

CultureTalk Turkey Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Comparing Families

Turkish transcript:

M: Aile yapısı mesala, bir Türkiye'nin tarafından, mesala siz güney tarafındansınız..

B: Güney'liyim.

M: Kuzey tarafına gidip de, başka şekilde, daha böyle değişik...?

B: Tabi ki, Türkiye zaten gerçekten farklı farklı kültürlere sahip bir ülke. Genelde aile bağları her yerde ama kuvvetlidir. Ama günümüzde işte yoğunluktan dolayı, meşguliyetten dolayı, aileden ayrılıyor başka yerlerde çalışmaya başlıyor insanlar, ve tek başına yaşamaya da başlıyorlar. Mesala İstanbul taraflarında daha çok kendi başına yaşayan insan, gençler bulunabilir bence. Çalışmaya başladıkları için ailelerinden ayrılmak zorunda kalıyorlar.

Buna karşın bir de çok geniş aileler var, mesala daha Doğu tarafta, kırsal kesimlerde, daha geniş aileli, ve hep beraber yaşanan aileler de var, dediğim gibi daha önce akrabalarının hep beraber yaşadığı aileler var. Ya da benim ailem gibi böyle çekirdek aile şeklinde yaşayanlar var.

Ama genel olarak Türk kültüründe aile yapısı ve aile bağları sıkıdır, kuvvetlidir. Şeyden mesala bunu anlayabiliriz. Mesala Türkçe'de her akraba için muhakkak bir özel bir kelime vardır yani. Mesala teyzenin eşi eniştedir, halanın eşi eniştedir. O haladır, öbürü teyzedir. Annenin kızkardeşiye teyzedir, babanın kızkardeşiye haladır. Bence bu çok güzel birşey. Ya da babanın erkek kardeşi amcadır, ama annenin erkek kardeşi dayıdır. O kadar önemli ki, bütün aile fertlerinin bir ismi vardır, ve o şekilde önem verilir. Herkes birbirine bağlıdır. Bence güzel birşey.

English translation

M: Family structures, for example, from the different parts of Turkey, for example, you are from the south?

B: I am from the South.

M: If you were to go to the North, in another way, different . . . ?

B: Sure, Turkey is in fact a country that has very different cultures. Usually family ties are strong all around. But in our contemporary age because of too much work, busy-ness, people start leaving their families and start working at other places, and thus start living on their own, too. For example, around Istanbul, one can find more young people who

live on their own. Since they have started working they have to separate from their families.

In contrast to this, there are also very large families, more in the Eastern side, in rural areas, places with larger families, and there are families where all the family lives together. Or like my family, there are families who live in a small family.

But in general, in Turkish culture family structure and family relations are close and strong. We can understand this from this. For example, in Turkish there is a special name for each relative. For example the husband of your (maternal) aunt is called brother-in-law, and the husband of your (paternal) aunt is also called brother-in-law. One is (paternal) aunt, the other is (maternal) aunt. I think this is a beautiful thing. Or the brother of ones father is one's (paternal) uncle, but the brother of one's mother is called (maternal) uncle. It is so important that, each family member has a name, and that's the importance given. Everyone is tied to each other. I think this is a nice thing.

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