

CultureTalk Albania Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>  
**Childhood Education**

Southern Albanian Dialect

**Albanian transcript:**

1: Mirembrema!

2: Mirembrema!

1: Tashti, per me fillu kete bisede..

2: Po...

1: ...kishte kene mire qe me pershku ne fillim qytetin qe ke linde ndoshta, ose vendin ku je rrite, shkollen – fillore, te mesme, sistemin e shkollës, cado qe ty te duket interesante apo me randesi.

2: Nga femijeria ime?

1: Femijeria...

2: Po. Une jam lindur ne nje qytet, Gjirokaster dhe jam rritur ne Fier, qe eshte qytet tjetër. Tashi nga Gjirokastra ne jemi shperngulur kur une kam qene 5 vjec. Kam kujtime, po jane te hershme. Ndersa une shumicen e jetes femijerore e kam kaluar ne Fier. Si mund ta shpjegoj Fierin? Ka qene, eshte akoma nje qytet qe me sa po kuptoj ne retrospective eshte nje nga ato qytetet qe ne i quajme jo-..., nuk jane te njellojshme por ka pasur njerez te llojeve te ndryshme. Jo si psh Gjirokastra qe ka gjirokastrite ose Korca qe ka korcare, Shkodra i ka shkodrane. Fieri ka pase njerez gjithandej per arsye te industrise. Ka qene TEC-i, kane qene kosovaret, nejse. Keto deomos ne drite negative. Thuheshin gjithmone qe Fieri eshte qytet i keq per keto arsye, keshtu qe ne si familje perpiqeshim te minimizonim...

1: Efektin negativ...

2: Efektin negativ te kesaj gjese qe sot ne e quajme pluralizem. Keshtu qe si qytet, qytet i vogel. Shqiptaret, sic i di ti, sa veta mund te kete pasur, disa mije, pesedhete mije, gjashtedhete mije. Dicka e tille ma do mendja. Nuk jam i sigurt por dicka e tille. Jo tre mije, jo njeqind mije, dicka ne mes. Ka pasur dy bulevarde kryesore paralel me njeri tjetrin. Shpija jone ka qene ne mes te nje rruge qe i bashkonte te dyja bulevardet. Keshtu qe kemi qene relativisht ne qender. Ka pasur, ka qene bar “Rinia”, keshtu qe mbaj mend jeshil-llek, edhe... Dmth mua pergjithesisht me ka pelqyer si qytet. Une fillova ne nje shkolle qe ka qene shume afer shpise. Aq afer sa degjoja zilen kur fillonte mesimi dhe ndonjehere vrapoja. Pastaj, keto kane qene kater vitet e para. Kater vitet qe eshte fillorja, sic e dime, ne sistemin shqiptar. Sistemin tete-vjecar kam shkuar...shkolla e pare ka qene

“Jakov Xoxa”. Shkolla e dyte ka qene 10 minuta me kembe larg shpise. Ok, 15 minuta ndoshta. Ajo ka qene “Andon Xoxa”. Keta ishin dy vellezerit deshmore te Fierit, keshtu qe kane marre emrat (shkollat). “Andon Xoxa” kane qene mbi njerem nga keto bulevardet. Eshte mbajtur si shkolla tete-vjecare me e mire e gjithë qytetit. Sic qe ishte qytet i madh, kishte disa (shkolla), kjo qe nje nga me te mirat. Ka qene, nje faqe e ndertesës shikonte rrugen kryesore, por ka pasur kopesht nga ana tjeter. Keshtu qe ka pase kete ndjesine qe jemi larg trafikut te mundshem. Kam kalu nje ndjesi te mire dmth, mua me pelqejne kujtimet e shkolles. Ty te kam treguar edhe fotografite, me Juneta Dumin andej ketej. Keshtu qe...kjo, kjo eshte femijeria ime. Nuk ka shume, nuk ka ngjarje dramatike por qe...

1: Persa i perket shkolles se mesme

2: Shkolla e mesme...

1: Ku e ke filluar shkollen e mesme, ku e ke kryer. Anglishtja, persa i perket anglishtes, a ishte e detyrueshme ne shkolla, kur ishte e detyrueshme ne shkolla, pse ishte e detyrueshme, nese...

2: Po, po. Kjo eshte...pyetje me fat. Sepse une jam njeri qe edhe di shume gjuhe edhe mbaj mend si i kam mesuar, dhe kush m'i ka mesuar, dhe pse i kam mesuar. Ne fillim kam mesuar frengjishten, qe ne tetevjecare, qe ne shkolle fillore. Aspak e detyrueshme. U be me vone. Pasi e kaluam, pasi moshë ime i kaloi kete system shkollor.

1: Pas brezit tand.

2: Pas brezit tone. Po une kam mesuar frengjisht per arsye se te dy prinderit e mij, qe te dy, sidomos babi, e kane konsideruar veten intelektuale. Ne familjet intelektuale te gjithë Evropes Lindore, me sa vura re me vone, mesonin frengjisht. Ajo ka qene “lingua franca”, edhe termi eshte frengjisht. Kete e kam filluar kur kam qene ne klase te dyte. I bjen te kem qene rreth shtate tete vjec. Deri sa kam vajtur ne klase te katert, ne klase te peste. Ne ate pike kam perkthyer ne shqip librin e Alfons Dodese, “Gjeja e vogel”, “Le petit chouse”, dhe kam qene ne gjendje te beja perkthime simultane. Sot e kesaj dite di, mbaj mend shume pak. Por kam pasur kontroll mbi kete gjuhe.

### **English translation:**

1: Good evening!

2: Good evening!

1: Now, to start with ...

2: Yes.

1: Maybe you could describe the city where you were born and raised, your school – elementary, high school etc. ... anything you consider interesting or important.

2: From my childhood?

1: Childhood, yes.

2: Well, I was born in Gjirokaster and raised in Fier, which is another city. We left Gjirokastra when I was five. I have memories but only distant ones. Most of my childhood passed in Fier. How can I explain Fier? It has been a city that, as I understand it, now in retrospective is considered as ... well, that had people from different backgrounds and places, unlike Gjirokastra, Korca or Shkodra, where people are mostly local. Fier had people from everywhere because it was an industrial city. There was TEC (thermocentral), kosovars ... all these under a slightly negative light. Fier was not held in high esteem because of these reasons, and of course, we as a family tried to minimize it ...

1: The negative effect ...

2: The negative effect of what we call today pluralism. It was not a big city. In Albania, as you know, cities had fifty, sixty thousand. Something around those numbers, I assume. Not three thousand, not a hundred thousand, something in between. There were two main avenues parallel to each other. Our house was in a street connecting these avenues. So, we lived quite close to the city center. There was a bar called *Rinia* (Youth), I remember a lot of green spaces ... Personally, I liked it as a city. I started at a school very close to my house. When I'd hear the bell, I'd run to class at times from my home. That's how close it was. This was for four years -- as we know, the elementary school in Albanian education system. The middle school I went to was "Jakov Xoxa." Another one I also went to was 10 minutes walk from my house, and it was called "Andon Xoxa." These two were two martyr brothers whose names were given to these schools. "Andon Xoxa" was right next to one of the avenues, and it was considered the best middle school of the city. There were several schools in the city, and this was one of the best. One side of the school building faced the avenue while the other side was surrounded by a garden. I had a good time. I have good memories from the school. I've even shown you pictures, with Juneta Dumi ... This is my childhood; there are not many dramatic events ...

1: About the high school.

2: The high school.

1: Where did you go to high school, where did you graduate? English, as a foreign language, was it required? Why was it required?

2: Yes, yes. Good that you asked me that question because I know languages, and I remember how and why I learned them, who taught them to me. I started with French from the elementary school, not compulsory at the time, but it became compulsory later.

1: After your generation.

2: After our generation. I learned French because both my parents, especially my father, considered themselves intellectuals. In Eastern Europe, as I learned later, the intellectual families learned French. It was the *lingua franca*; the term is French also [the speaker is in error; *lingua franca* is Italian]. I started learning when I was in second [grade in] elementary school, about seven years old, until fourth or fifth grade. At that time, I remember translating into Albanian the book of Alphonse Daudet, *The Little Thing (Le petit chose)*, and I was capable of translating quite well. Today I don't remember much, but I had a good command of French.

**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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