

16 Mar 09, tc:

Interview date: 28 Nov 2008

File name: Hawa and Yema 1

Transcriber: HS with consultant Tōmi Gbondu.

Present: Hawa Lapiya, Yema Gbanyande, Yema Kakai, Yasi ____, Tōmi Gbondu, HS, and many onlookers.

YG: Hi ga ce siŋ.

When you were playing.

Apparently the lead-in to a question.

HL: Yε cεgi má len ko mum yíyε wâ ɔ (YG: ɔɔ)

“That question is not fit for me.” (YG: yes)

TG transl. TG explains: HL means that she is old—much older than YG, so YG should not be asking her about play!

A yε mun yen cεge ma len, mbaa!

“That is not a fitting question for you, friend!”

HL: Kε hu(n) hwei sinti yen, kɔ ya ga ce siŋ.

But that’s what you said, “how was I playing.”

Ya tɔŋgi mum ta? (YG: εε)

Shall I show you/explain to you? (YG: Yes.)

tɔŋgi = show, explain. Cf. Kim gbɔŋgi.

HL: Ya ga ce go teŋ bendai.

I was peeing in a coconut shell.

teŋ = urinate. TG

YG: Mm. Si mu há yεŋ?

Oh. Then what thing did you do?

Mu ma pɔŋ?

Did you throw it (away)?

HL: Ya ma singi. Te la?

I don't play. Do you understand?

Perhaps meant to say: 'I wouldn't play with the shell I peed in.'

YG: εε. Yε mu ma singεε?

Yes. Why didn't you play?

HL: La mu le bolε, (YG: εε.)

"Do you remember?" (YG: Yes)

TG transl.

la mu le bolε vui? (YG: εε!)

Do you truly remember? (YG: Yes!)

Ya ga ce go singi bendai,

I would play in coconut shells,

ke yincεgi ma len kɔnyεm oo.

but the question is not fit for me, oh.

YG: ɔ-ɔ, a yεmun cεge ma len gbí.

No, "I didn't ask you an unsuitable question."

END SEGMENT