

13 Mar 09: reviewed and lightly edited

topics: what Joe Braima did when he was small, disobeying parents when they called him, goes to his grandmother, threatened with beating

Interview date: 02 May 2008

File name: A09 Joe Braima Childhood

Transcriber: HS with consultants: Fasia Kolia and Joe Peku.

Notes: The first part of the segment is contiguous with the previous segment, A08, which makes me think that perhaps it is Joe Braima speaking with TL in A08—not TJ.

JB: Wɔ hun la?

Why is that so?

TL: Yi kɔ pɛi ce yɔn.

Let's go forward.

**ceyɔn** = 'forward,' according to JP.

TL: Le mu pɔɛ, yɛn kɪnɪŋ la ha na ge há?

When you grew up, what were all the things you used to do?

TJ: Mu teeni.

When you were small.

JB: Yaŋ teeni? [TL: Mm]

When I was small?

Na- yi jokpa likwí.

I was very playful.

**jokpa** = Mende 'playful.'

Le yi junta leyɛ paahin, [TL: M-hm] yi kɔn kɛlɛhin.

When we unclear stayed out at night, we went strolling.

hin/N alternation

Lɔndɔ ha yi leyɛ, agbɛna hiyɛ ha yi ween.  
Where they left us, our parents called us.

Ha weeni na yi go, yi cen gbɔ a mui oo.  
When they had called us, we couldn't return, oh.  
Note pronoun placed between na and go of perfective.

Yi mui nago, ha yi yii: "Lɔ hun kɔ genyɛ?"  
When we had returned, they asked us: "Where did you go?"  
**Lɔ hun kɔ genyɛ.** Is this Bom? Or idiomatic Kim?

Ya le, "Ya ge lɔ go sɛɛntân."  
I said, "I was going in play there."  
Note sɛɛntân = shortened sɛɛnta anɔn, according to consultants.

TL: Kɛ, le yaa ge mu weeni, ma te ge lan?  
But, when the mother was calling you, you didn't hear her?  
Note **te ge lan** construction: 'to be hearing that.'

JB: Ya le, "Mm, ya ma te ge lan."  
I said, "No, I didn't hear her."

Ha le, "Ya mu gboogi."  
They said, "I'll beat you."  
**gboogi** = 'beat.'

Nam pum, ya cɛngi tacimun.  
Sometimes, I ran away.

Yanɓɛ kón yɔngu titam.  
I went to where my grandmother was.  
**tita** = var. 'grandmother'?

Ya ɔ go lee, wɔnbɛ ha le, “Bɛ̀ɛ̀, ménɣɛ yema yen.”  
I would stay there, she told them, “Man, stop with this boy.”

Hun vuí wɛ, hun na poɛ.  
it is like that, when (someone) grew up.  
I.e., ‘go easy on the boy; all children are like this.’

Landa le men wɔ.  
That’s why (you should) stop (with) him.”  
Later I translate men, ‘stop (with someone)’, as ‘leave alone.’

[Pause in conversation]

JB: Ya kɔ teen?  
Should I go on a little?

TL: Mm. Kɔ teen, bɛɛ.  
Yes. Go on a little, man.

JB: Mm. Nam pum pɛiŋ, [TL: Mm] paahin hun ɔ,  
Okay. Sometimes again, at night,

wɔ weeni nam go, ya yumun, yaŋbɛ hunɣɛ.  
when she had called me, I replied, I myself came.

“Yɛm pɛi hun huna?”  
“Why do you come to me again?”  
The mother speaking, apparently?

Ya le, “Hnn.”  
I said, “Geez.”

“Can, Jo, han can,”  
“Sit, Joe, just sit,”

Ha le, ya ma hún yani, mum gboogi.  
They said, I shouldn't come here, you will beat me.

La binda le, ya muni.  
That's why I went back.  
**binda le** apparently synonymous with **landa le** (note used in other construction, **landa bindε** 'that's why').

Ni mam gboogi pahin de.  
So that (they) wouldn't beat me at night.  
**pahin de** = at night.

Mm bεε, titam wɔ lan bε hɔ,  
Yes, man, my grandmother said it,

wɔ le, "Le ya hɔ cammɔ la le,  
she said, "When I said that thing,

'Men yema wε,' amge te la?"  
'Leave that boy alone,' I think (you) heard it?"

Wɔ le, "εε." "Beti, ce wɔ mé(n) yɛn kɛnɛn oo."  
She said, "Yes." "Betty, don't leave him alone well, oh."  
Apparently conversation between grandmother and mother of JB?

Nampum, yi lɔ ge ce, yinbε- ε, yini atɛma miε,  
Sometimes, we were staying there, we- my neighbors and I,  
Pa Joe: nampum 'perhaps', "one word"

yinbε hɔ, yi dugiyε lɔ puwε, nampum ham gboogi, nampum ya ha gboogi!  
we quarreled, we fell to fighting, sometimes they beat me, sometimes I  
beat them!  
**puwε** = fight (physically).

Ha gboogiyε nago, yanbε cengi tacimun.

When they had beaten me, I ran away.

ya kón pɛi yɔngu titam.

I went again to where my grandmother was.

Ya mui na ɔ go, atɛma miɛ,

When I had arrived there, my neighbors,

Note ɔ between na and go.

hanbɛ hɔ le, “Yɛ hun kwaa yɔngu, yɔngu tita mui?

they said, “Why did you go to your grandmother?

ɛɛ! Yi ma gboogi mu go yema yen paande.

Eh! We won’t beat you, this boy, today.

Hum pɛmbɛ pɛiŋ mui icɛgi jɛn,”

When you just arrive disrespectful...”

I.e., a threat: they’ll beat him another time.

icɛgi jɛn is glossed as “high-footed, disrespectful” by JP...

Yanbɛ matinyɛ, ya ɔ gunde,

I myself hid, I stayed there,

nampum, ya cén pɛi hɔ, bɛpaa kwɛn gu sɔ.

sometimes, I didn’t say anything [i.e., anything argumentative] again,  
except for [until] the next morning.

Hɔyɛ ken nan go, ha le, “Hum, mu ɔ ke paahin de.”

When day had broken, they said: “You, you’ll see it tonight.”

Kɛnga paahin– paahin lani wɛ, [TL: M–hm] ya cén pɛi kɔ!

About– that night, I no longer go!

Ya le, “Mm, bɛɛ, ha ɔ ha jɛm!” [TL: ɛɛ]

I said, “Mm, man, they will hurt Joe!”

Underlined was not glossed by consultants.

Bεε, ha kɔ ha kɔwa.

Man, they went to go.

Bεε, ya cén kô.

Man, I didn't go.

END SEGMENT