

“Whorish Old Man” and “One [Animal] Gentleman”: the intertextual construction of enemies and selves

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- (1) “The reflexive project of the self, which consists in the sustaining of coherent, yet continuously revised, biographical narratives, takes place in the context of multiple choice as filtered through abstract systems” Giddens 1992: 5).

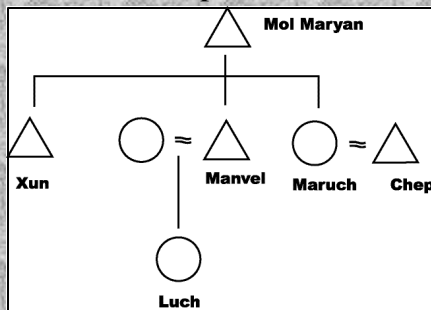
(2) “[E]ach utterance is filled with various kinds of responsive reactions to other utterances of the given sphere of speech communication. These reactions take various forms: others’ utterances can be introduced directly into the utterance, or one may introduce words or sentences, which then act as representatives of the whole utterance” (Bakhtin 1986: 91).

“[A]n utterance is a link in the chain of speech communication, and it cannot be broken off from the preceding links that determine it both from within and without, giving rise within it to unmediated responsive reactions and dialogic reverberations” (Bakhtin 1986: 94).

Mol Maryan (center), 1966



Kinship relations



(3): Maryan talks about his son-in-law, 1970

- 6.1 cha; Yeah, he made trouble with his older brother.
- 6.2 “OK, that’s good.
- 6.3 “So why should I be afraid of my parents-in-law?”
- 6.4 Perhaps that is what he thought to himself.
- 6.5 m; So maybe– maybe he thought of making trouble with his wife, too!

(4) "Speech" expressions signifying (un)sociability

mu s-k'opon s-ba-ik

NEG 3E-talk_to 3E-SELF-PL

They don't talk to one another.

y-ut-oj s-ba-ik

3E-scold/tell-PF 3E-SELF-PL

They have scolded each other.

(5): A first "puta mol" story, 25 June 1991. (M = Mol Maryan, P= the visitor)

65 m; But later, the gentleman (her husband) heard about it.

66 (And he asked) why I was selling land.

67 (And he asked) why was I so intent on selling off property.

68 puta molon la

(And he said) I was a whoring old man.

69 He got very angry over it.

(6) 25 June 1991 story, next part

71 m; He told the commissioner of lands.

72 And the commissioner told me.

73 "This is what he said. This is what he said."

74 "(He asked) 'What business of yours is it to sell land?'

75 "You are just intent on selling land."

76 puta molote

"You are a whorish old man."

77 That's what Lorenzo [the then commissioner of lands] said to me.

(7) 25 June 1991 story, last part

104 "If he comes to speak to you again,

105 "(Tell him) 'He sold his land.'

106 "If he asks, 'Have you heard about it?'

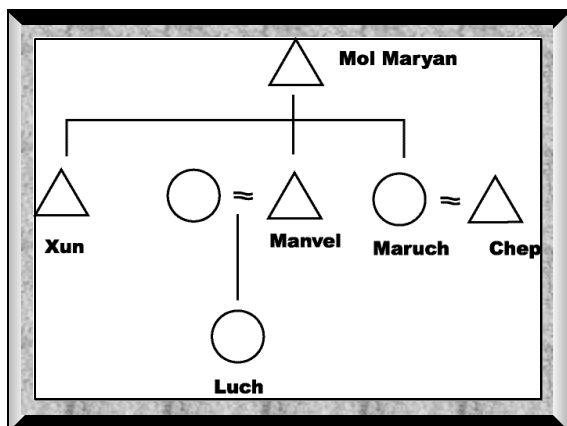
107 "Tell him 'I've heard about it,' " I said to him.

108 "Because otherwise, I don't want (people to say) that I am just selling

109 land in secret."

110 "(Say) 'The commissioner has heard about it', " I told him.

112 m; "OK, I'll tell him that," he said.



Example (8): Reports of fight, Mol Maryan & JBH 7 Jan. 1993

281 m; It made me very angry.

282 My son Manvel came to accost me in my house.

283 "Son of a bitch!" he said.

284 puta mol kavron

"Whorish old man, you bastard!"

285 "This is not your house!"

286 "Get out with your whorish daughters!" he said.

(9): Mol Maryan tells the agente how his son Manvel rejects him, 20 July 1993

- 90 m; "What, don't you talk to him?" he said.
91 "No, I don't talk to him."
92 "But you have recieved your lands [from your parents]?"
93 "I have received them, yes."
94 "But he would give me lands anyway."
95 "After all, he is my father, you know."
96 said my son Manvel, evidently.

(10) Conversation with hamlet official continues

- 333 jpoj osil li puta mole
kavron
"The whoring old man is a land thief, the bastard!"
334 "Let him just take back everything, all the woodlands he has divided up!"
335 "Let him gather it all, the whoring old man!"
336 "He's a seller of land, damn it!"
337 "A land robber,
338 "A land thief," he said—that's what Lorenzo told me.

Example (11): Mol Maryan's son Manvel asks a neighbor about the land he purchased from mol Maryan.

- 152 m; "Listen, I want to ask you, John.
153 "How much did you pay for this land?" he said.
154 "Because you are living here," he told him evidently.
156 "Why, it was this much," I answered evidently.
158 "Son of a bitch, damn!"
159 "I don't know what business the whorish old man has in selling it,"
160 said my son Manvel evidently.

(12): Mol Maryan's daughter-in-law, Manvel's wife, uses ugly epithets f her own

tana-jol mol, xoka-jol mol, luk-
`akan mol
bald-headed, spotted-faced, skinny-legged old man

Example (13): Mol Maryan reports what "people" have told him about his son Manvel's plans and horrid words, extracted from a recorded conversation 5 September 1997

- 80 m; "If I manage to get the signature,
81 "If my father signs,
82 "Yes, indeed,
83 "He can go to shit, then,
84 "Let him just eat shit," evidently said my son Manvel
85 and his wife.

Example (14): Chep already was an enthusiastic trouble-maker as a young man; 5 September 1997

- 1 m; sokem ono:x
He was already going bad.
2 batz'i ben onox kavron
tajmek ich'i le`e
He was a real bastard even as he was growing up.

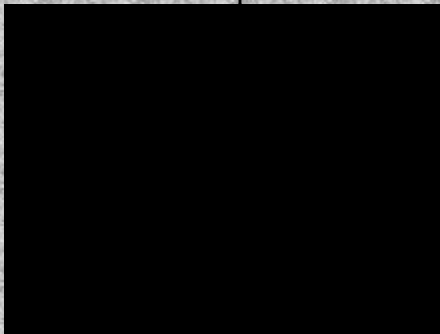
Example (15): A second hand conversation between Marvel and a man from another hamlet, videotaped 17 Aug. 2002..

- 432 m; "Marvel,
 433 "Let me ask you.
 435 "Is our father still alive?
 436 "I never meet him on the path anymore'.
 437 "I said to him," he said.
 440 m; "Why yes, perhaps he 's alive.
 441 k'usi van cha`i pu:ta mol un
 "What (sickness) might that whorish old
 man suffer?"
 442 He evidently said.

(16) How did Marvel go wrong? It was Chep's fault.

- 359 m; He used to be all right.
 360 But his head was just ruined when I got sick
 a long time ago.
 362 m; It was because of the entry (into my house)
 363 cib ak'ubai li j-kot mole
two night ART one-CLASSIFIER(animal) old_man
 of one[animal] gentleman for two nights.
 364 And the two of them provoked each other
 (into fighting with me).

"Your pillar"



Conversation within conversation

- The narrator voices his enemies
- 532 yasta ti iyak'be li spirma li-
 "Wait until he has given his signature..."
- 533 ali vunal osile
 "On the land title"
- 534 e:sosi yu`un avu`un xa
 "Then, yes, it will be yours".
- 535 jipo komel
 "Throw him away and leave him."
- 536 xiyut ti jbol chepe
 "So says my brother-in-law Chep to me."

Voicing the ally

- Conversely, the narrator locates his own criticisms in the mouth of another
- 541 aa: va`i bu jok`olot
 che`e
 "Aa, so that is where you are hanging,
 then.
- 542 va`i bu . lek avoyal
 xut la un
 "That is where your strong pillar is,"
 he evidently said to him.

Mol Maryan → JBH

visitor → Mol Maryan

Marvel → visitor

Chep

Marvel