

Guyanese Creole English

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction
2. Translation of the text ‘Getting cramp working in the cane fields’ (9.2)
3. Examples of Guyanese Creole English vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation

2. Translation

R.: swet plenti.yu ge kramp. yu badi na a muuv.
sometaim yu ge mosl bong. Sometaim yu sii k mi
de ya nou, mi ge mosl bong, mi lef sim i so.

*R.: You swet a lot. You get cramp. Your body does
not move. Sometimes you get muscle-bound.
Sometimes, you see like how I am here now, if I
got muscle-bound, I'd be left just like this.*

F.: ii ge haard.

F.: *It [the muscle] gets hard.*

R.: dis kyaa kom out. Dis na a kom out.

R.: *This can't come out. This doesn't come out.*

F.: yu gadu naint it

F.: *You have to anoint it.*

R.: dis lef sim i so ou ii de if mi ge mosl bong.

Somain mi de a wok, an mi fut lef in dis puzizhan.

Ii ge mosl bong, wid big ting swel out ya so.

R.: *This would be left just as it is if I got muscle-bound. Sometimes I am working and my foot is left in this position. It becomes muscle-bound, all swollen here.*

F.: ii ge – ii get o mann –

F.: *There is – there is a man-*

R.: aal di veen kom an tai tageda, an kom fat so! sodaim – sodaim if hii a mi pardno, ii a wok, sotai ii kom, ii gu rob, ii gu rob, ii gu rob, iigu chrai pul, ii gu pul, ii gu pul, yu noo? Pul an rob an pul. No le mi tel yu wo yuu ga to duu – wo gat di mosl bong. Yu stomik or yoor livo waan bos out, wid peen, yu noo, wails hii gu duu dis kain o tingsz.

R.: *All the veins become tied together, and get fat! Sometimes – sometimes if he is my partner, he would work, sometimes he would come over, and rub, and rub, and try to pull it, and pull, and pull, you know? Pull and rub and pull. Don't let me tell you what you have to do – whoever is muscle-bound. Your stomach or your liver wants to burst out, with pain, you know, while he is doing these kinds of things.*

F.: somi yu vomit out aal yu fuud wo yu iit – wen yu iit – wen yu ii – wej aal do – stoori hapn wid yu.

F.: *Sometimes you vomit all the food you ate when you – when all those things happen to you.*

R.: wen yu ge kramp, yu ga fu lee dong op – o lee dong o di keen – ai – a – in di fiil. yes!... Wel das wai wen yu waan da tablit yu gatu ron gu gu sarch fu di maan. or yu ge won kot, yu gatu ron gu luk fu di maan. yu noó, if yu get ful taim piipl, di – di badi huu gu du di wok gu kom rong in di fiil. bika da a hii wok – ii na go notn els fu du!

R.: When you get cramp, you have to lie down in – in – lie down in the cane – in – the field! Yes!... Well, that's when you want the tablets you have to run and search for the man. Or if you get a cut, you have to run and look for the man. You know, if you had full-time people, the – the person who is doing that job would come around in the fields. Because that would be his job – he wouldn't have anything else to do!

Examples of Guyanese Creole English

Vocabulary:

- *swet plenti*
 - to *sweat a lot* (change of lexis: *plenti* for *a lot*)
- *yu badi* na a muuv
 - *body* (use of unrounded vowel /a/ - a regional pronunciation in England; RP has /ɒ/)

- somtaim yu ge *mosl bong*.
→ *muscle-bound* (switch from the vowel /ʌ/ to the vocal /ə/, spelled here with <o>, and change of the final /-nd/ to /-ŋ/)

Grammar:

- Pronouns:

- mi: for all first person singular forms
- ju: for all second person forms
- dɛm: for all third person forms

- Syntax:

- Somain mi de a **wok**, an mi fut **lef** in dis puzizhan.

*Sometimes I **am working** and my foot **is left** in this position.*

→ use of pre-verbal aspect marker (*a*); no use of the copula *be* before an adjective (*lef*)

Pronunciation:

- Deletion of initial /h/:
 - **ii** a wok, sotai ii kom, **ii** gu rob, **ii** gu rob, **ii** gu rob, **ii** gu chrai pul, **ii** gu pul, **ii** gu pul, yu noo?
→ /hi:/
- Loss of final consonants:
 - wen yu **ge** kramp
When you get**t** cramp
 - an mi fut **lef** in dis puzizhan
and my foot left**t** in this position

Literature

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