

**Cite as:** *Éra tyémpe de yérra, no avíya náđa* – *It was wartime and there was nothing*;  
performer: Lüsi Yafet, camera/ interview: Ioana Aminian, transcription/ translation: Ioana Aminian, Deyvi Papo, Imane Sghiouar, editor: Deyvi Papo, retrieved from [www.oeaw.ac.at/VLACH](http://www.oeaw.ac.at/VLACH), ID-number: Iadi1251TRV0035a.

## Metadata Participant

family name	Yafet
birth name if different	
given name	Lüsi
Other family members interviewed	Sara Galimidi (daughter), Jüdit de Taranto Deventero (granddaughter)
sex (M – F – O)	F
year of birth	1934
ethnic/we group	Sephardim
✠✡✛✞✟ religion	Jewish
🗨 mother tongue	Judeo-Spanish
🗨 🗨 further languages	Türkisch, Greek
📖 education	Primary School
👩 profession	Housewife
👤 born in	Istanbul (Balat)
	location
	country/region
🏠 grew up	Istanbul (Balat)
	location
	country/region
👨👩 origin/parents	Istanbul (Sirkeci)
👨👩👧 origin/grandparents	Mother's side: Edirne; Father's side: Istanbul
family status	Married
location(s) where living	Istanbul (Şişli, Burgazada)

## Subtitles

### Judeo-Spanish

1

00:00:12,600 --> 00:00:16,960

Yo, des-- teniya sež años,

2

00:00:16,960 --> 00:00:22,120

la -- me fwi al orfeliná de los ġudyós, de Ortáköy,

3

00:00:22,120 --> 00:00:24,960

I estúve sež años ayá.

4

00:00:24,960 --> 00:00:28,080

Kwándo skapí la priméra skóla i tódo,

5

00:00:28,080 --> 00:00:30,920

e:, me dyéron a la mamá.

6

00:00:30,920 --> 00:00:34,360

I ayá, dospwés me fwí a la ótra skóla, a meldár.

7

00:00:34,360 --> 00:00:36,400

I dospwés ya espozí, ya kazí i ---

8

00:00:36,400 --> 00:00:38,560

- Áma de ke -- de ke te pusyéron,

9

00:00:38,560 --> 00:00:40,280

de ke te trayéron en el orfeliná?

10

00:00:40,280 --> 00:00:42,320

- E porké no teniya pádre.

11

### English translation

1

00:00:12,600 --> 00:00:16,960

I was six years old

2

00:00:16,960 --> 00:00:22,120

and I was placed in the Jewish orphanage in Ortaköy

3

00:00:22,120 --> 00:00:24,960

where I stayed for six years.

4

00:00:24,960 --> 00:00:28,080

When I finished primary school and everything

5

00:00:28,080 --> 00:00:30,920

they let me go back home to my mother.

6

00:00:30,920 --> 00:00:34,360

From there, I went to another school to study.

7

00:00:34,360 --> 00:00:36,400

Afterwards, I got engaged and married and ---

8

00:00:36,400 --> 00:00:38,560

- Why did they put you

9

00:00:38,560 --> 00:00:40,280

in an orphanage?

10

00:00:40,280 --> 00:00:42,320

- Because I did not have father.

11

## VLACH Transcriptions

00:00:42,320 --> 00:00:44,440

I éra tyémpe de yérra, no aviya náđa.

12

00:00:44,440 --> 00:00:46,520

No aviya de komé--, no aviya náđa.

13

00:00:46,520 --> 00:00:47,880

Me metyéron ayá.

14

00:00:47,880 --> 00:00:51,480

I éramos syén i sinkwénta ižíkos i syén i sinkwénta ižíkas.

15

00:00:51,480 --> 00:00:53,480

Trezyéntas áłmas éramos.

16

00:00:53,480 --> 00:00:54,840

En el tyémpe de la yérra.

17

00:00:54,840 --> 00:00:56,160

- Kwéntame un poko maz de éso

18

00:00:56,160 --> 00:00:59,240

pórke ya de éso es bwéno de savérlo.

19

00:00:59,240 --> 00:01:00,880

- Si de savér na-- de akél tyémpe.

20

00:01:00,880 --> 00:01:03,120

Lo ke me akóđro, es ésto:

21

00:01:03,120 --> 00:01:06,520

Syémpre, áma pasímos -- syémpre enđúntos.

22

00:01:06,520 --> 00:01:09,040

00:00:42,320 --> 00:00:44,440

And it was wartime. There was nothing.

12

00:00:44,440 --> 00:00:46,520

Nothing to eat, there was nothing.

13

00:00:46,520 --> 00:00:47,880

They put me there.

14

00:00:47,880 --> 00:00:51,480

And there were 150 boys and 150 girls.

15

00:00:51,480 --> 00:00:53,480

There were 300 of us in there

16

00:00:53,480 --> 00:00:54,840

during the war.

17

00:00:54,840 --> 00:00:56,160

- Tell me more about this,

18

00:00:56,160 --> 00:00:59,240

it's good to know more about it.

19

00:00:59,240 --> 00:01:00,880

- Yes, to know more about this time.

20

00:01:00,880 --> 00:01:03,120

I remember this:

21

00:01:03,120 --> 00:01:06,520

We always used to be together.

22

00:01:06,520 --> 00:01:09,040

## VLACH Transcriptions

Syémpre teníyamos fiyéstas en Purím,

We always had Purim celebrations,

23

00:01:09,040 --> 00:01:11,200

azíyamos, si teátros,

23

00:01:09,040 --> 00:01:11,200

and we even performed theatre plays,

24

00:01:11,200 --> 00:01:13,720

azíyamos tódos šéñas muy érmoz(o).

24

00:01:11,200 --> 00:01:13,720

we prepared all those scenes beautifully.

25

00:01:13,720 --> 00:01:16,000

- I en ke léngwa se avláva en el orfeliná?

25

00:01:13,720 --> 00:01:16,000

- And which language did you speak in the orphanage?

26

00:01:16,000 --> 00:01:17,920

- En -- en túrko.

26

00:01:16,000 --> 00:01:17,920

- Turkish.

27

00:01:17,920 --> 00:01:20,320

Si, kalíya en túrko.

27

00:01:17,920 --> 00:01:20,320

Yes, it had to be Turkish.

28

00:01:20,320 --> 00:01:23,920

Ya podíyamos avlár éntre mozótroš en -- en ladíno.

28

00:01:20,320 --> 00:01:23,920

We could speak among each other in Ladino.

29

00:01:23,920 --> 00:01:25,920

Ma ken savíya, ken no, en túrko.

29

00:01:23,920 --> 00:01:25,920

Who knew, who didn't, in Turkish.

30

00:01:25,920 --> 00:01:27,960

"Vatandáš Túrčkē Konúš!"

30

00:01:25,920 --> 00:01:27,960

"Citizen, Speak Turkish!"

31

00:01:27,960 --> 00:01:30,440

Éra metér papéles en las parédez,

31

00:01:27,960 --> 00:01:30,440

They hung posters on the walls

32

00:01:30,440 --> 00:01:32,680

en tódo módo de luyár.

32

00:01:30,440 --> 00:01:32,680

everywhere.

33

00:01:32,680 --> 00:01:34,520

33

00:01:32,680 --> 00:01:34,520

## VLACH Transcriptions

- Ya ésta léngwa s'está trokándo.

- This language [Ladino] is changing.

34

00:01:34,520 --> 00:01:35,960

Tu ke pénsas?

34

00:01:34,520 --> 00:01:35,960

What do you think about it?

35

00:01:35,960 --> 00:01:39,000

Kwála es la mas importánte ---

35

00:01:35,960 --> 00:01:39,000

What is more important ---

36

00:01:39,000 --> 00:01:40,120

- Ya ez emportánte la-- ladíno.

36

00:01:39,000 --> 00:01:40,120

- Ladino is important, of course.

37

00:01:40,120 --> 00:01:42,840

Es muy ermózo. Si, de ke no?

37

00:01:40,120 --> 00:01:42,840

It is very beautiful. Yes, why shouldn't it be?

38

00:01:42,840 --> 00:01:45,040

- No kéro dizír, de ke se trokó tánto?

38

00:01:42,840 --> 00:01:45,040

- I was wondering why the use of Ladino has changed so much?

39

00:01:45,040 --> 00:01:46,760

Éste módo, de Vatandáš,

39

00:01:45,040 --> 00:01:46,760

Was it because of the "Citizen, [Speak Turkish]!" campaign?

40

00:01:46,760 --> 00:01:47,520

- Si.

40

00:01:46,760 --> 00:01:47,520

- Yes.

41

00:01:47,520 --> 00:01:48,760

o ay i ótras kósas?

41

00:01:47,520 --> 00:01:48,760

Or were there other factors too?

42

00:01:48,760 --> 00:01:49,880

- Na, avíya yérra.

42

00:01:48,760 --> 00:01:49,880

- Well, there was the war.

43

00:01:49,880 --> 00:01:52,040

Dospwés ke -- kwándo víyan ğudyós

43

00:01:49,880 --> 00:01:52,040

Afterwards, when they saw Jews

44

00:01:52,040 --> 00:01:54,120

44

00:01:52,040 --> 00:01:54,120

## VLACH Transcriptions

no mos pwédiyan akeyár.

they could not stand us.

45

00:01:54,120 --> 00:01:56,200

No -- mos arrebašávan.

45

00:01:54,120 --> 00:01:56,200

They humiliated us.

46

00:01:56,360 --> 00:01:59,400

En sinkwénta, sessénta años, tódo se trokó.

46

00:01:56,360 --> 00:01:59,400

In 50, 60 years, everything has changed.

47

00:01:59,400 --> 00:02:00,160

- De ke eso es ---

47

00:01:59,400 --> 00:02:00,160

- Why this is ---

48

00:02:00,160 --> 00:02:01,120

- E, de ke?

48

00:02:00,160 --> 00:02:01,120

- Oh, why?

49

00:02:01,120 --> 00:02:06,800

- Na ésto se trokó porké tódos -- tódos tyénen ---

49

00:02:01,120 --> 00:02:06,800

- This has changed because everyone has ---

50

00:02:06,800 --> 00:02:09,960

Ayóra yo téngo akí al ládo, dirémos, kon ésta  
ižíka,

50

00:02:06,800 --> 00:02:09,960

I have at my side, let's say, this girl,

51

00:02:09,960 --> 00:02:11,800

en kwálo v'a avlár?

51

00:02:09,960 --> 00:02:11,800

Which language should I use to speak to her?

52

00:02:11,800 --> 00:02:14,240

No pwédo avlár ni en rúsko ni en ermenésko.

52

00:02:11,800 --> 00:02:14,240

I can speak neither Russian nor Armenian.

53

00:02:14,240 --> 00:02:16,440

Kwálo? En túrko.

53

00:02:14,240 --> 00:02:16,440

Which then? In Turkish.

54

00:02:16,440 --> 00:02:19,000

Me do antendér i éya kon mi i yo kon éya.

54

00:02:16,440 --> 00:02:19,000

We can understand each other in this way.

55

00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:22,760

I tamyén i a los čikos.

55

00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:22,760

And the same goes for my children.

## VLACH Transcriptions

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 56<br>00:02:22,760 --> 00:02:25,600<br>Tenémos si, persóna ke yaní --                       | 56<br>00:02:22,760 --> 00:02:25,600<br>We have people who  |
| 57<br>00:02:25,600 --> 00:02:28,320<br>ke téngan tíno de las kreatúras de tódo.             | 57<br>00:02:25,600 --> 00:02:28,320<br>take care of the children, of everything.                     |
| 58<br>00:02:28,320 --> 00:02:32,040<br>- Tu ke pénsas -- ke pasará kon el ladíno (v)wéstro? | 58<br>00:02:28,320 --> 00:02:32,040<br>- What do you think? What will happen with your Ladino?       |
| 59<br>00:02:32,040 --> 00:02:35,040<br>Ke pasará?   | 59<br>00:02:32,040 --> 00:02:35,040<br>What will happen?   |
| 60<br>00:02:35,040 --> 00:02:37,360<br>- Ke pasará? Ya pasó akéyo, skapó.                   | 60<br>00:02:35,040 --> 00:02:37,360<br>- What will happen? It has already happened, it has vanished. |
| 61<br>00:02:37,360 --> 00:02:38,040<br>- Skapó.   | 61<br>00:02:37,360 --> 00:02:38,040<br>- Vanished.   |
| 62<br>00:02:38,040 --> 00:02:38,840<br>- Skapó.   | 62<br>00:02:38,040 --> 00:02:38,840<br>- Vanished.   |
| 63<br>00:02:38,840 --> 00:02:40,840<br>- I komo te'stas konsintyéndo ésto?                  | 63<br>00:02:38,840 --> 00:02:40,840<br>- And how do you feel about it?                               |
| 64<br>00:02:40,840 --> 00:02:44,240<br>- E a mi me'sta emportándo de ke se'sta eskapándo.   | 64<br>00:02:40,840 --> 00:02:44,240<br>I care about why it has vanished.                             |
| 65<br>00:02:44,240 --> 00:02:47,760<br>Áma yo syémpre téngo ke tómo la gazéta Šalóm.        | 65<br>00:02:44,240 --> 00:02:47,760<br>I always read the newspaper, "Šalom".                         |
| 66<br>00:02:47,760 --> 00:02:48,440<br>- Estás meldándo?                                    | 66<br>00:02:47,760 --> 00:02:48,440<br>- Do you read it?   |

67 00:02:48,440 --> 00:02:49,560 - Syémpre si.	67 00:02:48,440 --> 00:02:49,560 - Always, yes.
68 00:02:49,560 --> 00:02:57,760 I téngo ayá en l'akél -- en el Šalóm ay ke ay -- livríkos číkos.	68 00:02:49,560 --> 00:02:57,760 And I have some small books in "Şalom".
69 00:02:57,760 --> 00:03:01,400 Tódo en ladíno. Yo syémpre -- mérko.	69 00:02:57,760 --> 00:03:01,400 All in Ladino. And I always buy them.
70 00:03:01,400 --> 00:03:02,720 - Tu estás podyéndo enténder?	70 00:03:01,400 --> 00:03:02,720 - Can you understand?
71 00:03:02,720 --> 00:03:07,080 - Si. Entyéndo tódo. I lo méldo i entyéndo	71 00:03:02,720 --> 00:03:07,080 - Yes, I can understand everything. I read it and understand
72 00:03:07,080 --> 00:03:08,600 i le doy i a éya	72 00:03:07,080 --> 00:03:08,600 and I also give it to her and tell her:
73 00:03:08,600 --> 00:03:10,880 <Si kéres, mélda i tu!> le díyo.	73 00:03:08,600 --> 00:03:10,880 <If you want, you can read it too!>.
74 00:03:10,880 --> 00:03:13,600 - I ay palávras ke tu no entyéndes en ésto?	74 00:03:10,880 --> 00:03:13,600 - Are there some words you do not understand?
75 00:03:13,600 --> 00:03:15,160 - Si. Ya -- si y'ay múnčas palávras	75 00:03:13,600 --> 00:03:15,160 - Yes, there are many words
76 00:03:15,160 --> 00:03:20,160 ke es maz fasíl, ez modérnos ladíno.	76 00:03:15,160 --> 00:03:20,160 that are easier, it is modern Ladino.
77 00:03:20,160 --> 00:03:22,560 Akéyo se tróka, ma yéne y'antyéndo.	77 00:03:20,160 --> 00:03:22,560 These words have changed, but I mean, I understand.



78

00:03:22,560 --&gt; 00:03:25,040

Kwándo méldo dos kózas díyo, ésto ez d'akí.

78

00:03:22,560 --&gt; 00:03:25,040

When I read these things, I can see what is meant.

79

00:03:25,040 --&gt; 00:03:26,040

Yáni, entyéndo.

79

00:03:25,040 --&gt; 00:03:26,040

I mean, I understand.