

9 Nov 08, TC: entered in Flex, “39 Baji Gbombi Final Words”

23 Oct 08, TC: slightly edited, ready for Flex

18 May 08: Identical to H’s “Baji Gbombi #3 Fear of death.doc” on hard drive

7 May 08 status update: 3 pp, ready for review, not entered into FLEEx

Baji Gbombi Final Words

March 2008

Transcription by HS

Baji Gbombi’s Final Words

Yaŋ ya hun yaani.

I, I came here.

Ha mui agbenam. Baji ከሕ ከሕ yeni, Baji Gbombi.

Greetings, my parents. Baji it is who speaks here, Baji Gbombi.

ከሕ ኦሕ hun, ኦሕ huge hu ኦሕኒ Nyandehun ኦሕኒ.

[Speaking] he comes, he comes here from Nyandehun.

ከሕ = ?

ኦ hun ኦሕኒ la Kimmጋi.

He comes here for the Kim-language.

Kimmጋi na na ki፩

The Kim-language is ending

anina keፑi ha na kom mi lanu- li cen pei ኦሕ la ኦሕ Kim.

Those people that were born after me- they no longer speak Kim.

lanu = after?

li = ?

Ke langbangwe ፐኦኦ ኦሕ ኦሕ yipe iKimmጋi yeni.

But for the man ፐኦኦ himself, this Kim would have finished.

Ya wɔ tuha ɔbatugɛ, ya ke vui hɔmɔi hun kɛnɛn.
I pray to God, I see this language as very good indeed.
tuha = pray. JP.

lhɔ yeni.
This speech.

A- kɛnga nafa hun lɔ ɔ ci kwɛilin.
I- benefit will come from it later.
nafa = benefit. JP says it is Mende.

wɔ hun yipi la hin.
3sg PRO bring to 1pl
It brings it for us.
yipi = bring. JP.

A- gbɛnamɛ a na powɛ,
My parents who raised me,
I wrote gbɛnamɛ while going over the transcription with Gbombi, but it's
hard to make out in the recording. It may be some other word with
suffixes -mɛ.

ha na cen pei hɔ mɔ Kim.
they no longer speak Kim.
Baji's mother is a Kim-speaker, so this sentence may mean that she no
longer uses the language regularly.

Komugwɛ vui hina komui ha ci lan pɛ te,
The children who are born, they can no longer understand it,

la nigbe, anina ha wɔ tɔn yàpɛ́,
however, the people are putting it on paper,
yapɛ = paper. JP and previous elicitations.

hun konan han tipε a yipa hin hɔ Kimmɔi.
they put everything of Kim on tape and paper.
tipε = tape. JP
yipa = paper. Variation on yapε, or plural?

Ya tɛn- ya tɛn sɛgɛ, ɛh, Tɔka, la wɔn.
I give thanks to, eh, Tɔka, that is he.

Uh- jɛnda kɛnɛn la, wɔ yipε hun yaan, pɔgwɛ(n) anɔn.
Uh- that is a good thing, he has done here, in the world.
yipε here as perfective marker.

Uh- jɛnda la Kimmɔi hun a kisɛ,
Uh- the Kim-language thing is ending,

Palepa a hɔmɔi ya hun hɔɛ.
that is all the reason I am speaking the language.
palepaa = “that is all the reason” according to JP.

Ya wɔ le, Baji Gbɔmbi wɔn wɔ hɔ hɔmɔi yen.
I said it, Baji Gbombi is he who spoke this language here.