

# THE BERIK PARTICLE 'GA'

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This paper provides an analysis of the Berik particle 'ga', and describes the many meanings of 'ga' and its variants 'gan' and 'gam'. These particles occur in a variety of environments and can cooccur with one another. The thread of meaning running throughout, however, indicates a change of some sort. On the sentence level, the change is usually associated with a change in time or event, either a progression of events in time or a flashback in time. On the discourse level, 'ga' marks a change in topic, such as after proper names as they occur in the discourse, or a change in a location. Marking such changes is helpful in tracking participants in the discourse.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.0 The object of this paper is to present a more thorough analysis of the Berik particle 'ga' than that which was given in my Master's thesis written in 1980. In that thesis the particle 'ga' was glossed in section 2.1.9 as a conjunction meaning 'and' (p. 10), and in section 5.4.2.1 as a relational particle (p. 65).

The difficulty in glossing the meaning of 'ga' consistently in Berik discourse is due to the fact that it occurs with different constituents and in different environments. Furthermore, many occurrences are actually optional, which has also contributed to the difficulty in its analysis.

As this paper will show, the particle 'ga' has several meanings. There are also related variants 'gam' and 'gan'. However, there is a common thread of meaning running throughout the various forms, which indicates a change of some sort, generally a progression. Depending on the constituent with which it occurs, 'ga' may indicate progression in time, topic, logic, or a change in location. This paper will detail the several meanings of the particle 'ga' and its variants 'gam' and 'gan.'

1.1 The Berik language is spoken by about 1,000 people living in several villages along the banks of the Tor River in Jayapura county, in the province of Irian Jaya (Western New Guinea) in Indonesia. Berik, the largest among the Upper Tor languages, is the "lingua franca" for smaller language groups in the area. The Upper Tor languages constitute a subgroup of languages coordinate with other subgroups including Nimboran, Sentani, Demta, and Orya, and one large subgroup, Tami, to form the North Papuan language group which in turn is a member of the Central New Guinea macro-phylum (Wurm 1971c).

1.2 The data for this analysis includes a variety of discourse types:

90 conversations consecutively numbered 1-90. Each conversation comprises four or five exchanges between two people. (From Westrum, Peter N. and Susan. 1979, 1985)

8 narratives of varying lengths. Two shorter ones, lettered A and B, and one longer one, lettered C are printed in full at the end of this paper.

1 procedural

1 hortatory message

1 personal letter

1 ethnic song which is sung on the occasion of producing sago powder.

The examples used in this paper to illustrate the occurrences of the 'ga' particles are taken from not only the three narratives in the appendices, but from the other discourse types listed above as well. These examples are identified in parentheses by text and sentence number. Since the particle 'ga' may occur multiple times in a single example, capital letters are used to indicate which one is being discussed.

## 2. THE PARTICLE GA

2.0 The basic meaning of the particle 'ga' indicates a progression, or a sequence, in time (usually preceding verb phrases), in topic (usually following a noun phrase), in logic, or a change in location. 'Ga' is not a high-level discourse particle. Rather, it functions on the relatively low sentential or intersentential level. As is true of many discourse particles, this particle occurs optionally in its many different environments. Longacre (1976) describes this phenomenon as giving a "salt and pepper" effect to a text. Therefore not all potential occurrences of 'ga' as predicted by the analysis in this paper are in fact realized; however, I have attempted to account for all the actual occurrences.

2.1 'Ga' can occur sentence initially, although it seldom does. In this position it relates the sentence in which it occurs to the previous sentence as a sequence-in-time marker (s.t.). Since sentence initial is the normal position in Berik for sentence connectives, 'ga' in this position might be regarded simply as a conjunction with the meaning 'so then' or 'therefore'.

GA     aiya   munbosiafsant   jamer   futu.  
s.t.   we       shot                   until   died

'So then we shot until (it) died.'  
(Appendix B, sentence 14)

GA     teyel     jamer   taban, ...  
s.t.   cut-up   until   finished

'Therefore having finished cutting (him) up, ...'  
(Appendix C, sentence 32)

GA     aa       ge   jeniwil,   "Aguisa   ke               jereye?"  
then   they   2       called       Aguisa   ques. mk.   there

'Then they called, "Aguisa, are you there?"'  
(Appendix C, sentence 40)

A:   Twiri   fas.     B:   GA       bas   is   tumili?  
     sago   none               s.t.   what   you   eat

A:   '(I don't have) any sago.'  
B:   'So then what will you eat?'  
(Conversation 43)

2.2 'Ga' can also occur before a verb or verb phrase. This is its most common occurrence, and it relates the clause in which it occurs to the previous clause as a sequence-of-event marker, even across a sentence boundary. 'Ga' signals that the activity of the verb it tags succeeds the activity of the previous verb. It indicates a progression of events, like

a pointer which moves in small increments along the timeline of the text. I have glossed its usual meaning in this position as 'then,' 'and,' or 'and then.'

Ane Aguisa ga nunu ga folbal GA tatel te.  
and Aguisa c.t. eyes c.t. felt then lay down sleep

'And Aguisa felt sleepy, then (he) lay down to sleep.'  
(Appendix C, sentence 26)

(For an explanation concerning the other two occurrences of 'ga' in this sentence, see section 2.3.1.)

Jaume ga nombre je GA goitel,  
Jaume c.t. machete she then took,

GA firnulnul seselna jamer te, futu.  
and then struck neck until severed died

'Jaume then took a machete, and then struck (him) on the neck, until his head was severed, he died.'  
(Appendix C, sentence 30)

Awelna waakenfer, jiga abakef GA is gwená.  
work good result longer then you do

'If you do good work, then you can work longer.'  
(Conversation 49)

2.3 'Ga' also often occurs following a noun or noun phrase. In this position, it alerts the reader to a change in topic in the discourse, usually in the subject position. The notion of 'topic' used here is a semantic notion, which is operative at the low level of the proposition. There is a long tradition of 'topic' in this semantic sense, beginning with the Prague School (e.g. Firbas 1966) and Halliday, and continuing into the 1970's in works such as Subject and Topic (Li 1976). Topic is 'what is being talked about' in the proposition. Note that 'topic' here contrasts with paragraph or discourse 'theme'.

When 'ga' is used to indicate a change in topic, it follows a noun or noun phrase. At times it may be used to track participants in a narrative as they interact, with the spotlight shifting back and forth from one to the other, as 'ga' marks first one then the next participant. However, as one would expect, when one participant stays in focus throughout several sentences, there is diminished use of 'ga' following noun phrases to mark change of topic; note, for example, sentences 22-24 in appendix C.

Aguisa ga ofona +ufa-wer ga ayel,  
Aguisa c.t. pig feet-loc. c.t./then followed

jamer sita-bo.  
until yard-to

'Aguisa followed the pig tracks to the yard.'

Ofona ga sita-ber ga tal, ofona futu.  
pig c.t. yard-loc. then shot pig died

'The pig was shot in the yard, and it died.'

Jaume ga jena ga jam bitbituwel  
Jaume c.t. herself c.t. her surprised

'Jaume herself was surprised at the pig which squealed.'  
(Appendix C, sentences 17-19)

Another use of 'ga' as change of topic is to introduce a new participant into the narrative. The following examples illustrate this common use of 'ga'.

...ga ai anggatasant fona- be.  
then I looked water-into

'...then I looked into the water.'

Bwidisi GA ai domoltesant.  
turtle c.t. I saw

'A turtle (is what) I saw.'  
(Appendix A, sentences 1 and 2)

Ai namwer Pinehas ajartaf.  
I today Pinehas want to teach

'Today I want to teach Pinehas.'

Pinahas GA fina.  
Pinehas c.t. stands

'Pinehas stands (over there).'  
(Procedural, sentences 1 and 2)

Change of topic may also be used for objects that are important in the text, not just animate participants, as can be seen in the following example.

Aare Rp 5000.  
here Rp 5000

'Here is Rp 5000.'

Doini tomna GA Rp 2000.  
money left over c.t. Rp 2000

'The change is Rupiah 2000.'  
(Conversation 82)

Note that in this last example 'ga' marks a subtle change of topic - from the full amount of money (Rp 5000) to the change (Rp 2000). In a sense, it is similar to the whole and part of a topic as explained in the following section.

Since 'ga' is optional, it does not always occur on every occasion of change in topic. However, a native speaker of Berik will not object to inserting 'ga' to tag a new participant in the discourse, though he cannot explain why it was originally omitted.

2.3.1 A special use of 'ga' as a change of topic marker occurs where the change in topic includes the division of the topic into two parts, its whole and its parts. In these instances, the particle 'ga' follows both the whole and the part, which usually occur in this order in Berik.

Ane Aguisa GA nunu GA folbal ga tatel te.  
and Aguisa c.t. eyes c.t. felt then lay down sleep

'And Aguisa's (whole) eyes (part) felt sleepy, then (he) lay down to sleep.'

(Appendix C, sentence 26)

Ofna GA tufawer GA onsobal,  
pig c.t. feet-loc. c.t. followed

'(He) followed the pig's (whole) feet tracks (part).'

(Appendix C, sentence 15)

Tane, ola GA nensa GA fas.  
child words c.t. other c.t. none

'My child, words (whole) other (part) there are none.'

(Letter, sentence 10)

2.4 'Ga' occurs following a locative, especially when there is a change in location (c.l.) from one scene in the discourse to another.

Samem ga jep wofesant enggama awilsint.  
slowly then there walked like this crossed

'Then (I) walked slowly, and like this crossed over.'

Fona jimwer GA ai sarsant.  
water other side c.l. I heard

'On the other side of the river I heard it.'

(Narrative: Hunting, sentences 2 and 3)

...aa nunggirtisint.  
it ran

'...it ran.'

Tefer anna- n GA jep tersent.  
Tefer headwaters-loc. c.l. there died

'There at the headwaters of the Tefer it died.'

(Narrative: Hunting, sentences 4 and 5)

Fona- bo funtan jem ulum aa ge damtabel.  
water-at net bag his bow which 2 saw

'At a river they saw his other net bag and bow.'

Fona nafsi-be jep GA aa ge fial,  
 river other-loc. there c.l. where 2 waited

'At another river where they waited, ...'  
 (Appendix C, sentences 38 and 39)

2.5 'Ga' also occurs sentence finally, especially when it tags a noun or noun phrase that has been transposed (or postposed) to the end of the sentence from some other position. In the first example that follows, the time phrase has been postposed from its more usual sentence-initial position. In the second example the subject 'Jaume' is postposed from its normal pre-verbal position. Postposing is possibly a highlighting device.

Aguisa ga onna- p ga iranul gwinibener GA.  
 Aguisa c.t. jungle-loc. c.l. hunt morning c. pos.

'Aguisa went into the jungle to hunt in the morning.'  
 (Appendix C, sentence 14)

jem bola- p nuin Jaume GA.  
 its summit-loc. live jaume c. pos.

'and on its summit lived Jaume.'  
 (Appendix C, sentence 16)

2.6 There are some restrictions on the distribution of 'ga'.

2.6.1 Certain conjunctions may include or replace 'ga', such as 'jengga' (but), 'jeuga' (then), and 'jamer' (until), when a more specific meaning in the sentence is desired. But both the 'ga' particle and these conjunctions cannot co-occur.

Jaume jengga sirwaka tifil taban, ...  
 Jaume but betelnut got finished

'But Jaume got some betelnut, ...'  
 (Appendix C, sentence 27)

2.6.2 On the other hand, there are certain conjunctions which may co-occur with 'ga' such as 'ane ga' and 'jewer ga.' Whether these conjunctions change or add meaning to the basic meaning of 'ga' is not clear at this time of study.

Ane GA ai warauso jamer jina- bo.  
 and then I returned until house-to

'And then I returned to the house.'  
 (Appendix A, sentence 3)

2.6.3 As would be expected, the Berik particle 'ga' does not occur in sentences involving simultaneous actions. This is because there is no change of time in simultaneous events.

Emai anggatesant twina duka-wer, ai domoltesant.  
 I saw boar head-loc. I looked

'I saw the boar's head, as I looked.'  
 (Narrative: Hunting, sentence 7)

Susi nana aa wirtababsini,  
 Susi veg she washes

Niko je titiki jeber sapusona.  
 Niko he floor he sweeps

'Susi washes vegetables, while Niko sweeps the floor.'  
 (Elicited sentence)

Berik speakers do not accept the insertion of 'ga' any place in the two sentences above, or others like them.

2.6.4 'Ga' has not been observed to occur preceding negated verbs. Probably this is because there is no change in time, and no progression of events when the situation has been negated.

Masef, irtel gamjon irtel, jam irweyan  
 not able awaken again awaken him not get up

'Unable to awaken him again and again, he didn't get up.'  
 (Appendix C, sentence 26)

2.6.5 'Ga' does not occur in a Berik song that was analyzed. This song, which includes four verses of four lines each, does express changes in topics and events, but nowhere throughout the song does the 'ga' particle occur. This is perhaps because of certain restrictions such as the use of abbreviated grammatical forms and meter in songs

2.7 In some cases, there is an ambiguous use of the 'ga' particle. In such cases, one needs to examine more closely the greater context of the discourse or give alternate readings of the same sentence or sentences.

2.7.1 Because of the order of clause constituents in Berik, it sometimes happens that a single occurrence of 'ga' both follows a noun phrase and precedes a verb phrase. There is potential ambiguity: does the 'ga' signal a topic shift or does it signal progression of events? Sometimes the context may determine which, but if not, it probably doesn't matter as the 'ga' could plausibly be argued as signaling both these functions.

..., tas nanki GA tuin.  
 sago middle part c.t./then ate

Either: '..., ate the middle part of the sago trunk (new topic).'  
 Or: '..., then ate the middle part of the sago trunk.'  
 (Appendix C, sentence 9, alternate readings)

2.7.2 In certain cases of rapid speech which have been transcribed, where there is no pause or intonational difference occurring between sentences, it is difficult to ascertain whether the 'ga' particle is tagged



to the ending of one sentence or should be analyzed as the beginning of a new sentence. Again, the greater context of the discourse may help to decide where to place the 'ga' particle. In sentence 14 of appendix B, for example, the 'ga' particle has been glossed at the beginning of sentence 14 as a sequence in time marker. If, however, it had been tagged at the end of sentence 13, it would have been analyzed as a postposed instrument, and the conjunction 'then' would have been omitted from sentence 14.

### 3 THE PARTICLE GAN

3.0 Another Berik particle which occurs in discourse is the particle 'gan'. It occurs much more seldom than 'ga' and is often found in the conclusion of a scene, event, or discourse. In this position it carries the meaning of 'finally' or 'lastly'. Both the following examples occur near the conclusion of their respective texts.

Aa ge tabatil ona fer  
they pl. slept ground-brightness

gan sofobil jam munbife.  
finally went her kill

'They slept until dawn, then finally went to kill her.'  
(Appendix C, sentence 49)

Afa at peti gan eyebili, ...  
if canoe coffin finally make

'If (one) finally makes a canoe coffin, ...'  
(Conversation 89)

3.1 The two Berik particles 'ga' and 'gan' have been observed co-occurring in the same sentence. In this use they carry the meaning of both particles, 'then at last'. The following example concludes a conversation about what happens when parents get old.

Waakenfer, tane jita ga gan daiwena.  
good children father then at last care for

'It's good for children then, at last to care for their parents.'  
(Conversation 32)

3.2 The Berik particle 'gan' also occurs as a hortative marker as described in section 3.9.5 of my Master's thesis. Used thus it takes a reader into a hypothetical or future situation.

Gan toteni!  
hort. go out

'Let's go out!'  
(Master's thesis, page 46, sentence 2)



#### 4. THE PARTICLE GAM

4.0 Whereas the Berik particle 'ga' and 'gan' marks a progression of events or indicates some finality, the particle 'gam' indicates a regression of events or indicates some prior action.

4.1 The particle 'gam' occurs before a verb phrase and conveys the meaning of present or past perfective, although it is not actually a tense/aspect marker. It is often associated with a '-rVm' suffix on the verb, where V stands for a vowel that harmonizes with the vowel immediately preceding it. It can be used to mark a flashback in a narrative.

Usafe ga wini naura gam tet.  
Usafe c.t. woman two had married

'Usafe had married two women.'  
(Appendix 3, sentence 5)

Ofonas gam tumili, anna gam ge nasbana.  
pig sago had eaten husband had two angry at

'The pig had eaten the sago (often), and they had become angry at their husband.'  
(Appendix C, sentence 11)

Wa, Koranos i gam aibani tateris jemna,  
oh chief you have pass by words his

aa jes gam nasbilirim.  
which he has spoken

'Oh, you have ignored the chief and his words, which he has spoken.'  
(Hortatory, sentence 6)

4.2 The particles 'gam' and 'gan' can be used together, usually preceding verb phrases. When used as such they combine the meanings of both particles and are glossed as 'had at last.'

gam gan terbene je- be jamer bar.  
had at last given they-loc. until all gone

'and had at last given (it) to them until (it was) all gone.'  
(Appendix C, sentence 55)

4.3 The particles 'ga' and 'gam' can occur together and carry a basic meaning of some change of state or a final outcome.

Twirife ga gam janton akuyunu- be.  
sago final state falls basket bottom-loc.

'The final state of the sago powder falls to the bottom of the basket.'  
(Conversation 58)

Tokwafe    ga gam            bwerowa.  
fire for   final outcome   ignites

'The final outcome ignites a spark.'  
(Conversation 31)

## 5. CONCLUSION

5.0 My Master's Thesis, written in 1980, concludes with the following sentence, "Especially needful is an analysis of the relational particle, 'ga', and its further use in the sentence and on the grammatical levels above the sentence." The present paper has provided that analysis and has described the many meanings of 'ga' and its variants 'gan' and 'gam'. These particles occur in a variety of environments and can co-occur with one another. The thread of meaning running throughout, however, indicates a change of some sort. Change of semantic topic, especially the alternation of participants being talked about or the introduction of a new participant, is often indicated by the use of 'ga'. Change in the semantic events, particularly the progression of events succeeding one another chronologically on the event line, is also commonly tagged by 'ga'. There are other sorts of changes that 'ga' may mark, as discussed in the paper.

What is important to realize, however, is that these all function on the same structural level in the discourse--the focus being the relationship between clauses, whether in the same sentence or in a sequence of sentences. It is a relatively low level relationship, which explains why 'ga' occurs so frequently: one occurrence per sentence is quite common and two or even three is not unusual. Consequently, 'ga' can be regarded as an indicator of flow or movement in a text, along both the participant axis and the event axis. This explains why it does not occur in static parts of a text, such as descriptions (unless change of topic enters in), evaluative comments, simultaneous activity, or 'negative' activity (where what DIDN'T happen is mentioned).

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## ABBREVIATIONS

c.l.	change of location
c.pos.	change in sentence position
c.t.	change of topic
dist.	distance
hort.	hortative marker
imp.	imperative
inst.	instrument
loc.	locative
neg.	negative
pl.	plural
pos.	position
poss.	possessive
ques. mk.	question marker
s.t.	sequence in time
V	vowel

## APPENDIX A

### BWIDIS

### TURTLE

by Essau Timbwat

1.    Aə            ga        ai    tisi-    nt        Kanardi    jamer    ga  
       opener    then    I       go-       past    Kanardi    until    then  
  
       ai    anggatas-    nt        fona-    be.  
       I    look-            past    water-into
  
2.    Bwidisi        ga        ai    domoltesa-nt.  
       turtle-it    c.t.    I       see-            past
  
3.    Ane    ga        ai    warausono-    nt        jamer    jina-    bo.  
       and    then    I       return-        past    until    house-to

4.     U lum   mese,   gina,   kalowai   ai   kitulfesa-nt.  
      bow   also   arrow   arrow   I   take-       past
  
5.     Gamjon   ai   tisi-   nt       jamer   bwidis  
      again   I   go-       past   until   turtle  
  
      tarna-bo   ai   anggabistenansa-nt.  
      place-at   I   look-               past
  
6.     Ga       ai   domoltesa-nt.  
      s.t.   I   see-       past
  
7.     Ane   ga       ulumu   o       kalawaiya   ga       ai   tetesa-nt.  
      and   then   bow       and   arrow       c.t.   I   take-   past
  
8.     Samem   ga       ai   ge   tensen-nt.  
      slowly   then   I   2   aim-   past
  
9.     Am   sa       bwidis!  
      I   imp.   turtle
  
10.    Kalawaiya   ga       duka-p   denbitesa-nt   futu.  
      arrow       c.t.   head-in   enter-   past   died

## THE TURTLE

by Essau Timbwat

1. Now then, I went as far as Kanardi, then I looked into the water.  
 2. A turtle (is what) I saw. 3. And then I returned to the house.  
 4. I took a bow also an arrow. 5. Again I went to the turtle's place  
 (and) I looked. 6. Then I saw (it). 7. And I took the bow and arrow.  
 8. Slowly I aimed. 9. Got my turtle! 10. The arrow entered into the  
 head and (it) died.

## APPENDIX B

### BANGGE

### SQUIRREL

by Essau Thimbwat

1.   Ai   bangges   nasona.  
      I   squirrel   speak

2. Aiya difsa-nt sekolana-p, ga aiya kausa-nt.  
we go- past school- to then we enter-past
  
3. Taban, gamjon ga aiya totisinye-nt.  
finished again then we return- past
  
4. Aiya tiyese-nt jamer nele-bo.  
we go- past until path-to
  
5. Banggena aiserem ga aiya damtasa-nt.  
squirrel this c.t. we see- past
  
6. Jam tausa-nt tini-p.  
it climb-past tree-up
  
7. Ai ga goros aiya erbasant, jam ton.  
I c.t. slingshot we hold- past it stone
  
8. Sinwaf ga damtasa-nt.  
Sinwaf then/c.t. see- past
  
9. "Ama, ima sa ti!  
friend you imp. go
  
10. Nenna matoa nes nuinmini."  
our meat already sits
  
11. Ai, Sarles ane Martinus ga aiya nunggirtisi-nt.  
I Sarles and Martinus c.t. we run past
  
12. Banggena je ga angasantam aba angthane-sam ga  
squirrel it c.t. see that people- are then  
  
tausa-nt tini-be.  
climb-past tree-up
  
13. Aa ge gorna ga aiya ketatesa-nt ton- em.  
opener 2 slingshot c.t. we take- past stone-with
  
14. Ca aiya munbosiafsa-ni jamer futu.  
s.t. we shoot- past until died
  
15. Jensenya-nt.  
fall- past
  
16. Aiya gartesa-nt, ga aiya tisi-nt  
we get- past then we go- past  
  
jamer jina- bo.  
until house-to

17. Aiya eyebasa-nt jamer taban.  
we cook- past until finished
18. Tesado, aiya tafobasa-nt jamer taban.  
sago pudding we make- past until finished
19. Tesa jam ga aiya tumasa-nt jamer bar.  
sago pudding it c.t. we eat- past until all gone

## THE SQUIRREL

by Essau Thimbwat

1. I'm going to tell about a squirrel. 2. One morning we went to  
achool, then we entered it. 3. When school was finished, we returned  
again. 4. We went back to the path. 5. It was the squirrel we saw.  
6. It climbed up the tree. 7. We held our slingshots each with its  
stone. 8. Sinwaf then saw it.  
9. (I said), "Friend, go! 10. Our meat sits there."  
11. Sarles, Martinus, and I then ran. 12. The squirrel saw that  
these are people, then climbed up the tree. 13. Now we took the sling-  
shots each with its stone. 14. So then we shot until (it) died. 15. It  
fell. 16. We got it, then went to the house. 17. We cooked it until  
it was done. 18. We made sago pudding until it was done. 19. The sago  
pudding is what we ate until it was all gone.

## APPENDIX C

### JAUME

### JAUME

by Musa Borom

1. Angtane bosna Usafe je ga tas tarna-p ge nuin.  
person name Usafe he c.t. sago place-at 2 live
2. Tesa ga belim taban, ga jes talebowel.  
sago c.t. cut down finished then it pounded
3. Ofona ga Jaume-mana, bosna ga Sebafe.  
pig c.t. (whole) Jaume-poss. name c.t. (part) Sebafe
4. Ofo aiserem je ga tesa ga jes tumawel.  
pig this it c.t. sago c.t. it ate

5. Usafe ga wini naura gam tet.  
Usafe c.t. woman two had married
6. Wi naurana aiserem je ga tesa ga je ge talebawel.  
woman two this they c.t. sago c.t. it 2 pounded
7. Tesa gam ge wilni, ofona gam fortia tesa gam tumili  
sago had 2 pound pig would arrive sago would eat  
  
ga jeber ge nuin.  
then there pl. stay
8. Jamere abaka tesa ga umef  
until long time sago c.t. (whole) remainder  
  
ga nanki fal.  
c.t. (part)/then middle part lies
9. Ofo Sebafe gamjon ga forial,  
pig Sebafe again then arrived  
  
tas nanki ga tuin.  
sago middle part c.t./then ate
10. Wi naurana ga jam ge nasbalwel.  
woman two c.t. him 2 angry
11. Ofona tas gam tumili, anna gam ge nasbana.  
pig sago had eat husband had 2 angry
12. "Aam ke twina aa ke i bas tat?  
you ques. mk. pig which ques. mk. you what kill
13. Aam je ban twin gwilyene?"  
you it don't know pig kill
14. Aguisa ga onna- p ga iranul gwinibener ga.  
Aguisa c.t. jungle-to c.l. hunt morning c.pos.
15. Ofona ga tufa-wer ga onsobaī,  
pig c.t. (whole) feet-loc. c.t. (part)/then followed  
  
jamer Jaume aa jep nuini taarena- be.  
until Jaume who there live mountain-upon
16. Taaren bosna ga Sebafe ga jem bola- p  
mountain name c.t. Sebafe c.t. its summit-on  
  
nuin Jaume ga.  
live Jaume c.pos.
17. Aguisa ga ofona tufa-wer ga ayel,  
Aguisa c.t. pig feet-loc. c.t./then followed



jamer sita-bo.  
until yard-to

18. Ofona ga sita-ber ga tal, ofona futu.  
pig c.t. yard-loc. then shot pig died
19. Jaume ga jena ga jam bitbituwel ofona aa  
Jaume c.t. herself c.t. her surprised pig which  
  
jes gwarna-nt.  
it squeal-past
20. Gwanan irfue-ni Jaume ga aa damtal ofona futu,  
then turn- past Jaume c.t. who saw pig died  
  
ga tenebal, "Aam ke ofona ke aame tana?"  
then asked you ques. mk. pig ques. mk. you kill
21. Nan gut "Ofona aina tana."  
who answered pig I kill
22. Jaume ga irwet garter one- wer titika- bo,  
Jaume c.t. stood up picked up ground-loc. platform-on  
  
gamer ateyel.  
then cut open
23. Aa gareniwil ofona ifara-be taban; fone daktal  
when place pig rack- upon finished water hung  
  
tesa olmol taban; gamjon jagin  
sago pudding stir finished again jungle chicken  
  
fataibel taban; aa bunulbantel ga tuin.  
divided finished which placed then ate
24. Jamere taban, unubuguf aa tikwel.  
until finiched satisfied then stopped
25. Jaume ga nuena ga bilibel Aguisa-fe.  
Jaume c.t. eye hex then said Aguisa-on
26. Ane Aguisa ga nunu ga folbal ga  
and Aguisa c.t. (whole) eyes c.t. (part) felt then  
  
tatel te.  
lay down sleep
27. Jaume jengga sirwaka tifil taban gamjon mertan  
Jaume but betelnut got finished again chalk tree  
  
tabual taban.  
climbed finished

28. Masef, irtel gamjon irtel, jam irwe- yan.  
not able awaken again awaken him get up-neg
29. Gamjon dauran tagalbanswel jam irwe- yan.  
again tree type cut down he get up-neg
30. Jaume ga nombe je ga goitel, ga firmulnul  
Jaume c.t. machete she then took and then struck  
  
seselna jamer te, futu.  
neck until sever died
31. Gamer burna gweleniwil aawisi jep tenbantial  
then basket took blood there drained  
  
jamer taban.  
until finished
32. Ga teyel jamer taban, ifara siol aa  
s.t. cut-up until finished rack made then  
  
buntoniwil ifara-be.  
placed rack- upon
33. Ga gamer ga tuin, jem ofona o angtane  
s.t. like that then ate her pig and person  
  
jamer taban.  
until finished
34. Wina naurana masef ge angbasil, jamer ona gigit  
woman two in vain 2 watched until ground darkness  
  
jam foro- yan jina- be.  
he arrive-neg. house-at
35. Funa jemna tanbatitel.  
net bag his dropped
36. Jentowai ge tatil jamer ona- fer.  
alone pl. slept until ground-brightness
37. Wina naurana ga gwinibener  
woman two c.t. morning  
  
tufa-wer ga aa ge onsobal jamer tatait.  
feet-loc then which 2 followed until far dist.
38. Fona- bo funtan jem ulum aa ge damtabel.  
water-at net bag his bow which 2 saw
39. Fona nafsi-be jep ga aa ge fial, ane aa ge  
water other-at there c.l. where 2 waited and then 2

anggawil taarna- wer.  
looked mountain-loc.

40. Ga aa ge jeniwil, "Aguisa ke jereye?"  
then they 2 called Aguisa ques. mk. there

41. Jaume ga aa sar ga irtial, angthane  
Jaume c.t. then hear then went down person

o ofo tele gam tetuil.  
and pig fat had taken

42. Afwer tafa-wer je angthane tel girinsil,  
other hand-loc. she person fat carried

afwer je ofo tel girinsil, ga jenmiwil,  
other she pig fat carried then called

"Ijero, Ijero."  
I'm here I'm here

43. Wina naurana ga jes ge sar.  
woman two c.t. it 2 hear

44. Jem ga aa ge warau gunahaner ga.  
they then they 2 return weep c.pos.

45. Aa ge forol jina- bo, anggwana  
when 2 arrived house-at man

unggwanfer jepserem aa ge forol, aa  
many there they pl. arrived they

ge towastababil Usafe futu.  
2 told Usafe dead

46. Jaume mes tegila-nt nombey- eme.  
Jaume already cut- past machete-inst.

47. Ane jem ebey aiserem je ga eswata  
and they news this they c.t. broom

o mol aa ga tet taman- tamana gamerserem.  
and leaf which then sent village-redup. there

48. Anggwana ga gamer betwel, jamer tap.  
man c.t. then gathered until all

49. Aa ge tabatil ona- fer gan sofcbil  
they pl. slept ground-brightness finally went

jam munbife.  
her kill

50. Ga jep ne erayafel jamer ona gigit  
 then there they shot arrows until ground darkness  
 aa ge sofobiye1 jina- bo.  
 they pl. went house-loc.
51. Aa ge tabatil gamjon aa ge sofobil  
 they pl. slept again they pl. went  
 gamjon an eral jamere abaka.  
 again started shoot until long time
52. Angtane ga gwetet- gweteta naura  
 person c.t. (whole) left handed-redup. two  
 ga je ge gwil nausamer.  
 c.t. (part) they 2 struck together
53. Gina- me ga nuintel ona- be.  
 arrow-within c.t. sat ground-on
54. Angtane afwer jeserem ga an  
 people other that c.t. started  
 munbil, jamer futu, aa ter.  
 kill until died who dead
55. Gan siansol angthane nini o ofo  
 finally divided person flesh and pig  
 nini, gam gan terbene je- be jamer bar.  
 meat had finally give they-loc. until all gone
56. Jem ga aa ge sofobiwel jelem tamna- be.  
 they c.t. then pl. went their village-to
57. Tabana ga aaf.  
 finished then here

## FEMALE CANNIBAL

by Musa Borom

1. There was once a person named Usafe who lived near the sago acre-  
 ages. 2. Whenever he finished cutting down a sago tree, he pounded it.  
 3. There was also a pig belonging to Jaume, whose name was Sebafe. 4. This  
 pig always ate the sago. 5. Usafe had married two women. 6. These two  
 women often pounded sago there. 7. Whenever they had pounded sago, the  
 pig would arrive, and would eat the sago, then stay there with them. 8.  
 This continued for a long time so that (only) a little sago remained in  
 the middle. 9. Sebafe the pig then arrived, then ate the middle part of  
 the sago trunk.  
 10. The two women were angry with him (Usafe). 11. The pig had

eaten the sago, they had become angry at their husband. 12. "What are you going to do about killing that pig? 13. Don't you know how to kill that pig?"

14. Aguisa (Usafe's other name) went into the jungle to hunt in the morning. 15. (He) followed the pig tracks until he came to Jaume's, who lived upon the mountain. 16. The mountain's name was (also) Sebaf, and on its summit lived Jaume. 17. Aguisa (or Usafe) followed the pig tracks to (Jaume's) yard. 18. The pig was shot in the yard, and it died. 19. Jaume herself was surprised at the pig which squealed. 20. Then turning, Jaume saw the dead pig then asked, "Did you kill the pig?" 21. (Usafe) who answered (said), "I killed the pig." 22. Jaume stood up, picked up (the pig meat) from the ground, (placed it) on a platform, then cut it open.

23. When finished placing the pig meat on the rack, she finished hanging water (for boiling); and when done stirring sago, then finished dividing out some jungle chicken meat; and placed it and ate until it was finished. 24. When he was finished, he was satisfied then stopped (eating). 25. Then Jaume placed a sleeping hex on Aguisa. 26. And Aguisa felt sleepy, then (he) lay down to sleep. 27. But Jaume got some betelnut, and finished climbing a chalk tree. 28. Unable to awaken him again and again, he didn't get up. 29. Again, a dauran tree was cut down, (but) he didn't get up. 30. Jaume then took a machete, and then struck (him) on the neck until his head was severed, he died. 31. Then she took a basket, and drained the blood into it until it was finished (draining). 32. Therefore having finished cutting (him) up, she made a rack, then placed him upon the rack. 33. Therefore like that she ate her pig and the person until she was finished.

34. The two women watched in vain until dark, but he didn't arrive. 35. His net bag dropped (to the floor). 36. They slept alone until dawn. 37. The two women in the morning followed the tracks to a far distance. 38. At a river they saw his other net bag and bow. 39. At another river where they waited, they then looked towards the mountain. 40. Then they called, "Aguisa, are you there?"

41. Jaume then heard them, and went down having taken the person and pig fat (with her). 42. In one hand she carried person fat, and in the other she carried the pig fat, then called, "I'm here, I'm here." 43. The two women heard the reply. 44. Then they returned (home) weeping.

45. When they arrived home, many men had arrived there, (and) they (the women) told about Usafe being dead. 46. Jaume killed (Usafe) with a machete. 47. And they sent this news with (a symbol of) a broom and a leaf to all the villages there. 48. The men then gathered, until all were there. 49. They slept until dawn, then finally went to kill her. 50. Then they shot arrows until dusk (and) they went home. 51. They slept (until morning) and again they started shooting for a long time. 52. Finally, two left handed people together struck (her). 53. With an arrow in her (she) slumped to the ground. 54. Other persons there, started to kill (her), until she died, and was dead. 55. Finally, they divided up the person's flesh and the pig meat, and had at last given (it) to others until (it was) all gone. 56. Then they all went to their own village. 57. It's finished then, here. (The end).

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