

Interview date: 2008-11-14

File name (both audio and transcription): YT work 5, palm nuts

Prompt: Process question; describe palm oil processing work.

YT: Pɛi wɔgi simɔi. (HS: M-hm)

They harvest palm nuts.

Si ha leeyɛ mɔ.

Then they pick them up (from the ground).

lee = pick up from ground. JP. I'm a little skeptical.

Ha degeni, beenta ta lan.

They gather (them), inside containers.

Paa le paa casi simɔ wɛ.

Just take them out of their casing.

casi = pick out of casing. JP (struggling for English). Note that this is the same as casi, 'to cut hair,' according to JP, but "with different meaning."

Ha yipɛ mɔ gbɛngɛsi,

They finish pulling them out of the shaft,

gbɛngɛsi = pull out of shaft. Meaning "chaff"? JP.

ha yipɛ mɔ cɛgɛti,

they finish winnowing it,

cɛgɛti = "fan" to remove chaff. JP.

pɛi yipɛ kobutɛ.

then bring a pot.

Pɛi cɛnyɛ hun a- alɛŋ.

Then put it on the fire.

alɛŋ = fire "stool." JP. Related to "aleihan yɔn"?

Ha degeni- ha wutɛni simɔi,  
They gather and transport the palm nuts,

ha kɔ mɔ ɔ cɔŋ, mɔ yipɛ ɔɔ.  
they go and put them and they finish cooking.  
ɔɔ = to cook (intr.)

Pɛi nugote mɔ.  
They stomp on them.  
nugote = stomp on/smash with feet. JP. Seen previously in other texts.

Ha yipɛ mɔ tɔg.  
They finish washing them.

Ha yipɛ na g(b)o tɔgi,  
Having finished washing,

ha yeyɛ cuaima.  
they skim off the oil.  
yeyɛ = skim off. JP.

Si ha titi cuaima, si ma sɛmi.  
Then they pour the oil (into a container), then it stands.

Ma sɛmi na go, ma gbosoni na go,  
(When) it has stood, (when) it has cooled,

ni—ta kasin panta ce ɔ gun,  
then—kerosene tins were still there,  
JP said that in earlier times people used to sell oil in kerosene tins instead  
of “batas.”

ha cɔŋ ma ɔ.  
they put them in.

Ma yipe na go tíŋ,  
(When) it's full,  
tíŋ = to be full. JP.

ha ɣɔgi ma, ha kɔ ma wɔŋ.  
they carry it, they go to sell it.

Kɛnga, la na ge ceyɛ,  
About, as it was,

yin ha yi teimi, ɛ– pan li mɔn.  
in our time we would do, one pan.  
teimi = time, according to JP. But why not tɛmi?

Pan li mɔn ta siŋ waan, ni ta yeen.  
One pan for twelve shillings.

(TL mutters something about price)

Siŋ ta nuin ta pum, siŋ ta nuin.  
Five shillings sometimes, five shillings.

Pan li mɔn.  
One pan.

La kɔ gun há,  
Afterwards,  
la kɔ gun há = “as time goes on,” or “afterwards.” JP.

Ha hunbɛ há cuaima gun, ɔkɔ mɔn.  
You do oil for one pound.

Wɔ kínín gun la cuaima ma na migɛnyɛ, ha ke la yeni,  
That's all finished for oil, as for nowadays,  
hakela yeni = but nowadays. JP. Or is it ‘you all see these days’?

Cuaima gun ma wɔa.  
oil is (now) dear.  
wɔa = high-priced. JP.

Ma han gun fee kwí,  
It (now) sells for a lot of money,  
han here is 'do/make.'

ε– ma cuai ma gun le tabata, bata mɔ gbí,  
oil is now sold in “batas,” one bata,

ṗṗṗ, ε– touzan yipeanu, ni wààṗ.  
a pound, eh– thirty thousand (60,000 LE).

Wɔ ha gun wɔṗ cuaima.  
That's how you sell oil.

(Si la), la yipe soon ṗṗṗgwe li waiye.  
Know that, the world has changed for the worse.  
soon = spoil. JP.  
“si la” is hard to hear.

Igbeni ha yipe hin tɛm càlàn, si ha yipe hi lee.  
Palm kernels, when they've finished cracking them completely, then they  
pick them up (from the ground).

Igben pan li mɔn ya kwei hin go wɔṗ,  
One pan of palm kernels, they go to sell it,

kɛngá sín ta yeeṗ. Sí pens.  
about two shillings. Six pence.

Kɛ fee lani wɛ, hu na ge jojo wɛ.  
But that money, it was valuable.

jojo = valuable. JP. See YT Work iii.

TL: Lanwaɔ mu hun ɣɔɣe, mu ke ɣeɲ toon.

How ever you carried it, you would see something small.

YT: Mm. Ha mu ke hindigima teen teen yen bùù-ù-ù.

Yes. They gave you small-small items.

bùù-ù = “around.” JP. I’m not sure about this.

Taba yen, tafɛ ta yen, maisɛ yen.

Tobacco, a pipe, matches.

maisɛ = matches

These are the little things that shopkeepers used to “dash” people when they came to sell their palm kernels.

Pɛn gbaa hwai,

Something else ordinary,

JP: pɛngba means extra. But I wonder if the expression combines with Mende gbaa, “apart.”

ke wɛ ha wɔ cén pɛi hán.

but they no longer do that.

Wɔ hun la.

That’s that.

(Aside to interviewer and audience): Ya cén pɛi teli oo.

I won’t talk any more, oo.

END

END

