

nda aamadu woo wane baba di, i-i boyrey ganji di ra,
 and Amadou Dem Poss father Def, 3PIS-Impfconverse wilderness Def Loc
 and this Amadou's father, they were conversing out in the bush.
 ('this Amadou' = the protagonist Amadou Sambourou ...; 'the bush' here means
 anywhere outside of settled areas)

woo di har a se, 'seeku?' a har 'm?'
 Dem Def say 3Sg Dat, 'Sékou?' 3SgS say 'huh?'
 That one (=Amadou's father) said to him, 'Sékou?' He (=Sékou) said, 'what?'

'jaa ije-meyre di yo koy yer na duu ngi wane alxabar,'
 'since child-small Def Pl go 1PIS Neg get 3PIF Poss news,'
 (Father:) 'Ever since the boys went away (to fight), we haven't had news of them.'

a har a se kaa 'ije-meyre di yo
 3SgS say 3Sg Dat that 'child-small Def Pl
 He (=Sékou) replied to him, '(concerning) the boys,

ni si hãã i-kur parce que ni ije foo di
 2SgS ImpfNeg inquire AbsolPl-all because 2Sg child one Def
 you're not (really) asking about all of them; (it's) because your son (=Amadou) alone

kaa goo i ra, woo di se na no-o hãã ga,'
 Rel be 3Pl Loc, Dem Def Dat Foc 2SgS-Impf inquire 3SgO,'
 who is among them (=boys), that's why you are asking about it.'
 (*woo di se* is focalized postpositional phrase)

a har a se kaa a na či—, a na či
 3SgS say 3Sg Dat Rel 3SgS Neg be—, 3SgS Neg be
 He (=father) replied to him that it wasn't—, it wasn't

ngu wane ije foo di, aljamaa kaa koy, ngi-ye na duu
 LogoSg Poss child one Def, group Rel go, LogoPlS Neg get
 his own son alone; the group (=army) that had gone, they (two) had not had

ngi alxabar ngu si bey i bun wala i huna,
 3PIF news LogoSgS ImpfNeg know 3PIS die or 3PIS live,
 any news of them; he (=father) didn't know whether they were dead or alive.

haya keyna bari di kaa, a kaa ta gar a jow
 thing small horse Def come, 3SgS come Inf find 3SgS take
 Shortly thereafter the horse arrived. It happened that he (=Amadou) had taken
 (*haya keyna* 'little thing' often has temporal sense 'a while')

ngu wane čitaab di, a kan-ndi a beene,
 3RefISg Poss book Def, 3SgS lie-Caus 3Sg on-top,
 his (own) Koran, (and) he had laid on top of it (=book)
 (*čitaab-kitaaw* denotes a Koran as a physical object)