

CAST OF CHARACTERS

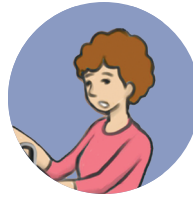
Niko (an exchange student) and his host family



Niko



Yuna



Host Mother



Host Father



Host Great-Grandmother



Host Grandfather

People in Niko's circle:



Teacher



Amy

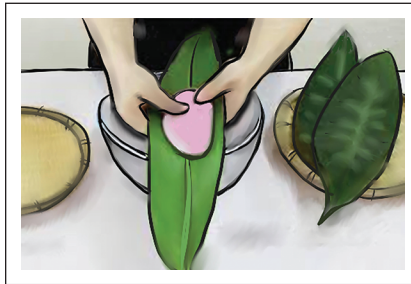


Pensy



Shogo

DIALOGUE C



Niko: *Wan nin tiganee su sa.
Sannin nu faa nkai chichimumi?*

I will help you too.
Shall I wrap them in *sannin* leaves?

Yuna: *li, sannin nu faa **nkai chichidi**, anshikara,
?nbusu sa.*

Yes, we will wrap them up with *sannin*,
and after that, steam them.

(Niko tried some *muuchii* that Yuna had just made)

Niko: *Maasatan yaa.
Waa munoo murasachi ?nmu yatan.*

It was good, wasn't it?
Mine was purple sweet potatoes.

(Niko looked at Yuna who is chaining *muuchii*)


Niko: *Nuu soo ga?*

What are you doing?

Yuna: *Muuchii Ø tushi nu kaji **kunchi**, tinjoo
kara sagitoon.*

I am chaining as many *muuchi* as my
years of age, and hanging them from
the ceiling.



 The plant *sannin* belongs to the ginger family. It is said to have antibacterial power and provide protection against bad spirits. The celebratory *muuchii* is shared with ancestors during prayers for health and longevity.

CULTURAL NOTES

1. Spirits: *shii* and *mabui*

In Okinawa, we hear the expression *shii nugitoon* ‘the spirit has escaped’ when one is sick. Also related to this, some Okinawan people believe people lose their *mabui* ‘spirit’ when they fall down or get injured. When this happens, people would return to the location and perform a *mabui-gumi* ‘regaining spirit’ ritual. In the following, *saa* and *suu* also mean ‘spirit’ (Takara 2005a: 72–73).

<i>saa-dakasan</i>	‘sensitive to spiritual things’
<i>suu-juusan</i>	‘where sprits are strong (e.g. cemetery, location of frequent traffic accidents)’

- You may have read about phenomena in which spirits travel out of their bodies in comic book stories such as *Dragon Ball* and *Yuuyuu Hakusho*. Find out what they do in these comic book stories. Do you know any other comic book or anime stories that feature such spirit travels? Describe when that happens and what they do.
- Do you know any culture in which one’s body and spirit are viewed as two different entities? Describe their practices and your own thoughts about it.



2. “God Bless You!” in Okinawan

Sneezing is often associated with an onset of catching a cold. In Okinawa, people say *kusu kwee hyaa* to someone who sneezes. When translated literally, it means ‘Eat shit!’. You may think this is a terrible thing to say to someone, but it is actually directed at the evil spirit that causes sneezing. During the time of dialect suppression (cf. Shinzato 2003b), students could not use any words from their dialect and were expected to use Standard Japanese. If they broke this rule, they would be punished. One day, someone sneezed. One student was about to say *kusu kwee hyaa*, but changed his mind and instead translated it into Japanese as *unko meshiagare* ‘Please eat your shit (in polite Japanese).’ The entire class burst into laughter. (For etymologies of this Okinawan incantation originating in the Buddhist term *kusoku manmei* ‘rest forever’ and cross-cultural studies of related chants, see Onochi 2008.)

- In English, we say “God bless you!” Why do we say that? Do you know similar expressions in any other language(s)?
- We also have expressions to avoid bad luck. What does “Break a leg!” mean? Do you know any similar expressions in any other language(s)?

GRAMMAR C

1. Simultaneous Actions: [V_1 (ADV.FORM) *gachii*, V_2] ‘While doing V_1 , do V_2 ’

This structure, [V_1 *gachii*, V_2], indicates that one is doing V_1 and V_2 at the same time. V_1 before *gachii* is in the Adverbial Form. The final vowel of this form *-i* frequently changes to *-a*, resulting in variations such as *atcha-gachii* (← *atchi-gachii* ‘while walking’) and *sa-gachii* (← *shii-gachii* ‘while doing’).

	DIC.FORM	ADV.FORM	<i>-gachii</i>	Meaning
V	<i>tu-in</i>	<i>tu-i</i>	<i>tui gachii</i>	‘while taking ...’
V	<i>aki-in</i>	<i>aki-i</i>	<i>akii gachii</i>	‘while opening ...’
C-1	<i>ʔwiiij-un</i>	<i>ʔwiiij-i</i>	<i>ʔwiiiji gachii</i>	‘while swimming’
C-2	<i>ninj-un</i>	<i>ninj-i</i>	<i>ninji gachii</i>	‘while sleeping’
C-3	<i>kunj-un</i>	<i>kunj-i</i>	<i>kunji gachii</i>	‘while tying up ...’
C-4	<i>atch-un</i>	<i>atch-i</i>	<i>atchi gachii</i>	‘while walking’
C-5	<i>much-un</i>	<i>much-i</i>	<i>muchi gachii</i>	‘while holding ...’
C-6	<i>ʔnbus-un</i>	<i>ʔnbush-i</i>	<i>ʔnbushi gachii</i>	‘while steaming ...’
C-7	<i>yub-un</i>	<i>yub-i</i>	<i>yubi gachii</i>	‘while calling ...’
C-8	<i>num-un</i>	<i>num-i</i>	<i>numi gachii</i>	‘while drinking ...’
IRG	<i>chuun</i>	<i>chii</i>	<i>chii gachii</i>	‘while coming’
IRG	<i>ichun</i>	<i>ichi</i>	<i>ichi gachii</i>	‘while going’
IRG	<i>sun</i>	<i>shii</i>	<i>shii gachii</i>	‘while doing ...’

Here is an example from the dialogue:

- *U-jaki n usagai **gachii**, kwatchii n dateen **usagati-utabimisheebiri**.* ‘Please have a lot of the delicious food while drinking sake.’

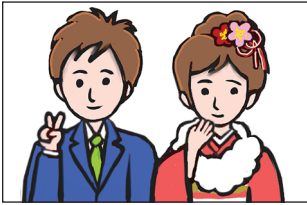
More examples ...

- *Gooyaa chanpuruu **kami gachii**, saki gwaa **numun**.* ‘I will drink sake while eating the sautéed bitter melon dish.’

EXERCISES C

1. Fill in the blanks with *nu*, *nkai*, or *kara*. Consult WB for unknown words.

- a. *Chuu ya Seijin nu Hii yan. ?yaa n chuu (_____) ya ufutchu yan yaa.*
(hint: 'from this day on...') [Note: *Seijin nu Hii* = 'Coming of Age Day' celebrated on January 15.]
- b. *N(n)su jiru (_____) (← n(n)su + shiru) nu naaka (_____) deekuni tu toofu ittan.*
- c. *Aree yuufuru (_____) itchoon.*



2. Match the following by putting a number (1–5) in the blanks.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| a. () <i>Saataa iriin.</i> | 1. 'I put sugar (in it).' (past tense) |
| () <i>Saataa itchoon.</i> | 2. 'I saw him putting sugar (in it).' |
| () <i>Saataa ittan.</i> | 3. 'Sugar is put in.' |
| () <i>Saataa iriitan.</i> | 4. 'Shall I put sugar (in it)?' |
| () <i>Saataa iriimi?</i> | 5. 'I am going to put sugar (in it).' |
| b. () <i>Chin ya sagatoon.</i> | 1. 'I hung up my coat.' |
| () <i>Chin sagitan.</i> | 2. 'I saw him hanging up his coat.' |
| () <i>Chin sagiimi?</i> | 3. 'My coat is hung up.' |
| () <i>Chin sagiitan.</i> | 4. 'Shall I hang (your) coat up?' |
| () <i>Chin sagitoon.</i> | 5. 'I am hanging up my coat.' |

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