

Text code _____ Tape code _____ Language Saramaccan
 Title Listen to me. Topic a man trying convince someone to
 Date Fall 1980 Place Paramaribo Suriname listen to him.
 Speaker's: name Metson Sanne sex M age ± 50
 birthplace Bendi Wata/Upper Suriname River civil status single
 religion Moravian occupation unemployed/leper
 education no formal literacy level reads and writes slowly but
 where and how vernacular learned home from parents functionally
 knowledge of other languages Sranan, Patuwa fairly well/ Dutch, a little
 languages of parents: father Saramaccan
 mother "
 Length (sentences) 112 Transcription: phonetic phonemic orthographic
 Evaluation: text good for linguistics //for anthro fair
 transcription/translation good
 tape recording ---
 Spoken or written Elicited or spontaneous
 Extempore or prepared Monologue or dialogue with responses
 Style next to formal
 Notable linguistic features listener responses included
 Discourse type (genre) hortatory
 Situational context:

If the text was elicited, in what manner was it elicited? I asked him for a discourse of someone trying to convince someone else of something.

If the text was spontaneous, describe the social situation that prompted the speaker to give the text. What communicative function did the text fulfill, or, what was the speaker's purpose?

Specify relevant social relations among the participants (i.e. the speaker, addressee, audience).

What was the reaction of the participants to the text? Did the speaker achieve his purpose? They answered in a polite way as to be expected, Who knows how sincere they were.

Give any background information about persons, places, events, customs, etc. that is necessary to fully interpret the text. This would be a formal gathering of the men, a rather official occasion.

Additional comments: The text is good for linguistic analysis. And the content tells something about what reasons they would chose for why someone should heed another person. What they are to listen to is not at all in focus..only that they should listen...which gives it an artificial flavor.

1. Dee sēmbē aki, un dē nō?
the(pl) people here, you(pl) are ?
2. (U dē-ooo)
we are oooo
3. Söö
so
4. Wē, dee sēmbē, mi ko a unu aki ee
the (pl) people, I came to you(pl) here!
5. (Sppöö)
soooo
6. Wē fa mi ko aki,
as I came here
7. nōō mi kē fan ku unu wan soni e
I want to talk with you(pl) a thing
8. (Aai)
yes
9. Ma ma saafa u mi fan ee
but I(neg) know how for me to talk !'

tee nōō a sa suti ee
until it can (be) sweet !
10. (Tuutuu)
true true
11. Ma tōkuseei mi kē fan
but just the same I want to talk
12. (letisō)
rightly so
13. Di soni mbei mi kē fan ēn fu di
the thing makes me want talk it for the

libi un ta- libi ku me Wē mbei.
libing you(pl) cont live with me ! makes
14. (Tuutuu)
true true
15. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~
~~xxxxxxxxxx~~
15. Biga mi ta- si taa mi dē wan gaan
because I cont see that I am a very

makisa sēmbē

1. Good afternoon,
Everybody.
2. Good afternoon
- 3/4. Well, Folks, I've
come to you(implicat.
with a purpose)
5. ok
- 6., 7. The reason I
came is to talk to you
about something.
8. ok
9. But I don't know how
to say it eloquently.
10. That's true
11. But just the same I
want to talk to you.
12. That's right
13. The thing I want to
talk to you about is the
way you've been treating
me, that's why I want to
talk to you.
14. That's true
15. Because (grounds for
coming) I know that I am
of no importance in our
family. 16. That's the
way it is. 17. But just
the same you take pleasure
in me. 18. Right 19. So
for that reason I'm not
afraid to talk to you
about the things I hear.
20. It

makisa sēmbē a di bēē u mi
 insignificant person in the family of me

16. (Wē sō a dē)
 so it is

17. Ma tōkuseei un ta- a' pizii
 but just the same you(pl) cont have pleasure
 u mi.
 of me

18. (kelekāle)
 affirmative response

19. Nōō hēn wē mbei ma fēēē u fan ku
 it ! makes me(neg) fear to talk with

 unu dee soni dee mi ta- jei
 you(pl) the(pl) things the(pl) cont hear

20. (Aan fa seei)
 it have (neg) how empha.

21. Biga mi sabi taa ee dee oto
 because I know that if the(pl) others

 ta- fan ku unu wan ta-
 cont talk with you(pl) you(pl)(neg) cont

 jei seei.
 hear emphasis.

22. (Letisō)
 that's right

23. Ma ma sa disa unu
 But I(neg) can leave you(pl)

24. (Tuutuu)
 true true

25. Biga a kandē sō nōō mi nōō wē
 because it perhaps so I only empha

 un bi ta- luku
 you(pl) past cont look for

26. taa wē kaa u ku Asayseka bi
 saying where we with Asayseka past

 libi bunu tjika,
 live well enough

27.

16. That's the way it is.

17. But just the same you
 take pleasure in me.

18. Right 19. So for that
 reason I am not afraid to
 talk to you about the
 things I hear.

20. It couldn't be any
 other way.

21. I know that if other
 people talk to you, you
 don't listen.

22. That's right

23. But I still can't let
 you alone.

24. That's true.

25, 26. It could be that
 you're just waiting for
me to come to you saying
 'in as much as Asayseka
 and we have lived in
 harmony in the past...

27. nöö a o- ko a u ko fan ku u nöömō
he incom come to us come talk with us surely

he will surely come
and talk to us.'

27. (letisō)
that's right

27. That's right

28. nöö tee a ko fan ku u kaa
when he come talk with us already

28. So then when he
comes, we will pay
attention to what

nöö u sa piki ěn buka.
then we can respond/obey his mouth/message

he says.

29. (seepiseepi)
emphatic affirmative

29. Exactly

30. Weno, dee sĕmbĕ-oo
yes, dthe(pl) people

30. Yes, Folks, since
those were my thoughts
you see I got up and
came to you.

fu di mi pakisei sō
for since I thought thus

31. So it is.

nöö hĕn wĕ i si mi hope ko a unu
you see I got up came to you(pl)

32. Now, I'll ask you
to excuse me (for
being so bold as to
come here) It is with

31. (wĕ sō a dĕ)
so it is

the utmost respect
and humility that I
have come to you.

32. wĕ nōo mi piimisi unu e baa
I ask pardon you(pl) hear voc

33. That's right

ku begi ku lĕsipĕki ku manini
with begging with respect with mannerly

34. I came to beg of
you, please do what
I am going to ask
you to do.

fasi mi ko a unu aki
manner I come to you(pl) hwre

33. (letisĕ)
that's right

35. Right

34. Mi ko begi unu ee
I come beg you(pl) hear

36. (Grounds) In as
much as people see
that you and I are
on familiar terms

gaantangi mi kĕ fuunu musu piki di
please I want for you must obey the

fan mi ko ta- fan ku unu aki
talkk I come cont talkklwith you(pl) here

35. (kelekele)
affirmative

36. Biga ka lanti ta- si taa mi ku
because where people cont see that I with

unu guĕnti tjkĕa
you(pl) are familiar enough

37. nöö kaa de sabi taa mi ku unu 37. indeed, in as much
- where they know ~~that~~ I with you(pl) as they know/think
we are close friends.
- 38 dë gaan mati tjika aki
are big friends enough here
- 38 (Tuutuu)
true true
39. nöö jee mi taki wan soni
if I say a thing
39. Then if I say
something there is
an extent to which
you can disregard
it..
40. nöö a abi fa fuun pasa mi buka tjika
it has how for you(pl) pass my mouth enough
40. That's right
40. (Letisö)
that's right
41. wë de o- si taa sösö mati mi
they incom see that empty friendship I
see that it is a
false friendship you
and I have
- ku unu ta- hoi
with you(pl) cont hold
42. (Aai)
yes
42. Yes
43. nöö de si taa sösö guëntima
they see ~~that~~ empty familiar-ones
43. Indeed they will
see that it is for
nothing that we are
familiar with each
other, we are not
not really good
friends.
- mi ku unu dë
I iwith you(pl) are
- ma na bumbuu
but not good
44. (nömö)
no
44. No
45. Wë un kën sö nö?
you(pl) want it thus ?
45. Well, is that
the way you want it?
46. (wë nönö)
no
46. Well, no.
47. Wë nöö fa mi ku unu guwënti
as I with you(pl) are familiar
47. Well, the in as
much as we know each
other so well, then
if you don't want to
regard what I say
- tjika aki
enough here
- nöö ee wan ta- kë ta- piki
if you(pl) (heg) cont want cont obey
- mi byka a soni
my mouth/message about something

48. (ëën)
yes?

49. nöö un pakisei taa woto sëmbe de
you(pl) think that other people they

o- ta- piki mi buka a soni
incom cont phey my message about something

50. (Nönö)
no

51. wë hëë nöö mbei un musu ta- piki
it only makes you(pl) must cont obey

mi buka a dee soni mi ta- fan
my message about the(pl) thing I cont talk

ku unu ee
with you(pl) hear

52. (Sööö)
soo

53. Wë mi o- hakisi unu wan soni möön ee
I incom ask you(pl) a thing more hear

54. (Aai)
yes

55. Fa mi fan ku unu aki sö
as I talk with you(pl) here thus

56. An sa piki mi buka nöö?
you(pl) possibly obey my message ?

56. (Aai u sa piki ju buka ee)
yes we possibly obey your message hear

57. Söö, wë di un taki sö
so since you(pl) talk thus

nöö da mi jei ee
I hear, hear

58. Mi o- piki ku unu luku ee
I incom respond with you(pl) see if

tuutuu piki un piki mi
true answer you(pl) answer me

59. naa je un ta- saanti mi
or if you(pl) cont are being sarcastic to me

60. Biga fa mi hopo ta- ko wantewante aki
because as I got up cont come just now here

48. Yes?

49. then do you think
other people are going
to regard what I say?

50. No

51. For that reason
only you must regard
what I am going to
say to you here.

52. OK

53. I am going to ask
you one more thing.

54. alright

55. Are you going to
do what I ask you to do?

56. Oh yes, we'll do
it.

57. OK then, since
you say so, I will take
your word for it.

58. I will take your
word and wait and see
of you answered me
sincerely

59. or if you are just
being sarcastic to me.

60. (Grounds) Because
just now as I was on
my way here

61. (Aai)
yes

62. N88 h8n wan womi s8mb8 ku wan muj88
a man person with a woman

waka ko ku mi a pasi
walk come with me on path

63. (Letis8)
that's right

64. N88 h8n w8 de taki taa w8 maas8
they said that where?

65. (Tuutuu)
true true

66. H8n mi taki da de taa
I said to them said

w8 s8 mi ta- ko fan ku unu wan fan
thus I cont come talk with you(pl) a talk

67. (kelekele)
affirmative

68. NN88 h8n de taki da mi taa
they said to me said

an d8 u mi pena ko a unu
it(neg) was for me bother come to you(pl)

biga s8mb8 an ta- fan ku unu tee
because people neg cont talk with you(pl) til

n88 un jei ee
you(pl) hear hear

69. (Letis8)
that's right

70. De taa wan ta- jei son di m88ns8
they said you(pl)(neg) cont hear thing ever

leti fa i sabi kuma wan a' jei
just as you know like you(pl)(neg) have ears

71. (Tuutuu)
true true

72. Ma fa mi ko fan ku unu aki
but as I come talk with you(pl) here

n88 un musu jei n88m8
you(pl) must hear without fail

73. Aai w8 u jei fa i taki ee
yes

61. Wes

62. A man and woman
walked with me along the
way.

63. That's right

64. And they asked me,
"Where are you going?"

65. That's true

66. So I told them that
I was coming to talk to
you all about something.

67. Right

68. So they said to me
that it was no use for
me to come to you because
you never pay any
attention to what people
say to you.

69. That's right

70. They said you never
listen to anything just
as you (yourselves) know
that it is just like you
don't have ears.

71. That's true

72. But as for my coming
here and alking to you,
you must pay heed to it
without fail.

73. Well, yes, we hear
what you are saying.

74. and concerning what
you've said, don't

73. (Aai wë u jei fa i taki ee)
yes we hear how you talk hear
74. Nöö fa i fan ku u aki kaa
as you talk with us here already
75. nöö na fëëë da u ee
neg fear for us hear
76. U piki di fan fii waiwai
we obey the talk of your happily
77. woo piki ju bbka)
we incom obey your message)
78. wöon piki mi buka?
you(pl)(incom) obey my message?
79. (Aai)
yes
80. Wë an toobi ee
it(neg) trouble hear
81. Ma dee gaan sëmbë taki taa
but the(pl) old people say that
- jee fou fatu
if bird fat
- nöö a faja joo si ën
in fire you(ömcpm) it
82. Di dë dë wan taki taa
that there is a talk saying
- tee i kii wan fou
whenever you kill a bird
- nöö dee sëmbë o- sai dë ta- fia
the(pl) people incom be there cont dispute
83. (Sö a dëäokaa)
thus it is already
84. So u de o- taa di fou fatu
some of them äcom say the bird fat
85. So u de o- taa di fou an fatu
some of them incom say the bird neg fat
86. Nöö te de puumëën te de kaba tjabo b
when they pick it til they finish take
- buta a faja fu de jasa
put in fire for them roast

73. Well, yes, we hear what you are saying.
74. and concerning what you've said,
75. don't worry about us
76. we will happily take heed to what you have asked.
77. We will take/pay heed to it.
78. Will you pay heed to what I said?
79. Yes
80. OK then
81. But the old people say: If a bird is fat you will see it in the fire.
82. That is a proverb which means: when you kill a bird everybody will be standing around argueing.
83. That's the way it is
84. Some will say that the bird is fat
85. Some will say that the bird is not fat.
86. When they have picked and put it in the fire to roast

87. nöö ee a fatu nöö te a kendi kaa
if it fat when it hot already

nöö di fatu fëen ta- jö ta- kule
the fat of it cont melt cont run

tee kuma a sa tãpa di faja
til like it poss. put put the fire

88. Ma ee an fatu nöö i jasëen te i
but if neg fat you roast it til you

wë nöö i disëen
tired you leave it

89. ja o- si fatu fëen möönsö
you(neg) incom see fat of it ever

90. Hën mbei dee gaan sëmbë fuu koti di
it makes the(pl) old people of us cut the

odo aki taa taa
proverb here saying that

jee fou fatu nöö joo si ën a faja
if bird fat you(incom) see it in fãnz

91. Wë nöö mi o- go dë ta- haika unu
I incom go there cont listen you(pl)

92. Ma ma musu jei di taki dë a unu
but I(neg) must hear the talk there at you(pl)

buka möön
mouth anymore

93. Un musu kaba ku ën kiinkiin
you(pl) must finish with it absolutely

94. Ma e mi dë tee nöö mi jei ën a unu
but if I am til I hear it at you(pl)

buka möön
mouth again

95. nöö mi sabi taa
I know that

sösö mati un bi ta- hoi ku mi
empty friendship you(pl) patcont hold with me

96. Nöö sösö un bi ta- mbei taa
for nothing you(pl) pt. cont make that

mi ku unu da quëntima
I with you(pl) are familiar ones

97.

87. then if it is fat,
when it gets hot the fat
will melt and run so much -
it almost puts out the
fire.

88. But it is not fat,
you roast it til you are
tired and finally just
give up on it.

89. You will never see
it's fat.

90. That's why the old
people speak this
proverb saying that
if a bird is fat you
will see it in the fire

91. So I am going
to go wait and see
what happens with
you folks.

92. But I must not
hear that kind of
talk from you anymore.

93. You must stop it
absolutely

94. But if it should be
that I do hear it
from you again

95. then I know that it
was a false friendship
you had with me/~~xxxxxx~~
~~withxxxx~~

96. Indeed, it was for
nothing that you pretended
that we were close friends.

97. wë nöö mi disa di fan di mi
I leave the talk which I

tjsako a unu aki ufö ee
bring to you(pl) here temporarily hear

98. (Jaai)
yes

99. Ma mi da unu tangi fu di mi
but I give you(pl) thanks for that I

sabi taa un sa jei di fan u mi
know that you(pl) possib. hear the talk of me

100. nöö un sa teki ën tu
you(pl) possibly accept it also

101. nöö gaantangi ~~thangs~~ fuunu
big thanks thanks for you(pl)

102. (Sööö)
so

103. (Wë i seei tu ee mati, di fan
you yourself also hear friend the talk

i si i fan ku u aki
you see you talk with us here

104. nöö wa sa taki taa
we (neg) possibly say that

u teki ën
we take it

105. Biga jee wan sëmbë fan ku i
because if a person talks with you

nöö i taa i jei
you say you hear

106. ee na sö i taa wë mi teki di fan
if not thus you say I accept the talk

107. nöö i musu du di fa
you must do the how

108. nöö wa sa taki da i taa u piki ën
we(neg) can say to you that we obey it

109. ma boo go duumi luku)
but let us go sleep look

110. @aantangi fuunu ee
big thanks for you(pl) hear

111. nöö un duumi bunu

97. OK well, I'll drop
the subject here for the
time being

98. Yes

99. But I will thank
you because I know you
will do what I ask of
you.

100. Indeed you will
accept what I say.

101. So I really want
to thank you.

102. Ok then

103. And you too Friedd,
concerning what you have
said to us here,

104. we can't say that
we accept it/

105. (Grounds) because
if a ~~person~~ talks to
you and you say that you
hear,

106. or you say, 'Well, I
accept what you say,'

107. then you must do it.

108. So we can't say to
you that we accept what
you say,

109. but let's go
sleep on it and see.

110. And Thanks alot.

111. nöö un duumi bunu
you(pl) sleep well

1112. nöö gaantangi fuun wan pasi möön e
big thanks for you(pl) one time more hear

fu di mi sa' taa un sa
for that I know ~~that~~ you(pl) possibly

jei mi
hear me

111. OK well, you
folks sleep well

112. and thanks again.
(I thank you because)
I know you will do
what I ask.

Notes on 'Listen to me'

1. The responses of the listener are in (). This is the normal way to carry on a conversation or respond to a lecture, story or anything else.
2. Wë exact function is not yet determined.
3. Nöö In accomplished time, nöö connects various units of speech (from phrases to sections) in a variety of logical relationships.
4. Biga gives grounds or further evidence for some prededing concession.
5. This statement not to bw taken literally. It is just a normal polite self defacing.
6. Hën Introduces the 'next step' in the story or narrative, usually ⁱⁿ a chronological order.
7. Da Introduces a conclusion

Outline of 'Listen to me'

1-12 Introduction

13,14 Reason for the talk: the complaint

15-31 I will speak to you: bring my complaint

1520 Grounds #1- the grounds for coming, for daring to talk:
they respect him even tho he is no consequence.

21-24 (?) Grounds #2 or a ~~parenthetical~~ parenthetical statement:
you don't listen to others when they come.

25-29 Grounds #3 It may be that you are just waiting for me to
come.

30-31 Conclusion: I will talk.

32-52 You must listen

32-35 I beg you to listen to me

36-46 Grounds #1 we are good friends, and if you don't listen
to me, people will say that we are not really
good friends.

47-50 Grounds #2 We are good friends and if you don't listen to
me, nobody will

51-52 Conclusion: you must listen to me.

53-59 Are you going to listen?

Yes

OK I'll wait and see

60-71 A man and woman on the way here told me that I shouldn't
bother to come to you because you never listen to anyone.

72 But you must listen to me

73-77 Oh yes, we will listen

78-91 OK but the proof of the pudding is in the eating.

92-93 Content of request: I don't want to hear that kind of talk
from you anymore.

94-96 If I do I'll know you aren't my ~~friends~~ friends. - seems to be
part of conclusion

97-112 Closing thanks etc.