Swahili in Kenya Video Transcripts

Language by Country Collection on LangMedia

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"Entering a Room"

Swahili transcript:

"(mtu akibisha mlango)

Daniel: Hodi.

Toma: Karibu. Nani huyo?

Daniel: Ni Daniel.

Toma: Ohh Daniel karibu, habari yako?

Daniel: Mzuri sana.

Toma: Ok.

Daniel: Ni heshima au adabu kutoa (kuvua) vyatu vyako unapoingia nyumba ya mtu mwingine.

Toma: Karibu sana mgeni.

Daniel: Ahh, ahsante sana.

Toma: Kaa kitako tafadhali.\*

Fideles: Hodi.

Toma: Karibu. Huyu ni nani?

Fideles: Ni Fideles.

Toma: Ohh habari Fedeles, karibu sana.

Fideles: Mzuri sana.

Unapoingia kwa nyumba ya mtu ni heshima kutoa vyatu vyako.

Toma: Ahsante sana Fideles.

Fideles: Ahsante.

\* In Kenya one will often hear:’kaa chini’, or ‘karibu kiti’, meaning the same thing.’Kaa kitako’ is predominantly used in Tanzania and in some instances on the Kenyan coast."

English translation:

"(somebody knocking at the door)

Daniel: Hello.

Toma: Welcome. Who is that?

Daniel: It’s Daniel.

Toma: Oh, Daniel, welcome, how are you?

Daniel: Very good.

Toma: Okay.

Daniel: It is polite or respectful to take off your shoes when you enter someone’s house.\*

Toma: Welcome, visitor.

Daniel: Ah, thank you very much.

Toma: Please have a seat.

Fideles: Hello.

Toma: Welcome, who is this?

Fideles: It’s Fideles.

Toma: Oh, hello, Fideles. Welcome.

Fideles: Very good.

Toma: When you enter someone’s house, it is polite to remove your shoes.\*

Fideles: Thank you so much, Fideles.

Toma: Thank you.

\*This first comment about the removal of shoes is being made by the person who is, in fact, removing his shoes. It would be considered rude for a host to make such a comment if guests did not remove their shoes of their own accord. In such a situation, the host would remain silent. In the second part of the scene, Toma is instructing his friend Fideles about Kenyan customs, so the situation reflects friend teaching friend, not host reacting to guest."

About Language by Country: The Language by Country videos and other materials were produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages between 1999 - 2003 with funding from the National Security Education Program (NSEP) and the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) of the U.S. Department of Education. The videos were filmed by Five College international students in their home countries. The goal was to provide examples of authentic language spoken in its natural cultural environment so that students of all ages can better understand the interplay between a language and its culture. We have tried to remain true to the language our subjects actually uttered. Therefore, we have not corrected grammatical errors and the videos sometimes show highly colloquial language, local slang, and regionally specific speech patterns. At times, we have noted the preferred or more standard forms in parentheses. Most of the transcripts and translations were prepared by the same students who filmed the video, although in some cases the transcripts have also been edited by a language expert.

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