Relay 17 (Ring D)  text in Prevli

mmayan ut topkö zazala

elda topkö kitaro or nakp,ärned niśké. ŋarod o taro sayag zo vurza topkö, ŋo kor,åd zehen o topkö, tero kalmerza* yate kakapkar zehen.  itsu ŋarod o taro tared, ŋôkr o topkö te parked zehen. mi:, läk,or zehen o hažǧa an o naślo.  ikäg nifar iknütsa te pareg kakapkar zehen a taro śäm artoz.  itsu iki l,ä:ter ni dee gikki, or kikir te iŋkesirza.

((*Note added after submission: -za is wrong, it should read *kalmer zehen*-- a compound pron.is required after both verbs when trans.verbs are conjoined))

INTERLINEAR
mmayan ut topkö zazala
NOMLZ-narrate concerning [animal] REDUP-bad


elda topkö kitaro or nakp,ärned  niśké.
el-da          topkö   ki-taro   or    nak-p-i-arne-d          ni-eśké
there.is-past  topkö   DAT-man REL PROG-PASS-use-past  by-3s.OBL

ŋarod o taro sayag zo vurza topkö,  ŋo kor,åd zehen o topkö,
ŋaro-d   o     tared      zo vur-za       topkö, ŋo kor,å-d    zehen o    topkö,
try-past DEF man mount on back-3sPOSS topkö, but reject-past PRO    DEF topkö

tero kalmer zehen yate kakapkar zehen.
tero    kalme-r   zehen yate     ka-kapka-r       zehen.
down    throw-past PRO   and.then REDUP-beat-past PRO

itsu ŋarod o taro tared, ŋôkr o topkö te parked zehen.
itsu ŋaro-d   o    taro tared, ŋôk-r      o    topkö te parke-d   zehen.
when try-past DEF man  escape, roar-past DEF topkö and kick-past PRO

mi:, läk,or zehen o hažǧa an o naślo.
mi:, läk,or    zehen o    hažǧa       an o    naślo.
yes  attack-past PRO   DEF strong,one  DO DEF weak.one

ikäg nifar iknütsa te pareg kakapkar zehen a taro śäm artoz.
ikäg    nifar   iknü-t-sa       te pareg ka-kapka-r        zehen a    taro śäm   arto-z.
trample INSTR leg-pl-3sPOSS and kick    REDUP-beat-past PRO  DO man  until dead-3s

itsu iki l,ä:ter ni dee gikki, or kikir te iŋkesirza.
itsu iki l,ä:ter ni       dee gikki,    or    kiki-r        te    in-kesi-r-za.
when this see-PASS-_past little [animal], REL  squeal-past  and   INCHO-joyful-past-3s

SMOOTH ENGLISH
Story about an evil *topkö* [see note below]
A man had a topkö that he was using. The man tried to get up on the topkö's back, but the topkö rejected him, threw him down and beat him. When the man tried to escape, the topkö bellowed and

kicked him. Truly, the powerful one attacked the weak one. Trampling with his legs and kicking, it beat the man until he was dead. When this was seen by a little *gikki*, it squealed and was delighted.


GRAMMAR:

Prevli is basically VSO. Adverbials usually precede the verb. Passive voice is frequently used (sometimes required), in which case the patient precedes the verb, and the agent, if present, is marked with prep. /ni/.. Trans.vbs. require a pronominal form that marks both subj. and obj.-- the order is V-PRO (+S+O if S and/or O are nouns); intrans. vbs. merely show subj.pronoun agreement, which is omitted if the subject is a noun. Verbs distinguish realis / irrealis, but all verbs in this text are realis. The non-finite verb form may function as an infinitive, gerund, or present participle. Adjectives precede nouns. Possession (inalienable) in this text is shown with a person suffix on the possessum, followed by the noun possessor.

The *topkö* is one of the larger saurians of Cindu (a little bigger than a rhinoceros). In the past it was sometimes used as a draft or pack animal, but it was at best semi-tame, and its behavior was unpredictable. In Adam's version (also a non-Terran language), he described his animal as "a large beast aprox. 10-15 times the mass of a Tvern, tamed, but not domesticated, used for hauling, transportation and occasionally in warfare." His counterpart of my *gikki* was described as "a small domestic pest frequently included in folktales, often in a wisdom role " No idea what the Terran equivalents would be (I suspect elephant and mouse ??)


VOCABULARY (to simplify matters, words are cited as they occur in the text, not in their underlying forms, which usually differ from the surface forms; A comma following a letter indicates palatalization)

-d(a)~-r(a) - past tense (the final V is deletable)
-t(a) - plural
-z(a) ~ -s(a) - 3s-- both possessive and verbal
a ~ an - marker of DO, esp. if animate
arto - dead
dee - little
el - there is/are (+ dative, to have)
gikki - a very small saurian, agricultural pest
hažğa - powerful, strong
ikäg - to trample (non-finite form)
iki - dem., this
iknü - leg
itsu - conj., when
kakapka - intens. of kapka to beat
kalme - to throw
iŋkesi - INCHO. of kesi joy= rejoice
ki - prep., dative
kiki - squeal
kor,å - to refuse, reject
l,ä:te - passive of la:te to see
läk,o - to attack
mmayan - noml. < /mayan/ to tell, narrate
mi: - yes, indeed

nak- - prfx. of progressive aspect
naślo - weak
ni - prep., agent of passive voice; niśké - *ni +* oblique form of 3s pron.
nifar - prep., by means of
ŋaro - to try
ŋo - conj., but
ŋôk - to bellow, roar
o - def.art.
or - rel. pron.
pareg - to kick (non-finite)
parke - to kick (finite)
p,ärne - pass. of parne to use
śäm - conj., until
sayag - to mount, ride on (non-finite)
tared - escape (non-fin.)
taro - man
te - conj., and
tero - down, downwards
topkö - a large saurian (see note above)
ut - prep., about, concerning
vur - back (anat.)
yate - conj. and then/next....

zazala - intens. of zala 'bad'
zehen - pron., 3s subj + 3s.obj

zo - prep., on (the...)