Example: Maay, Standard Somali and the Translation into English

1. Roobleey Mustaf la i dun (*?) (dheereh)
   Roobleey Mustaf'ayaa la idhaha.
   Lit. I am called Roobleey Mustaf. My name is Robleey Mustaf.

2. Roobleey may ku dhoolate magaalada Eessoo, may la idhaha Aw Muraale.
   Roobleey waxay ku dhaalaytay magaalada Eessoo, oo la yiraahdo Aw Muraale.
   Roobleey was born in the town of Eesso, which is called Aw Muraale.

3. Inta guur i sheemi. *
   Inta guur aayaa i keynaay.
   Here, marriage brought me.

   SHOR E OR LONG E? SHOULD BE IT?
   Nisarka ayaa aayii deegayay: Intuu deegaynay.
   My husband resides here. Here he resides.

5. Toban oo dhulaytay
   Toban oo dhulaytay.
   Fifteen children, I had for him.

6. Ani waxaa?
   Antigaas?
   Me?

7. Ani may jira sodooyso yirradd. * Standard Maay influence?
   In some other part of the interview the Maay speaker uses *muuy= Maay and southern Somali Benaadir dialect for number 'eight'.
   Ani jira sodooyso yirradd. 1am old thirty eight.

Discussion: Grammar/Syntax, Word Formation, Sound

*Grammar/Syntax: Maay displays an absence of the grammatical category of focus in this sentence whereas the Standard Somali has an obligatory focus. Here it is ayaa. Compare with other closely related languages (e.g. Tuni, Mauro 1997*) * which unlike Standard Somali do Not require an obligatory focus in a sentence.

*Grammar/Word formation: compare the Present Tense ending as in Maay=oleheer vs. Standard Somali dhahaan. Both languages make an extensive use of the construction with the impersonal pronounza sound (dhahaan= dh-) seems to sound as k. Actually, some of us hear: Robleeysanaa(dheere): symbol is used here to denote the passes which do not correspond to the lexical word boundaries. This sentence still requires work.

*Grammar/Syntax: Maay displays may type focus in this sentence whereas Standard Somali has the so-called #dhehe focus=waaxay

Note also the use of may in Maay whereas Standard Somali has the conjunction on. Sound: la, which is an non-specific subject pronoun referring only to human subject(Saeed 1999, pp 76-77) it's actually la (always)

*Usage: Pronouns. The speaker uses her name and the third person verbal agreement instead of the expected equivalent of the personal pronoun, first person singular 'I'.

*Grammar/Sound/Endings

(int; 'lowa' rather than la ~ Saeed 1982: AAL 8:2.3) typical for Maay.
Compare May: sh sound in sheeni vs. k sound in Standard Somali.kenay (the Past Tense of the verb bring) See Saced (1982(2:23), the Simple Past Tense has an -k ending in the first person and third person singular masculine.

Grammar/Syntax/Focus: The focus marker in Maay is -a after consonants. In Somali it is ayaa. Pronoun: -k Object case-me.

Numbers in Maay versus Standard Somali.
Maay: sh sound = sounds (waa) in English as in ing. Some (en)mon or possibly tmying vs. Standard Xan. The Benaadir dialect also uses tmyin to denote the non-specific subject.

Maay shows absence of the definite article with the pronoun k=ku, and the declarative sentence marker was the absence of the focus marker has reduced to -a

Grammar: May instead of Standard waaan.

Sounds: sounding in Maay vs. sodooyso in Standard Somali at word boundary waa in Maay.