

Nago Folktales from Bante

Aigbo Ikilo

Stubbornness.

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Oni, Shegbe ooo, Shegbe.	He says Shegbe oooo, Shegbe.
Tanipe shegbe ni be ni ?	Who is this one named Shegbe?
Shegbe.	Shegbe.
Ata dda ile.	May it be the youth of the home.
Shegbe.	Shegbe.
Ata dda oko.	May it be the youth of the home.
Shegbe.	Shegbe.
Iya so mi lo fa kin.	Who hit me with an arrow.
Shegbe.	Shegbe.
Emi so lo kin.	I also shot off an arrow.
Shegbe.	Shegbe.
Boku emi omun.	If he dies, I don't know.
Shegbe.	Shegbe.
Bi kosi ku emi omun.	And if he didn't die, I don't know.
Shegbe.	Shegbe.
eto letoo.	Organize yourselves well.
Shegbe	Shegbe.

Abuo mi.	My brother.
Al.	My story.
Al mi lo raaa mata mata, ɔta shegbe, ɔta boba ɛ, ɔ ta abini ɔn gudu gudu.	My story rolls and rolls and falls on Shegbe, his father and his brothers.
ɔn lo loko ɔn wa, ɔn sa nlo loko ɔnwa.	They went to the field and came back to the house, day after day.
ɔɔ bo be be meta.	They had s done more than 3 trips back and forth.
Shegbe ke mu shinkin lomu so loko fun ato ɔn, ɔn wa nje baafo.	Shegbe set a trap in the field for monkeys, the monkeys who came to eat the fields.
Ngbin la arɔ lati inu ɔdun ni Shegbe ni ohun kolɔ loko ohun kopa shinkin	One morning Shegbe decided to go kill some monkeys.
Gbogbo abuo ɔn wale ati baba ɛ.	This day, his father and his brothers had not gone to the fields.
Odi ati pade aru nnu le abiloko ni awa ashe gbogbo.	His father said that he too. Much to do around the house so there was no reason for him to go to the fields.
Loko awa amushu ashe gbogbo liwo li ohun lo pa shinkrin.	We have already brought the yams from the field and all that we need, and you want to go hunt with the trap.
Oni aaa ohun kolɔ ohun ko pa shinkin.	He insisted and then really went to the field.
ɔn ni okee, obogi olɔ, shasha shasha ode lago.	Without wasting any time, he went to the field quickly.
Shinkin wu ntɔlɔ ntɔlɔ.	Once there, a monkey had taken the trap with him so he followed the tracks.
ɔnke de lenu ala oko, lenu ojuko ɛ.	He had followed the tracks until the edge of his field.

Owo wo wo wolb ori anan kan gbε, ibi ato gbε.	He looked and looked and finally found the path that the monkey that took the trap followed.
Oto ke kesi ε, ɔfa nɔn loo lasi koyin.	Then he found the monkey in a tree and at that moment the hunt had to be done with an arrow.
Ato logegi sinu shinkin.	The monkey had climbed the tree with the trap.
Ofa ofa yin εgbɔ man m.	He shot an arrow at the monkey and could hear mam.
Ato omu ɔfa ofa mam m tapara εbε.	After getting hit by the arrow the monkey shook and took it out and shot it back at him in return.
ɔmu kowa ni kowa kowa ni kowa.	During this time, the child's parents were desperately waiting for him at the house.
Baba ε ati ɔmɔn tε wɔ badide.	His father and his brothers were sent to go look for him.
Hun kede hun tε pae.	When they got to the field, they followed his tracks.
Hun de lε nu ala mbε, ni hunli hu hu*.	At the edge of their field, they heard some cries, hu, hu. <i>*Hu hu – This is a local way of calling out to someone in a field. If the person is there they will respond with another sound. People do not call out names to avoid enticing evil spirits.</i>
Oni, shegbe ooo, shegbe.	He says Shegbe oooo, Shegbe.
Tanipe shegbe ni bε ni ?	Who is calling out to Shegbe?
Shegbe.	Shegbe.
Atɔ ɔdɔ ile. Shegbe.	May it be the youth of the home. Shegbe.
Atɔ ɔdɔ oko. Shegbe.	May it be the youth of the home. Shegbe.

Iyɔ sɔ mi lɔ fa kin?	Shegbe.	Who hit me with an arrow?	Shegbe.
Emi sɔ lɔ kin.	Shegbe.	I also shot off an arrow.	Shegbe.
Boku emi omɔn.	Shegbe.	If he dies, I don't know.	Shegbe.
Bi kosi ku emi omɔn.	Shegbe.	And if he didn't die, I don't know.	Shegbe.
ɛto letoo.		Organize yourselves well.	
Shegbeeeee.		Shegbeeeee.	
Ɔnli basi aɔn kashe gba basi aɔn kashegba.		After some time, the parents were starting to ask what they should do.	
Shegbe oo, Shegbe, Shegbe oo, Shegbe.		After looking all of the place, they had finally called out.	
Kɔ jɛ Shegbe ni kɔn rin in.		Or was it Shegbe who was singing.	
Ɔn tɔn li Shegbe ooo, Shegbe.		The parents were again crying out Shegbe, Shegbe.	
Tanipe shegbe ni bɛ ni ?		Who is calling out to Shegbe?	
Shegbe.		Shegbe.	
Atɔ ɔɔɔ ile.	Shegbe.	May it be the youth of the home.	Shegbe.
Atɔ ɔɔɔ oko.	Shegbe.	May it be the youth of the home.	Shegbe.
Iyɔ sɔ mi lɔ fa kin?	Shegbe.	Who hit me with an arrow?	Shegbe.
Emi sɔ lɔ kin.	Shegbe.	I also shot off an arrow.	Shegbe.
Boku emi omɔn.	Shegbe.	If he dies, I don't know.	Shegbe.
Bi kosi ku emi omɔn.	Shegbe.	And if he didn't die, I don't know.	Shegbe.
ɛto letoo.	Shegbe.	Organize yourselves well.	Shegbe.

Baba wɔn ni aɔn kalɔ ni bi aɔn gbɔ.	The father said that he will be where they were hearing those songs.
Ode bɛ, oba ato lorigi bɛ.	He then discovered the monkey in the tree.
Baba onan oso fu, ɛ gbam.	The father shot the monkey and hit it.
Ɔpa ato oke hoɛ, ɔba ɔmɔn ɛ osun lɛ.	Having killed the monkey, he found the body of his son killed by the monkey.
Ɔn gbe ɔmɔn yɛ ɔfa lara bɛ.	The child killed by the monkey was brought back to the house with the arrow in his body.
Idi ɛ li ɔmɔn de isin yi ɔn basɔrɔ fu yi kɛ ma gbɔ.	This why children today should listen to us when we speak to them.
A i ni lakae, a i gbɔ ti baba ɛ loshe loku ɛ.	It was that (he) didn't listen, did not follow the advice of his father that killed Shegbe.
Idi arɔ mi nin in.	That is the message my story carries.