

Don't Disturb the Light

The elders have a semi-joking conversation about a lamp and about one of them going outside during the break. A note on the context: The lamp was supposed to be there to help one of the elders to see better, but it was positioned poorly that day so it was in danger of being knocked over and was not really helping the elder to see. March 2008.

Speaker 1 Don't play with the lights, [name removed].

Speaker 2 Okay, okay.

Speaker 1 SQA CENS AXEN E TFÁ,E.

APA Transcription sk^wey k^wəns ʔexəŋ ʔə tθeʔə.

Translation You can't do that.

Speaker 1 JÁN SEN NONU E SQATW TFEN SLÁLESET.

APA Transcription čen sən nanəw^u ʔə sk^weytx^w tθəŋ slələsət.

Translation I don't like what you're doing.

Speaker 2 ČNES STONET ČEČÁ? ÁLE SEN ČEČÁ STONET?

APA Transcription k^wnəs stəŋət k^wəče? ʔələ sən k^wəče stəŋət?

Translation Well, what am I doing?

Speaker 1 CENS AXEN CE TFÁ,E.

APA Transcription k^wəns ʔexəŋ k^wə tθeʔə.

Translation That's why you're doing it.

Speaker 2 STÁN ČEČÁ ČNES AXEN?

APA Transcription stəŋ k^wəče k^wnəs ʔexəŋ?

Translation What is it that I'm doing (that you don't like)?

Speaker 1 TFE CENS SQA...[laughs]

APA Transcription tθə k^wəns sk^wey...[laughs]

Translation The thing you shouldn't do... *

[Speaker 2 opens door but does not go outside]

Speaker 1 EWE TÁ SKILEN.

APA Transcription ʔəwə ʔeʔ sqiʔləŋ.

Translation Don't go out anymore.

Speaker 2 SLILEN?

APA Transcription sliləŋ?

Translation giving? [Speaker 2 misheard Speaker 1]

Speaker 1 Yeah. TO,LEN SE SAKEĹ. LELÁ,NEN E SW?

APA Transcription Yeah. t^oaʔləŋ səʔ seqəl. lələʔnəŋ ʔə sx^w?

Translation Yeah. It'll be cold outside. Are you listening?

Speaker 2 [looks at the lamp] This is doing no good.

Speaker 2 SÁÇENS I ÇNES ÇEKET.

APA Transcription sekʷəŋs ʔiʔ kʷnəs çəqʷət.

Translation Put it down and I'll switch it [the light] on. **

Speaker 2 QIÁM ÇE ÇE EWENS...EWE EN SETKT TFE ČI,ÉKEN.***

APA Transcription kʷəyem kʷə kʷə ʔəwəns...ʔəwə ʔən sətq̄t tθə čiʔəqʷən.

Translation Stop it. Don't...don't disturb [or touch/move] the light.

Speaker 1 ČĹ NEÇE E ÇE?

APA Transcription čĹ nəkʷə ʔə kʷə?

Translation Was it you that did it?

Speaker 2 EN SU ČĹ LILEK ČŠ QEMQOMS SE ENÁ ŁÁ,E I

APA Transcription ʔən səw kʷl liləq kʷs kʷəm kʷams səʔ ʔəne ɛəʔə ʔiʔ

Translation Then it's easy for it to be strong when it comes here. *

Speaker 2 EWES U SETKT TFE ČI,ÉKEN. EWES U [false start] TEQT TFE ČI,ÉKEN.

APA Transcription ʔəwəs ʔəw̄ sətq̄t tθə čiʔəqʷən. ʔəwəs ʔəw̄ [false start] ʔəkʷt tθə čiʔəqʷən.

Translation Don't disturb the light. Don't put out the light.

* Unsure about translation. Feedback welcome. - C. Turner

** When this was played back to the elders, they said it should be SÁÇENS I ČEKET 'Put it down and burn it', but in the context it more likely means to switch the light on, since ČEKET can also mean to light a fire.

*** The elders say that this is a mistake, and the right way to say it is EWES U SETKT TFE ČI,ÉKEN as in the last line of the dialogue.