

Biah Heni interview - slc0029

Interview with Biah Heni, Plantain Island, 24 Feb 2016  
Interviewed by Abdulai Bendu.

Nande ndɔi koŋɔnɔ ni yɔlle, paŋde ŋɔ pɔ wɔ febuari, nen 2016.  
Today the twenty fourth day, the month called february, in the year 2016.

Yaŋ Abdulai Bendu, Nande ako vel laŋgbaŋ bul ŋa hun wɔ yi ŋalwɔ atoke,  
I Abdulai Bendu, today i have called one man to come and ask him about himself,

ilel wɔɛ, ko lo pɔ gbem wɔɛ, en lan gbi la bia yema ŋa thelie,  
his name, where he was born, and all that he would want to say.

En lane la bia hu theli kaɛ, ŋane gbi ŋa bia yema ŋa thela wɔlɔkaɛ ŋala bia the.  
And all that he has to say here, all that would want to hear it in this world would it.

So labi ale yimani laŋgbaŋdo labo wɔla bia yema, Apa nyema la?  
So that is why i am asking this man if he likes that, Pa, do you want it?

Aa.  
Yes.

Apa ilel mɔa?  
Pa what is your name?

Yalɔ Biah Heni.  
I am Biah Heni.

Ndɔ pɔ gbem mɔa?  
Where were you born?

Ndema ko lo pɔ gbem mi.  
I was born in Ndema.

Nen ndɔ ŋɔ pɔ gbem mɔa?  
What year where you born?

Temde ŋɔ pɔ gbem miɛ a shiŋɔ ni.  
I don't know the ywar i was born.

N shini pe nende ŋɔ pɔ gbem mɔ?  
You don't know again the year you were born?

Aaa.  
No.

Mbi apuma?

Do you have children?

Abi apuma atin, ara.  
I have two children, three children.

Da ko skullai?  
Do they go skul?

Atinde na ko skullai bulle won chepa ko skul ke chen pe ko  
The two are going to school, the one was going to school but he doesn't go to school any more.

Ama awo na mbia?  
How many wives do you have

Abieni pe noma.  
I don't have a wife anymore.

Mbieni pe no ma?  
You don't have a wife any more?

Aaa  
Yes.

Dan lam o nako seini?  
You and your wife are separated?

Aa.  
Yes.

Ba mo ilel waa?  
What is your father's name ?

Bami illel wae no lo Bia Heni.  
My father's name is Biah Heni.

Wo ndo po gbem waa?  
Where was he born?

Won mgbangmako lo po gbem wae.  
He was born in Mgbanguma.

Ndema ko?  
In Ndema ?

Mgbanguma ko.  
In Mgbanguma.

Ndo po wo mgbanguma koa?  
Where do they say Mgbanguma?



Aaa.  
Yes.

Ndema ko lo konɔ gbem dɛ?  
Is it in Ndema that he gave birth to all of you?

Aʔa.  
No

Mpente hamɔe ɲan gbi ɲa theli mbolomɛ?  
Your brothers do they all speak Sherbro?

Yes bulle wɔ tisana ko  
Yes, the one is at Tisana

Ke wɔ theli Mbolomɛ?  
But he speaks Sherbro?

Aa.  
Yes

So mɔm lamɔni ɲaa?  
So you what do you do?

Yaɲ ɲɔth kɔ ɲɔthe.  
Me I do fishing.

So ɲɔthe ki lon lo mɔ sɔpɔt apima mɔe,nye?  
So it is in this fishing that you support your children right?

Aaa.  
Yes.

Ayema mɔni yi ye nkache ko talle, ye nkache ko talle tɛ nka che ɲaa?  
I want to now ask you about when you young, when you where young what do you use to do?

Wel yami ka bemi skul ke akɔni livil, ɲɔ aka mɛ ayi pɔni ɲɔthe kune.  
Well my mother sent me to school but i didn't go far,then i left and i involve my self in fishing.

Ndɔ ka be mɔ skulla?  
Where did he sent you to school?

Shenge ka.  
In Shenge here.

Skul handɔ ɲɔ ka be mɔa?  
What school did he sent you to?

Skul bullo ki gbo.

This only school.

Mbolomde,Plantain ka lomoi kie, man ni nthemde hando mapo chanj thelia?  
The Sherbro,In plantain here where you are, which one do they speak more?  
Ka planti ka?  
In Plantain here?

Aaa.  
Yes.

Nthemde ma po chanj theli ka.  
It is the Temne that speak here.

Ke mom nchog la len kenve?  
But do you like it like that?

Wel anya lande na chaja chanj chee  
Well those are the people that are more in number.

So mom mona theli ma Mbolomde,Nthemde.  
So your,you speak to them the Sherbro,no the Temne.

Yes  
Yes.

Ye bila nan be nan be na theli Nthemde konoko nye?  
The reason been is because they speak to you right?

Aa  
Yes.

Ye nkache ko talle, nkache siŋ?  
When you where young, do you play?

Aa asiŋ, komo taa wo gbako ni tipeni siŋi?  
Yes i play, dose a little child grow up without playing?

Ke nshi siŋ thilande?  
Do you those plays?

Achethan pe bo si, bikos tha thi gbe  
I will not be able to know it again, because they are plenty.

Wel nku mu bul?  
Wel name one?

Than theta akache siŋde?  
The ones i use to play?

Wel ikache lpe han tenis bɔl, ni iple chɔch, ni thipika.  
We use to play hand tennis ball, and we play chorch, and others one,

Ayema pe ni nwɔmi na nɔthe, nɔthe ki nko lɔ vei?  
I want us now to come to the fishing business, this fishing work have you stayed on it for a long time?

Wel ako lɔ vei.  
Well I have been there for too long.

Nenthi wɔ thani kɔni kia?  
how many years have you taken there?

Ako ni chaɲ about 26 nɔ ani ko mpantho kie.  
I have past about 26 years since i have been in this work.

Ye ntipɛ mpanth ma nɔthe nen lan nkoni gbema?  
The year you started this fishing work, have you had a child?

Nɔɔ.  
No

Mgbemen mu?  
You had not given birth?

Aaa.  
No.

So nɔth handɔ kɔ mɔ nɔth a?  
So what type of fishing do you do?

Yeɛ kɔa nɔthe, gbampɔɛ kɔa nɔthe.  
It is the big sea fishing that I do, I fishing mullit.

Ko wɔm bomde?  
In big boats?

Aaa wɔm thi tata bo, ke anya yɔl na tha nɔth kaɛ ke at times anya tiɲ.  
No it just small-small boats, but it is four people that fish it at times two people.

Yemɔ kɔni heɛ koɛ mɔ lɔ kɔ lɔl?  
When you go out to the sea do you sleep there ?

Acheɲ lɔl heɛ ko, libul-libul bo nɔ a lɔl heɛ koɛ?  
I don't sleep at sea, I only sleep at sea once on a while?

Menk handɔ nɔ mɔ che kɔ heɛ kɔa?  
What time do you go to sea?

Wel temde gbi nɔa redie akɔ heɛ ko, nɔn nɔ biɛni stagnant taim.

Well at any time I am ready I will go out to sea, It doesn't have a stagnant time.

Wel Apa seke we, ichəŋəmə seke we, Abatokə che mamə.

Well, Pa, thank you, we thank you, may God be with you.