

CultureTalk Tanzania Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Masai Families: Men, Women & Children

Swahili transcript:

Natalie: Sawa. Je wanaume? Wanaume wana...

Andrea: Si wanaume sisi ni wafanya biashara ng'ombe mbuzi na si wanaume tuko hapa mjini kwa kujitafutia maisha.

Natalie: Haa haaa.

Andrea: Haa haaa.

Natalie: Kwa hiyo mnatuma ela nyumbani kila mkisha fanya kazi na mkapata ela mnatuma ela nyumbani?

Andrea: Tunafanya mambo nyumbani ni mazuri tu.

Natalie: Kwa hiyo wamasai wanaume wengi ndo wako huku sema wanawake wachache...

Andrea: Aah wachache sana.

Natalie: ...wako huko. Wanawake wengine wake za watu na bibi wako nyumbani. Aah. Sawa. Je wanaume wa vijana kama wenye miaka ambao hawajaoa anafanya kazi gani mfano kama watu wenye miaka kumi na nane , kumi na tisa, ishirini au hao wanakuwa wameshaoa pia. Kijana ambaye kabla hajaoa anakuwa anafanya vitu gani?

Andrea: Atakuwa anawajibika kwa kwa kuhangaikia maisha na inataokana na uwezo wa familia kama uwezo wa familia ipo haruhusiwi kutoka kwa sababu hana ndo akili bado, anaruhusiwa mtu kwenda kutafuta kazi kama muda wa miaka ishirini na nne, na tatu labda kama uwezo kama ni mdogo sana nyumbani anaweza kwenda kuangaika miaka kumi na sita, kumi na saba lakini miaka kumi , kumi na mbili hawezi kuruhusiwa kutoka nyumbani mbele ya wazazi .

Natalie: Oooh.

Andrea: Eeh. Kweli.

Natalie: Kwa nini? Kwa akili tu?

Andrea: Ataambiwa akili bado, utaambiwa utakuwa aweza kwenda halafu utajisahau kurudi...

Natalie. Nyumbani. Haa haa.

Andrea: Haa haaa, halafu utajisahau kunyenyekea, halafu heshima itakuwa itapungua kwa sababu sisi kimila chetu heshima tunaweka mbele sana.

Natalie: Mmh.

Andrea: Mmmh.

Natalie: Aah. Sawa. Je watoto wadogo hawana kazi yoyote?

Andrea: Hawana kazi yoyote.

Natalie: Je wakiume wakike wate wanafanya vitu hivyo hivyo pamoja?

Andrea: Eeh.

Natalie: Watoto kama miaka sita, saba, mmmh sita, tano na kuendelea?

Andrea: Ni watoto wa shule.

Natalie: Wanaenda shule?

Andrea: Wanaenda shule.

Natalie: Kwa hiyo sasa hivi watoto wote kule wanaenda shule?

Andrea: Eeh sasa hivi kuanzia mwaka, tuseme kwenye mwaka na sabini hivi na kuja mpaka sasa hivi watoto wanasoma.

Natalie: Aah.

Andrea: Eeh.

Natalie: Sasa nyie si mnategemea mifugo?

Andrea: Eeh.

Natalie: Kwa hiyo ni watu gani wanaokamua ng'ombe, wanaoenda kuchunga ng'ombe na kwenda kutafuta chakula mfano kama kukiwa hakuna chakula majani sehemu mnayo kaa na kwenda mbali na zaidi. Ni watu gani wanayofanya hiyo kazi?

Andrea: Kwa vijana.

Natalie: Vijana wa kati kati?

Andrea: Wa katikati wa miaka kumi, kumi na mbili, kumi na moja ndio shughuli yao ndio hiyo.

Natalie: Na kutakuwa wameshamaliza shule?

Andrea: Aaah watakuwaa...

Natalie: Au wakitoka shule shughuli ndio hiyo?

Andrea: Eeh wakitoka shule ndio wanafanya hivyo. Mtu mwenye uwezo anaajili watu .

Natalie: Mmh.

Andrea. Mtu asiyekuwa na uwezo lakini mama haswa anakamua, anasimamia.

Natalie. Eeh.

Andrea: Mama ndiye anakamua, ndiye anajua kiasi gani lita inatoka.

Natalie: Mmh. Na familia inakuwa na yani kama wanayama wangapi, ng'ombe wangapi hivi?

Andrea: Inaweza kuwa unakuta mtu anang'ombe kumi, ishirini, mpaka mia, mia mbili hivi.

Natalie: Inategemea uwezo wake.

Andrea: Inategemea uwezo wake. Mpaka elfu mtu anafuga ng'ombe.

Natalie: Ng'ombe elfu?

Andrea: Eeéh.

Natalie: Ebwana we.

Andrea: Kweli. Utakuta hivi na Kariakoo. Haa haaa.

Natalie: Haaa haaa. Wanawaweka wapi?

Andrea: Wanawaweka zizi , hapa mia tano, hapa mia tatu, hapa mia nne yani zizi kama hapa nyumba yenu, hapa kwa Shio, shuleni pale, hapa kwetu utakuwa yeye anakaa pembeni, itakuwa yeye anaangalia jioni hii inatoka, ile inatoka, ile inatoka, ile inatoka.

Natalie: Eeh eeéh ehh.

Andrea: Na anajua yote .

Natalie: Je mnawapa majina ng'ombe au wanajuaje, mnawahe sabu kila siku?

Andrea: Anawapa anawapa majina kimila.

Natalie. Aah sawa.

English transcript:

Natalie: Okay. What about men? Do men have ...

Andrea: We men are the businessmen, we sell cows, goats. We're here in the city to earn a living.

Natalie: So, you send cash home. Once you're done working and earning money, you send it home?

Andrea: We do very good things for our homes.

Natalie: So, of the Masai, mostly those here are men, except for a few women...

Andrea: Ah, very few.

Natalie: ...Are here. The rest of the women, people's wives and grandmothers, are at home. Ah. Okay. So the young males who are unmarried, what do they do? For example, those who are eighteen, nineteen, twenty? Or are they also married? A young male who is not married, what does he do?

Andrea: He will be struggling to earn money, depending on the family's income. If they are rich, he is not allowed to leave home, because he is not old or mature enough. He is not allowed to go and look for a job until around twenty- three or four, unless they are very poor. In which case, he can go and look for a job at the age of sixteen or seventeen. At the age of ten or twelve, he cannot be allowed to leave the house in front of the parents.

Natalie: Oooh.

Andrea: Eeh. It is true.

Natalie: Why? Because of his level of maturity?

Andrea: He will be told that he is not mature enough; he will be told that he might go out and forget to come back.

Natalie: To come back home. [Laughter.]

Natalie: [Laughter.] And that he will forget how to be respectful, and his respectfulness will diminish. According to our custom, respect is given first priority.

Natalie: Mmmh.

Andrea: Mmmh.

Natalie: Ah. Okay. So the kids, the children, do they have any jobs?

Andrea: No, they don't have jobs.

Natalie: So, the boys and girls do the same things together?

Andrea: Yes.

Natalie: Kids of six, seven, mmm, five or six years up?

Andrea: Ooh, they are students.

Natalie: They go to school?

Andrea: They go to school.

Natalie: Therefore, right now all the kids over there go to school?

Andrea: Yes, by now from, let's say, around '70 [1970] onwards, all the kids have gone to school.

Natalie: Ah.

Andrea: Yes.

Natalie: But all of you depend on crops?

Andrea: Yes.

Natalie: So who milks the cows, who herds the cows, and who goes to look for food? For instance, if there is no food and grass where you live, and you need to go further and further away, who does that job?

Andrea: It's the young people.

Natalie: The youths around the middle years?

Andrea: Yeah, The middle years -- ten, eleven, twelve year olds -- that is their job.

Natalie: And they would have already finished school?

Andrea: Ah, they would have...

Natalie: Or when they come home from school, that's what they have to do?

Andrea: Yes, when they get back from school that's what they do. Someone who is able to can hire people.

Natalie: Mmmh.

Andrea: When they cannot afford to do that, the mother is the one who milks the cows; she is in charge.

Natalie: Yes.

Andrea: The wife is the one who milks the cows, and she is the one who knows how much milk the cows produce.

Natalie: Mmh. And the family has how many animals -- how many cows do they have?

Andrea: You could find families with anywhere from ten or twenty to a hundred, two hundred cows.

Natalie: It depends on their income.

Andrea: It depends on their income. One can have up to a thousand cows.

Natalie: A thousand cows?

Andrea: Yes.

Natalie: Wow.

Andrea: It's true. You will find them kept from here till Kariakoo.¹ [Laughter.]

Natalie: [laughter.] Where do they keep them?

Andrea: They keep them in the hut, five hundred here, three hundred there, four hundred... There is the hut here at your house, there at Shio's house [the neighbor's house], at the school [also nearby], at our house [also nearby], and the shepherd will be staying at the corner. It will be like he will be looking at the cows in the evening as they leave, that one is leaving, that one is leaving, and that one is leaving.

Natalie: Eeh, eeh, eeh.

¹ A place that is about 10 minutes' drive from where we were.

Andrea: And he knows all of them.

Natalie: So, do you name your cows? How do they know them? Do they count them every day?

Andrea: They name them. They give them different names according to the customs.

Natalie: Ooh, okay.

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