Ang Yan ang Napalpat

The Fish that Got Away

This text was tape-recorded in 1986 at the request of the researcher by Mr. Edgardo C. Edep, a 42-year-old high school teacher at the time. It demonstrates that “fish stories” have some things in common regardless of cultural background. One interesting linguistic aspect of the narrative is the occurrence of several unaffixed verb roots on the main event line, marking this style as both narrative and, appropriately, informal. This text is particularly valuable as an example of an unplanned oral narrative and is perhaps the most genuinely conversational in nature of all the texts in the collection.

1. Mandian ang istoriao ong nio, Steve, tenged ong barakoda mandian ang istoria =o ong nio Steve tenged ong barakoda now TOP story =1S.G OBL 2S.O Steve about OBL barracuda

ang nakomito rin tanopa taka. 2. Mga last ang na =komit =o rin taano =pa taka mga last LKR PERF,ABL,GF =get =1S.G OPT when =Q recent.past about last

January 1986, nantakon da mandian.
January 1986 nang =takon da mandian
January 1986 PERF,AF =year already now

3. Nagtayo tang bilogo primiro, nag =taay =o tang bilog =o primiro PERF,AF =board =1S.T DEF boat =1S.G first

pagoyod-goyodo ta toringan, mga ong English yay pa =goyod-goyod =o ta toringan mga ong English ya =ay CAUS =troll =1S.T GEN tuna if OBL English PRO =INV

ang tuna. 4. Pagakomito ta tambilog,
ang tuna paga =komit =o ta tang =bilog TOP tuna after =get =1S.G GEN one =piece

1. Now, my story for you, Steve, is about the barracuda I almost caught a while back. 2. It was about last January 1986, a year ago now.

3. First I got into my boat, I was trolling for toringan, which in English is tuna.

4. After I caught one, I made that my bait.

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1 There are many different types of fishing done on Agutaya. To troll is called pagoyod-goyod ‘to drag along’. Fishing in deep water with a line and large hooks is called bila. Casting a line with a smaller hook is patondi. Nets are also used. Large nets, panti, are used in either deep or shallow water and are made of nylon. A large but very fine-weave net used close to shore is the sarap. Smaller nets are commonly used close to shore. A one- or two-man net is the laya which is tossed. Each method catches a certain kind of fish. The toringan or tuna are caught by trolling and are most abundant during the months of the dry Northeast wind or kambian, October to March.

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bindoato rang palangsio. 5. Ig asing
in =boat =o ra =ang palangs =o ig asii =ang
PERF,GF =make =1S.G already =LKR bait =1S.G and D3 =LKR

paglayag-layago ra tang bilog, indi
pag =layag =REDUP =o ra tang bilog indi
IMP,AF =sail =ITER =1S.T already DEF boat NEG1

naboay, binteng da ta yan ang doro
na =boay in =beng da ta yan ang doro
PERF,STAT =long.time PERF,GF =pull already GEN fish LKR very

kabael. 6. Kalaomo, onopa lamang yan ay?
ka =bael kalaom =o ono =pa lamang yan ay
INTENS =big think =1S.G what =Q only fish INV

in =batak =o ga =stras da tang bilog
PERF,GF =pull-in =1S.G IMP,STAT =backwards already TOP boat

8. Kaboay tang betengan amen. 9. Ong kaboayan,
ka =boay tang beteng =an amen ong ka--an =boay
INTENS =long.time DEF pull =NLR 1PE.G OBL NLR =long.time

nawan da, don ong bilog kinargao.
na =wan da doon ong bilog in =karga =o
PERF,ABL,GF =MNL already LOC3 OBL boat PERF,GF =load =1S.G

10. Ig geldano kang magboyot.
ig ag--an =eled =o ka =ang mag =boyot
and IMP,RF =fear =1S.T EXP =LKR INF,AF =hold


ga =anga lagat alat =en na tang kalima =o
IMP,AF =mouth later bite =INF,GF 3S.G TOP hand =1S.G

in--an =pabaya =o lamang CV =peleg =REDUP nani pala
PERF,RF =allow =1S.G only IMP =flap =ITER D1 SURP

natanggal da tang bila! 15. Natanggal
na =tanggal da tang bila na =tanggal

5. And while I was sailing the boat\(^2\) around, before long, (my hook) suddenly was pulled by a great big fish.

6. I thought, what kind of fish could this be?

7. (When) I pulled on the line, the boat was pulled backwards.

8. We pulled on it for a long time.

9. Eventually, I, you-know, got it into the boat.

10. And I was afraid to take hold of it.

11. Its mouth was gaping. 12. It might bite my hand.

13. I just let it flap around. 14. And then, what do you know but the hook came out! 15. It detached from its mouth.

\(^2\) The boats used on Agutaya for fishing are either small outrigger canoes called bilog with or without a sail, or larger motorized outriggers called motor.
PERF,ABL,GF = detach already TOP hook PERF,ABL,GF = detach

da ong anga na. 16. Moman ang meleg-peleg, ya
da ong anga na moman ang m =peleg =REDUP ya
already OBL mouth 3S.G next LKR INF,AF =jump =ITER PRO
ray nabo-log ong talsi.
ra =ay na =bo-log ong talsi
already =INV PERF,ABL,AF =fall OBL sea

17. Nangarangano pa. 18. Gaingo “Aroy,
nang =arangan =o pa ga =aning =o aroy
PERF,AF =waste =1S.T yet IMP,AF =say =1S.T INTJ
kabael da ka rin tang yan ang na, napalpat
ka =bael da ka rin tang yan ang nani naa =palpat
INTENS =big already also OPT TOP fish LKR D1 PERF,ABL,AF =escape
pa.”
pa yet

19. Ta si, linobayano ra. 20. Sine-kan,
ta sii in-an =lobay =o ra in- =tegkan
INTJ then PERF,RF =slow =1S.T already PERF,RF =until
gaingo, “Moliko ra lamang.
ga =aning =o m =olik =o ra lamang
IMP,AF =say =1S.T INF,AF =go.home =1S.T already only

anda ra ka =ay ma =komit =o narin
NEG3 already indeed =INV INF,ABL,GF =get =1S.G LOC1

malas olik pa =layag tang bilog diritso =o
bad.luck go.home CAUS =sail DEF bangka direct =1S.T
ra olik ong balay.
ra olik ong balay
already go.home OBL house

25. Ya ra kay lamang asi tenged ong barakoda. 26. Mga ong
ya ra kay lamang asii tenged ong barakoda mga ong
PRO already REQ only D3 about OBL barracuda if OBL
domang yan pa, si yadi pa ka rin. 27. Ta, don kay
doma =ang yan pa asii yadi pa ka rin ta doon kay

16. The next time it flapped around, that’s when it fell into the sea.
17. And I had wasted it! 18. I said, “Oh, such a big fish (to have), and it got away!”
19. By then, I was worn out. 20. I had reached my limit and said, “I’ll just go home.
21. I won’t be able to catch anything else here.
22. It’s bad luck.” 23. I went home.
24. I sailed the boat, straight home.
25. That’s all there is about the barracuda. 26. If it was about other fish still, there would be a lot
other = LKR fish still D3  many still also OPT  INTJ LOC3 REQ

lagi lamang.
lagi lamang
immediately only

more. 27. But let's just let it go at that for now.