

Recorded Texts

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How to Become a Zemidjan Driver (Nouhoum's Story)

Akimu:

àrè à tà wòdá tókùkù nà jèè à léé sémìjà báì ná á nà sàrà ?

person AGR TAM have moto¹ IMPF search INF do zemidjan² how FOC AGR IMPF walk

If someone wants to be a moto-taxi driver, how does it work?

Nuhum:

ó lè mà àmós ! gbóó n ná lèè kántimá ! ùdǵí,

2.SG.SUBJ say SUB 1.SG.FOC also 1.SG.SUBJ IMPF do POSS.work FOC

Like you said, me, too, I do that work,

ñ tí ! má ló àkí dáá gá nà sàrà mà.

1.SG.SUBJ FUT 1.SG.SUBJ say 2.SG.OBJ since it³ IMPF walk SUB

I will tell you how it works.

àrè — ó tá wòdá àkátókùkù nà jèè á kpá òtìmá

person 2.SG.SUBJ TAM have 2.SG.POSS.moto IMPF search 2.SG.SUBJ arrive⁴ work

Someone—if you have your moto and are looking to enter into the work,

wàà ó ná jèè á léé sémìjà ná

that 2.SG.SUBJ IMPF search INF do zemidjan FOC

you want to be a moto-taxi,

ó ná tàbá ! tàbá ná à jó òdijár, bá ná jìdà wàà [président] mà

you IMPF ask ask IMPF INF know boss⁵, they IMPF call that president SUB

You should ask to get to know the boss, who they call President.

bàdé bà fǵnǵ àkí

3.PL.DEM.FAR AGR show 2.SG.OBJ

The people there will show you.

ó jò ní mà àkí á tsí à tí wòdà ní,

2.SG.SUBJ know 3.SG.OBJ SUB 2.SG.FOC 2.SG.SUBJ go INF TAM have 3.SG.OBJ

When you know him, you, you can go meet with him

ná à tǵó dáá bǵkǵ ì ó nà jèè á léé mà à ló ní:

and INF take since things that 2.SG.SUBJ IMPF search

to take what you want to do and tell him:

áá n ná jèè má léé sémìjà ná. báì ná má sárá ?

DISC 1.SG.SUBJ IMPF search 1.SG.SUBJ do zemidjan FOC how FOC 2.SG.SUBJ walk

I am looking to be a moto-taxi (driver), how will I do that?

1 This is a general word for either a moped, scooter, motorcycle, whatever, anything with two wheels and a motor.

2 Local word for a moto-taxi or the driver of a moto-taxi. The speaker is a moto-taxi driver.

3 This agrees with the word *gǵléi*, or 'words', here used to mean 'work'.

4 or 'go.in'

5 This word literally means 'head father'

á ná à ló àkí wàà áá ɔ tá! á pí nà gítání wàà
3.SG.SUBJ FUT⁶ 3.SG.SUBJ say 2.SG.OBJ that DISC 2.SG.SUBJ FUT 2.SG.SUBJ come with money that
What he will tell you is that uh you should bring a certain amount of money.

nàà bà làá gítání gídé ! ní à jì tókò à tó àkí
FUT?? 3.PL.SUBJ take.out money DEM.FAR in INF buy shirt INF give 2.SG.OBJ
And they will take from that money to buy a shirt and give it to you

bá jì tókò mà bà tì bà ñón àká[numéro] à jèé⁷ àkí
3.PL.SUBJ buy shirt SUB 3.PL.SUBJ FUT 3.PL.SUBJ write 2.SG.POSS.number INF give 2.SG.OBJ
When they bought the shirt, they will write your number to give you

gítání gídé ! ní ì tà wòdà [carte] àlééká,
money DEM.FAR in it TAM have card thing.to.make
From that money, if there will be a card⁸ to make,

gítání gídé ! ní ná bà làá à lèé [carte] à tó akí
money DEM.FAR in FOC 3.PL.SUBJ take.out INF make card INF give 2.SG.OBJ
it's from that money that they will take out to make the card to give you

ndéé í sàà mà bədé bà tós à dɔ ñkùlò ká[caisse] ní.
REL it stay SUB 3.PL.DEM.FAR AGR take INF put group POSS.cash.reserve⁹ in
Whatever is left, they took to put in the group's cash reserve??

bá jèé àkí tókò à bójó mà, àkí sibá òtímá.
3.PL.SUBJ give 2.SG.OBJ shirt INF finish SUB, 2.SG.FOC begin work
After they give you the shirt, you will start work

ná à? jé à sibá òtímá, bà tì bà ló àkí dáá òtímá n ná sàrà mà
and INF TAM INF begin work 3.PL.SUBJ FUT 3.PL.SUBJ say 2.SG.OBJ how? work AGR IMPF walk SUB
Before starting work, they will tell you how the job works

kì bà ná jùn ná,
NEG 3.PL.SUBJ IMPF steal NEG
One doesn't steal

kì bà ná kídé àré ì á ! kpá òtímá à sàá àkí mà fíí ná
NEG 3.PL.SUBJ IMPF watch person who 3.SG.SUBJ arrive work INF stay 2.SG.OBJ SUB nothing NEG
one doesn't look at (treat) the person who began the work before you as nothing

kì bà ná tààm wàà áá àmówó à tàà àrè mà,
NEG 3.PL.SUBJ IMPF tell that DISC my.neighbor AGR lift person SUB,
one doesn't think when my neighbor has a person to take (jealous when my friend has a customer)

á náá à dɔ gójá nà tsí gèdɔ gèdón k ì fáná ná mà,
3.SG.OBJ FUT???? INF put market IMPF go place one NEG it be.enough NEG SUB
If he makes a price for going to a certain place that isn't enough,

6 This is the form of the future marker in a focused or subordinate clause.

7 /èè is the older word meaning 'give', most younger people (like the speaker) are more likely to use tó, but the older speakers will say that tó is not real Anii, so sometime younger speakers try to use /èè, as well.

8 This is an official card from the government saying you have a license to be a moto-taxi driver.

9 This can mean a cash register or lending bank, or an amount of money kept as insurance by a group, everyone pays in, it pays out if there's an emergency.

ì fáná àmós ! ní tìláfì wàà màà í dží wàà
it be.enough 1.SG.OBJ FOC obligation? that if? it eat that
(thinking) it's necessarily enough for me, because (lit. if it ate that????)

àkí ɔ́ dzèè àkátókùkù mà lán̄ nà.
2.SG.FOC 2.SG.SUBJ own 2.SG.POSS.moto SUB on FOC
you, you own your own moto.

àdóswàà gí ná lèè òtìmá ! òdží nà sàlà ná à ì tí prà bábàdžà.
because 1.PL.SUBJ IMPF do work FOC IMPF pay and INF??? it TAM become theirs
Because we are working and (some people?) are paying so that it (our moto) will become theirs

ùdòḡ à tì sàrà à jì tókùkù ágòdžà kpáàrì ní ùtànì
one AGR IMPF be.able INF buy moto 3.SG.POSS.self? at.that.time? and 3.SG.POSS.money
Someone (else) can buy a moto himself at that time, with his (own) money

à pí à tí sàbà ná òtìmá.
INF come INF TAM begin with work
to come start the work

àkí òdèè ɔ́ jèè à jì ná gùtánì à pí tí sàbà ná òtìmá mà...
2.SG.FOC REL 2.SG.SUBJ TAM INF buy with money INF come TAM begin with work SUB...
You, who has bought like that? with money to come and start work...

(re-starting the sentence):

àkí òdèè ɔ́ jèè à jì ná àkùtánì ná à nàà lèè òtìmá mà,
2.SG.FOC REL 2.SG.SUBJ TAM INF buy with 2.sg.poss.money and inf fut??? do work rel
You, who has bought like that? with your money to do the work,

àrè ì á ná lèè nà sàlà mà
person REL 3.SG.SUBJ IMPF do IMPF pay SUB
The person who is doing(taking?) and paying,

jò wàà á nàà tí dós gòjá ní í dží wàà k ì fáná ná,
know that 3.SG.SUBJ FUT????? TAM put market and it eat that NEG it be.enough NEG
it should be known that he (the customer) will put the price so that it isn't enough

ná àkí (ɔ́) ná ḡó wàà ò dzèè àmátókùkù mà lán̄
and 2.SG.FOC 2.SG.SUBJ IMPF see that 1.SG.SUBJ own 1.SG.POSS.moto SUB on
and you, you decide that 'I own my own moto,

ò ná jèè má tsí ! tsí, ò tí ! má tsí
1.SG.SUBJ IMPF search 1.SG.SUBJ go go 1.SG.SUBJ FUT 1.SG.SUBJ go
I want to go, I will go,

bòkò ì ò jì ḡó mà àmìdžá ! ní má dží mà.
thing REL 1.SG.SUBJ TAM see SUB mine FOC 1.SG.SUBJ eat SUB
whatever I get, is mine to keep'

[done] ɔ́ ná jèè á pèépèè gòjá kó gòḡ
so 2.SG.SUBJ IMPF search 2.SG.SUBJ ruin market FOC like.that
So you ruin the market (by agreeing to take someone for a lower price than others can afford to go for)

ò tá ! tí sɪbá ñtɪmá ná à tí lèè à tóró!tóró ì wɛ̀dà gòtò gòbóká ñtsòh̃
2.SG.SUBJ TAM TAM begin work and INF TAM do INF commit.a.fault it have ear shooting inside
If you start work and commit a fault, there is a punishment (lit. there is a shot in the ear)

bà bó àkòòtò mà
3.PL.SUBJ shoot 2.SG.POSS.ear SUB??
they will punish you???

ò tá dà ñtsòh̃ ná tsí mújás àkátókò á ná à kpá àḍzìwà
2.SG.SUBJ TAM be.there inside IMPF go also 2.SG.POSS.shirt 3.SG.SUBJ FUT? 3.SG.SUBJ arrive dirtiness
If you are in it (the work) and going, also, if your shirt becomes dirty,

k ì sóm—
NEG it be.necessary
it isn't necessary—

k ì sóm àkátókò à ná à kpá àḍzìwà ná wù gòh̃ ná,
NEG it be.necessary 2.SG.POSS.shirt he FUT? he arrive dirtiness IMPF surpass like.that NEG
It is necessary that your shirt not get too dirty??????????????

àḍzìwà k á lée àh̃ántírà ! ná, ká lée [mɛchaniɛn] ná.
because NEG 2.SG.SUBJ do crazy.person NEG NEG do mechanic NEG
because you are not a crazy person, you are not a mechanic.

àḍzìwà àkátókò á ná à tsìh̃ àrè ì ɔ̀ tàá?? mà
because 2.SG.POSS.shirt AGR FUT AGR be.good person REL 2.SG.SUBJ take.with SUB
Because if your shirt is good, the person you took (gave a ride to)

á ná ! rəh̃á ùfətər ùsònsónò ná.
3.SG.SUBJ IMPF hear odor good FOC
smells a good odor

ì páá tí ḍzì wà àkàfómè àkúfətər
it NEG.imperative TAM eat that 2.SG.POSS.sweat 2.SG.POSS.odor
Don't allow?? that your sweat, your odor

ò nò ò ná á?? ḍè ní ìfèi ná
AGR FUT AGR and INF? put 3.SG.OBJ difficulties NEG
will???? bother him???

Akimu:

báà [mɛchaniɛn] gbóò ì sóm à ná à fògà ìḍzà
each? mechanic also it be.necessary 3.SG.SUBJ FUT? 3.SG.SUBJ do.laundry his.(clothes)
Even mechanics have to do their laundry.

Nuhum:

báà à tì fògà ìḍzà ì tì ì jí! kpá àḍzìwà à làá bùfì kábùdú
each 3.SG.SUBJ IMPF do.laundry his.(clothes) AGR FUT AGR TAM arrive dirtiness INF lift oil POSS.places
Even if he does his laundry, it will still be?? dirty, showing the oil stains