

9 Mar 09, TC: not much here from Yema Tom, fairly repetitious and a lot of prodding from others

Interview date: 2008-11-16

File name (both audio and transcription): Yema Tom Growing up 1

YT = Yema Tom, TL = Tommy Lahai, Bockarie Jabba = BJ, HS = Hannah Sarvasy

HS: ε, yim Yema, (YT: εε)

Mother Yema,

ε, tɛmi wɛ, ε, mu na poɛ yan, Kwago yan,  
At that time, when you grew up here in Kwako,

yɛ hu mu há? Kpélɛ́, sɛɛnta, pantimɔ́i, kpélɛ́.  
what would you do? All, play, work, all.

YT: Yɛni hun- le ya po paa wɛ yɛni, (HS: Aa)  
What would- when I was just growing up here,  
Note different use of paa and po with wɛ.

pantimɔ́ mɔ́ ya háyɛ?  
the work that I did?  
Note verb ha, 'to do/make' in "stative" form.

Pantimɔ́ yɛgɛ, pantimɔ́ ikwɛ, mɔ́n mɔ́ ya há, apɔ́yan.  
Cassava work, rice work, that is what I did, here in town.

TL: Sɛɛnta apumanta.  
Children's games.  
Notice formation of "children's games."

YT: Sɛɛnta apumanta? (TL: Mm) Mm...  
Children's games? (TL: Yes) Um...

TL: Lɔndɔ ha yi vúí.  
That they ask about a lot.

YT: ɛ– lam pɛi lee gbunan, lam pɛi lee gbunan, sɛɛnta apuman.  
Eh– they’re no longer in my head, they’re no longer in my head,  
children’s games.

BJ: Ha na ge léé gboga. (TL: ɛɛ)  
You were staying in play.

YT: ɛɛ, yi na ge léé gboga.  
Yes, we were staying in play.

Si, yi matin, gbɔgita kwɛiliŋ (laughs).  
Then, we hid, behind the houses.

TL: Si ha sɛɛn beenta anɔn.  
Then you played inside containers.  
jp: bɛní, bɛntá ‘cups, as those made from coconut shells’ vs. tààgá  
‘calabash’

YT: Si yi sɛɛn beenta anɔn.  
Then we played inside containers.

si yi cɔŋ yen, yenta bɔtale yen.  
Then we put this, this here at the chin.  
bɔtale = chin

fɔɔgwɛ yi go nyai been(y)i anɔn.  
Sand, we would scoop it up from inside the containers.  
nyai = scoop up as in eating

Si yi jo, yi ha le ikwɛi hin.  
Then we ate it (like rice), we said, “This is rice.”

END