

Cite as: *Me'sta viñéndo at tíno únas kantíkas – I remember a few songs*; performer: Sara Cohen Yanarocak, camera/ interview: Ioana Aminian, transcription/ translation: Ioana Aminian, Deyvi Papo, Imane Sghiouar, editor: Deyvi Papo, retrieved from www.oeaw.ac.at/VLACH, ID-number: ladi1251TRV0041a.

Metadata Participant

family name		Cohen Yanarocak
birth name if different		
given name		Sara
Other family members interviewed		
sex (M – F – O)		F
year of birth		
ethnic/we group		Sephardim
✠ ✡ ✛ ✞ ✟ ✠ religion		Jewish
🗇 mother tongue		Turkish
🗇 🗇 further languages		English, Judeo-Spanish
📖 📖 education		University
✂ profession		Journalist, Musician
🌍 born in	location	Istanbul
	country/region	
🏡 grew up	location	Istanbul
	country/region	
👨👩 origin/parents		Istanbul
👨👩👧👦 origin/grandparents		Istanbul
family status		Married
location(s) where living		Istanbul

Subtitles

Judeo-Spanish

1

00:00:12,680 --> 00:00:16,920

Kon la gràmamá avláva en ladíno. Äntéramènte.

2

00:00:16,920 --> 00:00:23,440

Kon la tãnt Suzán avláva i en túrko:, i en ğudiyó.

3

00:00:23,440 --> 00:00:26,440

Porké la tãnt Suzán éra kómo úna mar

4

00:00:26,440 --> 00:00:27,960

ke savíya múñčas kózas.

5

00:00:27,960 --> 00:00:31,760

Pára mozós éra, éra úna mar éya.

6

00:00:31,760 --> 00:00:34,840

Mos kantáva kantíkas en bułgáro,

7

00:00:34,840 --> 00:00:38,200

de la skóla i de su mádre ke se ambesó.

8

00:00:38,200 --> 00:00:45,600

Kantíkas de žu-- en ğudiyó. Ke ez ladíno.

9

00:00:45,600 --> 00:00:49,920

I apárte atğúnas kantíkas ke aviyan vinído del Madrít.

10

00:00:49,920 --> 00:00:55,000

English translation

1

00:00:12,680 --> 00:00:16,920

I spoke Ladino with my grandmother. Entirely.

2

00:00:16,920 --> 00:00:23,440

With my aunt Suzan, I spoke both Turkish and Ladino.

3

00:00:23,440 --> 00:00:26,440

Because Aunt Suzan was like a sea,

4

00:00:26,440 --> 00:00:27,960

she knew many things.

5

00:00:27,960 --> 00:00:31,760

She was like a sea of knowledge to us.

6

00:00:31,760 --> 00:00:34,840

She sang us songs in Bulgarian,

7

00:00:34,840 --> 00:00:38,200

songs that she had learned from her mother's school time.

8

00:00:38,200 --> 00:00:45,600

And [she] also [sang] songs in Jewish. That is Ladino.

9

00:00:45,600 --> 00:00:49,920

Among some of the songs were some from Madrid.

10

00:00:49,920 --> 00:00:55,000

VLACH Transcriptions

De la -- diréktamènte ke loz ġudiyós la trušéron de ayá,	The Jews had brought them directly from there,
11 00:00:55,000 --> 00:00:56,680 akéyas kantíkas.	11 00:00:55,000 --> 00:00:56,680 those songs.
12 00:00:56,680 --> 00:01:01,840 Úna kantíka avíya, dos tres líñas te kéro kantár.	12 00:00:56,680 --> 00:01:01,840 There was a song, I would like to sing 2-3 lines of it to you.
13 00:01:01,840 --> 00:01:04,240 Pwe ser ke la sáven en la Espáña dayínda,	13 00:01:01,840 --> 00:01:04,240 Maybe they still sing it in Spain,
14 00:01:04,240 --> 00:01:06,360 áma es kantíka ántigwa.	14 00:01:04,240 --> 00:01:06,360 but it is an old song.
15 00:01:06,360 --> 00:01:08,120 "La Sánta Eléna" éra el nómbre.	15 00:01:06,360 --> 00:01:08,120 Its name is "La Santa Elena" [Saint Helene].
16 00:01:08,120 --> 00:01:13,200 Éso no éra kantíka de ġudiyós, éra kantíka españoła.	16 00:01:08,120 --> 00:01:13,200 It was not a Jewish song, it was a Spanish song.
17 00:01:13,200 --> 00:01:18,520 La Sánta Eléna éra úna khovéna,	17 00:01:13,200 --> 00:01:18,520 Saint Helene was a maiden,
18 00:01:18,520 --> 00:01:23,000 Rufiya i blónða kómo el kašmír,	18 00:01:18,520 --> 00:01:23,000 with blonde hair like cashmere,
19 00:01:23,000 --> 00:01:26,520 Éya solíka se manteníya,	19 00:01:23,000 --> 00:01:26,520 she made a living by herself,
20 00:01:26,520 --> 00:01:31,480 Kuzyéndo rópas pára el Madrid.	20 00:01:26,520 --> 00:01:31,480 by sewing clothes for Madrid.
21 00:01:31,480 --> 00:01:35,080	21 00:01:31,480 --> 00:01:35,080

VLACH Transcriptions

La kantáva yo, entéra no me lo sto akodrándo.	I am singing it, but I cannot remember the whole [song].
22 00:01:35,080 --> 00:01:39,440 Éra un kánte ke, éya no teníya pádre i mádre,	22 00:01:35,080 --> 00:01:39,440 The song explains that she did not have a father or a mother,
23 00:01:39,440 --> 00:01:41,760 teníya un ermáno sólo;	23 00:01:39,440 --> 00:01:41,760 she had only one brother.
24 00:01:41,760 --> 00:01:44,800 éera kuzindára en Madríd.	24 00:01:41,760 --> 00:01:44,800 She was a tailor in Madrid.
25 00:01:44,800 --> 00:01:45,800 Éra muy ermóza	25 00:01:44,800 --> 00:01:45,800 She was very beautiful
26 00:01:45,800 --> 00:01:48,400 por éso la yamávan "Sánta Eléna".	26 00:01:45,800 --> 00:01:48,400 which is why she was called "Saint Helene".
27 00:01:48,400 --> 00:01:51,080 Teníya úna ermozúra sánta.	27 00:01:48,400 --> 00:01:51,080 Her beauty was holy.
28 00:01:51,080 --> 00:01:54,000 El ermáno s'enamorado de éya.	28 00:01:51,080 --> 00:01:54,000 Her brother fell in love with her.
29 00:01:54,000 --> 00:01:57,320 I se kížo, le díšo: <Kázate kon mi.>	29 00:01:54,000 --> 00:01:57,320 He loved her and says: <Marry me.>
30 00:01:57,320 --> 00:01:58,360 Éya le díšo:	30 00:01:57,320 --> 00:01:58,360 She says to him:
31 00:01:58,360 --> 00:02:03,040 <Yo preféro de murír i la sángre no me lo áyo ---	31 00:01:58,360 --> 00:02:03,040 <I'd prefer death over making my blood ---
32 00:02:03,040 --> 00:02:06,000	32 00:02:03,040 --> 00:02:06,000

VLACH Transcriptions

yo sos -- ez -- mi sángre es sákra,

My blood is sacred,

33

00:02:06,000 --> 00:02:09,920

no la áyo súzya kon la -- kon ti.

33

00:02:06,000 --> 00:02:09,920

I cannot defile my blood with you.

34

00:02:09,920 --> 00:02:12,000

Porké tu soz m'irmáno.>

34

00:02:09,920 --> 00:02:12,000

You are my brother.>

35

00:02:12,000 --> 00:02:14,880

I el le díšo: <Si no me vas a tomar a mi,

35

00:02:12,000 --> 00:02:14,880

And he tells her: <If you do not take me,

36

00:02:14,880 --> 00:02:18,440

si no me vas a akseptár a mi, te va matár!>

36

00:02:14,880 --> 00:02:18,440

if you do not accept me, I will kill you!>

37

00:02:18,440 --> 00:02:21,240

Kon un kučíyo la kučiyó, la mató.

37

00:02:18,440 --> 00:02:21,240

He stabs her with a knife, killing her.

38

00:02:21,240 --> 00:02:26,520

La metyó a úna sáko i la ečó ať -- ať ríyo.

38

00:02:21,240 --> 00:02:26,520

He puts her in a bag and throws her into the river.

39

00:02:26,520 --> 00:02:28,520

Ésta kantíka ez ésto.

39

00:02:26,520 --> 00:02:28,520

That is what the song is about.

40

00:02:28,520 --> 00:02:31,480

Ah, éya kwándo la kantáva, yo kon mi ma--.

40

00:02:28,520 --> 00:02:31,480

Ah, and when she sang, I was with my mo[ther]--

41

00:02:31,480 --> 00:02:36,280

<Ah Eléna! Ke pekádo de Eléna! Kómo la mató?>

41

00:02:31,480 --> 00:02:36,280

<Ah Helene! Such a shame! How could he kill her?>

42

00:02:38,000 --> 00:02:39,840

I úna kantíka ótra aviya:

42

00:02:38,000 --> 00:02:39,840

And then there was another song:

43

00:02:39,840 --> 00:02:44,280

43

00:02:39,840 --> 00:02:44,280

VLACH Transcriptions

La yasemín s'änbarañó,

The jasmine flowers blossomed

44

44

00:02:44,280 --> 00:02:48,280

00:02:44,280 --> 00:02:48,280

Kon la klavína enğúntos ---

with the carnations together ---

45

45

00:02:48,280 --> 00:02:50,320

00:02:48,280 --> 00:02:50,320

Míra, tódo no me'sto akodrándó.

Look, I don't remember all of it.

46

46

00:02:50,320 --> 00:02:53,160

00:02:50,320 --> 00:02:53,160

Me'sta viñéndo ał tíno únas kantíkas.

I start remembering some of the songs.

47

47

00:02:53,160 --> 00:02:55,200

00:02:53,160 --> 00:02:55,200

Úna kantíka otra avíya ke,

There was another song

48

48

00:02:55,200 --> 00:02:59,600

00:02:55,200 --> 00:02:59,600

úna ižíka ģudíya s'enamoró de un túrko.

about a Jewish girl who fell in love with a Turk.

49

49

00:02:59,600 --> 00:03:02,640

00:02:59,600 --> 00:03:02,640

El túrko se yamáva Ihsán Bey.

The Turk was called Ihsan Bey.

50

50

00:03:02,640 --> 00:03:04,760

00:03:02,640 --> 00:03:04,760

I le díšo a la mádre:

And she tells her mother:

51

51

00:03:04,760 --> 00:03:07,400

00:03:04,760 --> 00:03:07,400

<Lo kéro múñčo byen a Ihsán Bey,

<I am head over heels in love with Ihsan Bey,

52

52

00:03:07,400 --> 00:03:09,720

00:03:07,400 --> 00:03:09,720

lo kéro yamár a káza.>

I want to invite him over.>

53

53

00:03:09,720 --> 00:03:13,320

00:03:09,720 --> 00:03:13,320

Kon el ģásta de Šabát ke stómoz azyéndo

The Shabat dinner that we are preparing,

54

54

00:03:13,320 --> 00:03:15,760

00:03:13,320 --> 00:03:15,760

la azerémos a el úna méza.

that's when we should host him.

55

00:03:15,760 --> 00:03:17,600

I la mádre le díšo:

56

00:03:17,600 --> 00:03:21,360

<Íža míya mi kerída,

57

00:03:21,360 --> 00:03:25,360

No te tómes sehóra.>

58

00:03:25,360 --> 00:03:29,520

<Va vinír el mi kerído

59

00:03:29,520 --> 00:03:32,320

ke komídas le vo dar?>

60

00:03:32,320 --> 00:03:35,040

Le díšo a la -- a la íža.

61

00:03:35,040 --> 00:03:37,520

I a lhsán Bey lo keríya múñčo byen.

62

00:03:37,520 --> 00:03:40,520

Ésta kantíka, ésta amostrándo,

63

00:03:40,520 --> 00:03:45,640

la piktú-- la piktúra del, la fotó de los ğuđiyóz

64

00:03:45,640 --> 00:03:47,720

ke pasáron akí.

65

00:03:47,720 --> 00:03:52,000

Un tyémpe, las ižikas muy, muy, muy, próves,

55

00:03:15,760 --> 00:03:17,600

And the mother answered:

56

00:03:17,600 --> 00:03:21,360

<My dear daughter,

57

00:03:21,360 --> 00:03:25,360

Don't be afraid.>

58

00:03:25,360 --> 00:03:29,520

<My beloved will come,

59

00:03:29,520 --> 00:03:32,320

What should I offer him to eat?>

60

00:03:32,320 --> 00:03:35,040

She said this to her daughter.

61

00:03:35,040 --> 00:03:37,520

And she liked Ihsan Bey very much.

62

00:03:37,520 --> 00:03:40,520

The song shows

63

00:03:40,520 --> 00:03:45,640

the image of the Jews

64

00:03:45,640 --> 00:03:47,720

at the time.

65

00:03:47,720 --> 00:03:52,000

Back then, at a time when the girls were very poor,

VLACH Transcriptions

66 00:03:52,000 --> 00:03:55,240 les demandávan dráhoma. Kómo se díze?	66 00:03:52,000 --> 00:03:55,240 the men asked them for a dowry. How do you say?
67 00:03:55,240 --> 00:03:57,200 - Dráhme?	67 00:03:55,240 --> 00:03:57,200 - Drachma?
68 00:03:57,200 --> 00:03:59,800 - I no teníyan éyas pára pagár.	68 00:03:57,200 --> 00:03:59,800 - And they did not have any money to pay it.
69 00:03:59,800 --> 00:04:01,040 Kwálo ívan a (a)zer?	69 00:03:59,800 --> 00:04:01,040 What could they do?
70 00:04:01,040 --> 00:04:03,800 Akél tyémpo daínda no avíya Israél.	70 00:04:01,040 --> 00:04:03,800 Back then, Israel did not yet exist.
71 00:04:03,800 --> 00:04:06,520 No se pwedíyan ir ayá. No se avíya fondádo.	71 00:04:03,800 --> 00:04:06,520 They couldn't go there. It had not been founded yet.
72 00:04:06,520 --> 00:04:08,360 Áya éra Palestína.	72 00:04:06,520 --> 00:04:08,360 It was still Palestine there.
73 00:04:08,360 --> 00:04:13,120 Las iżíkas ġudíyas múñčas, pára pwedérsen kazár	73 00:04:08,360 --> 00:04:13,120 And the Jewish girls, in order to get married,
74 00:04:13,120 --> 00:04:15,360 se kazáron kon túrkos.	74 00:04:13,120 --> 00:04:15,360 they married Turks.
75 00:04:15,360 --> 00:04:18,200 Múñčas se konvertyéron al múzulmanízmo,	75 00:04:15,360 --> 00:04:18,200 Many of them were converted to Islam,
76 00:04:18,200 --> 00:04:20,640 porké los múzulmános	76 00:04:18,200 --> 00:04:20,640 because Muslims

VLACH Transcriptions

77 00:04:20,640 --> 00:04:23,560 a las ke tóman, las konvértén.	77 00:04:20,640 --> 00:04:23,560 converted the brides they took.
78 00:04:23,560 --> 00:04:27,480 No -- no laz akséptan ke kéde ġudiya, ke kéde gréga.	78 00:04:23,560 --> 00:04:27,480 They did not let them stay Jewish or Greek [Orthodox].
79 00:04:27,480 --> 00:04:28,760 Múnčas.	79 00:04:27,480 --> 00:04:28,760 Many [converted].
80 00:04:28,760 --> 00:04:30,560 I paryéron.	80 00:04:28,760 --> 00:04:30,560 And they had children.
81 00:04:30,560 --> 00:04:32,760 I akéyos iżikos,	81 00:04:30,560 --> 00:04:32,760 And their children,
82 00:04:32,760 --> 00:04:36,480 ke se konosíyan en vézes kon los ġudiyós, les dizíyan:	82 00:04:32,760 --> 00:04:36,480 when they met other Jews, they said:
83 00:04:36,480 --> 00:04:38,600 <Mi mádre éra ġudíya.	83 00:04:36,480 --> 00:04:38,600 <My mother was Jewish.
84 00:04:38,600 --> 00:04:42,240 Se kazó kon mi pádre i s'izo muzulmána.>	84 00:04:38,600 --> 00:04:42,240 She married my father and converted to Islam.>
85 00:04:42,240 --> 00:04:45,080 Úvo múnčas iżas mansévas éste módo,	85 00:04:42,240 --> 00:04:45,080 There were many young women like this,
86 00:04:45,080 --> 00:04:47,680 sólo pórke no teníyan parás.	86 00:04:45,080 --> 00:04:47,680 just because they didn't have any money.
87 00:04:47,680 --> 00:04:50,200 No pwedyéron dar dóta.	87 00:04:47,680 --> 00:04:50,200 They could not pay the dowry.

VLACH Transcriptions

88 00:04:50,200 --> 00:04:54,000 Se kazáron kon -- kon túrkos.	88 00:04:50,200 --> 00:04:54,000 That's why they got married to Turks.
89 00:04:54,000 --> 00:04:55,360 D'ésto se kazáron.	89 00:04:54,000 --> 00:04:55,360 That is why they got married.
90 00:04:55,360 --> 00:04:59,560 Si yúro, i los turkítos son ižikos ermozós, de ke no?	90 00:04:55,360 --> 00:04:59,560 Of course, the Turks were also good boys, why not?
91 00:04:59,560 --> 00:05:00,800 S' enamoráron.	91 00:04:59,560 --> 00:05:00,800 They fell in love.
92 00:05:00,800 --> 00:05:03,240 Las tomáron a éyas sin parás.	92 00:05:00,800 --> 00:05:03,240 They took them without money.
93 00:05:03,240 --> 00:05:06,400 Áma los ğudiyós no éran éste módo.	93 00:05:03,240 --> 00:05:06,400 But the Jews were not like that.
94 00:05:06,400 --> 00:05:09,400 Si no teníyas parás, keđávan laz ižikas.	94 00:05:06,400 --> 00:05:09,400 If you didn't have money, you couldn't get married.
95 00:05:09,400 --> 00:05:13,560 No se pwedíyan kazár. Kedávan ížas grándes.	95 00:05:09,400 --> 00:05:13,560 [Girls] could not marry, they stayed at home.
96 00:05:13,560 --> 00:05:18,080 I mis tántes, tant Suzán i tant Venéta,	96 00:05:13,560 --> 00:05:18,080 And my aunts, Suzan and Veneta,
97 00:05:18,080 --> 00:05:21,960 se kazáron duspwés de loz trént i sínko áños.	97 00:05:18,080 --> 00:05:21,960 they got married after they had each turned 35.
98 00:05:21,960 --> 00:05:23,840 Pórke no teníyan.	98 00:05:21,960 --> 00:05:23,840 That's because they didn't have [money].
99	99

VLACH Transcriptions

00:05:23,840 --> 00:05:26,840
El pádre se lez muryó mansévo,

100
00:05:26,840 --> 00:05:28,800
no pudyéron, keďáron.

101
00:05:28,800 --> 00:05:33,440
I mi mádre no éra ríka, áma éra savróza.

102
00:05:33,440 --> 00:05:35,040
I mi pádre s'enamoró,

103
00:05:35,040 --> 00:05:37,320
ni a mi mádre no la keríya.

104
00:05:37,320 --> 00:05:41,520
Las tántes míyas de la -- de mi papá laz ermánas,

105
00:05:41,520 --> 00:05:46,480
Palómba, Rašál, Rebéka, no la keríyan a mi mádre.

106
00:05:46,480 --> 00:05:48,920
Pórke no teníya dóta mi mádre.

107
00:05:48,920 --> 00:05:50,560
Mi pádre ke ízo, sáves?

108
00:05:50,560 --> 00:05:55,160
Lavoró, arekožyó parás, doz años duspwés les díšo:

109
00:05:55,160 --> 00:05:58,880
<Ída me dyo mil i kiñéntas líras de dóta.

110

00:05:23,840 --> 00:05:26,840
Their father died young,

100
00:05:26,840 --> 00:05:28,800
they could not earn and they stayed at home.

101
00:05:28,800 --> 00:05:33,440
And my mother was not rich either, but she was charming.

102
00:05:33,440 --> 00:05:35,040
And my father fell in love with her,

103
00:05:35,040 --> 00:05:37,320
but they [his family] did not want my mother.

104
00:05:37,320 --> 00:05:41,520
My aunts, my father's sisters,

105
00:05:41,520 --> 00:05:46,480
Palomba, Rachel, Rebecca, they did not like my mother.

106
00:05:46,480 --> 00:05:48,920
Because my mother didn't have dowry.

107
00:05:48,920 --> 00:05:50,560
And do you know what my father did?

108
00:05:50,560 --> 00:05:55,160
He worked and he saved money, 2 years later he said:

109
00:05:55,160 --> 00:05:58,880
<Ida has given me 1,500 liras for the dowry.

110

VLACH Transcriptions

00:05:58,880 --> 00:06:01,560
Yo áma ya me va espózar ayóra, artík.

00:05:58,880 --> 00:06:01,560
I will marry her now, that's enough.

111
00:06:01,560 --> 00:06:03,120
Ya me va kázar.>

111
00:06:01,560 --> 00:06:03,120
I will get married.>

112
00:06:03,120 --> 00:06:06,280
Āl la rekožyó la dóta por mi mádre.

112
00:06:03,120 --> 00:06:06,280
He saved up his own money to pay the dowry of my mother.

113
00:06:06,280 --> 00:06:09,440
Pórke mi mádre éra wérfàna, no teníya pádre.

113
00:06:06,280 --> 00:06:09,440
Because my mother was an orphan, she did not have a father.

114
00:06:09,440 --> 00:06:11,840
La mádre éra yorándo

114
00:06:09,440 --> 00:06:11,840
Her mother was crying all the time

115
00:06:11,840 --> 00:06:13,680
ke se le muryó el marído,

115
00:06:11,840 --> 00:06:13,680
because her husband had died,

116
00:06:13,680 --> 00:06:15,920
eskaída ---

116
00:06:13,680 --> 00:06:15,920
she was depressed ---

117
00:06:15,920 --> 00:06:18,440
Áma mi pádre s'enamoroó de mi mádre

117
00:06:15,920 --> 00:06:18,440
My father fell in love with my mother

118
00:06:18,440 --> 00:06:20,000
la keríya múñčo byen.

118
00:06:18,440 --> 00:06:20,000
and he loved her very much.

119
00:06:20,000 --> 00:06:23,640
L'eskrivíya poezíyas de amór, a éya.

119
00:06:20,000 --> 00:06:23,640
He wrote her love poems.

120
00:06:23,640 --> 00:06:26,560
En káza ay úna dosyé de éyos,

120
00:06:23,640 --> 00:06:26,560
I have a folder at home

121

121

00:06:26,560 --> 00:06:29,960
de las létras i de las poezíyas ke l'eskrivía

00:06:26,560 --> 00:06:29,960
containing their letters and poems of love that he wrote,

122
00:06:29,960 --> 00:06:31,800
mi pádre a mi mádre de amór.

122
00:06:29,960 --> 00:06:31,800
my father to my mother.

123
00:06:31,800 --> 00:06:33,040
- En ke léngwas eskrivían?

123
00:06:31,800 --> 00:06:33,040
- Which languages did they write to each other in?

124
00:06:33,040 --> 00:06:35,200
- En túrko i en españól.

124
00:06:33,040 --> 00:06:35,200
- In Turkish and in Spanish.

125
00:06:35,200 --> 00:06:36,160
- I en españól?

125
00:06:35,200 --> 00:06:36,160
- In Spanish as well?

126
00:06:36,160 --> 00:06:37,240
- Y'ay en es--

126
00:06:36,160 --> 00:06:37,240
- There are [letters in Spanish], yes.

127
00:06:37,240 --> 00:06:39,000
- I tu ésto tyénes?

127
00:06:37,240 --> 00:06:39,000
- And do you have them?

128
00:06:39,000 --> 00:06:42,160
- Los téngo en káza. Tódo me lo dyo a mi mi mádre.

128
00:06:39,000 --> 00:06:42,160
- They are at home. My mother has given all of them to me.

129
00:06:42,160 --> 00:06:46,280
Me díšo: <Ésto tómaló tu, en la -- en la mános túya>

129
00:06:42,160 --> 00:06:46,280
She told me: <Take this, in your hands

130
00:06:46,280 --> 00:06:47,400
díšo <se áze óro.>

130
00:06:46,280 --> 00:06:47,400
they will find their value.>