

5 Dec, TC: finished reviewing against recording, some consultation with Hannah and Pa Joe – entered into Flex, began interlinearizing

4 Dec 08, TC: Transcription file renamed “Yema Tom Piassava preparation”

Interview date: 2008-11-14

File name (both audio and transcription): YT work 4

Yema Tom is the primary speaker, occasional interjections by Tommy Lahi (TL)

Prompt: Process question; describe piassava work.

La ge bé pòtògwé, le pòtògwé kò nà gé muuyé,

When it's rainy season, when rainy season was arriving, 6.5

JP gives 'When rainy season starts' JP: pòtògwé

TC: bɛ sounds like [bi], impersonal verb??

hàn bè kón gbateɔn, na kɔ.

they go to the fields, they went. 8.5

Sì hà gò núú ìcàgɛ́.

Then they stake out (their) piassava (claims). 9.8

nuu = to stake out [TC: 'mark (a claim)'?]. JP: nuu means to stake out an area, possibly with 'medicine to defect.' In Mende, this medicine (hale) is called cá mèì. In Kim, cà m d é. Says it's not bad medicine to affect one's health, just prohibitive medicine.

Han go nuu hin wɛ icagɛ kíníŋ sì hín kón ɥpólón,

They stake out piassava there, all of it, then it goes far, 12.4

sì, yìpé hì tɛ̀ì ɥgbí,

then– having finished burning it completely, 14.2

si: [hi]

sì hù– yìpé nà hì gùn tɛ̀í,

then– when they have finished burning it, 15.9

hɔye hun kenye | si han, kɔ go tɔngɔn,
at daybreak, then they go there, 18.0
tɔngɔn??

cɔi wɔn jî kàgìlé ... wɔ le jí ícàgì wè háá.
?? he cuts that piassava 19.1 ... when he was cutting for a while 21.8
HS: cɔi = si wɔ [w] = /g/
ji 'collect, harvest' ??

Si han ìkúé ... Si degeni yɛnali mɔn.
(Until) they do a lot 22.4 gathering (it) in one place. 23.7
... sì jì gìnì yé nài mòn – digina/degen 'pile, gather'

i wɛ ɔn kɔ́í pìé.
Then he gets a canoe.
Funny accent to wɔ. Sounds like hɔye or wɔye. TC: wɛ

Si wɔ– wɔ hin cɔ́ŋ pìánù.
Then he puts it inside the canoe. 26.3
[tuwɔ]

sì wɔ́ŋ gbùsì gbónyà.
then he parks them at the waterside. 27.5
gbufi = pack JP [TC: 'park?']

[wɔhin cɔ́ŋ ŋgbom –m̀gbom ?28.8 taganta]
wɔhin cɔ́ŋ gbombota nta
He puts the piassava shells
nta = lani ta HS

wɔ ta cɔ́ŋ pian sɔ́ŋ | gbufi gbon yɔn.
wɔ ta cɔ́ŋ piaan
He puts them in the canoe, parking them at the waterside. 30.8

wò tà lò cóṅ wóṅ gbùfì gbòn yòn.

He puts them there, parking (them) at the waterside. 32.5

HS: wɔṅ = gon

yìpè wótìn | cálán.

(He) finishes transporting (them) all. 34.1

cálán = idph ‘completely’, in Mende as well.

wè wòn háyá ànìnà,

He hires people, 35.9

wɔ again sounds like h/wɔye. Note haya again from Krio/Eng.

wɛ = wɔ, wɔn = gɔn

“Céé, àgbènàm, yi pusam icage miɛ yen, héí!”

“Look, my parents. Let’s peel my piassava, hey!” 38.4

Final high rise on tag, cee ‘pay attention, listen’, also [jee]
yen?? loc?

kèngà ànìná, kèngà ha ce wáàn.

People maybe, there would be about ten.

“Tones” all seem to be the result of intonation

Le icage hi na we ikwe kɛnga wa-a-a ne ayeen

When the piassava was plenty about twelve (people)

we = ge

ɔ kɛnga waa ne ahiyɔn ... m-hm.

or maybe fourteen. M-hm. 45.4

Si amaa wɛ hanbɛ cɛti yɛgɛ kɛnga kòbùtú mò yèèn | ò mò ɾà.

Then his women cook cassava, about two or three pots.

kobutu = kobuti

si igbama sɛgɛni yen,

Then this dried *igbama* fish, 50.3

igbama 'very small fish women catch in nets' Mende *gendei*. JP.

pana cɛti gbɛnji moyeen.

they cook two pots. 51.8

gbɛnji = Mende gbɛnjii. Pot without base support. JP.

pana = ?? 3pl?, [gbɛnji]

ɛ, ne haagɛ | gbí | ha yipɛ ...

Eh, and all the cutlass fish they finish ... 53.6

cɔŋ yɛnali mɔ ha yipɛ cɛti ha cɔndɔ cùàìmà sààmá.

putting in one place, they finish cooking, they add red palm oil there.

55.9

cuaima saama = red palm oil JP

ha pɛ cɛti wɛ, yɛngɛ yɛngɛ.

They keep cooking, yɛngɛ yɛngɛ. 57.5

yɛngɛ yɛngɛ = sound of boiling?

ha taami yɛgɛ jagbata yeen ... ha go sɛm.

They press two basins of cassava. They set it (aside). 1:00

jagbaa = big basin, Mende *jagba* (JP)

si anina ha posi icagɛ,

Then the people peel the piassava, 1.6

[yaina]

ha pɛ na posi icagɛ wɛ ... gbí,

when they have peeled that piassava completely, 3.3

yɛgɛ wɛ hun ha gbíyɛ ... ka ka ka ka ka ka ka

it's that cassava that they eat ... a lot 6.1

si ha gbáá hun bɛ, ha hugɛ lɔ.

When they get tired of it, they leave there. 7.5

gba = to tire of, hugε = hogi

(Ha kuni muima-)

TL: They drink wine-)

ha kuni muimá yεn kεnenε kεnenε kεnenε kεnenε.

They drink wine very, very well. 10.7

ha hugε lɔ.

They leave there. 11.5

yapuma ha le cai | jagbata lan ta ha go gbí.

The children take those basins and they eat (cassava). 14.0

icagε putuni na go ... pi ha weenge hin.

The piassava having rotted, they pull it out. 16.4

weenge = pull out (JP)

[icago hu ... la wo↑ |], pi = si?

(TL: something about amayε ...)

amaayε? (m-m) amaayε han bε mui? i-i,

Women? (yes) Whether the women arrive? 19.5

are there??

yai yipi yi ... posi wε gbiyε.

They finish ?? 20.1 ... peeling it all. 21.0

si yi amaayε, yi lɔn bε kɔ.

Then we the women, we go there. 22.5

[in yamaiyε yɔn bε kɔ]

si yi yipε hin panti ... (unintelligible) ... gbí,

Then we finish tying it completely, 24.9

[tii pεin]

yipe nago panti,

after finishing tying, 25.9

Note hin between na and go. TC: no hin there

i ha yegi- gbengiyε ... (TL: menan yɔn) menan yɔn.

then they build- a coop ... (TL: in the water) in the water. 28.7

gbengiyε = a round structure, kólíi in Mende, standing in the water, in which piassava is placed to rot—for heat, according to JP. I asked the difference between gbihin and gbengiyε. Under “the influence,” JP said that they’re the same, but that gbengiyε was the plural, which is hard to believe. Seems to me that gbihin is a general term for a shelter or structure.

Menma ma- ma ha muu yen.

The water comes to here on them (possibly gesturing on legs). 1:30.0

gbinda nu wε

?? 30.9

Si ha yipe cáí icage wε gbí ha

Then they finish taking that piassava completely,

[teŋ haipε ... hai

pè lɔ́ wútèn gbihin lani wε konan.

they finish transporting it to the inside of that structure. 34.2

[pɛlɔ́ wútèn ... gbinda noɔ konan]

gbí yipe mu,

When it’s all submerged,

mu [mũ] = submerge. Note Jilo Musa (as in JM Small, transcribed by JP):

Mam mugi! ‘Don’t push me under the water!’

TC: [gbii pε mɔ]

Ha le ... kwí wusugwε si ha gbangi lɔ́ kòògí,

They take grass-leaves and cover it on top, 37.1

wusugwε = “grass-leaves”, gbangi = cover. JP.

wusugwε si ha [wusugwaan gbángə lɔ]

First syl of verbs seems to always get accent, except for tones due to intonation

a kɔiya bεenta, hinyε lɔ koog ... háá ... si icagε wε yipε ... putun.

they take logs, they lay them on top 39.0 ... for a long time ... then that

piassava finishes rotting. 41.9

bεenta = “big sticks” JP

... [si cagɔ yipε

Yipε na go putuni, i ha hei weengi.

Having finished rotting, then they pull it out. 44.0

JP gave hi for hei, but not sure whether it's YT's accent or another word.

Ha pɛi weenge imentε oo!

They pull out the canes, o! 45.3

[ha pɛn weenge nentε-o]

Si amaaye yipε kwi gbí anɔn imentε lani wε.

Then the women take it all from those canes. 1:47.8

JP: The women scrape/pull the piassava from the canes.

[yamaai ʔipε ... inen...]

m-hm ... ha pɛ weengi putimɔi.

M-hm. They pull out the inside part. 1:49.8

putimɔi = “good” part, inside piassava.

Yipɛi- ipɛi pɛ hin ... tɛgi mun ... gbí ipɛ-

When they've finished splitting it completely, 1:52.0

yipiyε pɛi gbongbon mun gbí bεenta koog.

they finish beating it all on top of the logs.

gbongbon = flog [TC: pound?]

[ipiepepe gbongbom mun gbiden ka ko] ??

ha-a-a, si ha yipe hi tɔgi ... cálán ... si ha hin gbongi.

After a while, they finish washing it completely, then they beat it. 57.7

gbungi = flog JP

... [hianpen tɔgi] ... yi haih gbongí]

Ha yipe hi tɔgi cálán-η ha weenge.

They finish washing it completely, they pull it out. 1:59.5

[ha pén tɔgi ...]

Ha le gbà-àη ... nuu gi

They put it up, that thing. 2:01.5

JP said that nuu gi yēη just stood for whatever YT was about to name

[hàyè gbàáη ... ε-ε nùngé]

tɔgimɔ- tɔgimɔi sùùntàmɔ́.

The sticks- the scraping sticks. 2:02.4

[TC: sharpened?]

ya ha pe suunti icage we ... yen kenen!

Then they finish scraping that piassava ... cleanly! 2:04.6

si ha pe-ε-i panti,

Then they finish tying it, 5.9

i = hin?

bengta, ta toon toon toon toon toon toon.

(with) ties ... small small small ones. 2:08.3

Si ha degen. Si ha degen.

Then they gather it. They gather it.

yáà dègèn ... yáà dègèn.

Beengeta lan ta we ... tanta anina ha gon koiye,

Those ties 10.5 ... those are what the people take, 2:11.5

si ha cɔn ta pɛ yɛnali mɔn ... a panti yɛn.

then they put them in one place, then they tie them here.

[si ai- ai ... yɛne mɔ ti] 13.1 What is ti??

Si anina hanbɛ hun, si ha yon hin.

Then people come and buy it. 15.4

[ti anai han bɛ hun ti ai yon hun]

Icagɛ lani wɛ wei?

That piassava, hear?

[icagɛ anuɛ wɛi] 16.2

Ha le, hi hun kɛn.

They say, they come to see it. 16.9

[hai hun ken]

ha na le hini kɛnɛɲ.

They said it was fine. 17.9

icagɛ Kwago hini na ge kɛnɛɲ,

The piassava of Kwako here is good, 20.0

[kɛnɛne]

hi ne anina, ha na gon yonji.

we and people, they were selling it. 2:21.3

Ha hin yɔgi Bɔntɛ yɔn pita gbomgbomtaanu.

They bring it to Bonthe, on the big-big boats.

[nai yɔgi ...

Wɔ́ɔ là.

That is it.

END