

TADEUS ERAGO

Recorded September 3rd 2001 in Oshakati. Speaker is 38 years old and is from the village of Emono. He has spent 5 years in Windhoek and 9 years abroad, but has otherwise been in Emono. Despite his many years outside Uukwambi and his young age he has a reputation for speaking strong Ochikwambi.

Ocha-anawa oku-kara nda kaatumba mpano tandi popi e - raka
7 good 15 stay 1sgpa sit d16a 1sgpr speak 5 tongue,language
It's nice for me to sit here speaking the language of

ly - ochi-kwambi...shaashiiii.. onda /i ngaa nee nda pe - wa
poss5 7 Kwambi because 1sgpa 1sgpa give pass
Ochikwambi, because I was given

e - shiyo ndi y - e huno,
5 invitation 1sg come subj d17a
an invitation to come here

ndi popy - e... ngaye te kwat - wa nduno.. m-oka-teipa...
1sg speak subj 1sgpn 1sgpr catch, take.hold.of pass then 12 tape
to speak and I am being recorded then on tape

k-o - mbinga nee h - e - raga¹ ly - ochi- kwambi.
9 side, part poss9 5 tongue,language poss5 7 Kwambi
about the language of Ochikwambi

Ochi - nima shino otachi ning-wa ngaa ko-University ha Namibia.
7 thing,matter d7a 7pr do pass name
This thing is being done by the University of Namibia.

Sho tango-tango sho ndu uvu.. kutya ope na..
when firstly firstly when 1sgpa hear that 16 have
First of all when I heard that there is

om - ntu a hara oku - kwata - ndje ocha li ngaa
1 person 1pa want 15 catch,take.hold.of 1sgobj 7pa
a person who wants to record me it was

ochi - nima cha fa cha kumitha-ndje kachona.
7 thing, matter 7pa become.like 7pa amaze 1sgobj a.little
something which kind of amazed me a little.

Ndi na oka-uu-mbanda. Nda ti/a ngaa kashuuushuu ...
1sgs have 12 14 fear 1sgpa fear very.little
I had a little fear, I was a little bit afraid,

¹ This is supposed to be “elaka”, but it is here pronounced as “eraga”.

shaashi okwaa (=okwa li) nduno andi ipu/a andi ti ee, sho nduno ya ar'
because 17pa 1sgpr ponder 1sgpr say when 2pa want
because I was thinking that when they want to

oku - kwata - ndje...
15 catch, take.hold.of 1sgobj
record me

otandi ka ningaa chee (=chike) naanaa nenge otandi ka tya chee?
1sgpr fut do what really or 1sgpr fut say what
what am I really going to do or what am I going to say?

Opuwo nduno, oku-za mpono... atu tura.po e-siku,
OK then 15 d16b 1plpr lay.down 5 day
OK, then from there we set up a date

ndere e-siku ndyono opuwo nani nda ka kwat - w' ichee
but 5 day d5b 1sgpa fut catch,take.hold.of pass again
but that day I was caught

k-omi - imbo go - ntumb' iinandi chi - wa oku-thika.
6 hindrance poss6 certain, some, unspecified 1sgpaneg know pass 15 come.to
by some hindrances, I wasn't able to come.

Opuwo, opuwo natango ichee pokati mpono
OK OK again again between d16b
OK, again, again, in between there

onda ka kara nduno ndi n' ii-hendo oyiiiindji,
1sgpa fut stay then 1sg have 8 journey many8
I then had many journeys

pokati ngaa k - Ochakati n - Ovenduka
between poss12 name & name
between Oshakati and Windhoek,

pokati k - Ochakati n - Ovenduka nde/e...
between poss12 name & name but
between Oshakati and Windhoek, but

ngiika ambara ndi chi kutya onde ye enda ngiika rune
maybe almost 1sg know that 1sgpa 8obj travel maybe four11
maybe I almost know that I travelled four times

nenge ngaa /wa adha pu-rutano.
or 11pa reach five11
or up to five times.

Iyaa e-siku /imwe omanga ngaa natango ndi /i k-Ovenduka
5 day one5 while again 1sg name
OK, one day while I was in Windhoek again

onda yakura nduno on - godhi tahi ti “eh, mentu ngweye, mh!
1sgpa then 9 telephone 9pr say man 2sgpn
I received a call then saying “you man, mh!

Ochike ito kara wa thika xxxxxx tu ning - e...
why 2sgpaneg stay 2sgpa arrive 1pl do subj
Why aren't you arriving to do

‘shi - ima shiya twaa (=twa li) tu uvathana?’.
7 thing, matter d7c 1plpa 1plpa reach.a.mutual.understanding
the thing that we agreed upon?

Ndee ngaa “ayee, andi kara nda thika m-Ooo...m-Ochakati...
but 1sgpn no 1sgpr stay 1sgpa arrive name
But me: “no, I will be arriving in Oshakati

m-oma-siku ngaaa taga randura”, shaashi e-siku ndyono olya /i nduno e- tine...
6 day d6a 6pr follow because 5 day d5b 5pa then 5 Thursday
within the next days”, because that day was then Thursday,

aye olya /i e - titatu. Ngaye andi ti m-e - titano omo ndi li.
no 5pa 5 Wednesday 1sgpn 1sgpr say 5 Friday 18pn 1sg
no it was Wednesday. I said “on Friday I will be in (Oshakati)”.

Opuwo otatu uvathana nee kutya
OK 1plpr reach.a.mutual.understanding that
OK, we agree that

ochi - ima natu shi ning - e ashike m-o-mandaha,
7 thing, matter 1plobl 7obj do subj just 9 Monday
let's just do the thing on Monday

ngiika owa mona ngaa n-oku-vu/u/ukwa po.
maybe 2sgpa find & 15 rest
????????????????????

Ngweye ichewe...
2sgpn again

ito ka kal' ichew ngaa ngiika wu na nande omi-imbo
2sgprneg fut stay again maybe 2sg have never 6 hindrance
and maybe you are never going to have hindrances again

shaashi ngaashi o-lyomakaya
because like 9 Saturday
because like on Saturday

opwaa (=opwa li) ngaa pu n' ii - nima oyindji natango
16pa 16 have 8 thing,matter many8 again
there were many things again

yi na oku-kara ya ning-wa.
8 have 15 stay 8pa do pass
that had to be done.

Aaye, ocho. Iyaa, e-siku ndyono nee mang' inatu ha ko-Venduka,
no 5 day d5a while 1plpaneg go Windhoek
,the day before we went to Windhoek,

ote dhimbu/ukwa otwa ka tondoka ndee tatu hi k-Ongandjera hwi.
1plpr remember 1plpa fut run and 1plpr go name d17c
I remember we "ran" and went to Ongandjera there

K-Ongandje/a okwa /i twaa (=twa ha) k - oma - sha/a nee
name 17pa 1plpa go 6 place
In Ongandjera we went to places

ngaashi k-O/umpelengwa ngaa no-k-Utsathima,
like name & name
such as Olumpelengwa and Utsathima,

ndee tatw-ii k-ee - hambo dhiya dhi /i k-Ethitu hwiya no-k-Eembadhi hwi.
and 1plpr go 10 cattle-post, d10c 10 name d17c & name d17c
And we went to cattle-posts, those that are there at Ethitu and Eembadhi

Otwa li hapo twa panda...
1plpa 1plpa take.pleasure.in
We were happy,

Shaash'oomanga tatw-eende ngaa n - on - djira ndjono nee
because while 1plpr go with 9 road, way d9b
because while we were on our way

tu uka k-Embadhi hwiya k-Ongandjera,
1plpa direct.one's.course.to name d17c name
going to Eembadhi there at Ongandjera

twa tara nee ee - menye tadhi tondoka, n-een - kanga, nduno..oh!..
1plpa look.at 10 springbok 10pr run & 10 (kind of bird)
we looked at springboks running and "kangas"

Dhimwe tadhi tuka, na-dhimwe dhi /i owara p-ee - sha dh - on - dji/a,
some10 10pr fly & some10 10 just 10 edge poss10 9 road, way
Some were flying and some were just by the side of the road,

ngaa aa-nona nee mba kwaa (=kwa li) twaa (= twa ha) na - yo
2 child d2a 17pa 1plpa go with 2pn
the children that we went with

oya ti/a nee taa ti
2pa fear 2pr say
were afraid saying

“oo, aa-mentu ne, nd’otamu dhe eth’ owa/a mwa tya ngaaka?”
2 man 2plpn but 2plpr 10obj leave just 2plpa like.that
“Oh, you men, are you just leaving them like that?”

Twa ti “oto dheng-wa ku-natee/, shaa wa mono nde to dhi dhan-ene”.
1plpa say 2sgpr beat pass nateel² 2sgpa find,see and 2sgpr10obj play appl
We said “you will be beaten by nateel if you find (animals) and play with them”.

Aaye, opuwo sho kachi na nee ‘chi - ronga.
no OK d7b 7neg have 7 work
Yeah, OK, that doesn’t matter.

K-Ooo/umperengwa nenge k-Ongandje/a twa za.ko.
name or name 1plpa
From Olumpelengwa or Ongandjera we came back.

Tatu piti nee p-oka - skora ko - p - O/umpelengwa, oh!
1plpr passed 12 school poss12 name
We passed by a little school at Olumpelengwa

Otw - eet’ o - shenda shaashiii...
2sgpr bring 9 pity because
you will feel pity because

o-skora ndjiya ho - p - O/umpwe/engwa, oka- skora oka-chuuchuu - chuuchuu
9 school d9c poss9 name 12 school 12 very.small very.small
that school of Olumpelengwa is a very small school

take ku dhi/adhi/-ith’ uu - yuni mbwiya wo - nare...
12pr 2sgobj think caus 14 world,era d14c poss14 in.the.past
it will make you think of that old world

nenge ng’ ooto kara nokuli wu ka faathanithe...
or if 2sgpr stay 2sg fut compare
or if you are to compare it

ando n-ee-sikora dhi dhi /i k-om-binga ha - Chakati,
almost 10 school d10a 10 9 side poss9 Oshakati
almost with the schools that are at the side of Oshakati³

² Nateel = People working with animals in for example national parks like Etosha

³ “This includes schools in Oshakati and also outside like those in for example Oniimwandi”.

ngweye to tar' o - sko/a ndjiya hi /i hwiya, oh, aye, otw - eet' o-shenda.
2sgpn 2sgpr look.at 9 school d9c 9 d17c no 2sgpr bring 9 pity
and you look at that school there, no, you will feel pity.

Iya... aaye opuwo sho twa zi hono nee k-O/umpelengwa...
no OK when 1plpa d17b name
Yeah, no, OK, when we came from there at Olumpelengwa

otwa mono ngaa nee kutya uu-nona,
1plpa find, see that 14 child
we had found that the children

owu li po ngaa nee kawu na n-ii-dhanitho y - oku - dhana
14 14neg have 8 toy poss8 15 play
they are there without toys for playing

ngaashi uu-nona uu-kwawo huuningi (=hau ningi),
like 14 child 14 other 14hab do
like other children usually do

ya icheweee.. oto mono ngaa kutya wo wene
again 2sgpr find, see that 14pn self14
and you will find that they themselves

owa fa ngaa wa nika o/w -eepo shaashi...
14pa become.like 14pa give.an.impression.of,smell 11 poverty because
are like they are smelling of poverty because

owu noo... omka/o (=na om - ka/o) nguno g - oku-tya...
14 have 3 attitude,behaviour d3a poss3 15 say
they have that attitude of saying

ohawu pe - w' oku-lya.. omanga inawu ninga ochike.
14hab give pass 15 eat while 14paneg do
they are given food before they do anything

Omang' inawu...inawu lya...
while 14paneg 14paneg eat
Before they eat

nen nenge oku/i k-o- skora ando e-thimbo /imwe
today or maybe 9 school 5 time one5
today or maybe at school yeah

ohaa/uka (=oho a/uka) aku ti itawu ya ko shaashi owu li po wu uvite nayi.
2sghab notice 17pr say 14prneg come because 14 14 feel bad
you will notice that it is said that they will not come because they are there feeling
bad.

Aaye oku-za mpono nduno... twe ya. Sho twa zi ko, ay!
no 15 d16b then 1plpa come when 1plpa
No, from there we then came back. When we came back

Otwa adhika nduno twa panda atu ti
1plpa be.reached, be.met then 1plpa 1plpr say
we were then found happy, we were saying

atu ya tu h - e tu ka ly - e m-oka⁴-nyama
1plpr come 1pl go subj 1pl fut eat subj 12 meat
we will come and go to eat "in the meat"

shaashi opwaa (=opwa li) pu n' o- hango ngaa
because 16pa 16 have 9 wedding
because there was a wedding

ha - m - kwetu gumwe tahi popi - wa hi /i p-om - kunda gwetu,
poss9 1 colleague one1 9pr speak pass 8 3 village our3
for one colleague which was spoken about in our village,

aaye twaa (=twa ha) k-o - hango.
no 1plpa come 9 wedding
OK, we went to the wedding.

Ay, k-o - hango oko nduno twa adha aa - ntu taa ligo/a
9 wedding 17pn then 1plpa meet 2 person 2pr ululate
The wedding is where we then found people ululating,

nduno n-aa- ku/ukadhi taa dhana.
2 (married)woman 2pr celebrate,keep.a.festival
the women celebrating.

Opuwooo e-siku ndyoka olya /i ngaa nduno ly - ee - shungi.
OK 5 day d5b 5pa poss5 10 social.meeting
OK, that day was for the social meetings.

Twa ha k- ee - shungi, twa mana,
1plpa go 10 social.meeting 1plpa finish
We went to the social meetings, we finished,

atu zi ko nduno ishee nee tu h - e k-o - hango nee m-o-lyomakaya
1plpr then again 1pl go subj 9 wedding 9 Saturday
we then came back again to go to the wedding on Saturday

shaashi oh'okana (=oha okana) m-o- lyomakaya.
because 9pa marry 9 Saturday
because the wedding was going to take place on Saturday.

⁴ "The diminutive suffix "oka-" because they would only taste the meat, not eat a lot"

Ayi!⁵ Ochi - nima chimwe chaa (=cha li) cha kwata
7 thing, matter one7 7pa 7pa take, seize
One thing that was the best

nenge cha kwata m-ii - ti hok' ocha li nduno om - samane Iita yaKadha,
or 7pa take, seize 8 wood d17b 7pa then 1 (married)man name
or the best there was then the man Iita Kadha,

ta dhana ta nuka he ti imbi ochi-kwambi
1pr play, celebrate 1pr jump 1pn 1pr sing 7 Kwambi
playing, jumping and him singing in Ochikwambi

rera ngaashi ngaa hachu uvika mo-m-o-randio.
really like 7hab be.heard 9 radio
exactly like it's heard on the radio.

Aye! Ochi- nima cha kara ngaa shi /i ngano, o -hango ha dhana,
no 7 thing, matter 7pa stay 7 like.that 9 wedding 9pa play, celebrate
The thing has been like that, the wedding was celebrated,

aye twa lya, twa za ko.
no 1plpa eat 1plpa
we ate, we came back.

Opo nduno... nda ka dhimburukwa nee kutya ay!
1sgpa fut remember that interj
I then remembered that

Onda /i ngaa nda dhenge/ - wa on - godhi,
1sgpa 1sgpa ring.someone pass 9 telephone
I had received a call

on - godhi ndjono oha tire⁶ nandi h - e,
9 telephone d9b 9pa 1sgobl go subj
that call said I must/should go

ndi ka ka/ - e ngaa nda kwat - wa moo-m-oka-teipa mwiya,
1sg fut stay subj take, seize pass 12 tape d18c
to be recorded on that tape,

Ay! Nandi thikam - e owara ndi h - e.
1sgobl stand.up subj just 1sg go subj
I must just stand up and go.

Ano nduno nena sho nduno nde ya p-o-skora...
then when then 1sgpa come 9 school
And then when I came to school

⁵ "Interjection because he forgot"

⁶ "'tire" because the person has forgotten and remembered again"

onda mono nduno ichee na - ya - kwetu yamwe
1sgpa find,see then again & 2 my/our.colleague/friend some2
I then saw some colleagues/friends again

yu uka k-Onendongo
2pa go.to,direct.one's.course.to name
going to Onendongo,

ngaa, “aye, ya - mentu ne, natu ender -eni mumwe...”
1sgpn no 2voc man 2plpn 1pobl imppl together
me: “no, you men, let’s walk together

shaashi... hono k-Onendongo...
because d17b name
because there at Onendongo,

ha - ko ngaa ku na on - djira ndji hu uka /o⁷-ko-UNAM?
neg 17pn 17 have 9 road,way d9a 9pa go,lead name
isn't that where there's that road going to UNAM?

Ngaye ndi h- e ngaa ndi ka kwat - w - e.
1sgpn 1sg go subj 1sg fut take,seize pass subj
Me to go to be recorded.

Aye, opuwo, n-oku-za ko nduno owa/a ongashi nee ngaa wu uvite
no OK & 15 then just like 2sg hear
OK, and then I just came back as you can hear me

tandi popi na-ngaashingii.
1sgpr speak with now
talking now

Iya, ndino olya li nee wara ashike.. ngaa.. e - popyo lyandje,
d5a 5pa just only 5 speaking my5
This was just only my speech,

tandi popi ochi-kwambiii...
1sgpr speak 7 Kwambi
speaking Ochikwambi

te hokorora ngaa nee
1sgpr tell, narrate
telling a story,

⁷ This “lo-“ is probably the noun class 11 possessive prefix. It is not at all uncommon in expressions like this one. Perhaps it is used in analogy with expressions like “olweendo lokoFrance”, where the noun class 11 possessive prefix is present because of “olweendo” belonging to noun class 11.

ochi - ima shii che ende na-shi ngaa cha ning-wa po
7 thing,matter 7pa go & d7a 7pa do pass
the thing, how it went and what was done

ngiika ya - kwetu otu uvit - athan - eni ngaa.
maybe 2 my.colleague 1pl understand recipr 1pl
Maybe colleagues we understand each other.

Ocho sho. Tangi.
thank.you
That's it. Thank you.

Fardig