

Maria Ubey Bi-Lingual Questionnaires

Interview Location: Yona, Guam
Age of Interviewee: 79 years
Island of Birth: Asor Island, Ulithi Atoll
Audio Language: Ulithian

Recording afc2022011_017_sr001

00:01 Question 1

1. Thinking back, what are your very earliest memories of, or about, weaving?

A. Ulithian: Hobe luluwal tefal ngo mada mele hochil mem'mangi hare gulayem mo irel yam la Kai mo gula doh deur?

Interviewee in Ulithian: 00:36 Yai la kai doh deur, ngo idipli, interest le ibe kai mala wulullul deur, sa chapi mo irel mala ngachel sa bulong irel makala halolol sa bulong irel makala gurul mo padal, le ye mushloh milal mele guluch ngo ye mushloh melal mele gulfei le sima haplali fafel. 01:01 Idipli dipli ila kai mo irel mala seley ngo i interest iyang le ibe gula pangal wulullul mitmetal ah deur le ibe chogu meka sima itadah iyang, gurubech mo samat mo samat le ibe hololoyu ngali. Pangal mokawe ngo I interest iyang.

Interviewee in English: When I learned how to weave, I was really interested in learning the whole process. Like, starting from the supplemental warp edge designs, making the wider stripe called "gur" and the thinner stipe called "pad", and making different styles of lavalava. There are lavalava styles called "guluch" for men and there are lavalava styles called "gulfei" for women. So, when I learned from my mom, I was so interested in learning the whole process, starting from warping with all the supplemental designs and then weaving with all the supplemental wefts.

Interviewer in Ulithian: 01:19 Iwe ngo, iwe ngo, yathla mala gel hola kai doh deur, ah sayor mwol?

Interviewer in English: Was there commercial thread by the time you learned how to weave?

Interviewee in Ulithian: 01:30 Sa yor. Sa yor mwol yathla. Resa kekkak mo lol kantine we yal fului.

Interviewee in English: Yes. A community store had thread for sale at that time.

Interviewer in Ulithian: 01:39 Iwe ngo irel time la mala sayor mwol le gel ho kai doh, ngo chil keal farul milal milfulyach?

Interviewer in English: So, at the time when you learned to weave with commercial thread, were many people still making local lavalava?

- Interviewee in Ulithian: 01:47 Chil loloh mil fulyach ngo hal ila yarmat resa receive mwol sa yor le yechow mil fulyach ngo yor le mal mwol. Sa loh hasla... ite... ite chapdah mo irel ah meka, yengangal fulyach bo ichapdah mo irel ito.
- Interviewee in English: Yes. People still wove local lavalava, and because we had thread, some people wove local and some wove lavalava made out of thread.
- Interviewer in Ulithian: 02:03 Gel ho kai mo irel ito?
- Interviewer in English: Did you learn how to weave with commercial thread?
- Interviewee in Ulithian: 02:05 Ngo ikai mo irel ito. Ite kai mo irel milfulyach.
- Interviewee in English: Yes, I learned how to weave with thread.
- Interviewer in Ulithian: 02:08 Iwe ngo gel hogula farul mil fulyach?
- Interviewer in English: Did you also know how to make lavalava with local fibers?
- Interviewee in Ulithian: 02:12 Sugfed mo iyang. Meka sima rarui ah ah mada meka yuch ka sima tapei irel mil fulyach ngo siya kabech chael sibe pedadi ngel iyang siya hadudui, yahdi mulwe be ruchupung. Siya pada ngal mele be white bo padal, isa kai irel yathla ngo mala ichapdah iyang le ito mele yechap yai kai iyang.
- Interviewee in English: I knew a little about how to make local lavalava. I knew how to scrape the strips to get fibers from the banana tree that we used for weaving. I knew how dye the fibers a darker color, then make the warp and mix it with white fibers. We used the dark color for the wider background stripes (gur) and the white color for the thinner stripes (pad). So, I learned how to make local lavalava at that time, but I did start learning from commercial thread first.

02:42 Question 2

2. In your mind, who is the one person you most associate with weaving in your life and why?

A. Ulithian: Lol yam luluwal, itei semal le ye kael yam fel ngali irel yam fefaru doh deur hare yam deduer doh? Bo mada fal?

Interviewee in Ulithian: 02:58 Tor semal le ifel ngali bo imel chog irel mala seley irot isa fefeur lufulyui. Tor mele be teidi ipol lefechig ngo isa fidir. Imel chog irel mala seley irot, home isa kkai makla ye ila gula, isa feferu lufulyei yii saloh sala yengang fedal ye labudoh, mele yela feru, ngang yipai home le ifefaru makla isa kkai isa gula, isa fefaru mo home. Guluch ngal gulfei irel yai fefeur doh irel yai life le yathla ichil lefechig le imoch... interest irel yai gula, makla ikkai mo irel seley.

Interviewee in English: I don't associate weaving with anybody except my mom. I did not join the other ladies when they would gather at the women's house and weave lavalava. I just stayed home with my mom and learned how to weave. My mom would go out to do her work, and I stayed home and wove after I learned how to weave. I wove both the men's style and the women's style of lavalava. I was so interested in learning to weave when I was young.

03:41 **Question 3**

3. Why is weaving so important to you?

A. Ulithian: Mada mele dedeur ye kael yal palengpelal ngalug iyang?

Interviewee in Ulithian: 03:50 Ye kael yal paling pelal gnalyei yai gula le yarmat reyaya gow fafel, iwe ngo belela mess doh tamach hare bisich hare loch mwaal, iwe ngo sipedah loh Makala yar mal iyang. Iwe ngo bala wel doh sew le sibe hafalpech iyang, ngo sibe pepeloh gow iyang le wenig irel meka melal mala sibe hafalpech. Siya kak gow le litach siya loh drop irel ahh hasorol mulwe rebe winig yarmat iyang. 04:25 Ila paling lol depei, depei ngal gow irel meka yar fafel mo yar mwal. Si pilita meka hasorol ngal gow. Fafel hare mwal ngo meka sihafohoi iyang siya pedal loh.

Interviewee in English: It's very important to me because I know that it is what women use for clothing. We also use lavalava for funerals and other things. If our dad, sister, or kids die, we lay them on a lavalava, and also use it to cover them. If something happens that requires you to apologize for an inappropriate action, you will give lavalava. So, lavalava is something that I really need to have in case any of these things happen.

04:41 **Question 4**

4. How has weaving or woven skirts changed over your lifetime, or since the lifetime of those who taught you?

A. Ulithian: Ifa sangal yal deur mo dedeur susuwel doh irel yam bubudoh yesa holadoh igla? Hare sa change tangi yathkawe ho k'kai mor irel sensei kala yam?

Interviewee in Ulithian: 04:56 Sa paling paling paling yal yesuwel. Ralkawe le halfamat hare mada color le ila chog meka yarmat retaptap. Ngo la raleka, le hobla compare ngal ralkawe sa sulai chog yach pass igli, sa memmai mommai color le sa buyui raleka le metmatal gow le yarmat resa feru raleka. Sa fidi ah, hobla komahoi chog. Ngo sa wochog rainbow kawe le sabuyui le isa luwdah irel wulul tang ralakawe yal chap dah mele gow lol 05:25 poch chol fulukala fulyach. Sa paling paling yal dil fetang meka guluch yar mwal mo meka gulfei. Especially yar fafel le sa metmetal color ngo sa buyui le sa mommai mommai. Ila.

Interviewee in English: There have been so many changes these days. In the old days, we only used about 4 colors. But these days, when you compare the recent lavalava to those made in the past, the lavalava these days are like rainbows. I am surprised by how these new lavalava are woven. It's so much different now than in the old days when weaving was started. There have been changes in the style of lavalava for men (guluch), and there have been even more changes in the style of lavalava for women (gulfei). The colors are so beautiful.

05:43 **Question 5**

5. If you could talk to your great-granddaughter about weaving, what would you want to tell her?

A. Ulithian: Hare wochog bo hobe malili ngal lol lom tarfefel irel deur, mada mele hobe kangalur hare hodipli hobe kangalur?

Interviewee in Ulithian: 05:55 Idipli le ibe kangalur, rebe kai, rebe kai gow bo important le gow le bala mess doh lol loch. Idipli le be pangar meka lol, lol lai ye tugla siyar ngo ibe teach iglir irel milal gow bo rebe salap iyang be pai le holgur le rebe feru robe gula wulul. Ila mala idipli le, isa lachog lapal.

Interviewee in English: I would like to tell them to learn how to weave because lavalava is something very important. I would like to teach all my great-granddaughters how to weave so that they know how.