

10 Aug 09: Checked for possible use in OPB interview – too much distortion to be of any use whenever Baji speaks – first part definitely shows Moiwo does not control language – a lot of stuff left out of transcription

Also edited out some pauses and false starts

23 Oct 08: Not of much value, simple Kim, low priority

7 May 08: Checked and not entered in FLEx

10–11 Apr: checked against notes

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Audio file: 08 03 26 Moiwo, Arthur Tei life narrative TC.doc  
renamed “11 Arthur Moiwo interviewed”

<..\..\Recordings, audio\08 03 25 Baji Gbombi, Tommy Bassei, Arthur Moiwo Tei\11 Arthur Moiwo interviewed.mp3>

## **Metadata**

Consultant: Arthur Moiwo

Interviewer: Baji Gbombi

DKB: AT, HS, TC

Venue: Interior of DKB headquarters, Tei

Date: 26 Mar 08

from transcription pp. 143–47 in notebook 1

This very imperfect transcription represents the rather unsuccessful effort by Arthur Moiwo to string together a piece of connected discourse. As the official interviewer, Baji Gbombi (“B”) poses just a few questions, fairly pointed ones albeit, and complains about the heat. He also rephrases some of Arthur’s utterances. Neither one is considered to be a fully competent speaker – Joe Peku quite adamantly insists that neither one can really speak the language

The topics include: Arthur’s youth and early education, how he has returned to Nyandehun to take care of his mother, how his children are being educated. Baji asks about his work habits and how he can support his children in school, suggests soliciting the white man for help, the stifling heat in the house interior

The numbers in parentheses at the ends of the lines in Kim represent the number of elapsed seconds.

## Transcribed text

ε-ε leimie Arthur Moiwo. ya hogun | γον γον Nyandehun-Tamuke.  
Eh, my name is Arthur Moiwo. I come from Nyandehun-Tamuke (7.2)  
a false start, shd be: ya hogi ... contraction? then hypercorrection

Toka potwe, Hana potwe, Alie te,  
European Tucker, European Hannah, black Alie, (11.7)

han a wéŋ mi

han a wei mian Tei go | ipaale taata | ya hun ho Kim.  
mian = mi + -on?  
they called me here to Tei | today Tuesday (15.3) | to come speak Kim.  
“hun” is here translated as ‘come’ but it seems later and possibly here  
also as a particle emphasizing a pronominal object, much in the way the  
nasal suffix does

ha le la ya, huŋ yaŋ ya ho kim yan-o  
They said to me, Come speak Kim here! (19.7)  
yaŋ here/now

yaŋ ya yaŋ ho | kim yan-o  
I ?? to speak Kim here (21.4)

yapamie wo wuwe la gbèn, yamie wo lo go | wo ma won.  
My father died a long time ago (24.4), my mother is here, she is not dead  
yet. (27.3)

la gbèn = “for long” – la here acts as a preposition, used here in this text  
only – it’s an all-purpose word – seems a feature of Arthur’s speech, a  
sign of pidginization; won = “yet” or wu + n – double negation??

yamie wo tugun na pamie wo gbos (35)

My mother was warm and my father was cold (when he was alive).  
(-hearted)

yapamiε wɔ pɔŋ laiyaŋ sukuwani (42), yan han ya toto sukuwanó  
My father sent me to school, I started school  
like a pidgin: 1 sg make? 1 sg start school-person  
toto = start

RC Mosenten Catholic yɔn go Mosenten. (50)  
(at) RC \_\_, there at (ko) Mosenten.

ya han- yan han ya migi klasia inui, tica han ha topi laiya  
I did - I did I stop class 5, the teacher make them drive me  
The teacher them they drove me?

ha le ya kɔ tunan sukua pε. (58) ya pamiε wɔ kwe laiya,  
they say I go find school again. My father took me,

wɔ yogi laiyaŋ Pujehun. ya lɔ go ha-a-an ya ji sekɔndianun.  
he carried me to Pujehun. I was there (ko 'to') a long time I hold ('kill')  
secondary

piagagamiε wɔ wén laiyan Kenema.  
My brother called me to Kenema

yambε ya kɔ lɔ go. (1:18) ya lɔ go ha-a-an Kenema Secondary  
I myself I go there. I go there until \_\_

...

ya ji Form Five-ε ya migin, kε ya ma megin hwai-hwai yo,  
I hold Form Five I stop, but I don't stop for nothing,  
Middle?

tahunta tamiε wɔ negini. pɛn pɛpɛ ya yema hɔn ya hun dui kòkònátè

my eyes were hurting me. Before ever I want to say I come? steal coconut  
tahun, n.b. pronoun errors

ya hun cengita cimɔ. (156) han topi laiya,  
Then I run away. They chase me,  
cengita = ce + ge + ta?

ya hun dui banama ya su yamiɛ.  
I steal bananas (from) my mother (hand/finger possession). (203)  
ya = from?

yɛgɛta gbinta ya hun kɔ kwe ho paanu. (211)  
cassava? I take from the garden  
paanu = garden, kwe = take  
Focus with no marker

ya hun kɔ cɛti, ya hun kɛɛn. ya pamiɛ wɔ cɛn gbati laiyan,  
I self? go cook, I alone. My father would not beat me  
kɛɛn = 'alone', gbati 'beat, slap' JP

yamiɛ wɔn bɛ wɔ cɛn bati laiyan pɛ. (2:21) ya kɔn na go ya can (2:29)  
nor would my mother beat me. Then I go I sit down

...

ya kɔn na go Saalon yɔn apoan(,) ya hun pɛ ya can Nyandehun–Tamuke.  
I go to Freetown there town I again stay in \_.  
na = ?

yamiɛ wɔ ma kɔwa wɔn. (2:38)  
My mother has not yet gone (died?).

yan ya hun yɔn Nyandehun ya can yan tunan sɔma la wɔn. (2:45)  
... I am the one finding food for her here.

ya ma sín sɔŋɔ, ya hun yɔn ɪcɛɣɛ. sini ya ken anina han cɛŋgi ɪcɛɣɛ,  
I don't know how to fish, I buy fish. If I see people passing by with fish,  
extended verb?

ya hun yɔn. (2:52)  
I buy [it].

(2:55) tun tun tun ya ɔ go Nyandehun, ɔndɔ ɔ ya hɔɣɛɪ ipaale  
still I am there at Ny, there I have come from today

B: ya yema le ya yimu, huna ha go suguano, ha go dui?  
I want to ask you, you (pl) you (pl) went to school, you went and stole?

A: ɛ-ɛ-ɛ yɛ bé ya hun dui fɛɛyɛ. (3:09)  
I stole money.

B: wangi piagamga ya sunyɛi  
from their brothers' hands?

A: wɔ hun bati gbom yɛ wɔn koma laiyan wɔ cen kɛ sòmá.  
... gbo mi prt  
He indeed beats me, he ? me, he won't give food.

B: mu hɔ i hɔni mu han mu ipanti? Lelaleni, mɔ gbusuŋ?  
Since you have been there, can you do work? ?, do you plow?  
Unsure of transcription of last word

mu gbuŋun yen mú bɛ? gbuŋungwɛ?  
Do you plow thing you indeed? plowing?

A: ya hun ha (3:295)  
I can do it.

B: ikwɛ lánílè?  
What about rice?

A: sini ya te, ya hun kwe kaayε, ya gbusuη,  
If I born (?), I take hoe, I plow,

ε-ε-ε, ya hun gbusun pani in hun  
I plow only one tin of husked rice.

B: ε-ε-ε bεεε lanilε | ya hun ké | feeyε (3:45)  
That man (worker) I give him money (to assist)

A: ya hun kɔ tom. ya kɔ tom ha beiya, haan kɔ han boma laiya (3:50)  
I go beg. I go beg them gentlemen, they can go do help for me.

B: mu hun kɔ tunam abeiya han kɔ han boma?  
You can find gentlemen they go do help?

A: haan kɔ- han kɔ ha hun ha wwi  
They can do it really.

han hun ha likati ba.  
They do it properly.

B: ikwε lanilε, mu wɔn?  
Can you sell that rice?

A: yà cén wòn. yamiε wɔ lɔ ha. pòmá miè hà lɔ.  
I don't sell it. My mother is there. My children are there. (4:07)

B: ha wɔ? ha lɔ gɔ sukuwanu?  
Where are they? Are they going to school?

A: mun- iyen, ira, híón. iyen há secondary, iyen primary.  
one- two, three, four. Two are in secondary, two in primary.

B: lɔndɔ lɔ wε?

Where?

A: mun wɔ ɔ go Kenema. (4:23) ìyén ha ɔ go apoan |  
One is there at Kenema. Two are there in town (Freetown).

mun wɔ ɔ go Ngepenhun. (4:30)  
one is at N.

B: yɛ mu ha vwí tamu gbɔ feeyɛ? la sukukayanú han vwí?  
What can you do to get money? What do you do for school matters?

la sukuwanu | la wɛ.  
What can you do for school business there.

lelalen, feeyɛ hun gbom la sukuyani.  
conj, the money is a lot for school matters.

A: (4:40) piagagamgwɛ hana ha kɛ (4:45)  
My brothers have given

piagagamyɛ han ira hana ha kuyɛ. (4:51)  
my three brothers have taken them all (in).

apomamiɛ hana hana kuyɛ (4:53)  
my children they have taken them.

kɛ si han cén yi feeyɛ laiyan, han huni  
But they never asked for money from me, they will come?

B: o-ho-o, han huni yɔn wongu kɔm wian? lɔgɔwò? (5:00)  
Oh, are they coming to your house (during holiday)? When?  
wongu = house

Han ma kɛi wɔ ɔgwɔ? (5:04)  
They never gave you a time? (said when they would come)

A: han kanti suguwanu kegele  
They have just now closed the school.

hale han ꞑꞑ apɔma mie ya nun laiyan kegele (5:08)  
They said they will send my children to me right away.

B: he-e-e ya sie | la feeye | ke jenda we be.  
Okay, I understand, the money, but the matter there itself.

kenga mu la ho tɔgà potue kenga won há bòmà.  
Maybe you should ask (beg?) the white man maybe do some help.  
Not sure of analysis.  
kenga = maybe

A: ke si kenga ya bo la won, hɔbatoge wo mun yomun.  
But maybe if I ask him, God will agree.  
Must be A talking, but pronouns goofy. No, Baji correcting  
yomun = agree, ask? gbɔ? able?

B: he-e-e be (5:21) jenda bɔnda we hun sùgùnígí.  
Indeed, that matter is very difficult.

A?: feeye gbɛ-ɛ yan gbɔ,  
any money I get (am able?),

ya hun ke ha poma mie (5:265)  
I will give to my children

m-m-m ha ko!  
Let them go!  
(distributing the money with gestures)

B: feeye yan gbɔ ha pòmámìè han mu yomu. (5:345)  
any amount I get, my children will agree (accept).

A: hun hungε yan vwí bè huη mungε. (5:38)  
since I've been here now living (sitting? staying?) here  
(one channel disappears)

i hɔ hɔ taiyeni mɔ kìmìànú (5:40)  
I have been speaking in Krim language

bèé hɔta yeni hún kènì. ya yema la vwí-í-í! kε! ...  
Man, the topic is very nice. I really like it. But!

... kε n hun cani yani, bæε (5:50.5)  
But you have come sit down here, indeed?

ya yema le h́, túngùngwé wɔ le yàn.  
I want to say, the heat is here on me.

mà lè kwí jé-én túgùnùgwí túgùnùgwí (5:57.5)  
It is too much true, the heat, the heat,

ya paga han, tugunugu ya yema bahan kεεgεε  
I pay (?) ?, heat I want to tire just now. (I'm getting fatigued)  
May be: "pa ya"

A: yambε ví! ya yema bahan. ya yema baã.  
Me, too! I want to tire. I want to tire.

B: kε-ε huna hóó hana yeni.  
But you have to tell them so.

A: kε si, ya hun hɔi | hana (6:09) tɔga, tugunu wɔ lɔ ya ne (6:13)  
But then, I'm telling you Hannah, Tucker, the heat is here

B: wɔ le wɔ yema le wɔ bahan (6:15) tugunugε tugunugε wɔ lɔgɔ.  
He said he wants to tire, the heat heat is here.

jɛnda ya fúwàn.  
something in my hand. ?

yá yémá lé yà. ya yema lé kɔn hoto ano le toon. (6:22)  
I want for me. I want to go outside for a while.

ya gɔ hwɛhon.  
I go ?

TC: okay.