

Interview date: 22 Mar 2009

File name: MJ and YM on Bom lang.

Transcriber: HS

Transcription consultants: Tɔmi Ngombu.

Present: Mahain Jabati ("MJ"), Kema Sokondie, Yema Gbanyande, Yema Gbandiya, Nasu Abu, Jita Baana, Yema Munda ("YM"), onlookers, Tɔmi Ngombu, and HS.

Notes: MJ, though a proficient speaker, had trouble playing interviewer; she herself answered the question she was supposed to pose to the other woman.

Hannah: Hum, mu wɔ yiye.
You yourself, you ask her.

MJ: Yema, (m-m?) mBom dogi ma hin hwɛ, ma ga ce si hini,
This Bom that we're speaking, it is what we knew, 8.0

apumahile, ha hi mám.
our children, they laugh at us. 9.0

Ha ye, hin hi páli jali mBom.
They say, we take this Bom business too seriously. 11.0
TNg: páli = "take high."

kɛ hwɛ gi ma hile mai, 15.0
But it is our language,

"Kun mole," hi ye, "kun mole."
"Drink at the breast," we say, "drink at the breast."

Wɔ hun pɛi ka ga hin mole, hiye? (m-m)
She then gave us the breast, right? (yes)

Yema, ye hin hɔ mBommahin logeyɛ, 27.0
Yema, 24.0 when we speak this, our Bom,

Apumahilɛ cen pɛi hɔ mBom,
Our children don't speak Bom,

ma bɛ ween hán gi: "Un hun oo!"
just call them: "Come oh!"

Hǎn, cen hun. Wɔ mu le sɛmi kɔɔ.
(They) don't do it, don't come. They leave you standing there. 35.0

Si wɔnbɛ caŋ, cɛngɛ tɛmilɛ.
Then they pass, 37.0 pass running.

Ce lan te gbí, ce lan te!
Don't hear it at all, don't hear it! 42.0

[Someone in audience]: Jali mbɛɛ lai?
Is that a good thing?

Jali mbɛɛ lai?
Is that a good thing?

YM: ɛ-ɛ, yaam. Gɛ yaŋ, Bommam dogi man ma a welenj tonji.
No, mother. But I, this my Bom language is what I'm still after.
tonj = still.

MJ: ɛɛ. Yaŋbɛ. Ni Bommam dogi ma ya welenj.
Yes. I also. And this my Bom language is what I'm after.

YM: Man ma yaŋ ya welenj tonji. 53.0
That is what I'm after still.

MJ: Mam kɔ ham mami.
Even if they laughed at me.

YM: Mɛndɛ logi ma sɿ meni, cā ha hɔn mBom dogi.
This Mende is not useful to me, only this Bom is.
ca = only. TG says si here means 'useful.'

END SEGMENT