

Text

This monologue was recorded in Timbuktu in 1986. It describes the 1840 battle of Toya in which Tuaregs defeated a force from the Fula "Empire" which had its capital in Hamdallahi (near Mopti). The named personages are Sékou Amadou, the Fula leader in Hamdallahi, and Amadou Sambourou Kolado, who died at Toya. See Sanankoua (1990) for the historical background. Comments and section references are added in parentheses after the relevant lines.

surgu di yo saa di kaa na i šinti— i hīsa ka din
 Tuareg Def Pl time Def Rel Ø 3PlS begin— 3PlS do-much Inf take
 The Tuaregs, when they began—. They took a great deal of
 (*saa di kaa (na)* ... 'when ...', §8.3.6; serial verb *hīsa ka* ... §9.7.6)

gandoo alkaasu, i faraa-ndi gi nda laamu, i din
 this-land tax, 3PlS suffer-Caus 3PlO with rule, 3PlS take
 this land's taxes, they oppressed them (=local people) with their iron rule. They took
 (*gandoo* §4.2.2)

alkaasu di hal i hīsa ka faraa-ndi boro di yo,
 tax Def until 3PlS do-much Inf suffer-Caus person Def Pl
 taxes to the point that they oppressed the people very much.

saa di i hantum i se i koy hamdallaay,
 time Def 3PlS write 3Pl Dat 3PlS go Hamdallahi
 So, they (=people) wrote to them (=distant leaders). They went to Hamdallahi (a town).
 (*saa di*, very end of §8.4.3)

i har seeku se a ma faaba ŋgi-ye nda—,
 3PlS say Sékou Dat 3SgS Subju help LogoPlO with—,
 They_x told (=asked) Sékou (=a leader) to help them_x with—,
 (jussive §9.6.3; logophoric pronoun coindexed with quoted speaker §10.1.1-2; syntax
 of *faaba* 'help' end of §9.7.3)

ka yenje surgu di yo, seeku, a gar ŋgu wane taalib foo
 Inf fight Tuareg Def Pl, Sékou, 3SgS find 3ReflSg Poss pupil one
 (help them) fight the Tuaregs. Sékou, he found one of his (own) pupils
 (*a gar* often with abstract subject §6.1.1, §9.5.9, but here = Sékou)

kaa se i-i har 'aamadu samburu koolado dursudi',
 Rel Dat 3PlS-Impf say 'Amadou Sambourou Kolado Dursudi'
 whom they called 'Amadou Sambourou Kolado Doursoudi',
 (dative relative with fronted postposition §8.3.3)