

Interview date: 23 Mar 2009

File name: MJ and HS on sickness

Transcriber: HS

Transcription consultants: Tómi Ngombu.

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

Prompt: one time you thought you were going to die?

MJ: Mama Hawa!

HS: εε?

MJ: Jali nigenigε, hâ lɔ, hun bɔntɔ muwa?
What sick-sick business met you?

HS: εε-ε, nigenigε,

nigenigε hun gbí hun ga bɔntimie.

Ya ga wɔti kundε, 9.0
When I was pregnant,

ya wɔti kundɔ geyε,
when I was pregnant,

ya ye nági.
I was sick.

Kundi mindε,
Drinking water,

lɔ kweiyεm cɔɔndε.

it took me at night.
Ie. was very thirsty at night.

ε, laamdε, wɔ ɔ.15.0
Eh, my “wife”, was there.
I.e., her brother’s wife.

Ya ye, hwei, ya ye, ya kún mindε.
I said, I (want to) drink water.

Kɔ lɛli idumalilε.
Went to look at the water pot.
dumalilε = clay pot for water
TG wants idumalilai for “inside.”

Kên min.
Didn’t see water.

Mi ma ya cɔgin hintila ale. 20.0
That’s why I went under the bed.
Because she was hot?

Hɔ ye, sɛm kilɛhɔn go,
Then she stood by the door,

Hwei, “Kee, ha hun oo, Hawa.”
Saying, “Oh, (people) come oh, Hawa.”
This is the brother’s wife calling.

“Jali wɔ la gbɔ ha ga.” 27.0
“Her problem is already fainted.”

Hanbε duε kilε go.
They entered the door.

Ni kɔ ween ɔɔ Muiba.
And went to call Old Muiba.
TG: HS's brother.

Wɔn ɔ ga cam guni.
It was he who picked me up.

Ni pɛi ɔɔgim kindɛ huni a le.
And then carried me into another house.

Yendɛ hu ga ce go paa ha ki ken, nyaw, nyaw, nyaw. 36.0
Something was just going like, nyaw, nyaw, nyaw.
She saw something like dark. Unclear.

Kɛ ya ga ken nuu.
But I didn't see a person.

A ga ken fimi,
I didn't see fimi,
fimi = ? TG doesn't know.

kɛ ke go paa hun nyaw nyaw nyaw le hun ga ce hái.
but I only saw this nyaw nyaw nyaw that it was doing.

MJ: Mm, hum tɔɛ.
Yes, your face.

HS: Kundandɛ, kundandɛ hu ga leyɛn. 43.0
The pregnancy did not last.

A ga duge go vuí-í,
I was falling a lot,

ya le gun cwindɛ wɛ, a pɛngapɛŋ dugi. 49.0
if I was stepping there, I would just fall.

Kε, ye bεntim ka cen sɔngweiyaiyε, 51.0
But, that my foot is not in witchcraft,

Ya ga ce hun go,
I was like that,

mm, a ga ce hun go, wei?
yes, I was like that, hear?

HS: Kε si lani la ya keyaiyε.
So that is what I've seen.

(TG prompts HS to ask MJ now)

Manu. (εε) La ga bɔnti mu vuí-í jali wuli logi ai
Manu. What met you truly with this dying business,

la ga bɔnti mu vuí ya?
what met you truly?

MJ: Lani la ga bɔnti miε? (εε)

Lani la ga bɔntim, tii hwei le gai?
What met me, in this town?
I've written 'town' as tei, but here it seems to be tii.

HS; Mm.

MJ: ඳඳ-ඳ, ye yan ga léé Sɔgbalε ga. 1:18
Eeey, when I was staying here in Sogbaleh.

Ya ye, gbimmi juma ale.
I was giving birth on Friday.

Ye ya ga nagi Sɔgbalɛ ga le,
When I was sick in Sogbaleh,

le ya ga nagi Sɔgbalɛ ga le,
when I was sick in S.,

anyalɛ gbí ha ga ce la go hɔ pumɔ
all the people were telling my husband

ce gun tuno kasangelɛ.
to look out for a shroud.
kasangelɛ = shroud

Ha ye, a cen go bɛ lɔli gbí a go wu. 1:30
They said, I won't be saved at all, I'll die.
Possible passive here with "save"?

Kɛ, Bɛɛbundɛ, a cen, ɛ- Ngewɔ a cendɛ-
But, God- I didn't- eh-

ya wu ge hun gutugutu,
(that) I die so soon,
gutugutu = Mende. short.

Ka lɔlim go. 1:39
He saved me.

Nin welin bɛ,
Last year,

a ye nagi vuí nagi bɛɛnbɛɛ vuí.
I was very sick, seriously.
bɛɛnbɛɛ = seriously ill. Bom.

Kɛ ye lani gba, kase cen Bɛɛbundɛ.

But that also, thanks be to God.

Apumamdε, ha ga le gam. 1:50
My children, they took care of me.

Ya ga- ya ga sɔn go.
I was dreaming.

Ni ya- ya- ya kɔn.
And I went.

Ye ya ga kɔndε,
When I went,

Tɔmi,

ye ya kɔn háá-á,
when I went for a long time,

ya ye bɔnti nuupugandε piasalai.
I met a man on the veranda.

Ya weyε ni.
I greeted him.

(possible battery cutoff)

END SEGMENT