

CultureTalk Albania Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>  
**Experiences Studying Abroad**

Southern Albanian Dialect

**Albanian transcript:**

1. ... mbasi kryet universitetin ne Stamboll, kryet masterin per nje vit ne Poloni, dhe pastaj ardhjet ne ...

2. Universitetin e Qytetit te New York-ut.

1. Nqs ka ndonje ndryshim, ndonje diference qe ia vlen te nenvizohet ne lidhje me keto tre pervoja, apo kater – po pershij edhe Shqiperine.

2. Po.

1. Po them tre, kater shtete te ndryshme. Shqiperia, Turqia, Polonia dhe Amerika. Nqs ka dicka qe ti e mendon se eshte e rendesishme, si nje ndryshim themelor apo si nji ngjashmeri themelore xhanem...

2. Midis ketyre?

1. Midis ketyre. Qofte ne pervojen tande, qofte opinioni jot si vezhgues prej jashte ndoshta.

2. Po. Te kater keto shtete kane dicka shume te perbashket, ambicjen time personale. Tani, ca dua te them me kete? Kur isha ne shkolle tete-vjecare, ne shkolle te mesme une isha thjesht femije i prinderve familje e mire. Nuk mesoja shume, kam qene gjithmone shume i zgjuar, kam lexuar jashte mase, prandaj mbaj size. Jo si me shan babi qe shikoja televizorin nga afer. Arsyjeja ka qene qe lexoja deri ne tre te nates, qe kur kam qene femije. Keshtu qe deri ne Turqi kisha pak force, kontroll mbi fatin tim si Ervin. Keshtu qe rashe ne Bogazici, shume me fat. Dhe Bogazici-ja ka qene edukim i shkelqyer, per arsye se kishte dhe menyre, kishte dhe modelin e edukimit amerikan, ku nji person si une lulezoi, por nga ana tjeter mbajti, ka njefare serioziteti te cilin Amerika ne shumicen e kohes e ka humbur sot per sot. Ne Amerike nuk... me sa shikoj une keto dite kur hyn per doktorature nuk (si i thone 'yatirmak') investon. Njerezit nuk jane te interesuar te investojne mbi ty si student, njerezit jane te interesuar te te shtrydhin ty si student per qellime institucionale etj etj. Ketu ka me shume leke po ka me pak investim mbi ty si student. Keshtu qe Bogazici-ja ishte nje moment i shkelqyer ne jeten time per arsye se mora gjithë Ameriken, ose ate qe ne e quajme Amerike, pa veset qe ka zhvilluar Amerika per arsye te ...

1. Moret vetem anet positive.

2. Vetem anet pozitive dhe me një idealizem që në sytë e mi Amerika e ka humbur. Flas nga eksperiencia ime që nuk është 'Ivy League', kështu që 'Amerika ime'. Kështu që ky që Bogazici-ja. Polonia për mua ishte një fat një vjeçar. Une e dija që doja të vija në Amerikë. Me pyetje përpara, para se ta ndalonim, pse CUNY (City University of New York)? Ti e di që une jam shumë i afert me motren time, dhe në donim të ishim në mos në të njëjtin universitet, afër njeri tjetrit. Tani në momentin që ti thua këto e ke reduktuar Amerikën në tre vende, Kaliforni, New York, Boston. Këto janë qendrat ku mund të jesh afër. Kështu që une aplikova në nëntë vende, përfshirë Columbia-n, UC at Irvine, Toronto University, York University. Gjithmë ideja ka qenë që doja të vija diku afër me Erken. I vetmi që me ka pranuar është CUNY, dhe pa bursë. Kjo ndodhi në 2001-shin. Kështu që une erdha përgjate verës, u mora vesht që të gjeja ndonjë bursë, të shikoja si behen këto punë. Doli puna e Polonisë, shans. U thashe këtyre po iki për një vit me qëllimin për t'u kthyer. Ika në Poloni. Në Poloni une kam bërë pushim. Nuk kam... Kam pasur një edukim, e kupton? Nxënësit në Poloni kanë qenë komplet Evropë Lindore. Une s'kam të bëj fare me Evropën Lindore, për arsye se une vajta në Turqi. Turqia është me Amerikë se Amerika, universiteti im. Kështu që une...

1. Kur thua Turqia i referohesh Bogazici-se.

2. I referohem Bogazici-se. Dhe është muhabet i gjatë. Nuk është thjesht Bogazici-ja. Kështu që në Poloni një vit, akoma nuk e kam degree-në nga Polonia. Kam bërë studime për master por nuk e kam marrë masterin. Është punë... mund t'i coj tani një detyrë të gjatë dhe e marr por nuk e kam bërë. Kështu që Polonia ishte një moment. Dhe une erdha në CUNY. Pse erdha në CUNY? Puna e parë që ka qenë në New York, dhe ka qenë afër Erkes, që motra ime është në Rutgers University, e dyta, gjithmë New York-u është New York, ka pasur emer. Është tjetër gjë të jesh... Kalifornia është dhe një cike gjeografikisht larg për mendjen tonë, plus që dhe nuk na doli gjë. New York është i vetmi që doli kështu që jam i gezuar. Dhe e treta; une aplikova dhe në universitete shumë të mira si Columbia, që kanë emer, megjithatë sociologjine nuk e kanë aspak të mirë nëq me pyet mua. Po punë është që ata nuk me pranuan dhe nga njera anë bene mire. Se une nuk jam student, dmth tipi i nxënësit tim nuk është tip që meson ditë e natë. Është shumë e nevojshme për mua kjo liria personale e një studenti. Po universitetet si Columbia që janë 'result oriented', ata nuk tolerojnë nxënësit si puna ime. Ndërsa nxënësit si puna ime lulezojnë shkelqyer në një ambient si CUNY ku ka 'support' por vetëm po e kerkove. Po nuk e kerkove të lenë në punën tënde.

1. Ka fleksibilitet.

2. Ka fleksibilitet shumë të madh. Për këto arsye CUNY është një shkollë e tmerrshme për studente që nuk e kanë marrë rrugën në jetë apo në disiplinë. Ndërsa për një njeri si une që e mori rrugën që nga Bogazici-ja CUNY është i shkelqyer. Se kam gjithë lirinë personale që më duhet, për njëkohësisht gjithë personat që më duhen i kam atje që perseri që t'i therras në ndihmë. Dhe është pikërisht kjo që une po bëj me studimet e mia.

**English translation:**

1. ... after you completed the university in Istanbul, you did your masters in one year in Poland, than you came to ...

2. The University of the City of New York.

1. If there is a difference, a difference that is worth mentioning concerning these three experiences, or four, including Albania?

2. Yes.

1. I'll say three, four different states, Albania, Turkey, Poland, and America. Do you think there is something that you think is important. Like a fundamental change?

2. In between these?

1. In between these ... something coming out of your personal experience or something that you have observed from outside maybe?

2. Yes. All four of these countries have something very similar together, my personal ambition. Now, what do I want to say with this? When I was in elementary and middle school, in high school I was simply a kid of a good family. I didn't study a lot. I was always very bright. I had read a lot; that's why I have glasses and not because my dad says I'm too close to the TV when I'm watching it. The reason was that I read until three in the morning when I was a kid. So, until Turkey I had some strength, control over my fate as Ervin (his name). So I got to Bogazici, very lucky. And Bogazici was a fine education because they had a way ... it was modeled after American education, where a person like me flourished, but on the other hand it keeps a type of seriousness that schools in America have lost for now. In America, you don't ... as far as I can see these days, when you try to get a PhD, they do not invest. People are not interested to invest in you like a student. They are interested in draining you as a student for institutional reasons, etc., etc. In America, there is more money involved, but less investment in you as a student. So Bogazici was an excellent moment in my life for the reason that I harnessed America, or what we call America.

1. You only took the positive parts.

2. Only the positive side and with an idealization that in my eyes America has lost. This was Bogazici. Poland for me was a one year deal. I knew I wanted to come to America. You asked me before, before we stopped, why CUNY (City University of New York)? You know that I am very close to my sister, and we wanted to be close to each other if not the same university. At the moment you say this; you have reduced America to three possible places, California, New York, and Boston. These are the big centers where you can be close. So I applied in nine places, including Columbia, UC at Irvine, Toronto University, New York University. The idea was always to go somewhere near Erka (his

sister). The only place that accepted me was CUNY and with no scholarships. This happened in 2001. So I came during the summer, I found a way to get a scholarship. I found out how these things worked. Then Poland came, luck. I told them I was leaving for Poland with the intention of coming back. I went to Poland. In Poland it was like a vacation. I don't have . . . I got an education, understand me? The students in Poland were all from Eastern Europe. I know nothing about Eastern Europe for the reason that I went to Turkey. Turkey is more American than America. So I . . .

1. When you say Turkey, you are referring to Bogazici?

2. I am referring to Bogazici. It's a long story. It's not as simple as Bogazici. So in Poland for a year, I still have not gotten my degree from Poland. I have studied for my masters, but I couldn't get my master. It's a matter of . . . I can send them now a long project but I haven't done it. So Poland was just a moment. And I came to CUNY. Why did I come to CUNY? First, because it was in New York, and was near Erka, my sister who went to Rutgers University. Second New York is New York. It has a name. It's another thing to be . . . California is geographically a bit far for our mind, and also nothing was there. New York was the only place I could go because it was the only place where I got accepted and I was happy. And third, I applied to very good universities like Columbia that are famous, even though their sociology is not that good, if you want my opinion. The thing is that they didn't accept me, and it was a good thing on one side. I am not the kind of student, meaning a student like me is not the type that studies day and night. It's very important for me to have that personal freedom of a student. Universities like Columbia that are more result-oriented don't tolerate students like me. Student like me flourish excellently in an environment like CUNY where there is support but only if you ask for it. If you don't ask for it, they leave you doing your own thing.

1. There is flexibility.

2. There is a huge amount of flexibility. For this reason CUNY is a terrific school for people who do not know what they are doing yet or need discipline. On the other hand for a student like me who was more oriented from Bogazici, CUNY is excellent. I have all the personal freedom that I need, but at the same time everyone I need I have there in case I ever need help. This is exactly what I'm doing with my studies.

**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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