

[Interviewer: Tola Say. Interviewee: Bin Song (BS). Wife of BS also comments intermittently.]
[00:00]

Now I am preparing to make the body of the Angkuoch. I will bend it to become the Angkuoch's body.

What part of the Angkuoch is that?

[wife of BS:]
ตสักสกัเร์ะ?
Bending the metal?

What part of Angkuoch is that?

Making the body of the Angkuoch!

What did you use to measure [the length]?
Uึส่?
Huh?

What did you use to measure it?

I took a palm leaf to measure it!
[00:48]

How long are you measuring?

The length...I did not use meters to measure.

[wife of $B S$ :]

Did not use meters to measure! [Laughs...!]


Around 15 centimeters. 15 centimeters!
[01:34]

And I have to measure the middle of it. The middle part!
[01:51]

What did you use to file it?
ตTs?
Yes?
[01:53]
ตายกรูรียกมาบโร゚?
What did you use to file it?

[wife of BS:]
รบส่โโระฝ๋า!
This thing!

How can we name that tool?


A metal file! I am filing it here to make a mark. When it is filed, it has a mark as a clue on the middle part. I am filing it.
[02:43]

What is the metal file made from?


This metal file is made from pure metal. They used pure metal to make it sharp. This metal is bendable metal. This metal file has teeth too.

What can we call this thing?
ยูயฺณル?
Which one?

## 

The thing that you used for filing?


We call it a 'metal file'. I use this metal file to sharpen the metal. I have to sharpen it until it becomes straight.

## 

Do we call it a 'metal file' as well?

We call it a 'metal file' too but there's a bigger one and a smaller one.
넌
Is this a bigger one?

This one is big.
[03:45]

[BS files piece of metal to make it smaller.]
[04:14]

Are they not the same size?


They are not the same size. My eyes cannot see clearly so it is hard to tell whether it's the same size or not. It is hard when my eyes are not good.
[04:36]

When the filing is done, I have to pound it before bending it.
 [BS takes a flat knife to pound of the middle part that he filed.]
[05:15]

And I take this piece of metal and put it into [this tool] for bending.

You can bend it only after pounding it?

[^0][05:34]
ตาแกรรูธรๆต่?
What tool did you use?

It is a tool for bending [metal]. I have a tool to bend the body of the Angkuoch.
[05:45]

How long have you used this tool for?
โโบิงบส่เระะ?
This tool?
ตสย!
Yes!



I have used this tool... I have used it for a long time now. Almost 30 years!
Over 30 years! If I think carefully, it is almost 50 years now. Ever since I've had it... before I did not have it.

## 

Did you have to heat the metal before bending?

## Gs!

Yes!
[06:24]
 [BS pounds on the side of the piece of metal to bend it to the other side.]
[06:27]

##  <br> 

I do not need to heat it. If it's a 'live' [pliable] metal, I can bend it. For this metal, I do not need to heat it.
[06:56]
[ปิง
[BS uses a hammer to bend another side of the piece of metal.]
[07:32]


What tool do you use to compress it?

These are pliers. I use pliers to compress it.
[07:52]


When I do not heat [the metal] like this, it is a bit difficult. If I heated it, it would not be difficult.
[07:59]

Why didn't you heat it?

It is difficult to heat it.

Before, I had a fire pump.
[08:16]

Where is that fire pump?

I already got rid of it. I have sold it.
[08:17]
 [BS puts a metal piece into the tool again in order to bend it more.]
[09:39]
 When I bent another Angkuoch, I did not heat that one either.

[BS uses a knife to split the piece of metal.]
[10:02]

I'm putting it here to pound it.
 [BS takes the hammer to pound the metal piece more.]

Before getting there, it takes a lot of time.

Yes! Before getting there, it takes a lot of time. It's not easy to get there!

[BS takes the haimmer to pound the metal piece more.]
[11:30]

It takes a long time to bend it. Very long!

When you were young, did you have energy to bend it?



When I was young, I had more energy. When I got old like this, I become so weak. When one is old, it is hard to do. When I was young, I had energy! I could do whatever!
[12:12]

But you told me that you could do it [make Angkuoch] since you were 11?
ais?
What?

You told me that you could do it since you were 9?

No! 11 years old!
ตตส์ำ
11 years old?

At that time, did you pound like this?

Yes! I did it like this.




Before, I did not heat [the metal]. I used a raw metal like this. At that time, I did not know how to make a fire pump. When I knew how to, I made one and used it. I pounded [the metal]. Later on, I made everything including a knife, a long knife and an axe.

1สิสรำมร่ง่?
You made them?

Yes! I made them all!

Now I have to take this piece of metal to file it.

After bending it, I need to file it until it becomes balanced.

## [13:15]



You did not see any Angkuoch before. How did people react when you made one?
ats?
What?

I heard from you just now that you had not seen any Angkuoch before.

I did not make them.

## ทิธัณルนบีโฺ?

You did not see any?






Yes! When I heard about them, I thought, how people make them? I asked old people. At that time, there was a man who came from Kamprom village.
Kamprom village is near the mountain. I asked him: What does Angkuoch look like? He told me to bend the metal piece like this and like that. Make the metal like this! And make the lamella like that. I thought I understood after he explained it to me. Then I started to bend [the metal] by myself.
[14:10]




When I finished making it [the Angkuoch], I tried to play it. It produced a sound but it was not loud enough, as I did not make it correctly. I had just learned so it was not good yet. When I kept making them, however, they started to get better over time.
[14:30]


I learned to make [Angkuoch] when I was 11. I played it until I was 21 years old. When I turned 21, I became a monk. When I turned 21, I became a monk.
[14:51]

What happened next?


When I turned 21, I became a monk. When I turned 23, I left the monkhood. When I left the monkhood, I resumed playing. I still played and made it.
[15:05]

Can monks play Angkuoch?

 ப゙กึก็ฟฟ!
No! When I left the monkhood, I became a normal person and I resumed playing it. I played until I got a wife. When I got a wife, I stopped. That is it.
[15:20]


When I stopped, the country was going into war. In the period of the war, players no longer existed. No more!
[15:27]

Were you allowed to make Angkuoch during the war?

They did not allow me to. They did not allow people to do such a thing. No!

What happened during that war period?

A time of fighting! The Pol Pot regime! The Khmer Rouge period! They fought each other.

Did they know that you were an Angkuoch maker?





They did not know. No one told them. No! When the war ended, I started to make them again. An old guy knew [that I made Angkuoch]. People knew because of him. He lives in Tnaot Chrum village. He asked me to make [Angkuoch lamella / tongue] for him. When he saw me, he said: 'Oh! The Angkuoch maker is still alive.' Then he asked me to do a couple. I made them for him.

## [16:37]


Did you make them for him before or after the time of the war?

After! It was recent. Maybe it was around 1999! 1999!

## 

And you made them for him?

 I made them for him, yet I do not know how they were. He took them. Then people started to know that I was an Angkuoch maker. They kept promoting the fact that I am an Angkuoch maker.
[17:28]

Did people play Angkuoch before the Khmer Rouge time?

They played Angkuoch.

What did they play for?


They played for fun. They talked about boys and girls. I am old now. Why should I play?

## 

So only boys and girls played it?

Only boys and girls! They played it as a way to communicate with each other.
[18:00]

How about at festivals?


When there was a festival, they played [Angkuoch] along the street and in the pagoda. When there was a festival, everyone played. Girls and boys!

Did they play in the pagoda? Or outside the pagoda?


They played both inside and outside the pagoda. They played next to women who were weaving the mats. Girls in the past always wove the mats.

## รึร? <br> What?



Weaving the mats! They wove mats from different materials. When I visited them, I did not forget to bring my Angkuoch. I played it to communicate with them for fun.
[18:42]

When you first started playing Angkuoch, did they understand your words?
© Ms?
What?

When you first started playing the Angkuoch, did they understand what you want to say?

Playing the Angkuoch?
ตาณ!
Yes!
แญ่เตี!

Understood!

So they understood?
asf
Yes!

What did you do just now?
อ્ำต่ฯ
I bent [the piece of metal].

After bending it, what will you do next?

After bending it, I have to file it until it is straight.

This one is done.

Did girls weave mats in pagoda in the past?

They wove mats!

## ที่นึเบกิษษ!

Definitely!
[wife of $B S$ :]

Wove mats at their homes!

[BS:]

Wove mats at their homes!

[wife of $B S:]$

And wove in the pagoda for what purpose?

But you said women wove mats in the pagoda.

They wove mats for using them to sleep on.


Most of the time, when did men like to play [Angkuoch]?

At night! Around 8pm! Or 9pm!

It is already dark then, isn't it?



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Yes! We went to sit! At around 8pm or 9pm, we went to meet others and play
Angkuoch.
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 Girls also had Angkuoch! When we played, we played to communicate with each other! We played for fun!


I went to play in other villages. I did not play in my village. I played in other villages! Villages that were afar!
[20:18]

Was there only you who make Angkuoch? Did other men make Angkuoch as well?

Make Angkuoch?
ตณ!
Yes!

No! No one else did it. They all bought it from me.

When I made it, they came to buy it.
[20:36]

Did you generate a lot of money?
als?
What?

Did you generate a lot of money [from Angkuoch-making] at that time?

Not so much! Before it was 2500 Riel for one Angkuoch. Oh no! it was only 25
Riel for one Angkuoch.

Did men like to buy them?

They did. They all bought Angkuoch. Men from all the villages came to buy.

Besides playing for women who were weaving mats, where else did you play?


When there was a festival, I went to the pagoda. We gathered at the pagoda and we played it right there. At Angkor temple, we also played.

## ษルษ゙ต?

What did you say?

When we visited Angkor, we also played.

Angkor next to here?

Yes! Angkor Wat! When we gathered, we played and we danced around.

Could people dance to the sound of Angkuoch?
ตTs?
What?

When playing Angkuoch, could people dance to its sound?

They watched. They all watched happily.

## 

Did they play Angkuoch and dance together at the same time? Or not?


They played it together. Four or five people! They danced together. They danced enthusiastically. They danced with the song 'Santouch'. It is a type of 'Prern' [genre of folk song].

Did they sing Prern as well?

โกโโฺ
They sang and danced.

## 

Could they play Angkuoch with Prern?


They could play and dance with Angkuoch. They played and danced too.
Before, we were very happy. We were happy because we played Angkuoch.

Didn't they use the instrument Ken to play Prern music? Did they use Angkuoch instead?
als?
What?

Do you know the instrument Ken?
นักรยี่าเนยต?
What is Ken?

Didn't they use Ken for Prern music? Did they use the Angkuoch instead?


They used Angkuoch only. When they gathered, they said: 'Let's dance! Dance to make us feel happy!' Girls and boys danced gracefully!
[23:18]

Did they girls play Angkuoch as well? Or just boys?




Boys played. Girls also played. It wasn't only men who could play! Girls also could play. Before there were many girls who played Angkuoch. But after the war, no one could. Before, not all the girls could play, though. Like this grandma! She does not know how to play.
[23:51]

Same generation [as those girls who could play], but she does not know how.

Why are you filing this piece?

##  

I'm filing it to put on the lamella. Once the lamella is on, it becomes an Angkuoch.

Are you filing to make it smaller? Or what?
ตis?
What?

Are you filing it smaller? Softer? Or for other reasons?



I am filing to make it small and soft. When it becomes small, I file it here to make it softer. If it is still tough, it cannot be played.

What are you filing this body for?
밴ำ?
Which one?

## క゚ఇ??

The body?


I am filing to make it nice and usable. If it is not usable, I have to file it properly. I can't use it unless it is properly made.

Could you explain to me when it is usable? And when it is not?

It is not playable when it is not straight and not in the right shape.
[25:11]

Why are you pounding [the metal]?

I am pounding to make it straight.

[wife of BS:]

[She] Asks you every single thing!

[BS:]

It is not easy to make Angkuoch. Very tough!

If it is very tough, why do you keep making it?

It is hard. It is not easily made.
[26:00]

Did parents allow girls to play Angkuoch in the past?

Parents did not mind.
 When they went to the pagoda or other places... they always asked me to take care of their children.

## 

Like what?

Asked me to look out for their children!

Their daughters?


Yes! When there were big festivals, like seven days and nights! Before we had a festival of seven days.

## பุாกffgi?

What festival?

Funerals! Spiritual ceremonies!

Like Arak [spirit possession] ceremonies?

โตญร์โํํํำ
Yes! Big ceremony! They asked me to watch out for their children. When we went, we used the Angkuoch to call each other if we got lost.

Did you teach those girls?

Yes! If I did not teach them, how could they know?

How many girls did you teach?


Not sure! I taught many! Taught many girls in the village! In one village, there were many girls.

รยิณา? รยิเง:บน
Which village? This village?
อ์บ!
I taught in this village only.
ริษิร?
What village?

Preah Kor Chas! This village is Preah Kor Thmei!

Where is Preah Kor Chas village?

It is on the north side of [name unclear] Pagoda.

Is it far?

Far! Around five kilometers!

When you taught their daughters, did their parents scold you?

## ยิรันณษษารีเร!

They did not say anything.
[28:00]

Why did you teach their daughters?
บโโำร
I taught them so then we would all know how [to play]!


Were they fast learners?
ษิฐย์กป่ร์!
Not so bad.

How hard was it?

Learning was not hard. It is hard to make the body of Angkuoch! The length is not balanced.
[28:34 - END]


[^0]:    
    
    Yes! I bend this piece of metal! I take this tool to hold it firmly and start bending it. If I did not take this tool to hold it, I couldn't bend it either.

