

Nago Folktales from Bante

Ogbon Ogidan

Turtle's Intelligence

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Olugbo ɔn ɛma binu foo.	My elders don't get mad.
Alɔ m.	My story.
Alɔ ɛ.	We are listening to your story.
Obirin kan lowa ohun atɔ mɔn ɛ.	My story is about a woman and her daughter.
ɔmu ɛ igi do ni.	Her child was a young girl.
Inan po wasi gba agbaja obi mɔn ɛ.	The woman had her daughter when she was young.
Hun de hun lɔ lɔ laja.	One day the woman and her daughter decided to go to the market.
Hun kɔlɔ laja fee, odo kan si oke ɔnan eyi ɔnshe kogba fi lɔ laja.	To go to the market, there was a river between the market and where they live
Agɔn ni hun gu.	To go to the market one needs a canoe.
Eyi hun de bɛ, odo kun.	Arriving at the riverbank, the river was full.
Ogidan fee ɔda koda.	The turtle is sometimes nice and sometimes bad.
Ogidan lɔ kee pɛ lɔni ohun koni.	The turtle decided that he was going to marry whoever it wanted with or without their agreement.
Oni ohun kotɛ she, kehun ohun koshe, ohun kodo.	The turtle said that he would have sex with a woman.

Dido dido de.	<i>Sounds of surprise.</i>
ᏊᏊ, eyᏊᏊ nkelu igi hun gu agᏊᏊ yin gu.	The turtle went to go pierce a hole through the canoe that transports people by river.
Baba iyo je hun ko da iyo oja iyo meyo ni nko je.	Father, the market is held in this place every seven days on Saturday.
Iyo lu inu egi ye be lomu oko lofu bo.	After piercing the canoe, the turtle took his penis and lined it up with hole.
Oko e be loko si.	His penis crossed into the hollow of the canoe into the middle.
Oni in wa so idi ntori oti man pe egido yin niko shaaju.	The turtle took this position because he knew that the young girl would be in front for the market.
Eyi gido wa sodi wa nin dree dree*.	Then, the young girl climbed into the canoe shaking it dree, dree. <i>*Dree, dree - onomatopoeia for the sounds of the canoe shaking in the water.</i>
Be wa so die wa e fee?	What happened during this shaking?
Opa kiti ni oni to hun be lo pakalaku si.	It happened that she got her vagina caught on the penis that the turtle held carefully in place.
Oshe be loni.	After this, the girl sang this song here.
Nan nde kalu.	Mother get up we are going to leave.
Oyin maman koj e nlo lo ja oyin maman.	The sweet honey won't let me go to the market, sweet honey.
Nan nde kalu. Chorus [x3]	Mother get up we are going to leave.
Oyin maman koj e nlo lo ja oyin maman.	The sweet honey won't let me go to the market, sweet honey.
Asiko e nko fo fe nko lo biko lo ko so fun.	When she said this, the woman said to tell her if she could not go to the market.
Nan nde kalu.	Mother get up we are going to leave.

Oyin maman koj ε nᓄ ᓄ ja oyin maman.	The sweet honey won't let me go to the market, sweet honey.
Chorus [x3] Nan nde kalᓄ.	Mother get up we are going to leave.
Oyin maman koj ε nᓄ ᓄ ja oyin maman.	The sweet honey won't let me go to the market, sweet honey.
Ni peri ibiye awa i ᓄᓄrun ᓄba ni tori kan nᓄn san.	In our life, it's only God that decides what will happen to us in our life.
ᓄᓄrun kojε idi rere ᓄᓄᓄ hun j ε kani.	May God provide the grace of having a good destiny.
Idi alᓄ mi nin in.	That is the message my story carries.
