

VIOLET, GRACE, AND MADELINE

This portion of a conversation between Violet Super, Grace Davis, and Madeline Davis was recorded in Tee Bar in October 1989. It was later transcribed and translated with Violet Super and the Karuk Language Study Group. The left column is the conversation, showing code-switching between Karuk and English; the right column is a translation of the Karuk into English. "XXX" indicates material not translatable because of noise.

[Talking about an unfinished basket]

G:	akâayva vaa urôovanik ... when I was packin' ... you know ... káruk xas nimah.	Somebody took it upriver ... Then I saw it upriver.
V:	I want it.	
G:	You want it?	
V:	Yeah.	
G:	Well I can fix it, finish it up when I get back up there vaa vúra pay hárivura pachími nipvâarameesh.	whenever I get back there.
V:	Luke's growin' out of his basket.	
G:	Oh yeah?	
V:	tá vâaram, he's growin' fast. [XXX; joking about making a baby basket to carry Frankie Tom, a short man.]	He's already tall, ...
G:	hûutvaheesh uum pee'íthvutihaak, pee-capture-haak?	How will you pack him, after you capture him?
V:	voom ... Can you make one like ... that size?	[= Vaa uum 'that one']
G:	vaa mán vaa ník itâarahiti pasárip.	You've gotta have the sticks.
M:	araráhi ípum panuchúuphitiheesh.	We're supposed to be talking Indian. [ípum = ?]
G:	nixuti áta ishánnaavish.	I thought you might bring some [sticks] up.
V:	Gotta be like telephone poles.	[Referring to the sticks]
G:	víri hûut ikupeethvásipreeheesh?	How would you pack them?

Violet / Conversation – p. 2

V	I have to be like ... fâat kumakêemish poo'iithvúrihanik, fâatva ... [XXX]	some kind of animal to pack them, something ...
G:	akâay poo'íithvutihaniq?	Who was packing it?
V:	I don't know.	
G:	xáyfaat vaa ipíti, hôoy fata puná'aapunmutihan.	Don't say, [in English] "I don't know."
V:	puná'aapunmutihan. Chími ... talk about your weaving, fâatva peekvúkti payéem.	I don't know. Come on, ... whatever you're weaving now.
G:	naa vúra payéem pufâat náviiktihan.	I'm not weaving anything right now.
V:	páy kích uum kunipíti, uvíkti.	People always say you're weaving.
M:	fâat kook?	What?
V:	fâat kích ivíkti?	[To M:] What are you weaving?
M:	íp vúra nik nixutihat, kíri nivik ítam, pâanpay tána'ûuriha. íp nixúti, haríta sárip nisáankurihat íshahak. xás nixúti, vaa páy kip Violet ukupiti, the whole thing, vaa toosáankuri, púxay vúra fikríptihan.	I'm always thinking I'll weave, then I get lazy. The other day I thought p put some sticks in water. and I thought, "This is the way Violet does it, ... she puts them in, she doesn't sort them out.
G:	ítam xás nifíkrip, chími nivíkeesh.	I used to sort them when I was gonna weave.
M:	puxáy vúra vaa nakupeeshan, paViolet ukupiti.	I can't do it like Violet does.

Violet / Conversation – p. 3

V:	naa vúra vaa pay ... I just pull out pahûutva nixuti pay koo.	however I think is right.
M	vaa hûutva nikupáheesh, tánaséey.	How would I do that? I don't know.
G:	How do you know what you're going to use?	
V:	I do this way at first ... [gesturing]	
G:	hâari vúra káakam kêe[chas...] úruhsas.	Sometimes, some of them are [big...] round.
V:	Yeah, I know.	
G:	That's why you have to ...	
V:	hûut nikupá'aapunmaheesh hûut koos ...	How will I know what size ...?
G:	víri voom péemuustihaak, ixúseesh, mâa vaa pay.	When you look at it, you'll think, "That's it."
V:	víri man punámaahthian.	But I can't see. [Violet is blind at this time.]
M:	chími teekôokha.	Okay, you win!
G:	naa vúra teefyururíshukva.	You just pull them out.
M:	chími man íim teekôokha.	Okay, YOU win!
V:	ayu'âach táni'áfísh, tánixus, mâa vaa pay vaahyâach.	It's because I feel it, I think, "That's the right one!"

G:	manâa peefíkriiptihaak, vaa kár(i) i'afish-hêenatiheesh.	When you're sorting it, then you can feel it.
V:	pi'êep kunipíti, payupsríharas uum vaa mukunfikríparas. [XXX]	Long ago, they say, the blind people were their sorters.
V:	vaa mukunikyáviichva, kára hík vúra takunsáruk pamukunsárip.	That was their job, different people brought them their sticks.
G:	uumkun káru ata vúra pukunikyâatihan?	Why didn't they do it themselves?
V:	man kunyáavhiti, táay pamukuníkyav.	They were in a hurry, they had a lot to do.
G:	man'áta pakéevniikich, uum pufâat múkyavhara.	Maybe an old woman, she had nothing to do.
V:	víri man ayu'âach uum uyupsríhiti. uum vaa káan kích úkrii, ufíkriipti.	Well of course, because she's blind. She just sits there, she sorts them.
G:	vaa vúra múkyav, all the time.	That's her job, ...
V:	But not me.	
G:	You can't tell, xâat xára ishánpiithva pasárip.	no matter how long you handle the sticks.
V:	vaa kumá'ii patanipáathkuri, the whole thing. kári xás tánifyúrurishuk, and I feel around. kári tánixus, vaa pay nik koo.	that's why I throw it in, ... And I pull it out, ... And I think, "That one's right."
M:	vaa panimáharati naa káru, Violet vaa pay ... ta'ítam nipaathkúriheen pananishárip.	I copy that too, like Violet ... Then I threw in my sticks.
V:	Then you can start another one. patûupichas uum ihrôovish.	[i.e., a different-sized basket] You can use the little ones.
M:	pavíkahar kêechasahiruva, I couldn't do that. I had to get it out the right size I wanted.	If the "weavers" (the sticks you weave with) are too big,

V:	iim káru vúra vaa míkuupha.	That's your way of doing it.
M:	naa káru vúra vaa naníkuupha, iim káru vúra vaa míkuupha pateepáathkuri.	That's my way of doing it, and that's your way of doing it, when you throw it in the water.
V:	yíth kúna tánikyâasip, tuupichasyâach. chavúra puharíxay neepthíthara.	I start another one, with smaller sticks. But I never finish it.
M:	puharíxay ipthítheeshan, vaa vúra teekyâasip.	You'll never finish it, you just start it.
V:	tátaak vúra tánipáchish, yítha kúna tánikyâasip.	I just throw it down somewhere, I start another one.
M:	vúra puharíxay pikyáareeshan pamívik.	You'll never finish your weaving.
V:	vúra káan tuxaatíshriihva.	It's just turning rotten there.
M:	My mother used to tell me, pafâat ixuti kírí nivik, ipthíthihar, otherwise you never will.	whatever you want to weave, go on and keep weaving it,
V:	Well, that's true.	
M:	mâa yáxa íim pu'ipthíthihan, vaa vúra tipáchish.	You see, you don't finish it, you just throw it away.
V:	koovúra pananívik vaa ukupiti. I just take all the sticks ... No, I just wrap it up kinda, xás vaa vúra tánihruv.	It's that way with all my weaving. and I just use it like that [as an unfinished basket].
G:	víri vaa man vúra ayu'âach vaa péehruuvti.	Of course, because you use it like that.
V:	as axmáy Daisy u'áhoo, uu, chí pay kanípthiithi, xás u'ûusip. xás áas upáathkuri, xás koovúra upíktit pasárip. íp niyrúhat kunish, á'.	And suddenly Daisy came [and said,] "Oh, I'm going to finish it," and she picked it up. And she threw it in the water, and she unwove all the sticks. I'd kinda rolled it up.

	<p>xás upíktit.</p> <p>xas upvíikroov axákyaan, ta'ítam upthíthaheen.</p> <p>That's the only one got finished, panani'arareemváram.</p> <p>vaa kôok panivíikti, arareemváram.</p> <p>I never tried nothin' else.</p>	<p>And she unwove it.</p> <p>And she wove around twice, then she finished it.</p> <p>my Indian plate.</p> <p>That's the only kind I weave, the Indian plate.</p>
G:	víri manâa vaa yav, pavaa ivíiktihaak.	Well, it's good that you weave that.
V:	naa vúra ni'ítapeesh.	I'm just gonna learn.
G:	víri manâa hôoy if áta ishêeyti, kumá'ii peevíikti.	Well, it's not true that you don't know how, because you're weaving.
V:	Well, nobody tell me, vúra naa ... naníxvaah níhruuvti, nixus vaa páy ninísheesh. It's not wrinkled or nothin'. Vúra uum yav, it comes out nice. But my weavers, uum kêechashiruva.	... I just ... I'm using my head, I think, "I'll do like this." It's just fine, they're too big.
G:	manâa puxutihán xáy kêechas nihruv.	Well, you shouldn't try to use big ones.
V:	nixuti kíri kúnish sákriiv, paníктаamsipreehaak, paxuun.	I want to make it kinda solid, when I pick it up, the acorn soup. [She means yaaf 'acorn dough'.]
G:	hôoy if imváarak xuun íктаamsipreevish.	You can't pick up acorn soup in a plate.
V:	When i'm soaking acorns. [XXX; all talk at once.]	
V:	That's what I use, arareemváram, that's my tákiram.	That's what I use, an Indian plate, [dough-soaking basket]
G:	vaa uum káru yítha kunkupeekeyâhiti.	They make a different kind for that.
V:	I found that out just two years ago. I had one,	

	<p>mama made one. It's weaved like a handle basket, I always kept it, I don't use it. It's got little sides about that high, all way around.</p> <p>vaa pootákiranti.</p> <p>But she always used arareemváram too.</p> <p>So that's why I think that's what you're sposta use.</p>	<p>That's what she soaked dough in.</p> <p>["Indian plate"]</p>
G:	Whatever you got, manâa vaa ihrôovish.	... that's what you'll use.
V:	Well, I don't have the other kind.	
G:	Well, manâa pu'ikyâatihan.	Well, you don't make it [acorn soup].
V:	víri manâa puná'aapunmutihan, patákiram vaa kôok kunikyâati.	I didn't know that, what kind they make for a soaking basket.
G:	víri vaa kích peemváram i'ítapti.	You only learned the plates.
V:	vaa peemváram kích nixúti, vaa kôok tákiram. káru papufich'imváram uum yith, vaa káru, it's weaved real tight, it's about that big, mama made one. You can't put púufich in a arareemváram.	All I know about plates is for soaking acorn dough. and the deermeat plate is different, and that, ... You can't put deermeat in an Indian plate.
G:	vaa káru hûut ukupheesh?	So what happens?
V:	You won't get any more [deer].	
G:	Víri hûut kunkupa'ávahiti? Some people didn't know how to make it. Víri vaa vúra kich peemváram kun'ítapti.	So how can they eat it? [without a special plate]
V:	Everybody knew how to make that pufich'imváram	They only learned about the Indian plate.
G:	víri man yáxa naa puná'aapunmutihan.	Well, look, I don't know how.
V:	manâa iim káruk va'áraar, I guess.	Well, you're an upriver Indian, ...

G:	tíhyurukam. naa vúra puná'aapunmutihan.	From Tíhyurukam [lit., downriver from Tea Bar]. I don't know.
V:	Well, just like me, I didn't know ... payíth kôok kunfhuuvtihanik patákiram. I seen my aunt, sáruk tóokyav, in the sand, nice little flat place, víri vaa kaan acorns, they put it in there.	They used to use a different kind of soaking basket. ... she did it by the river, ... that's where, the acorns ...
G:	They used to do that down here. If I did that, the sand would just come all over ...	
G:	koovúra yuxmúruk u'árihishriheesh. They knew how to pick it up.	It will turn into nothing but sand.
V:	When they get through, when they get up, they splash a little water on it. [Then] there's no sand on it.	
G:	nuu vúra púvaa kinkuphêeshan.	We can't do that.
V:	I have to put a rag down. Nuu vúra yithu'áaraar, yith kuma'áaraaras, púvaa kin'ítapeeshan.	We're different people, a different kind of people, we didn't learn how.
G:	I couldn't do it, ayu'âach vúra vaa uxmúrax u'árihishriheesh.	because it would turn into nothing but sand.
V:	But how did they do it?	
G:	Well, I guess they knew how to do it.	
V:	I never watched 'em. Jean used to watch her. sáruk astiip tákuntákirar. káan aas uvúunti. vaa káan ithasúpaah kun'íineesh,	They soaked acorns by the riverbank. There was a spring flowing there. They stayed there all day,

	kuntákinti, yuhnaam.	they soaked acorn dough in the fine sand.
G:	yúuxak patóokyav.	They did it in the sand.
	manâa pukoovúra kin'ítaptihan, koovúra kin'áapnmutihan pakúupha. koovúra chiimíchvahich pafâat vúra nu'áapnmuti.	We didn't learn everything, we don't know all the customs. We only know a little bit of all that.
V:	manâa ník vaa vúra nik, that's good enough.	That's just enough, ...
G:	tóokviit-ha áta.	Maybe [Madeline's] gone to sleep.
V:	téekviit-ha hum?	[To M:] Are you asleep?
M:	Pûuhara.	No.
V:	Chími nuhyániichvi.	Let's have a conversation.
M:	Naa vúra punathítiveeshan, xâat xára kaan kú'uuhyanati, fâat vúra pakuchuphúruthunati.	I won't be able to hear, even if you talk a long time, whatever you're talking about.
G:	ipêeri.	Tell her!
V:	nutákinti.	We're soaking acorn dough.
M:	hôoy takutákir?	Where are you soaking it?
V:	sáruk yuhnaam.	By the river, in the fine sand.
M:	yuhnâam utákinam.	She soaked acorns in the fine sand.
V:	hári kích vaa tikupatákiraha?	Did you ever soak acorns like that?
M:	púxay vúra.	Never.
V:	ha'íí ...	Oh my ...
M:	sáruk áta vúra asáriik hum fâat?	By the river, in the rocks, or what?
V:	yuhnaam.	In the fine sand.
M:	yuhnâam um káan púva, néehruuvtihara payúhnaam. tánitárivka, dishcloth.	Never there in the fine sand, I didn't use the fine sand. I soaked it in a dishcloth.
V:	manâa vaa káru nikupheesh, ayu'âach pa-sand ...	That's what I do too, because the sand ...
M:	I never done that. I used to seem them pick up the ...	

	yaas pá'aas kun'áskooti, then they put it in the pot.	then they sprinkle water on it,
V:	I see my aunt do that.	
M:	But I didn't do it ...	
G:	They had ásip, no pot.	["bowl-basket"]
M:	vaa káru vúra ník, pa-pot.	That's all the same, the pot.
V:	páramvuram kári púva kunsárukanik.	They hadn't brought in cookpots yet.
M:	káma káru araráhi nu'úhyanati, káan uum káru "pot".	We're [supposed to be] talking Indian language, and here's "pot", too.
G:	ásip uum. [End]	It's "ásip".