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CHAPTER 16

Glossed texts

16.1 Song by Yung Henrik, “It is eating me up”

16.1.1 Introduction

This song was written by Yung Henrik who died from a disease shortly after this song was recorded. Besides being a farmer, Yung Henrik was a gifted musician who composed his own songs and accompanied them on the guitar. The song is a so-called ‘bottle-dance’, which is a popular music style of North-West Cameroon. During the performance, the audience taps the rhythm on bottles. The song treats some of the problems society is facing due to more and more young girls leaving the village in search of a better life.

16.1.2 Text

(1) 满满的 gàn wú là, yě bwě à gàn  
1SG = ask(b) go(a) CL1 PP DAT COMP CL1/2.friend 2SG go(a).IPFV
fǐ tí nà  
pass(b).IPFV surprisingly where

‘I ask her: friend, where are you going?’
16.1. Song by Yung Henrik, “It is eating me up”

(2) wù fò tʃú mí lā, yě lʊŋ b-ɔ̀
    cl1 tell(a).ipfv come(b).ipfv 1sg.pp dat comp cl8.suffering cl8-det
    yǐ jì nìm tí mì
    eat(b).ipfv sit(a).ipfv surprisingly 1sg

‘She told me: I am suffering.’

(3) ní ŋgí nìm tsá kǔ,
    cl1/2.mother cl1;1sg.poss live(a).ipfv Tsa home_village.loc comp
    ní ŋgí nìm tsá kǔ,
    cl1/2.mother cl1;1sg.poss live(a).ipfv Tsa home_village.loc
    bwê cl1/2.friend

‘My mother lives in Tsaku. My mother lives in Tsaku, my friend.’

(4) m̋=bű gàn wú lā, yě nǐ, à gàn
    1sg=ask(b) go(a) cl1.pp dat comp cl1/2.mother 2sg go(a).ipfv
    ĭ tí nā ō
    pass(b).ipfv surprisingly where interj

‘I asked her: mother where are you going?’

(5) ní mí fò tʃú mí lā, yě mì
    cl1/2.mother consec tell(a).ipfv come(b).ipfv 1sg.pp dat comp 1sg
    wān, ṃ̋=lyà ĭ fí
    cl1.child 1sg = go_to_bush(a).ipfv pass(b).ipfv leave(a).ipfv
    bɔ̄ ngĩ cl3/7a.stroll cl3;1sg.poss

‘My mother told me: my child, I am wandering.’

(6) lʊŋ b-ɔ̀ yǐ jì nìm tí mì,
    cl8.suffering cl8-det eat(b).ipfv sit(a).ipfv surprisingly 1sg
    lʊŋ b-ɔ̀ yǐ jì nìm tí mì
    cl8.suffering cl8-det eat(b).ipfv sit(a).ipfv surprisingly 1sg

‘Suffering is eating me up. Suffering is eating me up.’

(7) better jì nìm gàn mí lā, yě n̋=dzé
    better sit(a) go(a) 1sg.pp dat comp 1sg = miss_track(c).ipfv
    lè nɛ̀ tôm b-ɔ̀ yǐŋ
    get_lost(a).ipfv leave(a).ipfv cl7/8.palm_village cl8-det bush.loc

‘It would be better for me to leave and get lost in the bush of any village.’
Glossed texts

(8) bì kù dzí gaan kyën mī, yē bì kù cl8 cry(a) walk_around(b) go(a) cl7/8.soul in comp cl8 cry(a) dzí gaan kyën mī walk_around(b) go(a) cl7/8.soul in

‘She is crying in her soul. She is crying in her soul.’

(9) bì mí nim f-ānī (ē), bì dzé nim tf 1pl consec sit(a) prox-there interj 1pl speak(b) sit(a) surprisingly mē yē, lōŋ bó dī tá mē yēn là, bì only comp cl8.suffering cl8-det be(b) specifically only Y. dat cl8 kwó fūbō bī ńgō enter(c) also 1pl.pp upon

‘And we are sitting here, saying that only Yain is suffering, but the suffering has also attacked some of us.’

(10) lōŋ b-ō yī fūbō bī (e), bì dzé nim cl8.suffering cl8-det eat(b).ipfv also 1pl interj 1pl speak(b) sit(a) mē ā mō wū-mwō only com cl1.person cl1-one

‘The suffering is also eating us up and we are only talking about one person.’

(11) à kyē wān nē yū (e), 2sg look(c) cl1.child cl1/2.mother.2sg.poss buttoc.k loc interj mō dzū kyē fūbō ā yū cl1.person cl1.other look(c) also 2sg.pp buttoc.k loc

‘If you talk against your brother or your sister, somebody will also talk against you.’


‘We are crying in our soul, we are crying in our soul.’

(13) bā dzé gaan bō là yē bān bō ā impers say(b) go(a) cl2pp dat comp cl1/2.outside be_bad(a) advlz kī-ńl nmlz-be_strong(a)

‘They are telling them that [the world] outside is very bad.’
16.1. Song by Yung Henrik, “It is eating me up”

(14) bɔ́ fɔ́ tfú bí lá yě bɔ́ tsè
cl2 tell(a).ipfv come(b).ipfv 1pl.pp dat comp cl2 search(a)
dzí gàn kpɔ́
wake around(b) go(a) cl3/7a.money

‘They are telling us that they are searching for money.’

(15) tɔ̀ nɔ̀ dzwàn kɔ́ bɔ́ yɛ̀ ɔ̀ pl.pp
cl7/8.day subord cl9.illness catch(b) cl8-rel cl2 interj cl2
mì nín gàn tì f-5 gbɔ́ (e)
consec sit(a) go(a) surprisingly prox-there house.loc interj

‘The day that an illness has attacked them they will be there, staying in the house.’

(16) bá-tì bɔ́ yí nín tí lʊ̀ŋ
cl2-father 3pl.poss eat(b).ipfv sit(a) surprisingly cl8.suffering
(e), nín bɔ́ yí nín tí
interj cl1/2.mother 3pl.poss eat(b).ipfv sit(a) surprisingly
lʊ̀ŋ (e)
cl8.suffering interj

‘Their father will be suffering and their mother will be suffering.’

(17) tɔ̀ mì wě fù tì (é), wù
c7/8.day consec dawn(b) go_down(a) surprisingly interj cl1
gwàn nín f-5 gbɔ́ (o)
be_sick(a) sit(a) prox-there house.loc interj

‘When the day has dawned, she is there with an illness in the house.’

(18) bì bú gàn wú lá, yě ní,
1pl ask(b) go(a) cl1/pp dat comp cl1/2.mother.1sg/pl.poss 2sg
gwàn tì mān yě
be_sick(a) surprisingly what quot.q

‘We ask her: mother, why are you ill?’

(19) bì dzé gàn bɔ́ lá yě, tɔ̀ fù ɔ̀
1pl speak(b) go(a) cl2/pp dat comp be_smart(b) pass(b) com
yū y-ā (ò)
cl9/10.buttock cl9-2sg.poss interj

‘We always tell them that they should be very careful with their sex life’
(20) yū y-5 bò ɲwén ā kī-li
  cl9/10. buttock cl9-dt be_bad(a) now advlz nmlz-be_strong(a)
  (e) interj
‘Sex is very dangerous these days.’

(21) lʊ̀ŋ b-ɔ́ yí nım tî bī (e),
  cl8.suffering cl8-dt eat(b).ipfv sit(a).ipfv surprisingly 1pl interj
  bī yí fūbō bī (o)
  cl8 eat(b).ipfv also 1pl interj
‘Suffering is eating them up and it is also eating some of us up.’

(22) à bɔ̀ŋ gàn kpé (é), wù dzé tʃú
  2sg.call(a) go(a) cl1.woman interj cl1 say(b).ipfv come(b).ipfv
  wá lâ yɛ̀ (o)
  2sg.pp dat comp interj
‘If you call a woman, she will tell you that’

(23) kpó wū dī mě̄ kām bī-kpɔ̀n,
  cl3/7a.money cl3;3sg.poss be(b) only cl7/8.thousand cl8-five
  bwé cl1/2.friend
‘her price is always 5000 francs, my friend.’ (lit.: her money)

(24) tō nō̄ lʊŋ k5 b-ɔ́ wū
  cl7/8.day subord cl8.suffering catch(b) cl8-rel cl1
  kām b-ɔ́ bī-kpɔ̀n ā dī w5
  cl7/8.thousand cl8-dt cl8-five neg be(b) neg
‘The day that suffering attacks her, the 5000 francs are not there.’

(25) ṇf m̀̄ ỳ̄ nım tî
  cl1/2.mother;3sg.poss consec eat(b).ipfv sit(a).ipfv surprisingly
  lʊŋ (è), tî m̀̄ ỳ̄
  cl8.suffering interj cl1/2.father.3sg.poss consec eat(b).ipfv
  nım tî lʊŋ (e)
  cl8.suffering interj
‘Her mother is suffering and her father is suffering.’

¹The Class 8 pronoun is used to refer to a group of people in an abusive way.
16.1. Song by Yung Henrik, “It is eating me up”

(26) tő mī wē fī tī (e),
\textit{CL7/8.day consec dawn(b).IPFV go\_down(a).IPFV surprisingly interj}
wū kō nīm f-ʒ gbɔ, (o)
\textit{CL1 cry(a) sit(a) prox\_there house.loc interj}

‘When day has broken, she is still there in the house crying.’

(27) nī bū fī tī wū lā, yē
\textit{CL1/2.mother.3poss ask(b) go\_down(a) surprisingly CL1 PP DAT COMP}
mī wān, nwōm w-ā dī tī nā
\textit{1SG CL1.child CL1.husband CL1-2SG.poss be(b) surprisingly where (o)}
\textit{interj}

‘And the mother will ask her: My child, where is your husband?’

(28) wū dzē gān nī lā yē,
\textit{CL1 speak(b) go(a) CL1/2.mother;3poss dat comp}
nī, ā n=dī wū ā mēnā
\textit{CL1/2.mother;1poss neg 1SG=be(b) neg comp CL1.male}

‘and the daughter will say: Please mother, I don’t have a man.’

(29) bī mī dzē gān bō lā, yē nīm nī ā
\textit{1PL consec speak(b) go(a) CL2 PP DAT COMP sit(a) imp.pl comp}
mō kwe
\textit{CL1.man CL3/7a.home\_village interj}

‘We are telling them: Stay and get married to a native man!’

(30) bō dzē jū bī lā yē, nwōm
\textit{CL2 speak(b).IPFV come(b).IPFV 1PL-PP DAT COMP CL2.husbands}
kwe ā fyā tī wū bī
\textit{CL3/7a.home\_village neg give(b).IPFV surprisingly neg 1PL}

‘and they are telling us that native men are not giving us.’

(31) better dī yē bī bī pē gān
\textit{better be(b) comp 1PL go\_out(b).IPFV leave(a).IPFV go(a)}
tōm b-ʒ yēŋ (...)
\textit{CL7/8.palm\_village CL8 det bush.loc}

‘It is better for us to go out to other home villages.’
(32)  tō mī wē fū tī (e), bū
cl7/8.day consec dawn(b) go_down(a).ipfv surprisingly interj cl2
tū tī bē–bē (e)
come(b).ipfv surprisingly cl7/8.half–red interj

‘And then day has broken and they will be coming back half way.’
(i.e. attacked by illness, lost weight)

(33)  tō mī wē fū tī (e),
cl7/8.day consec dawn(b) go_down(a).ipfv surprisingly interj
lūng b-ș yí nīm tī ā bū
cl8.suffering cl8-det eat(b).ipfv sit(a) surprisingly advlz cl2
(e) interj

‘And then day has broken and the suffering is only attacking them.’

(34)  bī kū dzí găn kyēn mī (e), bī
1pl cry(a) walk_around(b).ipfv go(a) cl7/8.soul in interj 1pl
kū dzí găn kyēn mī (e) cry(a) walk_around(b).ipfv go(a) cl7/8.soul in

‘They are crying in their soul, they are crying in their soul.’

(35)  bī bū găn bō là, yē bēn là dzí
1pl ask(b) go(a) cl2.pp dat comp 2pl do(a).ipfv walk_around(b).ipfv
tī mān surprisingly what

‘We are asking them: What are you doing [aimlessly]?’

(36)  lūng b-ș yí nīm bū (e), lūng
cl8.suffering cl8-det eat(b).ipfv sit(a) cl2 interj cl8.suffering
b-ș yī fūbū bī (e)
cl8-det eat(b).ipfv also 1pl interj

‘The suffering is still eating them up and it is also eating us up.’

(37)  bī dzé găn bō là, yē nī,
1pl speak(b) go(a) cl2.pp dat comp cl1/2.mother.1sg/pl.poss
lūng b-ș yī bī (e)
cl7/8.suffering cl8-det eat(b).ipfv 1pl interj

‘We are telling them: Please, the suffering is eating us up.’
16.1. Song by Yung Henrik, “It is eating me up”

(38) wù dzé ʧú mí lá, yē lòŋ b-5
CL1 say(b).IPFV come(b).IPFV 1SG.PP DAT COMP CL8.suffering CL8-DET
yǐ fǔbǐ mǐ (e)
eat(b).IPFV also 1SG INTERJ

‘And she will also tell us that the suffering is also eating her up.’

(39) bǐ kù dzí gàn (e)
CL8 cry(a).IPFV walk_around(b).IPFV go(a) INTERJ

‘They are crying’

(40) bǐ dzé gàn tí (e)
CL8 say(b) go(a) surprisingly INTERJ

‘and they keep on talking.’

(41) bǐ mǐ dzē ʧú wá lá yē, bán
1PL.consec say(b) come(b) 2SG.PP DAT COMP CL1/2.outside
bò ā kɪ̄-lɪ̄ be_bad(a) ADV.LZ NMLZ-be_strong(a)

‘We are talking to you, saying that [the world] outside is very bad.’

(42) bën mù k5 bën f5 yē
2PL.take(a) CL8a.intelligence 2PL.PP head.LOC QUOT

‘You should be careful and put some sense in your heads.’

(43) tō mǐ wē jī tí (e)
CL7/8.day consec.dawn(b) go_down(a).IPFV surprisingly INTERJ

‘When day has broken’

(44) nɛ̀ mǐ dzē gàn wá lá (e)
CL1.mother.2SG.POSS consec speak(b) go(a) 2SG.PP DAT INTERJ

‘your mother will tell you.’

(45) bì ā wǔ w5 nǐ nǐ
CL8 NEG hear(b).IPFV NEG CL8a.talk CL1/2.mother

‘They will not be hearing their mother’s advice.’

(46) bǐ mǐ kù nim tí (e), nǐ
CL2 consec cry(a) sit(a) surprisingly INTERJ CL1/2.mother.1POSS
mǐ kù nim tí (e)
consec cry(a) sit(a) surprisingly INTERJ

‘They will still be crying, and our mother will still be crying.’
(47) à mî syé nîm á dzé, à mî
2SG CONSEC expose_teeth(b) sit(a) 2SG PP mouth LOC 2SG CONSEC
syé nîm á dzé
expose_teeth(b) sit(a) 2SG PP mouth LOC

‘and you will still be exposing your teeth, and you will still be exposing
your teeth.’

(48) nê mî kô nîm tí (e), yê
c1.mother 2SG POSS CONSEC cry(a) sit(a) surprisingly INTERJ COMP
mî wâ̈n gân fî tí nâ
1SG c1.child go(a) pass(b) surprisingly where

‘Your mother will still be crying: Where is my child going?’

(49) mî wâ̈n gân fî tí nâ, mî wâ̈n gân
1SG c1.child go(a) pass(b) surprisingly where 1SG c1.child go(a)
fî tí nâ
pass(b) surprisingly where

‘Where is my child going? Where is my child going?’

(50) bî yí nîm mî (o), bî yí nîm mî (o)
c1.8 eat(b)IPFV sit(a) 1SG INTERJ c1.8 eat(b)IPFV sit(a) 1SG INTERJ

‘It is eating me up, it is eating me up.’

(51) bî yí nîm mî (o), bî yí nîm mî (o)
c1.8 eat(b)IPFV sit(a) 1SG INTERJ c1.8 eat(b)IPFV sit(a) 1SG INTERJ

‘It is eating me up, it is eating me up.’
16.2 Recipe for corn beer

16.2.1 Introduction

The following text is a spontaneous presentation of a recipe for corn beer. As such, it is not necessarily a correct or complete recipe, but serves to present Mundabli in use.

16.2.2 Text

(1) bə̄ jā bə̄ fyē nā bō kō
impers want(a).ipfv impers learn(a) subord impers hab
lē nā ŋkā
make(a).ipfv as cl6.corn_beer

‘We want to learn how to make corn beer.’

(2) kā à mū jū gē w-ō à mī
cond 2sg take(a) come(b) cl3/7a.maize cl3-det 2sg consec
kpè wū ŋgī mī sf yī-fyē
soak(a) cl3 cl6.water in cl9/10.day cl10-two

‘When you take the corn and soak it in water for two days,’

(3) à mī wū bī yā mū
2sg consec drain(c) go_out(b) go_up(c) cl6

‘you then remove it [the corn],’

(4) à mī tán wū kyà mī
2sg consec pour(c) cl3 cl9/10.basket in

‘and put it into a basket.’

(5) after, à mī tán tʃū yān ŋg5m
after 2sg consec cut(b) come(b) cl3/7a.leave cl1/2.plantain

‘After that, you collect plantain leaves.’

(6) à mī bāŋ kī tʃīn w5
2sg consec lock(b) cl7 there on

‘and you cover the corn with them.’

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2In order to drain out the water.
‘After it has germinated for four or five days, you then remove it [the corn] and grind [it].’

‘When you have ground it, either in the machine or on the grinding stone, you then mash it.’

‘There are two ways of making corn beer:’

‘either you wash and leave it to settle, then you remove the head and cook the chaffs with the thick one (liquid)’

‘or you cook it in the local traditional way.’

‘Then after you’ve finished cooking, the first day’

‘the first day when you’ve finished cooking’
16.2. Recipe for corn beer

(14) *then, ká tō wé kē jī, à mī*
then COND CL7/8.day dawn(b) return(c) go_down(a) 2SG CONSEC
d₃yē kpē mū
cook(a) complete(a) CL6

‘then the next day you finish cooking.’

(15) *ká à d₃yē kpē mū, à mī mū jū*
COND 2SG cook(a) complete(a) CL6 2SG CONSEC take(a) come(b)
ŋkā mū-nkɔ̀n m-ɔ́, à mī nʊŋ CL6.corn_beer CL6-strong_corn_beer CL6-DET 2SG CONSEC add(a)
kwó jī tʃin ŋgò
take(c) go_down(a) there upon

‘When you are done with cooking, you take the strong corn beer and add [it].’

(16) *then kā tō wé kē jī mū mī*
then COND CL7/8.day dawn(b) return(c) go_down(a) CL6 CONSEC
nǐm ʃī bā kā mū
sit(a) LOC IMPERS so_that drink(b)

‘then the next day it will be ready for drinking’

(17) *so bā mī yē m-mū*
SO IMPERS CONSEC start(a) INF-drink(b).IPFV

‘So, people will then start drinking.’