

(S) Peace Only (1/3) [15 points]

Jamsay is a Dogon language spoken in Mali and Burkina Faso by around 130,000 people. Its name derives from a common greeting, *jâm sây*, meaning “peace only.”

Here are some sentences in Jamsay, along with their English translations.

1. **jèmèm dòṇúm sây úró bé kùⁿ ∴ fú: é:tóṵba**
Only thin blacksmiths see all the houses.
2. **mò:ká: kùⁿ sóṵótìṁ sábu gùgùⁿím ójù bàṇátóṵba**
I locked the door because thieves hide on the road.
3. **jèmèn kùⁿ sùrgôṁ ∴ fú: jè:rèjè sábu wó gùgùn námátìṁ**
The blacksmith has already criticized all weavers because I stepped on his melon.
4. **ànsà:ràn pèyⁿín kùⁿ gùgùn gôn bé ∴ fú: ñé:tóṵ**
The old European eats all crooked melons.
5. **wó ùrò kàná sóṵórójèw là:**
You have already unlocked his new house, haven't you?
6. **ójú kùⁿ námárⁿátìṁ sábu ijù téré é:tìṁ**
I took my foot off the road because I saw a fast dog.
7. **nìniwⁿé ùrò pèyⁿ nánárⁿátóṵ**
A cat remembers an old house.
8. **ijú bé ∴ nìniwⁿè tēyⁿ bé ∴ sây ànà dìgétóṵw**
You follow only dogs and small cats in the village.
9. **àná kùⁿ jè:rétìw sábu ànsá:rám ∴ sùrgôṁ ∴ ijú bé kùⁿ sánátìba là:**
You criticized the village because Europeans and weavers fenced in the dogs, didn't you?
10. **gùgùⁿín gónìn kùⁿ úró kùⁿ sánárⁿájè là:**
The crooked thief has already taken down the fence around the house, hasn't he?
11. **sùrgòn téréṇ èmé úró páyátóṵ**
A fast weaver ties sorghum in the house.
12. **mǎngòlò bé kùⁿ ñé:jèm**
I have already eaten the mangoes.

Note that the diacritics ´, ` , ˇ , ^ represent high, low, rising, and falling tones respectively. The symbol ∴ after a word means that the word is pronounced with “dying-quail intonation,” an exaggerated prolongation of the tone accompanied by an exaggerated drop in pitch.¹ The symbol : after a vowel signifies length, and ⁿ signifies nasalization of the previous sound.

¹ Jeffrey Heath, who studied Jamsay, writes: “The dying-quail intonation contour reminds me of the prosodic pattern of American high-school cheerleaders calling out the letters of their school at sporting events, through their bullhorns (“give me an A...., give me a B...”).”



(S) Peace Only (2/3)

S1. Translate the following Jamsay sentences into English:

a. wó nìwⁿè kàná bé nánájèm

b. sùrgôn kùⁿ:. ànsá:rán kùⁿ:. mànḡòlò dḡḡ bé é:tì sábu bànátìw

c. ḡùḡyⁿím kùⁿ ijù ḡôn úrò jè:rétóḡò là:

S2. Translate the following English sentences into Jamsay:

a. A small blacksmith forgot his sorghum and his cat.

b. Peace follows the old dog, doesn't it?

c. You have already untied all the melons because you ate the mango.



(S) Peace Only (3/3)

S3. Describe your observations about Jamsay grammar:

