

(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 sãy*, meaning “peace only.”

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

1. **jèmèm dòñum sãy úró bé kùⁿ:: fú: é:tóyòba**
Only thin blacksmiths see all the houses.
2. **mò:ká: kùⁿ sóyótìm sábù gùgùyⁿím ójù bàñátóyòba**
I locked the door because thieves hide on the road.
3. **jémèn kùⁿ sùrgòm:: fú: jè:réjè sábù wó gùgûn námáti**
The blacksmith has already criticized all weavers because I stepped on his melon.
4. **ànsà:ràn pèyⁿín kùⁿ gùgûn gôñ bé:: fú: ñé:tóyò**
The old European eats all crooked melons.
5. **wó ùrò kàna sónyárjèw là:**
You have already unlocked his new house, haven't you?
6. **ójú kùⁿ námárⁿátìm sábù ìjù téré é:tì**
I took my foot off the road because I saw a fast dog.
7. **nìnìwⁿé ùrò pèyⁿ nánjárⁿátóyò**
A cat remembers an old house.
8. **ìjú bë:: nìnìwⁿè tèyⁿ bë:: sãy ànà dìgétóyòw**
You follow only dogs and small cats in the village.
9. **àná kùⁿ jè:rétìw sábù ànsá:rám:: sùrgòm:: ìjú bë kùⁿ sáñátìba là:**
You criticized the village because Europeans and weavers fenced in the dogs, didn't you?
10. **gùgùyⁿín gónin kùⁿ úró kùⁿ sáñárⁿájè là:**
The crooked thief has already taken down the fence around the house, hasn't he?
11. **sùrgòn téréñ èmé úrò páyátóyò**
A fast weaver ties sorghum in the house.
12. **măñgòlò bë kùⁿ ñé:jèm**
I have already eaten the mangoes.

Note that the diacritics ' , ` , ^ 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 nìnìwⁿè kàná bé náñájèm

b. sùrgôñ kùⁿ:: ànsá:rán kùⁿ:: màngòlò dõñ bé é:tì sábù bàñátìw

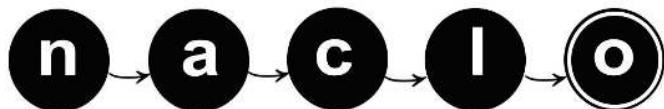
c. gùgùyⁿím kùⁿ ijù gôn úrò jè:rétóyò là:

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:

