

15 Jan 17 interview conducted by Tucker Childs with Abdulai Bendu
2/22/16: after slight editing copied to Flex and used for analysis

Interview with Abdulai Bendu by T. Childs

Ilel mɔa?
Your name?

Yaa Abdulai Bendu.
My name is Abdulai Bendu.

Nɔɔ pɔ gbem mɔa ?
Where were you born?

Ya gbemni Nyemɔko, mamu sekshɔn, Bompe Chifdom, Mɔyamba Distrikt.
I was born in Moyeamoh, Mamu Section, Bumpeh Chiefdom, Moyeamoh.

Mɔ nenthi wɔ?
How old are you?

Ya nenthi waɲ ni menyɔl.
I am nineteen years old.

Ina lɔ ba mɔa ?
Who is your father?

Ba mi wɔ lɔ Abu Bakarr Bendu.
My father is Abu Bakarr Bendu.

Ina lɔ ya mɔa?
Who is your mother?

Ya mi wɔ lɔ Salematu Bundu.
My mother is Salaymatu Bundu

Mbi mpente ni nwante?
Do you have brothers?

Abi mpente ni nwante agbe.
I have many brothers.

Ntongi mi ilel maɲæ.
Show me their names.

Abi Suleman Bendu, Usman Bendu, Abass Bendu ni Muhamɛd Bendu
I have Sulaiman Bendu, Usman Bendu, Abass Bendu and Mohamed Bendu

Ni Nwante hamɛ.

And your sisters.

Ama ɲa Kadiatu Bendu, Isata Bendu, Ramatu Bendu ni Aminata Bendu.
The women are Kadiatu Bendu, isata Bendu, Ramatu Bendu and Aminata Bendu.

ɲan gbi ko ya bulle.
Are they all of the same mother?

Mpente ɲamiye gbi ko ba bulle.
My brothers are of the same father.

Li pika la ayema ni nwɔmi ɲa iwɔlɔŋ mɔɛ.
The next thing I will like you to do is to tell us the story of your life,

Yi koni shi temde ɲɔ pɔ gbem mɔ, ko lɔ pɔ gbemmɔ.
We already know when you where born, where you where born.

Iyema ni nwɔmyi lane la ɲa ye ntiye ni mu kɔ skul, siŋ the gbi tha ɲsiŋde.
Pleaase tell us about your earley life, even before you went to school, the games you played,

La bo ɲa kɔni ɲothe, la gbo nbontho ba mɔ ɲa mpanthe.
if you went fishing, or if you helped your father in field.

Ashiele nnkɔ pe kiamp ko nshee,so nwɔm yi len ɲa lan,
And I know you went to Freetown early on, so tell us something about that,

ye bilae ashie lane la ɲa nshee,
because that I think will be very prior I think.

haŋ ye mɔ munini ha mɔm ko bonth bamɔ ɲa mpanth.
And how you came back to the town to help your father all that.

ya che ko taalle,acheni ve,ya naka naka,pɔ mi yɔk hɔspithai ni asong.
When I was in the young age, I was not well, they took me to the hospital for me to get well.

Ya che ko tallɛ,anti miye wɔ mi hun koi, wɔ mi yɔk kiamp ko.
When I was in the young age, my aunt came and took me to Freetown.

Ye yɔk mi kiamp koɛ, nen bul mɔike tiŋ, wɔ mi be skullai.
When she took me to Freetown one year going to two, she sent me to school.

Nen bul mɔike tiŋ, nrebelle ɲai hun, ɲai hun tho, ikɔni men ko.
One year making it two, the rebels came, then they drove us, and we went to the countryside.

Achelɔ mpaŋ menyɔl, pemde kɔi le lantha, ipe munini skullai.
We were there for seven months, then the war hung on a bit, and then we had to return to school.

A kɔ lɔni pe haŋ ya ko kɔni fɔm wam, ya pe tiye kɔ hɔlide.
I did not go there again until I went to form one, then I started going for holihays again.

Nen-o-nen alɔ kɔ ɲa mpanthɛ.
Every year I go there to work.

Tɛmɔɛ mɔi gbo pɛ ɲa kɔ skullai, yi pɛ munini.
When the time reaches again to go back to school, we return again.

Nɛn-o-nɛn yɛi la ɲa.
Every year that is how we do (things).

Mɛkin dɛ ya ko ni sit WASSCE ɛ, kiamp ka pɛ ni mpɛntɛɲamiyɛ gbi,
Lastly after we sat the WASSCE, (it is) Freetown here again with all our brothers,

nɛn-o-nɛn yɛ kɔ ko baɲiɛ, iwɔ kɔ bɔnth mpanthɛ ni mpɛntɛ ɲa mi yɛ gbi,
Every year when we go to our father, we will help him in the work with all my brothers

futh pɛlɛ, yukɛ, ɲa yen-o-yen, haɲ iko gbako.
to root rice, the planting, do everything until we have grown.

Bipɛ gadin bom, gadin nthɔthɔɛ.
He also has a big garden, an oil-palm garden.

Yɛ yi ka che ko tallɛ, yi yukɔ wɔ ma.
When we were younger, we planted it for him.

Bong cheki, ma ko ni gbako, wɔn pɛ lɔ ni sɔvaiv.
This time now, they have grown, he now survive on it.

Lɔn pɛ yi chɔɲo lɔ abatokɛ sɛkɛ.
There again we thank God for that part.

Kenɛki kenɛki wantɛ yi bɛndɛ wɔ pɔk potho wɔ yi sɔpɔt,
This time now, we have our sister in the whiteman's country who supports us,

kɛ che yi kɔɲ sɔpɔt bikɔs ramɛ kɔ bom che yi kɔɲ sɔpɔt gbi.
but she does not support us all because the family is big.

Labi inpɛ iko duke ni pɔɛ ni isɔthɔ ko lɔ iyethini.
That is why we ourselves we are on the falling and rising [of fortune].