

Metadata

Seku Abdullai **Youth**

4 Dec 2008

DKB barrie

Pa Joe Peku, HS, TC

Sound file.Mp3 format sound edited and saved to Audacity project file
sound and wave sound file

The recording took place around 10.am in the barray when we expected the air to be still but there was still a very slight and occasional breeze from the north (land side). The typical pattern is for there to be a land breeze in the early morning that gives way to an ocean breeze a little later in the day. (We always try to record somewhere in between.)

Tried to overcome the possible interference by erecting a barrier on the wind side of the barray, a large piece of cloth indeed prevented most wind from getting by

Pa Sheku had traveled by his own means in a very small canoe from Kpanguma to visit before our departure – he brought us a dozen or so oranges and ended up spending the night after telling us he would be heading back in the late afternoon – he said he came because he had some new stories, but we put off the recording until the next morning (after he indicated he was staying overnight) when the winds would be at a minimum

A persistent low-intensity noise – comparable to tape hiss – persisted throughout – we tried adjusting the settings on the microphones, moving the microphones, putting on the microphone wind socks, using different sources of power, and pretty much everything we could think of to get rid of the noise but all to no avail – sounded like the noise with the primitive outdoor recordings of British public television

There were loud frogs in the background and the clanging of Janette in the kitchen

Seku Abdullai was as animated as ever, gesticulating wildly to indicate deictic centers, pausing dramatically, varying loudness, and using the odd ideophone

He offered us three stories and something of a narration

1. Youth

2 War story

3 Ghost story

4 Jealous story

5 The old days – we had asked him to tell us something about the old days when he was a small boy (he is now 92), especially how things then were different from what he sees today – we had originally planned to have H and T ask him questions as prompts, but he needed little inducement to do some talking

He was pretty much exhausted after the story telling and soon retired to the hammock – he ended up leaving about 4pm that afternoon “sharp four o’clock”

SYNOPSIS

These stories are some of Sheku Adbulai,s numerous childhood stories. The first was, an incident he witnessed when a child was wounded by a big cane stick that the people were using while building a hut.

The second has to do with his quest to learn how to brush and plough. So he followed his father in the bush and imitate.

Finally, he used to fell and tap palm trees in his youth days. He would fell two and tap only one at a time after two days of felling. He used to drink a lot. He was however wounded in one of the palm trees cleaning.

Ha wele kɛ ilɛn wɛ kim mua nu.
They call his name in kim. 0:03

Yama sin yɛn kɛnɛn
I don't know it properly.

Yin a bɛmpa a kooga Nu haan gbi hanage hun ha. 0:09
We are all making huts, every body is doing it

cɔn la mɛntɛguɛ sii nange
we will bow it with a cane and pull

ah cuga apuma yegi anina yɛ. 0:17
the cane pierce somebody's children

ah langba ɔɔ wɔnu, langba ɔɔ wɔnu. 0:19
ah this man, this man

yale yan booboo wɛ ha haan lala kui
they have done a lot of bad things
booboo= bad things

a ce ilan de
I will not leave it (I will not forgive them)

Uh le lana cenle mintɛ ɔɔ kata nyiɛ. 0:31
Ugh it was a strong cane that

kɔma huutin kun yema
that should have pierced the child

mintɛ guɛ kɔnan biwɔ kɔ cuwɔ hobatɛ bile. 0:38

a cane stick pierced him , God

kɔ dugɛngo yapɛ wɔ yanu kɔ hun hogayan. 0:41

helps it to pierce only his skin and burst the other way.

Aa yan ee. 0:44

Ah me (the cry of the wounded child)

Lala kui. 0:46

It is too much

INTERRUPTION

Hanna (Assistant Researcher) asking Sheku Abdulai if he remembers the time people do potatoes and other back yard farming, and Pa Joe explaining to SA.

Joe Peku

Siɛ tɛmi anina ha haan jɛnda yegɛ?

Do you think about the cassava work that people do?

Hi kuɛwɛ han hin gbusun hun. 1:07

The rice people sow and the cassava people plant

FARMING

Sheku Abdulai

Le yinage hanyɛ

As we were doing it.

JP

Oo uh

O yes. 1:13

SA

Panti mu hin mui
Its our work

Lehanage lem yapam ye kɔile hin. 1:25
When I used to follow my father
kɔile= back

hanage gbusun ya ha ken, hanage gbusun ya ha ken
I watched them as they plough, I watched them as they plough. 1:31

Yan be ya hoge nalɔgon yan be koi kaye
Then I will come and take the hoe. 1:34

Ya ce hun gbɔ yen kɛnɛn
I am unable to do it properly

Si yaa pɛgan, ya haa pɛgan.
I am leaving , I am leaving. 1:38

Gbusun gue be yani yale lani wɔ yan
I am taking the place of those not coming to plough. 1:40

ɔɔɔɔ le yenage ɔɔɔɔ
even the child I was holding. 1:46

le la koye nago booga
if he takes a cutlass

a gbigi ɔɔɔgimu yen ya ma kem lɔn yen kɛnɛn
and I did not look there properly when he is cutting a stick, 1:54

le ya pa, pa kɔn booga hun wɔ leye, yan hun be koi
when he went and leave the cut lass, I will take it

Gu sɔɔgʉ kɔya biyɛ o
I am going to start brushing. 2:00

Yapa bi sɔɔgʉ yen
As I start to brush

Labɛ yen han hulan hulabɛ yan tata yen.
There are two portions there. 02:05

Aa, a gbigi muti gumgʉ
I have cut my own portion of my burnt farm. 2:08
Muti=burnt farm

kɔn nye hun nipei . 02:10 (don't know)

anage sai
I used to tap
Sai = tap

Yana kun muima o. 02:13
I drank palm wine

Aa yna kun minma li kui
I drank a lot of palm wine

Yagɔ dugi i baatɛ. 2:17
I fell palm trees

i bace wɛ logɔ yen a kɔhin pos
I will clean(tap) them after two days

Pusi gulan tayeta ya suan tata yen , teilan hiye. 2:23
We have two of these cleaned palm trees

Yale yama cen hun yeni

I will say this is the first one

Le yanage sɔɔwɛ
That I have tapped

Hun nu le hanage gbayi bace
This (pointing to a wound) when I was scraping it. 2:30

Hun yana kɛtin yeni
Palm tree is when I got wounded

a migen bɛ.
I have stopped. 2:34