Notes

Because of his age (90 years) and some wear and tear on the vocal apparatus, Pa Seku’s speech is often unclear. Relied heavily on his interpretation of what he said. Sometimes difficult to understand his English – misunderstood his pronunciation of “sex” (as a verb)

Phonology: Lots of l/d alternations, epenthetic (?) before ncm i–, mysterious “si”, his allomorph of the hin-class prefix was often [yi] Lexicon: lots of uses of si in the sense of ‘then, next’, his rendering of nàgò ‘after’ is [nàbò]

Syntax: Pa Seku seems to have at least one of the features prominent in Fasia’s recordings – headless verbs, typically introducing a sentence – usually they link back to the previous sentence, recapitulating in a rheme what was the theme – texts so far have been highly coherent – lots of anaphora and lots of clausal linking – particularly prominent in narratives

I have no other name.
i–len le laŋ. bi–Neg–i, “lìlàn” = ‘other’

But, Tommy, second son, that is the name. “Tommy” is the traditional name for second–born male (Coo for the first–born)

mà sin gwè wò dé cóò. The first one he is Coo.
“sen” = ‘first’
2 SA intro

lem yɛ ya le Seku Abdulai. ya ma bi a ma bingi yilén dèlàn
My name is Seku Abdulai. I do not have-- I do not have any other name.

li lemyɛ ya na biyɛ, ké,
It was the name I was having, but

dé–é, piŋiyɛ nabo le mɔnwɛ
when, after becoming a Moslem

ha mo kɛ yilén nèlàn
They give you other name.

ilemyɛ bii hin ma sehin, ya le tɔm.
My first name in my language, isTom.
“sen” = ‘first’; ma = ?, used a lot as some kind of connective, as?

(Okay) lemyɛ sehin,
My first name,

yɛnɛ hɔn pɛ wiɛm dɛ tɔm, yaamu kom nàbò, yɛgipugɛ ma sihin
why they call me “Tom”, when your mother borns, the first son
ma as connective

yaamu kom nabo, mà sènsèngwɛ, wɔ lɛ coo.
When your mother borns, the very first one, he will be Coo.

hɔgɛ ɛ Coo hoogɛ nà lɔ gbó, si ha kom, nu lelan
After Coo has appeared (?), if they born a second son (‘another person’) (37.1)
hoγɛ = hoogɛ = hog ‘come from’? double clause
If it was a boy, he is Tom.

I am the one.

also possible in place of làndà: won wo

I am Tom.

Final rise.