

Swahili transcript:

Upendo: Aaah! Labda tuzungumzie kuhusu fasihi ya kitanzania. Unaweza ukaniambia nini kuhusu fasihi ya kitanzania, ipoje labda, ina mambo gani?

Happy: Aaaah! Fasihi ya kitanzania inajumuisha mambo mengi; kama hadithi, methali, vitendawili, nahau, aah! Vitu kama hivyo.

Upendo: Ok. Na, labda tukianza hadithi; hadithi labda zinatumika vipi yaani katika fasihi ya kitanzania?

Happy: Hadithi kwa mimi ninavyodhani zinatumika katika kufundisha jamii mambo mabalimbali. Kwa mfano ukiambiwa hadithi labda ya sungura na fisi; fisi alikuwa mchoyo, sungura alikuwa hivi. Kwa hiyo yaani..kwa sababu hadithi watoto wengi wanasimuliwa wakiwa wamekaa. Watoto wengi labda na bibi au babu au mtu yeyote yule anayewasimulia. Kwa hiyo watoto wanakuwa wamejifunza kuwa aaah !uchoyo sio mzuri. Au...yaani vitu fulani ambavyo ni mafunzo kwa kweli, nadhani vitu vyote vinajumuisha mafunzo.

Upendo: Ok. Kwa hiyo tuseme hadithi zilitumika katika kuwafundisha watoto labda na watu wengine kuhusiana na mambo ya kimaisha labda, kwamba wasiwe wachoyo, wasiwe wavivu labda, okay. Na je, kuhusu..umezungumzia pia kuhusu methali. Methali utasemaje kuhusu methali labda? Zinafanya vitu gani labda katika jamii ya kitanzania?, au zina umuhimu gani?

Happy: Methali kwa kweli zinatumika na bado zina umuhimu katika kuionya jamii. Kwa mfano, kila methali inakuwa ina ujumbe wake. Unapoambiwa mfano-asiyesikia la mkuu, huvunjika guu.

Upendo: Asiyesikia la mkuu...

Happy: Huvunjika guu.

Upendo: Ina maana gani sasa kwamba asiyesikia la mkuu huvunjika guu?

Happy: Kwamba, usiposikiliza kile unachoambiwa, mabaya yatakupata. Kwa hiyo yaani chochote..methali nyingi zinatumika katika...kwa mfano yaani mtu unapoambiwa neno, wanaweza wakakuwekea kwa methali juu yake ili kuongeza kionjo katika yale mfano maonyo au kitu chochote kile. Kwa hiyo, unavyoambiwa labda kwa mfano-asiyefunzwa na mamaye, hufunzwa na ulimwengu; kwamba usipomsikiliza mama yako, ulimwengu huu ndio utakufunza. Kwamba, mama zetu wanatufunza vitu ambavyo kila siku lazima vitakuwa ni sahihi. Lakini usipomsikiliza mzazi wako, ulimwengu ndio utakufundisha.

Na methali nyingi zinatumika ili kuwaweka watu kujua kwamba usipofanya hiki, basi ujue hiki kitatokea.

Upendo: Ok; aaah!nadhani hiyo ni nzuri sana, na unaweza ukanipa labda methali nyingine ambayo ina mafunzo labda katika jamii, na katika watanzania, watoto, watu wazima..

Happy: Methali nyingine ni kwamba.....najua nyingine za kimbea tu (kicheko)

Upendo: Ok, kwa hiyo methali ni kwamba zilitumika katika kuionya jamii, ku..kwa hiyo zinatumika katika kuionya jamii, na kuielekeza katika mambo mazuri; kwamba asiyesikia la mkuu, huvunjika guu.

Happy: Asiyefunzwa na mamaye hufunzwa na ulimwengu.

Upendo: Kuna methali nyingine naikumbuka ilikuwa inasema-Akili ni mali, Akili ni mali. Je, unaweza ukaniambia nini katika methali kama hiyo? labda ilikuwa inafundisha nini labda jamii ya kitanzania?

Happy: Akili ni mali, nadhani ni kutokana na kwamba yaani kila akili yako wewe ndio mali yako.

Upendo: Ukiwa na maana gani?

Happy: (kicheko) ukiwa na maana kwamba yaani..chochote yaani akili yako uitumie ili kuweza kupata mafanikio. Mimi nadhani ndio hivyo, sidhani kama nipo sahihi sana lakini nadhani ni hivyo kwamba akili yako ndo uitumie sasa ili kuweza kupata nini ..mafanikio

Upendo: Kupata mafaniko

Happy: Mmm!

Upendo: OK.

Happy: Kwa hiyo ni mali, unayo.

Upendo: Aaah! Ok, vizuri. Kwa hiyo, kwa maana hiyo methali zinatumika kuionya jamii na kuifundisha, sio kwa ajili ya watoto tu, ni katika jamii nzima ya kitanzania.

Happy: Yaah! Mara nyingi hadithi watoto huwa wanasimuliwa kwa sababu hadithi ni..yaani ni kama vile unapowasomea watoto wa kizungu walivyozoea kusomewa story; yaani bed time stories; kwamba, hawatalala mpaka wasomewe bed time stories. Ni kama vile sisi watoto wetu wanavyowekwa chini ili kusimuliwa hadithi. Na zile hadithi zinakuwa zinawafunza, wanakuwa wanajua, yaani ni kama vile kiburudisho fulani kwa watoto. Lakini kwa watu wazima..

Upendo: Lakini mbali na kuwa kiburudisho kwa watoto, vilevile zile hadithi zinakuwa zina mafunzo kwao.

Happy: Yaah! Zinakuwa zina mafunzo kwao.

Upendo: OK.

English translation:

Upendo: Let's talk about Tanzanian literature. Can you tell me what is in it?

Happy: Tanzanian literature includes a lot of things, like stories, proverbs, riddles, idiomatic expressions, things like that.

Upendo: Okay. Let's start with stories. How are stories used in Tanzanian literature?

Happy: Stories are used to teach people -- especially young children -- different things about life. For example, in the story about a hyena and a hare; we are told that the hyena was greedy, and the hare was clever. So when young children are told these kinds of stories, they learn that greed is not a good thing. And grandparents are the ones who tell the stories to young children. During storytelling, children sit on the floor.

Upendo: Okay. So stories were used to teach young children and adults things about life, such as that greed and laziness are bad things. Okay. So what about proverbs? What do you do with proverbs; and why are they important to Tanzanian society?

Happy: Proverbs are very important to Tanzanian society, and they are still used to educate people. Each proverb contains a message in it. For example, one proverb says "One who doesn't hear the adult, he will break his leg."

Upendo: Who doesn't hear the adult...?

Happy: He will break his leg.

Upendo: What does it mean?

Happy: It means that if you don't want to listen to what you're told, bad things will happen to you. If someone warns you about something, he can use a proverb to insist on the importance of the thing you have been told. Another proverb says, "The one who was not taught by his mother, the world will teach him." This means if you didn't learn from your mother, the world will teach you. Everyday, our parents tell us important things about life, but if we don't listen to them, bad things will happen to us. Many proverbs teach people to know that if they don't do good things, then bad things will happen to you.

Upendo: There is another proverb which says “Intelligence is wealth.” Can you tell me what does it mean, and what does it teach the Tanzanian society?

Happy: It means your intelligence is your wealth.

Upendo: What do you mean?

Happy: (laughter). It means that in order to succeed, you should use your intelligence, that your intelligence is the key to success.

Upendo: Okay.

Happy: So your intelligence is your wealth.

Upendo: Aaah! Okay. Good. So that means that proverbs are used to teach not only young children, but also the whole Tanzanian society.

Happy: Yeah! In white society, stories are read to children at bedtime, when they are going to sleep. In our society, children sit on the floor during the day for storytelling. Stories entertain and, on the other hand, stories teach children and the whole society.

Upendo: Okay.

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.

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