

Origin of the Necktie

Croatian transcript:

Specifičnost kulturalna, u vezi s Hrvatskom jest kravata. To je ona vrpca koja se veže oko vrata koja je, ono, prisutna stvarno diljem svijeta, a potječe upravo iz Hrvatske. Ono što je još zanimljivo u vezi s njom jeste njezin naziv. Naime, prije, dok su, jako jako jako davno, dok su hrvatski vojnici ratovali sa ostalim nekakvim plemenima u Europi, hrvatski vojnici su se od ostalih razlikovali prema tome što su imali svojevrstne rupce poput ovog, samo malo skromniji, oko vrata i Francuzi su onda, kako su, zvali su Hrvate znači Kroati ili tako nešto u tom stilu, i onda su Hrvati preuzeli francuski izraz za sebe same, kao izraz za kravatu koju su... Taj rubac, odnosno, koji su nosili, i nazvali ga „kravata“. Znači, zanimljivo je zapravo što se kravata uspjela raširiti po cijelom svijetu, i što je danas zapravo značajka nekakvog elegantnog stila, a ne vojničkog ili ne daj Bože, divljačkog.

English translation:

A cultural specificity when it comes to Croatia is the necktie. It's a type of string that is tied around the neck. It's present around the world but it actually originates in Croatia. What is also interesting about it is its name. Well, sometime in the past, a long, long time ago, when Croatian soldiers were waging war with other tribes in Europe, Croatian soldiers were distinguished from the others by the fact that they had a sort of handkerchief like this one, except a bit more modest, around their necks. The French used to call Croats¹ “Croats”² or something to that effect, and then Croats took the French term for themselves to name the necktie which they... this handkerchief which they wore, and they named it “cravat”. So, it is actually interesting that the necktie managed to spread throughout the world, and that it is now a symbol of an elegant style, and not a military or God forbid, a savage one.

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¹ Orig. *Hrvati*.

² Fr. “les Croates”: Speaker is referring to the French term for Croats.