**The hunter’s parrot**

told by [Deben Chowlik](https://latrobeuni-my.sharepoint.com/personal/smorey_ltu_edu_au/Documents/Assam/Tai%20Languages/Khamyang/biographies/Deben.doc)

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| Text number | SDM03-20020302-006 |
| Name | The Hunter’s Parrot |
| Informant | Chaw Deben Chowlik |
| Place | Pawaimukh Village, Margherita, Tinsukia District, Assam |
| Author | Chaw Deben learned this story from a book |
| Date of recording | 9/3/2002 |
| Translation | This was translated by Stephen Morey in May 2002, based on an analysis of the text done with the assistance of Deben Chowlik, March 2002. |
| Publication details | - |
| Recording details | 2002.3.2 (6) |
| Recording length | 1’37” |
| Wave file | 3-1-2-3.mp3 |
| Name of this document | 3-1-2-3.doc |
| Format of document | Word Document |
| Special fonts used | banchob.ttf, phake.ttf, shan.ttf, |

TEXT

mJwqnnqcWfaekalJgqNgqbj / cWfaligqlukqtYitq / bnqlJgqxanWtIhJnq mukqsJwqAnqligqlukqtYitq / bnqlJgqcWfakaelmJgqka / kaeAhJnqmukq sJwqkavJgqAa / hJnqmukqsJwqkavJgqeA / nukqmukqsJwqlukqtYitqmukqsJwq hgqcWfalaknq / hgqnjsiwqAatupqAamgq AawaehaAalukqtYitqAnqba / mJwqnnqcWfaxEcEAa / tIhJnqkWNgqlukqtYitqmJnqnjtnqxoMfnqnj / mEcW mamangqna / Aamakinqna / lJkqvamabaeAvM / lukqmukqsJwqenkWmaeA / hgqkWxanWtupqAaehaAa / baeAenabaeAa / luNqkunqlIluNqeAxoMlI supqlIsonq / luNqkunqmanIluNqeyAnqmanIAnqtupqAnqmgqAnqlnq knqljsonq / lJwqpJwqnnqfEeAaygqligqlukqligqlgqeAaxoMlIsupqlI sgqbasonqeAa / yWAa /

TRANSLATION

Once upon a time there was a king. The king was raising a parrot. Furthermore, there was a hunter, who was also raising a parrot.

One day the king went roaming. He went and reached the house of the hunter. The hunter’s parrot scolded the king.

The King said: ‘Catch and kill and get rid of this parrot’.

Then the king thought: ‘Do I have a parrot at my house that speaks like this?’ And he said to the parrot, ‘Come and sit here! Ah, come and eat!’ he said.

Then he asked, ‘Where do you come from?’

‘I am the hunter’s bird. I have come. You ordered me to be caught and killed’

So we say like this:

Good people learn good words and good speech. As for bad people, they will get caught and hit and will learn cursing and scolding only. Therefore, whoever raises children should teach them good language.

It is finished.

ANALYSIS:

Link to [Audio file for this text](https://latrobeuni-my.sharepoint.com/personal/smorey_ltu_edu_au/Documents/Assam/Tai%20Languages/Khamyang/wave%20files/khamyang/texts/3-1-2-3.mp3)

The speech of Deben Chowlik differs significantly from other Tai speakers recorded in Assam. He frequently combines two morphemes into one, as can be seen in example (1) below. Because of this, and the presence of some morphemes of unknown meaning, the following system of transcription of this story has been adopted:

phonetic transcription mɤn⁴ ... cau³ phaa⁴ kɔŋ⁴ ñaŋ⁵ bai⁴

gloss at that time ... king clf.one have keep

Script mJwqnnq ... cWfa ekalJgq Ngq bj /

phonemic mɤ⁵ nan⁴ ... cau³ phaa⁴ kɔ⁴ lɯŋ⁵ ñaŋ⁵ bai⁴

gloss of phonemic time-that ... king clf-one have keep

translation ‘At that time there was a king.’

1) mɤn⁴ ... cau³ phaa⁴ kɔŋ⁴ ñaŋ⁵ bai⁴

at that time\* ... king clf.one\* have keep

mJwqnnq ... cWfa ekalJgq Ngq bj /

mɤ⁵ nan⁴ ... cau³ phaa⁴ kɔ⁴ lɯŋ⁵ ñaŋ⁵ bai⁴

time-that ... king clf-one have keep\*\*

‘At that time there was a king.’

Notes: \* Both of these words are combinations of two morphemes, and in each case the 4th tone (high falling glottalised) subsumes the low falling 5th tone and becomes the tone of the whole utterance.

\*\* *bai⁴* is expressing past time.

2) mɯn² uu¹ ɛ¹

3sg stay prt ...

mJnq AU eA ...

mɯn² uu¹ ɛ¹ ...

3sg stay prt

‘He lived at ...

3) cau³ phaa⁴ leŋ⁴ lok⁴ tɛt¹

king\* feed parrot

cWfa ligq lukqtYitq /

cau³ phaa⁴ leŋ⁴ lok⁴ tɛt¹

king feed parrot

‘The king was raising a parrot.’

\* final [-ŋ]

4) ban² ... kha¹ naau¹ tɤ⁵ hɤn² muk⁴ sɤ²

day.one ... again at house hunter

bnqlJgq ... xanW tI hJnq mukqsJwq

ban² lɯŋ⁵ ... kha¹ naau¹ tii⁵ hɤn² muk⁴ sɤ²

day-one ... again at house hunter

muk⁴ sɤ² an⁵ leŋ⁴ lo.. ... lok⁴ tɛt¹

hunter clf feed parr.. ... parrot

mukqsJwq Anq ligq ... lukqtYitq /

muk⁴ sɤ² an⁵ leŋ⁴ ... lok⁴ tɛt¹

hunter clf feed ... parrot

‘One day, at the house of a hunter, a hunter who was also raising a parrot, ‘

5) ban² cau³ phaa⁴ kaa¹ lɛ¹ mɤŋ² kaaŋ¹

day.one king go roam country go-?

bnqlJgq cWfa ka el mJgq ka /

ban² lɤŋ⁵ cau³ phaa⁴ kaa¹ lɛ¹ mɤŋ² kaa¹

day-one\* king go roam country go

‘One day the king went roaming.’

Notes: \* Deben Chowlik stated that “the meaning was the same whether we say ban² or ban² lɯŋ⁵.” Probably his pronunciation of [ban²] in (5) is a

6) kaa¹ ɛ¹ hɤn² muk⁴ sɤ² kaa¹ thɯŋ⁶ aa¹

go prt house hunter go reach prt.go

ka eA hJnq mukqsJwq ka vJgq Aa /

kaa¹ ɛ¹ hɤn² muk⁴ sɤ² kaa¹ thɯŋ⁶ aa¹

go prt house hunter go reach prt.go\*

‘He went and reached the house of the hunter.’

Notes: \* This particle marks past time, exactly as *kā¹* ‘go’ in postverbal position in Phake. It is probably derived from *kā¹*, and is therefore marked as prt.go.

7) hɤn² muk⁴ sɤ² kaa¹ thɯŋ⁶ ɛ¹

house hunter go reach prt

hJnq mukqsJwq ka vJgq eA /

hɤn² muk⁴ sɤ² kaa¹ thɯŋ⁶ ɛ¹

house hunter go reach prt

‘He reached the house of the hunter

8) nok⁴ muk⁴ sɤŋ² lok⁴ tɛt¹ muk⁴ sɤŋ² haŋ² cau³ phaaŋ⁴

bird hunter-? parrot hunter-? to king-?

nukq mukqsJwq lukqtYitq mukqsJwq hgq cWfa

nok⁴ muk⁴ sɤ² lok⁴ tɛt¹ muk⁴ sɤ² haŋ² cau³ phaa⁴

bird hunter parrot hunter to king

0’38”

lan¹

scold

laknq /

laa¹ kin⁵

scold-recip

‘The hunter’s parrot scolded the king.’

9) Aa

aa¹

hesit

10) haŋ² nai³ sɛu³ aa¹ top¹ aa¹ maŋ⁵ aa¹

to this catch prt.go kill prt.go hit prt.go

hgq nj siwq Aa tupq Aa mgq Aa

haŋ² nai³ sɛu³ aa¹ top¹ aa¹ maŋ⁵ aa¹

to this catch prt.go kill prt.go hit prt.go

waaŋ⁵ hɔ² aa¹ lok⁴ tɛt¹ an⁵ baaŋ⁵

say-? get out prt.go parrot clf say-?

wa eha Aa lukqtYitq Anq ba /

waa⁵ hɔ² aa¹ lok⁴ tɛt¹ an⁵ baa⁵

say get out prt.go parrot clf say

‘(The King) said “Catch and kill and get rid of this parrot”.’

11) mɤ⁵ nan⁴ cau³ phaa⁴ khaaɯ ³ caɯ⁵ aa¹

time that king think prt.go

mJwq nnq cWfa xEcE Aa /

mɤ⁵ nan⁴ cau³ phaa⁴ khaɯ³ caɯ⁵ aa¹

time that king think prt.go

‘Then the king thought:’

12) tI hJnq kW Ngq

tii⁵ hɤn² kau⁵ ñaŋ⁶(²)

at house 1sg\* have

lukqtYitq mJnq nj tnq xoM fnq nj /

lok⁴ tɛt¹ mɤn² nai³ taan³ khaam² phan² nai³

parrot 3sg this speak word type this

‘“Do I have a parrot at my house that speaks like this”?’

0’56”

13) maɯ² cau³ maaŋ² maa² naŋ⁵ naa⁴

2sg resp come-? come sit prt-hort

mE cW ma ma ngq na /

maɯ² cau³ maa² maa² naŋ⁵ naa⁴

2sg resp come come sit prt-hort

‘(The Kings said to the parrot), “Come and sit here!”.’

14) aa¹ maa² kin⁵ (n)aa⁴

excl come eat prt-hort

Aa ma kinq na /

aa¹ maa² kin⁵ naa⁴

excl come eat prt-hort

‘“Ah, come and eat”!, he said.’

15) lɯk⁴ thaa⁶ maaŋ² baa⁵ ɛ¹ thaam⁶

from where come-? say prt ask

lJkq va ma ba eA vM /

lɯk⁴ thaa⁶ maa² baa⁵ ɛ¹ thaam⁶

from where come say prt ask

‘“Where do you come from”?, (the King) asked.’

16) lok⁴ muk⁴ sɤ² nɛ⁴ kau² maa² ɛ¹

bird hunter def 1sg come prt

lukq mukqsJwq en kW ma eA /

lok⁴ muk⁴ sɤ² nɛ⁴ kau² maa² ɛ¹

bird hunter def 1sg come prt

‘“I am the hunter’s bird, I have come.”‘

17) haŋ² kau⁵ kha¹ naau¹ top¹ aa¹ hɔ² aa¹ ...

to 1sg again\* hit prt.go get out prt.go ...

hgq kW xanW tupq Aa eha Aa ...

haŋ² kau⁵ kha¹ naau¹ top¹ aa¹ hɔ² aa¹ ...

to 1sg again\* hit prt.go get out prt.go ...

‘“(You ordered) me to be caught and killed” ...’

Notes: When translating this into English, Deben Chowlik stated that this meant that “the bird is saying to the King that the king should be caught.”

18) waa⁵ ɛ¹ nɔ¹ waaŋ⁵ ... ɔ²

say prt prt say-? ... excl

ba eA ena ba ... eAa

baa⁵ ɛ¹ nɔ¹ baa⁵ ... ɔ²

say prt prt say ... excl

‘So we say like this.’

19) lo³ kon⁵ lii⁵ loi³ ɛ¹ khaam² lii⁵ sop¹ lii⁵ sɔn⁶

with person good with prt word good mouth good teach

luNq kunq lI luNq eA xoM lI supq lI sonq /

loi³ kon⁵ lii⁵ loi³ ɛ¹ khaam² lii⁵ sop¹ lii⁵ sɔn⁶

with person good with prt word good mouth good teach

‘Good people learn good words and good speech.’

20) lo³ kon⁵ ma¹ nii² loi³ yɛ⁴

with person neg good with prt

luNq kunq ma nI luNq ey

lo³ kon⁵ ma¹ nii² loi³ yɛ⁴

with person neg good with prt

an⁵ ma¹ nii² an⁵ top¹ an⁵ maŋ⁵

clf neg good clf hit clf hit

Anq ma nI Anq tupq Anq mgq

an⁵ ma¹ nii² an⁵ top¹ an⁵ maŋ⁵

clf neg good clf hit clf hit

an⁵ laan¹ laai⁵ ... sɔn⁶

clf scold.recip only ... teach

Anq lnqknq lj ... sonq

an⁵ laa¹ kan⁴ laai⁵ ... sɔn⁶

clf scold-recip only ... teach

‘As for bad people, they will get caught and hit and will learn cursing and scolding only.’

21) lɤ⁴ pɤ⁵ nan⁴ phaaɯ ⁶ ɔ¹ yaa⁵

therefore who link be

lJwqpJwqnnq fE eAa ygq

lɤ⁴ pɤ⁵ nan⁴ phaɯ⁶ ɔ¹ yaŋ⁵

therefore who link be

leŋ⁴ li.. luk⁴ ... leŋ⁴ luk⁴ leŋ⁴ laaŋ¹ ɔ²

feed .. child ... feed child feed euph prt

ligq .. lukq ... ligq lukq ligq lgq eAa

leŋ⁴ .. luk⁴ ... leŋ⁴ luk⁴ leŋ⁴ laaŋ¹ ɔ²

feed .. child ... feed child feed euph prt

khaam² lii⁵ sop¹ lii⁵ saŋ⁶ baa⁵ sɔn⁶ ɔ¹

word good mouth good if say teach prt

xoM lI supq lI sgq ba sonq eAa /

khaam² lii⁵ sop¹ lii⁵ saŋ⁶ baa⁵ sɔn⁶ ɔ¹

word good mouth good if say teach prt

‘Therefore, whoever raises children should teach them good language.’

22) yau⁴ aa¹

finished prt.go

yW Aa

yau⁴ aa¹

finished prt.go

‘It is finished.’