

24 Nov 08: continued working w/ Pa Joe
 23 Nov: finished 1 min 40 secs (of 3:03)
 8–9 Nov 08, TC: reviewed, corrected transcription and translation for
 about three pp. hopeless, needs total redoing
 29 Oct: reviewed, did some serious editing
 23 Oct 08: rough translation, needs review and revision
 Copied from Alie’s saved files on hard drive, cleaned up, renamed
 “Tommy Lahai fish fence”

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Based on “26 Tommy Lahai fish fence”, 3:03

Metadata

Recording done in a hut close to the bush and the section chief’s house. Present: Alie Turay, Arthur Moiwo, Bockarie Jabba and speaker Tommy Lahai. There was light wind and hustling here and there. Used a cassette tape recorder and had to pause occasionally to know if the speaker was on the right track.

Transcription

Fishing

Le hɔye hu kenie, yi kɔn batɔn.

When day breaks, we go to the fields. 4.0

yi le keɛɛn we ha-a-a, yin be ke bɔɔngue.

After we walked for a long time, we saw the swamp. 7.8

Bɔɔngwé kɔ yi ké we, yi lɔn be ken.

The fishing hole that we saw, we checked there. 11.4

[kee]

yi ken to ha-a ... mɔn be ke le incègé ha huni ha caŋ.

We stared for a long time and saw some fish start passing by. 15.4

to = ‘there’, []

Huni ha caŋ.

They (keep on) passing. 16.7

hun be mun be, kɔa saagigue

Then they (the fishermen) return for a (fishing) trap.

kɔa ‘go’, ‘go with’?

le mu kɔa saagiguɛ wɛ, hun siŋ gbangwɔ
When you go with the trap, you lay it (in place). 21.6
???

Le mu hu gbahin wɛ, mɔn bɛ ɔɔ, hi ɔɔ casiga kagawɛ ha-a-a.
As you put down the trap, you cut the grass on both sides (for room to
insert the trap and have it fit tightly). 25.6

yi pɛ nago casi gbi!
after we have cut all 26.5

mun bɛ ɔɔ ken yɔɔn gu sagemuguɛ.
then you go and look to your trap 28.1

le mu ɔɔ caayɛ mun bɛ ke, incɛɛ ha pɛɛɛ sageguɛ tɛŋ
when you raise the trap? then the fish have filled up the trap. 31.4
Pa Joe & Bassei: order wrong, should be, tɛŋ 'full' should go after

le mu han bɛ koi, ha gbusi han,
Then you take them, 32.2 you empty them, 33.1

itɛtɛɛ huna ɔ go, mu ɔ pɛŋ yipi sɔ gbí
if there is grass (in the storage area), you have to finish brushing it all
35.3
Fish dumped for storage in a place that may need the grass brushed or
cleaned away – this is prior to hauling the fish away
pɛŋ 'first'

cálán ... si kinti ɔ
(so that the area is) clear ... then we smash down the grass 36.2

mɔ ɔn bɛ gbusi incɛga muiwɛ.
That is the place you put/park your fishes. 37.9

ha ɔ léí wɛ, si pandé ɔ han jiio

(where you park the fish) they will be there, the sun will kill them 39.4
(because it's too hot)

si ha can pɛ ce ... si kɔn pɛ
Then you pass before 40.7 ... then go before 41.4
i.e., you look for more fish

si ke pɛi bɔlɔngwɛ kɔni
Then you see another fish hole

Hana go gio mua lɔgo lei si can pɛ ci.
You leave the fish there and move ahead again.

Si sɛmi lɔ koogi si teya incɛgɛwɛ,
When you stand above and hear (another) fish 43.6

mu lɔ bɛpɛ gban sagigɛ kɔni
you lay another trap. 45.1

si casi lɔ ha-a-a, si hun sagigɛ koog
Then cut around it, and put the trap in 47.6

han bɛ pɛi jii incɛgɛ lani wɛ,
You catch more fish, (48.9)

han bɛ pɛ, si kɔ, si kɔ han gbusi yɔn
and go park them there (where you left the others). 50.8

gbusi han ha gbɔna lɔn
if you park them if there is enough for them 51.9
if the place is sufficiently large for the fish
gbɔ 'able'

mɔn bɛ tuna ... kaba ce mun go yasuan, mun bɛ lo kalɛ si cɔn ha lɔ.

if you find ... you have no basket, you weave a hamper 54.5 and load them in. 55.2

si huni guyɛpiyɔn
you come back to the land. 56.3
(because they've been in the watery swamp)
guyɛ [wɛ]

m-m, ham bɛ
No, ??

yi huni wɛ piyɔn, hin yɛ incɛgɛwɛ ... kaagɛ kog
We come up and lay the fish ... drying.oven

Making A Fish Trap 1

nyu vanyimatawɛ, mu kɔn gbati yɔɔni
something traps, you go to the 'bati' 1:01.9
Vanyima=fishing trap
no final [i] heard

mun pɛŋ gbigi imeentɛ
you will first cut the canes 3.0

bili pɛŋ imentɛ yen hun yipɛ sɛn gbi
?? canes come? finish dressing (preparing) them all 1:05.0
JP: TL mispronounces word for 'cane'

isan si yi jima icàgé
?? Then you cut the piassava 1:06.5
jima = cut

Si lo viamata kɛnga hun ce waun
Then you make the fishing traps, sometimes you get ten

hu yi si lo vanyimatak ... kɛnga ha ta lɔn kɛnga la waan pɛŋ

?? traps[k] ... sometimes they will make the trap about ten 9.5
Hear a final [k]

Mun bæɣɛ kɔn gbatiyɔn
If you would go to the swamp. 10.7

yɔn menma ma sɔɔniɛ
where the water is flowing (has current) 11.8

lɔndɔ mu keni
it is there you should look 12.8

lɔndɔ mu hin pambiɛ
it is the place you lay the dyke 14.2
dyke = pambi

yɔn gu menma ma sɔnɛ ma hogin ma kɔn yen
where water is flowing downwards 16.1
sɔnɛ 'run, flow'

wɔ ma hogin ma kɔn yenin
coming out from this place going to the other. 17.3

aa lɔndɔ mu tim, vainyimatawɛ.
there you put your fishing trap. 19.1
tim 'turn'

Making A Fish Trap 2

mui taiɣɛ lɔ gbi, mu lɔn bæ cɔŋ kantiga wɛ
when you have finish weaving, before you make the rings

si lo tegini laniwɛ
Then you weave that mouth. 22.3

(the *tegin* ‘mouth’ is a small piece that is attached to the big trap, the end of which is left loose. This will prevent fish from escaping.)

wɔn ca anya yen a cen ce agbom

The mouth should be small/narrow and not too big. 23.7
ca??

jɔŋ hu ɔ

Pa Joe: ?? 24.3

ɔŋ ma mu hinta mèn má anu, ɔ mɔ hin sak, nyui wɛ vainyima wɛ

It is inside the water that you lay the traps 27.2

“sak” not a word

pambiyɛ anu

in the dyke 27.9

mɔ tagi ben toon, si sɔtɛ hun ɔ

You will split a small calabash and repair it (the trap)

tagi ‘split’, ben ‘piece’

hun pi jen cɔɔliɛ

if rain comes throughout the night 31.0

hɔyɛ hun ken yɛ, le mɔ ɔ kwɛ

when the day breaks and you happen to go there 32.1

cen bɛ yomun ni hogi ɔ pɛi

you may not even want to leave the place 33.3

(because the fish are there a lot)

mu gbom yɛ si ha pɛ tín

you will meet the trap filled (with fish) 34.7

ha pɛ nyu–ivainyima wɛ ... mu han bɛ yipi

they fill thing-trap ... then you bring them (fish) 36.6

hu hin kage gog

then you put them on the fish smoker/dryer 37.5

a 'wire platform' to be smoked

[much elided]

kwɛŋ pɛ ... mu ɔ pɛ kɔɛ mu go gbom ha pɛɛ go

when you go back tomorrow morning, the trap will be full again 39.7

[mafɛ]

le menma ma sɔɔni ɔɔ ... huŋ han caŋ wɛ

As the water moves down, it is (where) they (the fish) pass 41.6

Ha cen toni ha hun

They don't go down (against the current), they will follow

le mèn má ma hun, ma seima,

When the first water (rains) come, 44.3

ha go wusiye ... ha cen tóni, há wùfì

they will rush (against the current) ... they will not go down, they rush
(against it) 47.1

lɔndɔ mu temgen sag- e-e vaima wɛ

where you turn the sack- that fishtrap 48.3

sagigwɛ yen bɛ ... mu kɔɛ si go gbigi mentɛ

this trap ... you walk and go cut the raffia cane (for the trap) 50.8

kwɛ 'walk'

I pɛn sɛm lɛm, lɛm, lɛm, lɛm, lɛm ... si gbigɛ càntìgá si timga

I will stand firmly and then cut the sticks for the rings and then tie (them)

54.1

mun bɛ ha yɛn ... can wɛ ha-a-a ... ha sen pili

Then you do it so 56.5 ... then you sit down for a while ... ??? 56.9

mu ɡɔn bɛ cai ... si piliŋ ɡbagbaga

you take it up / raise it ... you start to weave it (with piassava strips)

piliŋ 'to (weave a-) round', the ɡbagbaga are the long strut-like canes

kɛŋɡa li yɛn ... mun bɛ yipipɛi kantiga si ɡbangɔɔ

then you bring the round stick ... bring the rings again and attack (tie?)

si cai ... hun kun lani wɛ, la migen yɛn

when they raise (the rings around it) ... exactly to where it (the trunk/body) will stop

this makes the middle big, gives it structure

mun bɛ panti ceeyan ... si panti ɔ

then you tie the end/the top ... then you tie it 6.0

ce = front

ha mu hin sin mu ɡɔ ɔ

you will lay it down to weave (tie) it 7.4

yipɛ nago logi ɡbi

when you finish weaving it, 8.5

mu bɛ pɛ kantiga wɛ kamui

(when you reach the end/top,) you remove the ring from the sack 9.9

no longer needed

hear [n] in place of wɛ, kamui = end or top

caigawɛ kɔŋɡɔ mu pɛ loga tɛɡɛni

you then use the circle stick to weave the trap

going to use the ring (caigawɛ) to make the entrance (tɛɡɛni) 2:11.5

tegele hin humu lowɛ

then you make the small one to insert in to the big trap

tegeni mu lowe ... hun mu wó cən gbahuni
the entrance you weave ... it you will set it at the door (of the sack) 2:14

sagegue gbahun ... si panti yan, si panti yan
the door of the sack (the mouth) ... you tie it here, you tie it here 16.9

kɔn ko mu hin ... panbiye anu ɔ yuwa
then you go and drop it ... in the dyke or the fence 18.8
hin = drop

wɔ mɔ hin ye
there you lay it down. 19.6

lɔndɔ mu jí incɛgiwé, cango kɔ ha cahin
It is there you will catch the fish that are passing. 22.3
cango pass , cahin = pass The pass that they are passing
Verb front

ha cén tuni hago wofi
they (the fish) will not follow the current they will go against the current
23.7
wofi = oppose, go against

incɛgi go potogwe (= start of rainy season)
first-rain fish 24.8
(when rain begins to fall (June) fish come with the rising water)

han go wofi
They will go up (against current) 25.6

Hale ton yen, ha kɔn yen
They rush up and down 27.1

ha potogwe kɔ mui ... potogwe kɔ can nago

As the first rains arrived ... after the rains passed 29.3

mun di hun saŋɣɛ ... han pɛ hogi si ha kɔn yen
??? ... then we left this area and go another place 31.6
When the water is full they will take opposite direction

han lɔndɔ hun pɛ timga saagɛ
you turn the trap to face another direction 33.0
then you place the trap to where they are heading

han kɔgi pɛ
you face the trap towards where they are coming from 34.4
kɔgi 'on top'

ha hun gbi, han hun lɔ dɔi ... han hun gbi, han hun lɔ doi
they all come and come inside ... they all come and enter
then they come and enter, anywhere they come from they will enter
cf. duɛ 'enter'

menma ma yipɛ nago can kpɛɛ
after the water finishes passing all 37.4
it will come a time when the water dries

mun bɛ wengi isagimui
then you bring up your traps

ɣɔn lɔndɔ ya migɛn gon yɛ kinin
this is where I stopped 40.0

yan Tɔŋ Kuba ... Tɔmi Lahai
I Tong Kuba ... Tommy Lahai 41.4

pootogɛ ... ipahin hini hu wuwɛ hini wuwɛ hini
first.rains ... this month died before the other one died 43.7
when this month comes to an end

hinii hinii ... bonti incɛɛ jia hun huni
another one (month) due ... this is the time for the fish to be caught 46.1
bonti 'time, period'

i pahin wɛ anu ... hun yi tato incɛga a jia
in this month ... this is the time we start to kill fish 48.2
tato Mende 'start'

ha-a-a si la le ɔ, si menma ma pɛ tíŋ
this will go on until the water is full. 50.4
extra high idph

le ma pɛ tíŋ wɛ ... n-n lai saagɛ la ɔn bɛ ba.
When it is high, then the fish trapping is over.
ba 'over, finished'

pɛnmɔi mu ɔ gon leya
then the fishing net remains (takes over)
People will abandon the traps and use fishing nets

pɛnmɔi mu ha pɛ cantɛ.
it is the net, which they line up.
cantɛ 'line up'

hui!
'get up (rapidly)!'

END