

Interview date: 23 Mar 2009

File name: JS and MJ conversation

Transcriber: HS

Transcription consultants: Tɔmi Gbondu.

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

Hannah: Ya pɛm ya le “yi kɔ,” wei? Yi kɔ!

MJ: Ileinmɔɛ.

JS: Ya le Jilo Sigbi.

Yaam wɔ le Kɔna.

Baam wɔ le Sigbi. 13.0

Ileinwɔɛ hímmi.

His name is my name.

MJ: Kɛ, ye mu caŋ hani baamu, ye mu ce há?

When you were passing with your father, what would you do?

JS: Mm, a tɛm ibɛndɛ.

I was carcking palm nuts.

MJ: Mu tɛm ibɛn? (Mm)

Bun mai!

It's a lie!

Cen ce tɛm ibɛn!

You didn't crack any nuts!

Cen ce tɛm ibɛn! Mu go ce gbalan ɔɔɔgilai. 28.0

“! You were just going around in the world.

balan = just going around

JS: Mm, ya gbalan ɔɔɔgilai.

Yes, I was going around in the world.

MJ: ɛɛ, yɛ hu mu ka ce can Sigbi tɛnt(iy)ɛ? 35.0

Eh, you were not sitting near your father?

tɛntiyɛ = near. TG

Hu mu– hu mu–

JS: Ya can ɔɔɔgilai. Flo flo flo flo flo!

I was passing in the world. Fast fast fast fast!

flo flo = Mende. Quick. Meaning, “here and there, here and there.”

Si ya hun cɛn. Wei?

Then I came to sit. Hear?

MJ: Taamale hu mu ga pogi,

It was idleness that you grew up with,

JS: Taama hu ya ga pogiyɛ.

it was idleness that I grew up (in).

Ya ga ce go taamalai! 49.0

I was staying in idleness!

Baam ka gbum go!

My father beat me!

Hwɛi, “Taama hu mu cɛngi gi!”

He said, “It is idleness you are passing in!”

Yaam wɔ̃ taŋ ha yaŋ!
My mother cried for me!
taŋ = to cry.

Ye ga gbomi.
When he beat me.

Ye ga cem gbondɛ, 1:00
When he was beating me,

MJ: ɛ gɛ kɛ lani se la ya ga ce mu hɔɛ, cen lai?
But that that I was telling you, is that not it?

JS: ɛɛ.

MJ: Ya ye, “hi cana oo!”
I say, “Let’s sit oh!”
I.e., TG: instead of passing around, let’s sit and do better things.

Hi caná oo! Pɔɔgile hun din oo! (Mm)
Let’s sit oh! The world is far oh!

Hi caná oo! Pɔɔgile hun din oo!
Let’s sit oh! The world is far oh!
TG says hun should be kɔ.

JS: Gɛ, hun ya ga ce cán weya.
But, how can I just sit down like that.

Yaŋbɛ, ya ga ce cɛngi.
Myself, I (am used to) passing around.

BT: ɛɛ, há ndɔmale.
Eh, doing love–business.

JS: Jali ndɔmaɛ! Flo flo flo flo flo flo flo! 1:19
Love business! Quick quick quick quick quick!

Si ya caŋ!
That's how I pass!

Hu, ya ye, hu yan cala la,
How will I sit,

le ya cána.
when I sit.

Ye pɛm ka?
What will it give me?

MJ: Ye baamu wɔ há, wɔ hɔ, ye wɔ mu ha?
When you father was talking on you, what was he doing to you?

Yisin hwaale? (ɛɛ)
For nothing?
I.e., in vain.

JS: ɛɛ.

Ka cem go, ka cem go gbuŋ!
He was beating me!

Wɔ gbum! 1:35

MJ: Kɛ ka ce mun gbuŋ hwai!
But he was beating you for nothing!

Ka ce wɔn há jali wɔ, jali wɔ, jali wɔ li gbɔn gbí!

You weren't doing his business, the business (he wanted) in his heart at all!

JS: Jali tigi tigi! Ya ga cen há jali tigi tigi!
The good things! I was not doing good things!

Ya ga ce go cengi! 1:43
I was passing around!

MJ: Balantale!
Moving around!

JS: Balantale hu ya ga ce cengeye ꞑꞑgilai!

BT: Hɔ, Kɔna waanda logi,
Hey, Kɔna, this woman,

MJ: Yan, ya pon we oo.
Myself, I don't stand for that oh.

Yan ya pon we oo.

BT: Hwe, waanda ɔ, (hi) ma wɔ léé ga.
Say, this woman, (we won't) don't leave her here.

MJ: Yan a pon we.
I don't stand for that.

BT: Sɔgbale ga.

MJ: Yan a pon we.

Yan,

BT: Mu wɔ tɔliye, Jilo.

You are listening to Jilo.
I.e., reprimanding MJ.

MJ: Yaŋ, ya ga pon fuyufuyu gbí!
I didn't do any messing around at all!

Ye pɛntimɛ wɔ ga ce Sɔgbalɛ ga lɛ, 2:05
When my brother was staying here in S.,

lɔndɔ ya ga ce húni.
where I was coming.

Ye ya lɔ hundɛ,
When I came,

ka cem go cá yeti vuí, ki.
he was "holding me" very tightly, so.
I.e., treating well. TG

Ya kén yaam.
I didn't see my mother.

Ya kên baam.
I didn't see my father.

Kɛ ye ya ga ke la lɛ, waantimɛ– pɛntimɛ wɔn wɔ le nuuwɛ, 2:24
When I saw that my brother was a good person,
nuuwɛ = good person.

Há yaŋ ee,
For me,

lɔndɔ– wɔn wɔ ya ga yeti kpango wei?
yeti = to hold.
kpango = to hold tightly. Mende.

Wɔn wɔ ka jim bɛ Saandɛɛ, wei? (Mm)
It was he who put me through the initiation, hear?

Tei ga. 2:28
In this town.

JS: Yaŋ, ya ke go baam. Ya ke yaam.

BT: Paandɛ hu ya duɛ Saandelaiyɛ,
The day I entered Bundo society,

lɔɔ teen.
two days.

Ni waaha logi, wɔ ye hoga Tɔngia go, wɔ ye “hun!” 2:40
And this woman, she said to come out of Tongia, she said, “Come!”

Hi ga wu gun Saandɛɛ.
We now entered Saande.

Hin ga ce gun gbango bon. Mm.
We were staying inside the fence.
gbango = fence around Saande location.

END SEGMENT