

Thanking the Bride's Mother

English translation:

Girl: There is a cow that has to be provided (this is during the traditional marriage ceremony, when the groom pays the bride price for his bride, the cow is a part of the bride price. It is for the bride's mother)¹, it is for the purpose of thanking the mother.

Boy: The girl's mother for giving birth to the bride.

Girl: Because she carried the girl in her womb, and gave birth to her. So *mombe yeumai*², that one is important. There are things that are said to be very important [during the marriage ceremony] so *mombe yeumai* is important and cannot be ignored because the mother is a stranger to the girl [her daughter]. They are not related so you [the groom] have to bring that cow.

Interviewer: I do not understand, what is a *mutorwa*?³

Girl: Stranger.

Boy: Like...someone that you do not...someone with whom you are not related. You, for example, when you get married; in the family, to which you will be an in-law, they already have their established relations. They refer to each other as 'father, aunt, grandmother, my younger sister, my elder sister', but you are like coming into a family [as a new member].

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¹ a brief description of a part of the traditional Shona marriage ceremony.

² see 1

³ stranger