CAMEROONIAN PIDGIN

1. [a, datwan go gud pas mak, trɔki, yu go kam, e]  
   “Oh, that would be great, tortoise. You will come, won’t you?”

2. [a go glad dat dey we yu go kam fɔ ma haws]  
   “I’ll be glad the day when you come to my house.”

3. [i tɔk so, i tɔn i bak, i go]  
   She said this, turned her back, and left.

4. [i di laf fɔ i bele. i tɔk sey:]  
   She was laughing inside and said:

5. [ha! so trɔki tingk sey i tu fit go flay ɔp stik. i go si]  
   “Ha! So Tortoise thinks he too can fly up trees. He’ll see.”

[The tortoise notices the hawk’s disdain and tricks her into carrying him to her nest where he eats the hawk’s young. She tries to kill him by dropping him from the sky.]

6. [bɔt trɔki gɛt trɔŋ nkanda. nɔting no fit du i.]  
   But the tortoise has strong skin. Nothing could hurt him.

7. [i wikɔp, i shek i skin, muf ɔl dɔs fɔ i skin].  
   He got up, shook himself, removed all the dust from his body.

8. [i go, i sey: a! a dɔn du yu wɛl!]  
   and left, saying: “Oh! I have taught you a good lesson!”

9. [ɔl dis pipul we dem di prawd!]  
   “All these people who are proud!”

10. [dem tingk sey fɔ seka sey]  
     “They think that because

11. [a no gɛt wing a no fit du as dem tu di du]  
     I don’t have wings I can’t do as they do.”
12. [a no fit flay, bɔt mi a dɔn sho yu sey sens pas ɔl.]
   “I can’t fly, but I’ve shown you that intelligence beats everything.”
Language Files, File 111.

Some areas of contrast with English

Phonology:

cluster simplification
substitution of /d/ and /t/ for the interdental fricatives
simplification of /ai/ in unstressed syllables

CCC- and -CCC (the C stands for Consonant)
problems with English: final consonants are a crucial part
of tenses (-t, -d, -ed), plurals (-s, -z, -ez), possessives
(see plurals), and subject-verb agreement

Tense and aspect:

past tense (tense)
present tense (tense)

future (aspect) --- will, would, be going to, ‘ll, ‘d
progressive (aspect) --- be + verb+ing --- overlap with event or time
perfect (aspect) --- flashback

Pronouns:

subject object indirect object possessive
she her to her hers, her
he him to him his

he, she; him, her; to him, to her; his book, her book

Complementizer:

[That she was unhappy] surprised everyone.
It surprised everyone.

I knew [that that was the right answer.].
I knew it.

Prepositions:

for (note the wider range of use)

Suffixes and affixes:

verbal affixes --- past tense, plurals, possessives

Negation

*do, don’t, not, no* all get reduced to *no.*