

Bans a Killin – Miss Lou (Louise Bennett)

So yuh a de man me hear bout!  
Ah yuh dem seh dah teck  
Whole heap a English oat seh dat  
yuh gwine kill dialec!  
Meck me get it straight, mas Charlie,  
For me no quite understand –  
Yuh gwine kill all English dialec  
Or jus Jamaica one?  
Ef yuh dah equal up wid English  
Language, den wha meck  
Yuh gwine go feel inferior when  
It come to dialec?  
Ef yuh cyaan sing 'Linstead Market'  
An 'Water come a me yeye'  
Yuh wi haffi tap sing 'Auld lang syne'  
An 'Comin through de rye'.  
Dah language weh yuh proud a,  
Weh yuh honour an respec –  
Po Mas Charlie, yuh no know se  
Dat it spring from dialec!  
Dat dem start fi try tun language  
From de fourteen century -  
Five hundred years gawn an dem got  
More dialec dan we!  
Yuh wi haffi kill de Lancashire,  
De Yorkshire, de Cockney,  
De broad Scotch and de Irish brogue  
Before yuh start kill me!  
Yuh wi haffi get de Oxford Book  
A English Verse, an tear  
Out Chaucer, Burns, Lady Grizelle  
An plenty a Shakespeare!  
When yuh done kill 'wit' an 'humour',  
When yuh kill 'variety',  
Yuh wi haffi fine a way fi kill  
Originality!  
An mine how yuh dah read dem English  
Book deh pon yuh shelf,  
For ef yuh drop a 'h' yuh mighta  
Haffi kill yuhself!