

EMIC OR ETIC OR JUST ANOTHER CATCH-22?

A Repartee to Hartmut Haberland

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Mtona Moyadi, ke, kunukwali
'This Moyadi, well, do you know
yagala kwila?
the name of his prick?
Bigisesi vivila bigigilasi
The girls will see it, they will laugh
bikebigasi: "Ake inagwe!"
and say: "Oh, mothers, indeed!"'

This 'joke', told by Gayoboda, was labelled as *sopa*; the Trobriand Islanders characterized Kilagola's story (*kukwanebu*) as *sopa*, too.

I completely agree with Hartmut Haberland's¹ arguments – from an etic point of view. However, I disagree with Hartmut Haberland's arguments and must refute them – from an emic point of view.

That's it.

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¹ Haberland, Hartmut, 1985. Kilivila *sopa* 'joke'? Journal of Pragmatics 9: 835–843.