

27 Feb 09, TC: slightly edited, will need some work before it's ready for Flex, useful content for lg death discussion

File name: A03 TL on Kim language

TL = Tommy Lahai interviewed by Tommy Jaba (TJ)

Transcribed by HS with consultants: Fasia Kolia and Joe Peku.

Interviewed on 02 May 2008 in Kwako

TJ (in Mende, to HS): Yεpε? (Mm.)

Talk? (Yes.)

TJ: Lahai, kom apuma,

Lahai. (Your) born children,

*kom apuma* = 'born children'?

yε hu mu hɔ Kimmɔi, ha cen hɔ Kimmɔi?

why do you speak Kim, (while) they don't speak Kim?

Yε hun yipε lani yε?

How did that happen?

TL: Lani ya na há wε? (Mm)

That (that) I had done? (Yes)

What is was that I did so that they don't speak Kim?

Jɛnda wai vuí hun ya na há.

It was a very bad thing that I did.

TC: *na* as only Past (Perfective?)

Landa hun yinbε, yi ma gbungi han.

That's because we ourselves, we did not show them.

*gbungi* = show

Hɔwε ge mɔ wε.

That language.

Hard to understand

Yi ma gbungi ha mɔ.  
We didn't show them it.

Yi gbunga ha g/bu ken,  
We showed them (only) to see,  
Notes have gbunga ha bu = only (JP) *ken*.

la mɔɣa yen, la nyinyi gbɔiyɛ.  
for this breast, for 'drinking at the breast'.  
*nyinyi gbɔi* is Mende, "drink at the breast."

Lani la yi hɔwɛ.  
That's what we said.

Kɛ lani la agbɛna hiyɛ ha na hɔwɛ,  
But that which our parents had said,

Kimmɔi mɔ ha na ge yi gbungɛ.  
it was Kim that they were showing us.  
*gbungɛ* sounds like [mungɛ] or something to me here.

Mɔ mɔ yi na siyɛ.  
That was what we knew.

Han, ha ma si pɛi mɔ gbí,  
They, they no longer know it at all,  
I.e., TL's children's generation.

yi ma ha ká, hani ha ce lan kwí, ha ce lan gbɔ.  
we don't school them, they, they don't grasp it, they're unable to.

Yi ka háá, ha ce lan gbɔ.  
(Even if) we school them for a long time, they're (still) unable.

TJ: Landa la yen?  
So what is that (about)?

TL: Jenda wai la-i! [TJ: εε, hiyε?]  
It's a bad thing!

Jenda wai vuí lai, hun ya hiniyε.  
It's a very bad thing, that I lay down.  
*hin* = corollary meaning: to set forward an idea, story, scenario.

Audience member or TJ: Ha le yi gbungi jenda ha ɔ yi ma gbungi jenda ha.  
They say do we show their thing or not show their thing?

TL: Ha le ha mu le ce gbungeyε.  
meaning unclear. TC: They say ...

[All men laugh]

TL: Yi cen si gbungi jenda ha-i.  
We don't know how to show their thing.

TJ: Ya yema le si yi ha tei ha hu gu negi.  
I want us to hurt them.

TL (laughing): ε, yi tahan, bæε!  
Eh, we can't, man!

TJ: ɔ, yi tahan gbɔ, hiyε?  
Oh, we're not able, huh?

TL: Mm̀m̀!  
No!

TJ: A, kε si ya go topi pɔɔgwε yen.

Ah, but if I were to drive them from this world.  
Probably meaning is more like 'drive out of Kwako, into the wide world.'  
But there is the marker yen.

TL: εε, yi topi han go vuí yan.  
Yes, we'll drive them all (from) here.

TJ: Βεε κω μω cen hɔ Kimmɔi, yi μω topi.  
Man, if you don't' speak Kim, we'll drive you.

TL: M-ɦm!  
That's right!

TJ: Yi μω topi ɔɔɔgwe yen.  
We will drive you from this world.

TL: Hɔwe lɛge hun na ge, yi ce lan pɛi cán likwɔ.  
If another language comes, we will no longer sit side-by-side.  
Unsure what this means; I have it very different, clearly wrong, in notes:  
hɔweɪ gi mɔn mɔi μω hun na go... meaning 'if language one-by-one  
comes...'

TJ: Aa.  
Yes.

END SEGMENT