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Kapauku (West Irian) texts

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Famine

1 Tika naitai ma naka-me ma uka-me ma okei umi-toojojo, naidi Long-ago my-father & father-his & mother-his & they slept-time-when, hunger uwa pagi ti-doke. 2 Okei tai wido kei ti-jake eda kakade season struck did-suddenly. 2 They gardens three make-having fence layers wija wagii. 3 Ti-jake ekina tai-da jokojo ki-jake we-ta agijo-two made. 3 Do-having pigs garden-place enter become-having plant-ed things udo ja-nai. 4 Ti-jake okei ekina-ido kodo mapega wagi-makni. s for-them-ate. 4 Do-having they pigs those arrows shot-completely.

5 We-ta agijo-udo utoma wei kogi. 6 Ti-jake okei nai-ja agijo 5 Plant-ed things all dried-up. 6 Do-having they eat-thing beu. 7 Naitai naka-me naidi ka bokai. 8 Agoo wija umi-goo not. 7 My-father father-his hungry cause die. 8 Month two sleep-going-on jama-awi-jake naitai uka-me maija naidi ka bokai. 9 Ti-jake on-put-having my-father mother-his also hungry cause die. 9 Do-having naitai okai to buguwa uwii. 10 Okai tai kato kei tai. my-father he only jungle went. 10 He garden one made.

11 Okai naidi wedaba. 12 Okai piti modo maida-iga tagi ati-jake 11 He hungry much. 12 He belt stomach on-tight do-having tai tai. 13 Okai eda kakade pito-wo wagii, ti-jake ekina jokojo garden make. 13 He fence layers seven made, do-having pigs enter
Famine - Kapauku

14 Kigee- na kii ke okai dimi kato- uta uwii.
not become-able. 14 Time- one that he mountain one-place went.

15 Okai dou, me- ido utoma dami- goo iti- doke, naidi ka.
15 He saw, person pl. all perish-ing collective-done, hungry cause.

16 Egi agijo utoma dami-goo iti- doke. 17 Awii ka uti pija
16 Meat thing all perish-ing collective-done. 17 Clear-weather cause trees
maija wei kogi ti- daa. 18 Okai kii tadi baggee wuu eti- jake mo
also dried-up did-collect. 18 (All around there) people call tell-having person
idaa- na ma mana beu. 19 Utoma kodo dami- goo iti- jako.
animate-one even speech not. 19 All those perish-ing collective-having.

20 Okai owaa- pa uwe- etigo ibo ita maida na ka jamo kai. 21 Wo- we
20 He house-to going-while big trail on down came. 21 Over- ward
na ka joka idaa- na titi woka- jake ebepeka to gane apumi- jake
child animate-one dirt separate-having face only hands cover-having
naidi ka boka- toojogo e- dou. 22 Uka- me ko agija to kodaa
hungry cause dead- was-there him- saw. 22 Mother-his that net-bag only that
jaiki- jake naidi ka boka- jake, 23 okai ooogi ti- goo na
leave-having hungry cause die-having, 23 she rolled did-over-and-over
uti pija ma jamo poume- etigo doba- ida kodaa naidi ka boka-toojogo
brush even down crushing-while gully-place that hungry cause dead-was.

24 Ti- jake naitai- ja okejai uka ka- ija me oka e- makai.
24 Do- having my-father-agent those-two mother with-two grave them- buried.

25 Ti- jake naitai owaa- pa uwii. 26 Okai tai to kei ti- goo.
25 Do-having my-father house-to went. 26 He garden only work on-and-on.
Long ago in the time when my father lived with his father and mother, there was a famine. They made three gardens and enclosed them in two fences. Then the pigs got in and ate up all they planted. They shot the pigs with arrows. All planted things dried up. Then they didn't have any food. My father's father died of hunger. Two months later my father's mother also died of hunger. Then my father being left alone he went into the bush. He made a garden. He was very hungry. He tightened his belt and worked at his garden. He enclosed it in seven fences then the pigs couldn't get in. Once he went up on a mountain. He saw that all the people were perishing with hunger. All the animals were perishing. Because of the dry weather all the trees too dried up. When he shouted for the people around there was no answer. They were all perished.

As he was going home he got over on a well-traveled trail. Over to the side he saw where a child had clawed at the ground, covered his face with his hands and lay dead of hunger. His mother having left the net bag and having died of hunger, had rolled down crushing the brush before her and lay dead of hunger in the gully below. Then my father buried the two of them mother and child.

Then he went home. He worked hard at his garden. When the famine was over
my father's potatoes were ready to eat. 28 When he dug them he sold them to other people. 29 So many had died there were only a few left. 30 They made a feast to take stock of the people. 31 There were only a few people.

INVENTORY OF MARGINAL MORPHEMES. The number indicates the sentence of the first appearance.

Affixes. Assimilated forms have basic form shown in parenthesis.

28 -opa -spa), 'to, at!', phonologically conditioned connective and noun marker

30 -ne, verb suffix of intention

Particles

1 ...ma...ma connective for two words of the same class

4 kodo noun or noun phrase substitute or boundary marker indicating large things and feminine. Other forms are kou kou, kou

7 ka cause; belonging to; agent; attributive to antecedent

8 jama- (jamo) 'down, over there'

jaJa 'also', att. to antecedent

9 to 'only, just!', att. to antecedent

12 maida 'on!', att. to antecedent

13 te prohibitive, precedes verb

14 kii ke noun or noun phrase substitute or boundary marker indicating masculine and general. Other forms are -kidi

18 ma connective, att. to antecedent

20 na ka unanalyzed, att. to antecedent

22 kodaa another derivative of kou. See 44 above

29 dani 'like'. Idiom: beu dani 'a few only'

30 -ne, verb suffix of intention