

Swahili transcript:

Natalie: Je kuna watu wazee vijijini yani wanaweke wanaume wanakazi maalum watu kuanzia miaka sitini na kuendelea au zaidi ya hapo. Wale wazee wazee kabisa je kifamilia au kijamii nzima kiukoo.

Andrea: Kuna wengine wameajiriwa kama wamebahatika kusoma, kuna wengine wanajajiri kazi yao wenyewe.

Natalie: Wazee?

Andrea: Wazee. Kuanzia maika na sitini sasa ni wachache sana ambao wanaweza kuimudu kutoka kuacha familia, sasa hivi.

Natalie: Mmh. Je hawawi yani ndio kama wakuu wa jamii kwenye matatizo Fulani wanaenda kuwauliza maswali na nini yani hawana kile, zamani kwenye kitabu kimoja nilisoma yani wazee sio wamasai tu walikuwa wazee yaani walikuwa wao ndio wanawashauri kama mfano kulikuwa kuna vita no no yani kulikuwa kuna ma... ugovi kati ya jamii moja na nyingine.

Andrea: Eeh ipo. Lakini wanaweza kukaa chini na kuutuliza na kuanzia wanakutana kama hivi kama tusema watu jirani wanagombana kutakuwa wana mwenyekiti wao na balozi zamani hata mpaka sasa hivi ...

Natalie: Eeh.

Andrea: ...kutakuwa na mwenyekiti wao, kutakuwa na mzee wa baraza wakusuluhisha ili ile mzozo itulie. Kwa hiyo hiyo ipo mpaka sasa hivi. Itakuwa kama mara moja inatokea watu wanakaa chini kuongea, kurekebisha ule upatanisho.

Natalie: Aah. Je hamna yani kama kwenye sherehe Fulani Fulani wazee hawana kazi maalum kama kwenye harusi au kwenye sherehe ya mavuno chochote kile I do know.

Andrea: Kutakuwa na sherehe nakutakuwa na maandalizi mazuri kama mwaka mpya na krisimasi wanakutana kiukoo kwa sisi.

Natalie: Okay.

Andrea: Mnaweza kukutana kama ukoo wenu ni hamsini, ishirini unaweza kujitolea kama mimi huyu anatoa kilo hamsini huyu kilo tano, huyu mayai kilo mbili, huyu lita mbili maziwa huyu maji anaweza kusema mimi maji ni yangu anabeba na punda mwingine baiskeli ...

Natalie: Aisee.

Andrea: ..kama kuna gari karibu anakodi gari inakuwa kama inachaguliwa mtu mmoja watu wote wa familia wanakwenda kula sikukuu kwa siku hiyo moja na kuanzia asubuhi saa mbili saa tatu saa nne saa tano ni maandalizi, anachaguliwa wakuu wa sherehe,

Natalie: Mmmh.

Andrea: .. kama wazee watakuwa wa kiume, wakina mama watatu, watoto wa tatu wanakuwa watu tisa inatosha kujiandaa wageni kukaribisha itakuwa wale watu wanasherekea kuaanzia saa sita kama saa saba saa nane wanawapokea ila sisi kabila yetu kama una uwezo umeoa na haujaoa itakuwa ki familia wanakaa pamoja huyu mtu hana uwezo tufanye nini kikwetu sisi.

Natalie: Aaah lakini anataka kuoa au anaoa ...?

Andrea: Kama unataka kuoa.

Natalie: Anataka koa lakini hana mahari.

Andrea: Hana mahari halafu maisha yake magumu , watu wanachangisha.

English translation:

Natalie: Are there any old people in the villages? In other words, do the old women and men have special jobs for people around sixty or older? The elders of the family or community or clan?

Andrea: Some are employed if they were lucky enough to go to school, but there are also some who are self-employed.

Natalie: Elderly people?

Andrea: The elderly. Starting with those who are about sixty. Right now there are very few who can manage to leave their family.

Natalie: Mmh. Aren't they traditionally the main decision-makers when there are various problems? Don't people go to ask them questions and other things, that is, don't they have...A long time ago, I read in one book that the elders, not only Masai elders, were the main advisors. For instance if there was war, no, in other words, if there were conflicts between one society and the other...

Andrea: Yes, there are. But they would just sit down and calm each other down and then start a meeting like this. Let's say some neighbors have conflicts. In the past, there were their chairman and 'balози,' even in the present.

Natalie: Eeh.

Andrea: ...There are would be their chairman, the head of the meeting who would solve the problem so as to settle the issue. And that is in place right up to the present. When something happens, they will sit down to talk in order to solve the problem.

Natalie: Aah. So don't they have... during different celebrations...don't the elders have certain responsibilities. Like during weddings or during the harvest celebration? Anything, I don't know...

Andrea: There will be a celebration and there will be considerable preparations. They will meet as a clan according to our traditions; say for New Year or Christmas.

Natalie: Okay.

Andrea: You can meet if there are about fifty or even twenty, and you contribute. Like I will give this much, fifty kilos, and this one will give five kilos, this one, two kilos of eggs, this one two liters of milk, this one water, this one says, "I'll take care of the water," and he'll bring the water on a donkey or by bicycle.

Natalie: Ooh, I see.

Andrea: If there is a car nearby, he'll rent it. It's like they choose one person. All the members of the family will go to enjoy the celebration. Preparations start sometime in the morning around eight, nine, ten or eleven o'clock. They choose the main host of the celebration.

Natalie: Mmmh.

Andrea: If there are elders they will be males, three women, three children so there will be nine people, which is enough to welcome the guests those people will be celebrating. From twelve, one or two in the afternoon, they receive the guests. For us, in our tribe, if you are rich and are married or not married it happen that in a family meeting, they will sit together and say, "This person is not rich, what can we do that is in keeping with our community's customs?"

Natalie: If he wants to marry or marry..?

Andrea: If he wants to marry...

Natalie: He wants to marry but he does not have a dowry.

Andrea: If he doesn't have a dowry and also his life is very difficult, people will contribute for him.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

© 2003-2008 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated