

Interview date: 23 Mar 2009

File name: BT asks HS about lovers

Transcriber: HS

Transcription consultants: Tɔmi Gbondu.

Present: Hawa Sanja = Hawa Ngaju, Manu Joni, Boi Tua, Jilo Sigbi, Hawa Idrisa, Tɔmi Gbombu, and HS = Hannah.

BT: Ye(n) ga(n) poɛ,
When you were growing up,

hun gá ce ha jali ndɔmi la?
how (did you) do that loving business?
ndɔmi is Mende. Bom is mpoɛ, seen later in the text.

HS: Ye (maybe le) a ga ce há ndɔmale? (Mm) 6.0
How was I doing loving?

Le nuu kam go fee mpoɛ, (Mm) 8.0
When a person gave me love-money,

yâ ka. Msɔmdɛ. (Mm) 11.0
I gave (to him). Food.
i.e., ya wɔ ka.

Kɛ le, kê min go fee mpo, 13.0
But if (he) didn't give me any love-money,

a cé wɔn ka sɔmamɛ, wei? 15.0
I didn't give him food, hear?

A ce wɔn ka gbí sɔmamɛ! 17.0
I wouldn't give him any food at all!

Yanbe, ya go fá(a)n yende hu wɔm kalɛ, (ɛɛ) 20.0
Myself, I depend on the thing he gives me,
TG: fa(a)n means ‘depend.’ Maybe long vowel?

hu hu a piŋgi pɛlɛɛ si ya ye yá, si ya ká wɔ. 23.0
that’s what I buy the rice with that I cook, that I give him.

Kɛ nuu ká mun wɛ, mu wɔ go ka mɔɔmamulɛ,
But a person doesn’t give you, and you give him your (own) food,

kɛ sim– dugeye yen, tààmà(n) ken! (ɛɛ) 28.0
then– drop the thing, it’s foolishness!
Unclear how this line works.

BT: Aa. Wɔ hun ká ce ha, hiye?
Ah. That is what you were doing, right?

HS: ɛɛ. Kɛ– nuumde wɔm ka feelɛ, éí!
Yes. But– if my person gave me money, hey!

Mpolɛ ma go páá benben benben, gi ma benben, gi ma benben!
The loving would go on “benben benben,” and like “benben,” and like
“benben”!

END SEGMENT