lot of money

7 Here, it agrees with the word gáléi, word...