

ENGELBERT ATSHIPARA

Recorded Nov 5th 2001 in Oshakati. Speaker born 1938. His parents' homestead was on the borderline between Otuwara and Oniimwandi, but he also spent a lot of time during his upbringing at Okatana. In his youth he spent several years at Döbra in central Namibia (probably between the ages of 17 and 26), and after that he has been a resident of Okatana.

Ewa. Mm... ochi-nima ochi na cha... eh no-, n - ochi-wambo,
OK 7 thing 7 have with 7 Wambo
OK, the thing has to do with Oshiwambo,

shono tandi ipyakidhire na - cho.
d7b 1sgpr be.busy with 7pn
which I will be busy with.

Ongoo... onda kiitumba pwamwe n-om..konakon -i
1sgpa sit together with 1 investigate agt
I'm sitting together with an investigator

g -oma - raka... eh, g - ochi-wambo. Ya...oma-raka g - ochi-wambo...
poss1 6 language poss6 7 Wambo. well 6 language poss6 7 Wambo
of the Oshiwambo languages. Well, the Oshiwambo languages,

otu chi chi nawa, oge ri gaheyali ndi chi¹?
1pl 7obj know well 6 seven6
we know well that they are seven, don't we?

Ohatu ga ruku m-e- raka ndi ha/i takum - wa
1plhab 6obj name,call 5 language d5a 5hab speak.a.foreign.language pass

haku ti - wa ee-dialect.
17hab say pass 10
In the foreign language we call them dialects.

Ku- se nee.. aa-wambo mbo hatu popi e - raka ly- ochi-wambo,
1plpn 2 Wambo d2b 1plhab speak 5 language poss5 7 Wambo
To us, the Owambos who speak the Oshiwambo language

ohatu ti- ohatu ti wa/a.. "ochi-wambo", katu na we shi hatu...
1plhab say 1plhab say just 7 Wambo 1plneg have more,further d7a 1plhab
we say, we just say Oshiwambo, we don't have anything else that we

gwedha ko, omanga mbeya ya-kwetu otaa ti...

¹ "'ndi chi" makes a question"

add while d2c 2 other 2pr say
add, while those others say

“Oshiwambo dialects”.

“Oshiwambo dialects”.

Ano ng’ooto popi n²oochi-wambo... n- ngwee to popi aa-wambo...
if 2sgpr speak 7 Wambo 2sgpn 2sg talk 2 Wambo
If you are speaking Oshiwambo and you are talking about the Owambos

ondi iteera kutya... ito popi mo.. om - hoko gumwe nenge mba/i..
1sgpa agree that 2sgprneg talk 3 tribe one3 or two
I agree that you are not talking of one tribe or two

dho - m-aa-wambo, omi-hoko dhi /i ya³ heyali dhono,
poss4 2 wambo 4 tribe seven4 d4b
of the Owambos, these seven tribes

odho dha tunga.po ochi - gwana ch -aa -wambo.
4pn 4pa build.up 7 nation,population poss7 2 Wambo
that built up the Owambo nation

Nda a/a ‘ku -tya, aa-mba/antu, aa-koronkadhi, aa-mbandja, aa-ngandje/a,
1sgpa want 15 say 2 Mbalantu 2 Kolonkadhi 2 Mbandja 2 Ngandjera
I want to say the Mbalantus, the Kolonkadhis, the Mbandjas, the Ngandjeras

aa-kwa/udhi, aa-kwambi, aa-ndonga, aa-kwanyama, eeh,
2 Kwaludhi 2 Kwambi 2 Ndonga 2 Kwanyama
the Kwaludhis, the Kwambis, the Ndongas, the Kwanyamas,

sho.yene aa-mbandja na/e okwa /i ngaa haa kara ando..
actually 2 Mbandja long.ago 17pa 2hab stay
actually long ago the Mbandjas used to be, however

aa -ntu inaya ara oku - ye - eta p-uu - yerere
2 person 2paneg want 15 2obj bring 14 visibility
people don’t want to bring them in public

yonande yo... ochi..toporwa thiru- thiru ch - aa-wambo.
7 part totally totally poss7 2 Wambo
even though they are totally part of the Wambos.

Iya, ochi-nima ochi ri nee mpano kutya,
7 thing 7 d16a that
The thing is here that

² This is probably a contraction of a meaningless “nee”

³ “I think he’s making a mistake”

n-aaa.. aa- ntu oyendji yo-m-ochi - gwana ch - aa-wambo.
& 2 person many2 poss2 7 nation,population poss7 2 Wambo
and many people of the Owambo nation

Iyaroo⁴ uunene mba ya /ong -wa... o, ohaa kambadhara...
especially d2a 2pa teach pass 2hab try
Iyaroo, especially these who are educated, try

oku-yambura.po oma-raka...
15 uphold 6 language
to uphold the languages

ngono ga hogoror-wa ano ogo ga /ongith- w - e... m-ee-sikora...
d6b 6pa choose pass 6pn 6 use pass subj 10 school
which were selected/chosen to be used in schools,

ee, uunene ngaa m-e - /ongo..
especially 5 education
especially in education,

ngaashi ano nda dhini oku-tumbu/a ochi-kwanyama...
like 1sgpa not.consider,underestimate 15 mention 7 Kwanyama
like for example Oshikwanyama

eeh, n-ochi-ndonga.
& 7 Ndonga
and Oshindonga

O... oto tsakaneke nee aa -ntu... morw'oma-dhi/adhiro ashike kutya...
2sg meet 2 person because.of 6 idea only that
You will meet people, because of ideas only that⁵,

ochi-ndonga n-ochi-kwanyama ohachi rong -wa ndi chi⁶ m-o-skora
7 Ndonga & 7 Kwanyama 7pr teach pass 9 school
Oshindonga and Oshikwanyama is taught in school,

kape n' e - puko lya ty'ochi-wanawa,
16neg have 5 mistake 5pa 7 good
there's not any mistake, it's good,

ku na ii - gwana oyindji mbi yi na...
17 have 8 nation,population many8 d8a 8 have
there are many nations which have

oma - /aka ogendji. Nda dhini oku -tumbura,
6 language many6 1sgpa not.consider,underestimate 15 mention
many languages. For example

⁴ expression denoting happiness

⁵ "strange original"

⁶ "you're not sure, you want to ask again"

omo-China, omo-Japana, omo-Zimbabwe,⁷
name name name
in China, in Japan, in Zimbabwe,

oma-/aka omo ge /i ogendji-gendji-gendji ge vu/ithe.. go -mo-Namibia
6 language 18pn 6 many6 many6 many6 6 surpass poss6 name
the languages are there many many many more than those of Namibia

nga atu ti gaheya/i nenge... gahetatu ngaashi uunene
d6a 1plpr say seven6 or eight6 especially
those we say there are 7 or 8 especially

nge nda taa/e/a nee ko-..k-ochi - gwana ch - aa-wambo po.
if 1sgpr refer 7 nation, population poss7 2 Wambo
if I'm referring to the Owambo nation.

Iya, o ndee... oma - /aka ageshe... oga simana... m-ii-/ongo ii-kwawo...
but 6 language all6 6pa become.important 8 country 8 other
, but all the languages are important, in other countries

chi thike po ya- po- pu-keshe e-kwawo.
7 come.to each 5 other
they are just the same/equal.

Ngaye... kandu uva nande te popi e - /aka lyo - poshi
1sgpn 1sgneg feel 1sgpr speak 5 language poss5 down
I don't ever feel that I'm speaking a low language

nge te popi ochi..kwambi,
if 1sgpr speak 7 Kwambi
if I'm speaking Ochikwambi,

nenge te popi e- /aka ly - o -mbiriha.
or 1sgpr speak 5 language poss5 9 cheapness
or speaking a cheap language.

Na-ngu te chi dhiradhira... shira oku na oma-dhiradhiro kage ri p-e - sha/a.
& d1a 1pr 7obj think maybe 1 have 6 thought 6neg 5 position,place
And whoever thinks that, maybe he's having his thoughts not in position (=he's
crazy).

Kandu uva nande om - ntu ta popi e - raka...
1sgneg hear 1 person 1pr speak 5 language
I don't ever hear a person speaking

Iya fe/e ng'oota popi ochi-kwanyama,
5pa be.improper when 1pr speak 7 Kwanyama

⁷ "If it were moChina, moJapan, moZimbabwe without o- there would be no difference"

an improper language when speaking Oshikwanyama,

shir'.onge om - ntu ngoka a puka.
unless if 1 person d1b 1pa be.in.the.wrong
unless that person is wrong.

Na nge ta popi Ochi-ndonga, ta popi ochi-ngandjera nenge chekeya.
& if 1pr speak 7 Ndonga 1pr speak 7 Ngandjera or
And if speaking Oshindonga, speaking Ochingandjera or ????????????

Omwo/ongaaka... ine nyeng - wa nande
1sgpaneg be.difficult.for.someone pass
Because of that I haven't had any difficulties at all

oku-popya ochi-kwanyama ngaye
15 speak 7 Kwanyama 1sgpn
speaking Oshikwanyama

nenge ochi-ndonga. Ngaa nda /i wo om - rong -i gw - o-skora
or 7 Ndonga 1sgpn 1sgpa also 1 teach agt poss1 9 school
or Oshindonga. I was also a school-teacher

he /ongo ochi..ndonga, aa-nona haa piti ee-precente e - there ochi-ndonga.
1sg hab teach 7 Ndonga 2 child 2 hab pass 10 percent 5 hundred 7 Ndonga
teaching Oshindonga, the children passing with 100 % in Oshindonga.

Maara ohandi chi ronggo te popi ochi-kwambi.
but 1 hab 7 obj teach 1sgpr speak 7 Kwambi
But I teach it speaking Ochikwambi.

Shaashi aa-nona inaa pumbw' uunene ochindji.
because 2 child 2paneg need a.lot much7
Because the children don't need a lot.

Iya, ocho twa hi no-kii- oma-/aka gamwe gaa - g - aa-here/o.
1plpa go & 6 language some6 poss6 2 Herero
Yeah, we also went to some Herero languages

Nandyee (nandi h - e) nee mpa... aa-kwambi, om-oku-dhi/adhi/a.. kwandje
1sgobl go subj d16a 2 Kwambi 15 think,consider my15
Let me go here, Kwambis, in my thinking

aa-kwambi, aa-ngandjera, aa-mbarantu, aa-koronkadhi, aa-kwa/udhi, aa-mbandja,
2 Kwambi 2 Ngandjera 2 Mbalantu 2 Kolonkadhi 2 Kwaludhi 2 Mbandja
the Kwambis, the Ngandjeras, the Mbalantus, the Kolonkadhis, the Kwaludhis, the
Mbandjas,

aa-ntu mbono, inaa dhina oma-/aka gawo shaashi..
2 person d2b 2paneg despise 6 language their6 because
those people didn't despise their languages because

haa rong- wa ochi-ndonga nenge ochi-kwanyama.
2hab teach pass 7 Ndonga or 7 Kwanyama
they are taught Oshindonga or Oshikwanyama.

Yo ichewe ... kaa tonde ochi-ndonga n-ochi-kwanyama
2pn in.addition 2neg hate 7 Ndonga & 7 Kwanyama
They also, they don't hate Oshindonga or Oshikwanyama

oshok' e -/aka lyawo, ike aa-ntu yamwe mba haa popi n'⁸ooma-/aka ngeya
because 5 language their5 just 2 person some2 d2a 2hab speak 6 language d6c
because it's their language, but some people who speak those languages

haga /ongith- wa k-o- sko/a, oye chi oma- /aka gawo,
6hab use pass 9 school 2 think 6 language their6
used in school, they think their languages

ogo ge ho/ike nenge oma-wanawa ge vure oma-kwawo,
6pn 6 be.loved or 6 good 6 surpass,exceed 6 other
are the ones which are liked or they are better than the others,

i-ii - roli yothiru-thiru ii-tokere to⁹.
8 jests,jokes totally 8 white
it's completely false.

Na, yamwe noku/i mba haa popi oma-/aka getu nga haga /ong - wa...
& some2 moreover d2a 2hab speak 6 language our6 d2a 6hab teach pass
And some moreover, who speak our languages, these taught

kos- m-ee-skora, ohaya a/a oku-shundu/' oma - raka... ga -ya-kwawo,
10 school 2hab want 15 denigrate 6 language poss6 2 other
in school, they are likely to denigrate languages of other people,

nandi popy - e ngii , ng'ootaa tumbura,
1sgobl talk subj like.this if 2pr say
let me talk like this, if they are saying

ngaashi andi¹⁰ popi mpa... o, shi haye e/eke/e ohaa ti...
like 1sgpr say d16a when 2hab imitate 2hab say
like I'm saying here, when they imitate they say

ngaashi andi popi andi ti "ira",
like 1sgpr speak 1sgpr say come.impsg
like I'm speaking saying "ira",

ngaa andi (=ngaye andi) ti ike "ira",
1sgpn 1sgpr say only come.impsg

⁸ This is probably a contraction of a meaningless "nee"

⁹ This "to" is a so-called ideophone, denoting absolute whiteness

¹⁰ "otandi would be wrong here"

I only say “ira”,

yo haa ti “irrrra”. Ku chi kutya omo/wachee te chi ningire ngaa.
2pn 2hab say 2sgneg know that why 1pr 7obj do like.that
they say “irrrra”. You don’t know why he’s doing it like that.

Ando ngeno ngeno nge te popi ochi-kwanyama...
1sgpr speak 7 Kwanyama
I could speak Oshikwanyama

ee, ngeno ndi...ndi ty - e wo¹¹ “illa”, ngano oku-ku-kambadhara oku-ku-nyateka
1sg 1sg say subj like.that 15 try 15 dirtify
if I could say “illla”, like that is to try to dirtify

e-dhina¹² e - laka ly - om - ntu ka-cho ha/i popi - wa,
5 name 5 language poss5 1 person neg 7pn 5hab speak pass
the language of the person the way it’s not spoken

na-mba ya pwaakena-ndje oy’ uvit’ike kutya ite ti “rrrr”
& d2a 2pa listen 1sgobj 2 hear just that 1sgprneg say
and those that are listening to me hear that I’m not saying “rrrr”

ngaashi hachi...piti/i/itha.. ngaashi okwa /i te erekere oku-pitili/itha o-le,
like 7hab exaggerate like 1pa 1pr imitate 15 exaggerate 9 L
like it’s exaggerated, like he was trying to exaggerate L.

te ti “wallallapo”, ngaaka ote piti/i/itha
1sgpr say good.morning like.that 1sgpr exaggerate
I’m saying “wallallapo”, like that I’m exaggerating

e - /aka ly- om - ntu... lyi nayipar - e.
5 language poss5 1 person 5obj become.bad.or worse subj
someone’s language into something bad

E - raka e-wanawa ku-lyo lyene, kake/e kwaa ngu a ha/a-
5 language 5 good 5pn self5 except d1a 1pa want
The language is good by itself except to who wants...

onda ara nee ndi ty - e ngi (=ngiika):
1sgpa want 1sg say subj like.this
I then want to say like this:

Eh, cho chene nee.. atushe.. otwa ar’ oma- /aka getu
7pn self7 all1pl 1plpa want 6 language our6
The thing (itself) is...we all want our languages

ga ka/ - e ga chang - wa... atu- nga go dialect ano,

¹¹ “Here “wo” doesn’t add anything, it does not mean “also””

¹² “This insertion of “edhina” is just an error”

6 stay subj 6pa write pass 1pl d6a 6pn
to be written down, those that are dialects,

nenge oma-/aka g - o/u-dhi /o-../w - ochi-wambo. OTU GA HO/E!
or 6 language poss6 11 race poss11 7 Wambo 1pl 6obj love
or the languages of the Oshiwambo tribe. We love them!

Ogo oma-shini nga twa yama, olyo e- /ak' e-toye ku -se...
6pn 6 milk d6a 1plpa suck 5pn 5 language 5 sweet 1plpn
They are the milk that we sucked, it's a sweet language to us

k-oma-/aka ageshe ngaashi ngaa ageshe... eh, oma- raka ageshe nga
6 language all6 like 1sgpn all6 6 language all6 d6a
among all languages, like me, all, all the languages that

ge /i mo ondi chi 'ku - ga - popya.
6 1sg know 15 6obj speak
are "in" (Namibia? Owamboland?), I know how to speak them,

Ndee shaashi ondi chi kutya atushe aa- wambo otu uvit - athane,
and because 1sg know that we.all 2 Wambo 1pl understand recipr
and because I know that we are all Owambos we understand each other,

na - sho hatu tsakanene na-ya - kwetu ihaa ti ngaa, chiri,
& when 1plhab meet with 2 my/your.fellow 2habneg say really
and when we meet with others they don't say, really,

"aye, m - kwetu popya oshi-ndonga",
no, 1voc my/your.colleague speak 7 Ndonga,
"No, colleague, speak Oshindonga",

nenge "m - kwetu popya ochi-mbandja"
or 1voc my/your.colleague speak 7 Mbandja
or "speak Oshimbandja",

atu mbwangu/a ashike.
1pl go.ahead only
we just go ahead.

Iya. Ondi chi noho kutya oma-topoko...
1sg know again that 6 going.apart
I also know that

eh, shaash' ondi /i n - om - konakon - i ti i/ongo,
because 1sg with 1 investigate agt 1pr study
because I'm with an investigator studying

oku-konakone¹³ e- /aka ly - ochi-kwambi m-uu - /e.

¹³ "konakone" instead of expected "konakona" here because of the following e.

15 investigate 5 language poss5 7 Kwambi 14 depth
to investigate the Ochikwambi language in detail.

K-om-esho gandje okwa thikama... e-mbo e-neeene, Omahoko/oro gomombimbeli
6 eye my6 17pa stand.up 5 book 5 big name
In front of me there is a big book standing, Omahokororo gomombibeli (Stories from
the Bible),

ine tya nee: “omahokorrro gomombimbe/i”, aaye,
1sgpaneg say subj name no
I didn't say “Omahokorrro gomombimbeli”, no,

kaku na e - /aka ly - ochi-kwambi lya tya nga.
17neg have 5 language poss5 7 Kwambi 5pa like.that
there is no such Kwambi language like that.

Omahokororo owara gomo-..mbimbeli ngaashi te popi.
name just name like 1sgpr talking
Just Omahokororo gomombimbeli, like I'm talking.

Cho ocho wo kaku na nge/' om-oshi-ndong' ite ti
also 17neg have if 7 Ndonga 1sgprneg say
It's also a fact that there isn't – if in Oshindonga I don't say

“omahokollollo... gomombimbeli”,
name
“omahokollollo gomombimbeli”,

ite ti ngaa te yono e - /aka. Pwaaken-ii - ndj' ike nawa,
1sgprneg say like.that 1sgpr disturb 5 language listen imppl 1sgobj just well
I'm not saying like that, I'm disturbing the language. Just listen to me carefully,

tu popy- eni 'a/a e - /aka ngaashi ho /i pwaakene.
1pl talk imppl just 5 language like 2sg hab 5obj listen
let's just talk the language like you listen to it.

Iya, ope na wo... lyimwe ndi lya chang- wa...
16 have also one5 d5a 5pa write pass
Yeah, there's also one which is written

e-testamende.. e - pe ageshe ngano oge ri m-ochi-kwambi, oma-mbo oma-nene.
5 testament 5 new all6 d6a 6 7 Kwambi 6 book 6 big
The new testament, all these are in Ochikwambi, big books.

Iya otwa ara ga chang -wa n-ii-mbandja n-ii-kwachike,
1plpa want write pass & 8 Mbandja & 8 whatever
Yeah, we want them to be written in Mbandjas and whatever,

onda ara ndi y - e kutya aa - ntu ndi yu urukir - e...
1sgpa want 1sg come subj that 2 person 1sg 2obj show subj

I want to come that people, I show

kachona mba ye na o - hokwe n-ochi-nima shi... oku-/andura.
a.little d2a 2 have 9 liking,pleasure 7 thing d7a 15 follow
a little to those who are willing to follow this thing.

O, oto koneke nawa kutya,ochi-tya shi haku ti anuwa ochi-kwambi ochi-dhigu
2sgpr notice well that 7 word d7a 17hab say apparently 7 Kwambi 7 difficult
You will notice well that that word, it is said that Ochikwambi is difficult

sho chi na “chi”.Ngaa(=ngaye)andi ti kachi shi ike ochi-kwambi chi na “chi”,
because 7 have 1sgpn 1sgpr say 7neg only 7 Kwambi 7 have
because of having “chi”. I say it’s not only Ochikwambi which has “chi”,

andi popi oma- /aka, andi popi ike mo mu na...
1sgpr speak 6 language 1sgpr speak only 18 have
I’m speaking the languages, I’m only mentioning those in which there is

“o-chi” m-ochi-kw- moch- m-o-wambo. Aa-ngandjera ohaa ti “chi”,
9 7 9 Wambo. 2 Ngandjera 2hab say
“chi” in Owambo. The Ngandjeras say “chi”,

Chaanika chaNanachirongo.

name

Chaanika chaNachirongo.

Aa- ntu yamwe nee.. ohaa ka ninga nee sho haa /ong - wa m-ochi-ndonga
2 person some 2hab fut become when 2hab teach pass 7 Ndonga
Some people become, when they are taught in Oshindonga,

otaa ka ninga nee anuwa oyo¹⁴ oo-Shaanika shaNashilongo.
2pr fut become apparently 2pn 2a name
apparently they become “Shaanika shaNashilongos”.

Iya... om - ntu ng’ oho rong- wa m-ochi-ndowishi
1 person if 2sgpr teach pass 7 German
If a person is taught in German

oto ka ninga ngaa nee e - /aka ndi to /ong - wa italyi vuru lyi ka dh-
2sg fut become 5 language d5a 2sgpr teach pass 5prneg be.able.to 5 fut
you will become – this language which you are learning will not

ka dhan-ene e-dhina lyohe.
fut play 5 name your5
be able to play with your name.

Hono oku- (laughter)...oku-randitha po sho nehe nyoko sho.
d15b 15 15 sell your.father your.mother

¹⁴ “normal, but would be fine even without “oyo”.

That is to sell your father or your mother.

Iya... eh, (laughter) iya, ano, m-ochi-ngandje/a omu n' "o-chi",
yeah 7 Ngandjera 18 have 9
Yeah, in Ochingandjera there is "chi",

m-ochi-kwaaludhi omu n' "o-chi", m-ochiiii...koronkadhi omu na "o-chi",
7 Kwaludhi 18 have 9 7 Kolonkadhi 18 have 9
in Ochikwaludhi there is "chi", in Ochikolonkadhi there is "chi",

m-ochi-kwambi omu na... "o-chi". Ee-dialect dhi li ine.. hadhi rongitha "o-chi".
7 Kwambi 18 have 9 10 10 four10 10hab use 9
in Ochikwambi there is "chi". There are 4 dialects using "chi".

Iya... omanga... shi cha ye/a ocho shono kutya... mo-...chi-kwanyama nee...
while d7a 7pa become.clear 7pn d7b that 7 Kwanyama
Yeah, while what is clear is that in Oshikwanyama

no-m-ochi-mba/antu, no-m-ochi-ndonga, no-m-ochi-mbandja...
& 7 Mbalantu & 7 Ndonga & 7 Mbandja
and in Oshimbalantu and in Oshindonga and in Oshimbandja

kamu na...naana "o-chi".
18neg have really 9
there isn't really "chi".

Aano o-ocho naana chi /i¹⁵- e - topoko ike e-chona, ndee nee "o-chi" -
exactly 5 separation,difference only 5 small and 9
It's exactly like - only a little different, and "chi"

aa - ntu mba haa kambadha/a oku-nyatek' oma-/aka ohaa chi ningi...
2 person d2a 2hab try 15 dirtify 6 language 2hab 7obj do
the people who try to dirtify the languages do it

ya fa yi i - kwata k-om-esho inaya ara oku- mon' ii-nima.
2pa become.like 2pa refl take,seize 6 eye 2pa want 15 see,find 8 thing
like they are covering there eyes not wanting to see things.

Oshoka ng'ootandi ti "chandje",ochi thike ike pwamwe ngaashi tandi ti "chicken",
because if 1sgpr say 7 come.to just together 1sgpr say
Because if I'm saying "chandje" it's just the same as I'm saying "chicken",

ngaashi tandi ti "chalk", ng 'oowa ti wara "chalk" ngaa(=ngaye) tandi ti "chetu",
like 1sgpr say if 2sgpa say just 1sgpn 1sgpr say
like I'm saying "chalk", if you just say¹⁶ "chalk, I will say "chetu"

"o-che" hetu ha fa - athana ike thiru - thiru,

¹⁵ "ngaa/ngii left out"

¹⁶ "sometimes "owa" is not past tense"

9 our9 9pa become.like recipr just completely completely
our “che” is just the same completely,

mbeya aa - ntu haa kambadha/’ oku-nyatek’ e-dhina,
d2c 2 person 2hab try 15 dirtify 5 name
those are people who try to dirtify the name

nehe e - raka mbera, ku chi kutya o - n-oma -/a/akano¹⁷...
or 5 lanuage maybe 2sg know that with 6 purpose
or the language maybe, you don’t know whether it’s with purpose

ngiika oye ge chi ngaa, mba haa chi kambadha/a.
maybe 2 6obj know d2a 2hab 7obj try
maybe they know them (the purposes), those who try it.

Iya, ya a/a oku-simanek -itha hina ha- m-kwawo,
2pa want 15 honour caus his/her.mother poss 1 other
Yeah, they want to honour the mother of the other,

he ta dhinitha hina .. ha-naku - var - wa mwene
1pn 1sgpr cause.despising his/her.mother poss give.birth pass himself
he causes despising to the mother of the local person himself,

inashoopara (=inachi opara).
7paneg become.proper
it’s not good.

Aye ngaye... ng’oom-ntu ta ti “shandje” ngaa nda nyanyukwa ngiini¹⁸
no 1sgpn if 1 person 1pr say 1sgpn 1sgpa become.happy
OK, me, if a person is saying “shandje” I am very happy

om -ndonga ta ti “shandje”, nenge om -kwanyama ta ti “shange”,
1 Ndonga 1pr say or 1 Kwanyama 1pr say
The Ndonga says “shandje” or a Kwanyama says “shange”,

onda nyanyukwa ngiini.
1sgpa become.happy
I am very happy.

Ngaye nda nyanyukwa ngiini om-ngandjera ta ti “chandje”,
1sgpn 1sgpa become.happy how 1 Ngandjera 1pr say
I am very happy¹⁹ a Ngandjera says “chandje”

nenge ota ti “zhandje”, onda nyanukwa ngiini. Eeno, ondi chi ho/e.
or 1pr say 1sgpa become.happy how yes 1sg 7obj like
or “zhandje”, I am very happy. Yeah, I like it.

¹⁷ “He is supposed to say “ngele”

¹⁸ “”ngiini” here is just emphasizing”

¹⁹ “strange to leave out “sho” (=when) in Oshiwambo too.

Eeh...iya owu chi kutya...mpono onda hi ike...p-oma - topoko...
2sg know that d16b 1sgpa go just 6 separation,difference
Yeah, you know that there I just went to the differences,

nda ara kutya...²⁰
1sgpa want
I want...

eeh...mo-..oma - topoko gamwe ngaashi m-oma-/aka getu
6 separation,difference some6 like 6 language our6
in some differences like in our languages

ng'onde ya ko-...
if 1sgpa come
if I come

k-ochi-kwanyama opwamwe, se aa-kwambi n-aa-mbeya y - em -hoko
7 Kwanyama together 1plpn 2 Kwambi & 2 d2c poss2 4 tribe
to Oshikwanyama together (=if I talk about Oshikwanyama), we the Kwambis and
those of tribes

dhi nda popi mpa, aa-popi y - oma-raka nda zi n-oku-tumbura.
d10a 1sgpa talk d16a 2 speak poss2 6 language 2sgpa 15 mention
that I have mentioned, the speakers of the languages I have mentioned above.

Sho taa ti...eh, tatu tura mo o-nee, ya-kwawo mbeya ihaa tura mo nee.
when 2pr say 1plpr put 9 N 2 other d2c 2habneg put N
When they are saying we put “n”, those others they don’t put “n”

Yo sho taa tura mo o-me p-e-thimbo /imwe, ndi(=nandi) ty - e,
2pn when 2pr put 9 M 5 time one5 1sgobl say subj
when they put “m”, at the same time let me say

“kwawu”-owu wete sho kwaa(=kwa li)hatu nyeng - wa ngaashi mbo...
2sg see when 17pa 1plhab be.difficult.to.someone pass like d2b
“kwawu”, you see when we used to have difficulties like those

“kwawu- kwawudimbe”, ee, aakwa- nenge taa ti “kwawundimbe”, taa ya ngaa.
or 2pr say 2pr come like.that
“kwawudimbe”, or saying “kwawundimbe”, “coming like that” (=saying like that).

Ocho wo ochi-nima shono ochi /i po ngaa nee.
also 7 thing d7b 7
And also that thing is there.

Na-ngwiya ongashi ngaa m-kwawo ngwiya sho, e-dhina o-Marria,
& d1c like 1 other d1c when 5 name name

²⁰ Something interrupted

And that one like that other one, when her name is Maria,

h'otaka(=he ota ka) tya "Malia". Eeh, Herrodes, ota ti.. "Helodesha".

1pn 1pr fut say name name 1pr say name
she is going to say "Malia". Herodes, she is saying "Helodesha".

Mh, maara ka- ku-ngaye inachi puka
but 1sgpn 7paneg go astray, be in the wrong
But to me it's not wrong,

ota popi a hukitha k-e - /aka ly-aandjowo.
1pr talk 1pa adjust, reach out 5 language poss5
she's talking adjusting to her home language.

Itii - tii-tii ke /i ninga²¹...
1sgprneg fut 5obj do
I'm not going to do it...

eh, nenge sho aku ti - wa "sit", h'oota(=he ota) ti "shit",
or when 17pr say pass 1pn 1pr say
or when it is said "sit" she's saying "shit",

kandi- kandu uvite uunene uu-pyakadhi na-shoka.
1sgneg feel a.lot 14 trouble with d7b
I don't really feel problems with that.

Iya, omorw' on-danda ike sho inahi igirira mo...
. on.account.of, because.of 9 letter just when 9paneg become accustomed to
just because of the letter when it's not used

k- e - raka ndii,
5 language d5c
in that language

maara ndji h'igirira mo (=ha igirira mo) oto hi tur' ike nawa.
but d9a 9pa become accustomed to 2sgpr 9obj put just nicely
but the one that is used you just use nicely.

Emh...ondu uvite nee kutya... eh, ii-nima yimwe o-Le, n -o -Re...
1sg understand that 8 thing some8 9 L & 9 R
I understand that, some things, the L and the R

ee, ano ngaashi ngaa kwa/i tii dhu/ike (=dhi u/ike) hwi ndee,
yes like 17pa 1sgpr 10obj show d17c and
yes, like I was showing them there and

nge tandi popi o-Le, tande e/eke/e ochi-ndonga...
if 1sgpr talk 9 L 1sgpr imitate 7 Ndonga

²¹ interruption

if I'm saying L imitating Oshindonga,

inandi pumbwa oku..-ku-nayipik' e - /aka ly -ochi-ndong'
1sgpaneg need 15 15 make.bad 5 language poss5 7 Ndonga
I don't need to make the Oshiwambo language bad,

e - raka e-wanawa nditye (=nandi ty - e)...
5 language 5 good 1sgobl say subj
the language is good, let me say

“xellelle”, mh mhm, inandi pumbwa ndi ning -e ii-nima ya tya nga (=ngaka),
1sgpaneg need 1sg do subj 8 thing 8pa like.that
“xellelle”, I don't need to do things like that,

oku-shind' e - /aka ly - aa- ndonga, te ti ngaa “xelele”.
15 molest 5 language poss5 2 Ndonga 1sgpr say just
to molest the language of the Ndongas, I will just say “xelele”.

Iya, na-ngweye ando oto ch'eta(=chi eta) k-ochi-kwambi to ti “horrorro”,
& 2sgpn 2sgpr 7obj bring 7 Kwambi 2sgpr say
Yeah, and if you bring it to Ochikwambi saying “horrorro”,

ngaaka oku-shinda ashike e - /aka, shaashi om-ntu ta ti - ou uvite-
like.that 15 molest only 5 language because 1 person 1pr say 2sg understand
like that is just to molest the language, because a person is saying - you understand -

ngwaa (=ngu a) pwaakena-ndje oku uvite ike sho te popi o-Re handje,
d1a 1pa listen 1sgobj 1 hear just when 1sgpr say 9 R my9
who is listening to me he can just hear when I'm saying my L

konyara ohi /i pokati k - o - Rrr ndjo hahi dhiginin-wa,
almost 9 between poss12 9 R d9b 9hab pass
it's almost between the R which can be hardened,

n-o-Le ha dhiginin-wa opo tu ri mpo, kachi shi 'chi- ri ii-nima ngashi mbi.
& 9 L 9pa pass 1pl d16b 7neg 7 truth 8 thing like d8a
and hardened L we are there, it's not true, things like that.

Iyamm, owu wete kutya ngaashi m-ochi-ngandje/a omu na nee... ano...
2sg see that like 7 Ngandjera 18 have
Yeah, you can see that like in Ochingandjera there is

mu na ngaashi ochi-nima...“zyi”.. m-ochi-ngandjera,ochi-kwa/udhi, ochi-koronkadhi.
18 have like 7 thing 7 Ngandjera 7 Kwaludhi 7 Kolonkadhi
something like “zyi” in Ochingandjera, Ochikwaludhi, Ochikolonkadhi.

Omu na “zyi”, ee, “zyozya”, ochi-nima cha tya ngaa, ngwiya om-ndonga
18 have 7 thing 7pa like.that d1c 1 Ndonga
There is “zyi”, zyozya, something like that, and that Ndonga

ta ti ngaa “yoye”, ee om- kwanyama ota ti ngaa “shoye”,
1pr say 1 Kwanyama 1pr say
would say “yoye”, a Kwanyama would say “shoye”,

iya om-kwambi ta ti ngaa “chohe” nenge i,
1 Kwambi 1pr say or interjection
yeah, a Kwambi would say “chohe” or...

eeh, ngwiya ota vuru a ty - e nee “zyozye”,
d1c 1pr be.able 1 say subj
that one would be able to say “zyozye”,

e - topoko ‘ke a/i ya po. Ndee ondu uvite ko ashike.
5 difference just 5pr come and 1sg understand only
just a difference will occur. And I can just understand.

Iyaa, ope na nee, ngaashi ike.. ng’oonda ara ‘ku-tumbur’ ichee oma-/aka ano,
16 have like if 1sgpa want 15 mention again 6 language
Yeah, there is like if I want to mention again languages like

ochi-kwanyama, n-ochi-mbandja, n-ochi-mba/antu, ee-dialect dhi,
7 Kwanyama & 7 Mbandja & 7 Mbalantu 10 dialect d10a
Oshikwanyama and Oshimbandja and Oshimbalantu, these dialects,

odhi lyaathane.popepi m-ii-nima oyindji, unene morwa Le...
10 be.close.to.each.other 8 thing many8 especially on.account.of,because.of L
they are close to each other in many things, especially because of L

ndere ohadhi topoka ngaa na - dho... uuna tachi ya k-o-Ne, n-o-Me...
and 10hab become.separate with 10pn when 7pr come 9 N & 9 M
and they can also get separate when it comes to N and M,

ee-dialect oma-.. oma-raka ngo g -ochi-wambo.
10 6 language d6b poss6 7 Wambo
the dialects, those languages, those Oshiwambo languages

Iyaa... oshwiike (=ocho ike) m-ochi-mba/antu
just 7 Mbalantu
Yeah, it’s just because in Oshimbalantu

n-ochi-mbandja ng’om - ntu wa konakona,
& 7 Mbandja if 1 person 2sgpa investigate
and in Oshimbandja, if a person investigates,

ochi lyaathane naana popepi chi vu/ithe,
7 be.in.a.relation.to.each.other really close 7 surpass,exceed
it’s very close, closer than

tweerek’(=to ereke) ochi-kwanyama n-ochi-mbarantu,
2sgpr compare 7 Kwanyama & 7 Mbalantu

comparing Oshikwanyama and Oshimbalantu,

nenge ochi-kwanyama n-ochi-mbandja.

or 7 Kwanyama & 7 Mbandja
or Oshikwanyama and Oshimbandja.

O, onda ara ndi chi tumbu/- e shaashi...

1sgpa want 1sg 7obj mention subj because
I want to mention it because

konyara mbono yaali aa-mba/antu, n-aa-mbandja oyo unene
almost d2b two2 2 Mbalantu & 2 Mbandja 2pn especially
almost those two, the Mbalantus and the Mbandjas are the ones who especially

ye n' ochi-tya shiya "mvi" "nhi", "nhi" to ti "nyo" ee, mbono aa-mbandja,
2 have 7 word d7c 2sgpr say d2b 2 Mbandja
have that word "mvi", "nhi", "nhi" you say "nyo", those are Mbandjas,

sho to ti "ngaano"²², sho to ti "ngawo"²³, eeshi to ti "ngaho"²⁴, iya,
when 2sgpr say when 2sgpr say when 2sgpr say
when you say "ngaano", when you say "ngawo", when you say "ngaho"

owu wete sho te popi ngaa
2sg see when 1sgpr talk like.that
you see, when I'm talking like that

ite nayipike po nande e - /aka lyimwe,
1sgprneg make.bad at.all 5 language one5
I'm not making any language bad at all,

noku/i ohandi nyeng - wa k-aa-ntu mbeya
moreover 1sg hab be.difficult.for.someone pass 2 person d2c
moreover I find it difficult for me, the people who

haa ka ninga e - raka ndyoka atu popi....
2hab fut make 5 language d5b 1plpr speak
go and make the language that we speak...

Nge wa adha taa popi... nande otaa ti ngaa... eeh...
if 2sgpa reach,meet 2pr talk 2pr say
If you find them talking even saying

pwamwe otaa ti "aaye m-ochi-zambi aa-ntu"... nenge "m-ochi-...tshawana
maybe 2pr say no 7 2 person or 7 Setswana
maybe saying "no in "Zambi", or "in Setswana

aa - ntu on-djushwa haa ti "xoxu",

²² "Kwambi"

²³ "Ndonga"

²⁴ "Eeshi" and "ngaho" are Kwanyama words"

2 person 9 chicken when 2hab say
people, for chicken they say “xoxu””,

otaa ka ty’ iike m-ochi-kwanyama... ohaa ti...
2pr fut say just 7 Kwanyama 2hab say
they will just say that in Oshikwanyama they can say

eeh, “oxuxwa”, iya tachi ti iha vuru nee okw-eeta ko kutya
7pr mean 1habneg be.able 15 bring that
“oxuxwa”, meaning that he’s not able to bring up that

aye, ngaashi m-ochi-kwambi n-ochi-ngandjera, mbeya ohaa ti “ondjushwa”.
like 7 Kwambi & 7 Ngandjera d2c 2hab say
no, like in Oshikwambi and Oshingandjera, those say “ondjushwa”.

Tachi ti oya a/a oku-dhima.ko e - /aka, oma-/aka ngono itaga dhimi.ko nee.
7pr say 2pa want 15 erase 5 language 6 language d6b 6prneg erase
Meaning that they want to erase the language, the languages that cannot be erased.

Otachi ti em -hoko dhiya ihadhi kara naana dha nyanyukwa,
7pr say 4 tribe d4c 4habneg stay precisely,exactly 4pa become.happy
It means that those tribes won’t precisely be happy,

ngere oto ti “ondi chi ngaa” pe na ngaa yaali yatatu haa he/eke/e...
if 2sgpr say 16 have two2 three2 2hab imitate
if you are saying “ondi chi ngaa” there is 2 or 3 who can imitate

achishe nom-oku-popya, ng’ookwa adh’ e-dhina... ly - ochi-kwambi
all7 15 speak if 1pa reach,meet 5 name poss5 7 Kwambi
everything in speaking, if he has found a Kwambi name

ote lyi /esha nawa, ly - ochi-kwanyama ote lyi /esha nawa,
1pr 5obj read well poss5 7 Kwanyama 1pr 5obj read well
he will read it properly, a Kwanyama name he will read properly,

yo- keshe ike e - /aka ndi a hadha olyo ta lesa,
each 5 language d5a 1pa reach,meet 5pn 1pr read
any language that he finds he will read it,

ndee oku na yamwe ye na e- /a/akano ngiika taa ti oma-raka gamwe,
but 16 have some2 2 have 5 purpose maybe 2pr say 6 language some6
but there are some having a purpose maybe saying some languages

oma-raka oma-dhinithi nenge ge tondikwe,
6 language 6 despised or 6 be.hated
are despised or hated,

aaye oma-/aka getweeni (=getu), s’ aa-wambo n - em- hoko dhetu
no 6 language our6 1plpn 2 Wambo & 4 tribe our4
no, our languages, we Owambos and our tribes

kutya om-kwambi, om - kwachike otwi i - simaneka tw - i - hore,
either 1 Kwambi 1 whoever 1plpa refl have.respect.for 1pl refl love,like
either a Kwambi or whoever else we respect each other we love each other,

s' oochi-gwana chimwe
1plpn 7 nation one7
we are one nation

hachi popi e- raka ly - ochi-wambo, ochi-gwana.. ochi-namibia,
7hab speak 5 language poss5 7 Wambo 7 nation 7 Namibia
speaking the Oshiwambo language, a Namibian nation,

hamu popi- wa oma-/aka ogendji o-²⁵...ii-kavango n-ii-he/e/o.
18hab speak pass 6 language many6 8 Kavango & 8 Herero
which many languages are spoken in... the Kavango languages and the Herero
languages.

Iya, ohandi dhini oku-tumbura kutya, owu chi tuu kutya..
1sghab not.consider,underestimate 15 mention that 2sg know that
Yeah, for example, do you know that

oma-/aka ageshe ambara g - aa-rudhe, haga rongitha.. ochi-tya “onyama”.
6 language all6 almost poss6 2 black 6hab use 7 word
almost all languages of the blacks use a word “onyama” (=meat).

Ndee, ano e - laka ly - ochi-kwanyama, ondeete (=ondi wete)²⁶ n-ochi-mba/antu,
but 5 language poss5 7 Kwanyama 1sg see & 7 Mbalantu
But the language of Oshikwanyama - I can see – and Oshimbalantu

n-ochi-mbandja, ohaga /ongitha ochi-tya “ombelela”, ndee om- bi/i ngaa,
& 7 Mbandja 6hab use 7 word but 9 apology
and Oshimbandja, they use a word “ombelela”, but I’m sorry

nda popy' ichee nda ning' o-Le ha dhiginina nee.
1sgpa speak again 1sgpa make 9 L 9pa
I spoke again making a hard L.

Haa rongith' “ombelela”, ndee oma-kwawo “onyama”, mochi-
2hab use but 6 other
They use “ombelela”, but others “onyama”,

no-m-oma -/aka ogendji g - aa-rudhe hapo²⁷ omu na “naama”, “nyaama”,
& 6 language many6 poss6 2 black 18 have
and in many languages of the blacks there is “naama”, “nyaama”,

eeeh.. ‘chi - tya cha tya nga.

²⁵ “not proper in Oshiwambo”

²⁶ “He’s jumping”

²⁷ “‘hapo’ is nothing”

7 word 7pa like.that
a word like that

Ihatu uvu nee nenge om -kwanyama ta tumbur' "ombe/e/a" kaa²⁸,
1plhabneg hear ever 1 Kwanyama 1pr mention
We don't ever hear a Kwanyama mentioning ombelela,

aaeye, ochi- e - /aka lyetu tog²⁹, heee 'chi-topo/wa ch- ochi-wambo.
no 5 language our5 7 part poss7 7 Wambo
no, it is our language, a part of Oshiwambo.

Eeeh... on-...ondi wete kutya... nge/e... o-oku-popya o-chi/i
1sg see that if 15 speak 9 truth
I can see that, to tell the truth,

ope na aa - ntu taa vuru oku-changa e - raka
16 have 2 person 2pr be.able 15 write 5 language
there are people who are able to write

kutya ochi-ngandjera ndee taa changa,
either 7 Ngandjera and 2pr write
either it's Ochingandjera and they write

uu-nima hawu resh -wa, kachi na sho achi yono
14 thing 14hab read pass 7neg have d7b 7pr destroy
small things which are read, it will not destroy anything

oshoka ngaa hande et' o/u-keno nokuri³⁰, eh, nge tandu uvu kutya...
because 1sgpn 1sg hab bring 11 pity if 1sgpr hear that
because I feel pity, if I hear that

e - raka ly - ochi-...Nama-Damara... ambara lya kana po,
5 language poss5 7 Nama-Damara almost 5pa disappear
the language of Nama-Damara has almost disappeared

omorwasho aa-ntu ya kar' ike haa /i popi
on.account.of,for.the.sake.of 2 person 2pa stay only 2hab 5obj speak
because people only used to speak it

ly' iha/i (=lyo iha/i) chang-wa.
5pn 5habneg write pass
but it's not written down.

Aaye... tu tot - ii po /e/a ochi-wambo, n-aa - ntu kutya oye /i k-o-radio
no 1pl create imppl really 7 Wambo & 2 person 2 9 radio
let's really create Oshiwambo, and even people on the radio

²⁸ ""kaa" (=kaya) is to make the negation stronger"

²⁹ "=please (Afrikaans)"

³⁰ "adds nothing"

otaa popi ochi-wambo, nande³¹ ongashi ngaa ndi /i mpano
2pr speak 7 Wambo like 1sgpn 1sg d16a
are speaking Oshiwambo, like me here

ndee nda... popi ngaa nee tandi ti a, “paife”,
and 1sgpa speak 1sgpr say
and I spoke saying “paife” (=now),

owu chi kutya sho nda ti “paife”, inandi popy’ ochi-kwambi,
2sg know that when 1sgpa say 1sgpaneg speak 7 Kwambi
you know that when I said “paife” I didn’t speak Ochikwambi,

ndee onda-onda uvite om-bi/i ashike onda popya ochi-wambo.
but 1sgpa 1sg feel 9 peace only 1sgpa speak 7 Wambo
but I feel good, I only spoke Oshiwambo.

“Paife” ochi-kwanyama. Aa-kwambi taa ti ngaa “ngashingii”,
7 Kwanyama 2 Kwambi 2pr say
“Paife” is Oshikwanyama. The Kwambis say “ngashingii”,

n-aa-ngandjera ngaa oko yu uka ho.
& 2 Ngandjera 2pa direct.one’s.course.to d17b
and the Ngandjeras are also related.

Iya mba haa popi oma - raka ano nga.
d2a 2hab speak 6 language d6a
Yeah, these who speak these languages.

Inandi, itandi popi mpano ndi /i pa-p-oru-panda ro-...
1sgpaneg 1sgprneg speak d16a 1sg 11 floor
I’m not speaking here “on the floor

/o - o - o -oku - topagura
poss11 15 be.cracking,disperse
of dispersing”³²

ngaa (=ngaye) te popi e - raka lyetu, talyi hanganith - wa, talyi...ning- wa..
1sgpn 1sgpr speak 5 language our5 5pr unite.into.one pass 5pr make pass
I’m speaking our language which is being united, it is being made

e - /aka lyetu... ly - oochi-namibia. Na-mpono nee, oma-/aka ngono...
5 language our5 poss5 7 Namibia & d16b 6 language d6b
our Namibian language. And there those languages

g - em-hoko dhono odho dha thikam - itha po...
poss6 4 tribe d4b 4pn 4pa stand.up caus
of those tribes are the ones that lifted up,

³¹ “nande” won’t add anything”

³² “This means that he is not saying it because he wants to separate”

o, aa-wambo, n-oma -raka ngono ge /i xxxxx o- ii-toporwa n- ii- lyo..
2 Wambo & 6 language d6b 6 8 part & 8 organ
the Owambo people, and those languages, parts and organs of the body that

y -oru -tu ndono tatu vuru oku-tara kutya ochi-wambo,
poss8 11 body d11b 1plpr be.able 15 that 7 Wambo
we are be able to identify that it is Oshiwambo,

ando ga kar - e ga yambur - wa po n -oga simanek-wa...
perhaps 6 stay subj 6pa raise,lift pass & 6pa honour pass
perhaps they should be lifted up and honoured

kutya oko-ko-ko - aa- ntu ye ri m-om-bepo k-o-radio kutya ongiini,
either 2 person 2 9 air 9 radio how
either by the people who are on the air in the radio or whatever way,

na nge owu chi ochi-he/e/o owu chi, ngaye ngu te popi,
& if 2sg know 7 Herero 2sg know 1sgpn d1a 1sgpr talk
and if you know Ochiherero do you know...? Me who's talking,

m-e- rongo ly - o-skora, ine /ong -e/³³-wa huno k-ochi-topo/wa chetu
5 education poss5 9 school 1sgpaneg teach appl pass d17a 7 area our7
in the education of school I wasn't educated here in our area,

onda /ong - el - wa hwiya k-ochi-topo/wa shiya kwaa (=kwa li)...
1sgpa teach appl pass d17c 7 area d7c 17pa
I was educated there at that area which

cha simana ng -uu - chimba.
7pa become.important as 14 Namibia.south.of.Etosh
was important and known as Uuchimba.

Ndee e - raka ndi nda /ong - wa lyo- lya - meme ngaye ochi-he/ero.
and 5 language d5a 1sgpa teach pass poss5 my.mother 1sgpn 7 Herero
And the mother tongue which I was taught was Ochiherero.

Ngaye ine rong -wa ochi-wambo. Ngaa nda /ong - wa ochi-herero,
1sgpn 1sgpaneg teach pass 7 Wambo 1sgpn 1sgpa teach pass 7 Herero
I was not taught Oshiwambo. I was taught Ochiherero

n-oma -raka nge ochi -mbu/u, ochi-ngi/is. Ogo nda rong -wa mu-go,
& 6 language d6c 7 Afrikaans 7 English 6pn 1sgpa teach pass 6pn
and those languages Afrikaans, English. It's in those that I was taught,

shaashi nee.. huno onda za ko ndi /i ike mo-...m-on-gundu...
because d17a 1sgpa 1sg just 9 grade
because I came from here while I was just in

³³ “longELwa” shows us that it's about the place”

ndjo haku ti - wa na/e oB,ano...ogroote nenge ochike aa dha /i ko ngii (=ngiya).
d9b 17hab say pass B or whatever A's, 10pa like.that
that grade called B a long time ago, so "groote" or whatever, a's were there.

Eehm... ochi-he/ero ondi chi chi nawa nawa... oka - ti ka ra/a.
7 Herero 1sg 7obj know well well 12 stick 12pa lie.down
I know Ochiherero very well, excellently.

Iya, ndee... ng'oote popi n -om-he/e/o e huvite oshi-wambo
but if 1sgpr speak with 1 Herero 1 understand 7 Wambo
Yeah, but if I'm speaking to a Herero who understands Oshiwambo

ote popi ochi-wambo.
1sgpr speak 7 Wambo
I will speak Oshiwambo.

Iya, e - wi itali ti ote popi ochi-kwambi maara...
5 voice 5prneg say 1sgpr speak 7 Kwambi but
my voice is not saying I speak Ochikwambi but

ngwaa(=ngu a³⁴) pwaakena oku chi ngaa
d1a 1pa listen 1 know
the one who is listening knows

kutya ote popi ochi-wambo
that 1sgpr speak 7 Wambo

ch - oru- dhi rw- e - raka.. lyini po³⁵...
poss7 11 race,clan,category poss11 5 language which5
what kind of Oshiwambo I'm speaking,

e - /aka e-ho/ike.
5 language 5 beloved
the beloved language.

Mm, owu wete onda /i nda nyanyukwa nda pwaakena noku/i k-o-radio...
2sg see 1sgpa 1sgpa become.happy 1sgpa listen even 9 radio
You see, I was happy listening even to the radio,

taku faturur - wa, orwo rwa - shugunina onda /i nda nyanyukw' uunene
17pr explain pass 11pn poss11 lastly,finally 1sgpa 1sgpa become.happy a.lot
it was explained, for the last time I was very happy

aa- ntu taa pu- pukurur - wa ii-nima mbi ya puka.
2 person 2pr set.right,correct pass 8 thing d8a 8pa set.right,correct
when the people were being corrected on the things which are wrong.

³⁴ "not past tense, depends on tone, "ngu ta pwakene" is possible, "ngu ta pwakena" is ungrammatical"

³⁵ "lyini po, with "po" it's like I give him a list to choose"

Iyaa, n- onda a/a noku/i n-aa-mba haa gandja... oma-yamukuro..
& 1sgpa want even 2hab give 6 answer
And I even want those who give answers

k-ii-nima yimwe tayi pu/ -wa paife, itii yi fuka ngaa ndee, ngaashi
8 thing some8 8pr ask pass now 1sgprneg 8obj forbid but like
to some of the things being asked now, I'm not forbidding them but like

oma-dhin' ike haga pu/ -wa kandi kara naana tii chi tyapura kaya,
6 name only 6hab ask pass 1sgneg stay really 1sgpr 7obj enjoy
only the names are asked about, I don't really enjoy it,

kutya e-dhina ano ochike aye nalyi pu/ -w - e ngaa,
that 5 name what no 5obl ask pass subj
that what does the name mean, no it must be asked,

“oka-tha k -ee-dhi otachi ti ngii - ngiini?” Ehe oka-tha ngaa, iya ndee...
12 pool 10 fly 7pr mean how 12 pool
“small pool of flies, what does it mean?”. Hey, it's a small pool,

nguka kwa /i ta puku/u/ - wa okutya... eeh, nandi ty - e ngii...
d1a 17pa 1pr set.right,correct pass that 1sgobl say subj like.this
this person who was being corrected that, let me say like this,

ngaa andi ti ondi i/ong- e/a k-e-shara ndi, ondi chi kutya e -puko lyimwe
1sgpn 1sgpr say 1sgpa study appl 5 place d5a 1sg know that 5 mistake one5
I'm saying “I've studied at this place”, I know that it's one mistake

lyi ri m-ochi-wambo mu³⁶,
5 7 Wambo
in this Oshiwambo,

n-aa-ntu yoko-mba ya rong-wa k-o-skora ko-Debra oye na mo...
& 2 person d2a 2pa teach pass 9 school name 2 have
and the people who are educated at Döbra have

e-nothwemo e-wineyi, shaashi sho twa ri kochi Döbra hwiya hatu rong - wa...
5 influence 5 bad because when 1plpa name d17c 1plhab teach pass
a bad influence, because when we were there at Döbra we are taught

“goe gaan dit?”. Sho twa za ko e - tya³⁷ - ochi-nima shono
when 1plpa 5 word 7 thing d7b
“goe gaan dit?”. When we came back that thing

chigiri/a (=cha igiri/a) mu-se ohatu ti.. “otachi hi ngiini”.
7pa become.accustomed.to 1plpn 1plhab say 7pr go how

³⁶ “compare with “keshara hwi” and “eshara ndi””

³⁷ ““etya” means “bad word” but he interrupts after saying “etya””

that is adapted in us, we say “otachi hi ngiini”.

Ko oko kwa ka za,aa-ntu ye y - e sigo... “ongiini”.
17pn 17pn 17pa fut 2 person 2 come subj until
And that’s why people started saying “ongiini”.

Iya, paife opuwo ngaa...
yeah now OK
Yeah now, OK,

oshoka ocho wo wa li wa rong- wa... eeh m-ochi-ingi/isa
because also 2sgpa 2sgpa teach pass 7 English
because it is what you were also taught, in English

ochiima(=ochi-nima) chiiri rera “how are you”,ohaa pura ngweye kutya owu ri ngiini,
7 thing another7 really 2hab ask 1sgpn that 2sg how
it is something really different, “how are you”, they ask you that how are you,

maara k-ochi- eem-buru dha - naru/enga ohaa pu/a kutya
but 10 Boer poss10 ? 2hab ask that
but the Boers of Narulenga ask

ochi-ima otachi hi ngiini, “goe gan dit”, ko oko kwa zi.
7 thing 7pr go how 17pn 17pn 17pa
how the thing is going, “goe gaan dit”, that’s where it came from.

Paife.. oche ya ngaa nduno cha ninga e - /aka lyetu “ongiini”.
now 7pr come then 7pa become 5 language our5
Now it then came and in our language it is “ongiini”.

Ko oko kwa za wo, ohatu ti nee... “your father”... m-ochi-ingi/is...
17pn 17pn 17pa also 1plhab say 7 English
And also it’s where it came from, we say “you father” in English,

no-m-ochi-mbu/u “joo paa”. Eh? No-m-ochi- ndoish “deine Mutter”.
& 7 Afrikaans & 7 German
and in Afrikaans “joo paa”. And in German “deine Mutter”.

Iya. Ndee mu- se, katu n’ ii-nima mbyono kaya,
1plpn 1plneg have 8 thing d8b
Yeah. But among us we don’t have those things,

otu na e - /aka lyetu... lye enderera
1pl have 5 language our5 5pa move.rapidly,hurry
we have our fast language,

Iya py’ een-dungu inalyi nika
5pa burn 10 tip 5paneg smell
it has “burnt the tips”, it “doesn’t smell

omi- dhingoroko dh - oku - kondowa/a dho...
4 circumference poss4 15 go.sneaking.about d4b
the circumferences of sneaking about”.³⁸

olyo.. s’ oohatu ti “sho”, “nyoko”, eh? “Tate”, “meme”,
5pn 1plpn 1plhab say
It- we say “sho, nyoko, tate, meme”,

kaku³⁹ y’iinima (=ya ii-nima) mbiya “gwohe”, “gwandje”, “gwe”...
17habneg come 8 thing d8c
those things “your, mine, his/her” don’t come there,

mbyono... nayi ning - w - e ngaa
d8b 8obl do pass subj
those should then be done

no-pwamwe opo tachi siw’uunye (=si - wa uu-nye), mbyoka ii-poroporo
maybe be.overcome,feel pass 14 d8b 8
maybe ?????? those are unnecessary things,

nokwii...okw-iipa/ek’ e - /aka lya /i lyo opara lyo opara.
15 make.bad 5 language 5pa 5pa become.beautiful 5pa become.beautiful
to make the language bad that was very good.

Ngaye ng’oondi n’omteku/u (= na om - teku/u) gwandje
1sgpn if 1sg have 1 grandchild my1
Me, if I have my grandchild

nenge om - ntu ndi m chi, ondi m vure ihe ti,
or 1 person 1sg 1obj know 1sg 1obj surpass 1sg habneg say
or a person whom I know, I am older than him, I don’t say

“meme gwohe okw-okwaa (okwa ha) peni” ngaa andi ti
my.mother your1 1pa go where 1sgpn 1sgpr say
“meme gohe okwaa peni”, I say

“nyoko okwaa (=okwa ha) peni?”.
your.mother 1pa go where
“nyoko okwaa peni”.

Eh, ng’ooto ti ichee... oka - mwahina kandje, ngwee to ti oka- m- omw-
if 2sgpr say in.addition 12 his/her.sibling my12 2sgpn 2pr say
Further, if you are saying “okamwahina kandje”, and you say

“mwahina” ote popi om - ntu ei/i te ti ngono,
1sgpr say 1 person another1 1sgpr say d1b
“mwahina” I’m speaking about a different person saying that one

³⁸ “This is a proverb (all the way from “lye pya” up to “dho”) meaning that we are straight to the point”

³⁹ ““kaku”= “ihaku”, not the same as “itaku””

hono oka-nona hono oka - mwahina.. k - Iiyambo.
d12b 12 child d12b 12 his/her.sibling poss12 name
That's a child, that's a small sibling of Iiyambo.

Oka - mwahina k - Iiyambo.
12 his/her.sibling poss12 name
A small sibling of Iiyambo.

Ndee hano twa va/ - wa na - ko oka-mwa..meme,
and d12a 1plpa give.birth.to pass with 12pn 12
And this one that we're born with is an "okamwameme",

oka-mona.. ka.. meme.
12 child poss12 my.mother
a child of my mother.

Heya oka-mona ka - hina... h-Iiyambo, oka - mwahina.
d12c 12 child poss12 his/her.mother name 12 his/her.sibling
That one is a child of Iiyambo's mother, an "okamwahina".

Iya, ocho tandi popire ngaa.
1sgpr like.that
Yeah, that's why I'm talking like that.

Paife ichée 'ka-mwahina kandje... h'ookwa ninga "hina",
Now 12 my12 1pn 1pa become
Now my "okamwahina" has become "hina" (=his or her mother)

hina ha-l'ichee (=ha - le ichewe) ko taku ke y' ichée "kandje".
his/her.mother poss who 17pn 17pr fut come again
whose mother else, and it's where "mine" comes again.

Aa-ntu, ochi-ima⁴⁰ - wa hi ko...otatu ka kanitha oku-dhana,
2 person 7 2sgpa go 1plpr fut lose 15 play
People, the thing- you went there, we are going to lose playing

ohachi vu/ika om-ntu kwa hi ngaa m-on-dambo
7hab be.possible 1 person 1pa go 9 center
it can happen that a person went in the center

wu ka dhan-e wu ty - e anuwa...
2sg fut play subj 2sg say subj
to play⁴¹ to say that you are

opo wu chi chapure wu vure ngwiya,
2sg 7obj 2sg surpass,exceed d1c

⁴⁰ "interruption"

⁴¹ "strange in Oshiwambo too"

to enjoy it more than that one.

nani oto ndembagura ii-nima ayi ti ndembu⁴² ndembu
2sgpr slash.to.pieces 8 thing 8pr say
you are just⁴³ slashing the things into pieces saying “ndembu ndembu”,

twiipareke(=to ipareke) ii-nima.
2sgpr make.bad 8 thing
you are making things bad.

Tu na oku-ka/a chiri twa kotoka m-ii-nima mbyo onda pandu/a ngaa..
1pl have 15 stay really 1plpa be.careful 8 thing d8b 1sgpa thank,praise 1sgpn
We really have to be careful in those things, I thank myself

sho nda /i nda pwaakena. Mm...iyaa, shi nee opo ndi popy - e...
1sgpa 1sgpa listen yeah 1sg speak subj
for listening. Yeah, the reason for me to speak

ngiika ndu uka rwaampono... ocho sho kutya... aa - ntu..
like.this 1sgpa direct.one's.course.to 7pn d7b that 2 person
like this going towards there is that people,

hatu popy- eni⁴⁴ oma-/aka ngono, ogo ga thikam - eka po ochi-wambo,
1plhab speak 1pl 6 language d6b 6pn 6pa stand.up caus 7 Wambo
we speak those languages that have raised up Oshiwambo,

nachi tur - w - e chiri m-ii-/onga,
7obl put pass subj really 8 work
it should really be put in duty,

na inaku e/eke/- wa om - ntu oku - dhin' e - raka lyohe,
& 17impneg pass 1 person 15 despise 5 language your5
and nobody should try to despise your language,

u dhin - e lyohe wu h' anuwa⁴⁵ (= h - e anuwa)ko-lya - m-kweni⁴⁶,
2sg despise subj your5 2sg go subj poss5 1 other
for you to despise yours, and you to go for that of another,

hono okwii- okwii- oka-topo/wa kamwe k - ii-nima mbiya aku ti...
d12b 12 part one12 poss12 8 thing d8c 17pr say
that is one part of those things that are called

“oneo-colonialism”, ha - yamwe taa- ngeno ya thiminiki/
neg some2 2pa enforce

⁴² “ndembu” is a so-called ideophone, denoting cutting at a single lash according to Tirronen’s Ndonga-English dictionary

⁴³ “just” because of “nani”

⁴⁴ “this is not imperative, compare “natu popyeni”

⁴⁵ “anuwa” can be out and it’s still OK”

⁴⁶ “lyomukweni” would mean “your relative”

“neo-colonialism”, not only some have forced

aa - ntu e - /aka lyi-... lyimwe po ng' om -ntu ha popi ndi,
2 person 5 language one5 if 1 person 1hab speak d5a
one language into people if the person speaks this

onda panda n-e - rongo lyo lyene lyo-lyo-mo-Namibia,
1sgpa take.pleasure.in,approve.of 5 education 5pn self5 poss5 name
I'm happy about the Naimibian education itself,

oly'alyi topo/a po kutya...
5pn 5pr detach that
it's the one that can decide

e - /aka ndi halyi /ong - wa k-o- skora.. n-o-homelanguage,
5 language d5a 5hab teach pass 9 school & 9
the language that can be taught at school, and the home language,

no⁴⁷-ee-foroma hatu dh' udhitha ondi dhi chi ngaa.
& 10 form 1plhab 10obj complete 1sg 10obj know
and the forms that we fill in, I know them.

Om- ntu nge haku popi- wa o-homelanguage e - raka
1 person if 17hab speak pass 9 5 language
A person, if it is mentioned home language is a language

ndi ho popi m-aandjeni,
d5a 2sghab speak
that you speak in your home,

ng' oho popi ochi-nko/onkadhi oto ti ochi-nkoronkadhi.
if 2sghab say 7 Kolonkadhu 2sgpr say 7 Kolonkadhi
if you speak Ochikolonkadhi you will say it's Ochikolonkadhi.

Ndiya ho /ong - wa k-o-skora olyi irire(=o- lyiiri),
d5c 2sghab teach pass 9 school another5
That one that you are taught at school it's different,

iyaa oto lyu udhitha p-e-shara mpa lyi n' oku-udhith - wa.
2sgpr 5obj complete 5 place d16b 5 have 15 complete pass
you will fill it at the place where it's supposed to be filled.

Iya, ondeete (=ondi wete) kutya... ngiika..
1sg see that maybe
I can see that, maybe,

sho nda /i nda mona oka - mpito, nda kiitumba mpano,
when 1sgpa 1sgpa 12 chance,opportunity 1sgpa sit.down d16a

⁴⁷ This “no-“ instead of just “n-“ is probably a mistake

when I got a chance to sit here,

p-ommm...m-i/ong - i n-om - nongonon - i gumwe,
1 learn agt & 1 investigate.carefully,do.research agt one1
next to one learner and investigator,

ngono ta konakona e - /aka ly- ochi-kwambi, lyo- lyo- ly- aa-wambo
d1b 1pr investigate 5 language poss5 7 Kwambi poss5 2 Wambo
that one who is investigating the Ochikwambi language of the Owambos,

mbo haa popi ochi-kwambi, a hara natango..
d2b 2hab speak 7 Kwambi 1pa want again
those who speak Ochikwambi, wanting again

a tsiki/ - ith - e oma-nyanyangidho ga - lyo...
1 go.on,continue caus subj 6 printing poss6 5pn
to continue its printings,

ochi chi oku - simanek - wa.
7 know 15 honour,have.respect.for pass
it can be honoured.

Ngaye ite ti nee olyo ike kaya, ote ti...
1sgpn 1sgprneg say 5pn only 1sgpr say
Me, I'm not saying it's the only language, I'm saying

n- ii-Damara, n-ii- nama, n-ii-he/e/o⁴⁸, nii...ochi-kwa/udhi, ochi-mbandja...
& 8 Damara & 8 Nama & 8 Herero 7 Kwaludhi 7 Mbandja
the Damara (language), the Nama (language), the Herero (language), Ochikwaludhi,
Oshimbandja,

ng'oope na ngu ta ti ota.. ta changa uu-nima wumwe a tu/a mo e - /aka...
if 16 have d1a 1pr say 1pr 1pr write 14 thing some14 1pa put 5 language
if there is someone who is saying that he or she is writing some small things, he has
put them in the language,

uu-hokororo e wu chi m-e - /aka ndyoka h' oomo a hara wu resh- w - e.
14 story 1 14obj know 5 language d5b 1pn 18pn 1pa want 14 read pass subj
the small stories that he knows in that language and that's what he wants them to be
read in.

Ng'ochi /i m-ochi-kwa/udhi s' aatu resh' ike,
if 7 7 Kwaludhi 1plpn 1plpr read just
If it's in Ochikwaludhi we just read,

kape na nande uu - dhigu wa tya
16neg have at.all 14 difficulty,trouble 14pa

⁴⁸ "he was supposed to say "ochidamara, ochinama" etc, but he could be referring to the dialects and therefore plural"

there isn't any problem

ndi ka/ - e ndi ty - e “ote ka kong a peni om-kwa/udhi a..
1sg stay subj 1sg say subj 1sgpr fut look.for where 1 Kwaludhi
to say “where am I going to look for a Kwaludhi person to

a torok - e/e - ndje” shira ote h'eembepo (=hi eem-bepo),
1 interpret appl 1sgobj unless 1sgpr go 10 wind
to translate for me”, unless I'm going mad

nenge nda a/a oku- ningila.ko aa-ntu.
or 1sgpa want 15 show.off.to 2 person
or I want to show off to people.

Iya, ondeete (=ondi wete) kutya... sho nda /i nda mona oka - mpito,
1sg see that when 1sgpa 1sgpa 12 chance,opportunity
Yeah, I can see that when I got a chance

onda gandj'ike om - kumo kutya otu n' oku - simaneka oma-/aka ageshe,
1sgpa give just 3 corage 1pl have 15 honour,have.respect.for 6 language all6
I just gave the courage to respect all the languages

na nge tatu- shaampono ngaa tu /i,
& when 1plpr 1pl
and when we are...wherever we are,

nge nee ngo-⁴⁹ ite panda o-o- om -ntu e ri m-uu-kwanyama
if 1sgprneg take.a.liking.to,approve.of 1 person 1 14 Kwanyama
I will not be happy for a person in Uukwanyama,

oha popi ochi-kwanyama... nde/' okwa ara.. oku-popitha...
1hab speak 7 Kwanyama but 1pa want 15 greet
he or she speaks Oshikwanyama but he wants to greet

aa-kwanyama m-ochi...kwarudhi, shaashi oku chi chi.
2 Kwanyama 7 Kwaludhi because 1 7obj know
the Kwanyamas in Ochikwaludhi because he knows it.

Aaye, na popy - e ochi-kwanyama.
no 1obl speak subj 7 Kwanyama
No, he must speak Oshikwanyama.

Na-ngaye nge nda hi ko,
& 1sgpn if 1sgpa go
And if I have gone there

ngaa kandi chi nawa pwamwe ote ka tompakanitha,
1sgpn 1sgneg know well maybe 1sgpr fut make.mistakes

⁴⁹ interruption

I don't know exactly maybe I'm going to make mistakes,

shaashi ondi chi kutya oyu uvite - ndje... thiru - thiru...
because 1sg know that 2 understand 1sgobj completely completely
because I know that they understand me completely

naa pitik - e - ndje ndi popy - e ochi-kwambi, na sho ndi /i mpa...
2obl allow subj 1sgobj 1sg speak subj 7 Kwambi & when 1sg d16a
they should allow me to speak Ochikwambi, and when I'm here

kandu uvite ko ng'om - ntu te ku pura ta ti "ondu uvite Atshipara
1sgneg understand if 1 person 1pr 2sgobj ask 1pr say 1sg hear name
I don't understand if a person asks you saying "I hear Atshipara

ta popi ochi-kwambi, ira u ka torok - e/ - e - ndje
1pr speak 7 Kwambi come.imp 2sg fut translate appl subj 1sgobj
speaking Ochikwambi, come and translate for me,

pwamwe okwa kwata - ndje m-oka-yima.
maybe 1pa take,seize 1sgobj 12 thing
maybe he recorded me in a small thing.

Ng'om-wambo... oh, ind' iike wu ka rong - e ii-/onga yohe,
if 1 Wambo go.imp just 2sg fut work subj 8 work your8
If it's an Owambo just go and do your work,

ngaye kape na e-siku andi ka popya n -om-mbandja andi ti
1sgpn 16neg have 5 day 1pr fut speak with 1 Mbandja 1sgpr say
me, there is no day I'm going to speak with a Mbandja person saying

nak- nandi ka kong - e/ - w - e... om - to/oke/ - i, aaye,
1sgobl fut look.for appl pass subj 1 translate agt
that they should go and look for a translator for me, no,

ii-nima te yi ningi i-iiporoporro.
8 thing 1sgpr 8obj make
he's making things unnecessary.

Eeh... n - e-simaneko e-nene... om - pito ndjino kwa /i nda pe - wa...
with 5 honour 5 big 9 chance,opportunity d9a 17pa 1sgpa give pass
With big honour, this chance that I was given,

ondi ineke/a aa -ntu oyendji, taa ka mona eem - pito,
1sgpa believe,hope 2 person many2 2pr fut get 10 chance,opportunity
I believe a lot of people who are going to get a chance

otaa ka kambadhara... okw-eeta po... oma-dhi/adhi/o...
2pr fut try 15 bring 6 idea
are going to try to bring up ideas

taga tumbura... ga..shi/ipa/eke... uu wumwe w-oku - simaneka...
6pr mention clarify 15 honour,have.respect.for
mentioning to clarify ????????? of respecting/honouring

e - /aka lyetu wo.. ly - ochi-wambo... eeh..n- oku - simaneka...
5 language our5 also poss5 7 Wambo & 15 honour,have.respect.for
also our Oshiwambo language and respect/honour

ii - lyo mbyono y - oma -/aka ngono ge chi ninga chi y - e po,
8 element d8b poss8 6 language d6b 6pa 7obj make 7obj come subj
those parts of the languages, those that made it to occur,

n-oku - simaneka... oma-/aka.. getu g - aa-namibia...aa - kwetu.
& 15 honour,have.respect.for 6 language our6 poss6 2 Namibia 2 my/our.friend
And to respect our languages of our fellow Namibians

Ndee taga vuru... oku-kara ga yambur - wa po ku uka komesho.
and 6pr be.able 15 stay 6pa raise,lift pass 15pa direct.one's.course.to forward
And they can be able to be lifted up towards the future.

Iyaroo⁵⁰. Na...nda pandur' unene.
1sgpa thank a.lot
Iyaroo. Thank you very much.

fardig

⁵⁰ Expression denoting happiness