

A Croatian Water Sport

Croatian transcript:

U Splitu imamo jedan specifični sport, to vam je picigin, znači igra se u moru, na našoj najpoznatijoj plaži koja se zove Bačvice. U biti, na Bačvicama... Bačvice su vam pune pijeska. Imate onako pličak, ogromni pličak, znači da dođete do dubine morate uuhu pješačit, a pošto smo mi lini¹, uglavnom se zadržavamo, je li, uz obalu. Voda vam dođe, recimo, do ovdje, znači do gležnja, i to su idealni uvjeti za igrat picigin.

Picigin se igra sa ovalnim balunom², znači to je jedna mala, ka³ je li, loptica, koja je mekana, ali ne znači premekana. Uglavnom, igrača bude recimo, ne znam, od pet do deset, ovisi. Uglavnom su poredani, znači⁴, uglavnom su onako je li organizirani, smješteni je li u jedan krug, i igra se čisto, znači, dodavaju se s tim balunom, i poanta je u tome da balun ne smi⁵ past u vodu. I stvarno, oni pravi piciginaši, oni će dat sve od sebe da taj balun ne padne, znači tu ima hrpu bacanja, onako čak i ozljeda, ne znam, jer kad vi padnete, onako, jednom jakim silinom o tu vodu koja je dubine ovako, stvarno vas zaboli. Međutim, to njih nije briga jer su stvarno uživljeni.

Eto, bilo je kao, uglavnom se kao zezaju da će taj sport postat olimpijski sport pa organiziraju ka' neka svjetska prvenstva u piciginu. To uglavnom budu znači Splićani, ali eto, oni su to tako prozvali, ka' svjetsko prvenstvo, je li. Fora je u tome šta⁶ oni to igraju tijekom cijele godine, pa ono bude zanimljivo, ne znam, zimi, onako, novogodišnje reportaže, 1.1. vi vidite Splićane kako, je li, na svojim Bačvicama igraju picigin. Uglavnom igraju muški, ali, naravno, ima i žena, je li.

¹ *Lini* (standard Croatian: *lijeni*, lit. trans. “lazy”): This speaker speaks in a slight coastal dialect or *ikavica*.

² *Balun* (Italian: *pallone*, standard Croatian: *lopta*, trans. “ball”). *Ikavica* dialect borrows certain terms from Italian, such as this one.

³ *Ka'*: shorter version of *kao* (lit. trans. “like”). This shortening of certain words is characteristic of *ikavica*.

⁴ *Znači*: (lit. trans. “meaning”) A filler more common in South Serbia and northern Montenegro than in Croatia. In this transcript, it was translated as “I mean” to clearly mark it as a filler in English as well. Please note that this word has other meanings, and that it sometimes might be difficult to discern whether it is a filler or a regular part of speech.

⁵ *Smi'*: shorter version of *smije* (v. *smjeti*, lit. trans. “may”, “dare to”).

⁶ *Šta* (standard Croatian: *što*, lit. trans. “why”): change of vowels in words ending with “o” is characteristic of *ikavica*.

English translation:

We have a specific sport in Split called *picigin*. It's a water sport, played at the sea, at our most famous beach called Bačvice. Basically, at Bačvice... Bačvice is a sandy beach. The water is shallow, very shallow, which means that in order to reach any depth you need to walk quite a while, and since we are lazy, we mostly stick with the shore. Water needs to be about up to here, which means up to your ankles, and that is ideal for playing *picigin*.

Picigin is played with a ball of approximately this size; it's a rather small ball. It has to be soft, but not too soft. Generally there are about five to ten players, it depends. They are mostly placed, I mean, they are generally organized, positioned in a circle, and you basically, I mean, have to pass the ball. The goal is not to drop the ball into the water. And really, those serious *picigin* players, they will do their best not to drop this ball, which means that there is a lot of jumping and falling, even injuries, because when you fall with a lot of force into the water, which is about this deep, it really hurts. However, they don't care because they are really into it.

In any case, there was a... they often joke how this sport will become an Olympic sport at some point, so they organize the so-called "World Championship" in *picigin*. Almost all of [the participants] are from Split, but that is what they call it, a "World Championship," right? The thing is, they play it year-round, so it is interesting to see it in the winter; for example, in the news on New Year's Day, it's January 1st and people from Split are playing *picigin* at their Bačvice. It's mostly men who play, but of course, there are also women.

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