A. Giving Birth (RB-1)

This descriptive expository text by Ramboti provides a helpful glimpse into the birth process among the Raj Mureas of Bhatpal.¹

The researcher asked many questions seeking clarification on a number if the things described. It is now clear that many more questions needed to be asked in order to gain a clearer picture of all involved. We had the privilege of being present at the birth of a dear little girl named Sukuntula.

A.1 Free translation of text

Whenever pain and suffering occurs here those people will bring a shaman in our country. And they will call up the spirits. And two old ladies will sit behind and in front, midwives. They will be in front. And later, um, first the tora will come out. And later the amniotic fluid comes.

When the amniotic fluid comes out again later the baby girl will come, the child. She will fall (out) and later again the afterbirth (will come). When that comes later they will wrap a cloth around (the child). They will bathe (the child). After having bathed they will put the baby girl to sleep.

Researcher: What do the suin do?

The midwives later when they bathed (the child) they will go to bathe themselves at the river. Having bathed they will return. And clothes, head, they will wet everything. And they will rub on oil and turmeric. And later they will enter the house.

Researcher: Who is a suin?

They all are. Tati's mother also is one. And also Tetergurin's mother. Also there are many in that hamlet in our country.

Researcher: If there's a difficulty what do you do?

Later, if it (the birth) absolutely doesn't occur, if great difficulty occurs, they will call up many spirits. If the spirit also absolutely doesn't work later they will take to the hospital. In our country, the taking people will take to the hospital otherwise they won't take.

They will just depend on the spirits. If the spirits come the birth will occur. The people of our country will call up many spirits.

Researcher: If the child dies what then?

Whenever a child dies they won't give the sacred kasa drink. They won't do anything. They will cry a lot. And later again ...

Researcher: What do you do with the dead child?

Whenever a child dies they will bury it, of course.

Researcher: Where?

Beside the house. They won't take a little child to the wilderness area (for burial). They will bury close by, beside the house.

And later they will take there. And they will bathe, having prepared food they will eat.

Researcher: *What about the afterbirth?*

(\textit{The afterbirth}) is to be placed in this floor. \textit{We don't throw (the afterbirth) out anywhere else.}

Researcher: *Why?*

Just because it's like this.

Researcher: *Where?*

A hole is to be dug there. \textit{And with that leaf basket (it) is to be placed in the ground. The soil is to be covered over. And many fires are to be lit, it will burn there.} 

\textit{It's not like that in your country? We will burn like this, our country's people.}

Researcher: *What is the leaf thing?*

Leaf basket.

Researcher: \textit{tʃipʈa?}

Yes, it is a leaf basket.

Researcher: *What kind of leaves?*

The \textit{siãɾi} plant's leaf. It is to be filled up there. And it is to be burned.

\textit{When it is burned there won't be a smell. And (if) the fire hasn't burned a lot there will be a smell. We lit many fires (over it). It burned.} 

\textit{It's finished (that's all).}

\textbf{A.2 Giving Birth Interlinear}

\textbf{RB-1:1.1}

\begin{verbatim}
हून लोग े बाटे दुकासुका होलेने
CN DEM N N V
that person-people this direction=LOC pain and suffering become-CNSUF-temporal-condition

आमचो देस ने सीरहा आनुआत।
POSSPRON N POSTP N V
we=POSS country =LOC shaman bring-3P.F2
Whenever pain and suffering occurs here those people will bring a shaman in our country.

RB-1:1.2

आऊर देओ बोसाउआत।
CONJ N V
and spirit to cause to sit-3P.F2
And they will call up the spirits.

RB-1:1.3

आऊर दूई शान डोकरी मन पाटे पूरे हूआत सूईन मन।
CONJ NUM CLSS N PRT N ADV V N PRT
and two person old woman =PL behind=LOC first-ON become-3P.F2 midwife =PL
And two old ladies will sit behind and in front, midwives.

RB-1:1.4

पूरे हूआत।
ADV V
first-ON become-3P.F2
They will be in front.
And later, um, first the tora will come out.

And later the amniotic fluid comes.

When the amniotic fluid comes out again later the baby girl will come, the child.

She will fall (out) and later again the afterbirth (will come).

When that comes later they will wrap a cloth around (the child).

They will bathe (the child).

After having bathed they will put the baby girl to sleep.

Researcher: What do the suin do?
The midwives later when they bathed (the child) they will go to bathe themselves at the river.

Having bathed they will return.

And clothes, head, they will wet everything.

And they will rub on oil and turmeric.

And later they will enter the house.

They all are.

Tati's mother also is one.
 Researchers: If there’s a difficulty what do you do?

RB-1:6

Later, if it (the birth) absolutely doesn’t occur, if great difficulty occurs, they will call up many spirits.

RB-1:7.1

If the spirit also absolutely doesn’t work later they will take to the hospital.

RB-1:7.2

In our country, the taking people will take to the hospital otherwise they won’t take.

RB-1:8.1

If the spirits come the birth will occur.

RB-1:8.2

The people of our country will call up many spirits.

Researchers: If the child dies what then?
Whenever a child dies they won't give the sacred kasa drink.

They won't do anything.

They will cry a lot.

And later again ...

Researcher: What do you do with the dead child?

Whenever a child dies they will bury it, of course.

They won't take a little child to the wilderness area (for burial).

They will bury close by, beside the house.
And later they will take there.

And they will bathe, having prepared food they will eat.

(The afterbirth) is to be placed in this floor.

We don't throw (the afterbirth) out anywhere else.

A hole is to be dug there.

And with that leaf basket (it) is to be placed in the ground.

The soil is to be covered over.
And many fires are to be lit, it will burn there.

Researcher: What is the leaf thing?

Yes, it is a leaf basket.

Researcher: What kind of leaves?

It is to be filled up there.

And it is to be burned.
When it is burned there won't be a smell.

And (if) the fire hasn't burned a lot there will be a smell.

We lit many fires (over it).

It burned.

It's finished.

Abbreviations

1p = first person, singular
3s = third person, plural
3p = third person, singular
ab = ablative
adj = adjective
adv = adverb(ial)
bén = benefactive
bitrans = bitransitive
case = case marker
caus = causative
class = classifier
cn = compound noun
cnsuf = conditional/temporal suffix
comp = complete
cond = condition
conj = conjunctive
dem = demonstrative
emp = emphatic marker