



Work Papers of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, University of North Dakota Session

Volume 6

Article 8

1962

Konko and the fleas

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Recommended Citation

Baakare, [anonymous] and Vincent, Alex R. (1962) "Konko and the fleas," *Work Papers of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, University of North Dakota Session*: Vol. 6 , Article 8.

DOI: 10.31356/silwp.vol06.08

Available at: <https://commons.und.edu/sil-work-papers/vol6/iss1/8>

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Language: Tairora
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Date: August 1962

Konko and the Fleas.

konko-ba butu-ra konko-ra-ini bari-ha tabe ba-uba-ro
Konko-actor along-place Konko-place-at is-prog. see is-he:past-and:he
Konko lived over there at Konkora and he saw that

manabo-ha-ma taru-ra-ini bi-ra-ʔaa oba ʔumpi-ke-ha-ro
Manabo-actor-emph. flea-place-at there-place-on torch light-comp.-prog.-he
Manabo over at Tarura(Flea Place) had lit a torch and he

taru ari bar-uba-ro aitutu-ma tabe aitutu-ma tabe-ro nana
flea hit is-he:past-and:he watch-indic. see watch-indic. see-he what
was catching fleas. (Note: Konko saw the torch alight but didn't realize
he was catching fleas.) Konko watched and watched and said (to himself)

hak-e oba ʔumpi bar-ibo ti-ro t-uba-ro oba ʔumpi-ke-ha-ro
thing-? torch light is-he:quote say-he say-he:past-and:he torch light-comp.-prog.-he
"What is he looking for with the torch!" He(Manabo) had lit a torch and

tabe ba-uba-ro taru-banora baat-anta-ka ʔora auti ba-uba-ro
see is-he:past-and:he flea-actor body-long-over bad make is-it:past-and:he
was looking for fleas which were making his body itch all over.

konko-ba aitutu-ma tabe-ro bari-ha-ro koʔa autu-ke-ro
Konko-actor watch-indic. see-he is-prog.-he items:for:trading make-comp.-he
Konko watched and watched and then he prepared trade items and

bare-ro tubi-ro muntu bi-ra-ʔaa bata-t-oba-ro ʔuara
take-he come:down-he bring:down there-place-on put-comp.-he:past-and:he pig
brought them down to there (where Manabo was). He (Manabo) carried a pig

rabuku-ke-ro biti a-m-uba-ro bi-ba konko-ba
carry-comp.-he along him-give-he:past-and:he that-actor(he) Konko-actor
to Konko and offered it to him (for trade) but Konko only

aiʔi-ʔai tuahera-te ba-uba-ro bairi rabuku-ke-ro biti
nose-only high:up-comp. is-he:past-and:he dog carry-comp.-he along
held up his nose. Then Manabo offered him a dog but

a-m-uba-ro aiʔi-ʔai tuahera-te ba-uba-ro oriʔete-ro
him-give-he:past-and:he nose-only high:up-comp. is-he:past-and:he go:inside-he
Konko only held up his nose. Then Manabo went inside and

kau-pukaari bare-ro muntu a-m-uba-ro aiʔi-ʔai
cowrie-shells take-he bring:down him-give-he:past-and:he nose-only
brought out cowrie shells and offered them to him but he only held

tuahera-te ba-uba-ro minti-ma tabe minti-ma tab-okie-ro
high:up-comp. is-he:past-and:he same-emph. see same-emph. see-wonder(?) -he
up his nose. Manabo continued to offer things to him and then finally

taru rabaa?abu ke-ro biabi bi-ra-?aa bata-t-oba-ro
 flea seize leave-he down there-place-on put-comp.-he:past-and:he
 he picked up a flea and put it down in front of him and Konko

konko-ba maa-ra bi-ra-ra-ma tub-uro t-uba-ro
 Konko-actor this-obj. that-obj.-for-emph. come:down-I:quote say-he:past-and:he
 said, "That's what I've come down for!" So Manabo

taru rabaa?abi-ro rabaa?abi ke-ro ta?u-?i-ra unta-ma i-ro
 flea seize-he seize leave-he bamboo-in-place fill(?)-indic. do-he
 seized fleas and filled up a bamboo container with them and said,

buru ke-ra-ma taari bu?i-ke-ra-ma ko?e-ma ke
 bring leave-you-indic. mat spread-comp.-you-indic. good-emph. leave
 "Take these to your place and carefully spread out a mat and

bata-te-ra-ma bi-ra-?aa-ma taru ?ahia ra-an-e ti-ro
 put-comp.-you-indic. there-place-on-emph. flea tip do-imp.-quote say-he
 then tip out the fleas on the mat!"

minti t-uba-ro eo tiba-ke-ro bare-ro oru bi-ro buru
 same say-he:past-and:he O.K. say-comp.-he take-he along go-he bring
 Konko said, "O.K!" and brought them to his place.

bi-ra-?aata ke-ro taari bu?i-ke bate-ro taru ?ahia-k-oba-ro
 there-place-on leave-he mat spread-comp. put-he flea tip-comp.-he:past-and:he
 He spread out a mat and tipped out the fleas - and

taru-bano baat-anta-ka abu-anta-ka kaaki-ru-ka-hai-ro ari
 flea-actor body-long-over eye-long-over hair-small-over-from-it hit
 the fleas went over his body, his eyes and his hair.

ba-uba-ro aee ti-ro ikai taru-bano-ma h-ari ba-ibo
 is-it:past-and:he Oh! say-he ouch! flea-actor-emph. me-hit is-it:quote
 "Aeee!" he said, "Ouch! The fleas are biting me!"

t-uba-ro be taba-a bi-ra-ra-ma ko?a autu-anara-m
 say-he:past-and:he ah! see-imp. that-obj.-for-emph. trade:item make-you:have-indic.
 and then Manabo said, "Now see! That is what you traded me for!"

i-r-ibo are-bata bi-ra oba ?umpi-ha-ra taba-ana ti-ro
 do-(?)-quote you-too it-obj. torch light-prog.-you see-you:imp. say-he
 You too can light a torch and look for them!"

minti t-ira-ma minti a-ke r-ora manabo-ka konko-ka
 same say-he:has-indic. same do-comp. do-he:past Manabo-and Konko-and
 That's what he said - that's what they did - Manabo and Konko.

Abbreviations used:

comp.	'completive' (either <u>te</u> or <u>ke</u> 'leave')	prog.	'progressive'
emph.	'emphatic'	quote	'reported speech'
imp.	'imperative'	?	'interrogative'
indic.	'indicative'	(?)	'translation unknown or not clear'
obj.	'object'		

Note: Some hesitant and repeated forms have been deleted from the original taped story. Forms translated 'past' are 'far past'. -ro, translated 'and:he', is the third person singular anticipatory suffix marking change of subject -that is, a third person singular subject is to follow in the next clause.