**Language and Culture Show and Tell: Portuguese**

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**Transcript**

**Slide 1: Romanian a fascinating language**

Bună! Mă numesc Ramona Gonczol.

I wonder if you understood what I said?

**Slide 2: Language and map**

If you did, it means you can see the similarity between Romanian and other Romance languages, such as Spanish, French, Portuguese and Italian.

I said: Hi! My name is Ramona Gonczol.

**Slide 3**

I am an Associate Professor at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, here at University College London where I teach Romanian and linguistics.

Together we will learn some things about Romanian culture and language here today.

**Slide 4: *Castle* by Margaret Summerfield**

I selected this artwork by Margaret Summerfield called Castle, as, although generic, without a specific location attached to it, it is however, suggestive of some of Romanian’s icons: nature with its rivers, castles and traditions.

The women in the picture seem to wear national costumes, another symbolic image of Romanian countryside where on special fete days, men and women like to dress in their regional costumes and parade them through the village.

Let’s start!

**Slide 5: Dacia and România**

Romania was formed after the Roman conquest of Dacia at the beginning of the first millennium, 106-7 AD. Some scenes from this famous conquest are depicted on the Trajan’s column in Rome.

Dacia, or Dacia, a popular car (mașină) in many countries in Europe, borrowed its name from the initial territory conquered by the Romans.

**Slide 6**

Now let’s turn to our art image. Although the scene depicted seems generic, the castle is rather similar to the Romanian Bran Castle (Castelul Bran).

The river could be the Danube River, râul Dunărea.

Dunărea forms the southern border of Romania with Bulgaria before it goes into the Black Sea, Marea Neagră.

The big head statue in the picture is that of Decebalus, the Dacian king (Regele Decebal) that fought against the Romans.

**Slide 7**

Before going into the sea, The Danube forms the famous nature reserve the Danube Delta, Delta Dunării. There lots of species of birds (păsări) and other fauna live as well as rare flora.

**Slide 8: Biertan village and Transylvania**

Romania has some spectacular countryside with lots of beautiful villages (sate) that still use traditional methods of living as well as traditional fetes. Here is one of the most beautiful villages, called Biertan, in Transylvania, which is a plateau in the middle of the Carpathian mountains. Munții Carpați.

**Slide 9**

Romania also has some vibrant, forward thinking and very modern cities such as Timișoara, Cluj, Oradea, Brașov.

**Slide 10: Bucharest**

And of course, București

After this brief incursion into Romanian landscape, traditions and contemporary Romania, let’s look at the language too.

**Slide 11: Language**

We have used the following Romanian words so far:

N castel-castele M rege-regi N râu-râuri

F mare-mări F pasăre-păsări N sat -sate

M munte-munți F tradiție-tradiții F mașină-mașini

F femeie-femei M bărbat-bărbați M copil-copii

Romanian has three grammatical genders. That means that they are not linked to the natural gender of nouns. For example: **mare** is feminine, **munte** is masculine and **râu** is neutre.

All three words describe elements of nature, but have different genders.

**Slide 12**

Similarly, the words that appeared in the first part of this presentation fall under all three genders.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Masculine nouns | Feminine nouns | Neutre nouns |
| rege-regimunte-munțibărbat-bărbațicopil-copii | mare-măripasăre-păsăritradiție-tradițiimașină-mașinifemeie-femei | castel-castelerâu-râurisat -sateoraș-orașe |

Romanian nouns are rather tricky as they can share the same endings for both their singular and their plural forms, even when they belong to separate gender groups. The best way to remember the correct gender of new nouns is to learn them with their assigned gender.

**Slide 13: More language**

Now let’s learn a few greetings in Romanian:

Bună dimineața Good morning!

Bună ziua Good afternoon!

Bună seara Good evening

Noapte bună Good night

La revedere! Goodbye!

Bună! Salut! Ciao! Servus! Hi!

Pa! Bye!

We will also learn the verb to be (a fi) and personal pronouns.

Eu sunt Ramona

Tu ești Paul

El este Adrian

Ea este Ana

Noi suntem femei

Voi sunteți bărbați

Ei sunt copii

Ele sunt Cristina și Anca

You can say your and your friend’s names, by simply using the verb to be.

Well done for arriving here!

**Slide 14**

I hope you enjoyed this brief introduction to Romanian culture and language, and I have managed to awake curiosity in you for Romanian language.

You can continue learning Romanian by using video courses available for free on YouTube as well as by attending an online course with SSEES- UCL.

You can also use the two books I wrote to improve your grammar and to learn vocabulary in context, with audio too. *Romanian an Essential Grammar* and *Colloquial Romanian.*

As for your degree, studying two languages rather than one, especially a more popular one with a lesser taught one, such as French and Romanian, Spanish and Romanian or German and Romanian, will only benefit you in the future.

Please feel free to ask any questions, by emailing me at r.gonczol@ucl.ac.uk

Now please try to do the exercises attached to the presentation.

**Slide 15**

Good luck!

Mulțumesc și La revedere!

Thank you and goodbye!