

Labor Emigration

Serbian transcript:

Далибор: Гастарбајтер, то је отприлике у неком слободном преводу неко ко је на „арбајту“, неко ко је на привременом раду, у некој - ово је, ово је немачка, јел' тако, германска; швапска реч - овај, и неко ко привремено ради тамо негде на далеком Западу.

Александар: То је термин још из времена Југославије, је ли?

Далибор: Јест. Јест, то је термин који се провлачи, ево можда је сад и нека трећа генерација. Јер имамо, барем ја колико знам код мене у мом комшилуку је прво отишао деда, па се тамо, не знам, родио тата, и сад је и син већ тамо, који по, не знам, по тој некој истој матрици, овај, ради или у некој, не знам, керамичарској радњи или је аутомеханичар, аутолимар.

Нико нема неку тенденцију, барем ти људи које ја познајем, нико нема неку тенденцију да крене нешто да ради, у смислу да, не знам, „аха, сад сам завршио осми разред“, тамо негде конкретно – познајем неке људе који су у Бечу – „е хајде сад да ја нешто упишем, неку средњу школу, па да можда кренем, можда тамо да завршим факултет, будем неко ко је, овај, другачији од деде“, који је, не знам, шездесетих отишао у Беч, оно, „трбухом за крухом“. Нема, он се угледао на тату који је, не знам, исто. Возач у градском превозу је оно, не знам, то је неки највиши ниво. И овај... Нема таквих људи, барем их ја не познајем.

И то је нешто што осликава, можда, неки наш менталитет, ако могу слободно да кажем тако. То су они, јер ја колико знам, они тамо живе тамо у неким малим, својим заједницама, немају додир са спољашњим светом, знају они пут од куће до стана, тј. до посла, и то је то, јер ти њих чујеш, овај. Они нису нимало променили свој акценат, нимало нису променили начин размишљања. Поштују нека правила, јер знам, у селу се везује појас, али то је већ нека друга прича; али нимало се нису променили.

English translation:

Dalibor: Basically, *gastarbajter*¹ can loosely translated as someone who [went somewhere to] *arbeit*², who is temporarily working - this is a German, right, a Germanic,

¹ *Гастарбајтер* (German: *gastarbeiter*, trans. “guest worker”) is a term commonly used in the former Yugoslavia to describe those who have emigrated from the region to find work in the West, or more recently, in the Middle East. This term originated in 1968, when Yugoslavia signed an agreement with West Germany allowing unskilled workers to temporarily move to West Germany. West Germany was at

Swabian³ word - representing someone who is temporarily employed somewhere in the West.

Aleksandar: It's a term that originated back in Yugoslavia, right?

Dalibor: Yes. Yes, it's a term which has been used [to describe] maybe the third generation [of immigrants] already. Because, judging by those from my neighborhood, the grandfather was the first to go, then the father was born there, and now the son is already there as well, who according to some unwritten rule, works in a, I don't know, ceramic workshop, or he is a car mechanic, or an auto body mechanic.

None of them have a tendency, at least of the people I know, none of them have a tendency to advance in life, in terms of "oh, now that I've graduated from primary school," - to be specific, I know some people who are in Vienna - "I should now enroll in a high school, and maybe I can move on and get a college degree and be something different than grandpa," who left for Vienna in the sixties to seek his fortune. No, he followed in his dad's footsteps, who also did the same. A driver in the public transportation is the crowning achievement for them. There are no people, or at least I don't know them [who aspire for more].

And this is something that describes our mentality well, if you don't mind me saying that. That's what they are like, because as far as I know, they live there in their small communities, they are not in touch with the outside world, they know their way from home to work and that's it, and you can find this out from their stories. They didn't change the way they talk or the way they think at all. They respect certain rules now, because I know that in our town they will put their seatbelt on [while driving]⁴, but that's a different story; they didn't change as people at all.

that time in need of laborers due to the West German "economic miracle" and the fact that workers from East Germany could no longer be employed because of the creation of the Berlin Wall in the early 1960s.

Source: Гаспабajтep. (n.d.). In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved on October 5, 2012, from <http://sr.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=%D0%93%D0%B0%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%B1%D0%B0%D1%98%D1%82%D0%B5%D1%80&oldid=5883020>

² *Apбajm* (German: *arbeit*, trans. "work, labor") is a German loanword common throughout the former Yugoslavia, sometimes used to denote that a person is *на apбajmy* ("at *arbeit*"), meaning, away working somewhere outside of the region. It is closely related to the term *заспабajтep*.

³ *Шeaba* (trans. "Swabian") is a slang term used throughout the former Yugoslavia for all Germans, including Austrians and Swiss Germans. Although very derogatory in the past, this term became so commonly used in the region that it is rarely still considered insulting. However, please note that it is better to refrain from using this term due to its potentially pejorative meaning, and to use the proper term for Germans (*Немаи, Немци*) instead.

⁴ Although having your seatbelt on while driving or riding in a motor vehicle is required by law, doing so is not common practice in the Balkans, and it's rarely sanctioned by the police (with the exception of highways). Thus, a simple way to tell if someone is foreign or has lived abroad is by seeing if they have their seatbelt on, especially if they are a passenger.

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