

Cite as: *Emís i Póndii θélome i ylósa mun – We, the Pontic Greeks, love our language*; performer: Anatoli Karipidou, camera/ interview: Thede Kahl, Andreea Pascaru, transcription/ translation: Thede Kahl, Sotirios Rousiakis, editor: Valentina Paul, retrieved from www.oeaw.ac.at/VLACH, ID number: pont1253GRV0011a.

Pontic Greek

1

00:00:12,840 --> 00:00:17,080

Epíya [...] so Uzung'ól,

2

00:00:17,160 --> 00:00:21,160

ekátsa na tróo s-énan mayazín,

3

00:00:21,160 --> 00:00:22,240

érthen énas pedás:

4

00:00:22,240 --> 00:00:23,920

<Do tha péreten, do théleten?>

5

00:00:23,920 --> 00:00:26,000

Echára polá, emílaname.

6

00:00:26,000 --> 00:00:28,480

Íçem-péstrofas, éng'e mas.

7

00:00:28,560 --> 00:00:31,040

Ethéresa íme so xorio m.

8

00:00:31,080 --> 00:00:33,800

Eyó ja-t-atínts

9

00:00:33,800 --> 00:00:36,600

k'i poró na ftáo kát jatí en álo krátos.

10

00:00:36,680 --> 00:00:39,200

English translation

1

00:00:12,840 --> 00:00:17,080

Once, when I was in Uzungöl,

2

00:00:17,160 --> 00:00:21,160

I wanted to eat in a restaurant,

3

00:00:21,160 --> 00:00:22,240

a boy came [and asked]:

4

00:00:22,240 --> 00:00:23,920

<What will you order, what do you want?>

5

00:00:23,920 --> 00:00:26,000

I was very happy and we started to communicate.

6

00:00:26,000 --> 00:00:28,480

He had trout and brought us some.

7

00:00:28,560 --> 00:00:31,040

I felt like I was in my village.

8

00:00:31,080 --> 00:00:33,800

But I cannot do anything

9

00:00:33,800 --> 00:00:36,600

for them because it is a different state.

10

00:00:36,680 --> 00:00:39,200

K'e kat na θélo na eftáo

Even if I would do something,

11

00:00:39,200 --> 00:00:42,440

a léne me: <Álo sin Turk'ía k'- érçese.>

11

00:00:39,200 --> 00:00:42,440

they would tell me: <Do not come to Turkey again.>

12

00:00:42,440 --> 00:00:44,600

Ósi epíkan kat parapán,

12

00:00:42,440 --> 00:00:44,600

Those who have risked too much,

13

00:00:44,600 --> 00:00:47,680

ípan ats: <Álo k'-érxustun, íste anepiθímiti.>

13

00:00:44,600 --> 00:00:47,680

have been told: <Do not come anymore, we don't want you here.>

14

00:00:47,680 --> 00:00:53,600

Ek'ín ap-ek'í ósi zún aðá, kápī zún aðá,

14

00:00:47,680 --> 00:00:53,600

Some came from there and moved here, they are living here

15

00:00:55,080 --> 00:00:58,240

értan met-emás, kalaťévome.

15

00:00:55,080 --> 00:00:58,240

with us now and we chat.

16

00:00:58,240 --> 00:01:01,760

Opérts as púme, énan iméran, ikosimía --

16

00:00:58,240 --> 00:01:01,760

For example, one day during the last year, the 21st,

17

00:01:01,760 --> 00:01:04,200

sa ikosiéna ti K^huntúr en

17

00:01:01,760 --> 00:01:04,200

the 21st of February is

18

00:01:04,200 --> 00:01:08,600

i Pangózmia Iméra Mitrik'ís Ylósís.

18

00:01:04,200 --> 00:01:08,600

the International Mother Language Day.

19

00:01:09,400 --> 00:01:15,960

Évra énan koríts, sin Aθínan én até, ak'í zi.

19

00:01:09,400 --> 00:01:15,960

I met a girl [from Turkey] who lives there in Athens.

20

00:01:15,960 --> 00:01:20,720

Éyrapsen énam-bíman. Aíkon píman k'-eðévasa,

20

00:01:15,960 --> 00:01:20,720

She wrote a poem. I've never read a poem like this,

21
00:01:20,720 --> 00:01:23,320
atóson émorfon. Έχ-a.

22
00:01:24,040 --> 00:01:26,240
Epíra tin tiléfono k'-íp-aten:

23
00:01:26,240 --> 00:01:28,240
<Afínts me na ftán-a máθiman,

24
00:01:28,240 --> 00:01:31,480
ja na akún k'e pos étan ta Oflíðika?>

25
00:01:31,800 --> 00:01:34,680
Ípe me: <Ao polá xárume, píson a.>

26
00:01:34,680 --> 00:01:37,760
K'e píra to, éyrapsa to sostá,

27
00:01:37,760 --> 00:01:40,000
játí até évren énan aðá

28
00:01:40,000 --> 00:01:41,640
k'-ípen aton: <Yrápson a!>

29
00:01:41,640 --> 00:01:43,920
k'e ífen polá láði.

30
00:01:43,920 --> 00:01:45,280
Ípe me: <Kséro to éf láði,

31
00:01:45,280 --> 00:01:49,400
alá () k'-eporó eyó na ðiorθón-ata játí eyráf

32

21
00:01:20,720 --> 00:01:23,320
so beautiful. I have it.

22
00:01:24,040 --> 00:01:26,240
I called her and I told her:

23
00:01:26,240 --> 00:01:28,240
<Can I use this for my classes,

24
00:01:28,240 --> 00:01:31,480
so that they can hear how the dialect from Of (Ofis) sounds like?>

25
00:01:31,800 --> 00:01:34,680
She said to me: <I am very glad, just do it.>

26
00:01:34,680 --> 00:01:37,760
So, I took it and just corrected a bit,

27
00:01:37,760 --> 00:01:40,000
because she had just asked somebody

28
00:01:40,000 --> 00:01:41,640
and told him: <Write that!>

29
00:01:41,640 --> 00:01:43,920
and so, it had many errors.

30
00:01:43,920 --> 00:01:45,280
She told me: <I know there are a lot of errors in it,

31
00:01:45,280 --> 00:01:49,400
but I can't fix that, because I

32

00:01:50,120 --> 00:01:53,040
me túrk'ika eliniká.>

00:01:50,120 --> 00:01:53,040
write Greek with Turkish letters.>

33
00:01:53,040 --> 00:01:55,960
K'e epíra eðiórθos-ato.

33
00:01:53,040 --> 00:01:55,960
So, I took and corrected it.

34
00:01:55,960 --> 00:02:00,640
Ató to píman eθeró en óti kalíteron

34
00:01:55,960 --> 00:02:00,640
I believe that this poem is the best way

35
00:02:00,640 --> 00:02:02,200
ja na eporí álos k'e eyriká

35
00:02:00,640 --> 00:02:02,200
for someone to understand

36
00:02:02,200 --> 00:02:05,760
jatí emís i Póndii thélome i ylósa mun ().

36
00:02:02,200 --> 00:02:05,760
why we, the Pontic Greeks, really like our language.

37
00:02:05,760 --> 00:02:09,160
Jatí emáθame na nonízome,

37
00:02:05,760 --> 00:02:09,160
We learned to think,

38
00:02:09,160 --> 00:02:15,760
na sk'éfkumes k'e na ponúme, na xáromes met-
atá ta léksis.

38
00:02:09,160 --> 00:02:15,760
to suffer, to be glad with these words.

39
00:02:15,760 --> 00:02:19,840
Eyó ta morá m k'i léy-ata peðía, léy-ata morá.

39
00:02:15,760 --> 00:02:19,840
My babies, I can't call them children, I call them babies.

40
00:02:19,840 --> 00:02:22,000
Aéts éleyan som-Bóndon ta morá,

40
00:02:19,840 --> 00:02:22,000
That's how children were called in the Pontus,

41
00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:23,880
k'e si Matsúkan xátala.

41
00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:23,880
and "khatala" in Maçka region.

42
00:02:23,880 --> 00:02:27,680
E, ta morá m pánda apo mikrá éleya:

42
00:02:23,880 --> 00:02:27,680
I always told my children when they were little:

43

43

00:02:27,680 --> 00:02:29,640

<Yurpán tsi mána s.>

44

00:02:29,640 --> 00:02:32,200

K'-éleḡa poté: <Na se ḡarí i mamá su.>

45

00:02:32,200 --> 00:02:34,600

Eḡérna k'-eporó na vyálo apo pés tin pǵí m

46

00:02:34,600 --> 00:02:35,640

k'e ḡíḡ-ato k'i

47

00:02:35,640 --> 00:02:37,080

áma léo na se ḡarí i mamá su.

48

00:02:37,080 --> 00:02:39,440

Éprepe na léo: <Yurpán tsi mána s.>

49

00:02:39,680 --> 00:02:43,120

Ti, ti jú m ta kákala éḡaḡ-ata polá forás, ópos eyrikáten

50

00:02:43,120 --> 00:02:45,880

ḡatí ató pa lén a som-Bóndon.

51

00:02:45,880 --> 00:02:47,640

<Na tróo ta kákala s, na tróo ta kákala s,>

52

00:02:47,640 --> 00:02:48,480

sa morá.

53

00:02:48,480 --> 00:02:53,920

K'i léne ḡatí () k'-én kalón kalatǵí.

00:02:27,680 --> 00:02:29,640

<[Do me that favour and] I will be your "kurban" (sacrifice).>

44

00:02:29,640 --> 00:02:32,200

I never said: <I will be lucky if you do that.>

45

00:02:32,200 --> 00:02:34,600

It would have seemed to me that I had turned my soul upside down

46

00:02:34,600 --> 00:02:35,640

and given it up

47

00:02:35,640 --> 00:02:37,080

if I had said that I will just be lucky.

48

00:02:37,080 --> 00:02:39,440

I just had to say: <I will be your "kurban" (sacrifice).>

49

00:02:39,680 --> 00:02:43,120

As you can imagine, "I ate my son's testicles" [teasing] often,

50

00:02:43,120 --> 00:02:45,880

because that's the way they said this in the Pontus.

51

00:02:45,880 --> 00:02:47,640

<I will eat your testicle, I will eat your testicles,>

52

00:02:47,640 --> 00:02:48,480

[was said] to the little boys.

53

00:02:48,480 --> 00:02:53,920

Nobody said that this is not a good word.

54
00:02:55,760 --> 00:03:00,640
En, ató to éxume apés emun.

55
00:03:01,800 --> 00:03:05,040
E, aéts nonízome pondiaká.

56
00:03:06,280 --> 00:03:10,920
Akóman ja-t-emás, tríti jenéa k'-én folklór

57
00:03:11,480 --> 00:03:13,160
ta pondiaká.

58
00:03:13,640 --> 00:03:16,520
Ap-aðá k'e pérán k'-ekséro ndo θa ínete.

59
00:03:16,520 --> 00:03:20,600
Áman o Άnθimon pa élene oyðónða xρόnæ prin:

60
00:03:20,600 --> 00:03:22,120
<A χáte, a χáte, a χáte.>

61
00:03:22,120 --> 00:03:23,920
K'i k'-exáθen os ta tóra.

62
00:03:23,920 --> 00:03:28,280
K'e léo an válome énan fér emís pa,

63
00:03:29,080 --> 00:03:30,560
pespelí k'i θa χáte.

64
00:03:31,680 --> 00:03:32,720
Jatí to na lés:

54
00:02:55,760 --> 00:03:00,640
So it is, we have this [mentality] inside us.

55
00:03:01,800 --> 00:03:05,040
That's how we think in Pontic Greek.

56
00:03:06,280 --> 00:03:10,920
Pontic Greek has not yet become folklore to us,

57
00:03:11,480 --> 00:03:13,160
the third generation.

58
00:03:13,640 --> 00:03:16,520
What will happen from now on is beyond my knowledge.

59
00:03:16,520 --> 00:03:20,600
But Anthimos [Papadopoulos] said eighty years before:

60
00:03:20,600 --> 00:03:22,120
<It's going to disappear.>

61
00:03:22,120 --> 00:03:23,920
But it has not been disappeared to this day.

62
00:03:23,920 --> 00:03:28,280
I mean, if we pick it up now,

63
00:03:29,080 --> 00:03:30,560
at least, it will not be lost.

64
00:03:31,680 --> 00:03:32,720
Because saying:

65
00:03:32,720 --> 00:03:33,640
<Θα χάτε, θα χάτε,>

66
00:03:33,640 --> 00:03:36,160
e, θα χάτε an k'-eftás típota.

67
00:03:36,360 --> 00:03:39,520
An eftás imborí na mi χάτε.

68
00:03:41,800 --> 00:03:48,040
Εγώ epérasa ólon-din krísini xoris na paθéno katáθlipsin,

69
00:03:48,040 --> 00:03:50,280
jatí éyrafsa tin Iliáðan.

70
00:03:50,960 --> 00:03:54,360
Jatí a so proí os to vráð aðapán étan

71
00:03:54,360 --> 00:03:58,760
íkosi vivlíia, énan láptop, ta tetráðia m

72
00:03:58,760 --> 00:04:02,240
k'e éleya: <Pos tha yrafome ató ti léksin?>

73
00:04:02,240 --> 00:04:04,400
Pos tha yrafome ató ti léksin?>

74
00:04:04,400 --> 00:04:08,400
Kóliza, efín-ata. Uf, osíméro!

75
00:04:08,400 --> 00:04:10,600
A so proí os to vráðin aðaká.

65
00:03:32,720 --> 00:03:33,640
<It will be lost, it will be lost,>

66
00:03:33,640 --> 00:03:36,160
it will be lost if you do not do anything about it.

67
00:03:36,360 --> 00:03:39,520
If you do something maybe it will not disappear.

68
00:03:41,800 --> 00:03:48,040
I survived the years of crisis without having depression,

69
00:03:48,040 --> 00:03:50,280
because I was concerned with The Iliad.

70
00:03:50,960 --> 00:03:54,360
Because from morning to evening on my desk

71
00:03:54,360 --> 00:03:58,760
there were twenty books, a laptop and my booklets

72
00:03:58,760 --> 00:04:02,240
and I was asking: <How should we write this word?>

73
00:04:02,240 --> 00:04:04,400
How will we write this word?>

74
00:04:04,400 --> 00:04:08,400
[My brain] blocked, I gave up. Enough for today!

75
00:04:08,400 --> 00:04:10,600
From morning to evening up here.

76	76
00:04:10,600 --> 00:04:14,880	00:04:10,600 --> 00:04:14,880
Esírn-ata sin ákran. Étroyam aðaká énan ksaĩ k'e ksán!	I put them aside. We ate a little, and again!
77	77
00:04:14,880 --> 00:04:17,120	00:04:14,880 --> 00:04:17,120
T-al tin iméran epéna so syólíon.	I went to the school the next day.
78	78
00:04:17,120 --> 00:04:20,440	00:04:17,120 --> 00:04:20,440
Ólon tin iméran al éleyan:	The others were speaking all day:
79	79
00:04:20,440 --> 00:04:24,320	00:04:20,440 --> 00:04:24,320
<O misθós emón emíkrinen. Do θa ftáme?>	<My salary has been cut. What should we do?>
80	80
00:04:24,320 --> 00:04:27,400	00:04:24,320 --> 00:04:27,400
Eyó éleya: <Pós θa γράfome autó ti léksin?>	I said: <How should we write this word?>
81	81
00:04:27,400 --> 00:04:29,680	00:04:27,400 --> 00:04:29,680
Pos θa γράfomen autó ---?>	How should we write this?>
82	82
00:04:29,680 --> 00:04:35,600	00:04:29,680 --> 00:04:35,600
Etaksíðeva ðío xronæ sin-Drían,	I travelled through Troy for two years,
83	83
00:04:35,600 --> 00:04:38,360	00:04:35,600 --> 00:04:38,360
ðío xronæ.	two years.
84	84
00:04:39,680 --> 00:04:46,080	00:04:39,680 --> 00:04:46,080
As ató k'án eðévasa ólon-din Iliáðan ti Kazandzák'i ti metáfrasi.	So, I read the whole translation of The Iliad by Kazantzakis.
85	85
00:04:46,080 --> 00:04:50,160	00:04:46,080 --> 00:04:50,160
Évra óti emézne polá ta pondiaká me ta kritiká.	I found that Pontic is very similar to Cretan.
86	86
00:04:50,880 --> 00:04:54,800	00:04:50,880 --> 00:04:54,800
() Eyó -- éniomne plúsiesia, ets eθeró.	I got richer, at least that's how I felt.