

Tanko Bushi is a song about the old coal mine in Miike, Kyushu. The choreography expresses the hand movements of shoveling coal, throwing a bag of coal over the shoulders, wiping sweat from the eye brows, and pushing a cart full of coal.

Key points of the song:

- industrialization, specifically, coal mining is polluting the air, feeling sorry for the moon, which has to inhale the chimney smoke
- coal used to be called black diamonds, bringing wealth to towns, but most workers did not live beyond 40
- the lady is saying that if the guy returns her innocence she will say goodbye

Lyrics:

月が出た出た 月が出た (ヨイヨイ) 三池炭坑の 上に出た あまり煙突が 高いので さぞやお月さん けむたかる (サノ ヨイヨイ)	Tsuki ga deta deta tsuki ga deta (a yoi yoi) Miike Tanko no ue ni deta Amari entotsu ga takai node (a yoisho) Sazoya otsukisan kemutakaro (sano yoi yoi)	The moon has risen The moon has risen a yoi yoi It has risen above the Miike coal mine The chimney is so high The smoke must be uncomfortable for the moon sano yoi yoi
一山 二山 三山 越え (ヨイヨイ) 奥に咲いたる 八重椿 なんぼ色よく 咲いたとて 様ちゃんが通わにや 仇の花 (サノ ヨイヨイ)	Hitoyama futayama miyama koe (a yoi yoi) Oku ni saitaru yaetsubaki Nanbo iroyoku saitatote (a yoisho) Samachan ga kayowanya ada no hana (sano yoi yoi)	I cross one, two, three mountains a yoi yoi the camellia of 8 petals that blossom deep in the mountains no matter how they bloom colorfully if Sama chan does not pass by they are just flowers to offer the enemy sano yoi yoi
あなたがその気で 言うのなら (ヨイヨイ) 思い切ります 別れます 元の娘の 十八に 返してくれたら 別れます (サノ ヨイヨイ)	Anata ga sono ki de yu no nara (a yoi yoi) Omoikirimasu wakaremasu Moto no musume no juhachini (a yoisho) Kaeshite kuretara wakaremasu (sano yoi yoi)	if you say so/insist a yoi yoi I will give up and say goodbye to you if you let me return to the 18-year old maiden I will part with you sano yoi yoi
お札を枕に 寝るよりも (ヨイヨイ) 月が射し込む あばら家で 主の腕に ほんのりと 私を抱かれて 暮らしたい (サノ ヨイヨイ)	Osatsu wo makura ni neru yori mo (a yoi yoi) Tsuki ga sashikomu abaraya de Shu no ude ni honnnohito Watasha dakarete kurashitai (sano yoi yoi)	Rather than use a pile of paper money as my pillow to fall asleep a yoi yoi I would rather live with my master (the lover) embracing me in his arms In this beaten up house Where the moonlight streams into sano yoi yoi
堅抗千尺 二千尺 (ヨイヨイ) 下りゃ様ちゃんの ツルの音 ままになるなら あのそばで 私も掘りたや 黒ダイヤ (サノ ヨイヨイ)	Tateko sen shaku nisen shaku (a yoi yoi) Kudarya sama chan no tsuru no oto Mama ni naru nara ano soba de Watashi mo horitaya kuro daiya (sano yoi yoi)	1000 shaku 2000 shaku deep into the coal pit a yoi yoi When I go down (the mine) I can hear the sound of Sama chan's shovel (handle) If I could help I want to work by your side and also dig out the black diamonds sano yoi yoi

① Dig, dig (right)	② Dig, dig (left)
 Take your right foot a step forward and dig coal out with a shovel twice.	 Repeat on the left side twice.
Pause , Tsukiga-	deta deta-

③ shoulder	④ shoulder	⑤ go back	⑥ go back
 Step your right foot forward and put coal into a basket on your back over your shoulder	 The same action with your left foot and hand.	 The basket become so heavy, then you go back. Step back your left foot first. You still try to put coal into the basket with your right hand.	 Step back your right foot. Hold up your left hand.
tsuki ga-	deta-	a yoi	

⑦ push	⑧ push	⑨ open	⑩ You did it ! Chochon-ga-chon
 Step your right foot forward and push a coal cart.	 Step your left foot forward and push a coal cart.	 In order to spread coal on the ground, cross your arms in front of your body and then move them to your sides. Slightly bend your knees at the same time	 Put your feet together and clap your hands twice, pause, then clap once.