

Two People Identify Their Totems

English translation:

Girl: My totem is *Moyo*,¹ *Chirandu*.² I am a *Masithole*.³

A: [to the boy] What is your totem?

Boy: My totem is *Mhofu*. When the elders say it, they say *Mhofuyemukono*.

A: Ha-ha what does that mean?

Boy: *Mhofuyemukono* means the male eland. Like it's the one that is sacred to us, not the *Mhofu*, the wife.

Girl: The big one.

A: Oh!

Boy: *Mhofuyemukono* is the bull. The bull eland. It is called *mhofuyemukono* but it becomes different when we move from that because some will be called the *Mwendamberi*, like us. These are the *Mwendamberi zongororo kunava*.⁴

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.

© 2013 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated

¹ This is a type of a totem.

² This is a group that falls under the totem *Moyo*.

³ This is sub-clan name for females whose totem is *Moyo*.

⁴ This is a name given to a type of *Mhofu* totem