

Swahili transcript:

Happy: Watoto wa kiume mara nyingi ni mpira. Eeeh! Kuna kombolela.

Upendo: Kombolela! (kicheko)

Happy: Kombolela ni kwa watoto wote, wakike na wakiume. Mnaweka zenu hapo mpira, I mean sio mpira, kopo.

Upendo: Kopo ndio.

Happy: Halafu, mnatakiwa mjifiche. Hivi inakuwajaje? Inakuwa mnamziba macho sijui yule ambaye...kuna mtu mmoja anatakiwa awe...

Upendo: Mtu mmoja anatakiwa asimame pale ambapo kuna lile kopo, halafu wengine wote mnatakiwa mkimbie mwende kujificha. Mkishaenda kujificha, mmoja wenu sasa anatakiwa awaambie “tayari”. Akishasema tu yule “tayari, yule ambaye yupo pale kwenye kopo ambaye ndiye anatakiwa awatafute anaanza sasa kuwatafuta mmoja baada ya mwingine.

Happy: Mmmh! Halafu kopo linakuwa liko pale, kwa mfano inakuwa sasa kopo liko pale ndio limewekwa, anaenda anakutafuta. Kombolela Happy, anarudi, lazima ushike, lazima yeye aliyekuambia...usiposhika, nikaenda nikabutua lile kopo, wewe unaendelea kuzinga, mimi naenda kujificha.

Upendo: Ndio (kicheko).

Happy: Kwa hiyo yaani lazima, ukishaweka kopo, ukiniona tu, kombolela fulani, unaenda unashika kopo. Nimeshika, nimeshika, nimeshika; usiposhika tu nikakuwahi nikaenda nikalibutua, unaanza upya kuzinga mimi narudi kujificha. Kwa hiyo kombolela ni kwa ajili ya watoto wote.

Upendo: Watoto wote. Nakumbuka nilipokuwa mdogo, tulicheza sana huu mchezo wa kujificha

Happy: Kombolela? (kicheko)

Upendo: Yaah! Lakini sasa tulivyokuwa tunacheza ilikuwa ni kwamba, kwa mfano mmoja anaanza yeye kuzinga, labda, labda mpo, mpo sita, mmoja ndio anazinga, kwa hiyo nyie watano ndio mnaenda mnajificha. Kwa hiyo ni kwamba ndio mkishaenda kujificha, kwa hiyo mmoja wenu ni lazima aseme “tayari”. Akishasema tu “tayari”, yule sasa ambaye ndio anaangalia lile kopo ndio anaanza kutafuta. Kwa hiyo atakapoanza kuwatafuta, ni kwamba ilikuwa hawafanyi kama nyie mlikuwa mnafanya labda anashika

kopo halafu anasema kombolela. Ni kwamba akishakuona anasema, “Happy”, kwa hiyo wewe unakuwa huna ujanja, unaenda unakaa pale karibu na kopo. Sasa wewe hutakiwi, kwa sababu yeye ndio anatakiwa awatafute, kwa hiyo saa nyingine utakuta mtu mwingine amejificha hapo umemwona, unakaa kimya, unaacha akizunguka hivi kidogo, yule anaenda anasema’ nimebutuaaa” Kwa hiyo anamwoko a yule ambaye tayari ameshaonekana. Kwa kweli ulikuwa ni mchezo mzuri.

Happy: Sisi ilikuwa ni lazima ushike, usiposhika, akienda tu akalibutua, kwa mfano hata kama mimi ndio umeniona niko pale, kopo liko hapa, wewe umesimama pale, mimi nikitoka speed nikaenda nikalibutua lile kopo, unazinga.(kicheko) Kwa hiyo ulikuwa una-struggle kwenda kulishika lile kopo. Halafu mchezo mwingine ulikuwa unaitwa “maliakobo”.

Upendo: Eeeh! Huo sijawahi kuusikia (kicheko) Unachezwaje huo? Ni wa watoto wadogo?

Happy: Wa watoto wadogo. Unachukua kama kitambaa, unafungwa hapa, ni kama hiyo hiyo seek and hide, lakini hiyo mnakuwa katika chumba kimoja wote. Sasa yule anayewatafuta si anakuwa amejifunga, amej-blind fold, kwa hiyo nyinyi mnakuwa mnakaa. Sasa mnaona kabisa anatafuta. Kwa hiyo akishashika, anatakiwa akushike wewe, halafu akikushika, anatakiwa aseme wewe ni nani? Anakupapasa akuseme wewe ni nani? Sasa ukimwona anakuja, unaweza ukakimbia, ukafanya nini. Lakini watoto wengine wanakuwa wanaweka kidogo, kwa hiyo anakuwa anakuona (kicheko). Mara nyingi mnakuwa hamchezi mbali, mnacheza humo humo ni kama kwenye kichumba kidogo, lakini ndio humo humo. Huyu aliyejifunika sasa ndio akienda kujigongagonga kwenye mavitu, shauri yake.

Upendo: Ohoo!

Happy: Kwa hiyo...*that was it.*

Upendo: OK.

English translation:

Happy: Boys play soccer, and there is another game called *kombolela*.

Upendo: *Kombolela* (laugh)

Happy: *Kombolela* is for both girls and boys. You put out a tin can.

Upendo: Yes, a tin can.

Happy: Then everyone has to hide but I am not sure. How does this work?

Upendo: All of you have to hide and one person is responsible for watching the tin can while searching for you. After all the group hides, one among you should speak out “ready” as a signal for the one who is looking for you. That person starts looking for you, and meanwhile keeps an eye on the tin can.

Happy: The can should be there and a person starts searching for people, like kombolela. If she saw you and mentioned your name, she is required to go and touch the tin. If she doesn't, even if she saw me, I get a chance and go where the can is and kick it. I will go hide again and she will continue to look for me.

Upendo: Yes.

Happy: So it is a must that the person who keeps an eye on the tin can must touch it when she says “*kombolela*” to someone. *Kombolela* is for all children.

Upendo: Yes, it is for all children. I remember when I was young, I used to play hide and seek.

Happy: *Kombolela*? (Laugh)

Upendo: Yes. This is how we played. Let's say you are six people, so one among you is required to guard the tin can and five of you go to hide in different places. One person should say “ready” as a signal that the search person should start looking for you... When she sees one among the five, she just mentions her name, and we didn't do as you did, touching the can. If you are found, there was no way out. You were required to go and sit near the tin waiting for your friends. If it happens you see one of your friends somewhere, you were supposed to keep quiet and the guard was responsible to search. If the guard goes around other way, a person who is near the tin goes quickly and kicks the tin. The one who was found can go and hide again. The guard has to start all over again. It was a good game, but for the guard it was boring. Let's say she succeeded in catching four people, but just one person remained and kicked the tin. She is responsible to catching them again.

Happy: For us, it was a must to touch the tin. We were struggling to touch it because if you say *kombolela* and do not touch the tin, and if I see the tin right there, I could go quickly go speed and kick the tin. Then you would you start all over again searching. Another game was called *maliakobo*.

Upendo: Eh! I have never heard about it. How it is played? Is it a children game?

Happy: Yes, it is a children game. You take a piece of cloth and wrap it around someone's face. It is like hide and seek. But for this game, everyone should be in one room. The one who is trying to find you has a blindfold on her face. You will be sitting down. When she finds someone, she must guess and say who you are. It was fun, because you see her search, but she can't see you. When you see her coming, you go in another direction. Some kids are so curious. They leave a small opening and are able to see and

recognize you (laugh). But it was not supposed to be acted like that. Most of time, you play in a small room, not unlike *kombolela*. The search person has blindfolded her face, and because she can't see, she might hit herself on the wall!

Upendo: Ooh!

Happy: So that was it!

Upendo: Okay.

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