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Wuzzie George (b. ~1880, d. December 20, 1984) was, by all accounts, a true keeper of traditional knowledge. Over the course of more than three decades, she provided detailed ethnographic information about her people, the Toidikadi (Cattail-Eaters), for ethnographer Margaret Wheat (1967) and anthropologist and historical linguist Catherine S. Fowler (1992). Wuzzie also had an ongoing working relationship with the intrepid folklorist Sven Liljeblad, as evidenced by this prayer, which she composed for him in Fallon, Nevada, during a time of illness.

Liljeblad later carefully transcribed it and gave it a free translation, and the first tier represents his transcription using a slightly modified version of the system he used for Bannock, due, in large part, to the need to accommodate the three consonant grades of the southern dialect area. A colon [:] is used to indicate vowel length, and a single, raised dot [-] indicates fortition (gemination) of voiced consonants. Fortition versus lenition is elsewhere represented as a voicing contrast—voiceless (fortis) versus voiced (lenis), respectively. Stress is marked in this system, providing clues as to clitic versus affix boundaries, which are fully analyzed in tiers two and three, eliminating the need for stress placement, which is completely predictable and regular.

Despite the in-depth ethnographic information available, almost no published narrative material exists from this variety. Prayer as a narrative genre has not been widely explored (Fowler and Abel 2000 is a notable exception). Likely for reasons of privacy and cultural sensitivity, prayers do not often appear in documentary corpora. This particular prayer is reprinted from Fowler, George, and Hultkranz (1998) as part of an homage to Liljeblad. The parsing and interlinear analysis are by Thornes.

WUZZIE GEORGE'S PRAYER FOR SVEN

WUZZIE GEORGE, SPEAKER

(1) yá iš-u kwainá?a manág-wi kim-ádi.

yaa	i-su	kwaina?a	managgwi
here	PROX-NOM	far	staying
	kimma-di		
	come-NMLZ		

‘This man here is coming from where he lives far away.’

- (2) *nim̄ba: pit̄š-i.*
nimi-baa i piti-si
 IPL.EXCL-by arrive-SEQ
 ‘He came to us.’
- (3) *yáis-i šúya káibis-a ní:mabitiš-i yawá i:.*
yaisi su=yaa kai pisa niima-biti-si
 then NOM=here NEG good feel-arrive-SEQ
yawa ìi
 now you
 ‘And while he was here he got sick, and now we turn to you.’
- (4) *pit̄m̄·a’á ʔ. ʔ. adímázaikwi ʔ.*
pi=ti=nnaʔa ìi ìi a=dimadzai-kwi ìi
 PAST=LOGO=father you you 4=help-FUT you
 ‘You, our Sun, you will help him, you yourself.’
- (5) *owítí pižábewaituš·ʔ awig·wíg·ikwi ʔ.*
owi-ti pisabi-wai-tu-su a=wiggwi-ggi-kwi ìi
 DEM-LOC good-AREA-to-ADV 4=restore-APPL-FUT you
 ‘You should just bring him back into good health, you yourself.’
- (6) *išú yá: pišáʔyunas-u yá: iš-ú, nim̄ba: nimín·imiš-i.*
i-su yaa pisa-ʔyu-na-su yaa i-su
 PROX-NOM here good-NOM-PTCP-ADV here PROX-NOM
nimi-baa nimi-nnimi-si
 we:EXCL-by travel:SG-RNDM:SG-SEQ
 ‘Now he is fortunate to be here; living with us.’
- (7) *šáʔaiša:u.*
saaʔaisaau
 briefly
 ‘It will be briefly.’
- (8) *pin·áš·u iš-ú kožm̄·oʔog·wid-i pišáʔyunaš·u.*
pinna-su i-su koči-nnoʔo-ggwi-ddi
 as.well-ADV PROX-NOM return-go.along-FUT-NMLZ
pisa-ʔyu-na-su
 good-NOM-PTCP-ADV
 ‘He is going to return in good health.’
- (9) *yawá i: nimígubakwai miákaidi.*
yawa ìi nimi-guba-kwai mia-kai-di
 here/now you us-over-AREA go-go.around-NMLZ
 ‘Now you are walking above us.’

- (10) i: noʔóko tí:pi katidubag-wai¹ miákaidi.
 ði noʔo-ko tiipi ka=tiduba-ggwai mia-kai-di
 you all-ACC earth ACC=upon.it-AREA go-go.around-NMLZ
 ‘You are always walking all over the earth.’
- (11) i: midimázaikwi.
 ði mi=dímadzai-kwi
 you us:EXCL=help-FUT
 ‘You are going to help us.’
- (12) uká káibiš-a ní:mana midimázaikwi.
 u-ka kai pisa niima-na mi=dimazai-kwi
 3SG-ACC NEG good feel-PTCP 1PL.EXCL:ACC=help-FUT
 ‘While he is not feeling well, you are going to help, us.’
- (13) i: piš-ákwaito.
 ði pisa-kwai-tu
 you good-AREA-to
 ‘You will put him into a good place.’
- (14) piš-á iš-ú ní:m-abitiḡa:kwi.
 pisa i-su niimma-biti-gaa-kwi
 good PROX-NOM feel-arrive-away-FUT
 ‘He is going to feel well.’
- (15) nim-í im-ád-u nim-í unaniš-utihaiš-i uká yuiba nim-í nanis-utihai?
 nimmi i-mma-ddu nimmi u=nanissutihai-si
 we:EXCL you-LOC-LOC we:EXCL 3SG:ACC=pray-SEQ
 u-ka yui-ba nimmi nanisutihai?
 3SG-ACC warm-PERF we:EXCL pray:DUR
 ‘We on his behalf, pray that the fever will be taken away from him
 unto you, this we pray.’
- (16) iš-ú piš-áḡyuna pim-ás-uš-aḡa kočín-ḡḡkwid-i.
 i-su pisa-ḡyu-na pimma-su=saiḡa
 PROX-NOM good-NOM-PTCP feel-ADV=MOD
 koči-nnoʔo-kwi-di
 return-go.along-FUT-NMLZ
 ‘Soon after he is well, he may return (home).’

¹ Correction: *kategubaggwai* and not *katedubaggwai*. The form has likely been mistyped in the original. (TT)

- (17) yawá i: nímíḡubakwai miákai, ním·í im·ád·u kayuíba
nīm·i naním·acagaš·i.

yawa ìì nìmi-guba-kwai mia-kai
now you we:EXCL-over-AREA go-go.around
nìmmi i-mma-ddu ka=yui-ba
we:EXCL you-on-LOC ACC=warm-PERF
nìmmi na-ni-mmatsa-ga-si
we:EXCL MID-call.away-away-SEQ

‘Right now you are walking above us, while we ask that his fever is taken away unto you.’

- (18) i: ói mián·o:na, obí iḡgakwaitu i:, uká kad·uíbadui í.

ìì oi mia-nnoo-na obi iḡiga-kwai-tu ìì
you DEM go-go.along-PTC DEM upward??-AREA-to you
u-ka ka=dduibadui ìì
3SG-ACC ACC=descent?? you

‘As you are going along up there, there into your going-down you will be with his fever.’

- (19) i: namá ucabíkaka:š·i, obítu í.

ìì nama u=tsa-bika-kaa-si obi-tu ìì
you dually 3SG:ACC=IP/GRASP-take-away-SEQ DEM-to you

‘You take it along with you into it as you go.’

- (20) i: ḡiḡgakwaitu i: hicáwidikwaitu patákuḡmiš·i.

ìì i=igá-kwai-tu ìì hitsawidi-kwai-tu
you 2SG=enter:SG-AREA-to you cool-AREA-to
patakuḡmi-si
wash.away-SEQ

‘You should, where you go down, wash it away in a cool place.’

- (21) miḡá awámuḡa i: piš·áḡyuna makúbatu i: cibuíkwí.

míḡa awamuḡa ìì pissa-ḡyu-na
go:DUR morning you good-NOM-PTCP
ma-kuba-tu ìì tsibui-kwí
DEF-upon-to you emerge:SG-FUT

‘Tomorrow morning you should rise good and healthy on top of it.’

- (22) iš·ú ikwáḡniš·u.

i-su i=kwaḡni-su
PROX-NOM 2SG=SIMIL-ADV

‘He will be good and healthy just like you.’

- (23) piš·á?yuna yá: id·úhag·wai nimín·imikwi.
 pisa-?yu-na yaa i-dduha-ggwai nimi-nimi-kwi
 good-NOM-PTCP here you-under-AREA travel:SG-RNDM:SG-FUT
 ‘He will be well here and walk around under you.’
- (24) ú:hu i: adimázaitabiakwi.
 uu-hu ð a=dimadzai-tabia-kwi
 like.so-FOC you 4=help-appear-FUT
 ‘In that way you seem to be helping anybody.’
- (25) i:tu mñhu yaduádi unimína.
 ð-tu mii-hu yadua-dí u=nimi-na
 you-LOC QUOT-FOC talk-NMLZ 3SG:ACC=travel:SG-PTCP
 ‘Your really said so as you were talking when you were human.’
- (26) yawá, “ i: mitukú kái tugi wim·ana, nim·ád·u, unaním·acaga.
 yawa ð mi=tuku kai tugi wimma-na
 now you PL=flesh NEG correct feel-PTCP
 ni-mma-ddu u=na-nimmatsa-ga
 I-on-LOC 3SG:ACC=MID-express-away
 ‘Here now is what you said: “When your flesh does not feel well, tell it away unto me.”’
- (27) míwino?o i: yaduádi minó?o nim·í yá: i?inípi nim·í nim·áyoho.
 mii=wino?o ð yadua-dí mino?o nimmi
 QUOT=thus you talk-NMLZ now we:EXCL
 yaa i=?ini-pi nimmi ni-mmayo-hu
 here 2SG=say-PERF we:EXCL IP/SPEECH-remember-PFV
 ‘Thus you said as you spoke, and now we are here and what you said we remember.’
- (28) i?inípi nim·í nim·áyoho.
 i=?ini-pi nimmi ni-mmayo-ho
 2SG=say-PERF we:EXCL IP/SPEECH-remember-PFV
 ‘What you said we remember.’
- (29) uká nim·í, i: ?im·ád·u nim·í naníš·ød·eha?i.
 u-ka nimmi ð ?i-mma-ddu nimmi
 3SG-ACC we:EXCL you you-on-LOC we:EXCL
 na-ni-suddiha?i
 MID-IP/SPEECH-pity:DUR
 ‘That we do, you, to you we pray.’

- (30) yawá i: mišutihai-kwi ʔí.
 yawa ii mi=sutihai-kwi ii
 now you us:EXCL-pity-FUT you
 ‘And now you, you should be sorry for us and help us.’
- (31) mišutahaika:kwi ʔí.
 mi=sutihai-kaa-kwi ii
 us:EXCL=pity-away-FUT you
 ‘You should continue to be sorry for us and help us.’
- (32) uká nim-í ab-iš-áʔyukwina pis-áʔupid-a nimi ya:š-u, tag-wínimina.
 u-ka nimmi a=bbisa-ʔyu-kwi-na pisa-supidda
 3SG-ACC we:EXCL 4=good-NOM-FUT-PTCP good-know
 nimi yaa-su taggwi-nimi-na
 we:EXCL here-ADV walk??-RNDM:SG-PTCP
 ‘We like him to be well, we here, when we are walking about.’
- (33) uká nim-í mamág-u šukwídageti.
 u-ka nimmi ma-maggu sukwida-gi-ti
 3SG-ACC we:EXCL DEF-for wish-APPL-TNS
 ‘That is what we wish for him.’
- (34) us-úʒa’a.
 u-su=sáʔa
 3SG-NOM=MOD
 ‘He soon will (be well).’
- (35) kwaináʔa am-án-agwa mižum-áyipitis-i, iš-us-aʔa pišáʔyunas-u,
 pin-ás-u kod-ín-o:kwid-i.
 kwainaʔa a-mma-nnagwa mi=su-mmayi-piti-si
 far 4-LOC-direction us:EXCL=IP/MIND-find-arrive-SEQ
 i-su=sáʔa pisa-ʔyu-na-su
 PROX-NOM=MOD good-NOM-PTCP-ADV
 pinnasu koddí-nnoo-kwi-ddi
 again return-go.along-FUT-NMLZ
 ‘Coming from far away remembering us, he will soon return home in good health.’