

TEXT DATA

Text code WASH1F Tape code — Language Saramaccan
 Title RITUAL WASHING AFTER MENSTRUAL PERIOD Topic same
 Date '83 u '84 Place PARAMARIBO, SURINAME
 Speaker's name ABDOONTU AMOIDA sex F age 150
 birthplace ASINDO DPO, UPPER SURINAME RIVER civil status SINGLE ("divorced")
 religion ANIMIST occupation —
 education none literacy level illiterate
 where and how vernacular learned from parents in home

knowledge of other languages none
 languages of parents: father Saramaccan
 mother Saramaccan

Length (sentences) 33 Transcription: phonetic phonemic orthographic
 Evaluation: text good & clear
 transcription/translation good - "
 tape recording good - "

Spoken or written Elicited or spontaneous
 Extempore or prepared Monologue or dialogue

Style freely told - covers main points only
 Notable linguistic features —
 Discourse type (genre) procedural / explanatory
 Situational context:

If the text was elicited, in what manner was it elicited? Asked speaker, who was a visitor in my home to tell me about several ritual washings I named. This was the first.
 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?
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Specify relevant social relations among the participants (i.e. the speaker, addressee, audience).
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What was the reaction of the participants to the text? Did the speaker achieve his purpose?
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Give any background information about persons, places, events, customs, etc. that is necessary to fully interpret the text.
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Additional comments:
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See Text WASH1F — 9 F

TEXT: RITUAL WASHING AFTER MENSTRUAL PERIOD

LANG:SARAMACCAN

SPEAKER: ABOONTU AMOIDA

FILE NAME: WASH1F
WASH1NT

1. Awa. Te i go na abaaka,
ok when you go to menstruation

OK, when you/one have your/her monthly period,

2. nbb¹ a abi En wosu.
xx it has it house

then there is a special house for that.

3. Nbb²⁺³ joo⁴ go ta duumi nbb⁵ wosu.
xx you-incom go prog sleep in-it house

And you have to sleep in that house.

4. Tee ee i ta a' fb daka,
until if you prog have four days

Until, if your period last four days,

5. te fb daka fii⁶
when four day of=you

then (you stay) four days.

6a. nbb⁷ joo lusu amaka fii,
xx you-incom loose hammock of-you

Then (at the end of that time) you will untie your hammock,

6b. pii lai fii go a lio go wasi gbegedee,
gather belongings of-you go to river go was thoroughly

gather up your other belongings, go to the river and wash them thoroughly.

6c. wasi amaka gbegedee,
wash hammock thoroughly

(you will) wash your hammock thoroughly,

6d. wasi dee soni fii di i bi abi tja⁷
wash the(pl) things of-yours which you pt have carry

go na abaakawosu dë.
go to menstrual-house there

(you will) wash the things you had to take with you to the menstrual house.

7. De tuu joo wasi seei puu gbegedee.
they all you-incom wash self remove thoroughly
You will wash all of them thoroughly.
8. Nbb i seei Ko Kai a wata djubuu,
xx you self come fall in water with-splash
Then you will jump in the water yourself.
9. nbb i wasi sinkii gbegedee.
xx you wash body thoroughly
You will take a good bath.
10. Te i Kaba gbelim,
when you finish completely
When you are completely done,
11. nbb i Kumutu a wata,
xx you come-out of water,
you will get out of the water,
12. nbb i tei Koosu, dëëdëë wan di ja ⁹ bi seevi ala,
xx you take clothes dry one which you-neg pt used overthere
then you will take a cloth (skirt), a dry one you had not used
upthere (in the menstrual house),
13. nbb i bisi basu,
xx you dress lower
then you will put on the skirt,
14. nbb i bisi liba.
xx you dress top
then you will put something on your top.
15. Nbb i tai hangisa,
xx you tie waist-tie
Then you will tie your waist band/scarf around your waist,
16. nbb i tapa Kötö,
xx you cover cold,
then put a cloth around your shoulders,

17. nōō i ko a tela,
xx you come to land

then you will come back into the village.

18. Nōō te i ko a tela
xx when you come to land

When you come back into the village,

19. nōō joo tei wan piki atawe,
xx you-incom take one little ritual-clay

then you will take a piece of ritual clay..

20. I saandi ¹⁰ da atawe nō?
you Know-what is atawe?

(Do you know what atawe is?)

21. Keeti.
ritual-clay

(It is ritual clay)

22. Nōō joo butēn wan piki wan sō,
xx you-incom put-it one little one thus

Then you will take a little of it like this,

23. nōō i tuwē wata nēn, munjan pētēpētēpētē,
xx you throw want in-it, wet paste-like

and mix water with it until you make a paste

23b. naki na azangana.
Knock on thigh

(then) pat it on your thighs.

24. On! Aaa di mujēē dē, hēn, a Kumutu,
excl aaa the woman there, she, she came-out

[Then people will say] "Hey, ok, that lady is out."

25. Tide gaan njan,
today big eat

Today there'll be a feast."

26. Sō de o taki da i.
thus they incom taki to you.

That's what they will say to you.

27. Datiwantaki di fa i bi go dë
that-want-say the as you pt go there

In other words when you went into the menstrual house, [or when you had your menstrual period]

28. nbb taku soni i bi tja go tuwë a'a.
xx ugly/evil thing you pt carry go throw overthere
it was an evil thing you took and threw away.

12 13
29. Nbb feen naa' obia mbeimbei mbbn leki di keeti i
xx for-it not-have medicine made moon than the ritual-clay you
seei naki tete a sinkii dë.
self Knocked tap-tap on body there

And there isn't any medicine made for it other than the ritual clay you yourself applied over your body.

30. Ffen di dë.
for-it the there.

That the medicine for it.

NOTES ON WASH 1 TEXT

1. Nöö - in a procedure like Wash 1, nöö marks the next step in the procedure.
2. joo = i + o
you + incomp
3. o - incomplete, indicates the action has not yet been completed. The time may past, present, or hypothetical as in this text.
4. ta - progressive, indicates that the action is in process, repetitive, or habitual.
5. nëën = na + ën
in + his
6. fii = fu + i
of + you
7. bi - indicates action that occurred before some fixed point or some discontinuation of the action. In this case it indicates that you are no longer in the house.
8. djubuu - an idiophone used when something or someone jumps or falls into a body of water with a splash.
9. ja = i + an
you + neg marker
10. saandi = sa' (sabi) + andi
Know + what
11. a'a = a contraction of ala 'overthere'
12. fëën = fu + ën
for + it
13. naa' = na + a' (abi)
neg + have