**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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| Place | Pawaimukh Village, Margherita, Tinsukia District, Assam |
| Author | Chaw Deben learned this story from a book |
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TEXT

မ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀ꩫ︀်ꩡ︀ွ်ၸ︀ႃက︀ေ︀ႃလ︀ိုင︀်ၺင︀်ပ︀ႝ ။ ꩡ︀ွ်ၸ︀ႃလ︀ိင︀်လ︀ုက︀်တ︀ျိတ︀် ။ ပ︀ꩫ︀်လ︀ိုင︀်ၵ︀ႃꩫ︀ွ်တ︀ီꩭိုꩫ︀် မ︀ုက︀်ꩬ︀ိုဝ︀်ဢ︀ꩫ︀်လ︀ိင︀်လ︀ုက︀်တ︀ျိတ︀် ။ ပ︀ꩫ︀်လ︀ိုင︀်ꩡ︀ွ်ၸ︀ႃက︀ႃလ︀မ︀ေ︀ိုင︀်က︀ႃ ။ က︀ႃဢ︀ꩭေ︀ိုꩫ︀်မ︀ုက︀် ꩬ︀ိုဝ︀်က︀ႃထ︀ိုင︀်ဢ︀ႃ ။ ꩭိုꩫ︀်မ︀ုက︀်ꩬ︀ိုဝ︀်က︀ႃထ︀ိုင︀်ဢ︀ေ︀ ။ ꩫ︀ုက︀်မ︀ုက︀်ꩬ︀ိုဝ︀်လ︀ုက︀်တ︀ျိတ︀်မ︀ုက︀်ꩬ︀ိုဝ︀် ꩭင︀်ꩡ︀ွ်ၸ︀ႃလ︀ႃက︀ꩫ︀် ။ ꩭင︀်ꩫ︀ႝꩬ︀ိဝ︀်ဢ︀ႃတ︀ုပ︀်ဢ︀ႃမ︀င︀် ဢ︀ႃဝ︀ႃꩭေ︀ႃဢ︀ႃလ︀ုက︀်တ︀ျိတ︀်ဢ︀ꩫ︀်ပ︀ႃ ။ မ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀ꩫ︀်ꩡ︀ွ်ၸ︀ႃၵ︀ၞ်ꩡ︀ၞ်ဢ︀ႃ ။ တ︀ီꩭိုꩫ︀်က︀ွ်ၺင︀်လ︀ုက︀်တ︀ျိတ︀်မ︀ိုꩫ︀်ꩫ︀ႝတ︀ꩫ︀်ၵ︀ွံၸ︀ꩫ︀်ꩫ︀ႝ ။ မ︀ၞ်ꩡ︀ွ် မ︀ႃမ︀ႃꩫ︀င︀်ꩫ︀ႃ ။ ဢ︀ႃမ︀ႃက︀ိꩫ︀်ꩫ︀ႃ ။ လ︀ိုက︀်ထ︀ႃမ︀ႃပ︀ႃဢ︀ထ︀ေ︀ံ ။ လ︀ုက︀်မ︀ုက︀်ꩬ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀က︀ေ︀ွ်မ︀ႃဢ︀ေ︀ ။ ꩭင︀်က︀ွ်ၵ︀ႃꩫ︀ွ်တ︀ုပ︀်ဢ︀ႃꩭေ︀ႃဢ︀ႃ ။ ပ︀ႃဢ︀ꩫ︀ေ︀ေ︀ႃပ︀ႃဢ︀ေ︀ႃ ။ လ︀ုၺ်က︀ုꩫ︀်လ︀ီလ︀ုၺ်ဢ︀ၵ︀ေ︀ွံလ︀ီ ꩬ︀ုပ︀်လ︀ီꩬ︀ွꩫ︀် ။ လ︀ုၺ်က︀ုꩫ︀်မ︀ႃꩫ︀ီလ︀ုၺ်ယ︀ဢ︀ေ︀ꩫ︀်မ︀ႃꩫ︀ီဢ︀ꩫ︀်တ︀ုပ︀်ဢ︀ꩫ︀်မ︀င︀်ဢ︀ꩫ︀်လ︀ꩫ︀် က︀ꩫ︀်လ︀ႝꩬ︀ွꩫ︀် ။ လ︀ိုဝ︀်ပ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀ꩫ︀်ၸ︀ၞ်ဢ︀ေ︀ႃယ︀င︀်လ︀ိင︀်လ︀ုက︀်လ︀ိင︀်လ︀င︀်ဢ︀ေ︀ႃၵ︀ွံလ︀ီꩬ︀ုပ︀်လ︀ီ ꩬ︀င︀်ပ︀ႃꩬ︀ွꩫ︀်ဢ︀ေ︀ႃ ။ ယ︀ွ်ဢ︀ႃ ။

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 မ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀ꩫ︀် … ꩡ︀ွ်ၸ︀ႃ က︀ေ︀ႃလ︀ိုင︀် ၺင︀် ပ︀ႝ ။

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

မ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀ꩫ︀် … ꩡ︀ွ်ၸ︀ႃ က︀ေ︀ႃလ︀ိုင︀် ၺင︀် ပ︀ႝ ။

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 ...

မ︀ိုꩫ︀် ဢ︀ူ ဢ︀ေ︀ …

mɯn² uu¹ ɛ¹ ...

3sg stay prt

‘He lived at ...

3) cau³ phaa⁴ leŋ⁴ lok⁴ tɛt¹

king\* feed parrot

ꩡ︀ွ်ၸ︀ႃ လ︀ိင︀် လ︀ုက︀်တ︀ျိတ︀် ။

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

ပ︀ꩫ︀်လ︀ိုင︀် … ၵ︀ႃꩫ︀ွ် တ︀ီ ꩭိုꩫ︀် မ︀ုက︀်ꩬ︀ိုဝ︀်

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

မ︀ုက︀်ꩬ︀ိုဝ︀် ဢ︀ꩫ︀် လ︀ိင︀် … လ︀ုက︀်တ︀ျိတ︀် ။

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-?

ပ︀ꩫ︀်လ︀ိုင︀် ꩡ︀ွ်ၸ︀ႃ က︀ႃ လ︀ေ︀ မ︀ိုင︀် က︀ႃ ။

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

က︀ႃ ဢ︀ေ︀ ꩭိုꩫ︀် မ︀ုက︀်ꩬ︀ိုဝ︀် က︀ႃ ထ︀ိုင︀် ဢ︀ႃ ။

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

ꩭိုꩫ︀် မ︀ုက︀်ꩬ︀ိုဝ︀် က︀ႃ ထ︀ိုင︀် ဢ︀ေ︀ ။

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-?

ꩫ︀ုက︀် မ︀ုက︀်ꩬ︀ိုဝ︀် လ︀ုက︀်တ︀ျိတ︀် မ︀ုက︀်ꩬ︀ိုဝ︀် ꩭင︀် ꩡ︀ွ်ၸ︀ႃ

nok⁴ muk⁴ sɤ² lok⁴ tɛt¹ muk⁴ sɤ² haŋ² cau³ phaa⁴

bird hunter parrot hunter to king

0’38”

lan¹

scold

လ︀ႃက︀ꩫ︀် ။

laa¹ kin⁵

scold-recip

‘The hunter’s parrot scolded the king.’

9) ဢ︀ႃ

aa¹

hesit

10) haŋ² nai³ sɛu³ aa¹ top¹ aa¹ maŋ⁵ aa¹

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

ꩭင︀် ꩫ︀ႝ ꩬ︀ိဝ︀် ဢ︀ႃ တ︀ုပ︀် ဢ︀ႃ မ︀င︀် ဢ︀ႃ

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-?

ဝ︀ႃ ꩭေ︀ႃ ဢ︀ႃ လ︀ုက︀်တ︀ျိတ︀် ဢ︀ꩫ︀် ပ︀ႃ ။

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

မ︀ိုဝ︀် ꩫ︀ꩫ︀် ꩡ︀ွ်ၸ︀ႃ ၵ︀ၞ်ꩡ︀ၞ် ဢ︀ႃ ။

mɤ⁵ nan⁴ cau³ phaa⁴ khaɯ³ caɯ⁵ aa¹

time that king think prt.go

‘Then the king thought:’

12) တ︀ီ ꩭိုꩫ︀် က︀ွ် ၺင︀်

tii⁵ hɤn² kau⁵ ñaŋ⁶(²)

at house 1sg\* have

လ︀ုက︀်တ︀ျိတ︀် မ︀ိုꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ႝ တ︀ꩫ︀် ၵ︀ွံ ၸ︀ꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ႝ ။

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

မ︀ၞ် ꩡ︀ွ် မ︀ႃ မ︀ႃ ꩫ︀င︀် ꩫ︀ႃ ။

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

ဢ︀ႃ မ︀ႃ က︀ိꩫ︀် ꩫ︀ႃ ။

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

လ︀ိုက︀် ထ︀ႃ မ︀ႃ ပ︀ႃ ဢ︀ေ︀ ထ︀ံ ။

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

လ︀ုက︀် မ︀ုက︀်ꩬ︀ိုဝ︀် ꩫ︀ေ︀ က︀ွ် မ︀ႃ ဢ︀ေ︀ ။

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 ...

ꩭင︀် က︀ွ် ၵ︀ႃꩫ︀ွ် တ︀ုပ︀် ဢ︀ႃ ꩭေ︀ႃ ဢ︀ႃ …

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

ပ︀ႃ ဢ︀ေ︀ ꩫ︀ေ︀ႃ ပ︀ႃ … ဢ︀ေ︀ႃ

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

လ︀ုၺ် က︀ုꩫ︀် လ︀ီ လ︀ုၺ် ဢ︀ေ︀ ၵ︀ွံ လ︀ီ ꩬ︀ုပ︀် လ︀ီ ꩬ︀ွꩫ︀် ။

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

လ︀ုၺ် က︀ုꩫ︀် မ︀ႃ ꩫ︀ီ လ︀ုၺ် ယ︀ေ︀

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

ဢ︀ꩫ︀် မ︀ႃ ꩫ︀ီ ဢ︀ꩫ︀် တ︀ုပ︀် ဢ︀ꩫ︀် မ︀င︀်

an⁵ ma¹ nii² an⁵ top¹ an⁵ maŋ⁵

clf neg good clf hit clf hit

an⁵ laan¹ laai⁵ ... sɔn⁶

clf scold.recip only ... teach

ဢ︀ꩫ︀် လ︀ꩫ︀်က︀ꩫ︀် လ︀ႝ … ꩬ︀ွꩫ︀်

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

လ︀ိုဝ︀်ပ︀ိုဝ︀်ꩫ︀ꩫ︀် ၸ︀ၞ် ဢ︀ေ︀ႃ ယ︀င︀်

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

လ︀ိင︀် .. လ︀ုက︀် … လ︀ိင︀် လ︀ုက︀် လ︀ိင︀် လ︀င︀် ဢ︀ေ︀ႃ

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

ၵ︀ွံ လ︀ီ ꩬ︀ုပ︀် လ︀ီ ꩬ︀င︀် ပ︀ႃ ꩬ︀ွꩫ︀် ဢ︀ေ︀ႃ ။

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

ယ︀ွ် ဢ︀ႃ

yau⁴ aa¹

finished prt.go

‘It is finished.’