

PERAGIA IIDHOGERA

Recorded in Ochaandja May 2002. Speaker is close to 80 years old and has been living in Ochaandja all her life.

Oh ngaye sho nda li... oka-kadhona le/a oka-nene...
1sgpn when 1sgpa 12 girl 12 big
Oh, when I was a very big girl

Okwaa (=okwa li) handi hi nee k-ii - muna,
17pa 1sghab go 8 domestic.animal
I used to go to after the animals,

andi kalitha nee een - gombe dha - tate m-om-buuuga¹ moku/e.
1sgpr make.stay.or.remain 10 cattle poss10 my.father 9 far.away
I go to graze the cattle of my father far away in the ombuga

Tu/i n - oka- matyona haku ti... Katangoro kaChimi.
1pl with 12 small.boy 17hab say name
with a boy called Katangolo Chimi.

Ohatu kutha nduno uu - ko/a wetu, twa tura mo ii - pi/i/i yetu,
1plhab take then 14 calabash our14 1plpr put 8 thin.porridge our8
We then take our calabashes putting in our thin porridge

Om - na g - omw - eethi... oha ningi oka - piriri k-on- taku.
1 child poss1 1 careless.person 1hab make 12 thin.porridge 9 oshikundu²
The child of a careless person can make a thin porridge of oshikundu.

Se otwa ty' ii - pi/i/i yetu y - oma-shini, tatu tu/a m-uu - ko/a,
1plpn 1plpa have 8 thin.porridge our8 poss8 6 milk 1plpr put 14 calabash
We have our thin porridge made of milk, putting it in the calabashes,

ndee ng'ootwa s'enota (=sa e-nota), n-on-djara,
and if 1plpa feel 5 thirst & 9 hunger
and if we feel thirsty and hungry

komatango sho tu /i k-ii - muna,
in.the.afternoon when 1pl 8 domestic.animal
in the afternoon when we are at the grazing

atu ga/uka twa ty' uu - poko/o, atu ya tatu tapu/a³ nduno,
1plpr come.back 1plpa have 14 palm-leaf.stalk 1plpr come 1plpr eat then
we will come back with small palm-leaf stalks, coming and then eating,

¹ "ombuga" refers to the treeless plains between the more fertile parts of Owamboland and Etosha

² "oshikundu" has been chosen as a translation here, since this Kwanyama word seems to be much more widely used by non-Oshiwambo speakers than the Ndonga/Kwambi "ontaku" when they need to refer to this kind of beverage.

³ "Tapura" means "eat by dipping one's fingers into a liquid food and licking them"

tatu tapura s'aatu (=se atu) yoro...ngo g - oka - pi/i/i k - on - taku,
1plpr eat 1plpn 1plpr laugh d1b poss1 12 thin.porridge poss12 9 oshikundu
we are eating and laughing at the one who has a thin porridge made of oshikundu,

om-⁴ aa -na y - aa - hedhenge⁵.
2 child poss2 2 sluggard,coward
the children of sluggards.

s'aana (se aa - na) y - aa-ruventu,
1plpn 2 child poss2 2 man
We are the children of men,

y - om - samane tate Toorerere E/api lyaNamshingo,
poss2 1 married.man Mr name
of a man (called) Toorerere Erapl of Namshingo

lyAkawa kaChipombo. Tate okwaa(=okwa li) ha tumu - ndje kokule noho⁶.
name my.father 1pa 1hab send 1sgobj far
of Akawa Chipombo. My father used to send me far.

Tate ta ti: “ m - kadhona gwandje owa rara po tuu?
my.father 1pr say 1voc girl my1 2sgpa sleep
Daddy says: “my girl, are you fine?”

Kapyeepye, owa rara po tuu? “Eee”.
nick-name 2sgpa sleep yes
“Kapyeepye, are you fine?” “Yes”.

“Ira nduno m-kadhona gwandje,
come.imp then 1voc girl my1
“Come then my girl,

wu ka tar - er - e - ndje oma-kaya gandje k-Endo/a lyaafundu⁷.
2sg fut get appl subj 1sgobj 6 tobacco my6
to go get for me my tobacco at Endola of Fundu.

Nd'oohandi hi tandi tondoka,ongayiike (=ongaye ike) m-oku - ti kw ' eenya.
and 1sg hab go 1sgpr run 1sgpn only 15 forest 15pa become.warm
And I go running alone in the hot forest.

Te tondoka, ndi /i p-o/u - tu owara kandi na neh' oka - hema,
1sgpr run 1sg 11 body only 1sgneg have any 12 dress,shirt
I'm running with a bare body, I don't have any dress,

nda tyiike (=tya ike) oka - rapi kandje kombwaka⁸.

⁴ probably interrupted “omna”

⁵ According to Tirronen (1986) this is a Kwambi word corresponding to Ndonga “omkatalume”

⁶ “can be ignored here”

⁷ “I think it's the name of a shop”

1sgpa have just 12 loincloth 12poss
I just have my little loin-cloth of double breadth.

Sho te zi ko tate ota ti:
when 1sgpr my.father 1sgpr say
When I come back father says:

“ ino ya p’ uu -leke wohe m - kadhona gwandje”.
2sgnegimp 2obj give 14 sweets your14 1voc girl my1
“don’t give them your sweets, my girl”.

Ngaye andi yak - e/e aa-mwameme uu- leke.
1sgpn 1sgpr steal appl 2 sibling 14 sweets
I steal sweets for my sisters⁹.

Tandi ya yak - e/e yo oye li p-o-chini ngaa nda sa wo on-dja/a,
1sgpr 2obj steal 2pn 2 9 1sgpn? 1sgpa feel also 9 hunger
I steal for them while they are at the oshini (pounding-place), I also feel hungry,

yo otaa pe - ndje nee sho tandi¹⁰-
2pn 2pr give 1sgobj when 1sgpr
and they give me when I’m –

ngaa (=ngaye) nda li kokule yo otaa pe - ndj’ uu-kwii/a¹¹,
1sgpn 1sgpa far.away 2pn 2pr give 1sgobj 14
I was far, they give me small millet breads

taa ning - i/e - ndje oka-shambu, nde ya panda nduno.
2pr make appl 1sgobj 12 ? 1sgpa 2obj become.happy then
making “okashambu” for me, then I am happy because of them.

S’aatu (=se atu) yo/o he he he. Tatu yoro nduno een - gandja.
1plpn 1plpr laugh 1plpr laugh then 10 loud laugh,horselaugh
And we are laughing.We are laughing loud laughs, he he he.

Iya. Hapuwo.
yeah
Yeah, isn’t it?

Aye, se... okwa /i noho hatu... hatu hi owara k-o-siko/a...
1plpn 17pa also 1plhab 1plhab go just 9 school
Yeah, we just also used to go to school

n -aa-mwameme... ndee ngaye ng’ oowa mono nde/e...
with 2 sibling and 1sgpn if 2sgpa find,see
with my siblings,and me, if you found then

⁸ elapi lyombwaka = girl’s loincloth of double breadth

⁹ “sisters” instead of “siblings” because only girls pound mahangu”

¹⁰ “interruption”

¹¹ “oshikwiila” means “(loaf of) bread, especially of millet flour” according to Tirronen (1986).

sho tatu hi na-Namchongo, Susanna hIidhoge/a m-mwameme,
when 1plpr go with name name 1 my.sibling
when we are going with Namchongo, Susanna Iidhogera, my sister,

shempa wara a i - tsu k-o¹²-kegwa, na-ngaye ondiitsa (=onda i - tsa).
if just 1pa refl stick,prick thorn & 1sgpn 1sgpa refl stick,prick
if she just pricked herself on a thorn, I pricked myself on it too.

Shempa wara... a-a-a-a hi -pumu k-oka - thindi,
if just 1pa refl bump 12 tree.stump
If she just bumped herself on a little tree stump

k-o-siko/a itii(=ita hi) ko we sho ta garuka na- ngaa nda garuka ko.
9 school 1prneg go anymore when 1pr come.back & 1sgpn 1sgpa return
she doesn't go to school anymore, when she comes back I returned back.

Atu uman - wa nduno k- om-kuruntu gwetu meme¹³ Beata ta ti:
1plpr reproach pass then 1 parent our1 Ms name 1pr say
We are then reproached by our parent, Ms Beata, she says:

“n' aa-nona n' iitam chach - wa nziya”, uuna a ka chach - wa...
2plpn 2 child 2plpn 2plprneg baptize pass quickly when 1pa fut baptize pass
“you kids, you will not get baptized early”, the day she went to be baptized

okwa thiga - ndje po.
1pa leave,leave.behind 1sgobj
she left me.

Ndee te riri.
and 1sgpr cry
And I'm crying.

Ohera¹⁴ a he/ek - wa oka - guwo ku- pata Fransa gwetu...
when 1pa measure,put.to.the test pass 12 gown Father¹⁵ name our1
When our Father Frans¹⁶ tried out a small gown on her,

oh! Ngaa te /i/i, te /i/i chili
1sgpn 1sgpr cry 1sgpr cry truly
oh! I am crying, I am truly crying,

ochike om-mwameme a thiga - ndje po?

¹² At first this “okegwa” would seem to be a mistake, where the speaker intends to say “ekegwa” or “okwega”, but according to Kasita Shinyemba this form also exists. However, since the plural would be “omakegwa”, not “*eekegwa” it is not clear whether this form should really be interpreted as having a noun class 9 prefix.

¹³ “Meme” literally means “mother” but is also used to address women.

¹⁴ “Ohera” doesn't mean yesterday here”

¹⁵ “Father” used as title of Catholic priest

¹⁶ This must surely be referring to Franz Seiler, a Catholic priest at Okatana mission station, who among other things was a prominent figure in the production of religious Kwambi literature.

why 1 my.sibling 1pa leave,leave.behind 1sgobj
why did my sister leave me?

Okuri ngaa twa hi p-o - chini... meme gwIIdhoge/a Susanna ngono,
1plpa go 9 pounding-place Ms name d1b
Once we went to the pounding-place, that meme Iidhogela Susanna,

sheempowa/a (=shempa owa/a) a mono nde ta-¹⁷...
if just 1pa find,see and
if she just found, and you –

ta- ta tsu atu tsu, ndee ta fu/u/a ko tango,
1pr pound 1plpr pound and 1pr pound.corn.after.being.first.moistened
she pounds, we pound, and she pounds corn for the first time,

sheempa a ti “mhwatu”, ngaa nda thikam’ iike.
1pa say 1sgpn 1sgpa stand.up just
if she makes a sound “mhwatu”, I just stand.

Nda thikam’ iike, h’oote ya nduno
1sgpa stand.up just 1pn 1pr come then
I just stand, she then comes:

“andiya ndi ku ts - i/e ko m-kadhona gwandje”,
1sg 2sgobj pound appl 1voc girl my1
“Let me pound for you my girl”

tatu furu/a ko nduno,
1plpr pound.corn.after.being.first.moistened then
we then pound,

sho tatu zi mpono, atu hi ike p-och - ana ch - aandjetu¹⁸ mpeya,
when 1plpr d16b 1plpr go just 7 oshana poss7 d16c
from there we then just go into our oshana there,

atu ka fur’ oma - vo,
1plpr fut dig 6 water-lilly
to dig water-lillies

se twe ya thiga po p-o - chini
1plpn 1plpa 2obj leave,leave.behind 9 pounding-place
and we left them at the pounding-place,

atu ya yoro owara een - gandja.
1plpr 2obj laugh just 10 loud.laugh,horselaugh
we are just laughing loud laughs at them.

¹⁷ interruption

¹⁸ “”chaandjetu”, “yaandjetu” etc. indicates that it belongs to our house”, compare “iikombo yetu” and “iikombo yaandjetu”

S'aatu(=se atu) ti: "hee", opo tam kara mpo
1plpn 1plpr say "hee" 16pn 2plpr stay d16b
and we say "hee", you will remain there,

s'aatu(=se atu) ka ly' een - gungu dhetu.
1plpn 1plpr fut eat 10 watergrass.bulb our10
we are going to eat our watergrass bulbs.

Ha ha ha ha, ehee.
laughter

Otwa li noho... hatu hi k-uu-dhano uu-siku, shempa twa ly'uu - ra/e/o,
1plpa also 1plhab go 14 game 14 night after 1plpa eat 14 evening.meal
We also used to go playing at night, after we have eaten supper,

s'ootatu(=se otatu) hi k-uu-dhano. Oku na...ee, omw-edhi gwa toka to¹⁹!
1plpn 1plpr go 14 game 17 have 3 moon 3pa turn.whitish
we go to play. There is...the very whitish moon.

Otatu hi nduno k-uu-dhano,
1plpr go then 14 game
We then go to play,

oku na n'²⁰ uu-mati yoong'(=ya hongu) uu - pokoro.
17 have 14 boy 2pa shape.by.chopping 14 palm-leaf.stalk
there are boys who have shaped palm-leaf stalks (by chopping).

S'ootatu(=se otatu) hi nduno k-uu-dhano,
1plpn 1plpr go then 14 game
We then go to play,

Shuumati (=sho uu - mati) mbo sho tawu ya s'atu(=se atu) imbi
when 14 boy d14b when 14pr come 1plpn 1plpr sing
when those boys come we sing:

(song)

Ho hooo, s'aatu(=se atu) yo/o owara ha ha ha ha ha ha,
1plpn 1plpr laugh just (laughter)
Ho hooo, we are just laughing,

atu yo/o ng' inaga pe - wa on-goro oma - hethi. Iya mh mh mh.
1plpr laugh d6b 6paneg give pass 9 6 neglectful.person (laughter)
we are laughing at those who are not given "ongolo", they are neglectful people.

Fardig

¹⁹ "to" is a so-called ideophone denoting intense whiteness

²⁰ Contraction of a meaningless "nee".

