

6. POSSESSIONS

1. *Péepáq tinaaqu tiraaqompín íqyaa oóna waamíq.*

Long-ago our-grandfather our-grandmothers-in no possessions there-were.

2. *Manaa waqyó wán matámen waamíq.*

One bark there-was grease there-was.

3. *Úwé itana maiqaa yánáaq anáá waaqíkan námúró anomá wákúqyan*

Arrows bows that-kind thing only there-were enemy an they-were-pur-
maikánán oóná anáá amáren. Uqpimpaq káráámpín tíqtoq maaq úwáma-
sued these-two possessions only they-took. Bush-in undergrowth-in little
qáken maipín o wáriyaámiq.

house they-made in-those oh sleeping.

4. *Maqai iyaáqín taréqaa kamani éríqkan mínoq pereqti taataq toqpe*

Like-this they-were now government has-come all plates spoons machetes
wítúkaa taaraq taantún mai yánáátintá aman. Maaqnaún káainwákan mai
knives forks axes this kind-of-thing brought. House-in they-stored-them
ano oónáiq úkan waamíq.

this some possessions become there-are.

5. *Pée-áq íqyaa máqanten oóna waamíq.*

Before no this-kind goods there-were.

6. *Taréqaa kamani érein me tiqtuqaaq káaikanwákan maipinteq mínoq*

Now government came here stores established in-them all thing taken stored
yánáaq aman káainwákan mai ano oónáiq úkan waaíq.

these some possessions become have.

7. *Ínkaíq.*

That-is-all.

1. Long ago in our grandparents' time, there were no possessions. 2. There was one bark and there was grease. 3. There were bows and arrows, only that kind of thing; when they were pursued by an enemy they took up these two possessions only. They made a little house in the undergrowth, in the bush and were sleeping in those. 4. They were like this [but] now the government has come and brought all plates, spoons, machetes, knives, forks, and axes, this kind of thing. They stored them in houses and these things have become possessions. 5. Before there were no goods of this kind. 6. Now since the government came and established stores here, it has taken everything and stored in them. These things have become possessions.

7. That is all.

7. SICKNESS

1. *Íqyamúq pára waáren inúrán arágórikan tíq iyaaqúno tíren.*

Two-days just well at-night had-diarrhoea I sick, she-said.

2. *Tíkan wé anoqé arúnmaqen káákan óreín weweti neqne móo tin éreín,*
She-spoke her mother was-sorry at-dawn she-went Bevesi others *moo e. Awire yoqtaampaq moruqyetíq waáno, tíkan éreín e awiren araweín yoq-*
told come eh. Take-her doctor-at put-her we-may-stay, she-said they-came
taampaq moruqyan waratín amíkan oó akónááín waratín wíqankaruqyáren
eh took-her going-down doctor-at they-put-her medicine they-gave-her her-
puríkan.

mouth was-tight medicine throw-out she-died.

3. *Awirenéqyeín múqyan wé amaaq wákan weqwaaqtín amaaq kárápan-*

They-brought-her put-her her house she-stayed Bepbati's house was-
taáqín youán karuqyáren maipin e awíqaq kaaekén wákan
partitioned took-down threw-out there eh brought-her I-put-her stay.

4. *Éena námún úwáqyen maipin e awíqan kaaín wákan. Mínóqpímpáqkéq*

Another house they-built this eh brought-her put-her she-stayed. Where
maipin e wán arún yanaaqwaren inúran waamíq.

in-there eh while she-stayed wail there-is-night they-remained.

1. Two days ago she was well, and at night she had diarrhoea; 'I am sick,' said. 2. She spoke and her mother was sorry; at dawn she went and told Bevesi and others to come. 'Take her and put her at the doctor's so we may stay,' she said, and they came and took her; going down they put her at the doctor's; they gave her medicine [but] her mouth was tight and she spat out the medicine and died. 3. They brought her, put her, and she stayed in her house; Bepbati's house was partitioned and they took them down and threw them out and they brought her and I put her there to stay. 4. They built another house, brought her and put her in it and she stayed. While she stayed in there from everywhere they remained the night grieving.

[The girl concerned was about eight years old and died very suddenly. She was brought back from the aid post and put into her uncle's house, which being small, could not hold all the folks who came to mourn. This was a fairly large

number since she was young and her death unexpected. There would not have been as many for an old woman who was expected to die. The partitions were removed from the house so more people could get in and then a larger temporary structure was put up that would accommodate more. She was put there and the mourning went on for about three days and then she was buried. The mourning period was longer in the days before European government.]

8. BAMPEYA

1. *Aapeiqpaq anaati paqkemíq, mai áarintá awiq waampeyaa.*
At-Afeipa woman they-took-hold, this girl name Bampeya.
2. *Paqkaáken anaati óno tíren; yunáan upiyaante óriyaáreqíkaq áarintá*
They-held-her married-woman you-are said; food to-dig-out they-were-
ano temíq.
going girl the spoke.
3. *Peyan wáántá tipónkein, auyén wáántá waraánteqúno. Tíren me ipaaqen*
Old man I-don't-want, young man I-will-get. She-said-and here left
kainantumpáq tíqtúaaq woin waaiqpáq e wákááqin. Wé ayopi éreín e awiraq-
in-Kainantu store owner place eh slept. Her brother came eh took-her
kan tipónkaq, téqi mai wáántá waraánowan éreqúno. Tíkan ipaaqen óremíq.
I-don't-want-to, I this man I-want-to-get came. She-said he-gave-up went.
4. *Ó wakáaren wáántá káyo ó awirenéreín éreqúno. Tíkan ipaaqen óremíq.*
Oh he-spent-night men group oh brought here held-court European spoke.
5. *Peyan wáántá ipaaqonóo, auyén wáántá ipaaqonoo, éena wáántá wa-*
Old man forget, young man forget, another man get. He-said yes, she-
raanóo. Tíkan éeyo, tíren óren.
said went.
6. *Óreín pára waamíq.*
She-went just she-stayed.
7. *Áarintá waramúno temíq.*
Single I-want-to-remain she-said.

1. At Afeipa they took hold of a woman, this girl's name [is] Bampeya. 2. They held her and said, 'You are a married woman!' While they were going to dig out food, the girl spoke. 3. 'I don't want an old man; I will get a young man!' she said and left here and slept in Kainantu at the store-man's place. Her brother came and took her; 'I don't want to, I came because I want to get this man!' she said, so he gave up and went. 4. He spent the night and brought a group of men and held court here. The European spoke. 5. 'Forget the old man; forget the young man; get another man!' he said, and she agreed and went. 6. She went and she just stayed. 7. 'I want to remain single,' she said.

[In theory a girl is free to choose her husband; but, in practice, she is expected to marry the one arranged by her family. The man who offered for Bampeya was approved by her family but was not the one who pleased her. Most girls are

persuaded to accept their family's arrangements, but occasionally the girl rebels and runs away or refuses to associate with the chosen bridegroom. This can cause a lot of trouble for her family, especially if she is to be given in exchange for a bride for her brother, as sometimes happens. This was not so in this case, so she pressed her preference until her family took the matter to the patrol officer who tried to find a middle ground by telling them that she should marry someone else altogether. Actually, she eventually married the man she had chosen.]

9. A SHORT CONVERSATION

1. *Purin atiqkáaq eompó. Aíne waraanóo. Tekén waremíq.*
Die shortly you-are. Soon take-it. I-said she-took-it.
2. *Téhi oén waaqná, tatóreq waraánteqúno.*
I young still, later I-will-take-it.
3. *Éqi purin atiqkáaq eóno. Éqi waraanóo. Teqú.*
You die shortly are. You take-it. I-said.

1. 'You are shortly to die! Take it soon,' I said and she took it. 2. 'I am still young, I will take it later.' 3. 'You are shortly to die. You take it!' I said.

[This conversation took place between a young married woman and her elderly mother. Several people were planning to be baptized and the speaker was urging her mother to get baptized, usually spoken of as 'getting water', because she was old and might die soon. The younger woman felt she could wait until later since she was still young. In spite of the implications here, it is not just the older folk who get baptized.]

10. FEAR OF SORCERY

1. *Wáánta púmaaraa mínóq áno kaako waren óríwin unáántumpáq anaati*
Men youths all some cargo carrying went at-Unantu women group only
káyo anáa íyúken. Ápáánán péqyen wákan. Téqi ériyaaq taréqaa óneqkún
gathered. Sorcery they-feared they-stayed. I coming now saw that-like-this
maqanten ápáánán péqyen pára waruráq íyúken waamíq.
sorcery they-fear just village-in gathered wait.
2. *Ínkaíq.*
That-is-all.

1. All the men and youths went carrying cargo, only the group of women gathered at Unantu. They stayed [together] because they feared sorcery. I was coming now and saw that like this they just wait gathered in the village because they fear sorcery. 2. That is all.

[Fear of sorcery is quite common. In this case all the men had left the village, which is quite unusual; there are ordinarily a few around. The women were afraid that there might be men hiding in the bush at the outskirts of the village waiting to cast spells on them. So they decided to stay together in the village to see if there were any other men lurking about. When it was clear that it was safe, the women would be free to go to the garden.]