

3 May 09, tc: began reviewing, now ““LR 8 Tommy Kwemie” ed tc” – not terribly interesting – a fair amount of mende and what tng calls kim inside – tommy very uncooperative

Transcribed by Hannah Sarvasy with Tommy Ngombu in Tei, 1 May 09  
Original “LR 8 Tommy Kwemie”

Video location: Mblama

Present in video: Mohamed Daramy, Tommy Kwemie, Momoh Fofana.

Other onlookers. Tucker Childs, Hannah Sarvasy, Alie Turay.

Videotaped by Bart Childs.

Introductions by Tucker Childs, in English, then Mohamed Daramy in Mende, to 3:11. Purpose was to show one approach to data collection.

MF: Mui bɛ̀ɛ.

Greetings man.

TK: Mui bagom (mm) Bisie.

Greetings, grandfather. 3:16 (yes) Thank you. 3:17

MF: La lɔ njala ma mu la ya?

How is your health? 3:18

TK: Kase cen Bɛɛbundɛ.

Thanks be to God. 3:18

MF: Ka si cen Bɛɛbun– Bɛɛ– (Bɛɛbundɛ!)

Thanks be to– to– (God!) 3:22

MF: Kɛ– ilenmulɛ.

But– your name. 3:24

TK: Ya lɛ Tɔmi, Tɔmi Blaima.

I’m called Tommy. Tommy Braima. 3:27

MF: Ha ɔ gbemmua?

Who gave birth to you? 3:29

Should have said hina wɔ... (ha ɔ is Kim) TNg

TK: Musa (Musa) Musa (Musa) Musa, hiyɛ?

Musa, is that right? 3:33

(Unintelligible from TK)

MF: Ileni yaamulɛ.

Your mother's name. 3:35

Again, mixed Kim and Bom. The extra -i after ilen should not be there.

TNg

TK: Yengen, kɛ wɔ ce ɔn pɛ oo, wɔ wu.

Yengen, but she's no longer there-o. She's dead. 3:37

MF: Wɔ wu, hiyɛ?

She'd dead, is that so? 3:39

ɛɛ, ye hi cala logeyɛ, lani kɪnɪŋ la mu kaa dunya logi alɛ, hu n ke la?

Eh, as we are sitting here, 3:41 everything that you learned in this world.

3:45 How do you see it? 3:47

TK: Ka gbegbeya?

Is it nice? 3:50

MF: ɛɛ, ha jalimbɛɛ.

Yes, in the way of good things. 3:51

TK: Bɛɛ, a yema bɛ vuíɛ, a gbatɛ.

Man, I wanted very much, that I be rich. 3:55

gbatɛ = to be rich < Mende

MF: Լօ ք՛ զբեմմա?

Where did they give birth to you? 3:57

TK: Lengbom go (Lengbom go) Լոնժօ ք՛ զբեմմա ա.

In Lengbom. 3:58 (In Lengbom) There they gave birth to you. 4:01

Mpantile ma Լօ ma- ma mu ha- ma mu ha ?

What is the work you do? 4:05

TK: Pomd՛ hu a hiniy՛.

It's the cassava farm that I lay. 4:07

MF: Pomd՛ hu mu hiniy՛.

It's the cassava farm that you lay. 4:09

Է- ye mu hini pomd՛, mu- mu Լօ ke yen?

Eh- when you lay the cassava farm, 4:09 do you see something there?

4:11

TK: Mm, a Լօ ke yen, wei?

Yes, I see something there, hear? 4:14

Է յեցիլ՛ vuí hu gbat՛ na go fi boleղ.

But cassava truly grows fine in your possession.

gbat՛ = to grow fine. Mende.

Feel՛ hu mu key՛.

It's money that you see.

MF: Feel՛ hu mu key՛.

It's money that you see. 4:20

Si la ba ք՛ lani, mpantile ma Լօ vuí mu ha dunya logeyai յ՛?

After that again, what is the work truly that you are doing in this world?

4:23

TK: Mm, bεε, mpanti(lε) ma gbe ma ya ha.  
Oh, man, I do many (types of) work. 4:26

MF: Kε mu la- mu la tɔngi oo, mpantile kínín ma mu hale.  
Then you show it-o, all the work that you do. 4:31

Mu ma kwe ilen.  
You say their names. 4:32  
ku = to say the name of s.t. TN says this is ku, not kwe.

TK: A sɔɔ.  
I brush. 4:37

MF: Mu sɔɔ pomdai, ni yeŋ?  
You brush the cassava farm 4:37 and what? 4:39

TK: A yegi yεgile.  
(sic?) I plant cassava. 4:38  
Should be yugi. o/e

MF: Si n yugi yεgile.  
Then you plant cassava. 4:41

Ye hu gbeɣen nago, ye mu ha?  
When it's not nice, what do you do? 4:43  
Note this nago in both men's speech may be Kim.

TK: ε- a hu wɔn.  
Eh- I sell it. 4:44

MF: ε-ε!  
No! 4:44

Ye hu baleɣen na go, hu mu ha?

When it has *not* grown fine, what will you do? 4:46  
baleyε = Bom transl. of gbegbeyε.

TK: A hu- a hu- hu gbegbe na go, ε- ε- pomdai?  
I will- if it's good, eh- in the farm? 4:51

MF: Si hu gbegbeyεn!  
If it's not fine! 4:51

TK: Si hu gbegbeyεn? Mm...  
If it's not fine? Mm... 4:53

Bεε, a cen pε ha mpantima landε wε.  
Man, I will no longer do that work. 4:54

MF: Cɔŋ ba?  
Forever? 4:57

TK: A go ha, kε, a cen pε ha kenma a ga ce la hai.  
I will do it. But, I won't do it again as I was doing it. 4:59

MF: Si la lε Hɔbatugε hu ka nuwi.  
Do you know that it's God who provides for a person. 5:01

N ce lan pε hain?  
And you don't do it again? 5:02

TK: ε, a yen dɔ ɔ, a sɔɔ na ɔ go,  
Eh, if I (see) a place there, 5:04 if I brush there, 5:06  
TN says he means that if he sees a fine place...

a si la lε Hɔbatugε wɔm ka.  
I know that God will give me. 5:07

Kε, a laniyεn ni go ikεn,

But, if I don't believe in myself,  
laniya = to believe

a cen pɛ há a go бага sɔɛ.  
I no longer do that I go to brush the swamp. 5:12

A cen pɛ ha.  
I no longer do it. 5:13

MF: Mu gon kɔn yɛnali telaŋ.  
You now go to another place. 5:14

TK: Mm, nugbí wɔ yema go gbegbeya, hiyɛ?  
Yes. Everyone wants to be fine, isn't that so? 5:17

Ikɛ.  
So. 5:18  
??

MF: Si la ba pɛ lani, ye hweɛ hu kenani, ye ha na?  
After that again, 5:21 when day breaks, what do you do? 5:24

Isɔ logi.  
This morning. 5:25

TK: A paa go paa hogi hintimdai toogi, ya hun Mblama ga.  
I just got up from on top of the bed, and I came here to Mblama. 5:29

Mblama gagi oo.  
Here to Mblama-o. 5:30

MF: Hǎn gbí jali telaŋ.  
You didn't do anything else. 5:30

TK: A han mɔ gbí jali telaŋ.

I didn't do anything else at all. 5:31

Bɛlɛ, a cala mɛndɛ wɛ a toog, hu ya hun tii gai.

Except that I sat on top of the water, that's how I came to town here. 5:33

MF: Kɛ- a mu pɛ yii, wei?

But, I'm going to ask you again, okay? 5:37

Ka gbem?

Did you give birth? 5:40

TK: Mm, kɛ ha wu.

Yes, but they died. 5:44

MF: Ha wu, hiyɛ?

They died, is that so? 5:44

Bun bɛ leyɛ lɔn pɛ (m̀-ń)?

Is even one left there anymore? 5:46 (No. )

Bun bɛ ce lɔn, hiyɛ?

Even one is not there, right? 5:47

TK: Gbí!

not a one! 5:48

MF: Hu cala gon wɛ.

That is (how you) are sitting now. 5:49

Bɛpaa apuma anya, ha mu wɔmɔi (ɛ̀ɛ̀)

Unless people's children, they send (something) to you. 5:52 (Yes)

Ha la ha?

Do they do it? 5:54

TK: Ham go hin lɔmusilɛ.

They lay unreliability on me. 5:57

lɔmusilɛ = when a person doesn't carry through with a promise.

MF: Ha mu hin lɔmusilɛ, mun bɛ taŋ (ɛɛ!)

They do unreliability to you. 5:57 You cry. 5:58 yes! 6:00

(laughing) ɛ, pegi ce lɔni (ɛ̃ɛ̃)

Eh, there's no way out. 6:02 (no [agreeing and smiling]) 6:03

pegi = "no way"

MF: ɛ- kɛ, a mu pɛ yii, wei?

But, I'm going to ask you again, okay? 6:05

Naŋ oo. Ye la powɛ kiniŋ, ye hi ga pogi,

Today-o. When we were all growing up, when we were growing up,

hini hana, ye ga po hini hana,

you and we, when we were growing up, you and we,

hi ce siŋ, tɛm landɛ hu caŋ,

we would play, that time has passed, 6:19

kɛ, ye hi bɔntɔ tɛmi lɔ hunu geyɛ.

but, when we meet this time that has come. 6:20

ɛ, bɛndilɛ oo, sanalɛ oo, há lɔ la ibɔtiya?

eh, the old oh, the new oh, which is better? 6:24

Ye la logi.

By this (time). 6:25

TK: (unintell. because not speaking into microphone) hu la ga ce ibɔtiyɛ.

(something) was the better. 6:26



MF: Bɔ- cɔŋ, hiye?  
The old, is that so? 6:28

TK: Cɔŋ.  
The old. 6:29

MF: Ye la logi pe ya?  
What about now? 6:30

TK: Ibɔti telaŋ ce lɔn pe.  
Another fineness is no longer. 6:33

Bɛɛ paa hani ha po gon do geyɛ oo.  
Except for those who are growing up now oh. 6:34

Ta koŋ ai (bɛpaa-)  
It's finished. 6:38 (except-)

Ha lani ha po ha- ha-  
These they grow up they- they-

MF: Ha cɛgi ma len.  
They are selfish. 6:42

TK: Haa ibɔtile hu gbaa.  
Their own enjoyment is apart.

Haa hi lɛ ga pogi vuiyɛ, landa gbaa.  
When we were growing up, that's apart. 6:46

Kɛ hanu gon, ha po gon geyɛ,  
But these now, they are growing up now, 6:48

bɛɛ, haalihale la gbaa.  
man, their own business is apart. 6:51

MF: Mu to toogε go ye la logeyε.  
Do you climb high even now? 6:52

TK: M-m, a cen pε to toogε.  
No, I no longer climb high. 6:53

MF: Há yena?  
Why not? 6:54

TK: Bεε, a caη gon, lani wε ai.  
Man, I've passed that now. 6:56

MF: Oo, nagile oo.  
Oh, sickness-o. 6:58

TK: Nagile kwε.  
It's sickness. 6:59

MF: Saantile oo?  
Age-o? 6:59

TK: Saantile kwε.  
It's age. 6:59

MF: ɔɔ, ye mu gon saantile, landa cen pε to toogε?  
Oh, when you're now old, that's why you don't climb high anymore? 7:02

TK: A cěn pε to toogε.  
I no longer climb high. 7:03

MF: Kε, mu wɔmu nu, wɔ la ha?  
But, if you send a person, will he do it? 7:04

TK: Hm, Mm̀̀̀, wɔ ce lan hanin!

Hm! No. 7:09 He will not do it! 7:11  
nin for emphasis. [seen elsewhere, verb extension?]

MF: Si ka wɔ bɛ feelɛ?  
If you give money to him? 7:11

TK: Lani bɛ wɛ, hinin go bɔn, ce hun yeti.  
Even so, if (his) heart doesn't rest, he won't hold it. 7:14  
I.e., if the person's not satisfied with the money, he won't do the work.

Wɔ cen puti sum.  
He doesn't care. 7:16  
??

MF: Munbɛ can.  
You yourself sit.

TK: Yanbɛ can.  
I myself sit. 7:17

MF: Hm, kɛ, ya mu hɔ jali bun.  
Hm. But, I want to tell you one thing. 7:20

Mu wɔ bɛ manene, bɛɛ.  
You put pleading, man. 7:23  
manene < Mende. When people refuse to do something for you, you go  
and talk to them "fine" to try to convince them.

Mu wɔ cɔŋ manene, hwe, bɛɛ, ma ha lani.  
You put pleading to him, you say, man, don't do that. 7:26

TK: Pagan mu nu gbí?  
You don't pay anyone at all (for work)? 7:29

MF: Yan? Ye a paga nulɛ, wɔ ce lan há!

Myself? When I pay a person, he doesn't do it! 7:31

TK: Yəŋ hu wɔ ce lan ha?

Why doesn't he do it? 7:33

MF: ɛ, jalimdɛ ce wɔn bolɛ ibɔti.

Eh, my business is not fine in his mind. 7:36

TK: A ikɛ!

So (you see)! 7:37

MF: Kɛ, mu kuta pɛlɛlɛ?

But, do you plow rice? 7:40

TK: Lani bɛ, a cen pɛ ha, bonmilɛ hum nɛgiyɛ.

That itself, I no longer do, my head hurts me. 7:43

MF: Hum kɛɛn, numa wɔ ce mun fi?

Are you alone, you have no wife? 7:47

TK: Numa wɔ ce min fi.

I have no wife. 7:48

Hin hina hi ha batila?

So with whom will I make a swamp farm? 7:49

MF: (Unintelligible)

TK: Pomi logi vuí hu ya hini lendɛ,

This cassava farm that I lay in a place,

yaŋ kɛɛn, a cusun lɔni.

I alone, I dig there. 7:52

Yaŋ kɛɛn! Yaŋ, a yugi yɛgimdɛ, wei?

I alone! I myself, I plant my cassava, hear? 7:55

Aha.

Aha.

MF: Kε, ye la ba pε lani.

But, after that's done again. 7:58

Ha ye ɔ vui n faaga pɔɔgi logi ai, ye mu cala logeyε.

Who is it truly that you depend on in this world, as you sit here. 8:03

faaga < Mende 'depend on' [at: vaa 'dependence']

TK: Lani la a faalalε?

That which I depend on? 8:04

TN says correct Bom is faan. [see above]

Hu hu lε yεgile vuiyε hun hum kai.

That is called cassava, what truly gives to me. 8:09

Hun hum kai, wei?

That's what gives me, hear? 8:09

A cen pε to toogε,

I no longer climb high, 8:11

MF: Mu honti?

Do you fish? 8:13

(ɔ̌-ɔ̌) Cen pε hunti?

(no) (You) no longer fish? 8:14

(ε̌-ε̌) Ha ɔ wɔ mu ka yencegile wɔ mu sɔma?

(no) Who is it who gives you the fish that you eat? 8:15

TK: Bεε, kɔpwε hum go fi, a go pin yulε.

Man, if I have money, I buy fish. 8:18

MF: Lε nu wɔŋ huna.

If a person does not give it? 8:19

TK: yaŋbε a pε canin (laughter).

I just sit. 8:21

MF: Kε, ka yugi bεndε.

But, did you plant coconuts? 8:26

(m̃-m̃) Yεŋ?

(no) Why not? 8:28

TK: Lani wε pεŋpεŋ la ga ce hi ce bolε,

That didn't even come to our minds, 8:30

hi go hwe, taamale wε hu abεnahilε ha ga ce tówe,

we said, that was idleness that our parents were after, 8:32

I.e., they didn't plant because they thought it was a waste of time.

to, 'to be after' sounds the same as to, 'to climb.'

MF: Kε, ye la logiya?

But, now? 8:35

TK: A yema lε a yugi, kε a cen pε sɔm.

I want to plant (them), but I'll no longer eat (the ones I plant). 8:36

I.e., he won't live to see the coconuts.

A yugi na go kε la geyε, bεε, a cen pε sɔm hun.

If I plant by now, man, I will not again eat it. 8:39

A po, wei?

I (want to) get up, hear? 8:43

MF: Ye hu ha, a cen pɛ–  
What to do, no longer– 8:44

TK: (Unintelligible because fast and too soft)

MF: ɔɔ, mu gon– mu wu há lani?  
Oh, you now– you'll die for that? 8:46

Ye mu yugi bɛndɛ, cen pɛ wei,  
When you plant a coconut, you won't last anymore, 8:50

TK: ɔɔ, munbɛ wu (laughs)!  
No, you yourself die! 8:50

MF: ɛ– kɛ, numu ce lɔn.  
But, your person is not there. 8:53

TK: Wɔ lɔ go vuiyɛ.  
He is there, truly. 8:53

MF: ɛ kɛ, ha cen lee ɔɔm bɛndɛ wɛ?  
So, don't they remain to eat that coconut? 8:56

TK: Nulɛ, nulɛ wɔ mu kɔŋdɛ,  
The person who buries you, 8:57

Han na go cwamulɛ vui, wɔ ha,  
Even if it's truly your son, he, 9:01

wɔ ha po vuí, hani han vuiyɛ.  
he grew up truly, you and they (together) truly. 9:03

Wɔ si mu vuilɛ,  
He knows you truly, 9:04

wu na go, wɔn wɔ mu leeyɛ nyuŋ landɛ wɛ (pointing).  
when you die, it is he to whom you leave that item. 9:06

MF: Ibɛn landɛ wɛ.  
That coconut.

TK: Ibɛn landɛ wɛ, wei?  
That coconut, hear? 9:08

MF: Yuga ma landɛ wɛ (mm)  
The one you planted. 9:09 (yes)

END VIDEO SEGMENT