

13 mar 09, tc:
topics: growing up

Interview date: 02 May 2008
File name: A12 Joe Braima childhood and brushing

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Notes: This is really two segments, and could be broken up.

JB: Le yi na poε, yaŋ, le ya na ge yaŋ teeni,
When we were growing up, when I was small,

Agbena hiye ya, ha na ge yin go,
Our parents, they used to,

yi go pi, ha le, yi kwɔ sɔ,
we would stay, they'd say that we should go brush,

yi sɔ na go, yinbe gbogopi, ibace.
when we had brushed, we would stay peeling palms.
gbogopi = "to clean," JP; 'to peel.'

Yi yipe na go gbogopi ibace we,
When we had finished peeling the palm,

nam pum, ni yi cɔŋ ibuni.
sometimes, we cut (the heads of) maggots.
ibuni = maggots.

Ibace anɔn, ni ha due lɔ,
Inside the palm, they entered there,

yi tei na go,

when we had burned it,

ni yi kwi ha, yi ce ha sɔm.
and we took them, we stayed eating them.

εε, ni yi teiyε,
Eh. And (when) we were burning,

agbɛna hiyε, hanbε go tuna yεgε gbɛihin.
our parents, they went to look for cassava vines.

Ha na go- si yi si ma,
They were- if we knew it,
JP has yi sima = “first time.”

le lɔ húni gen, landa ya ke le,
When the time came, as I saw it,

aninpugε, ha cusum yεgε.
the men went to dig the cassava.

Kε amayε, han, han ha na ge cusumi.
Before the women, they would dig.

Ha na yugi yεgε yε.
They planted the cassava.

Le tanten go, agbɛna hiyε ha yipε na go sɔ,
When that had finished, our parents had finished brushing,

hanbε kón gbatitáàn.
they went to the floodplains.

Pantimɔi **igbaleyε**.
Swamp rice work.

igbaleye = swamp rice

Londo ha gun ceye,
Where they remained staying,

ha gbogbopi, e- icage.
they peeled piassava.

Si ha sɔɔngɔ.
And they fished.

Londo ha lo leyɛ.
Where they stayed.

Icage lani wɛ bɛ,
That piassava itself,

ha go tɔn hɔɔntá.
they would dig holes.

Icage- saigwɛ. Ha go tun hoonta.
Dry season piassava. They would dig holes.

Si ha gbúsi hin lo.
Then they put it there.

Hanɛ yipi **bɔɔgwɛ**,
They brought mud,
bɔɔgwɛ = mud

ha gbusi hin koog.
they put it on top.

Hanɛ **gbintigi**.
They covered it.

gbintigi = to cover. JP.

Ha hin gbintige na go,
When they had covered it,

ni ha wom yipi womi gbíye.
then they brought a plow, all the plows.

Kenga, ha yipe wɔgi igbaleye,
Like, when they finish harvesting the swamp rice,

hanbe go, ε, **kuti**, icage lani we.
they work with that piassava.
kuti = “construct,” according to JP.

Ni ha wɔn **duti** pitáànye,
And they load it in the (our?) boat,
duti = load. JP.

ha tanbe yipi yapɔn.
they bring it to town.

Icage lani we.
That piassava.

Ha yipe na go yapɔn,
When they have brought it to town,

lɔndɔ hin gun ceye,
where it remains,

ha **gbongbon** hin na go,
when they have beaten it,
gbongbon = to beat (piassava)

feeyε, ε- hááma siŋ siŋ hun hwin.

the money- it's the first money of the year.

Explanation from JP.

haama = first money of the year?

La wu, jí pɛi icagε, saandε.

When, (you) peel again the piassava, in rainy season.

JP gave "when" for the first phrase here.

Kɔndɔ, ε, kɔndɔlani la hun ceyε.

The kɔndɔlani, it's the kɔndɔlani meal.

I think kɔndɔlani is a ritual meal having to do with the first harvest. But I'm not sure.

Feeyε lani hun ha hun sɔmi, kɔndɔlani hwin.

That money is what they eat, it's the kɔndɔlani.

ε- igbaleyε wε, ha wɔge na hin go,

That swamp rice, when they have harvested it,

ha yipε hin panti.

they tie it up.

Le ha há hin pantε,

When they make it into tie(s),

hanbε cuin.

they build (a storage place for the piassava).

Ha cuinyε na go, minma ma yipε na go,

When they have built it, when the water has finished,

lɔndɔ ha hin kwiye,

that's where they take it,

ha duti pitáàn.
they load it it the canoe.

Ha go yegi gbihin,
They build a shelter,

le ha yegi gbihin,
when they have built the shelter,

ha hun yipi ikwɔ̃ lani wɛ, si ha duti ɔ.
they bring that rice, and they load it there.

Ha duti na hin ɔ go,
When they have loaded it,

si hin ɔ pɛi, si hin putuni, si hin can wɛ.
then it rots there, it sits there.

Minma ma kwɔ̃ ɔ gunya bɛ,
The water having itself gone away,

hanbɛ kwí pɛi. Si amaa, ha nugote hin.
they take it again. Then the women, they thrash it.

Le ha hin nugotɛ,
When they have thrashed it,

ha hinbɛ tɔgi. Ha hin go tɔg oo.
they wash it. They wash it, oh.

Ha tɔgi na hin go,
When they have washed it,

hanbɛ **funbu**, ɛ- **batata** koog, pandé àn.
they spread it, on a mat, under the sun.

funbu = spread. **batata** = mat.

Hin sègèní. Ni hin sɛgɛni,
It dries. When it's dried,

yi cen tei **ifofowa** oo.
we don't heat it steamed, oh.
?

ifofowa = steamed. JP.

Ha cen tei ikwɔ ifofowa oo.
they don't heat rice steamed, oh.

Iwiya wɛ vuí, yi ha tɔgɛ.
It's really iwiya that we wash.
JP gave "off rice – just rice" for iwiya...

Si ha hin funbu batatá àn.
They spread it on a mat.

Si hin sɛgɛni,
Then it dries,

hanbɛ pɛi duti, bí, ɛ– piyɛ,
they load it again, take– a canoe,

hun leila hin. Hun gu yɛpiyɔn gu,
it's another one. It is on land,
Note leila hin alt. of lelaŋ, 'other.'

Ha duti hin ɔ. Lɔndɔ ha gun deyɛ.
They load it there. Where they left it.
leyɛ = deyɛ after nasal.

Ha go kwí ha. Ha hin sɔm.

They go take it. They eat it.
Talking about the rice, not the piassava.

END CHILDHOOD SEGMENT

BEGIN BRUSHING SEGMENT

JB: Yaŋ, ɔ Blaima, yaŋ.
Me, Joe Braima, I.

Yaŋ, ile miε wɔ le ɔ Blaima.
Myself, my name is Joe Braima.

La tɔtɔwε geyε la, sɔɔgwε yen la yi,
sɔɔwε yeni.

Lɔn vuí ɔ la,

jɛnda katan katan la yi gbɔmi.

Nam pum, mu go lei sɔɔgwá àn,