
[Interviewer: Tola Say. Interviewee: Bin Song]
[00:00]

I am starting to file the lamella of the Angkuoch.
[00:12]

What is the lamella made from?




This lamella is made from the metal piece that I cut. Cut off! Now I have to file it until it becomes small enough to fit its body. This body. When it becomes smaller, I can put it into this body. Then I can make it become an Angkuoch. Make it into a lamella!
[00:44]

How did you get this piece of metal?

##   

I bought it from Pouk district. After buying it, I had to make it into pieces. I made it into small pieces by sawing it. I used the metal hacksaw to cut it into small pieces of metal. Then I filed it into the shape of the lamella.
[01:17]

What is its length?

The length is 15 centimeters! 15 centimeters!
โรีตาแกรูีตร่ง่ใ
How did you measure it?
โบนังดย

It is 15 centimeters. Because the length of this body is 10 centimeters already. If the body of Angkuoch is 10 centimeters, I have to make the lamella 15 centimeters long!

Why do you have to make it longer than the body?
ans?
What?

Why do you have to make it longer than the body?


If I do not make it longer, there would be no metal piece to bend into its tail.
That is why I have to make it longer. Now I am starting to file.
[02:00]

[BS starts to file the lamella of the Angkuoch.]
[02:40]

To finish one lamella, how long does it take?




For this lamella, I need to spend at least 30 minutes to get it done. 30 minutes! It takes such a long time. If I had a new metal file, I would not need to spend such a long time to make it. But this metal file seems old now.

## [03:11]


How about the metal piece that you just cut? Do you file it right after that?

If that metal piece is newly cut and I took it to file it, it would take a long time too. Around one hour! One hour to get it done!

## 

How do you know when it is ready?
als?
What?

How do you know when it is ready?



When the lamella that I file fits the body, I know that it is done. When I finish filing, I try it out on the body of the Angkuoch. When it fits, I start to bend it. After bending it, I know that it is ready.
[03:46]

If the Angkuoch body is small, how long do you spend on filing?

If the body of the Angkuoch is small, I can file it faster than I can file a big body.

For a big body, I have to spend longer.
[04:13]

Why does a big body take a longer time than the small one?
als?
What?

Why does a big body take longer than the smaller one?
ษฺษ゙ษ?
Pardon?

I am referring to the lamella making. Why does the big body take a longer time than the small one?

๙๐ ฌิฟొ ฐัต?
Big and small?
ที่ฟึเปกิษฺ!
Yes!



Between the big one and small one... making a small lamella is easier and
faster. It is faster. That is why I file it and try it out. File and try it out! If it fits, I can improve it. Improve to make it fit even better!


If it produces a sound, it is no different. The smaller Angkuoch is the same as the big Angkuoch. If I can make it right, it will also produce a sound.

## [05:10]


How do you know when it is right or wrong?
ass?
What?

When it is right? And when it is wrong?


When it [the lamella] is firmly attached to the body, it means that I have made it right. If it still shows a gap, it is not playable.
[06:04]

Why do you file on that side?
ass?
What?

You file on that side for what reason?
I file to make it fit with its body. If I do not file on that side, it will not fit its
body because the body is sharp-pointed at its front. Because it is like this, I
have to make it fit.
[06:36]

Do you make Angkuoch often these days?
ais?
What?

Nowadays, when do you feel you want to make Angkuoch?

I decided to make it today.

How about before? How often did you make it?

I did not make it. I do so today because ...

...which country do you come from? [points to CG] [Laughs...!]

...she [CG] came to research the stories of Angkuoch and that is why I decided to make it today.
[07:27]

How long is it since you stopped making it?

> I stopped a long time ago. I haven't made Angkuoch for more than 50 years now. Let's think! I started to make Angkuoch when I was 11 or 15 . Now I am 78 years old. I stopped for a very long time. I just started to make it again.

## 

You stopped for 50 years?

Yes! 50 years!

Since the Pol Pot regime?

Yes! Since Pol Pot's regime! It is not just recently [that I stopped].
เรีต
Did you make Angkuoch since Lon Nol?


In Lon Nol's regime, I made it. When the Khmer Rouge regime collapsed [commenced?], I stopped. I did not make it anymore. There was no pagoda either.
[08:22]

Didn't you make it to sell?

What?

Didn't you make it to sell?

I did not sell it anymore! There was no selling in the Khmer Rouge regime. No more!

You made them to sell before that. Is that right?

Before I made them to sell. It is just now that there is a research project about Angkuoch.

Before, did you make them to sell?
 I made them before. I stopped in the Khmer Rouge regime.

## [09:12]


Who were your buyers before?
 The buyers were people in the village. People in the village bought it to play for fun. People from every village bought it.

## [09:31]


Since only you made it, could you make them on time?

I could make them on time because I made them every day. I made them every day.

To get one Angkuoch done, how many days did it take you?
Gs?
What?

To get one Angkuoch done, how many days did you spend?
배눈
For one?

Yes!
 I could finish one Angkuoch in one day. Each day, I could make one. One each day!

How much could you sell them for at that time?


I could sell them for 25 Riel per Angkuoch. Before they used 'Riel' currency. One Angkuoch was 25 Riel. But some Angkuoch players broke the lamella. When they broke, I had to fix them.
[10:35]

Could you fix when it broke?


If they kept their long tail like this, I could fix them. If the tails were short, it could be very hard to attach the lamella again.

Normally, would you keep the tail for fixing?
โักรี่?
Fix what?

When you finish making this one, will you cut that tail?

I will cut the tail if it is too long.

If it gets broken, will it be fixable?
Gsi!
Yes!

If it breaks, do you have to make a new lamella?

If it breaks, I have to put on a new lamella.

If I wanted to fix it, it would not be possible.

How many types of Angkuoch do you make？
MTS？
What？

How many types of Angkuoch do you make？Only Angkuoch Daek？

I know how to make Angkuoch Daek and Angkuoch Russey．Snaeng as well！

What type of Snaeng？
 Angkuoch can produce a resonant sound．Can be heard at a long distance！The mahout also used Snaeng．That was the tool they used．

## 

What is Angkuoch used for？

 \＆゙リヒデ！
We used Angkuoch when we went out for fun．Before boys and girls communicated through Angkuoch．They communicated through Angkuoch． Communicated back and forth！

When there were festivals or spirit ceremonies，did people play Angkuoch？


 When there were festivals，many people played Angkuoch．They played joyfully in the pagoda．They played it cheerfully．They played Angkuoch and danced as well．Before many young people played Angkuoch．When they played＇Prern＇， they used the Angkuoch to make the music．
［12：55］

When there were spirit ceremonies like Arak［spirit possession］，did they play Angkuoch？

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    ฺู囚รั?
    Possess what?
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Have you ever seen a possession ceremony？

No! When there was an Arak ceremony, they did not use Angkuoch.

They used it only to flirt with each other?



When they had a possession ceremony, they also had a group of musicians to play. They played Khmer traditional music for the possession ceremony. This Angkuoch was used to entertain. Before, when we visited Angkor temple, we played it happily.

Could you dance at Angkor temple as well? Where else did you dance?

The tradition of going to dance there no longer exists now.

Where did people like to dance before?

They danced on the terrace of the houses. Accompanied each other nicely!

## [13:45]


Were you happy at that time?

I was happy! It was very happy at that time.
[13:53]
ตาเต:รําันง?
Did you dance as well?

Why not? [Sure!] Earlier, I also trained people to play 'Thaun' [sound made by playing the hand drum].
[14:04]

Did you play skor [hand drum] too?

I could play it once. I could sing and dance.

แณ่กั่!
Wow!


[Laughs...!] Since I was born as a human being, I have to learn all this. If I couldn't learn all of this, it would not be good.

โถีตาเู่รษกเทิณก?
How did you learn?

Self-learning!



My mind told me that I want to learn. If wanted to do something, I had to learn by myself. There was no teacher at that time. There were some but I had to steal their knowledge.

## [14:49]


How did you steal it?

In this lifetime, I have come to know a lot. Even how to build houses!

Why do you that to it?
MTs?
What?


I have to put this into it here in order to check. I am checking whether it fits or not yet. If it does not fit yet, I have to file more.
[15:20]

How do you know whether it fits yet or not?
ราษิโฺ์ำญษษร์9
It does not fit yet.

How do you know?



I check whether there is still a gap or whether anything is wrong. If so, then I have to file more.
[15:36]

Do you have to place it straight?

 If I do not have the body of the Angkuoch nearby, I cannot make it.

Until it is close to each other?
ครัโร!
Not right!
ราส่เัตแทต่มิตต?
Until it is close to each other?



Until it is close to each other - I have to check. Making and checking at the same time! I cannot make it without checking! If I do not check, I do not know when it is done. So I cannot put the body away. I have to keep it here.

Do you have one body and one lamella?
ans?
What?

When you make one body, do you have to make one lamella as well?

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { One body and one lamella! }
\end{aligned}
$$


Don't you feel that you will get confused?





How would I get confused? They are different. If I want to make many bodies first... five for example, it is possible to do so. But when I make the lamella, I can take one body and make one lamella to fit it. Then, I can take another one.

## [17:08]


What is the importance of playing Angkuoch?





The importance is that it is our tradition. Since the time of our ancestors, we have the Angkuoch. As it has been said in the holy book: 'Go to play Angkuoch, and whistle 'Khlev! Khlev!' [sound of a person whistling] in the forest... [Go] to cut wood and pick leaves to join the ceremony'. It has existed since then. Since the time of the Buddha! Angkuoch has existed since the era of the Buddha. It is noted down in the holy book.
[17:56]
โక్లెjรู?
What holy book?

A holy book! The Pali Canon!
โฺッทัตปิสส?
The Pali Canon?

Pali Canon! It is documented there and that is why they made it.

What did they use Angkuoch for in the era of the Buddha?
MS?
What?

Did they also use it to communicate with each other in Buddha's era?
ถยยยโตะ?
Buddha's era?

Of course!



I do not know about which specific year was that. Many centuries ago! I was not born in that era. I only saw it in the holy book.

In that holy book, did it say what it [Angkuoch] was used for?
[Wife of BS to Say Tola:]
รงส่ถี!
[He] cannot hear [you]!
รยสฺึ์์?
Cannot hear?

It takes a long time to tweak it. If I just file it, it does not take long.
[18:56]

Do you know what Angkuoch was used for in Buddha's era?

No, I don't. In Buddha's era, I do not know what it was used for.

## 

But you know that it existed?

Yes! I know it existed.
[19:09]

Are there any constraints around Angkuoch?

We have this kind of tradition.

What are the constraints?
©s?
What?

For example, it cannot be kept on the head. Is there some similar tradition?


No! We can keep it wherever. There is no restriction that says that it cannot be kept here or there.

โั.
What can't people do around Angkuoch? Are there any constraints?

No! It does not have any constraints. It does not have constraints like other instruments.

## 

How about the charming wax on the Angkuoch?

I do not know.

You don't know? I heard some people talked about it.
[เพีษ....!]
[Laughs...!]

I heard that people in the past really liked to put charming wax on the Angkuoch.

That is your business. As for me, I have never heard about it.

Put charming wax [and chant] in the Pali language?

## ปึฟึเกียบ!

Yes!

I have never heard about that. [Laughs...!]

You have never put it?

Never. [Laughs...!]

Putting charming wax and chanting [a spell] in the Pali language with Angkuoch!

I heard that they put it on as a charm of attraction.

They used it [the wax] for charming. That is called 'charming for love'.

Did they apply it [the wax]?

Mif!
Yes!

Apply it to the Angkuoch?


They could put it on Angkuoch if they wanted to. They might have, but I didn't.
[Note from TS: I understand from this that BS seemed aware about the use of charming wax on Angkuoch, but that he never used it on his own Angkuoch.]
[21:57]

Is Angkuoch linked to any religion?

It is Cambodia's tradition and religion.

Just belongs to Cambodians?

Yes! It belongs to Cambodians. The Kuy [Kuoy] ethnic group!

The Kuy ethnic group?

Kuy people used Angkuoch.

What did they use it for?

Kuy ethnic people had it!

## [21:36]


Did you know that? How did you know?
As?
What?

You used to see them playing. Is that right?

I used to see them before. I saw Kuy people playing Angkuoch.
is\%放ถm?
Where?

I do not know where those Kuy people lived.

When did you see them?

I saw that when I was very young.

In this village?
Gs!
Yes!

When did they play [Angkuoch]?

They played in the festivals. They played with each other.

## [22:12]


Did they play in their ethnic festivals? Or did they play just like us [Khmer ethnic group]?

They did not play it in the ceremony. They just played it everywhere.

I forgot to bring a knife again.

What are you doing? Why are you using this axe?
ตูTisiscin misuq
I'm using this axe to pound.
むis
To pound what?

To pound nails!

Why are you pounding them like this?

I am pounding them to get them firmly attached.
[23:16]

Which type of Angkuoch is the oldest?
als?
What?

Which type of Angkuoch is the oldest?

Oldest Angkuoch?

Do you know?

I don't.

Don't you know the oldest type of Angkuoch?

I don't know.

Such as Angkuoch Daek or Angkuoch Russey!

Angkuoch Daek or Angkuoch Russey!

Which one is the oldest?


Angkuoch Daek is probably older. It existed first. Angkuoch Russey was just made later on.

Which era?

I do not know what era it was made. I do not remember.
[24:06]

Did women know how to make Angkuoch?


Women did not know how to make it，but they could play．
デロ6だが？
How about young people？

> Young people did not know [how to make it] either. Some young people did not even know how to play. Most of the players were adults.

## 

Women did not know how to make it？

I have never seen any women who knew how to make it．

Why didn＇t they make it？

I do not know the specific reason，but this was not the job of women．

Who said it is not a women＇s job？


It is not a job for women，it is a job for men．Before people thought like this．

Were women not allowed to do this job before？


People paid attention to jobs．If a job was for men，men did it．If a job was for women，women did it．
［25：13］

Until now，do you know of any women who played？
보！
There are！

Until now，do you know of any women who played？
Gs！
Yes！

Angkuoch Daek？

## 

There are no more now. They stopped playing!

## 

When did that happen?

That happened during the Khmer Rouge regime!
[25:39]
ตารนกียส!
It is done.

How do you know that it is playable?

It fits the body and it produces a sound.

But people also put wax?
ais?
What?

But people also put wax?
ถาบรี?
Put what?

Won't you apply wax?
รต่เัแญษ์ตัเฺ!
I never put it.

Why don't you put it?

Take the pliers for me please!

Why do you want the pliers?

I use the pliers to bend its head.


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Why?
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Bend its head to make sure it does not annoy [the player] when playing! To not let it stick to your hand!

If I wanted to apply wax, I would apply it here.

Why don't you apply it now?


I do not need to apply it because I keep it big here. It is heavy. If it were not big, I would need to put wax on it.
[26:58]

How old do you think someone should be to make an Angkuoch?
als?
What?
โสีตริตษา
How old do you think someone should be to make an Angkuoch?

What time?

F-Tẹ̣!
What age!
[เบิธ...!]
[Laughs...!]

## 

How old do you think someone should be to make an Angkuoch?

Yes! 15 and up! They are able to make it.

15 and up are able to make it?
ตร์! รางเนีตตร!
Yes! They're able to make it.

[Tests the sound of the Angkuoch]

What is wrong? What type of sound is acceptable?

Too tough! It is still tough. I need to file it a bit more!

## 

What is a soft sound like?

It should sound softer than this. Its sound is still tough.

## 

What is a good sound like?








It is not good unless we hear a resonant sound from it. It should be resonant. All the words that I play should all be audible. Then I can say it is good. It is difficult now because I do not have teeth. No teeth! No teeth to compress! This Angkuoch Daek must be compressed with the teeth. Not with the gum! Not with the gum! It needs bone to compress it in order to make a sound. If I compress it with my gums, how can it produce a sound? This is a reason that I do not want to make Angkuoch. I think: I do not have teeth to play Angkuoch and so I can't tweak it. When tweaking it is not possible, the sound of playing the Angkuoch is not completely right either. I don't know what to do. If I do not make it, it [the knowledge] may possibly be lost.

