

Moroccan Arabic transcript:

ن: يعني تعاملك مع الناس, مع الطلبة الامريكان, هل فيه مش ال cultural shock و لكن cultural differences؟
ب: آآ كان فيه, كان إختلاف ثقافي من ناحية آآ العلاقات ما بينهم و ما بين بعضياتهم لان نحن مثلا في المغرب
ماولفة كتكلم علي شي كتكون قريب له يعني آآ قريب له الي في آآ حتي المسافة كتكون بينك و بينه كتكون قريبة, هنا
لا هنا خاصك تتكلم و أنت بعيد يعني ما كشي مثلا... نقدر يكون ميتر بيناتكم ما يمكنش, كتحس ديما بانه كاين وحد
الحاجز بينك و بين الشخص ألي كتتكلم معه يعني واخة كان تكلم معه المرة اللولة و الثانية و الثالثة, تلقى ديما ذاك
الحاجز كاين. بحيث ان مثلا في المغرب الي دويتي شي حد, تكلمتي معه المرة اللولة و تفاهمتو كتولو اصدقاء يعني
هذالك الحواجز غادو كتعيدهم, هنا لا آآ هنا ثاني كتهدر و خصك كان منين تبدا تتكلم كتخصك ترد البال تجرح هذالك
الواحد, تقول شي كلمة ما خصهاش تقال لان ثقافة مختلفة آآ مكتعرفش كيفاش تتصرف بعض المرات, واش خصني
نمد يدي باش نسلم ولا ما خصنيش نمدها؟ واش خصني نسول هذا السوؤال ولا ما خصنيش نسوله؟ واش الشخص
قادي هذا الشي يكون محرج له ولا لا؟ فهنا يعني قيل ما نجبو كانت عندنا فكرة ولكن واخة تعرف كانش حالة ماشي
كيف الي عشتي مع ال آآ الثقافة, عشتي مع الناس ديال ذاك آآ لبلاد و الثقافة ألي هي غريبة عليك واخة تقرى حتي
تعبا في لكتوب, ماشي بحال الي عشتي فيها.

English translation:

N: From your interactions with people here and with American students, was there any cultural shock—not cultural shock, but rather any cultural differences?

B: Yes, there were some cultural differences, especially when it comes to relationships between people. In Morocco, I am used to being close to the person I am speaking with—close to him/her even in the distance between us. Here, you need to talk to the person from a far distance. For instance, the distance between us could be one meter and you always feel that there is a separation between you and the person you are speaking with. Even when you talk to the same person the first and subsequent time, you always feel the presence of that separation. While, in Morocco, if you talk to someone for the first time and you understand each other, this separation will be gone. This is not the case here; when you talk to someone, you need to pay attention to what you say in case you hurt that person or say something that is not supposed to be said because of cultural differences. This puts you in a position where you do not know how to behave in most cases. For instance, you do not know how to greet people: can you shake hands or not, can you ask this specific question or can you not, will whatever I say be unpleasant to that person or not? I had an idea before I came here, but it is different once you are on the ground even if you had known about the cultural differences. It is never the same as if you live in the culture and with the people from that country.

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