

CultureTalk Albania Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>  
**On the Purpose of Education**

Southern Albanian Dialect

**Albanian transcript:**

1: Do te kthehem edhe nji here te shkolla e mesme. Cfare... pervec pervojes tende personale ne shkollen e mesme, cfare mendon ti per rendesine e shkolles se mesme ne Shqiperi, ne Fier? Per shkollen e mesme dhe shkollen e larte. Si, a inkurajohet arsimimi, deri kur inkurajohet arsimimi?

2: Po. Tani per... e ke fjalen pak me ne pergjithesi apo ne vecanti keto te mijat?

1: Edhe te tuejat, edhe ne rrethin tend, ndoshta, te ngushte dhe te gjere familjar, dhe ne te njejtën kohe edhe opinionin jot ne lidhje me realitetin shqiptar.

2: Tani, per sa kohe qe isha ne Fier, qe u largova pas semestrit te pare te shkolles se mesme une gjithmone kam qene ne institucionet me te mira te qytetit. Dhe kjo nuk eshte nje coincidence, vjen... ka lidhje direkt me faktin qe mami im ishte mesuese ne gjimnazin me te mire te Fierit, dhe ata gjithmone, pavaresisht se ne cfare lagjieje mund te jetoja une – une zaten jetoja ne lagjien e duhur (ne lidhje me regjistrimin ne shkollen per te cilen po flitet), edhe sikur mos te jetoja me fushin ne shkollen e duhur, per arsye se kishin fuqi prinderit e mi. Cfare rendesie ka edukimi? Edukimi ne Shqiperi... kjo eshte pyetje qe une duhet t'i pergjigjem... ka nje pergjigje dhe inkurajuese dhe jo-inkurajuese sic e shikoj une kete pune. Pse?

1: Perfshiji te dyja, pa frike.

2: Pa frike, patjeter. Edukimi eshte jo vetem qendror por eshte nga menytrat e vetme per cfare kemi mesuar me vone qe quhet "rritje sociale" ose "siguri". Sepse, pavaresisht se regjimi komunist ka qene shume... si i themi ne shqip... i shtrenguar dhe i mbante njerzit neper... dmth, menyra e vetme per te siguruar nje jetese disi me te mire, e vetmja, ka qene edukimi.

1: Mund te perdoresh dhe fjale anglisht ...

2: Rixhide (rigid).

1: ... bashke me ato shqip nqs te duket se eshte, se ploteson idene.

2: Mire, s'po sforcohem me tej. Keshtu qe edukimi ka qene qendror. Dhe nuk ka qene vetem edukimi formal, por njerzitet jane perpjekur t'u japin femijeve dhe gjuhe te huaja jashte edukimit formal, t'i japin komplet bagazhin e, bie fjala, letersise boterore, klasike. Qe eshte nje botekuptim nje cike me i gjere i edukimit. Jo thjesht ca vete ne shkolle, po nje edukim me i gjere. Problemi me te, sic e shikoj sot e kesaj dite, sic e kuptoj une tani ne retrospective, eshte qe ... e para, nuk ka pasur nje fokus qe... dmth ka qene shume

strikte cilat dege jane me te mire se cilat dege te tjera, ose cili femije eshte me i mire per edukim, dhe cili femije nuk eshte dhe aq i mire per edukim. Keshtu qe, ka pasur edukimi nje rendesi maksimale, por kjo rendesi ka pasur nje natyre dogmatike. E ke parasysh ca po them? Qe edhe ka qene e rendesise maksimale ne nivele te papara ndonjehere ne asnje vend ne jeten time ku kam qene, perfshire Turqi, Poloni apo Amerike, po nga ana tjeter ka pasur nje natyre dogmatike. Dmth, shtrydh trute dhe meso pese gjuhe te huaja. Nuk ka rendesi. Vetem fakti qe di pese gjuhe eshte nje 'achievement', nuk e di si ta them ne shqip.

1: Eshte nje arritje ne vetvete.

2: Nje arritje... Nuk eshte puna qe, OK, ti po pergatitesh per nje karriere per nje film gjerman, atehere meso gjermanisht se kjo te hap rrugen. Eshte thjesht, ti nqs di pese gjuhe te huaja dmth qe ia theve hunden femijes se familjes se tjetrit qe ka kater gjuhe te huaja. Dhe kjo vazhdon... Vetem vitin e fundit e te parafundit, dmth 2005/2006-ta kane filluar lajmet qe shqiptaret me se fundi nuk po dynden ne juridik dhe mjekesi. Qe per mua si Ervin, domethenia e kesaj eshte qe njerezit ne fund kane filluar te largohen pak nga dogmatika e "doktori dhe avokati", dhe kane filluar... ka dhe shkenca sociale, ka dhe teknologjie, kompjuteri, andej ketej. Keshtu qe kjo eshte situata e institucionit te edukimit ne Shqiperi.

### **English translation:**

1: I will go back one more time to the topic of high school. What ... other than your own experience in high school, what do you think of the importance of high school in Albania, in Fier? ... high school and college? How ... or is education encouraged and to what degree?

2: Yes. Now about ... are you talking about [experience] in general or more specifically about my experiences?

1: Yours and the circle around you, and at the same time I want your opinion with regard to the Albanian reality.

2: Now, for as long as I have been in Fier ... I left after the first semester in high school. I have been in the best institutions of the city. This is not a coincidence. It comes ... it has to do with the fact that my mother was a teacher in one of the best high schools in Fier, and they always, independently of which neighborhood I lived in, would also put me in the best school because of the power my parents had. What is the importance of education? Education in Albania ... this is a question that I should answer ... the way I see it, it has an answer that is encouraging and another that is discouraging. Why?

1: Include both of them without fear.

2: Without fear, of course. Education is not only central, but it is also one of the only ways that we have learned later what is called "social climbing" or "security" because,

even though the communist regime was very ... how do we say in Albanian .... Strict, and it kept the people ... meaning, the only way to have a secure future, the only, was education.

1: You can use words in English as well ...

2: Rigid.

1: ... together with the Albanian ones (words) if you think that it completes the idea.

2: Okay, I will not strain about it any longer. Therefore education was central. It wasn't only formal education, but people tried to give their children foreign languages outside of formal education, to give them baggage [cultural knowledge], which means world literature, classics ... which is very well-rounded, not only what you learn in school but also more broadly. The problem with it, the way I see it to this day, the way I understand it now in retrospect, is that ... first of all, there wasn't a focus that ... meaning it was very strict in terms of which major was better, or which child was better for education and which child wasn't. Therefore education was of maximum importance, but this importance had a dogmatic nature. You know what I mean? It had that importance that I had never seen anywhere including Turkey, Poland or the United States, but on the other side, it had a dogmatic nature. Basically study your brains out and learn five foreign languages. It is not important. Only the fact that you know five languages is an achievement, I don't know how to say it in Albanian.

1: It is an achievement in itself.

2: An achievement ... It is not, like, okay, you are preparing yourself for a career for a German movie, than study German because this will lead your way. It is only a matter that if you know these five languages then you would have broken the nose of the other children in another family because they only know four languages (showing off) ... and this goes on ... Only last year and the year before that, meaning 2005, 2006, the news started to say that Albanians have started to turn to something else other than law and medicine. And to me as Ervin, the meaning of this occurrence is that people have started to move away little by little from the dogma of "doctor and lawyer" and have started ... to think that there are also social sciences, technology, computers etc. So then, this is the situation of the institution of education in Albania.

**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.