

27 Feb 09: Changed name again, a lot of good cultural stuff: piassava, dance, palm oil

20 Nov 08, TC: looks ready to be interlinearized, did some editing created an MP3 working file

Renamed “Tomi Jaba i”, as “Tomi Jaba 1”

Topics: agricultural practices, a dance, stomping palm nuts in a canoe

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Based on “A02 Tomi Jaba speaks”

Interviewer is Tommy Lahai

Ilei mui?

Ya le Tɔmi Jaba.

[Wɔ le ha mɔ ha mɔ há?]

ε– Tɔmi Jaba. Yaam mɔ.

Yaam wɔ le Kɔna Maako.

Yapam mɔi.

Kɔɔ Jungui. Yapam wɔ le Kɔɔ Jungui.

Brushing the bush, cassava

Ya na ge há?

Yi na go sɔɔ tùpé. (TL: Mm–hm.)

Yi sɔɔ tupɛ, si yi pɛi keti.

We brush in the bush, then we cut again.

Wɔnbɛ sɛgen, yinbɛ dugɛ jɛmdé.

When it's dry, we set the fire.

Yinbɛ kwí kààtá.

We take up hoes.

Yinbɛ cusun a yɛgɛ. Yi cusun, cusun háá,

We dig for cassava. We dig, we dig a lot,

yipe na go cusun,
having finished digging,

si yinbe kwí sàmpáá,
then we take up a basket,
sampaa = kaaba, JP

Si yi go kén yegε gbeihin, si yi hun kεn.
Then we cut cassava vines, then we cut them.

Si wɔ yugi.
Then it's planted. (?)

Pantimɔ mɔ ya na póε. (TL: Mm–hm.)
(This is) the work that I (used to do) when I was growing up.

Piassava processing

εε– Ya mɔ lán pɛi. Hinbe pɛi kɔ pɛi hááni, hinbe wɔm.
Eh– I did another work also. We also went all the time, we plowed.

Hi lon be wɔm si yi ná ke, hi lon be si hi ná ke,
We plowed there then we would see, we would see,

εε– yegipug há wutin na hinu.
Eh– the man

Yinbe kwí guasεm yinbe kɔ ji icagε. Ji ìcàgέ. Ji hi kwí!
We take up . Cut (lit.: “kill”) piassava. Cut it a lot!
Note: TJ pronounces icagε as ìsàgέ.

Yinbe wuti hin apwan.
We carry it to town.

Wuti niyε, yinbe kɔn yɔnge atεma hiyε, yi kɔn ha haya
When it's been carried, we go to our neighbors, we go hire them

haya = to hire. JP. From English.

Yinbe, yinbe pusi icage we háálì.
We peel that piassava for a long time.

Yinbe yegi gbihin.
We build a shelter.

Yi hinbe ɔ minan ɔn.
We put it by the water.

Yi hinbe putun.
We leave it to rot.

Le hi na putuni we, yi hinbe weingi.
When it has rotted there, we pull it out.

Yinbe pɛi hɔ pɛi àmáá,
We then call back the women,

ɛɛ- ni ha kwí imente neye. Imente icage.
Eh- and they take the cane(s?). Piassava cane.

Ni yi hanbe yumun.
Then we agree with them.

Yinbe weingi icage we.
We pull the piassava there.

Hɔye hun ken, amaa hanbe kɔ.
When day breaks, the women themselves go.

Ni ha kwí imente we háálì.
They take up the canes for a long time.

Ni yi pánti icage si yi hin pɔn minan yɔn.
Then we tie up the piassava and we put it by the water.

La le lo pɛi, yinbe pɛi, yinbe pɛi putun icage lani wɛ,
Again, we let that piassava rot,

yinbe pɛi háya pɛi atɛma hiyɛ. Ha hinbe sági.
We again hire our neighbors. They spread it out.

Yi kwí gbèènta, si yi hin gbongbon, si yi hin gbongbon. Yi gbongbon
hááli.
We take up gbeenta, then we beat it, we beat it, we beat it for a while.

Yi yipi gbongbon, hinbe pɔn pɛi minan ni yi cegi tɔgi.
When we've finished beating, we put it again by the water and we wash it.

Yi yipi tɔgi vuí.
We wash it well.

Ni yi yipe húlì.
We finish cleaning it.

Yinbe yegi màsìyɛ.
We build a fence.

Yi ce wɔn pɔn, yi ce nán hun.
We put it there, we pull it.

Yi ce hin nan, yi ce hin nan, yi ce gbéntì.
We pull it, we pull it, we

Yinbe gbenti vuí yen kɛnɛɲ kɛnɛɲ kɛnɛɲ.

εε– yinbe sage pandá àn.
We dry it in the sun.

àn here seems to be short for –anɔn or –ale.

Yi sage pandá àn yeni.
We dry it in the sun here.

Si yinbɛ po la go sɛɣɛn.
Then we stand it up to dry.

Yi ce peingi. Yi ce peingi. Yi peingeyɛ háálì.

Yi hinbɛ yipi. Yi pɛi panti wɔn,
We bring it. We tie it up again,

yi yɔgi pɛin gbalɔn, kɔ pɛi le hwɛni.
we bring it again to the room, which is empty.

Si yi lɔni pɛi gbu, si yi lɔni gbùwè. Hɔyɛ lɔnbɛ ken.
Day breaks.

Yinbɛ pɛi mungi lɔn pɛi, hinbɛ mún pɛi, mungi lɔ masiya an
We return there again, we return again, there to the fence.

Yi mungɛ pɛi masiya an yeni.
We return again to this fence.

Yi mun pɛi nan,
We return again to pull,

si yin an, si yin an, si yi nan háálì.
Then we pull, we pull, we pull for a while.

Yi hinbɛ degen yɛn kɛnɛɲ, yi hinbɛ panti. (TL: [ʔ] yɛnge ma.)
We scatter it well, we tie it up. (TL: [ʔ] working (Mende).)

Yinbɛ panti, yi panti, si yi hin hin.

We tie it up, then we lay it down.

Yinbe kwí, yinbe gbigbiti.

We take up, we cut.

Yi gbigbiti yan, yi gbigbiti yan,

We cut here, we cut there,

εε– yinbe yipi sìgelé.

We bring a measuring stick.

sigelε = measuring stick. JP. From English “skill.”

Yin sigelε. Ha kɔ lɔngi sigelε, hiye? (TL: Mm.)

We measure. I go there to measure, right? (TL: Mm.)

Aa. Yanbe pɛi yipi sigelε, yi yipi tuup, yi yipi tuup gbom yi yipi,

Ah. I bring the skill, I bring a measure, we bring the big measure, we bring,

Hanbe wɔŋ kɔkɔ hinyε.

They give our money.

Anina ha na ge yɔŋ icagε.

The people who were buying piassava.

Hanbe wɔŋ kɔpwε hìnyé.

They gave us our money.

Drinking wine after selling piassava

Yinbe kɔn yɔnge mùímá.

We went to where the wine was.

Yi yɔŋ muima yi kun ma yɛn kɛnɛŋ kɛnɛŋ kɛnɛŋ.

We bought wine and drank it very very well.

(TL: Mm, yi kɔ muima.)

(TL: Yes, we went to the wine.)

Yini bɛ hum yi na geyɛ. (TL: Hiyɛ?)

We ourselves, you and I, it would be us. (TL: Oh?)

Mm. Yen. (Audience: Lahai.) Mm, yema yen, Lahai.

Yes. This one. Yes, this boy, Lahai.

Yini hum na ge kún muima wɛ.

He and I would drink wine there.

Teeni wɔ leyɛ, (TL: Hm.)

The little (money) that was left,

Yinbɛ– yinbɛ yɔgi gbɛnta hinta.

We would bring to our parents.

Kɛnga nuu mɔn siliŋ mɔn, nuu mɔn siliŋ mɔn,

About one person, one shilling, one person, one shilling,

ha há kɔpwɛ huin.

they made their own money.

Teeni hun ɔ ceyɛ, yinbɛ yɔŋ ìkwé.

With the little that remained, we bought rice.

Si ha hun hi ya.

Then we cooked it.

Yi ɔ vuí yɛn kɛnɛŋ kɛnɛŋ kɛnɛŋ.

We ate very very well.

A dance

Pande ɔ piyɛ, yinbɛ duge kòmýé.

When the sun set, we had a dance.

duge= lit. “to fall,” but here means to set up or stage. JP.

komyε = dance. From Mende.

Sangba hun na ge yani, ni gbanhin.

It was the sangba drum, and the gbanhin.

Yi sεεn háàlì.

We danced for a long time.

Si ligwε kɔn púlúŋ

(The dancing went) far into the night,

púlúŋ = ideophone for “far.” From Mende.

After the dance, fishing

si hɔyε hun ken pɛi, yinbε kwí pɛi hugimui.

then day broke again, and we took up our fishing hooks.

Yi go pu hugimui.

We put out (up, literally?) our hooks.

Yi nan wààsέ.

We pulled in waasε fish.

waasε = small fish; when they get big, they become gɔbɛi.

ni hagε, (pause) ni hagε, ni wɔnsε.

and hagε, and wɔnsε.

Yi nan han háá, yi lani bε pɛi yipi, hanbε. Yi hanbε han gbí, si ya ha pɛi
han gbi siyi, si ha yipiyε.

Le han yipiyε, langbangɔ,

When they are finished, man,

yinbε pɛi tɔgi, yi gbi yεgε kusε.

we wash it, we eat (it with) cold cassava.

Yinbe pɛi tɔgi yɛɛ kuse-- a langbango hun ce pɛt-i! (TL: laughs.)
We wash cold cassava—man, it's sweet!

Yi han yipi tɔge wɛ, yinbe kwí pùn má.

When we've finished the washing, we grab the little cassava left under the pan.

punma = small-small bits of cassava left under the pan. JP.

Kɛnga nuu mɔn yipe mɔn, nuu mɔŋ yipe mɔn,
About one person, one fish, one person, one fish,

si yi téi ha.

we burn (cook) them.

Kasiun supui a wudun,
[Unclear—is this all Mende? supui is M.]

hún cɛti ni wɔ. (TL: Hɔ la gun toon?)
this is cooked and that. (TL: Do you leave it a little?)
JP: ni wɔ = ni yo = “now.”

Ti kɔbutu hinyɛ hun lɔ gun alehan yɔn.
Our pots stay on the hearth there.

Háá wɛ. Yi yipe gbí pùn má.
For a while. We finish eating the little bits of cassava.

Si incɛɛ wɛ ha yipe lɔ, hanbe go tám yɛɛ. Han tam yɛɛ wɛ,
When the fish is finished there, they squeeze cassava. They squeeze
cassava,

hanbe yipi saan.
they bring a pot.

saan = pot. JP. From Mende?

Hanbe yipi kɔbutɛ si han gbúsi,
They bring a pot and they turn it,

si ha gbúsi yegɛ yɛ koogi.
they turn it on top of the cassava.

Si ha gbiyɛ hun yɛn kɛnɛŋ! Yɛn kɛnɛŋ, kɛnɛŋ kɛnɛŋ si yi gbiyɛ hun.
Then they eat it well! Very, very well, do we eat it.

Harvesting palm nuts, making palm oil

Yinbe pɛi kwí, simɔi, yi wɔgi simɔi.
We also take, palm nuts, we harvest palm nuts.

Yi woi wàpɛ́. La si la, hiyɛ? (TL: Mm–hm.)
We climb the palm tree. You know it, right? (TL: Yes.)

Yi woi wàpɛ́. Yi gbenti simɔ yɛn kɛnɛŋ kɛnɛŋ kɛnɛŋ.
We climb the palm tree. We cut down palm nuts very, very well.

Bɛɛ yɛn wɔ kɔ nan go kom yɔkɔ.
This man would go to my place.

Bɛɛ yɛn wɔ kɔ nan go kom yɔkɔ ipaale mɔn,
If this man went to my place one day,

ɔkɔ yinbe kɔn kowɔkɔ yɔkɔ, kɔwɔkɔ wɔnbɛ sim bɛ.
another time we would go to his place and his own palm nuts.

Yinbe go– yinbe wɔgi sim kɔ a mɔi.
We would harvest palm nuts.

Si ha yipɛ, si ha yipɛ, gbigen gbí simɔ lani wɛ,
When they are finished, when all those palm nuts have been scattered,

yinbɛ kwí bɔgata, si yi kɔ casi, yi go casi simɔ wɛ.
we take up cutlasses, and we go break those palm nuts.

Yi mɔ casi! Paali-i.
We break them! All day long.

Simɔ yipɛ, amaa hanbɛ hanbɛ hun,
When the palm nuts are finished, the women themselves come,

si ha mɔ gbɛngɛsi.
then they pull the nut from the cracked shell.

Nuu- nuu- si yipɛ ta leyɛ wɛ. Si amaa lɔ kwí simɔi.
Person- person- then they finish what's left. The women take up the
palm nuts there.

Ha lɔ kwí simɔi. Si han yipiyɛ na go,
They take the palm nuts there. When they've finished,

yi canbɛ yipi. Yi canbɛ yipi, kɔbutimɔi,
we bring pots.

Si ha cɛnyɛ mɔn. Ha cɛnyɛ mɔn- ha cɛnyɛ mɔn, ɛɛ-
Then they set one (there).

si ha yipɛ simɔi, si ha yipɛ simɔi, si ha cɛnya kɔbuta an.
when they've finished the palm nuts, then they set them in the pot.
Note -an as short form of -anɔn, "in."

Si ha pinya kɔbuta an. Mɔ hile na go,
Then they pour them into the pot. When it has boiled,

hanbɛ yipi pìyɛ. Si ha sɛmyɛ hun.
they bring a canoe. Then they stand it up.

Si ha yipi kwí gbí simɔi, kɔbuta anɔn.
Then they finish taking all the palm nuts, in the pot.

Si ha lenge leye la pia. Si ha lenge leye laŋ pian.
Then they pour them inside the canoe.

Hanɛ kwí kɛnga anina pía yaa.
They take about three people for the canoes.

Si ha pɛngi pia anɔn.
Then they go inside the canoes.

Si han nugoti simɔi.
Then they stomp on the palm nuts.