

Georgia on my Mind – An Interview with Teona Shanidze and Lasha Kerdikashvili

Quotations

“The way [we] look at life – you know, we are [such] spontaneous people – so, we don’t have this 2-year plan, that we have dinner with our grandma in two years or something. You get invitations for weddings like two to three weeks prior to the event. It might even be in the same week.” (Lasha Kerdikashvili, 00:24:00).

“We are always very kind of gender neutral. So, we don’t have male, and female, or neutral, just one gender.” (Lasha Kerdikashvili, 00:05:10).

“When I think back to my childhood, I remember it as a very good time. Like, many people talk about their childhood in Georgia, [and] they think of the Soviet Union, and [of] poor times, how they didn’t have anything to eat and stuff. But even though we didn’t have electricity most of the time, we didn’t have warm water, we didn’t have heating at school, I still remember it as a very good experience.” (Teona Shanidze, 00:05:40).

“Kind of living together somehow, because more or less everybody suffers from the same economic and social problems, and that’s the way [we] could exchange and motivate each other.” (Lasha Kerdikashvili, 00:16:40).

“My heart now beats for Germany and Georgia.” (Lasha Kerdikashvili, 00:42:00).

“I am not a typical Georgian, [and] I won’t become a typical German. I think I will always be in between.” (Lasha Kerdikashvili, 00:44:00).

Vocabulary

Source: Merriam Webster online dictionary www.merriam-webster.com

General Vocabulary

Privileged (adjective): having or enjoying one or more [privileges](#); not subject to the usual rules or penalties because of some special circumstance

Consonant (noun): one of a class of speech sounds (such as \p\, \g\, \n\, \l\, \s\, \r\) characterized by [constriction](#) or closure at one or more points in the breath channel

Monetary (adjective): of or relating to [money](#) or to the mechanisms by which it is supplied to and circulates in the economy

Ration (noun): a food allowance for one day

Crust (noun): the hardened exterior or surface part of bread

Outgoing (adjective): openly friendly and responsive

Subculture (noun): an ethnic, regional, economic, or social group exhibiting characteristic patterns of behavior sufficient to distinguish it from others within an embracing culture or society

tease (verb): to make fun of, to disturb or annoy by persistent irritating or provoking especially in a petty or mischievous way

superlative (adjective): of, relating to, or constituting the degree of grammatical comparison that denotes an extreme or unsurpassed level or extent

business administration (noun): a program of studies in a college or university providing general knowledge of business principles and practices

Special Vocabulary

akzentfrei (adjective): accentless; accent (noun): a way of speaking typical of a particular group of people and especially of the natives or residents of a region

Sprachdiplomschule (noun): an institution of higher learning providing facilities for teaching and research and authorized to grant academic degrees

Diploma (noun): a document bearing record of graduation from or of a degree conferred by an educational institution

Sprach(e) (noun): the words, their pronunciation, and the methods of combining them used and understood by a community

Schule (noun): an organization that provides instruction: such as

a: an institution for the teaching of children

b: [COLLEGE](#), [UNIVERSITY](#)

Kerosene (noun): a flammable hydrocarbon oil usually obtained by distillation of petroleum and used as a fuel, solvent, and thinner

Food stamp (noun): a government-issued coupon that is sold at little cost or given to low-income persons and is redeemable for food

Mkhedruli (noun): Georgian script, a set of letters or other characters with which one or more languages are written especially if arranged in a customary order

Asomtavruli (noun): Georgian script, a set of letters or other characters with which one or more languages are written especially if arranged in a customary order

Nuskhuri (noun): Georgian script, a set of letters or other characters with which one or more languages are written especially if arranged in a customary order

Discussion Questions

- 1) What did you know about Georgia before listening to this episode? Have you ever been there? If yes, how did you experience Georgia? If no, would you travel there after listening to the episode?
- 2) Do you think that everyone who can identify with more than one culture experiences some sort of cultural crisis?
- 3) How do you perceive your own childhood? What differences are there between the way you grew up in your country and the way Teona and Lasha grew up in Georgia?
- 4) How is Georgian lifestyle differ from your own? What stood out the most? What aspects of the two lifestyles are the same, or at least comparable?
- 5) What parts of this episode did you find most interesting? Why? Is there anything about Georgia that surprised you?