Hieber, Daniel W. 2016. How to become a Kisii folktale: Generic features of moralizing narratives among the Gusii people of Kenya. Talk presented at the Language, Interaction, & Social Organization Symposium (LISO) special session on Interaction & Culture Across Languages: Perspectives from Field Linguistics, April 8, 2016, University of California, Santa Barbara.

How to become a Kisii folktale

Daniel W. Hieber

University of California, Santa Barbara

Example 1: Okang'ombe, Ogansona, n'Okanda 'Cow, Flea, & Jigger' (Kennedy Bosire)

mogano ngóóchá índe May I, Story, come?

kare Long ago,

kare kare kare long, long, long ago,

Śkang'ɔmbέ Cow, no: ánd ógansoná Flea

n'ókandá and Jigger

bikagenda óboko set out to their in-laws.

Example 2: Omoiseke osookerete chiseese 'A girl who got married to dogs' (Helen Makana)

mogano ngóóchá índe May I, Story, come?

mogano ínchúó Story, come.

ómoíséké A girl n'áaréngé was there

ósokérété chíséesé who was married to dogs.

ómoíséké óyo This girl,

ékerő asookérá chíséesé when she got married to dogs,

táatágete ábaíbórí báye bagenda óroro she didn't want her parents to go there.

Example 3: Okando n'Okanyang'au 'Lion & Hyena' (Helen Makana)

mogano ngóóchá índe mogano ínchúó

éndo y'áarεngέ

n'ényang'aaú There was a lion

éndo éye ígo yáare kógɛnda y'áásíméká and a hyena.

chínchúgú This lion used to go and plant, ground nuts.

May I, Story, come?

Example 4: Abaana batano banyorete chinkenene 'Five girls go picking mulberries' (Helen Makana)

Story, come.

mogano ngóóchá índe May I, Story, come?

mogano ínchúó Story, come.

ábááná báaréngé bátánɔ There were five children.

ábááná ába bátána These five children,

bakagenda gotwá chínkenene they went to pick mulberries.

έkετό bááchíá gótwá chínkεnεnε When they went to pick mulberries,

bagaíká igá ariá áasé chínkenene they reached there where the

mulberries were,

bakamányá kónyóórá chínkenene chiriá they found that the mulberries were not

échíré chímbese rip

bagachááká íngóténya báarenge They started fetching firewood.

bagatényá