

**Cite as:** *Si no konóses no te eskaríñas – You cannot miss what you haven't kissed*; performer: Yusuf Altıntaş, 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: ladi1251TRV0032a.

## Metadata Participant

family name		Altıntaş
birth name if different		
given name		Yusuf
Other family members interviewed		
sex (M – F – O)		M
year of birth		1945
ethnic/we group		Sephardim
✠ ✡ ✛ ✞ ✟ ✠ ✡ ✛ ✞ ✟ religion		Jewish
🗣️ mother tongue		Turkish
🗣️ 🗣️ further languages		Judeo-Spanish, French, Hebrew, Aramaic, Italian, Greek
📖 📖 education		University
👔 profession		Civil secretary of the chief rabbinate
👤 born in	Istanbul	Istanbul
		Turkey
👤 grew up	location	Istanbul
	country/region	Turkey
👤 origin/parents		Istanbul
👤 origin/grandparents		
family status		
location(s) where living		Istanbul

## Subtitles

### Judeo-Spanish

1  
00:00:12,720 --> 00:00:15,600  
Ke sí(g)nifikasyón tyéne el ġudéo-españól,  
  
2  
00:00:15,600 --> 00:00:20,280  
el españól para usted, pára manifestárse su  
identidád?  
  
3  
00:00:20,280 --> 00:00:21,680  
Sí, tyéne úna relasyón?  
  
4  
00:00:21,680 --> 00:00:24,720  
- Ez úna, ez -- ez un k-- ez un -- ez un  
  
5  
00:00:24,720 --> 00:00:27,000  
komponénte de mi edentidád  
  
6  
00:00:27,000 --> 00:00:30,360  
la-- el, el ladíno, el hudéo-españól.  
  
7  
00:00:30,360 --> 00:00:32,760  
No sólo la -- la idyóma, la língwa  
  
8  
00:00:32,760 --> 00:00:34,640  
síno ke la kultúra entéra.  
  
9  
00:00:34,640 --> 00:00:38,320  
Porké ay el módo de kosinár, ay el módo de  
pensár.  
  
10  
00:00:38,320 --> 00:00:45,400  
El sefaradí, el, el sefaradí -- ke lo húza el hudéo-  
españól,

### English translation

1  
00:00:12,720 --> 00:00:15,600  
What meaning does Judeo-Spanish,  
  
2  
00:00:15,600 --> 00:00:20,280  
Spanish, have for you, in terms of your identity?  
  
3  
00:00:20,280 --> 00:00:21,680  
Does it have any relationship?  
  
4  
00:00:21,680 --> 00:00:24,720  
- It is a  
  
5  
00:00:24,720 --> 00:00:27,000  
component of my identity  
  
6  
00:00:27,000 --> 00:00:30,360  
Ladino, Judeo-Spanish.  
  
7  
00:00:30,360 --> 00:00:32,760  
Not only is the language [a component of my  
identity],  
  
8  
00:00:32,760 --> 00:00:34,640  
but also the whole culture.  
  
9  
00:00:34,640 --> 00:00:38,320  
Because it has a way of cooking, a way of  
thinking.  
  
10  
00:00:38,320 --> 00:00:45,400  
The Sephardim who uses Judeo-Spanish

11 00:00:45,400 --> 00:00:48,760 tyéne ótro módo de māntalidáď, mentalidáď	11 00:00:45,400 --> 00:00:48,760 has a different kind of mentality,
12 00:00:48,760 --> 00:00:50,880 i ótro módo -- módo de pensár oy	12 00:00:48,760 --> 00:00:50,880 another way of thinking,
13 00:00:50,880 --> 00:00:56,120 i, i ótro módo de es-- de estár rézyo kóntro la natúra,	13 00:00:50,880 --> 00:00:56,120 and a different awareness of the environment.
14 00:00:56,120 --> 00:00:58,920 kóntro la istórya, kóntra tódo.	14 00:00:56,120 --> 00:00:58,920 Regarding history, regarding everything.
15 00:00:58,920 --> 00:01:00,000 E i ez por ésto ke ---	15 00:00:58,920 --> 00:01:00,000 And it is for this reason that ---
16 00:01:00,000 --> 00:01:01,960 - Si éso se pwéde en túrko? Se pwéde asér en túrko?	16 00:01:00,000 --> 00:01:01,960 - Yes, could all this be expressed in Turkish?
17 00:01:01,960 --> 00:01:05,280 Pórke kon úna idyóma se transmíte úna manéra de pensár	17 00:01:01,960 --> 00:01:05,280 Because a language facilitates a certain way of thinking,
18 00:01:05,280 --> 00:01:08,840 i es posible de transmitir ésa manéra de pensár en túrko?	18 00:01:05,280 --> 00:01:08,840 is it possible to translate this way of thinking into Turkish?
19 00:01:08,840 --> 00:01:11,680 - No es, no es posible pórke e el túrko,	19 00:01:08,840 --> 00:01:11,680 - No, it is not possible, because the Turkish language,
20 00:01:11,680 --> 00:01:18,680 la idyóma túrka, el túrko, no tyéne el mízmo sánsó	20 00:01:11,680 --> 00:01:18,680 Turkish, does not convey the same meaning,
21	21

## VLACH Transcriptions

00:01:18,680 --> 00:01:20,920  
o byen, kómo dirémos?

00:01:18,680 --> 00:01:20,920  
or, how should I put it?

22  
00:01:20,920 --> 00:01:24,120  
No tyéne los mísmos komponéntes del hudéo-  
españól,

22  
00:01:20,920 --> 00:01:24,120  
It does not have the same composition as Judeo-  
Spanish,

23  
00:01:24,120 --> 00:01:30,520  
del españól, pára pwedérse -- pára pwedérse --  
eksprimír.

23  
00:01:24,120 --> 00:01:30,520  
like Spanish, it expresses things differently.

24  
00:01:30,520 --> 00:01:35,840  
E, ez por éso ke oy el ke no ávla el el  
sefaradízmo,

24  
00:01:30,520 --> 00:01:35,840  
For this reason, today, those who don't speak  
Judeo-Spanish

25  
00:01:35,840 --> 00:01:37,600  
el ke no tyéne

25  
00:01:35,840 --> 00:01:37,600  
those who did not hear

26  
00:01:37,600 --> 00:01:41,080  
ke no tyéne oyído de sus pádres el sefaradízmo,

26  
00:01:37,600 --> 00:01:41,080  
their parents speak it,

27  
00:01:41,080 --> 00:01:45,000  
por akél no diféra múčo de ser -- de ser sefaradí

27  
00:01:41,080 --> 00:01:45,000  
for those, there is less differentiation between

28  
00:01:45,000 --> 00:01:48,240  
o la língwa hudéo-españól.

28  
00:01:45,000 --> 00:01:48,240  
the Judeo-Spanish language and the Sephardic  
culture.

29  
00:01:48,240 --> 00:01:52,560  
Si un día --- tenémoz la propósta de dizírle:

29  
00:01:48,240 --> 00:01:52,560  
If one day we are offered to tell them:

30  
00:01:52,560 --> 00:01:56,360  
<Ven, ambézate el e: ladínol>

30  
00:01:52,560 --> 00:01:56,360  
<Come, learn Ladino!>

31  
00:01:56,360 --> 00:02:00,520  
Per kwálo me vo -- me vo me a aprendér el, el  
españól.

31  
00:01:56,360 --> 00:02:00,520  
I would go and learn Spanish.

32 00:02:00,520 --> 00:02:02,120 Éso me va star maz múčo.	32 00:02:00,520 --> 00:02:02,120 I would find it much more useful.
33 00:02:02,120 --> 00:02:04,040 I mozótrots le dizímoz e: voy,	33 00:02:02,120 --> 00:02:04,040 And if you said to me,
34 00:02:04,040 --> 00:02:07,720 tóma a aprendér el, el hudéo-españól,	34 00:02:04,040 --> 00:02:07,720 come and learn Judeo-Spanish,
35 00:02:07,720 --> 00:02:12,480 é(s)to te fasílíta -- de amé -- de aprendérte el españól,	35 00:02:07,720 --> 00:02:12,480 it will help you to learn Spanish,
36 00:02:12,480 --> 00:02:16,960 pórke kwándo ávlas el, el, el ladíno o el españól,	36 00:02:12,480 --> 00:02:16,960 because when you learn Ladino or Spanish,
37 00:02:16,960 --> 00:02:21,120 te pwédes eksprimír en el térsyo del múndo ä.	37 00:02:16,960 --> 00:02:21,120 you can communicate with one third of the world.
38 00:02:21,120 --> 00:02:25,400 Ma e: por la huventúd de oy,	38 00:02:21,120 --> 00:02:25,400 But the youth today,
39 00:02:25,400 --> 00:02:29,000 ez maz preferáble de aprendérse el inglés o el franséz	39 00:02:25,400 --> 00:02:29,000 prefers to learn English or French
40 00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:32,040 o el ale alemán ke el hudéo-espa--.	40 00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:32,040 or German rather than Judeo-Spanish.
41 00:02:32,040 --> 00:02:33,840 Ez perdér el tyémpto pára ey--.	41 00:02:32,040 --> 00:02:33,840 They see it as a waste of time for them.
42 00:02:33,840 --> 00:02:35,120 O ez maz múčo	42 00:02:33,840 --> 00:02:35,120 Or,

43 00:02:35,120 --> 00:02:39,040 perdír el tyémpe de konosér la kultúra sefaradíta.	43 00:02:35,120 --> 00:02:39,040 knowing the Sephardic culture is a waste of time.
44 00:02:39,040 --> 00:02:45,040 Porké e: oy el, el -- dirámoz el módo de kosinár	44 00:02:39,040 --> 00:02:45,040 because today, the slow way of cooking
45 00:02:45,040 --> 00:02:50,120 no ez múčo atiránte, porké e: oy tenémos el fes- fut.	45 00:02:45,040 --> 00:02:50,120 does not really appeal to them, because today we have fast-food.
46 00:02:50,120 --> 00:02:52,920 Oy tenémo oy tenémoz el hambúrger,	46 00:02:50,120 --> 00:02:52,920 Today we have the hamburger.
47 00:02:52,920 --> 00:02:54,960 Oy tenémoz el čizbúrger	47 00:02:52,920 --> 00:02:54,960 Today we have the cheeseburger
48 00:02:54,960 --> 00:02:58,640 i no tenémoz, dirémoz el ármí de tomát o	48 00:02:54,960 --> 00:02:58,640 and we don't have the tomato and rice stew
49 00:02:58,640 --> 00:03:01,000 byen laz albondíyaz de meóyo,	49 00:02:58,640 --> 00:03:01,000 nor the brain patties,
50 00:03:01,000 --> 00:03:05,480 albondíyaz de patátas, ótras kózaz.	50 00:03:01,000 --> 00:03:05,480 nor the potato patties among other things.
51 00:03:05,480 --> 00:03:08,200 Dirémos éste módo de kózaz e:,	51 00:03:05,480 --> 00:03:08,200 Let's say, these kind of things
52 00:03:08,200 --> 00:03:13,240 por ésto la persóna se eskariña ---	52 00:03:08,200 --> 00:03:13,240 that a person might miss ---
53 00:03:13,240 --> 00:03:14,680 Sáves lo ke ez eskariñáirse?	53 00:03:13,240 --> 00:03:14,680 Do you know what "eskariñáirse" [to miss] means?

## VLACH Transcriptions

54 00:03:14,680 --> 00:03:15,520 - Si, si, si.	54 00:03:14,680 --> 00:03:15,520 - Yes, yes, yes.
55 00:03:15,520 --> 00:03:18,680 - La persóna se eskaríña de lo ke konóse.	55 00:03:15,520 --> 00:03:18,680 - People miss what they get to know.
56 00:03:18,680 --> 00:03:19,720 Si byen no konósez,	56 00:03:18,680 --> 00:03:19,720 If you have not yet learned about something,
57 00:03:19,720 --> 00:03:25,480 no no tye-- no tuvítez la savór del, de la kultúra sefaradíta,	57 00:03:19,720 --> 00:03:25,480 have not had a taste of the Sephardic culture,
58 00:03:25,480 --> 00:03:27,640 no, no, no te eskaríñas de és(t)o,	58 00:03:25,480 --> 00:03:27,640 you won't miss it,
59 00:03:27,640 --> 00:03:30,280 no lo búškas de e: de optenérlo,	59 00:03:27,640 --> 00:03:30,280 you will not seek to acquire it,
60 00:03:30,280 --> 00:03:34,080 de de reganárlo dirémos, de rekuperárlo.	60 00:03:30,280 --> 00:03:34,080 to regain it, to preserve it.
61 00:03:34,080 --> 00:03:39,560 I ez por ésto ke -- tánto páse el tyémpo,	61 00:03:34,080 --> 00:03:39,560 And for this reason, as time passes,
62 00:03:39,560 --> 00:03:43,480 tánto káye al abízmo del olvído el hudéo-españól.	62 00:03:39,560 --> 00:03:43,480 Judeo-Spanish is falling into the abyss of oblivion.
63 00:03:43,480 --> 00:03:44,960 No sólo el hudéo-españól	63 00:03:43,480 --> 00:03:44,960 Not only Judeo-Spanish,
64 00:03:44,960 --> 00:03:48,040 síno ke la kultúra sefaradíta tambyén.	64 00:03:44,960 --> 00:03:48,040 but the Sephardic culture as well.
65	65

00:03:48,040 --> 00:03:54,520

E: los kántes, laz brómas, laz palavrótas  
tambyén,

00:03:48,040 --> 00:03:54,520

The songs, the jokes, the bad words,

66

00:03:54,520 --> 00:03:57,800

laz díčaz, laz, laz maldisyónez

66

00:03:54,520 --> 00:03:57,800

the sayings, the curses,

67

00:03:57,800 --> 00:04:01,080

i laz ñendisyónez en, en hudéo-españól.

67

00:03:57,800 --> 00:04:01,080

the blessings in Judeo-Spanish.

68

00:04:01,080 --> 00:04:06,000

Tyéne un un sénso, un sénso muy romántiko

68

00:04:01,080 --> 00:04:06,000

All these have a very romantic connotation

69

00:04:06,000 --> 00:04:08,800

si e: si ez, si estóy ğuzgándo muy ğústó.

69

00:04:06,000 --> 00:04:08,800

if I am not mistaken.

70

00:04:08,800 --> 00:04:11,560

Tyéne un sénso byen romántiko,

70

00:04:08,800 --> 00:04:11,560

It really is rather romantic,

71

00:04:11,560 --> 00:04:15,880

byen -- atiránte dirémos.

71

00:04:11,560 --> 00:04:15,880

really attractive, let's say.

72

00:04:15,880 --> 00:04:21,120

E: ke ésto, en no uzándo se depyédre

72

00:04:15,880 --> 00:04:21,120

And this, by not using it,

73

00:04:21,120 --> 00:04:26,960

i se depyér i se depyérede i káya al obízmo del  
olvído.

73

00:04:21,120 --> 00:04:26,960

if falls in the abyss of oblivion.

74

00:04:26,960 --> 00:04:30,960

Málorozamènte dirémo o énfortunadamènte, ma  
ésto es.

74

00:04:26,960 --> 00:04:30,960

Unfortunately or fortunately, but that's the way it  
is.

75

00:04:30,960 --> 00:04:31,920

Ma ésto es.

75

00:04:30,960 --> 00:04:31,920

This is it.

76

76



## VLACH Transcriptions

00:04:31,920 --> 00:04:37,600 La persóna -- se eskaríña, demánda de rekuperár	00:04:31,920 --> 00:04:37,600 People miss and demand these things
77 00:04:37,600 --> 00:04:42,360 de la kóza ke púdo konosér	77 00:04:37,600 --> 00:04:42,360 that they might have experienced
78 00:04:42,360 --> 00:04:47,160 o de la kóza ke lo púdo gostárlu.	78 00:04:42,360 --> 00:04:47,160 or that they liked.
79 00:04:47,160 --> 00:04:49,840 Si no konóses no te eskaríñas.	79 00:04:47,160 --> 00:04:49,840 You cannot miss what you haven't kissed.
80 00:04:49,840 --> 00:04:51,240 Yo no me eskaríño de Tókyo,	80 00:04:49,840 --> 00:04:51,240 I do not miss Tokyo.
81 00:04:51,240 --> 00:04:54,040 no víde, ma de Tolédo si.	81 00:04:51,240 --> 00:04:54,040 I have not seen it, but I do miss Toledo.
82 00:04:54,040 --> 00:04:55,800 Yo kéro írme a Tolédo.	82 00:04:54,040 --> 00:04:55,800 And I want to go to Toledo.
83 00:04:55,800 --> 00:04:58,560 No konósko Tókyo, ma konósko Tolédo	83 00:04:55,800 --> 00:04:58,560 I don't know Tokyo, but I know Toledo
84 00:04:58,560 --> 00:05:03,680 i, i kéro írme, kéro, kéro rizídere un či-- un čiko tyémpe	84 00:04:58,560 --> 00:05:03,680 and I would like to live there for a time,
85 00:05:03,680 --> 00:05:06,320 dirémoz o en Heruzalém o en Tel Avív.	85 00:05:03,680 --> 00:05:06,320 or let's say in Jerusalem, in Tel Aviv.
86 00:05:06,320 --> 00:05:11,720 La úna per-- yo oy no kómo el Dóner Kébab,	86 00:05:06,320 --> 00:05:11,720 I do not eat a Döner Kebab today,
87 00:05:11,720 --> 00:05:13,360	87 00:05:11,720 --> 00:05:13,360

## VLACH Transcriptions

ma un tyém̄po komía

but before I used to eat it,

88

00:05:13,360 --> 00:05:17,200

i aóra me eskaríño de komér i kéro de komér.

88

00:05:13,360 --> 00:05:17,200

and now I miss eating it and I want it.

89

00:05:17,200 --> 00:05:23,200

Ma dirémoz ótra kóza, ke se kóme en --

89

00:05:17,200 --> 00:05:23,200

But let's say, another thing that people eat in --

90

00:05:23,200 --> 00:05:26,200

en el Oryénte, kómo no konósko,

90

00:05:23,200 --> 00:05:26,200

the Orient, something I don't know,

91

00:05:26,200 --> 00:05:29,320

no pwédo imażínárme ke ez la savór de éso.

91

00:05:26,200 --> 00:05:29,320

I cannot image the taste of it.

92

00:05:29,320 --> 00:05:32,760

I la, i la hoventúđ de oy

92

00:05:29,320 --> 00:05:32,760

And the youth today

93

00:05:32,760 --> 00:05:35,800

está muy léšos de la kultúra sefaradí,

93

00:05:32,760 --> 00:05:35,800

is very far from the Sephardic culture,

94

00:05:35,800 --> 00:05:38,640

oy de la língwa tambyén i del módo de kosinár

94

00:05:35,800 --> 00:05:38,640

from the language and the way of cooking,

95

00:05:38,640 --> 00:05:43,600

o del módo de kantár o il módo de pensár.

95

00:05:38,640 --> 00:05:43,600

or the way of singing and thinking.

96

00:05:43,600 --> 00:05:46,520

E: la mēntalidád sefaradí.

96

00:05:43,600 --> 00:05:46,520

Or from the Sephardic mentality.

97

00:05:46,520 --> 00:05:49,120

E: de en día en día se está alešándo.

97

00:05:46,520 --> 00:05:49,120

And day by day, they become more estranged.

98

00:05:49,120 --> 00:05:53,680

I, énfortunađamēnte, o málarozamēnte dirémos,

98

00:05:49,120 --> 00:05:53,680

And, unfortunately, or fortunately, let's say,

99  
00:05:53,680 --> 00:05:55,600  
ke, kómo la língwa,

99  
00:05:53,680 --> 00:05:55,600  
with the language,

100  
00:05:55,600 --> 00:06:04,480  
la kultúra sefaradí está oy en períkolo de  
perdérse,

100  
00:05:55,600 --> 00:06:04,480  
the Sephardic culture runs the risk of being lost,

101  
00:06:04,480 --> 00:06:06,800  
de dezaparesérse.

101  
00:06:04,480 --> 00:06:06,800  
of disappearing.

102  
00:06:06,800 --> 00:06:07,400  
Ke azér?

102  
00:06:06,800 --> 00:06:07,400  
What should be done about it?

103  
00:06:07,400 --> 00:06:09,320  
Ésto ez úna kóza,

103  
00:06:07,400 --> 00:06:09,320  
This is a thing,

104  
00:06:09,320 --> 00:06:16,640  
un -- un fákto, realidá, úna realidáđ sosyála.

104  
00:06:09,320 --> 00:06:16,640  
a fact, a reality, a social reality.

105  
00:06:16,640 --> 00:06:18,000  
Ke podémoz dir.

105  
00:06:16,640 --> 00:06:18,000  
What more can be said?

106  
00:06:18,000 --> 00:06:22,400  
I: tambyén i en Izraél akeyós ke son sefaradís

106  
00:06:18,000 --> 00:06:22,400  
Also in Israel, the Sephardim people

107  
00:06:22,400 --> 00:06:25,880  
i ávlan i avlávan españól, i akéyos se

107  
00:06:22,400 --> 00:06:25,880  
that speak Spanish, those too

108  
00:06:25,880 --> 00:06:34,560  
desformáron i: i stan mesklándo ðyérbos ebréos  
i: están ---

108  
00:06:25,880 --> 00:06:34,560  
transformed the language and they mix it with  
Hebrew ---

109  
00:06:34,560 --> 00:06:38,480  
I el ladíno tambyén lo stán ebraizándo

109  
00:06:34,560 --> 00:06:38,480  
Ladino is leaning towards Hebrew more and more

110 00:06:38,480 --> 00:06:41,520 i lo stan avlándo éste módo.	110 00:06:38,480 --> 00:06:41,520 and they speak it this way.
111 00:06:41,520 --> 00:06:44,200 Ke azér, ésto es, ésto es, kómo dirémoz?	111 00:06:41,520 --> 00:06:44,200 What is to be done? This is what it is, and what can I say?
112 00:06:44,200 --> 00:06:49,480 El koryénte day, de la istórya i de la intelektualidáđ.	112 00:06:44,200 --> 00:06:49,480 The course of history and the intellectuality.
113 00:06:49,480 --> 00:06:51,360 No, no ay ke azér en ésto!	113 00:06:49,480 --> 00:06:51,360 One cannot interfere [in this process]!
114 00:06:51,360 --> 00:06:54,560 Apartó loz esfórsos ke estávas azyéndo por promulyár	114 00:06:51,360 --> 00:06:54,560 Besides, the efforts one makes for the promulgation
115 00:06:54,560 --> 00:06:57,760 i pro-- propakhár i ésto i akéyo.	115 00:06:54,560 --> 00:06:57,760 and propagation [of Judeo-Spanish] and so on.
116 00:06:57,760 --> 00:07:03,640 Tóđo me stá aparesyéndo ke no léšos de múčo tyémpo	116 00:06:57,760 --> 00:07:03,640 I have the feeling that not very far from here,
117 00:07:03,640 --> 00:07:08,800 ésta língwa, ésta kultúra va a ser el sukhéto, el sužéto	117 00:07:03,640 --> 00:07:08,800 this language and this culture will become the subject
118 00:07:08,800 --> 00:07:13,600 de la akél, de la arheoložía kulturál.	118 00:07:08,800 --> 00:07:13,600 of that, of cultural archaeology.
119 00:07:13,600 --> 00:07:15,160 Ke azér?	119 00:07:13,600 --> 00:07:15,160 What is there to be done?
120	120

00:07:15,160 --> 00:07:20,040

Ésto por a-- por fwérsa, no se pwéde e: enžektár

00:07:15,160 --> 00:07:20,040

One cannot imbue this all by force,

121

00:07:20,040 --> 00:07:21,960

a -- a laz khenerasyónes mwévas.

1

121

00:07:20,040 --> 00:07:21,960

to -- into the new generations.