A text in the Bobongko language (Central Sulawesi, Indonesia) with sound

told by
Nurlan Andy Massa

recorded, transcribed, glossed and translated by
David Mead

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'The Story of Monkey and Turtle,' a thirty-four sentence folktale in the Bobongko language of Central Sulawesi, Indonesia, is presented with morpheme-by-morpheme glossing and English free translation. This text, which originally appeared in print in 2001, is published here for the first time with the original sound recording electronically embedded in the portable document format (pdf) file.

SOURCE

VERSION HISTORY


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Introduction

Bobongko is a language belonging to the Saluan-Banggai microgroup. Bobongko is spoken by an estimated 1500 speakers divided between the villages of Lembanato and Tumbuwaha in the Togian Islands, located in the Tomini Bay of Sulawesi, Indonesia.

The following folktale, ‘The Story about Monkey and Turtle,’ was told by Nurlan Andy Massa. At the time this story was recorded in January 2001, he was forty-three years old.

This story first appeared in print as a supplement to “A preliminary sketch of the Bobongko language” (Mead 2001). The reader is referred to this article for additional information about the grammar of Bobongko. The text is published here for the first time with sound.

For the most part, orthographic conventions adopted for this text follow Indonesian, viz. the palatal affricate /ʤ/ is written as j, the palatal approximant /j/ is written as y, the palatal nasal /ɲ/ is written as ny, and the velar nasal /ŋ/ is written as ng. The letter f is used to symbolize a bilabial fricative /ɸ/ which varies in actual articulation between [ɸ], [β] and [h]. Glottal stop is symbolized word-medially and word-finally by an apostrophe (’). For practical reasons (lack of solid data), glottal stop is not symbolized word-initially, even though there is evidence to suggest that glottal stop contrasts with its absence in this position (Mead 2001:66–67).

Abbreviations used to gloss the text are listed following the story.

The spoken version of this text contains six instances of repaired speech. Repaired speech is indicated by including the material in square brackets, and has been left unglossed. See sentence (1) for the first instance.

To listen to the text in its entirety, click on the red speaker icon (play time is approximately three and a half minutes):

To listen to an individual sentence, click the small speaker icon which appears below the sentence number.
(1) I ande’ boi kalapuang [no...] nosangalu.
PN monkey and turtle RLZD:be_friends
Monkey and Turtle were friends.

(2) Jadi nosangalu ka’a, no-tugal lampi’.
so RLZD:be_friends this RLZD:ACT-plant banana
So they being friends, they planted bananas.

(3) Bagitu mo-tugal lampi’ ka’a,
like_that UNRZ:ACT-plant banana this
When they were planting bananas,
nako nom-bungko’ samasama,
RLZD:go RLZD:ACT-dig_up together
they went and dug up (a banana plant) together,

[anu i ande’ pu’u...] anu i kalapuang pu’un-nyo,
REL PN turtle trunk-3sG
Turtle’s was the trunk,

anu i ande’ tu’-nyo.
REL PN monkey top-3sG
Monkey’s was the top.

(4) Jadi bagitu t[in]ugal,
so like_that RLZD:INV:plant
So when it was planted.

nimbu’a’ mai,
RLZD:bear_fruit hither
it was fruiting out,

[anu i ande’...] anu i ande’ inate,
REL PN monkey RLZD:die
Monkey’s died,

[anu i kalapuang] [inimbua’] [k[in]opian] sampe inara.
REL PN turtle RLZD:bear_fruit RLZD:good until RLZD:ripe
Turtle’s fruited well until it was ripe.

(5) Jadi bagitu mong-ala-mo bua’-nyo,
so like_that UNRZ:ACT-fetch-PERF fruit-3sG
so when she was about to get the fruit,
Turtle was climbing on her back, she was not able,

she was climbing on her side she was not able,

she was climbing on her stomach she was not able.

She was forced to go call Monkey.

She said, “Monkey, please climb up for my bananas.”

So Monkey came and climbed it.

he said, “Patience, I’m still tasting it first.”

Until the bananas were finished off he ate them continually.

When he had finished eating them,
**kon-nyo, “Buka payung-ung.”**
say-3sG open headcloth-3sG
he said, “Open your headcloth.”

(14) **Bagitu b[in]uka i kalapuang,**
    like_that RLZD.INV:open PN turtle
When Turtle had opened her headcloth

*d[in]abu’akon-nyo mai ungka’ nya’u-nyo.*
RLZD.INV:drop-3sG hither only feces-3sG
he dropped only his feces.

(15) **Terpaksa, i kalapuang ka’a, no-lio daya**
as_a_result PN turtle this RLZD:ACT-seek method
As a result, Turtle sought some way

*o-pate-i-nyo i ande’,*
UNRZ.INV-kill-LP-3sG PN monkey
to kill Monkey.

(16) **P[in]ate-an-nyo, n-alap-akon-nyo polau,**
    RLZD.INV:die-LP-3sG RLZD.INV-fetch-BEN-3sG stake
She killed him, she fetched stakes for him

*bo ta’je t[in]a’an-an-nyo polau [i kalapua…] i ande’.*
and afterward RLZD.INV:set-LP-3sG stake PN monkey
and then she set them for Monkey.

(17) **Ningkot t[in]a’an-an-nyo polau,**
    RLZD:finished RLZD.INV:set-LP-3sG stake
Having finished setting the stakes,

*i-laya’-an-nyo mule’ i ande’ no-menek*
RLZD.INV:call-LP-3sG again PN monkey RLZD:ACT-climb
She called Monkey again (and) he climbed.

(18) **Bagitu no-menek, nanabu’ i ande’,**
    like_that RLZD:ACT-climb RLZD:fall PN monkey
When he climbed, Monkey fell.

(19) **Nanabu’ i ande’,**
    RLZD:fall PN monkey
(When) Monkey fell,

RLZD.INV:burn-3sG RLZD.INV:make-3sG lime
she burned him, she made lime.
RLZD.INV:bring-BEN-3sG for-GEN companion-3sG REL person-chew_betel
She brought it for his companions, who were betel chewers.

(21) P[in]omangan-nyo, ningkot-o nomangan ara,
RLZD.INV:chew_betel-3sG RLZD:finished-PERF RLZD:chew_betel 3p
(When) he had chewed it, (when) they had finished chewing,

g[in]eleng-an-nyo i kalapuang.
RLZD.INV:laugh-LP-3sG PN turtle
turtle laughed at them.

(22) Koi kalapuang,
say turtle
Said turtle,

REDP-bone-PERF-GEN companion-2pG RLZD.INV:eat-2pG
“You ate your companion’s bones.”

(23) Jadi terpaksa karena sanga-sangalu-nu ande’ narutu,
so as_a_result because REDP-companion-GEN monkey just_then
So as a result, because the monkey’s companions

[kino...] k[in]osolom-an-nyo “Mungkin ungka’
RLZD.INV:remember-LP-3sG perhaps only
were struck by the thought, “Perhaps it was only

buku-nu sangalu-ngku ka’a k[in]aan-nami,”
bone-GEN companion-1sG this RLZD.INV:eat-1pxG
my companion’s bones that we ate,”

n-umpar-an-nu ara i kalapuang.
RLZD.INV:chase-LP-GEN 3p PN turtle
they chased the turtle.

(24) N-umpar-an-nu ara i kalapuang,
RLZD.INV:chase-LP-GEN 3p PN turtle
They chased the turtle,

s[in]ampa-nu ara, [os...] o-pate-i-nu ara.
RLZD.INV:catch-GEN 3p UNRZ.INV:kill-LP-GEN 3p
they caught her, they were going to kill her.

(25) Sadangkan i kalapuang ka’a mo-gele-gele’ ampung,
although PN turtle this UNRZ:ACT-REDP-request forgiveness
Although Turtle asked for forgiveness,
“Ah, mba’,” kon-nu ara,
oh NEG say-GEN 3p
“Oh no,” they said,

“Pomura-nyo o-boa o-po’ipit.”
better-3sG UNRZ.INV-bring UNRZ.INV-squeeze
“It’s better she be brought and squeezed.”

(26) “Eh,” kon-nyo, “bo o-po’ipit-tiu,
eh say-3sG and UNRZ.INV-squeeze-2pG
“Eh,” she said, “if you squeeze me,

aku noko-damping butong-ku ka’a,
1s RLZD:APT-flat body-1sG this me, this body of mine can become flat

karena p[in]o’ipit i inde boi mama’.”
because RLZD.INV:squeeze PN mother and father from being squeezed by Mother and Father.”

(27) “Ah, o-boa mimenek kita’ mai tu’-u kau’
oh UNRZ.INV-bring UNRZ:climb up_there hither top-GEN tree
“Well, we will bring her up to the top of a tree

bo o-dabu’akon.”
and UNRZ.INV-drop and drop her.”

(28) “Eh, bo o-boa-miu mimenek aku,
eh and UNRZ.INV-bring-2pG UNRZ:climb 1s
“Eh, if you carry me up

noko-limbung butong-ku ka’a
RLZD:APT-round body-1sG this this body of mine can become round

bai b[in]oa i inde boi mama’ nimenek.”
because RLZD.INV:bring PN mother and father RLZD:climb from being carried up by Mother and Father.”

(29) Jadi mosiaa, o-bau-akon ia?
so how? UNRZ.INV-do-BEN 3s
So, what was to be done with her?

(30) Kon-nu ara, “Pomura-nyo, batakon-o ikio i ue.”
say-GEN 3p better-3sG throw_away-PERF over_there at water
They said, “Rather, throw her into the water.”
“Sadangkan o-batak on ikio i ue,” kon-nyo,
although UNRZ.INV-throw over_there at water say-3sG
“Although you throw me into the water,” she said,

“aku noko-kudamol kilit-tu.”
1s RLZD:APT-thick skin-1sG
“me, my skin can become thick.”

“Mba’, kana batak-o.”
NEG must throw_away-PERF
(saying) “No, we must throw her away.”

They threw her into the water

When they had thrown her away, the end of her saying was,

“The village of Mother and Father is where you have released me.”

That’s all.

Notes on the text

1. boi ‘and.’ In the glossing this word is treated as monomorphemic, but it could possibly be parsed as bo ‘and’ followed by the personal name marker i.

3. anu i ‘that of.’ Here and in the following sentence the full form is transcribed. In the original, spoken version the storyteller contracted these two morphemes to /ane/.

6. nara ‘forced, finally, in the end’ is possibly nothing other than a special use of the verb mara ‘ripe.’ In penek-kakon-nai, the doubling of the final k of penek is unexplained.

10. koi ‘say’ (in quote margin), omitted in the spoken version. Possibly koi contains the personal name marker i; see comment above (sentence 1) regarding boi.

11. kon-nyo ‘he said’ (quote margin), omitted in the spoken version.

25. o-po’ipit ‘squeezed,’ more specifically, ‘squeezed or stuffed into a crack.’
### List of abbreviations

**Pronouns**
- **1s**: first person singular
- **1pn**: first person plural inclusive
- **1px**: first person plural exclusive
- **2s**: second person singular
- **2p**: second person plural
- **3s**: third person singular
- **3p**: third person plural
- **G**: genitive (suffix)
- **A**: non-focused agent (prefix)
- **P**: non-focused patient (independent pronoun)

**Other**
- **APT**: aptative
- **ACT**: active voice
- **BEN**: beneficiary
- **FOC**: focus prefix (instrument, location and beneficiary focus only)
- **GEN**: genitive linker
- **INCOMP**: incompletive marker
- **INV**: inverse voice
- **LOC**: location focus suffix
- **LP**: locative patient suffix
- **NEG**: negator
- **PERF**: perfective
- **PN**: personal name marker
- **REL**: relative clause marker
- **REDP**: reduplication
- **RLZD**: realized aspect
- **UNRZ**: unrealized aspect

**Punctuation used in the gloss line**
- **-** (hyphen): morpheme boundary
- **:** (colon): used when glossing infixes and morphemes of nasal replacement; two morphemes are present but cannot be linearly separated
- **.** (period): the entire meaning is to be ascribed to a single morpheme in the text line; for example in *b[in]oa*, glossed as ‘RLZD.INV:bring,’ *-in-* is a portmanteau infix that indicates both realized aspect and inverse voice
- **_** (underscore): a single Bobongko morpheme is glossed with two or more English words, e.g. *batak* glossed as ‘throw_away’
Notes about the speaker and text collection

Speaker: Nurlan Andy Massa
Age: 43
Occupation: farmer
Education: primary school
Languages spoken: Bobongko, Indonesian, Togian
Born: Katupat village, Una-Una subdistrict, Poso district, Central Sulawesi; moved to neighboring Lembanato village in 1959; also spent one year in Libiti village, Una-Una subdistrict
Father: born in Lembanato
Language(s) of father: Bobongko
Mother: born in Lembanato
Language(s) of mother: Bobongko
Wife: Togian
Language(s) of wife: Togian, Bobongko
Date recorded: originally recorded on magnetic cassette tape January 2001; converted to digital format February 2001
Location recorded: Lembanato village on Kilat Bay on the north coast of Togian Island in the Togian Archipelago, Una-Una district, Donggala regency, Central Sulawesi
Context: this story was told by Nurlan Andy Massa in response to a request by David Mead. Eight or so other Bobongko speakers were also present in the room, listening to the story.
Transcription: this text was recorded, transcribed, glossed and translated by David Mead

References