

CultureTalk Albania Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>  
**Language Learning in School**

Southern Albanian Dialect

**Albanian transcript:**

1: Sic mund ta mbash mend edhe ti si Fatos, ne shkollë, gjuha fillonte ne klasen e peste, qe eshte viti i pare i shkolles tetevjecare. I katervjecarit te dyte te tetevjecares. Neve ne qytetin... Ka pasur disi, pak larmi net e gjithë Shqiperine, me sa kam mesuar me vone. Por shkolla standarte e normale shqiptare ka dhene alternativa midis rusishtes, anglishtes ose frengjishtes. Ne shkollen tone vecanerisht rusishtja ka qene track-u ose I njerezve qe ishin nxenes te keqinj, ose qe s'kishin miq. Per arsye ideologjike rusishtja ishte e padeshirueshme. Komunizmi ishte ne fazat e, dmth. Po bejme fjale per vitet...cfare viti kemi qene ne? Vitet e parafundit qe, e kupton, Rusia u shpernda, e komunizmi...Keshtu qe...keshtu qe nejse. Rusishtja – e merrnin vetem femijet qe s'kishin prinder me influence ne shkollë, ose ishin nxenes te keqinj. Une isha edhe nxenes i mire, edhe me influence. Une zgjodha anglishten.

2: Me nji fjale, anglishtja ose frengjishtja, ne keto raste ishte njefare statusi.

1: Patjeter, patjeter. Erka, motra ime qe ka qene dy vjet para meje ne sistemin shkollor zgjedhi frengjishten. Dhe per kete arsye, sot e kesaj dite ajo e flet frengjishten me mire se une. Ndersa une zgjodha anglishten. Pervec kesaj kam vajtur edhe ne kurs privat per anglisht. Por qe baza, ose sot e kesaj dite mbaj mend qe ne klase te peste fillore, qe I bie te kem qene 12 vjec, une kam pasur kater fletore per anglishten. Fletore e detyrave te shpise, fletore e ushtrimeve qe benim ne klase, fletora ku mbushja dy rreshta me cdo fjale te re ne anglisht per cdo mesim, dhe fletorja e katert me fjalorin e ri ku shkruan si perkthehet cdo fjale. E kupton? Ajo fletore me perpara ka qene praktika, cdo fjale e shkruaja dy rresht. Keshtu qe ka qene nji... dhe sot e kesaj dite, une e pranoj kete si nje menyre ideale per te mesuar nje gjuhe te huaj.

**English translation:**

1: As you probably remember, Fatos, in school, foreign language started in fifth grade. This is the first year of the eighth year of schooling, the second four years. In our city ... later on I found out that there were wide arrays of choices. But the standard in Albania has always been in choosing among Russian, English or French. The students who took Russian were considered to be bad kids or those who didn't have any friends (people they know who could help them out to take the classes they wanted.). For ideological reasons Russian was undesirable. Communism was in the phases of, meaning, we are talking about the years, what year were we in? The last years when Russia dispersed, and communism ...therefore ... anyways. Russian children who had parents who didn't have an influence in the school took it, or those who were bad kids. I was a good kid and one with influence. I chose English.

2: In a way, English or French had a type of status.

1: Yes, of course. Erka, who was in school two years before me, chose French. It is for this reason that even to this day she speaks better French than I do. On the contrary, I chose English. I also took some private course for English (outside of class). But the basis of the language, I learned it when I was in fifth grade and only twelve years old, in which I had four notebooks for it. One notebook for homework, one for class work, a notebook where we wrote a word many times over, and the fourth notebook was a dictionary one, where we wrote all of the new words plus their definitions. You understand? That was the practice we got, writing the word over again. Even to this day, I think that this is the ideal way to learn a foreign language.

**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.

© 2003-2009 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated