

# The Northwind and the Sun: An Ayeri Translation, Revisited

## 1 A Few Introductory Remarks

The Aesopian fable, “The North Wind and the Sun,” was one of the first texts – if not *the* first text – I translated into Ayeri, back in 2004. Ayeri was still very young then and looked a little different from today. Just compare a sentence from the old translation (i) to its current reinterpretation (ii):

- (i) “Viarilea ang macubriyan Temihin nusatyō nay Perinin, sang luga samnoea ang engongiyānin numicyo, nay edauiyēa loasanoin ang masahaiyē sasanoea, sang manaiconisaiyē cong metovaea eimato.” (Becker 2004: 1)

*Viaril -ea ang ma-cubra -iy<a>n Temihin nu-satyō nay Perin-in, sang*  
sometime-LOC AT PST-quarrel-3PL<1> north.wind A- cold and sun -TOP, REL.A  
*luga sam-no -ea ang eng -ong-iy<a>n-in nu-micyo, nay edauiyē -ea*  
among two-NMLZ-LOC AT be.more-IRR-3PL<1>-TOP A- strong, and this.time-LOC  
*lo- asano -in ang ma-saha -iy<e> sasano-ea, sang ma-naiconisa -iy<e>*  
INDF.A-traveler-TOP AT PST-come-3SG<2> way -LOC, REL.A PST-be.wrapped-3SG<2>  
*cong me- tova -ea ei- mato.*  
inside INDF.P-cloak-LOC OBL-warm.

‘Once upon a time the cold North Wind and the Sun quarreled, who among the two would be stronger, and at this time a traveler came on the way, who was wrapped into a warm cloak.’

- (ii) Ang manga ranyon aduayi Pintemis nay Perin, engyo mico sinyāng ton, lingya si lugaya asāyāng si sitang-naykonyāng kong tova ya mato.

*Ang manga ran -yon aduayi Ø Pintemis nay Ø Perin, eng -yo mico*  
AT PROG argue-3PL.N then TOP North Wind and TOP Sun, be.more-3SG.N strong  
*sinya-ang ton, ling -ya si luga-ya asāya -ang si sitang=naykon-yāng*  
who -A 3PL.GEN, while-LOC REL pass-3SG.M traveler-A REL self= wrap -3SG.M.A  
*kong tova -ya mato.*  
inside cloak-LOC warm.

‘The North Wind and the Sun were then arguing which of them is stronger, all the while a traveler passed by who had wrapped himself in a warm cloak.’

The updated version of the Ayeri text which I am presenting here has been translated completely from scratch. Whereas I used a rendering of the text in German as the basis of my 2004 version, I am

now using the English translation as provided by the *Handbook of the International Phonetic Association*, which has some notoriety as a parallel text in the linguistics community (see e.g. Cysouw and Wälchli 2007: 97). As in previous write-ups on translating texts into Ayeri, I will progress through the text sentence by sentence. The translated sentences will be broken down by interlinear annotation, and I will comment on passages in terms of structural or lexical details that caught my attention while translating them.

## 2 The Text in English

The North Wind and the Sun were disputing which was the stronger, when a traveler came along wrapped in a warm cloak. They agreed that the one who first succeeded in making the traveler take his cloak off should be considered stronger than the other. Then the North Wind blew as hard as he could, but the more he blew the more closely did the traveler fold his cloak around him; and at last the North Wind gave up the attempt. Then the Sun shined out warmly, and immediately the traveler took off his cloak. And so the North Wind was obliged to confess that the Sun was the stronger of the two. (International Phonetic Association 2007: ???)

## 3 (Re-)Attempting an Ayeri Translation

We have already seen the newly translated version of the first sentence of the text above, but I will repeat it here again:

- (1) Ang manga ranyon aduayi Pintemis nay Perin, engyo mico sinyāng ton, lingya si lugaya asāyāng si sitang-naykonyāng kong toveya mato.

*Ang manga ran -yon aduayi Ø Pintemis nay Ø Perin, eng -yo mico*  
 AT PROG argue-3PL.N then TOP North Wind and TOP Sun, be.more-3SG.N strong  
*sinya-ang ton, ling -ya si luga-ya asāya -ang si sitang=naykon-yāng*  
 who -A 3PL.GEN, while-LOC REL pass-3SG.M traveler-A REL self= wrap -3SG.M.A  
*kong tova -ya mato.*  
 inside cloak-LOC warm.

‘The North Wind and the Sun were then arguing which of them is stronger, all the while a traveler passed by who had wrapped himself in a warm cloak.’

The 2004 version here uses a verb in the first clause,  $\text{ᑭᑭᑭᑭ}$ : *kubra* ‘quarrel’, which I rendered as  $\text{ᑭᑭᑭᑭ}$ : *ran* ‘argue’ here. It may be noted that  $\text{ᑭᑭᑭᑭ}$ : *kubra* still exists, however the dictionary gives it as ‘get into a conflict’ these days without further explanation. As in my translation of the medieval deed (Becker 2015: 9), I rendered the “while” clause not just with the plain preposition  $\text{ᑭᑭᑭᑭ}$  *ling* ‘on (top of), while’ used as a temporal adverb, but as a noun phrase proper with the complement clause

rendered as a relative clause, so literally this *ṛṣṭṛṣṭ* *lingya si* means ‘on top of which’, though in context it might be better translated as ‘all the while (that)’.

- (2) “They agreed that the one who first succeeded in making the traveler take his cloak off should be considered stronger than the other.”

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- (3) “Then the North Wind blew as hard as he could, but the more he blew the more closely did the traveler fold his cloak around him; and at last the North Wind gave up the attempt.”

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- (4) “Then the Sun shined out warmly, and immediately the traveler took off his cloak.”

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- (5) “And so the North Wind was obliged to confess that the Sun was the stronger of the two.”

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## Abbreviations

3	Third person	LOC	Locative	PL	Plural
A	Agent	M	Masculine	PROG	Progressive
AT	Agent topic	N	Neuter	PST	Past
GEN	Genitive	NMLZ	Nominalizer	REL	Relative
INDF	Indefinite	OBL	Oblique	SG	Singular
IRR	Irrealis	P	Patient	TOP	Topic

## References

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