

Language: Jarai

Dialect: Ploi Breng vil., Ia Grai dist., Gia Lai prov., Vietnam<sup>1</sup>

Speaker: Hyech Ksor (male, b. 1960)

Genre: Fictional Narrative (oral)

Source: Recorded by Joshua M. Jensen 08/12/2011 in HK’s home.

Audio & Transcription: <http://ling.uta.edu/~josh/jarai/T-HK-08-12-11a/>

*This is a story about H’Luĩ, a poor woman who is the subject of many traditional tales. Here, she is invited by the wife of the village king to go cut palms. H’Luĩ says she has no tools or supplies, but the king’s wife promises to share. When they arrive at the palms, the king’s wife rebukes H’Luĩ and refuses to share her things. H’Luĩ is forced to cut the fibers from the palm leaves with her hands and teeth. Having returned home with plenty of palm leaves, the king’s wife calls down a rain storm to flood out the bridge H’Luĩ needs to take home. H’Luĩ is helped by Hrit, a kind young man who carries her to her home on his back. They subsequently become like brother and sister.<sup>2,3</sup>*

Akõ tõi rã ruai jing H’Luĩ Nao Kroĩ Nan.

*The title of this story is, “H’Lui Goes to Cut Palms.”*

Tui anũn tởdang H’Luĩ jing sa cõ mớnuih bun rin  
amãng ploi. Bu hơmào hợget ôh, mớnhỡng ñũ hơmào.  
Tui anũn ñũ bắt hiu bời rok jolan ploi. Hơmào sa cõ  
5 pô bởnai potao. Sõ ñũ kiãng nao kroĩ nan.

*So it was when H’Lui was the poorest person in the  
village. She didn’t have anything, no possessions. So  
she was walking aimlessly along the village path. There  
was the wife of the king. She invited her to cut palms.* 5

Tui anũn Luĩ laĩ glaĩ kớ pô anũn tui anai: ñũ laĩ,  
“Kào bu hơmào thỡng ôh.”

*So Lui said back to her like this: she said, “I don’t  
have a knife.”*

“Thỡng kào wã.”

*“Then (use) my knife.”*

Tui anũn đỡng, ñũ laĩ, “Ia kào bu hơmào.”

*Then she said moreover, she said, “Water—I don’t  
have any.”* 10

10 “Ia kào wã.”

*“Then (use) my water.”*

<sup>1</sup>Speaker was born in Ploi Breng, where he lived for over 40 years before moving to the United States in 2003.

<sup>2</sup>The recording and transcription of this text was supported by NSF grant BCS-1052964. Thanks to Lap M. Siu for assistance with transcription and translation.

<sup>3</sup>Last updated: August 17, 2011.

**4** *Hơmào*: ‘EXIST’, here in apparently a presentational use, but with no sense of surprise, simply factual. **6** *pô anũn*: ‘that person’, but translated simply as *her*. In this Jarai dialect, *pô* ‘person’ can be used to indicate social distance, such that *pô* is appropriate of someone relatively higher on the social scale. Thus, in this story, *pô* wouldn’t be used to refer to H’Luĩ, who is a social nobody.

**1** *title*: for *akõ* ‘head’ **1** *H’Lui*: H’Luĩ is the main character of many Jarai tales. **3** *So*: for *tui anũn*, lit. ‘follow(ing) that’ and sometimes meaning ‘like that’ or ‘therefore’, but most typically used here as simply a narrative connective without a strong temporal or logical sense. When the translation has so followed by a comma, the Jarai text has *tui anũn yoh*, where *yoh* is an emphatic particle. **5** *the wife of the king*: her name is H’Ruĩ, a detail that the narrator accidentally omitted. **5** *cut palms*: specifically, they will be cutting palms leaves. The Jarai use palm leaves (and the fibers from the leaves) in a variety of ways, making them into, for example, straw mats, umbrellas, plates for food eaten on the farm, and roofs. **6** *Lui*: This is still H’Lui. Sometimes the *H’*—which is part of nearly all Jarai female names—is dropped in speech.

Laih lai đờng mớh, “Reo kâo bu hơmâo.”  
 “Reo kâo wă.”  
 Laih đờng, “Sơi kâo bu hơmâo.”  
 “Sơi kâo wă.”  
 15 Tui anũn yơh, ñu nao hrõm bĩt hăng bơnai pơtao  
 anũn nao kroit nan. Truh pơ anih kroit nan, tui anũn  
 yơh.  
 H’Luĩ tởña kơ bơnai pơtao, “Pha kâo thõng wơi.”  
 “Kah ih bĩ rai mớng sang.”  
 20 Luĩ tởña đờng, “Pha kâo hreo wơi.”  
 “Kah ih bĩ rai mớng sang.”  
 Laih-anũn tởña đờng, “Pha kâo ia wơi.”  
 “Kah ih bĩ rai mớng sang.”  
 Laih-anũn đờng, “Pha kâo sơi đả wơi.”  
 25 “Kah ih bĩ rai mớng sang.”  
 Tui anũn yơh H’Luĩ bu hơmâo hơget ôh ñu kiăng  
 ngã, tui anũn ñu kroit kraĩ. Hơnan hăng tợngan ñu,  
 lai-anũn kễ hăng gơi ñu đờc, bu hơmâo dôm djoĩ ôh,  
 hrẽ hơnan ñu hơmâo.  
 30 Tui anũn yơh, hăng bơnai pơtao anũn ñu hơmâo  
 thõng, hơmâo sơi, hơmâo reo, hơmâo ia. Tui anũn ñu  
 kroit lu biã-mã tợ truh ñu gui bu anũm ôh ba glaĩ pơ  
 sang.  
 Tui anũn Luĩ anũn ñu bu hơmâo dôm djoĩ ôh. Ñu  
 35 bu hơmâo hơget mớnhõng ñu cỉăng kroit ôh anũn yơh;  
 ñu rongot, ñu hia, ñu bu thâu ngã hiũm pã ôh. Anũn  
 ñu kroit hăng tợngan ñu, kâo lai mớng kloĩ anũn. Kroit  
 hăng tợgơi ñu, ñu bu hơmâo mớnhõng hơget ñu ngã kơ  
 hơnan, anũn ñu đờc djợp mợta ñu ngã. Tui anũn ñu  
 40 hơmâo hĩ dôm djoĩ rẻ nan anũn, ñu ba glaĩ pơ sang

Then she also said, “A back basket—I don’t have  
 one.”  
 “Then (use) my back basket.”  
 Then, again, “Rice—I don’t have any.” 15  
 “Then (use) my rice.”  
 So, she went together with the wife of the king, go-  
 ing to cut palms. They arrived at the place to cut palms,  
 like that.  
 H’Lui asked the wife of the king, “Could you give 20  
 me a knife.”  
 “As if you didn’t come from home!”  
 Lui asked again, “Could you give me a back bas-  
 ket.”  
 “As if you didn’t come from home!” 25  
 Then she asked again, “Could you give me some  
 water.”  
 “As if you didn’t come from home!”  
 And again, “Could you give me some rice, please.”  
 “As if you didn’t come from home!” 30  
 So, H’Lui didn’t have anything for doing what she  
 needed to do, so she cut the best she could. (She went  
 at) the palms with her hand, and she bit with just her  
 teeth; there weren’t many palm fibers that she had.  
 35 So, as for the wife of the king, she had a knife, had  
 rice, had a back basket, had water. So she cut so much  
 that she couldn’t carry it all back to her house.  
 Now that Lui, she didn’t have many fibers. She  
 didn’t have anything she needed for cutting; she was  
 sad, she cried, she didn’t know what else to do. Then 40  
 she cut with her hand, like I said before. She cut with  
 her teeth, she didn’t have the things to do the palms, so  
 she ripped apart all she did. So she had some amount of  
 palm fibers, she brought them back to her house, cry-

27 *kroit kraĩ*: *kroit* means ‘cut’, and *kraĩ* is an expressive reduplication with no meaning on its own; together they mean something like “cut using whatever is available.”

20 *Could you*: each request here is simply “give me [something] wơi”; wơi is a clause-final particle used for requests and commands. The requests here are not demanding, so the translation doesn’t use the English imperative. 22 *As if*: in all of her responses, the king’s wife is rude and condescending, saying essentially, “Didn’t we both come from home? Why didn’t you bring your own?” 29 *please*: for đả, a clause-final particle used for added politeness.

hia rãh, rơngot rãh.

Tui anũn pồ thãn [bơnai] pồtao anũn kat lui ãu đờng. Ñũ laĩ, “Tồ ia hơjan, kơtang kơtít, đờng glờm lui tua H’Lui.” Tui anũn jan rai đờng mớh.

45 Laih truh H’Lui glaĩ rơngot hia jan truh [tuh] ãu. Anũn jing H’Lui ia đờng đũa ãu bĩ hơmào hơtua đờng tah, ãu glaĩ pơ sang. Tui anũn hơmào sa cồ tồđãm anãn ãu Hrit. Buh ia đờng đũa Lui. Tui anũn yơh, ãu bơi rok jơlan ãu mã H’Lui pi glaĩ, ba glaĩ, bả glaĩ pơ  
50 sang.

Tui anũn truh pơ sang jing H’Lui rơngot lai h rã bơi hĩ, Hrit anũn. Hrit anũn cẽm rong ba, dua ãu jing hĩ ayõng dơi.

Dôm anũn yơh.

ing, being sad.

So the [wife] of the king called down a curse on her. She said, “Let there be rain, very hard, to flood away H’Lui’s bridge.” So the rain kept on coming.

Then it happened while H’Lui was returning, sad, crying, the rain poured down on her. So there was H’Lui, 50 the water having flooded, she didn’t have a bridge anymore for returning home. Then there was a young man whose name was Hrit. He saw the water flooding and Lui. So, he went along the path, he took H’Lui, carried her back, brought her back, carried her on his back 55 back to her home.

So it was that, having arrive home, H’Lui was sad, then she recounted (everything) for that Hrit. Hrit looked after her, the two of them became like siblings.

That’s how much there is. 60

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42 thãn [bơnai]: hãn (pronounced thãn in the recording) means ‘son-in-law’, but the narrator meant to say *bơnai* ‘wife’. 45 truh [tuh]: ‘arrive’, but the narrator intended to say *tuh* ‘pour’.

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48 H’Lui’s bridge: not a bridge owned by H’Lui, but the bridge H’Lui must cross in order to return home. 53–54 the water flooding and Lui: the Jarai could be translated “the water flooding Lui”, but the narrator intended the idea that Hrit saw the flood and H’Lui (that is, H’Lui wasn’t actually caught in the flood). It’s not clear whether what is actually said can have the meaning given in the translation.

## Interlinearization of H'Luĩ Nao Kroĩ Nan

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- (1) *Akõ tơlơi rã ruai jing H'Luĩ Nao Kroĩ Nan.*  
head NLZR tell recount COP H'Lui go cut palm  
'The title of this story is, "H'Lui Goes to Cut Palms.'
- (2) *Tui anũn tởdang H'Luĩ jing sa cở mơnuĩh ẵun rin amẵng ploi.*  
follow DEM.MED while H'Lui COP one CLF human poor poor in village  
'So it was when H'Lui was the poorest person in the village.'
- (3) *ẵun hỡmỏo hợget ỏh, mỡnỡng ẵũ hỡmỏo.*  
NEG have what NEG2 things 3S have  
'She didn't have anything, no possessions.'
- (4) *Tui anũn ẵũ ẵũt hui ẵũi rok jỡlan ploi.*  
follow DEM.MED 3S walk wander on along trail village  
'So she was walking aimlessly along the village path.'
- (5) *Hỡmỏo sa cở pỏ ẵũnai pỏtao.*  
EXIST one CLF person wife king  
'There was the wife of the king.'
- (6) *Sỏ ẵũ kiẵng nao kỡĩ nan.*  
invite 3S want go cut palm  
'She invited her to cut palms.'
- (7) *Tui anũn Luĩ laĩ glaĩ kỡ pỏ anũn tui anai: ẵũ laĩ, Kỏo ẵũ hỡmỏo*  
follow DEM.MED H'Lui say return P person DEM.MED follow DEM.PROX 3S say 1S NEG have  
*thỡng ỏh.*  
knife NEG2  
'So Lui said back to her like this: she said, "I don't have a knife.'
- (8) *Thỡng kỏo ẵũ.*  
knife 1S EMPH  
'"Then (use) my knife.'
- (9) *Tui anũn đỡng, ẵũ laĩ, Ia kỏo ẵũ hỡmỏo.*  
follow DEM.MED again 3S say water 1S NEG EXIST  
'Then she said moreover, she said, "Water I don't have.'
- (10) *Ia kỏo ẵũ.*  
water 1S EMPH  
'"Then (use) my water.'

- (11) *Laih lai đờng mớh, Reo kào ẵu hơmào.*  
 after say again also back.basket 1S NEG have  
 ‘Then she also said, “A back basket I don’t have.”’
- (12) *Reo kào ẵ.*  
 back.basket 1S EMPH  
 “‘Then (use) my back basket.’”
- (13) *Laih đờng, Sơi kào ẵu hơmào.*  
 after again rice 1S NEG have  
 ‘Then, again, “Rice I don’t have.”’
- (14) *Sơi kào ẵ.*  
 rice 1S EMPH  
 “‘Then (use) my rice.’”
- (15) *Tui anũn yớh, ñu nao hờm bít hăng bơnai potao anũn nao kớĩ nan.*  
 follow DEM.MED EMPH 3S go together with wife king DEM.MED go cut palm  
 ‘So, she went together with the wife of the king, going to cut palms.’
- (16) *Truh pơ anih kớĩ nan, tui anũn yớh.*  
 arrive P place cut palm follow DEM.MED EMPH  
 ‘They arrived at the place to cut palms, like that.’
- (17) *H’Lũi tởnã kơ bơnai potao, Pha kào thớng wớ.*  
 H’Lui ask P wife king give 1S knife IMPTV  
 ‘H’Lui asked the wife of the king, “Give me a knife.”’
- (18) *Kah ih bĩ rai mớng sang.*  
 as.if 2S NEG come from house  
 “‘As if you didn’t come from home!’”
- (19) *Lũ tởnã đờng, Pha kào hreo wớ.*  
 H’Lui ask again give 1S back.basket IMPTV  
 ‘Lui asked again, “Give me a back basket.”’
- (20) *Kah ih bĩ rai mớng sang.*  
 as.if 2S NEG come from house  
 “‘As if you didn’t come from home!’”
- (21) *Laih-anũn tởnã đờng, Pha kào ia wớ.*  
 and ask again give 1S water IMPTV  
 ‘Then she asked again, “Give me some water.”’

- (22) *Kah ih bĩ rai mǝng sang.*  
 as.if 2S NEG come from house  
 “As if you didn’t come from home!”
- (23) *Laih-anũn đǝng, Pha kǝo soi đǝ woi.*  
 and again give 1S rice please IMPTV  
 ‘And again, “Give me some rice, please.”’
- (24) *Kah ih bĩ rai mǝng sang.*  
 as.if 2S NEG come from house  
 “As if you didn’t come from home!”
- (25) *Tui anũn yoh H’Lui ɓu hǝmǝo hoget ôh ñu kiǝng ngǝ, tui anũn ñu kroĩ*  
 follow DEM.MED EMPH H’Lui NEG have what NEG2 3S want do follow DEM.MED 3S cut  
*kraĩ.*  
 REDUP  
 ‘So, H’Lui didn’t have anything for what she needed to do, so she made do with what she had for cutting.’
- (26) *Honan hǝng tǝngan ñu, laih-anũn kǝ hǝng gǝi ñu đǝđ, ɓu hǝmǝo dǝm djoĩ ôh,*  
 palm with hand 3S and bite with tooth 3S only NEG EXIST how.many CLF NEG2  
*hrǝ honan ñu hǝmǝo.*  
 string palm 3S have  
 ‘(She went at) the palms with her hand, and she bit with just her teeth; there weren’t many palm fibers that she had.’
- (27) *Tui anũn yoh, hǝng bǝnai potao anũn ñu hǝmǝo thǝng, hǝmǝo soi, hǝmǝo*  
 follow DEM.MED EMPH with wife king DEM.MED 3S have knife have rice have  
*reo, hǝmǝo ia.*  
 back.basket have water  
 ‘So, as for the wife of the king, she had a knife, had rice, had a back basket, had water.’
- (28) *Tui anũn ñu kroĩ lu biǝ-mǝ tǝ truh ñu gui ɓu anǝm ôh*  
 follow DEM.MED 3S cut many very.much until arrive 3S carry.on.back NEG don’t(IMPTV) NEG2  
*ba glǝĩ pǝ sang.*  
 bring return P house  
 ‘So she cut so much to the point that she couldn’t carry it all back to her house.’
- (29) *Tui anũn Lui anũn ñu ɓu hǝmǝo dǝm djoĩ ôh.*  
 follow DEM.MED H’Lui DEM.MED 3S NEG have who.many CLF NEG2  
 ‘So that Lui, she didn’t have many fibers.’
- (30) *Ñu ɓu hǝmǝo hoget mǝnǝng ñu čǝng kroĩ ôh anũn yoh; ñu rǝngot, ñu hia, ñu ɓu*  
 3S NEG have what things 3S want cut NEG2 DEM.MED EMPH 3S sad 3S cry 3S NEG  
*thǝo ngǝ hiũm pǝ ôh.*  
 know do how which NEG2  
 ‘She didn’t have anything she needed for cutting; she was sad, she cried, she didn’t know what else to do.’

- (31) *Anũn ñu kroĩ hãng tãngan ñu, kão lã mĩng kloĩ anũn.*  
 DEM.MED 3S cut with hand 3S 1S say from NLZR DEM.MED  
 ‘Then she cut with her hand, like I said before.’
- (32) *Kroĩ hãng tãgõĩ ñu, ñu Ñu hãmão mãmĩng hãmĩt ñu ngã kĩ hãmãn, anũn ñu ðĩĩ djõp*  
 cut with tooth 3S 3S NEG have things what 3S do P palm DEM.MED 3S rip.apart every  
*mõta ñu ngã.*  
 thing 3S do  
 ‘She cut with her teeth, she didn’t have the things to do the palms, so she ripped apart all she did.’
- (33) *Tui anũn ñu hãmão hĩ ðãm ðjõĩ rĩ nan anũn, ñu ba glãĩ pĩ sang*  
 follow DEM.MED 3S have PRT who.many CLF string palm DEM.MED 3S bring return P house  
*hĩa rãh, rĩngõĩ rãh.*  
 cry along.with sad along.with  
 ‘So she had some amount of palm fibers, she brought them back to her house, crying, being sad.’
- (34) *Tui anũn pĩ hãm pĩtao anũn kat lui ñu ðĩng.*  
 follow DEM.MED PRT son-in-law king DEM.MED curse let 3S again  
 ‘So the [wife] of the king called down a curse on her.’
- (35) *Ñũ lã, Tĩ ã hãmãn, kotãng kotĩt, ðĩng glĩm lui tua H’Lũ.*  
 3S say let.there.be water rain hard REDUP float throw let bridge H’Lui  
 ‘She said, “Let there be rain, very hard, to flood away H’Lui’s bridge.”’
- (36) *Tui anũn ãan rãĩ ðĩng mĩn.*  
 follow DEM.MED rain come more also  
 ‘So the rain kept on coming.’
- (37) *Lãĩ trũh H’Lũ glãĩ rĩngõĩ hĩa ãan tuh ñu.*  
 after arrive H’Lui return sad cry rain pour 3S  
 ‘Then it happened while H’Lui was returning, sad, crying, the rain poured down on her.’
- (38) *Anũn ãĩng H’Lũ ã ðĩng ðũãĩ ñu bĩ hãmão hãmã ðĩng tah, ñu glãĩ pĩ sang.*  
 DEM.MED COP H’Lui water float run 3S NEG have bridge more NEG2 3S return P house  
 ‘So there was H’Lui, the water flooded, she didn’t have a bridge anymore for her to return home.’
- (39) *Tui anũn hãmão sa cĩ tĩðãm anãm ñu H’rĩt.*  
 follow DEM.MED EXIST one CLF male name 3S Hrit  
 ‘Then there was a young man whose name was Hrit.’
- (40) *Bũh ã ðĩng ðũãĩ Lũ.*  
 see water float run H’Lui  
 ‘He saw the water flooding and H’Lui.’

- (41) *Tui anũn yoh, ñu b̄oi rok jolan ñu mã H'Luĩ pi glaĩ, ba glaĩ, b̄ã*  
 follow DEM.MED EMPH 3S at along trail 3S take H'Lui hold return bring return carry.on.back  
*glaĩ p̄o sang.*  
 return P house

'So, he went along the path, he took H'Lui, carried her back, brought her back, carried her on his back back to her home.'

- (42) *Tui anũn truh p̄o sang jing H'Luĩ r̄ongot laih r̄ã b̄roi h̄ĩ, Hrit anũn.*  
 follow DEM.MED arrive P house COP H'Lui sad after tell give PRT Hrit DEM.MED

'So having arrive home, it was that H'Lui was sad, then she recounted for that Hrit.'

- (43) *Hrit anũn c̄em rong ba, dua ñu jing h̄ĩ ayõng d̄oi.*  
 Hrit DEM.MED feed take.care.of bring two 3S COP PRT eld.brother yg.sibling

'Hrit looked after her, they two became like siblings.'

- (44) *D̄om anũn yoh.*  
 how.much DEM.MED EMPH

'That's how much there is.'