

2/28/16: began entering in Flex

Interview with Auntie Mabel Law and Adama Mampa
by Abdulai Bendu (PC guest house kitchen, 15 Feb 16)

Atipɛ komoko.
I will begin with you.

Ibi jaa ki la iɲaɛ, ɲa hun mɔ koi, lomɔɛ, yen-o-yen ɲal mɔ.
We have this thing we are doing, to come and take you, your voice, everything about you.

Ila bia yɔk potho ko, ila lo ko math.ɲal mɔ.
We are taking it abroad, we are going to keep it there, about you.

So anyaiɛ, apima iyɛ, nroke, nrekiɛ ɲa bia hunde,
So our people, our children, the grand children, the great-grand children that are going to come,

le ɲa theenigbo pɛ mbolomɔɛ,
if they do not hear Sherbro,

pɔ ple rɛkɔd mɔɛ, pɔi theɛ lom mɔɛ ɲɔ nche pa thelie.
they would play your recordings, then they would hear your voice how you use to talk.

tenka tem lam ncheni pɛ wɔɛ, nko wu.
Maybe that time you are not alive, you are dead,

Nyema la?
You like that?

aa ɲa le koie pamishɔn.
I should take your permission first.

aa achɔn la len.
I like that.

Awokɔ gbo ko mɔ ko yai hun ko mi dama.
After leaving you I go to Mammy Adama.

ilel mɔa?
What is your name?

yaɲ ilel miɛ hɔn Mabel Law.
Me my name is Mabel Law

so bona mɔɛ ɲɔ lo Law? (aa) Lo pɔ gbem mɔa?
So your name is Law? (yes.) Where were you born?

Shenge ka lo pɔ gbem mi.

I was born in Shenge here,

Tem ndo ɲo pɔ gbem mɔa.
What time where you born?

1942 fɔst ɔf January.
1942, first of January.

Ina lo ba mɔa.
Who is your father?

ba mi bi ilel, ka bi ilel Pieh willem.
My father have a name, he use to have a name Pieh William.

Ilele ve ɲo pɔ gbem ka wɔ?
Is that the name he was born with?

aa Pieh Willem Law.
Pieh William Law.

Ka lo pɔ gbem wɔ?
Was he born here?

be, wɔn Dema no.hun wɔi hun bi yami ka, wɔi yi hun gbemɔ.
No, he was a Dema man. He came and have our mother here, and gave birth to us.

ye hu ɲa?
What did he came to do?

ka hum hoth ɲo ho ka ke yami.
He came to fishing, an then he met my mother.

Wɔn pe ka che no hotho.
Himself he was a fisher man?

aa ka che fisha man.
Yes he was a fisher man.

Ye hun hothe wɔi hun boni yamɔ? (aa.)
It was when he came to fishing that he met your mother on the way? (Yes.)

Apima wɔ ɲa ba mɔ gbem daa?
How many children did your father had?

Bami ka gbem apima amen. Ika gbo che amen.
My father had five children. We were just five

ko ya mɔ? (aa.) Ama awɔ ɲa ba mɔ ka bi ya?
To your mother? (Yes.) How many wives did your father had?

Apa ka bi ama atiη.
Father used to have two wives.

Mom ya mo gbem awo?
You your mother gave to how many?

Yami gbem ara Ngo memuna woi gbem o atiη.
My mother gave birth to three, Aunt Memuna gave birth to two

Yamo ilel woa?
What was your mother's name?

Vagina, Vagina Baro.
Vagina, Vagina Baro.

Won gbemni ndo?
She was born where?

Shenge ka lo po gbem wae.
She was born in Shenge.

Wonpe aya wae ka lo po ka gbem na?
She herself her people were born here?

nan gbi ka lo na ka che ye.
All of them were living here.

nan gbi naa ashenge?
All of them are Shenge people?

aa han haa ashenge.
Yes all of them are shenge people.

La na ka che naa?
What do they use to do?

Thethanyi Won ka gbo che powae alo na ha mpanth ma yencheke
Our grand mother was under her husband doing fish work.
ya mo, ba wo la ka che naa?
Your mother's father what does she use to do?

Speaker wo ka chee, ba baru
He was a speaker.

Wo ka che speaker ha kargoe?
Was he the speaker for kargboro?

ka che speaka ha kagboe.

He was the speaker for Kargboro.

Nen lan ina lo beye ha kagbo?
That year who was the Chief of kargboro?

Alphonso Caulker.
Alphonso Caulker.

Madam bawo?
Madam's father?

aa madam bawo.
Yes, Madam's father

Ka lo po du mo moi?
Were you raise up here?

aa ka lo po du mo miye
Yes, I was raised up here.

Shenge ka?
In Shenge here?

aa Shenge ka.
Yes, in Shenge here.

From ye po gbem mo?
Since you were born?

gbi, lon lo po du mo miye.
All, I was raised up here.

Shenge ka po na pe theli nwok mpim bisaid mbolom?
In Shenge here do they speak other languages here beside sherbro?

aa.
Yes.

ye nwok aa?
What languages?

Nthemde malɔ, asosoe njalɔ, nshie Shenge ka fishing ground loe,
The Temne is there, the soso are there, you know Shenge here is a fishing ground,

a nyinde gbi ha lo loi, kenye gbi na lo loi, athemaε ha ha, ha limbaε gbi ha ha
all the people enter there, the Temnes are here, the limbases themselves are here.

Mpente ha moε ha ba mo gbemde, ha woi?
Your brother of the same father, are they alive?

ha kelen. Bulle wɔn ka kon hani, ara ha ka konhu ina tin ile lɔɛ ina maɛ.
They are fine. Even the one has been made, the three were dead two of us are there, the female

Apikandɛ ɲan gbi ɲa ka koŋ hu?
All the males where dead?

aa ha ka koŋ hui.
Yes , all the male had died

Kɛ ɲa ka che theli mbolomɔɔ?
But did they use to speak sherbro?

aa ha ka che theli mbolomɔɔ. Wɔnɛ fli ka che O.C police, Hestins.
Yes, they use to speak sherbro. Even the one was an O.C Police, Hastings.

ɲan gbi ka lɔ pɔ du mɔ ɲa?
Were all of them raised up here?

a a, wɔn pɔ du mɔ wɔ ni ka,
No, he was not raised here.

Wɔn dɔ pɔ du mɔ wɔa?
Where was he rasied?

bath kanu lɔ ka che kɔ skulle.
It is at Bath kanu where he went to school.

Wante mɔɛ dɔwɔia?
Your sister where is he?

Bentu, wɔn wɔ nsanda ko.
Bentu, she is in Sanda.

wɔn pɛ wɔ theli mbolomɔɔ?
Does she herself speak sherbro?

charan.
Cleare.
Nsanda ko, them ko?
In Sanda, temne land

a a, themdel ko. Tiko wɔ ko lɔɔ nsanda ko.
No at Temidel. his town is called.

wonko mɔ ko pɔ lɔ theli mbolomɔɔ?
In your house do they speak sherbro there?

aa, pɔ ma ma ho.

Yes, they speak it there.

Pɔlɔ pɛwɔ nwɔk mpika?
Do they speak other languages there?

aa.mbɛkɛ ki ma pɔ hɔ ma apimɛ.
Yes, it is this krio they speak to the children.

Mɔm nchɔnla len?
You do you like that?

Achɔn ma len e bikɔs amɔs wɔni ɛ nwɔkɛ ma pɔ yemɛ mave nbɛkɛ vɛ.
I like that because I should say the language the language they want, that Krio.

ɲa wɔɛ, mbɛkɛ ma pɔ chan theli ɔ mbolomɔɔ?
For a day, is it the krio they speak more or the sherbro?

Mbolomɔɔ man ma chan hɔni, mbolomɔɔ ma lɔ chaɲ theli ni hongo flie.
It is the sherbro that they speak more, it is the sherbro that they talk in the house really.

Que.Ayema lagbo shi bikɔs deɛ ɲɔi kɔlɔɛ mbolomɔɔ ma I bɔnthɔ pɔ theli.
I just want to know that because even the day we went there it is the sherbro that we met them talking

Iyema la gbo shi tenka ibomalɔ nigbo.
We just want to that may be we just met on the hight.

a a, man fli wongo mi ko ma ma lɔɛ
Yes, it is the one really that they speak in the house.

Shenge ka nwɔk ndɔ ma pɔ chan thelia?
In Shenge here what language do they speak more?

mbolomɔɔ, hin mbolomɔɔ ma pɔ chaɲ theliɛ.
Sherbro, yes it is sherbro that they speak more.

shenge ka?
In Shenge here?

aa
yes

ichɔɲla len bikɔs ka bolomka lɔ ki. Ahina ɲa chan shi theli mbolomɔɔ Shenge ka.
We like that because here is sherbro country. Who can speak sherbro best in Shenge here.

Ba yanka wɔ chaɲ shi theli mbolomɔɔ, wɔ kiban de, wɔ chaɲ shi theli mbolomɔɔ.
Pa Yanka knows how to speak sherbro more, he is the actual person that knows how to speak Sherbro.

Chaɲ nɔ ndɔ ndɔ?
More than everybody?

aa
yes.

Que. Kε wɔ theli mbolomde ni wɔ ma pe gbal?
But he speaks sherbro as well as writing it?

Wɔ theli mbolomde, wɔ mɔ ma thekesie kune yenkelen ba.
He can speak sherbro, and can also translate in it very good.

Ikoni shiele mbolomde ma chan theli ka nye. ke athimae na na agbe?
We have now known that they speak sherbro here more right, but the temnes are also here plenty.

Agbe, ha ha fli.
Plenty, they are here really.

ha chalaṅa?
Do they reside here.

Aaa.
Yes.

Wons nae nthemde ma po lo theli o Mbolomde?
There houses is it temne they do speak there or sherbro?

Neshonṅai ṅo na lo theli nthemde.
It is there language they do speak there, the temne.

Kε mom ye mo na boniye, nthemde lo na lenye
But you when you meet them along, is it in temne that you greet them?

Ha na lenyi nthemdai, le ha leyemigbo nthemdai aha pingiyε.
Yes I greet them in temne, if they greet me in Temne myself I will reply the same.

Kε ayema ni ncheṅa pingiyε mbolomdai, bikos le nkogbo mende ko,
But I want you to be replying them in sherbro, because if you go to the Mendes,

le nwo gbo , na moi, ṅan na wo bua.
if you say good arter noon in Sherbro they will reply in Mende.

ayo.
O.K.

Ichṅla len ye po chan theli mbolomde, bikos inal pim, bolomko lae
We like that because they speak sherbro here more, because other places are sherbro lands

ke po chelo pe theli mbolom ken Bonthiko, thombo ko, inal pimde.
but they no more speak sherbro there like Bonthe, tombo and other places

Part 2

Nkache na mpanth?
Were you working before?

aa, akache kɔ ko iwɔmde, awokɔ skul, akɔ ko iwɔmde.

Yes, I use to go for firewood, when ever I come from school I go for fire wood.

thetha mi yɔ ka che kɔ chekaie ha wɔ lemil, ayi kɔ chi iwɔmde.

When my grand mother use to go to the farm I use to follow her, then I get fire wood.

Skul handɔ ŋɔ nkache kɔa?

Which school did you attended?

U. M. C.

U. M. C

U. M. C?

U. M. C?

aa ke akɔni livil.

Yes but I didn't go far.

Shenge ka.

Shenge here?

aa, shenge ka.

Shenge here.