

Cite as: *Pwé ser ke tenémoz el dué a língwas – Maybe we have a talent for languages;*
 performer: Forti Barokas, camera/ interview: Ioana Aminian, transcription/ translation: Ioana Aminian, Deyvi Papo, Imane Sghiouar, editor: Deyvi Papo, retrieved from www.oeaw.ac.at/VLACH, ID- number ladi: 1251TRV0024a.

Metadata Participant

family name		Barokas
birth name if different		Moskatel
given name		Forti
Other family members interviewed		No
sex (M – F – O)		F
year of birth		1948
ethnic/we group		Sephardim
✠ ✡ ✛ ✜ ✝ religion		Jewish
👄 mother tongue		Turkish, Judeo-Spanish
👄 🗣 further languages		French, Hebrew (basic)
📖 education		Secondary
👩 profession		Housewife
👶 born in	location	Istanbul
	country/region	Turkey
🌱 grew up	location	Istanbul
	country/region	Turkey
👨👩 origin/parents		Istanbul
👨👩👧 origin/grandparents		Istanbul
family status		Widow
location(s) where living		Istanbul

Subtitles

Judeo-Spanish

1

00:00:13,040 --> 00:00:15,160

- Aóra díme tu mamá,

2

00:00:15,160 --> 00:00:17,400

kwántas léngwas avláva d-- el gryégo, el ġudéo-españól ---

3

00:00:17,400 --> 00:00:19,200

- El grégo avláva, frãnsé avláva,

4

00:00:19,200 --> 00:00:22,360

ġudéo-españól aḃláva i maḃ túrko.

5

00:00:22,360 --> 00:00:23,280

- I maḃ túrko.

6

00:00:23,280 --> 00:00:23,800

- Maḃ túrko.

7

00:00:23,800 --> 00:00:24,560

- Muy málo?

8

00:00:24,560 --> 00:00:26,480

- Muy málo ---

9

00:00:26,480 --> 00:00:28,160

- Me pwédes kóntar únas sitwasyónes

10

00:00:28,160 --> 00:00:30,480

pwéde ser de kwándo éya no ---

11

English translation

1

00:00:13,040 --> 00:00:15,160

- Now, tell me, your mother,

2

00:00:15,160 --> 00:00:17,400

how many languages did she speak, Greek, Judeo-Spanish ---

3

00:00:17,400 --> 00:00:19,200

- She spoke Greek, French,

4

00:00:19,200 --> 00:00:22,360

Judeo-Spanish, but she spoke Turkish badly.

5

00:00:22,360 --> 00:00:23,280

- And bad Turkish.

6

00:00:23,280 --> 00:00:23,800

- Bad Turkish.

7

00:00:23,800 --> 00:00:24,560

- Really bad?

8

00:00:24,560 --> 00:00:26,480

- Really bad ---

9

00:00:26,480 --> 00:00:28,160

- Can you tell me about some of the situations

10

00:00:28,160 --> 00:00:30,480

where she could not ---

11

VLACH Transcriptions

00:00:30,480 --> 00:00:32,280

- Mi pádre éra de Trákya,

12

00:00:32,280 --> 00:00:33,520

de Tekírda:

13

00:00:33,520 --> 00:00:35,960

i meldó eskólas túrkas en su čikéz ayá

14

00:00:35,960 --> 00:00:37,960

i dospwés viñéron a Stamboł.

15

00:00:37,960 --> 00:00:40,480

I por ésto el saviya muy, muy byen el túrko

16

00:00:40,480 --> 00:00:41,400

i el túrko vyéžo.

17

00:00:41,400 --> 00:00:43,160

I eskrivíya en el túrko vyéžo.

18

00:00:43,160 --> 00:00:45,080

Kwándo keríya úna kóza de kwéntoz,

19

00:00:45,080 --> 00:00:46,440

eskrivíya en túrko vyéžo

20

00:00:46,440 --> 00:00:49,440

ke no veámos dingúnos, si!

21

00:00:49,440 --> 00:00:51,120

Ma mi mádre meldó eskóla ğudíya

22

00:00:51,120 --> 00:00:54,680

00:00:30,480 --> 00:00:32,280

- My father was from Thrace,

12

00:00:32,280 --> 00:00:33,520

from Tekirdağ

13

00:00:33,520 --> 00:00:35,960

and studied in Turkish schools when he was a child.

14

00:00:35,960 --> 00:00:37,960

They later came to Istanbul.

15

00:00:37,960 --> 00:00:40,480

Because of that, he knew Turkish very, very well

16

00:00:40,480 --> 00:00:41,400

and also spoke 'old' Turkish [Ottoman].

17

00:00:41,400 --> 00:00:43,160

He used to write in old Turkish.

18

00:00:43,160 --> 00:00:45,080

And when he wanted to write some stories,

19

00:00:45,080 --> 00:00:46,440

he would do it in old Turkish

20

00:00:46,440 --> 00:00:49,440

so that nobody could read it, yes!

21

00:00:49,440 --> 00:00:51,120

But my mother studied in the Jewish School and

22

00:00:51,120 --> 00:00:54,680

VLACH Transcriptions

me kontáva ke akél tyémpo éra Aliáns Izraelít	told me that, back then, it was Alliance Israélite
23 00:00:54,680 --> 00:00:57,920 i éra todo en frãnsé, saviya byen frãnsé.	23 00:00:54,680 --> 00:00:57,920 and everything was in French. She knew French well.
24 00:00:57,920 --> 00:01:01,760 No se l'ánde s'ambezó el grégo ke lo aḏlába muy byen.	24 00:00:57,920 --> 00:01:01,760 I do not know how she learned the Greek that she spoke so well.
25 00:01:01,760 --> 00:01:03,280 - Kon los vezínos pwéde ser?	25 00:01:01,760 --> 00:01:03,280 - Maybe from the neighbours?
26 00:01:03,280 --> 00:01:04,960 - Kon los vizínos u:	26 00:01:03,280 --> 00:01:04,960 - From the neighbours, or
27 00:01:04,960 --> 00:01:07,600 pwé ser ke tenémoz el dué a língwas,	27 00:01:04,960 --> 00:01:07,600 maybe because we have a talent for [learning] languages
28 00:01:07,600 --> 00:01:10,480 i a mi me pláze. Yo tomí lesónes de ebró	28 00:01:07,600 --> 00:01:10,480 and I like it. I took Hebrew lessons.
29 00:01:10,480 --> 00:01:13,040 Porké en la skóla éra muy fláko el ebró	29 00:01:10,480 --> 00:01:13,040 Because they did not teach Hebrew well at school
30 00:01:13,040 --> 00:01:14,000 i me do ãntendér,	30 00:01:13,040 --> 00:01:14,000 and I could understand,
31 00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:15,720 estúve en pasáda en Izraél,	31 00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:15,720 I went on [some] trips to Israel,
32 00:01:15,720 --> 00:01:17,360 salí sóla, kaminí	32 00:01:15,720 --> 00:01:17,360 I was on my own, I went around.
33 00:01:17,360 --> 00:01:20,080	33 00:01:17,360 --> 00:01:20,080

VLACH Transcriptions

i me di a'ntendér muy byen.

I could communicate well.

34

00:01:20,080 --> 00:01:21,400

- Tu pyénsas kómo --

34

00:01:20,080 --> 00:01:21,400

- Do you think --

35

00:01:21,400 --> 00:01:24,640

yo estóy vyéndo a las persónas mas aedádas

35

00:01:21,400 --> 00:01:24,640

I see that the older generation

36

00:01:24,640 --> 00:01:27,480

están avlándo muy múčas léngwas.

36

00:01:24,640 --> 00:01:27,480

speaks many languages.

37

00:01:27,480 --> 00:01:31,400

Amá los mansévos íngles i túrko,

37

00:01:27,480 --> 00:01:31,400

But the young people [only speak] English and Turkish,

38

00:01:31,400 --> 00:01:33,640

i se redusyó tóda ésta konosyénsa de la léngwa.

38

00:01:31,400 --> 00:01:33,640

and the entire capacity for languages has diminished.

39

00:01:33,640 --> 00:01:35,120

- Si!

39

00:01:33,640 --> 00:01:35,120

- Yes!

40

00:01:35,120 --> 00:01:36,640

- De ke pénsas ke éra posíble ántes,

40

00:01:35,120 --> 00:01:36,640

- Why do you think that it was possible before?

41

00:01:36,640 --> 00:01:39,840

kómo, éra la sosyedád mas avyérta,

41

00:01:36,640 --> 00:01:39,840

Was society more open?

42

00:01:39,840 --> 00:01:42,000

éa importánte de savér léngwas,

42

00:01:39,840 --> 00:01:42,000

Was it important to know many languages,

43

00:01:42,000 --> 00:01:43,640

kómo se pensáva?

43

00:01:42,000 --> 00:01:43,640

to know how were people thinking?

44

00:01:43,640 --> 00:01:46,400

44

00:01:43,640 --> 00:01:46,400

VLACH Transcriptions

- E: l'inglés no abía del tódo

- English was not present [back then],

45

00:01:46,400 --> 00:01:47,800
por empesár k'éra el frãnsé

45

00:01:46,400 --> 00:01:47,800
the first [foreign] language was French

46

00:01:47,800 --> 00:01:49,240
i ken no saviya frãnsé,

46

00:01:47,800 --> 00:01:49,240
and those who didn't speak French,

47

00:01:49,240 --> 00:01:50,480
<A no sábe frãnsé!>

47

00:01:49,240 --> 00:01:50,480
<Oh, they don't know French!>.

48

00:01:50,480 --> 00:01:53,720
Ke verywénsa éra, ke no meldó.

48

00:01:50,480 --> 00:01:53,720
It was a shame that they had not studied it.

49

00:01:53,720 --> 00:01:57,040
No éramoz muy abyértos,

49

00:01:53,720 --> 00:01:57,040
We were not open,

50

00:01:57,040 --> 00:01:57,680
a la kóntra,

50

00:01:57,040 --> 00:01:57,680
on the contrary,

51

00:01:57,680 --> 00:01:59,360
mas serrádos, tódo gétto.

51

00:01:57,680 --> 00:01:59,360
[we were] far more closed, like a ghetto.

52

00:01:59,360 --> 00:02:02,040
Ken moráva en sus luywáres éra syémpre ---

52

00:01:59,360 --> 00:02:02,040
We [only] spent our lives in our own
neighbourhoods ---

53

00:02:02,040 --> 00:02:03,920
Yo syémpre estáva kon ğudyós,

53

00:02:02,040 --> 00:02:03,920
I was always with the Jews,

54

00:02:03,920 --> 00:02:07,840
syémpre en klóbes de ğudyós, de mansevíkos

54

00:02:03,920 --> 00:02:07,840
I was always in Jewish youth clubs

55

00:02:07,840 --> 00:02:11,600
porké no abíya asimilasyón.

55

00:02:07,840 --> 00:02:11,600
because we never assimilated [integrated].

VLACH Transcriptions

56 00:02:11,600 --> 00:02:13,680 Pwedíyas tenér amíyas en la skóla túrka,	56 00:02:11,600 --> 00:02:13,680 You could have [female] friends in Turkish school,
57 00:02:13,680 --> 00:02:17,160 pwedíyas tenér amíyas hristiyánas ma mi mádre me dezíya:	57 00:02:13,680 --> 00:02:17,160 you could even have Christian friends, but my mother would say:
58 00:02:17,160 --> 00:02:20,280 <Tyénes aniversáryo de Karolína.	58 00:02:17,160 --> 00:02:20,280 <I am invited to Karolina's birthday.
59 00:02:20,280 --> 00:02:21,840 No, moz vámos a ir oy ał sinemá.>	59 00:02:20,280 --> 00:02:21,840 No, today we are going to the cinema.>
60 00:02:21,840 --> 00:02:23,720 No me mandáva.	60 00:02:21,840 --> 00:02:23,720 She would tell me not to go.
61 00:02:23,720 --> 00:02:27,400 Avíya mas múnčo ğudaízmo	61 00:02:23,720 --> 00:02:27,400 There was more Judaism, [People were more religious]
62 00:02:27,400 --> 00:02:29,000 ma la savér las língwas --	62 00:02:27,400 --> 00:02:29,000 but knowing languages --
63 00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:31,520 no se de ke savíyan língwas	63 00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:31,520 I do not know why they knew [so many] languages.
64 00:02:31,520 --> 00:02:32,880 porké éran vizínos kon levanténes	64 00:02:31,520 --> 00:02:32,880 If they had Levantine neighbours,
65 00:02:32,880 --> 00:02:34,840 s'ambezávan en italyáno.	65 00:02:32,880 --> 00:02:34,840 they would learn Italian from them.
66 00:02:34,840 --> 00:02:37,160 Pwe ser kómo teníyamos úna vizína gréya,	66 00:02:34,840 --> 00:02:37,160 Perhaps because we had a Greek neighbour,

67
00:02:37,160 --> 00:02:39,560
mi mádre kon éya ---

67
00:02:37,160 --> 00:02:39,560
my mother [used to speak] with her ---

68
00:02:39,560 --> 00:02:42,120
Dospwés empesímos a kanalizár sólo el inglés

68
00:02:39,560 --> 00:02:42,120
Later, we only paid attention to English

69
00:02:42,120 --> 00:02:44,720
porké es la priméra língwa del múndo

69
00:02:42,120 --> 00:02:44,720
because it is the most widely spoken language in the world

70
00:02:44,720 --> 00:02:47,480
i si no sáven frãnsé no ay náđa.

70
00:02:44,720 --> 00:02:47,480
and if they did not know French, it was okay.

71
00:02:47,480 --> 00:02:50,680
Kayó de gráđo.

71
00:02:47,480 --> 00:02:50,680
[French] lost its importance.

72
00:02:52,440 --> 00:02:54,560
- Kon las amígas tu en la kayé,

72
00:02:52,440 --> 00:02:54,560
- With your friends on the street,

73
00:02:54,560 --> 00:02:57,680
kwándo te topávas kon éyas ə:

73
00:02:54,560 --> 00:02:57,680
when you met them,

74
00:02:57,680 --> 00:02:58,640
ke língwa avlávás?

74
00:02:57,680 --> 00:02:58,640
what language did you speak?

75
00:02:58,640 --> 00:02:59,160
- Túrko.

75
00:02:58,640 --> 00:02:59,160
- Turkish.

76
00:02:59,160 --> 00:02:59,840
- Túrko.

76
00:02:59,160 --> 00:02:59,840
- Turkish.

77
00:02:59,840 --> 00:03:00,480
- Túrko.

77
00:02:59,840 --> 00:03:00,480
- Turkish.

VLACH Transcriptions

78 00:03:00,480 --> 00:03:01,800 - I de ke, te pwédes akodrár,	78 00:03:00,480 --> 00:03:01,800 - And do you remember the reason why you
79 00:03:01,800 --> 00:03:04,240 éra vergwénsa de avlár el ladíno?	79 00:03:01,800 --> 00:03:04,240 were ashamed of speaking Ladino?
80 00:03:04,240 --> 00:03:07,360 - Si, si de avlár el ladíno i de amostrar ---	80 00:03:04,240 --> 00:03:07,360 - Yes, speaking Ladino and showing ---
81 00:03:07,360 --> 00:03:10,680 Mozós mos engrandesimos un póko kon espánto.	81 00:03:07,360 --> 00:03:10,680 We grew up with no little fear.
82 00:03:10,680 --> 00:03:12,120 Porké los grándes mwéstros,	82 00:03:10,680 --> 00:03:12,120 Because our older family members,
83 00:03:12,120 --> 00:03:14,560 mis pádres, mis nónas e::	83 00:03:12,120 --> 00:03:14,560 my parents, my grandparents,
84 00:03:14,560 --> 00:03:18,080 pasáron múcho négro en el Trákya,	84 00:03:14,560 --> 00:03:18,080 had lived through many bad events in Thrace,
85 00:03:18,080 --> 00:03:22,880 nel mil i noveyséntas i trénta i kwátro úvo únas dezgrásyas.	85 00:03:18,080 --> 00:03:22,880 there were some catastrophic events in 1934.
86 00:03:22,880 --> 00:03:27,320 Ke matáron iżíkas, laz vyoláron, rompyéron loz ġámes,	86 00:03:22,880 --> 00:03:27,320 They killed young girls, raped them, broke their windows,
87 00:03:27,320 --> 00:03:31,360 sólo porké son ġudyós i porké éran byen de sitúasyón.	87 00:03:27,320 --> 00:03:31,360 only because they were Jews and they were wealthy.
88 00:03:31,360 --> 00:03:33,640 Por ésto keđó un espánto.	88 00:03:31,360 --> 00:03:33,640 Because of that their fear had become entrenched.

VLACH Transcriptions

89 00:03:33,640 --> 00:03:35,840 I mozós syémpre en la káye en túrko.	89 00:03:33,640 --> 00:03:35,840 And we only spoke Turkish when we were on the streets.
90 00:03:35,840 --> 00:03:38,320 I kwándo mos demandávan <Kómo te yámas?>	90 00:03:35,840 --> 00:03:38,320 When they asked us <What is your name?>
91 00:03:38,320 --> 00:03:40,680 u dizíamos en luywár de Fórti, Filís	91 00:03:38,320 --> 00:03:40,680 we said 'Filis' instead of Forti,
92 00:03:40,680 --> 00:03:43,760 o en luywár de Sará, Seráp	92 00:03:40,680 --> 00:03:43,760 or 'Serap' instead of Sara,
93 00:03:43,760 --> 00:03:45,520 porké éste mo(do) moz ambezáron.	93 00:03:43,760 --> 00:03:45,520 because that is what we were taught to do.
94 00:03:45,520 --> 00:03:47,640 No moz dišéron èspantávos ma	94 00:03:45,520 --> 00:03:47,640 They did not tell us to fear others, but
95 00:03:47,640 --> 00:03:50,080 ya se ke moz èspantávamos.	95 00:03:47,640 --> 00:03:50,080 we were afraid.
96 00:03:50,080 --> 00:03:52,840 Veníya a la pwérta un --	96 00:03:50,080 --> 00:03:52,840 When somebody knocked the door
97 00:03:52,840 --> 00:03:54,680 úno a demandár úna kóza pišín	97 00:03:52,840 --> 00:03:54,680 to ask for something
98 00:03:54,680 --> 00:03:55,800 viníya mi nóna:	98 00:03:54,680 --> 00:03:55,800 my grandmother immediately cried:
99 00:03:55,800 --> 00:03:58,080 <Tu no áðbras!	99 00:03:55,800 --> 00:03:58,080 <Don't open it!

VLACH Transcriptions

100 00:03:58,080 --> 00:03:59,560 No abrás! Ken es?	100 00:03:58,080 --> 00:03:59,560 Do not open the door! Who is it?
101 00:03:59,560 --> 00:04:00,800 Demánda ken es!>.	101 00:03:59,560 --> 00:04:00,800 Ask who it is!>.
102 00:04:00,800 --> 00:04:02,160 Tenían espánto	102 00:04:00,800 --> 00:04:02,160 They feared
103 00:04:02,160 --> 00:04:05,600 porké tenían úna mántalidé ke los túrkos son négros	103 00:04:02,160 --> 00:04:05,600 Because, according to their mentality, Turks were bad,
104 00:04:05,600 --> 00:04:08,160 i los ałmánes mátan ğudiyós.	104 00:04:05,600 --> 00:04:08,160 and Germans killed the Jews.
105 00:04:08,160 --> 00:04:10,440 Éra, yo nasí en el kwarèntióčo	105 00:04:08,160 --> 00:04:10,440 I was born in 1948
106 00:04:10,440 --> 00:04:14,200 i siyúro ke no se ołvidó el nazísmo akél tyémpo.	106 00:04:10,440 --> 00:04:14,200 and Nazism had certainly not been forgotten.
107 00:04:14,200 --> 00:04:16,840 Avíya i akí avíya antisimítizmo múnčo.	107 00:04:14,200 --> 00:04:16,840 And there was antisemitism here as well.
108 00:04:16,840 --> 00:04:18,080 Pwéde ser tenían espánto	108 00:04:16,840 --> 00:04:18,080 They feared [back then]
109 00:04:18,080 --> 00:04:19,760 ma ayóra no moz stámos espantándo	109 00:04:18,080 --> 00:04:19,760 but today, we do not have fears,
110 00:04:19,760 --> 00:04:21,680 pórke doz ermwéraz téngo müzlümána	110 00:04:19,760 --> 00:04:21,680 as I have two Muslim daughters-in-law
111	111

00:04:21,680 --> 00:04:23,880
i están aryénto de mi káza.

00:04:21,680 --> 00:04:23,880
and they are part of the family.