

23 Oct 08: changed name of file, low priority for work

18 May 08: Compared to "Baji Gbombi #2 ali.doc" in H's backup folder on hard drive – only one more sentence done, still needs finishing

"Baji Gbombi #2.doc" does not have this additional S

19 May: informed H on her return from Nyandehun

7 May 08: Not entered in FLEx

Transcription cuts off before recording finished, told Hannah

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Baji Gbombi Interview #2

March 2008

Transcription, First Pass: HS

Recorded in living room of DKB house, Tei, Kwamebai Krim Chieftdom. Arthur Moiwo is interviewing Baji Gbombi. When going over the transcription with Baji Gbombi in the two days after the recording session, he told me that Moiwo did not know how to speak Kim. According to Joe Peku, who went over the transcription with me, neither Moiwo nor Gbombi speaks Kim well, and Joe pointed out several instances in which a word was used incorrectly or aberrantly, and in which Mende or English expressions were used instead of the Kim counterparts. Gbombi's speech is indeed somewhat jerky; he does not seem to speak as fluidly in Kim as he does in Mende. His great strengths as a consultant, however, are his pleasant, personable manner, his ability to slow down his speech to the clear enunciation of single syllables, and his willingness to correct the researcher's pronunciation. Despite Joe's dismissal of Baji's language ability (though the two agreed together when Gbombi was in Tei that Moiwo couldn't speak Kim), he appears to have greater fluency and flexibility with the language than A. Moiwo, at least.

Transcription

AM: Baji Gbombi.

BG: Mm?

AM: Ya si la ɔ mun hã pantimui, ɔn gu apɔ ko mu ɔnɔ.
I know that you do work, there in your own town yonder.

BG: Mm.

AM: Uh, ɔɔnɔɔɔgwɛ, mu ɔɔnɔɔ ɔɔnɔ mu hã vui?

Uh, fishing, (when) you fish, what do you do with it?

BG: ε– ya sɔɔ na go, ya sɔɔ na go, siya, siya yipɛn, han heya, tɛmi hun yipɛ
na go, hin na go tei.

Eh– I go brush, then, when that is finished, [?], at the time that that is
finished, we go burn.

AM: [Laughs.]

BG: Hi teyɛ na go,
When we have burned,

AM: Mm.

BG: si yi gbusun lɔ.
then we plow there.

Si yi go cuin, hi hinyɛ, yɛgɛ. Yi go cuin, yɛgɛ.

Then we bury, we plant cassava. We bury it, cassava.

JP: hinyɛ is not a real Kim word; it's from Mende hin, 'to plant'. Proper
Kim would be yugi.

cuin = to put (cassava cutting) in the ground. JP.

Yɛgɛ, yɛgɛ, hun yema na go s– hun ha na go siin.

Cassava, it wants to– it, they will leave it.

siin = to stay. JP.

Kɛnga hun gbo a paŋ,
That is, about a month,

paŋ mɔ yeen.
one or two months.

AM: Mamu wéí,
Stop, please.

BG: Ya wu mu?
I wait for you?

AM: Wu mui– wu m, wéí.
Wait for me, please.
AM seems to correct himself here.

BG: Mm. Ya wu mu.
Yes. I wait for you.

AM: ε– ε– ma pweigan? (BG: La γεη?)
Eh– you did not forget? (For what?)

AM: Mm, ya huni. ε– ε– mu cen kɔ gbɪgi γεγε gbɪhin?
Yes, I'm coming. Eh– you don't go cut the cassava vine?
gbɪhin = vine. JP.

BG: ε, ya kɔn a go ya gbɪgi [laughing] γ– γ– γεγε gbɪhin, yamβε a pweigan
go. (AM laughs)
Yes, I go cut cassava vines, I just forgot.

BG: Ya pweigan go, βεε.
I forgot, man.

AM: Wε hun laa.
That is true.
laa = true. JP.

BG: Ya gbɪgi na go γεγε gbɪhin, si ya hinyε hun.
I cut the cassava vine, then I lay it down.
hinyε = to lay down. Here, 'to stockpile.'

Ya kisi yen, yin– yin na go, si– yi kɔ ha γεγε, γεγε.
I finish this, we– we go “do” cassava.

JP didn't know what this meant. I'm not sure kɔha isn't a single word that JP doesn't know.

Si yi hun cuin, min an ɣɔɔn.

Then we bury it, in the water there.

an = ?

JP says this is unusual: putting cassava in water. Does not know what this refers to. He says maybe this refers to propagation of seedlings--?

Sɔ, han na go, si hun hogye, ε- min ɣɔɔn, si hun hogye toon,

So, thus it happens, then it germinates, eh- in the water, then it germinates a little.

sɔ = 'so.' JP. From English.

hogye = to germinate. JP.

Hun hoge na go toon,

It germinates a little,

ε- akeigwen ha yema na go [AM interrupts with grunt] si ha sɔm hun,

Eh- the keigwe want to, then they eat it,

JP: keigwe sg., akeigwe pl. = a certain small animal—rat?—he doesn't know English translation. See alternate plural below: ikegwe.

AM: Aa- wiise.

Ah- animal.

BG: Wiise? Ya hun- ya lɔmpu iwe.

Animal? I- I set traps.

lɔmpu = to set. JP.

iwe = traps. JP.

lwe hun gbo yan [ya le hun] asuwan.

I have the traps in hand.

Part in brackets is hard to hear; JP does not transcribe it, and gives yan ya su wan.

Yan ya hun sunga ikegwε.

I (use them) to threaten the keigwε.

sunga = to threaten. JP said “exaggerate,” explaining the meaning further as ‘threaten.’

Kεnga wɔ na go lɔgε hun, [18 May 08 appended:] ago kεnga kun gε nago
lɔgihun munago kεnga ya hun bi yan ha beya ya i parebu wε
Haa sɔn vui bε (more to come)]

If luck comes,

Kim text for entry into Flex (not done)