

CultureTalk Zimbabwe Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Living in a Rural Area

English translation:

A: Can you tell me more about yourself?

B: My birth name?

A: Yes. Otherwise you can tell me any name that you are comfortable with.

B: I am Tsitsi Nhundu.

A: Where were you born and where did you live as you grew up?

B: I was born in Bulawayo and I grew up in Bulawayo. In Bulawayo, I was born in Insiza, Filabusi in the district of Bulawayo, Matabeleland.

A: Can you tell me more about Bulawayo?

B: Umm, Bulawayo is a very big place and it is beautiful. Ah, but it is a place for Ndebele people. I was a Shona but I used to stay in Bulawayo with a lot of Ndebele people.

A: Can you explain what Ndebele is in Zimbabwe?

B: Ndebele is another language that is spoken in Zimbabwe. It is a language that originated in South Africa and it was brought to Zimbabwe. So it is a language which is different from the other languages that are spoken in other places in Zimbabwe. It is only found in the Southern parts of Zimbabwe.

A: Ok. So, can you tell about your education background? For example primary, secondary education? How did it go?

B: I started my primary education in Mutare, where I stayed with my aunt—my brother's sister. I started [primary education] in Mutare in a place called Bocha. I did Sub A. I moved from Bocha when I was in Sub B and I went to the rural areas where my parents came from, in Rusape. I did Sub B, standard one, and standard two. After that, I left Rusape and moved back to Bulawayo, where I was born and also the place where my parents resided. That is the time when grade levels were changed such that we no longer called them Subs but grades. So I did grade four which used to be standard three. After that I did grade five, six, and seven in Mpopoma Primary school in a location in Bulawayo called Mpopoma. I finished my grade seven there and I went to form one. I went to a school which was in Hwange. It was near Hwange, not necessarily in Hwange. It was called Regina Mundi and it was a Catholic school. I did my form one and form two.

Then I left the school during the war. That's the time when the war was taking place. I did form two there and moved to another secondary school that was near Bulawayo, which was David Livingstone Secondary School. I did my form three and form four there.

A: Ok. You once talked about staying in the rural areas. Can you tell us more about the lifestyle in the rural areas?

B: The rural area is good because you can find a lot of things. When the harvest is good, we find a lot of things [crops] near you. You do not need to struggle to find money to buy commodities. We grew maize and we had enough maize to produce mealie-meal. As for meat, we would catch any of the hens that were around the house and we would eat chicken and goats' meat from goats that were reared by my grandfather. I once stayed with my grandparents. We used to have meat anytime. If we did not have meat, during the dry season, we would eat cooked pumpkin leaves as relish or *nyevhe*¹ or any other vegetable that grows naturally, such as okra.

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 every day. 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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¹ Branching herb: *Gynandropsis gynandra* whose leaves are cooked as spinach.(Hannan.96)