

Analysis of a Soninke Ajami Poem

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Structure of the presentation

- Introduction
- Biography
- Transliteration and interpretation
- Thematic Analysis of the Poem
- Linguistic Analysis of the Poem
- Literary Analysis of the Poem
- Conclusion
- References

I. Introduction

- Was written by Mahamadou Bajaxa
- Follows poems' writing tradition as developed by Arabo-Muslims' writers
- Contributes to a better understanding Soninke Ajami Poems

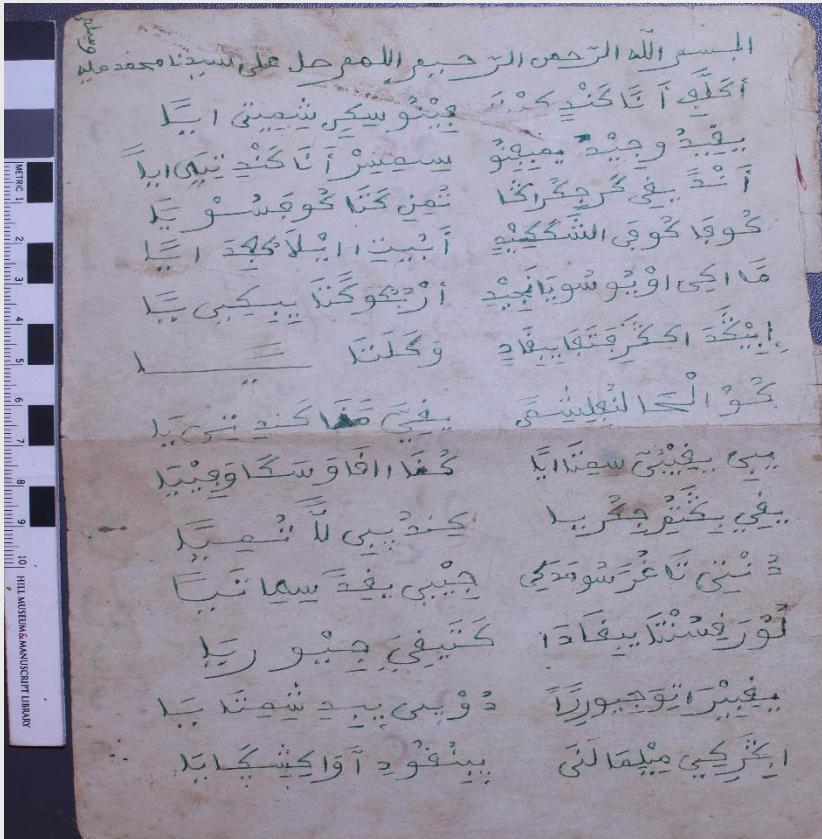
II. Biography of the author

- Was born in the 1950s at Kingi Diawara, 45 km from Nioro du Sahel.
- He began his Koranic education with his father. After finishing the study of the Koran, he studied al-Risala. During this time his father passed away. Before his death, his father advised him to go to Jalaané Jonboxu for further studies, which he did around 1989 before going to Touba.
- The books he studied are the following:

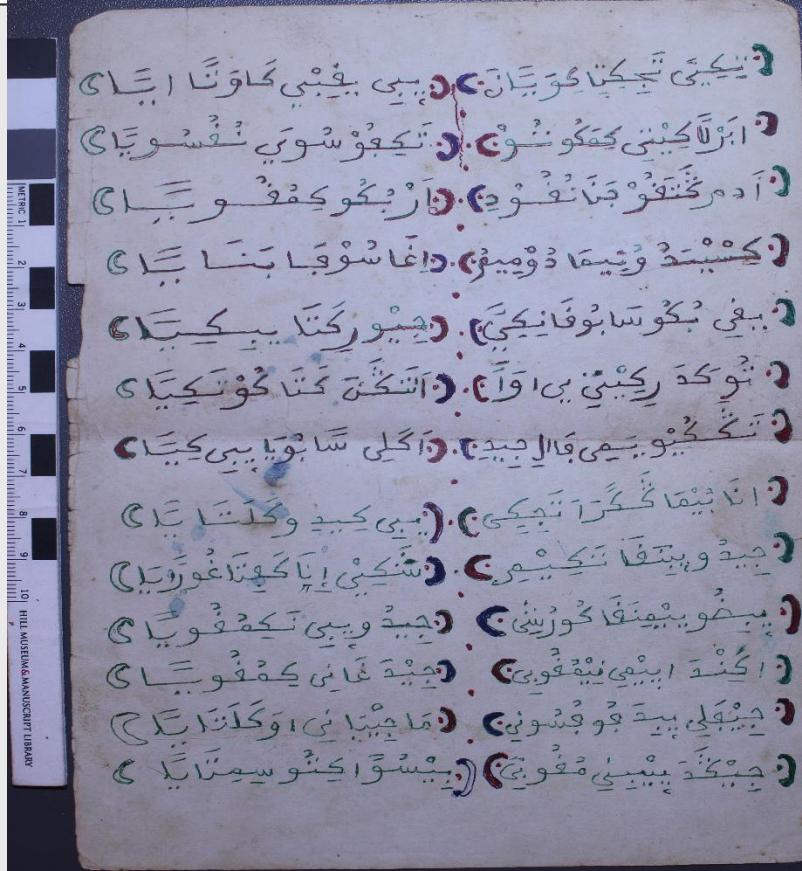
كتب القصّة نظم الشّعر جواهر الإكليل الرسالة لابن أبي زيد القيرواني الجزءان البردة للبوصيري المعلقات العشر للشنقطي ابن المهيّب الستة الشّعراء الجاهليون مقامات الحريري لأبي زيد السّرروجي مقصورة ابن دريد كتب الفقه والميراث

III. Transliteration and interpretation

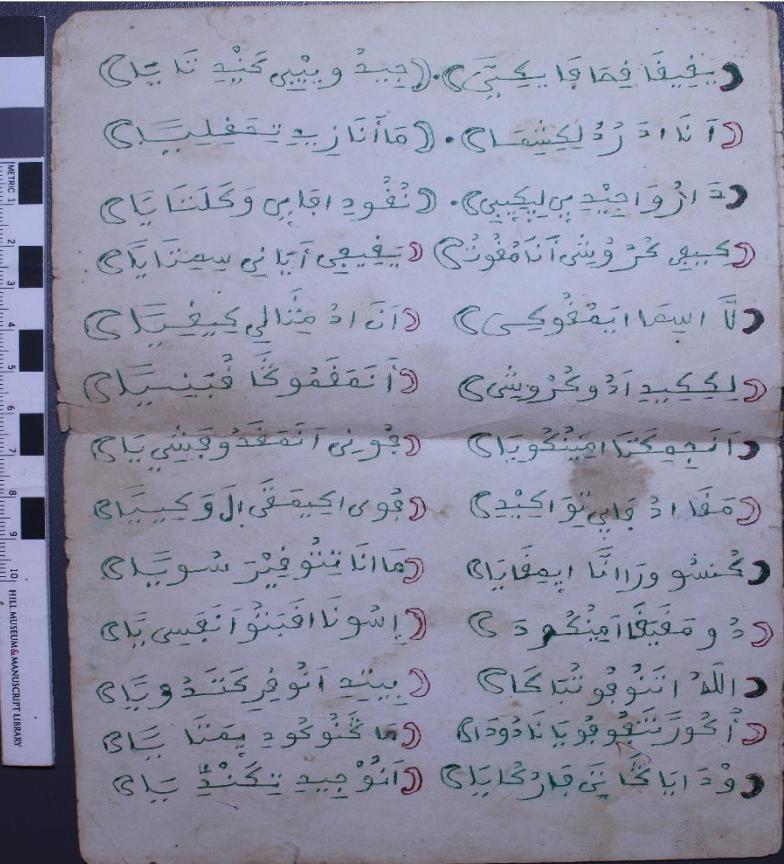
- an ga lafi an na kande keeta fiinu sikki sinme ti ya
- ñexe do jin do yinbe fiinu sinme siri an na kande ti ya
- an da ñexe ñari jin ñure ga tumini katta gufa su ya
- gufa gufa, sanga ken di a bonte a yillankupe da ya
- ma g(a) i wiyun cu ñaana jin di a ri bugu katta yinbe ke ya
- i be ga da ke ñeri fatafata yinbe noxon di wa kalla t(i) a ya
- ku alihalanu filli sinma ñexe ma na kande ti ya
- yinbe ñexe buyi sinme ta ya kun na xawa sa kawa fi ya
- ñexe be ga tuni jin ñure ya ken do yinbe laato me ya
- dunten taaxura su ma dangi ji yinbe ñexe sinme ta ya
- loraxe sunta yinbe xaa da katta ñexe jin ñure ya



- ñexe biranti wa ji wurera du ñi yinbe di sinme ta ya
- i be ga ken ñeri milimalana yinbe noxon di wa ke sija ya
- ti in ke nta jikki ti ke wa ñaana yinbe ñexe boyi kaawa ta ya
- bari ala kiiten ke ma konto tegefou su noxu su ya
- adama ga taaxu janna noxon di a ri bugu ken moxo ya
- kisiye do duumeyemu i xa su faaba na a ya
- ñexe bugu saabu xa ni ke ya jin wure katta yinbe key ya
- tunka da rakutiye wa a na tangana koota key ya
- tanga kiyu ñeeme falle jiidi a kallen caabu ye ña yinbe ke ya
- a na buyi na ga kara anta jikki yinbe ke di wa kalla ta ya
- ji do yinbe naxa nta geme sakke i na kafi taaxura ya
- yinbe do ñiime naxa korosi ji do yinbe na ken moxo ya
- a ken da yinbe ni moxon be ji da xa ñi ken moxo ya
- ji falle yinbe da fofo su ni moxon be ma ji baane a kalla ta ya
- ji ga da yinbe ni moxon be beesu wa kentu sinma ta ya



- ñexe xa xiisa fayi ke ya ji do yinbe kande ta ya
- an na an daaru do lenki sinma ma an na giidi ti haqqile ya
- daaru wa jin di lenki lenki noxon di fayi wa kalla ta ya
- ke fe du korosi an na moxon tu ñexe fe an ya ni sinma ta ya
- ala sinma an ñan moxo ke an nan du misaali ke ñexe ya
- lenki kiyen di an du korosi an nan maxa mungu an kumbene ya
- an jimi katta meenu ku ya fonne an nan maxa an du fasi ya
- maxa an du fayi ti ken wa ke di fo yi in ke maxa lawa ke ya
- ku su wara an nan ñimen xaaya ma an na tinto xeeri su ya
- du maxa yanqa meenu ku da i su na an xa batu an na fasi ya
- alahu tanu fuutu bakka biten di a n(a) o xiri katta du ya
- o ku ranta fofo ñaana duuda ma a ya ga n(a) o deema ta ya
- o da an ñaaga an faaru ku ya an n(a) o jiidi ti kandaye ya



IV. Thematic Analysis of the Poem

The theme: wisdom

The poem is focused on the relation between fish, Water and fire

This situation requires basically humility

IV. Linguistic Analysis of the Poem

- Phonology
 1. an ga lafi an kande keeta fiinu sikki sinme ti ya
 2. ñexe do jin do yinbe fiinu sinme siri an na kande ti ya
- Morphology

Soninke canonical structure is as follows:

Monosyllabic: CV

Dissyllabic: CVCV

Trissyllabic: CVCVCV

Plural Marking

- *nu*

1. *ku alihala****nu*** *filli sinma ñexe ma na kande ti ya*
2. *bari ala kiiten ke ma konto tegefo****nu*** *su noxu su ya*

- *u*

1. *o da an ñaaga an faaru* ***ku*** *ya an n(a) o jiidi ti kandaye ya*
2. *ma g(a) i wiyan****un*** *cu ñaana jin di a ri bugu katta yinbe ke ya*

Syntactic Order

- S O V (for transitive constructions)
- S V X (for intransitive construction)

Lexical

gufa, milimalana, fatafata

V. Literary analysis

- Poem's metric analysis
- The rime *ya*
- Specific poetic characteristic
- Characteristic of the content
- Technical characteristic
- General commentary on the poem

VI. Conclusion

This analysis is a first-step to help us understand the Ajami poem tradition amongst Soninke Muslim scholars.

References

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