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Dàgáàrè /dàgááɾì/ (ISO 639-3) is a Mabia language (Bodomo 1997) of Niger-Congo family. It is spoken by about 1.5 million. The map in Figure 1 shows the areas, in northwestern Ghana and southern Burkina Faso, where Dàgáàrè is spoken predominantly. There are four broad dialects of Dàgáàrè. These include Northern Dàgáàrè [dàgà̀r̀à], spoken in Lawra /ló.ɾá:/, Nandom /nàndɔ:/ and Burkina Faso; Southern Dàgáàrè /wá:lí/, spoken around Kaleo /kàlèó/ and in Wa /wá/; Western Dàgáàrè /bi.ɾifɔ/ spoken in Lassie /lààsìé/, Tuna /túnà/ and along the western side of the Black Volta river in Burkina Faso. The other dialect is Central Dàgáàrè. These broad dialects are further divided into sub-dialects, as there are internal variations in these dialect groups (Bodomo 2000). This paper's primary focus is on Central Dàgáàrè, which comprises the varieties spoken in and around Jirapa /ǰì.ɾébá:/, Han /hěŋ/, Ullo /úlò/, Daffiama /dàf.ìémé/, Nadowli /nàdòlì/, Charikpong /ʃè.ɾìkpɔŋ/, Sombo /sùmbó/ and Duong /dùóŋ/.

Most of the data in this paper come from Central Dàgáàrè spoken in some parts of the Nadowli-Kaleo district, with specific focus on the variety spoken in the Sombo area. The data were elicited in Ghana from five native speakers. All five speakers were male; they were born and had lived all their lives in Sombo. They were between the ages of 31 and 45 years. The first author, who is also a native speaker of Central Dàgáàrè, provided supplementary data in Vancouver, Canada. The narrative in the transcription section was recorded from a 28-year-old woman of the Daffiama /dàf.ìémá/ variety of Central Dàgáàrè. The data presented in this work are represented orthographically and phonemically. All orthographic forms are without brackets while all phonemic representations are in slant // brackets. Note that the Dàgáàrè language as presented here as well as in Bodomo (2000: 3) corresponds to a group of between three and six languages in other publications – the Dàgáàrè–Waale–Biriŋor linguistic continuum in Bodomo (1997: 1) and Dagaaric in glottology.org on *Ethnologue*.

The data were recorded with a SHURE WH30XLR cardioid condenser (a headset microphone) and Rode NGT2 supercardioid condenser (a shotgun microphone) at the sampling rate of 48 kHz and bit depth of 16 bit. The microphones were attached to a zoomQ8 camera. The data presented in this work are from fieldwork funded by Insight grant by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) to Douglas Pulleyblank.

## Consonants

Dàgáàrè is reported to have four main varieties (Bodomo 1997) that form a dialect continuum of varying degrees of mutual intelligibility. Bodomo reports that Dàgáàrè has 25 consonants and two glides. However, the number of consonants varies between the various dialects. In Central Dàgáàrè, there are 23 consonants and two glides (semi-vowels). These include stops /p b t d k g kp gb ʔ/, affricates /tʃ dʒ/, fricatives /f v s z h/, nasals /m n ŋ ɲ m ɲ/,



Figure 1 (Colour online) Areas where Dagaáarè is spoken in northwestern Ghana and in Burkina Faso.

approximants /j w/, a lateral approximant /l/ and the alveolar approximant /ɹ/ which can only occur intervocalically, word-medially and root-finally. In Southern Dagaáarè (Wáálí), there are 22 consonants and two glides (Abdul-Aziz 2015). The voiced alveolar fricative /z/ that is present in the central, northern and western dialects is not attested in the southern dialect. Northern Dagaáarè (Dàgàrà) and Western Dagaáarè (Bìlìfò) are each reported to have 25 consonants and two glides (Dundaa 2013, Kuubezelle 2013). The following sounds: voiceless bilabial implosive /ɓ/ and voiceless glottalized lateral /<sup>h</sup>l/ are attested in the northern dialect and in the western dialect. Voiceless glottalized palatal /<sup>h</sup>j/ and the voiceless glottalized labial-velar glide /<sup>h</sup>w/ are found only in the western dialect, while the voiceless velar fricative /x/ is attested only in the northern dialect. The table shows the consonants for Central Dagaáarè.

|                     | Bilabial | Labial-dental | Alveolar | Palato-alveolar | Palatal | Velar | Labial-velar | Glottal |
|---------------------|----------|---------------|----------|-----------------|---------|-------|--------------|---------|
| Plosive             | p b      |               | t d      |                 |         | k g   | k̚p̚ ḡb̚     | ʔ       |
| Affricate           |          |               |          | tʃ dʒ           |         |       |              |         |
| Fricative           |          | f v           | s z      |                 |         |       |              | h       |
| Nasal               | m        |               | n        |                 | ɲ       | ŋ     | ɲm           |         |
| Approximant         |          |               | ɹ        |                 | j       |       | w            |         |
| Lateral approximant |          |               | l        |                 |         |       |              |         |

| CONSONANT | PHONETIC              | ORTHOGRAPHIC | GLOSS       |
|-----------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| p         | /p <sup>h</sup> égí/  | pégé         | ‘shell’     |
| b         | /bíé/                 | bíé          | ‘child’     |
| t         | /t <sup>h</sup> ìgì/  | tègè         | ‘treat’     |
| d         | /dó:/                 | dóó          | ‘man’       |
| k         | k <sup>h</sup> ógó    | kógó         | ‘chair’     |
| g         | /gà:/                 | gàà          | ‘to go’     |
| kp̄       | /kp̄é.í/              | kp̄éré       | ‘to spill’  |
| gb̄       | /gb̄ágá/              | gb̄ágá       | ‘container’ |
| ʔ         | /ʔì/                  | è            | ‘to do’     |
| f         | /fâ:/                 | fâà          | ‘to seize’  |
| v         | /vá:bú/               | váábó        | ‘leaf’      |
| s         | /síqí/                | ségé         | ‘hut’       |
| z         | /zìè.í/               | zèèré        | ‘soup’      |
| h         | /hó:i/                | hàari        | ‘yawn’      |
| t̄ʃ       | /t̄ʃé/                | kyé          | ‘but’       |
| d̄ʒ       | /d̄ʒé/                | gyé          | ‘reject’    |
| m         | /má/                  | má           | ‘mother’    |
| n         | /nénì/                | nénè         | ‘meat’      |
| ɲ         | /ɲâ:/                 | nyáà         | ‘chest’     |
| ŋ         | /ŋá:/                 | ŋáà          | ‘like this’ |
| ŋ̄m       | /ŋ̄mání/              | ŋ̄máné       | ‘calabash’  |
| j         | /jì.ì/                | yí.ì         | ‘house’     |
| w         | /wì.í/                | wì.í         | ‘horse’     |
| ɹ         | /p <sup>h</sup> égrí/ | pégré        | ‘shells’    |
| l         | /lúgó/                | lúgó         | ‘logs’      |

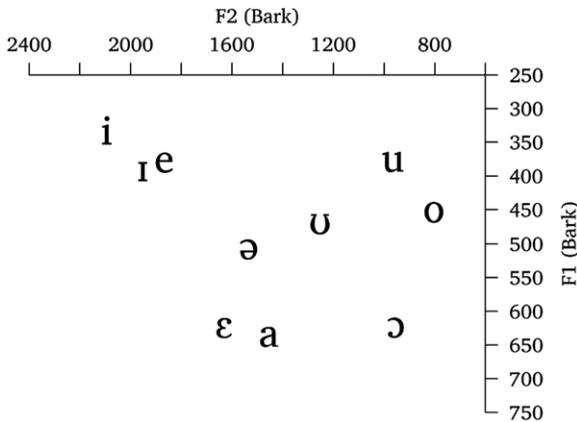
### Aspiration

In this paper we observe that when the voiceless stops /p t k/ occur in word-initial position, there appears to be some degree of aspiration. In phonetic transcription, aspiration is indicated by a superscript *h*, [ʰ]. Consequently, all initial voiceless stops in this work are transcribed as /p<sup>h</sup> t<sup>h</sup> k<sup>h</sup>/.



| VOWEL | PHONETIC | ORTHOGRAPHIC | GLOSS            |
|-------|----------|--------------|------------------|
| i     | /dì/     | dì           | ‘eat’            |
| ɪ     | /dĩ/     | dê           | ‘take’           |
| e     | /jèlè/   | yèlè         | ‘speaking’       |
| ɛ     | /jélè/   | yélè         | ‘speech’         |
| ə     | /vǎ/     | vǎ           | ‘burn partially’ |
| a     | /wà/     | wà           | ‘come’           |
| ɔ     | /dǎ/     | dǎ           | ‘weed’           |
| o     | /dó/     | dó           | ‘climb’          |
| u     | /fũ/     | fũ           | ‘your’           |
| u     | /dú/     | dú           | ‘swim’           |

The vowels are acoustically represented in Figure 2. The vowels were plotted using *phonR* (McCloy 2012) in R (R Core Team 2018).



**Figure 2** Means for first and second formants (F1, F2) of ten vowels.

While previous studies (e.g. Bodomo 1997) report that Dàgáárè has nine contrastive vowels, a recent acoustic study (Ozburn et al. 2018) suggests that Central Dàgáárè has a tenth vowel. The tenth vowel is reported to be /ə/, which is an [ATR] (advanced tongue root) counterpart of the [RTR] (retracted tongue root) vowel /a/. In this study, formants of low vowel were measured in verbal particles surrounded by different combinations of [ATR] and [RTR] vowels. The results show that the low vowel is significantly higher and fronted when followed by an [ATR] vowel compared to when followed by an [RTR] vowel, suggesting that /a/ has significantly different variants depending on whether it occurs in an [ATR] or an [RTR] context. This supports the claim in Saanchi (1997) that Central Dàgáárè indeed has ten vowels. In this paper, brackets around [ATR] and [RTR] indicate that they are phonetic features. The bare ATR without brackets is simply an abbreviated term used to refer to vowel harmony that is based on tongue root advancement and retraction.

Using Kernel density estimation, the contour plot in Figure 3 shows the distribution of the two low vowels within the vowel space based on the acoustic study by Ozburn et al. (2018).

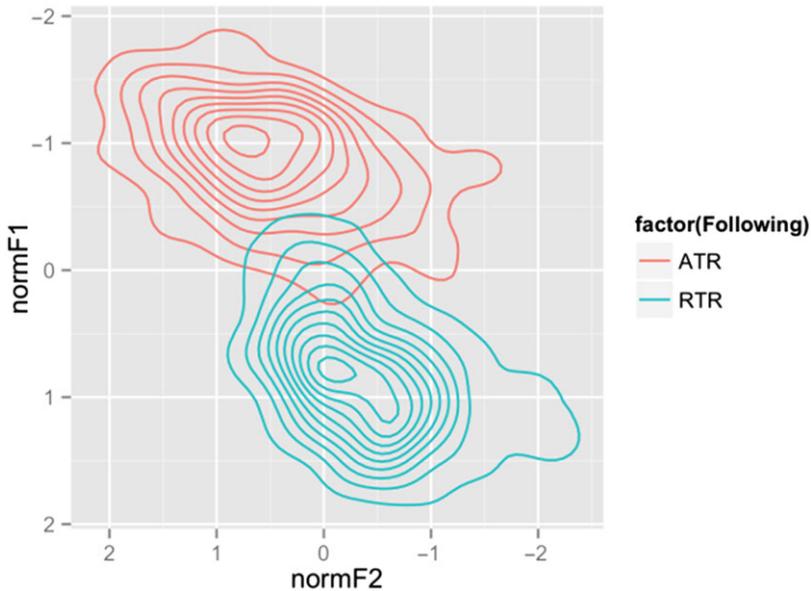


Figure 3 (Colour online) Normalised F1-F2 of /a/ by following context (Ozburn et al. 2018).

The results of the research in Lloy et al. (2019) also suggest that the tenth vowel is (partially) contrastive. The list in (1) is based on the minimal pairs identified by Saanchi (1997) in (1).

(1) *Minimal pairs of [ATR] and [RTR] low vowels*

| [ATR] |          |                                | [RTR] |          |               |
|-------|----------|--------------------------------|-------|----------|---------------|
| vá    | /vǎ/     | 'burn partially'               | vá    | /vǎ/     | 'hit'         |
| háǎri | /há:ǎi/  | 'yawn'                         | háǎrè | /há:ǎi/  | 'shoo'        |
| sáǎri | /sǎ:ǎi/  | 'gather in bulk'               | sáǎrè | /sǎ:ǎi/  | 'broom'       |
| háǎlí | /háǎli/  | 'widen'                        | háǎlè | /háǎli/  | 'smell badly' |
| bàǎrà | /bǎ:ǎǎ/  | 'smart' (e.g. skin irritation) | bàǎrà | /bǎ:ǎǎ/  | 'growing'     |
| wáǎlí | /wǎ:ǎli/ | 'to bruise'                    | wáǎlè | /wǎ:ǎli/ | 'parboil'     |

**Vowel length, nasalization and co-occurrence**

Vowels in Dàgáǎrè may contrast in length. Each vowel has a long counterpart and the differences in length of the vowels can bring about differences in meaning. However, the distinction between the short and long vowels may not necessarily be phonemic. Some examples are shown in (2).

(2) *Words with short and long vowels*

| SHORT VOWELS |                      |                  | LONG VOWELS |                      |                     |
|--------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| tú           | /t <sup>h</sup> ú/   | ‘dig’            | túú         | /t <sup>h</sup> ú:/  | ‘shrub/forest’      |
| dó           | /dó/                 | ‘weed’           | dóó         | /dó:/                | ‘man’               |
| dà           | /dà/                 | ‘buy’            | dáá         | /dǎ:/                | ‘market’            |
| vá           | /vó/                 | ‘burn partially’ | váárà       | /vó:à/               | ‘burning partially’ |
| kùrí         | /k <sup>h</sup> ùrí/ | ‘tortoise’       | kùùrí       | /k <sup>h</sup> ù:í/ | ‘hoe’               |
| kò           | /k <sup>h</sup> ò/   | ‘give’           | kòòrè       | /k <sup>h</sup> ò:è/ | ‘snore’             |

As reported by Kennedy (1966), Dàgáàrè vowels can be phonetically nasalized when they are contiguous with nasal consonants, as seen in (3).

(3) *Nasalized vowels*

|     |                     |            |
|-----|---------------------|------------|
| kǒŋ | /k <sup>h</sup> ǒŋ/ | ‘cry’      |
| kǒŋ | /k <sup>h</sup> ǒŋ/ | ‘hunger’   |
| bǒŋ | /bǒŋ/               | ‘to know’  |
| zìŋ | /zìŋ/               | ‘sit’      |
| gâŋ | /gâŋ/               | ‘lie down’ |
| yêŋ | /jêŋ/               | ‘wisdom’   |
| bìŋ | /bìŋ/               | ‘put’      |
| dòŋ | /dòŋ/               | ‘bite’     |
| yěŋ | /jěŋ/               | ‘where’    |

In addition, all vowels in Dàgáàrè can show nasality even when not adjacent to a nasal consonant. In such cases, they can be referred to as nasal vowels. However, unlike in Northern and Western Dàgáàrè, in Central Dàgáàrè, not all nasal vowels are phonemic. Consider the examples of nasal and oral vowels in (4).

(4) *Nasal vowels and oral vowels*

| NASAL VOWELS |                     |                      | ORAL VOWELS |                     |         |
|--------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------------|---------|
| káâ          | /k <sup>h</sup> á:/ | ‘oil’                | kàà         | /k <sup>h</sup> à:/ | ‘look’  |
| zîî          | /zî:/               | ‘blood’              | —           |                     |         |
| fòô          | /fò:/               | ‘you’ (emphatic)     | —           |                     |         |
| tîî          | /t <sup>h</sup> î:/ | ‘drugs/medicine’     | —           |                     |         |
| sòó          | /sò:/               | ‘witchcraft/sorcery’ | sòó         | /sù:/               | ‘knife’ |
| dáâ          | /dâ:/               | ‘alcoholic drink’    | dáà         | /dâ:/               | ‘push’  |

|      |                     |            |     |       |          |
|------|---------------------|------------|-----|-------|----------|
| wěě  | /wĩě/               | 'go wild'  | wèé | /wìé/ | 'farm'   |
| wíé  | /wíé/               | 'quick(ly) | wìé | /wìé/ | 'horses' |
| kúú  | /k <sup>h</sup> ú:/ | 'death'    | —   |       |          |
| vùú  | /vù:/               | 'fire'     | —   |       |          |
| běé  | /bĩ:/               | 'broth'    | béé | /bĩ:/ | 'or'     |
| kòó  | /k <sup>h</sup> òó/ | 'water'    | —   |       |          |
| kyěé | /tʃĩ:/              | 'fry'      | —   |       |          |

Nasal vowels in Central Dàgáárè occur only in CVV sequences either as a long monophthong or diphthong, just like nasal vowels in the Southern Dàgáárè (Wáálí). There are, however, some restrictions on the distribution of the front mid vowel /e/: it cannot occur as a long nasal vowel but can occur as part of a nasal diphthong. In the northern and the western dialects (Dàgàà and Bìlífò), there are long CVV nasal vowels as well as short nasal vowels which occur in CV forms (Dundaa 2013, Kuubezelle 2013).

In terms of sequences, vowels in Dàgáárè occur in a particular pattern. They either occur as long monophthongs or diphthongs. However, not every vowel sequence is allowed in the language. For instance, while opening diphthongs such as /ie uo/ are permitted, there is a prohibition on closing /ai ɔi/ and centering /ɪə ʊə/ diphthongs. Bodomo (1997) identifies the following phonemic vowel sequences which are the same vowel sequences in Central Dàgáárè.

(5) *Vowel sequences in Dàgáárè*

|        |        |                      |                          |
|--------|--------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| ii, ie | bíírí  | /bĩ:í/               | 'children', /bĩé/'child' |
| ii, iɛ | síírì  | /sĩ:ì/               | 'honey', /wìé/'farm'     |
| ee     | bùlélé | /bùlé:/              | 'kid' (little goat)      |
| aa     | vááàrè | /vá:à/               | 'leaves'                 |
| uu     | tʃùù   | /tʃú:/               | 'moon'                   |
| uo     | kúó    | /k <sup>h</sup> úó/  | 'field mouse'            |
| ue     | túé    | /t <sup>h</sup> úé/  | 'dug'                    |
| uu     | bóúrí  | /bú:í/               | 'goats'                  |
| uɔ     | púó    | /p <sup>h</sup> úó/  | 'stomach'                |
| oo     | tòòrí  | /t <sup>h</sup> ò:í/ | 'ear'                    |
| ɔɔ     | dóó    | /dó:/                | 'man'                    |
| ɔɛ     | tòé    | /t <sup>h</sup> òé/  | 'pounded'                |

In addition to the sequences identified by Bodomo, the following sequences are equally possible and productive in Dàgáárè:

|     |         |             |        |         |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|---------|
| (6) | ɛɛ      | gběé        | /gbɛ:/ | 'legs'  |
|     |         | lěé         | /lɛ:/  | 'beads' |
|     | ɔɔ ~ əə | hǎǎrí/hóó.ì | /hó:ì/ | 'yawn'  |

### Vowel harmony

Dàgáàrè has assimilatory processes which involve the obligatory agreement of adjacent vowels in the values of [ATR] and round features. These processes are known as vowel harmony (Archangeli & Pulleyblank 2007, Rose & Walker 2011).

The ten vowels in Dàgáàrè fall into two natural classes based on [ATR] feature, as seen in (7). Only [ATR] vowels co-occur with each other. Similarly, only [RTR] vowels co-occur with each other.

#### (7) Natural classes of Dàgáàrè vowels

- a. [ATR]: /i e o u ə/  
 b. [RTR]: /ɪ ɛ ɔ ʊ a/

Stewart (1967), cited in Bodomo (1997: 20), refers to the kind of tongue root harmony in Dàgáàrè as cross-height vowel harmony. In this case, the feature [ATR] is distinctive at more than one vowel height and the process of harmony operates across sequences of vowels which differ in vowel height (Stewart & van Leynseele 1979). In (8), we first show that harmony operates across the same vowel height. In the [ATR] cases, the vowels are of the same height and in the [RTR] examples, all vowels in each word are of the same height. Each example is either comprised of all high vowels or all mid vowels. Note that there is no harmony in the orthography as both [ATR] and [RTR] vowels can co-occur in the word, as in *sáàrè* ‘broom’ and *nénè* ‘meat’. Harmony is realized only in the phonemic forms.

#### (8) Tongue root harmony across the same vowel height

| [ATR] |                      |           | [RTR] |                      |         |
|-------|----------------------|-----------|-------|----------------------|---------|
| tíírí | /t <sup>h</sup> í:í/ | ‘vomit’   | séérè | /sí:ì/               | ‘honey’ |
| tùùrì | /t <sup>h</sup> ù:ù/ | ‘pick’    | sòòrè | /sò:ò/               | ‘ask’   |
| kpérè | /kpé:è/              | ‘slicing’ | wégè  | /wégè/               | ‘log’   |
| kógó  | /k <sup>h</sup> ógó/ | ‘chair’   | pógó  | /p <sup>h</sup> ógó/ | ‘woman’ |

The examples in (9) show that ATR harmony can operate across vowels with different heights.

#### (9) Tongue root harmony across different vowel heights

|                     |         |                     |           |
|---------------------|---------|---------------------|-----------|
| /p <sup>h</sup> íé/ | ‘ten’   | /t <sup>h</sup> íé/ | ‘tree’    |
| /t <sup>h</sup> ùò/ | ‘carry’ | /p <sup>h</sup> ús/ | ‘stomach’ |

The vowels in /p<sup>h</sup>íé/ ‘ten’ and /t<sup>h</sup>ùò/ ‘carry’ are combinations of high vowels /i u/ and mid vowels /e o/; they are also [ATR]. Similarly, each of the words /t<sup>h</sup>íé/ ‘tree’ and /p<sup>h</sup>ús/ ‘stomach’ contains both high and mid [RTR] vowels.

### Status of /a/ in ATR harmony

The status of /a/ in Dàgáàrè ATR harmony is a topic of interesting debates. Kennedy (1966) argues that /a/ occurs with vowels showing open harmony and excludes vowels that exhibit close harmony. Open harmony involves low vowels which are made with an open mouth



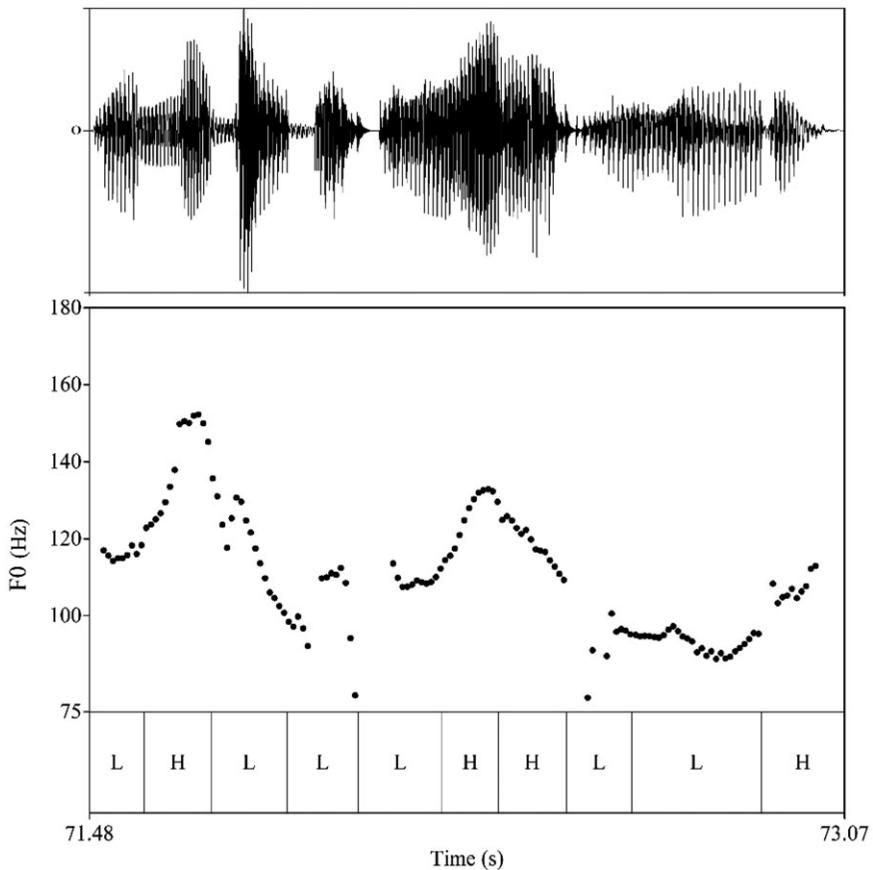
### Downdrift and downstep

Dàgáàrè has downdrift, which is the cumulative lowering of pitch in the course of an utterance due to interaction of tones (Akinlabi & Liberman 1995, Connell 2001). Downdrift is illustrated with a pitch track of the phrase in (13). As shown in Figure 4, the pitch of H with a preceding L is lowered.

#### (13) *Downdrift*

|   |           |     |          |     |   |        |
|---|-----------|-----|----------|-----|---|--------|
| L | H L       | L   | L H      | H   | L | L H    |
|   |           |     |          |     |   |        |
| a | nɔ̄-ba    | da  | ɔɔ-ɔɔ    | la  | a | waa-ɪr |
| D | person-PL | PST | eat-IPFV | AFF | D | yam-PL |

‘The people were eating the yam.’



**Figure 4** Pitch track [L H L L L H H L L H].

When two adjacent syllables bear H tone, the pitch of the second syllable is lowered. For instance, the phrase /jɪ! Fáá/ ‘bad house’ contains a sequence of H! HH, the pitch of second H is lower than the pitch of the initial high. This lowering of pitch is referred to as downstep (Hyman 1985, Selkirk & Tateishi 1991). The lowering is usually represented with an exclamation mark (!) to signal an unassociated floating L tone. The following examples from Anttila & Bodomo (1996: 14–15) illustrate this process. The lowering of the second phrase in (14a) can be visualized in the pitch track in Figure 5.

(14) *Downstep*

a. Noun + Adjective

HLH  
 | |  
 /ji!faa/ 'bad house'

H LH  
 | |  
 /kpää!faa/ 'bad guinea fowl'

b. Noun + Noun

H LH LH L  
 | | | /  
 /kpaá!ú !júù/ 'guinea fowl's house'

H LH H LH  
 | | | |  
 /p<sup>h</sup>i !juú !kpaá !ú/ 'sheep's guinea fowl'

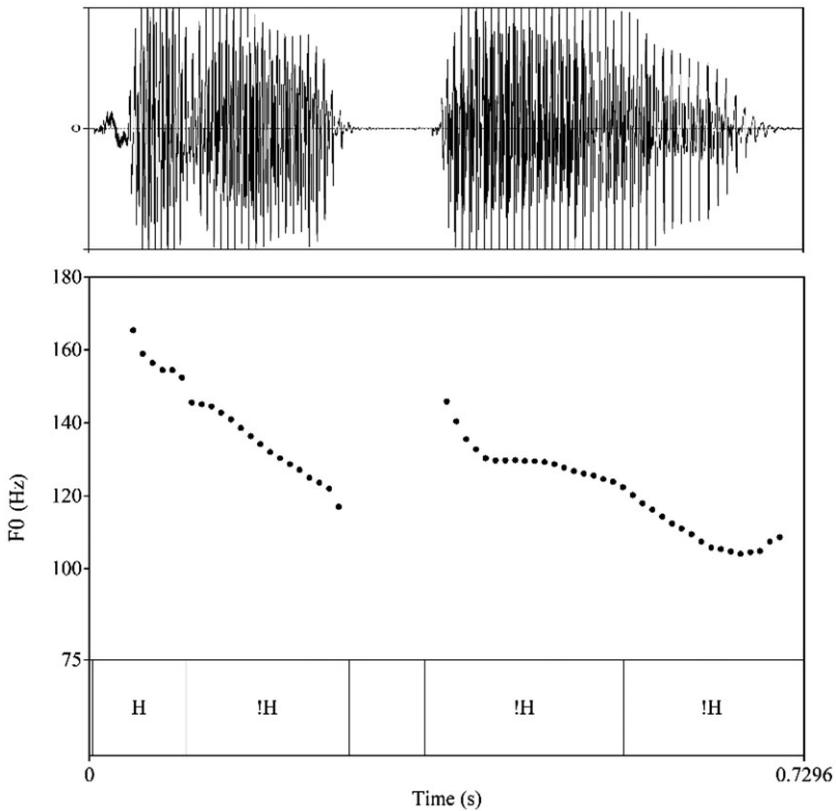


Figure 5 Pitch track [H!H!H!H].

### Transcription of recorded passage

The text provided is a story entitled ‘The shea butter baby’ told by a female native speaker of the Daffiama [dàfìè má] variety of Central Dàgáàrè. Note that there is occasional inter-vocalic deletion of some segments like /g/ and /l/ in some words by this speaker especially in pógó → pós ‘woman’; lì → ì ‘rise’

### PHONETIC TRANSCRIPTION

The slashes in this text indicate boundaries between sentences.

jé gòrò gòrò n sín-simlúú / pógó kàṅá-ṅ bé!bé / à kúlúú síé / ù bá dḡgró / kàà síé gàà tì dí  
pḡḡbílè à wà pààlùḡ ìṅḡṅ / kàà pḡḡbílè jḡṅ dḡgró ṽḡḡ à pógó bà dḡgró / pḡg-ḡpḡṅ nàṅ bá dḡgró  
ná / ṽḡúúṅ tàà pḡḡbílè bíé ṅá ù mḡṅ bíé / kàà pḡs mán ḡḡḡ nà pḡḡbílè ṅúúḡ à pḡg-ḡpḡṅ ṅúúḡ /  
lè lá dááḡ kàṅá kàà pḡg-ḡpḡṅ kḡṅ gàà ù bà ḡḡḡ /

/ kàà díḡ pḡḡṅáá!ṅáá kàṅá mḡṅ bé à díḡṅ / ù mḡṅ nḡṅ lá à pḡs ḡḡḡ páá / ḡṅ gàà tì tá, kà à  
pḡgḡ ḡṅ ṽḡúúḡ kúú / kúú dí tḡ káà kúú / ḡṅ tḡ à káà à kú à pḡgḡ / kà à pḡs sùḡḡḡ kà dàbḡḡ  
ḡṅ nà kúlí / ḡṅ jèl ká ù nà díé bḡḡáàṽḡḡ ṽḡḡ gàà ù síé ḡḡḡ / kà à pḡs dí à káà nà à dí ḡpḡḡ nì díḡ  
à ḡpḡḡ dí à káà bíṅ à dí ḡṅ ḡbááḡḡ pḡḡṅ / kàà káà ḡṅṅ bé léḡṅ bḡbḡḡ àṽḡ / dááḡ ná à pḡs nánṅ  
wà jè kúú kúlḡṅ, kàà káà ḡḡḡ bíé / ḡṅ dí kú à pḡgḡ / kúú dí à bíé ṅá káà ḡḡḡ nì kúú mḡṅ bḡḡ ù  
nánṅ táá nà kú ù lá lé / ká ṽḡúú tḡḡ vḡḡḡ kúú màḡá vḡḡḡ / ú dàṅ tḡḡ vḡḡḡ kúú píé!lé ḡḡḡḡḡ!á /  
kúú jèl lá kúú vḡṅ kúú bé máá!ḡṅ ḡṅṅ / kúú tá dí síṅṅ tḡḡṅ zàà mḡṅ ká à kúú, kúú wḡṅḡṅṅ  
ḡṅ ká ùḡṅ /

/ kàà pḡs dí à bíé gàà ní ù síé ḡḡḡ / à tì tàà à bíé, lé nàà pḡs nánṅ wḡḡḡḡ ná, lé ḡṅ ḡḡḡ / à kàà  
gàà bíé léḡ ḡṅ tì ḡḡḡḡḡḡ / kà dḡs kàṅá mḡṅ bí!bé, à mḡṅ táá pḡgbḡ bátà / ṽḡḡḡ nàṅ wà ḡḡḡ à  
bḡpḡs, ù vḡḡḡṅ nà zḡṅ, ḡṅ jèlḡ kúú bḡsḡḡḡ, kà à bíé mà bá sàḡ / ḡṅ nánṅ jèl kúú nà dí-ḡṅ kàà  
pḡs jèl kúú kúú bíé ná bá ḡḡḡ ḡḡḡḡḡ!á / ṽḡúúṅ nàṅ jèl kúú nà káá ú, kúú bánṅ ná lé ná ù nánṅ nà  
káá ú kú kúú bíé ná tá ḡḡḡḡḡ!á / lé lá kà à pḡs dí à bḡpḡs kúú / ḡṅ dí tì kúlí nì, à gàà tì jèlḡ  
kú ù pḡgbḡ ná zàà bátà / káà pḡgḡ bá màḡá vḡḡḡ ù bá ḡḡḡ kúláá ù bá sùḡḡḡ kḡṅ tḡḡḡḡ ù bá  
díḡḡ sḡḡḡḡ tḡḡḡḡ / ù bá píé!lé vḡḡḡ mḡṅ / ká ù bá bḡsḡḡ kú kúú dàṅ wà wààḡḡ kà bà dí bḡṅ  
tḡḡṅ zàà kúú kúú dí / tḡḡ kà ù táábá ná mánṅ ḡḡḡ; à ḡḡḡ à mánṅ gàà kúláá bḡbḡḡḡ zàá bánṅṅ ḡḡḡ  
jèlḡ lá jèlḡ zàá kà bà zàá sḡḡḡḡ tì ì /

/ ṽḡḡḡḡ kàà dḡs mḡṅ dí gàà zḡḡḡḡ / bḡbḡḡḡ àṽḡ dááḡḡ ù bá wà, bánṅ ḡḡ dḡḡḡḡ sáú kḡḡḡ / à ḡḡḡḡḡḡ sáú  
kḡḡḡḡ ká à pḡs ḡpḡḡḡ tì mḡṅ, kà à pḡs kḡḡḡḡ / bánṅ jèl ká zḡḡḡ ṅá sáú kúú ní nà mḡṅ / ḡṅ ḡḡḡḡḡḡ,

à kpè tá kàà sáú kōs̄ kpááà / òḡ bùùlì / òḡ òḡ kòḡ máá!ròḡ bùùlì òḡ gàà kóú tì t̄ḡùùì kà vūū  
vúúúú òḡ píííí jé!lé! / òḡ òḡ òḡ dógéé à t̄ḡùù.à kóókóó t̄ḡé zò kpè tì òḡ kùs̄ à mííí mííí ò òḡ kà  
à zíé lá kò/ lé òḡ òḡ òḡ dógéé lé lééḡ kà à kóókóó wà tì fáà, òḡ kpè à òḡbù zíé lé núú zù/ áḡ  
pāā tá kóú zìḡ à mííí zòḡ à mòḡ sáú/ báy zázàḡrì, kàḡá zàà bá kpè bé/ òḡ mīàà zòḡ à  
mòḡnāà sáú kàà vūū vúúú, òḡ òḡ kōs̄ míé lé lééḡ/ kàà vūū vúúúú ná tì gāàlì ò òḡḡḡ, òḡ zāá  
jéìì bìḡ dìòḡ à bìḡ à kòròdìòḡ/ lé lá kàà kàḡá dááná jè ká ká bá òḡ kpè tì jé bá pòs̄ ná mùs̄ bá  
náy jè ká pòs̄ ná kúú bá màá vūū ná ká ká bá kpè tì jé lé ná ò náy òḡ/ bá kpè táà kùú zāá  
jéìéé gáy t̄ḡé lèḡlìkèlè/ báy kpè tì bùòlì táá/ t̄ḡé báá m̄ḡ bé à dìòḡ bá náy m̄ḡ òḡ s̄ìmāá  
bà dáḡ bá òḡáá báá s̄ìmāá/ à pòs̄ náy m̄ḡ òḡ ḡmāà òḡáá báá/ t̄s̄ò báy jí tì bùòlì/ báá wóó  
báá wóó wá òḡ kúnúúú/ báá kúḡ òḡ kúnúúú/ jè náy m̄ḡ òḡ jè sáú jè dàḡ jèì ká báá wóó  
wá dí sáú/ jè náy m̄ḡ òḡ òḡ jè nénì jè jèì ká báá wóó wá òḡ nénì/ báá kúḡ òḡ kúnúúú báá  
wóó bá òḡ kúnúúú/ báy òḡ zèlìdāàrā kàá náá báá/ lè lá kàà à... à pòḡbò kàá à báá  
kàà báá òḡ jí tì zíé ná s̄ò. à s̄úé náy tì gāà ná/ báy kàá báá ḡá t̄ḡé t̄ḡé. à jéìlúḡ kàà báá  
m̄ḡ zòrò t̄ḡé m̄ḡ t̄ḡé. à zó lé lééḡ báá òḡ nínsààláá zòé bá òḡ bún jénì, òḡ zòḡàà tì pòḡàà  
dóó/ à gāà jèlāà dóó/ kàà dóó òḡ nùú wèbù lèè wààná dìó kà lè/ pòs̄ jé!léé/ òḡ wà lèè ò  
s̄ò à pòḡàà jìdèmé zāá pábù à fièbì bá zāá bìḡ/

## Translation

The shea butter baby

Listen to my story!

There lived a certain woman who married her husband. She was not able to bring forth children. So, the husband went for a second wife. The second wife could bear children, but the first wife still could not. Though the first wife could not bear children, she considered and treated the child of the second wife as her own. The second wife was however not happy about it and treated the first wife with discontent. So, one day, the first wife cried to her hometown (father's house).

There was a certain old woman in the father's house who liked the woman so much. Upon getting to her father's home, the old woman gave her shea nuts and asked her to extract shea butter for her. She extracted the shea butter for her (the old woman). After that, the old woman asked her when she would go home. She said she would go home in three days. The old woman then went and kept the shea butter in a large pot. The day the woman said she was returning to her husband, the shea butter transformed into a baby and the old woman gave the baby to her. She (the old woman) told her that she should take this child and go with it as the only thing she had for her. She told her to never allow the child to set fire or be exposed to the sun or eat hot food, because she can only survive in cool environments.

The woman returned to her husband with the child and handled her as advised by the old woman. She raised her into a beautiful young woman. There was a certain man who had three wives, but after seeing the young woman, he wanted to marry her because she was beautiful; the mother did not agree initially. The man insisted he would marry her, the mother declined because her daughter cannot be exposed to the sun. The man said he can cater for her and ensure she is never exposed to heat. The woman agreed and gave the daughter out in marriage. The man took her home and informed the other three wives never to allow her bath hot water or eat hot food. So, the other wives did all house chores until they got fed up.

Meanwhile, their husband had gone for war and had not returned after three days. The other three wives asked her to cook and she started crying. She went in to cook and the heat from the fire made her to start melting. She sprinkled cold water on her body and continued cooking. However, the heat was too unbearable that she eventually melted completely. The other wives entered the kitchen to find that she had completely melted. There was a dog in the house, but aside the new wife, the other three wives never fed the dog. The women went to call the dog to come and eat the oil; the dog refused saying, ‘Dog will not eat oil; dog does not eat oil.’ The women chased the dog with clubs; the dog ran toward the direction the husband travelled and eventually met the man and reported the incident. The man returned on his horse to find that what the dog reported was true. Out of anger he pulled out his sword and kill everyone in the house.

### Phonemic transcription with interlinear glossing

A list of abbreviations used in the glosses will be found at the end of this passage.

jé gò-ɪó gò-ɪó n sín-smlóú  
2PL be.ready-IPFV be.ready-IPFV 1SG RED-story

Lit.: you be getting ready for my story

‘Listen to my story!’

pógó kàṅá-ŋ bé !bé  
woman.SG INDF-FOC COP there

‘There lived a certain woman’

à kúlú-ù sí-é  
CNJ marry-3SG.POSS husband-SG

‘who married her husband.’

ù bá dḡg-ró  
3SG NEG give.birth-IPFV

‘She was not able to bring forth children.’

kà-à sí-é tì dí pḡḡ-bilé à wà pààlù-ù íṅé-ŋ  
CNJ-D husband-SG to take woman-small CNJ come add.SG body-FOC

‘The husband went for a second wife.’

kà-à pḡg-bilé jêŋ dḡg-ró t̃jé à pógó bà  
CNJ-D woman-small.SG DEM give.birth-IPFV CNJ D woman.SG NEG  
dḡg-ró

give.birth-IPFV

‘The second wife could bear children but the first wife couldn’t.’

pòg-kpèŋ            nàŋ        bá            dòg-ró            ná  
 woman-big.SG        because NEG        give.birth-IPFV        DEM

‘Though the senior wife could not bear children,’

ṽúù-ŋ            táà        à        pòò-bílé            bíé            ñá        ù        mìné  
 CNJ.3SG-FOC        have        D        woman-small.SG        child.SG        DEM        3SG        have  
 bíé  
 child.SG

‘she considered and treated the child of the second wife as her own.’

kà-à    pógó            máŋ    ʔi-íé    ná-à    pòg-kpèŋ            ɲúúí  
 CNJ-D    woman.SG        HAB    do-IPFV with-D woman.big.SG        jealousy

‘The second wife was not happy about it and treated the first wife with discontent.’

lè        lá        dááí    kàŋá    kà-à    póg-kpèŋ        kòŋ    gàà        ù            bà  
 then    AFF    day.SG INDF    CNJ-D    woman-big.SG cry        go        3SG.POSS        father  
 jíí  
 home.SG

‘So one day the first wife cried to her home town’ (father’s house).’

kà-à            dió            pòòŋáá!ŋáá    kàŋá    míŋ    bé        à        dió-ŋ  
 CNJ-D            house.SG        woman.old.SG INDF    also    COP    D        house. SG.FOC

‘And there was a certain old woman in the house.’

ù        míŋ    nóŋ    ná        à        pógó            jélé            páá  
 3SG    also    like    AFF    D        woman.SG        issue.SG        much

‘She liked the woman very much.’

ú-ŋ            gàà        tí        tá,        kà        à        pógó            òŋ        ṽúúónó  
 3SG-FOC        go        to        reach C        D        woman.SG        fetch    sheanut.PL  
 kú-ú  
 give-3SG

‘When she got there, the old woman fetched shea nuts and gave to her,’

kú-ú            dí        tò            káá            kù-ú  
 C-3SG        take    pound            oil.SG            give-3SG

‘and asked her to extract shea butter for her.’



kú-ú dí à bíé ḡá ká-à gè.ɪé ní  
 C-3SG take D child.SG DEM C-CNJ go.IPFV with  
 kú-ù míŋ bôŋ ù náŋ táà nà kú-ù lá lé  
 C-3SG also thing.SG 3SG REL have FUT give-3SG AFF DEM  
 ‘And told her that she should take this child and go with it as the only thing she has for her.’

ká t̪ú-ú tóó vénè kù-ú mà.ɪá vùú  
 C CNJ-3SG NEG allow.IPFV CNJ-3SG set.IPFV fire.SG  
 ‘She told the woman never to allow her (the child) set fire,’

ú ðàŋ tóð véné kù-ú píé!lé ḡmíná!á  
 3SG never NEG allow.IPFV CNJ-3SG get.close.IPFV sun.SG  
 ‘she should never expose her to the sun,’

kú-ù jèl lá kú-ú véŋ kù-ú bé máá!ɪóŋ jóŋ  
 C-3SG matter AFF C-3SG allow CNJ-3SG COP shade only  
 ‘and that she (the baby) should live only under cool conditions,’

kú-ú tá dí síŋ tólóŋ zàà míŋ ká à kú-ù  
 C-3SG NEG.IMP take food hot all also C CNJ give-3SG  
 ‘she (the woman) must not give her (the child) any hot food.’

kú-ù wòŋáà-ŋ ú-ŋ ká òóŋ  
 CNJ-3SG hear.3SG-FOC 3SG-FOC C yes  
 ‘And asks if she (the woman) has heard her (old woman), and she (the woman) says yes.’

kà-à póó dí à bíé gàà ní ù  
 CNJ-D woman.SG take D child.SG go with 3SG  
 síé jí.ɪ  
 husband.SG home.SG  
 ‘The woman returned to her husband’s home with the child’

à tì táà à bíé, lé ná-à pógó náŋ  
 CNJ to have D child.SG DEM DEM-D woman.SG REL  
 wùlúú ná, lé ú-ŋ ʔì-ɪé  
 show.3SG DEM DEM 3SG-FOC do-IPFV  
 ‘and handled the child the way the old woman advised,’

à kàà à bíé lééŋ ú-ŋ tì liè pòðsáàrà  
 CNJ raise D child.SG until 3SG-FOC to turn woman.young.SG

‘and raised the child into a young woman.’

kà dós kàŋá míŋ bé !bé, à míŋ táá póg-bó bátà  
 CNJ man.SG INDF also COP there CNJ also have woman-PL three

‘And there was a certain man who had three wives,’

ĩŋé nàŋ wà jé à bípós, ù vièlúŋ  
 but yet come see D child.woman.SG 3SG beauty  
 nà zúŋ, ú-ŋ jèlí kú-ù bósúúú,  
 DEM because SG-FOC say CNJ-3SG want.IPFV.3SG

kà à bíé mà bá sàù  
 C D child.SG mother.SG NEG agree

‘but when he saw the girl, because she was very beautiful, he wanted to marry her and the mother did not agree initially.’

ú-ŋ nán jèl kú-ù nà dí-úŋ kà-à  
 3SG-FOC still say C-3SG FUT take-3SG.FOC CNJ-D  
 pós jèl kù-ú kú-ù bíé ná bá jíè  
 woman.SG say give-3SG C-3SG.POSS child.SG DEM NEG go.out.IPFV

ŋmìná!á

sun.SG

‘He still insisted he would marry the young woman and the woman (the mother) said that her daughter cannot be exposed to the sun.’

ĩŋú-ú nàŋ jèl kú-ù nà káá ú, kú-ù  
 CNJ-3SG yet say.PFV C-3SG FUT look.after 3SG C-3SG  
 bán ná lé ná ù nán nà káá ú kú  
 know AFF how DEM 3SG REL FUT look.after 3SG C  
 kù-ù bíé ná tá jí ŋmìná!á  
 CNJ-3SG.POSS child.SG DEM NEG.IMP go.out sun.SG

‘He said he will look after her and that he knows how to look after her so that she does not get into sunshine.’

lé lá kà à pós dí à bipós kú-ù  
 DEM AFF CNJ D woman.SG take D child.woman.SG give.3SG

‘So the woman gave out the daughter in marriage.’

ú-ŋ dí tì kúlí nì, à gàà tì jèlí kù  
 3SG-FOC take to go.home with CNJ go to say give  
 ù pógbó ná zàá bátà  
 3SG.POSS woman.PL DEM all three

‘He took her home and told the three wives’

ká-à pógó bá mà-á vùú ù bá gè-ɛ́  
 C-D woman.SG NEG set-IPFV fire.SG 3SG NEG go-IPFV  
 kúláá ù bá sùò-ɔ́ kónj tó!lónj ù bá ò-ɛ́  
 water source 3SG NEG bath-IPFV water.SG hot 3SG NEG eat-IPFV  
 sìmáà tó!lónj  
 food.SG hot

‘that she (new wife) doesn’t set fire, she doesn’t fetch water, she doesn’t bath hot water and she doesn’t eat hot food.’

ù bá píé!l-é vùú míŋ  
 3SG NEG get.close-IPFV fire.SG also

‘She does not also get close to fire.’

ká ù bá búó-ɔ́ ká kú-ú dàn wà wáá-ná kà bà  
 C 3SG NEG want-IPFV C C-3SG ever come come-IPFV CNJ 3PL  
 dí búŋ tùlónj zàà kù kù-ú ò  
 take thing.SG hot all give C-3SG eat

‘He said he doesn’t want to ever come and find that they (the other wives) have given her something hot to eat.’

tòò kà ù táá-bá ná máŋ jí; à jí à  
 so CNJ 3SG colleague-PL DEM HAB go.out CNJ go.out D  
 máŋ gàà kùláá bèbíù zàá báná-ŋ ʔì-ɛ́  
 HAB go water source day.SG all 3PL.FOC do-IPFV  
 jélí lá jélí zàá kà bà zàá súú.í tì ò  
 activity.SG FOC activity.SG all CNJ 3PL all anger to rise

‘So her co-wives were always doing all house chores everyday and eventually they got fedup.’

ĩjé kà-à dós míj dí gàà zòdìí  
 CNJ CNJ-D man.SG also take go war

‘Meanwhile the man had gone for war.’

bèbiè átà dááíí ù bá wà, bá-ŋ ìì dóglì sáú  
 day.PL three period 3SG NEG come 3PL-FOC rise boil cornmeal.SG  
 kùóó  
 water.SG

‘After three days, he had not returned, and the other wives put water on fire.’

à ìì dóglì sáú kùóó ká à pós  
 CNJ rise boil cornmeal.SG water.SG C D woman.SG  
 kpè tí m̀̀̀, kà à pós kòn-ó  
 enter to stir CNJ D woman.SG cry-IPFV

‘They boiled the water and asked the woman (new wife) to go in and cook and she started crying.’

báŋ jèl ká zínè ñá sáú kú-ú ní nà m̀̀̀  
 3PL say C today DEM cornmeal.SG C-3SG DEM FUT stir

‘They told her she will cook today’s food.’

ó-ŋ ìì kpè, à kpè tá kà-à sáú kùóó  
 3SG-FOC rise enter CNJ enter reach CNJ-D cornmeal.SG water.SG  
 kpáárà  
 boil.IPFV

‘She entered (the kitchen) and the water was boiling.’

ó-ŋ bùùlì  
 3SG-FOC make.porridge

‘She prepared porridge.’

ó-ŋ òŋ kòŋ máá!rúŋ bùùlì dì gàà kú-ú  
 3SG-FOC fetch water.SG cold make.porridge take go C-3SG  
 tí ʃùù.ɪ kà vùú vúú!úú ó-ŋ píìlì jé!lé  
 to pour CNJ fire.SG scorch.PFV.3SG 3SG-FOC start melt.IPFV

‘She made porridge, went to pour it inside; the heat got to her and she started melting.’

ù-ŋ            dī    dógéé à    t̥ʃùù    à    kóókóó    t̥ʃé    zò    k̥pè  
 3SG-FOC    suffer pain    CNJ    pour    D    porridge    CNJ    run    enter  
 tì    òŋ    kũõ            à    míí    míí    ù    íjé    kà    à  
 to    fetch    water.SG    CNJ    sprinkle    sprinkle    3SG    body    CNJ    D à  
 zíé            là    kò  
 place.SG    REP    dry

‘She struggled to start the first step of the cooking and then ran to sprinkle cold water on herself to cool down and dry up the melted part.’

lé    ù-ŋ            dī    dógéé    lé    lééŋ    kà    à    kóókóó    wà    tì  
 DEM    3SG-FOC    suffer pain    DEM    until    CNJ    D    porridge    come to  
 fáɾ-à,            ú-ŋ            k̥pè    à    óm-bù    zíé            lé    nú-ù  
 boil-IPFV    3SG-FOC    enter    D    fetch-NMLZ    place.SG    DEM    with.3SG  
 zû  
 head.SG

‘This was how she suffered and when the porridge was boiling she entered to fetch and it was the same thing.’

á-ŋ            pãã    tá    kú-ú            zìŋ    à    míí            zòŋ  
 3SG-FOC    then    reach    C-3SG            sit    CNJ    sprinkle    flour  
 m̀òŋ    à    sáú  
 stir    D    cornmeal.SG

‘It was then time to sit and stir the food.’

bá-ŋ            záá    zàgrì, kàŋá    zàà    bá    k̥pè    bé  
 3PL-FOC    all    refuse INDF    all    NEG    enter    there

‘They (the other three wives) refused to get involved.’

ú-ŋ            mùàà                    zòŋ    à    m̀ònáà    sáú            kà-à  
 3SG-FOC    sprinkle.IPFV.D    flour    D    stir.IPFV.D    cornmeal.SG    CNJ-D  
 vũũ    vúú!ló,            ú-ŋ            ìràà    kũõ            míè            lé    lééŋ  
 fire    scorch.IPFV    3SG-FOC    do.IPFV.D    water.SG    sprinkle.IPFV    DEM    until

‘She sprinkled the flour and started stirring the food and the fire was scorching her and she was sprinkling cold water on her body.’

kà-à vùú vúú!lúú ná tì gààlì ù ìṅé-ṅ, ú-ṅ zàá  
 CNJ-D fire scotch.NMLZ DEM to over 3SG body-FOC 3SG-FOC all  
 jéìlì bìṅ dió-ṅ à bìṅ à kòòdió-ṅ  
 melt put house-FOC CNJ put D kitchen.SG-FOC

‘The heat from the fire became unbearable and she completely melted into a pool of oil inside the kitchen.’

lé lá kà-à kàṅá dááná jè ká kà bá ìlì k̀pè tì  
 then AFF CNJ-D INDF person say C CNJ 3PL rise enter to  
 jé bà ṕ́́ ná mùó bà nánṅ jèl ká ṕ́́ ná  
 see 3PL woman.SG DEM that 3PL REL say C woman-SG DEM  
 kù-ù bá màrá vùú ná ká ká bá k̀pè tì jè lè  
 C-3SG NEG set.IPFV fire DEM C C 3PL enter to see DEM  
 ná ù nánṅ ʔì-íé  
 DEM 3SG REL do-IPFV

‘So one them (the other wives) said they should go in to see what the woman is doing.’

bà k̀pè táà kù-ù zàá jéléé gán tìṅé lèglìkèlè  
 3PL enter reach.IPFV CNJ-D all melt.AFF lie floor.SG IDEO

‘They entered and saw that she had completely melted into a pool of oil.’

bá-ṅ k̀pè tì bùd̀lì táá.  
 3SG-FOC enter to call each other

‘They called each other.’

íṣé báá m̀ṅ bé à dió-ṅ bà nánṅ mánṅ di-íé  
 but dog.SG also COP D house.SG-FOC 3PL REL HAB eat-IPFV  
 sìimáá bà dánṅ bá ìṅáá báá sìimáá  
 food.SG 3PL never NEG give.D dog.SG food.SG

‘But there was a dog in the house and whenever they were eating, they never gave the dog food.’

à ṕ́́ nánṅ mánṅ di-íé ìṅmàà ìṅàà báá  
 D woman.SG REL HAB eat-IPFV cut give.D dog.SG

‘It was only that woman who always gave the dog food whenever she was eating.’

t́́́ bá-ṅ jí tì bùd̀lì  
 so 3PL-FOC go.out to call

‘So they went out to call;’

báá wóó báá wóó wá òì kúnúúnú  
 dog.SG IDEO dog.SG IDEO come eat oil  
 ‘they called the dog to come eat/drink the oil by singing.’

báá kúnj òì kúnúúnú  
 dog.SG NEG.FUT eat oil  
 ‘‘Dog will not eat oil,’’ the dog replied and sang back.’

jè nánj mánj òì-íé jè sáú jè òànj jèl ká  
 2PL REL HAB eat-IPFV 2PL cornmeal.SG 2PL ever say.PFV C  
 báá wóó wá òì sáú  
 dog.SG IDEO come eat cornmeal.SG

‘The dog refused and asked them: ‘‘Anytime you are eating food, have you ever invited me?’’

jè nánj mánj òò-íó jè néní jè jèl ká báá  
 2PL REL HAB chew-IPFV 2PL meat.SG 2PL say C dog.SG  
 wóó wá òì nén  
 IDEO come eat meat.SG

‘‘Any time you are eating meat, have you ever asked the dog to come and eat meat?’’

báá kúnj òì kúnúúnú báá wóó bà òì-íé kúnúúnú  
 dog.SG NEG.FUT eat oil dog.SG IDEO NEG eat-IPFV oil

‘The dog replied: ‘‘Dog will not eat oil; a dog does not eat oil.’’

bá-ŋ òì zèlì òà.íí à kà.íá ná-á báá  
 3PL-FOC rise lift stick.PL CNJ chase.IPFV with-D dog-SG

‘They got up, picked sticks and were chasing the dog.’

lè lá kàà à... à póó-bó kà.í-á à báá  
 DEM AFF CNJ.D D D woman-PL chase-IPFV D dog.SG

kà-à báá òì jí tù zíé nà sóù  
 CNJ-D dog.SG rise go.out follow place.SG DEM path.SG

à sí.íé nánj tù gàà ná  
 D husband.SG REL follow go DEM

‘The women chased the dog and the dog ran towards the direction their husband had travelled.’

bá-ŋ kà.íá báá ŋá t̄ʃé t̄ʃi.é à jíélúŋ  
 3PL-FOC chase.IPFV dog.SG DEM CNJ sing.IPFV D song.SG  
 kà-à báá míŋ zò.ó t̄ʃé míŋ t̄ʃi.é  
 CNJ-D dog.SG also run.IPFV CNJ also sing.IPFV

‘They chased the dog while singing and the dog ran and sang in refusal.’

à zó lé lééŋ, báá nì nínsààláá zòé bà ʔi  
 CNJ run DEM until dog.SG and human.SG run.NMLZ NEG COP  
 bún jéni, ù-ŋ zò gàà ti pógàà dósó  
 thing.SG one 3SG-FOC run go to meet.D man.SG

‘The dog ran and finally met the man (the women's husband)’

à gàà jèlàà dósó  
 CNJ go tell.D man.SG

‘and went and told the man.’

kà-à dósó ìi nú-ù wèbú liè wàà-ná  
 CNJ-D man.SG rise with-3SG horse.SG turn come-IPFV  
 dió kà lè.  
 house.SG CNJ DEM

‘The man returned with his horse to the house to find that what the dog said was true;’

pósó jélléé  
 woman.SG melt.FOC

‘the woman had melted.’

ú-ŋ wà liè ù sùs à jógàà  
 3SG-FOC come turn 3SG knife.SG CNJ catch.D  
 jídémé zàá pábú à fièbì bà záá biŋ  
 house.people all all CNJ lash NEG all put

‘Out of anger, he came and pulled out his sword and struck all of them down.’

#### ABBREVIATIONS

|      |                 |
|------|-----------------|
| 2, 3 | 2nd, 3rd person |
| AFF  | affirmative     |
| C    | complementizer  |
| CNJ  | conjunction     |
| COP  | copula          |

|      |                   |
|------|-------------------|
| D    | determiner        |
| DEM  | demonstrative     |
| FOC  | focus             |
| FUT  | future            |
| HAB  | habitual          |
| IDEO | ideophone         |
| IMP  | imperative        |
| INDF | indefinite        |
| IPFV | imperfective      |
| NEG  | negation          |
| NMLZ | nominalizer       |
| PFV  | perfective        |
| PL   | plural possessive |
| PST  | Past tense        |
| RED  | reduplication     |
| REL  | relative          |
| REP  | repetitive marker |
| SG   | singular          |

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## Supplementary materials

To view supplementary material for this article, (including audio files to accompany the language examples), please visit <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0025100320000225>.

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