

Me, rail - Patrícia Francisco.

Transcription of the dialogue

INTER TITLE

the memory

IZAIRA (off)

I only know her great-grandmother's name, it was Ana.

PATRÍCIA (off)

My name is Patricia. I am Ana's granddaughter.

INTER TITLE

Grandma Ana's street

INTER TITLE

Grandma Ana's house

INTER TITLE

rail

MUSIC

Train

TITLE

Me, rail

INTER TITLE

the work

PATRICIA (off)

Among the several times I talked to my mother about my grandma Ana's life, a sentence called my attention a lot. When returning of her work, my grandma used to cross a railway to go home.

IZAIRA (off)

There was only one bridge for the train and the pedestrians. It was a bridge with the railway, an iron bridge. Then there was a box where people would go while the train was running.

PATRÍCIA (off)

I decided to talk to some people that made me remember my grandmother in some way.

LUCINEI

Every day you go to the countryside, each day it is different. Then you follow the cycle of the plant and it is something like this, there it is, it ends up being part of your life and the whole family's.

It is a knowledge that comes from our parents to us, from our grandparents... We never left the countryside, my great-grandparents, my grandparents, and then my father came, then us. We didn't do anything else in life.

IZAIRA (off)

She used to tell she always worked, since she was young. There was a time she roasted coffee and they had a peanut field, a time when she lived in Criciúma where there are many coal mines, she even worked at a coal mine. When she came to Rio Grande do Sul. She came with another family, then she worked with them a little and later on she went to work at a freezer, in a sandal factory, but most of the time she spent sewing at home.

PATRÍCIA

Do you work?

DAMIANA

No, I'm retired.

PATRÍCIA

Retired. But did you work before?

DAMIANA

Yes, yes, I've worked, but in the field.

PATRICIA

In the field? What did you do in the field?

DAMIANA

I've planted, I've picked.

PATRÍCIA

Were you the one that planted?

NILZA

If we did plant? My Goodness! Everything we planted and picked. Coffee, rice, bean, corn, soya, we grew pigs, cows, chickens. Pleasant.

PATRÍCIA

What did you like to plant the most?

NILZA

Coffee.

PATRÍCIA

Why coffee?

NILZA

Because it is pleasant.

LUCINEI

It hurts a lot the back, do you know? So, it is not a pleasant job, no. Working in the field, I think there's not such a job like this "oh I like to do that", because either you work folded down or holding the hoe the whole day or it is a heavier job even. For instance, the tomato is heavy work.

DAMIANA

And for us, it is not we plant cassava, we plant "maniva.". We planted cassava, we planted beans, potato, things like that. The "maniva" trunks, of "maniva" like this, those trunks we stick in the ground and then the piece of field succeeds. We don't call field, we call plantation. Here people call field but for us from the countryside, the plantation is what gives the cassava, and the soil is the field.

NILZA

We planted with the seedling... and then.

PATRÍCIA

How long does it take?

NILZA

Where?

PATRÍCIA

To grow, to sprout.

NILZA

From four to five years.

PATRÍCIA

From four to five years?

NILZA

The seed. If I tell you everything, until the cup, I know. And... I understand everything. I worked in the field, I was the peasant, I've grown my 6 children.

DAMIANA

The cassava when is ready to pick, the men picked it, took it to the flour package, there we scraped it to peel the cassava. And we milled in a wheel... pulling... prepared the paste, took it to the oven, stirring, to make the flour.

PATRÍCIA

And then you made the food.

DAMIANA

Yes, we did all that. Then it turned the time when there were the dry sticks, we brought it home, for threshing, to eat in the summer.

IZAIRA (off)

She liked to live in the countryside, growing animals, to plant, these were the things she liked most, she didn't like living in the city, no.

PATRÍCIA (off)

When was the first time you remember dealing with the hoe?

LUCINEI

Ah, there is a nice thing. It is like this, yes, one of the first times I went working in the field I was very little, I don't know, I think I was 8, I think I was about 8 years old, I think so. Because we always went a lot to the church, people in the countryside are very religious. And in that time, we were with a business in the church we called biblical circle and every Wednesday there was something we called "concrete gesture." A whole community should go helping a family. There was a little man there, I think he is dead now, Sir Crispim. He was very ill, he was all alone. He had lots of beans, abandoned in the bush. Then the "concrete gesture" was picking the bean and giving everything in a bag for him. If we didn't do that he would lose the bean. But then my father said: "I will take my two girls to help". Then we arrived there and there were only men. My father then did it, I will never forget it, I can live a hundred years that I will never forget it. My father picked it for both of us and he said "in this life, we have to learn to do everything", I get moved speaking about him. He said "in this life, we have to learn to do everything. That's why you are here today, to learn it is not easy, but I want you to learn.

IZAIRA (off)

When I were young we had ducks, chicken, pigs, everything in that little piece of land. They've planted lots of trees, while the trees didn't grow, fruit trees, an orchard like this, while they didn't give fruits they've planted vegetables, lettuce, tomato...

LUCINEI

Then, it was like this one of the first times I remember going. One of the first times I remember dealing with the plants and going to the field. He thought like this "I have three daughters; I don't know what will happen in their lives. I don't know if you will have a chance to study. I don't know if I will get to give you this opportunity but", he thought about his sisters that worked in the field and are very strong, very strong women. Then he wanted to teach us how important it is to learn to do everything in life and that it was a safe port if we learned to do that. It was a safe port, we could survive, at least. I think that was what he thought.

IZAIRA (off)

She always seemed to be a strong person, like this, very brave. She wasn't afraid of anything, she faced any situation. Determination, my mother was like this, a determined

person. She intended to do something and she did it. She solved things her own. She was very independent. This is something always impressed me about her.

INTER TITLE

the love

NILZA

Each one with their work, their house.

PATRÍCIA

Do they live close to you or not? They live here in Jundiaí.

NILZA

My husband turned to a beggar and died.

PATRÍCIA

What?

NILZA

I left my husband 29 years ago. He became a beggar and died.

PATRÍCIA

I don't believe!.

NILZA

I didn't tell him to do that, I didn't tell him to become a beggar. My daughter has to know how to swim to grow her children, she has to study. Thanks God I've succeeded.

PATRÍCIA

Did you decided to leave?

NILZA

I did. I left him there. He hurt me without deserving, I left. We lived together for 20 years, I wasn't lucky, he hurt me, I left him.

PATRÍCIA

How long?

NILZA

20 years.

PATRÍCIA

You spent 20 years with him.

NILZA

And six children. Why should we have a man for swearing? If the man is the woman of the house, then.

PATRÍCIA

Didn't he work?

NILZA

When he worked, my daughter, what he got wasn't even enough for him. Then, there's no need for a husband. Thanks God, today I'm happy! My children are married; I live only me and God, thanks God!

PATRÍCIA (off)

And what's your first husband's name?

IZAIRA (off)

It was Antonio. She married the first time when she was 14, with a man that had left his first wife, he was much older than she, he was almost 40. He had a life like this, a very good financial situation and she lived with him until she was twenty something. Later he bought some land and they went to the mountain, to a place where there was a virgin forest. For 2 years they lived in the middle of the mountain. She didn't stand it anymore; she wanted to go back to the city. Then she stayed in the city and my grandfather went living with her. My grandmother had died. She worked at the mine and he took care of the children during the day. But then my grandfather died.

She stayed, she was so young, with that bunch of children, she didn't know what to do. Then the uncles decided to help and took a child each. Then she decided to come to Rio Grande do Sul with that family.

LUCINEI

I come from a family with four sisters. Only women. We had to do the hard work. Like my sisters they drive the tractor, we know how to do everything. They are all married but still live there. Instead of living with their husbands, their husbands came living with us.

PATRÍCIA (off)

My grandma's second husband was Pedro de Souza, my grandfather, I didn't meet him.

IZAIRA (off)

And then, in the freezer, wrapping the goods, the things, there she met my father. They married. He wanted to have his own business and they put up a sandal factory. When he died she gave up the factory and continued sewing.

DAMIANA

Then I was I alone, what should I do? Let's go, mate.

PATRÍCIA

Did he also used to plant? Also plants?

DAMIANA

He planted, he was a fisherman. He went to the tide to catch his fish, planted, that was how we lived.

PATRÍCIA

Planting and fishing.

DAMIANA

And also nowadays, in these times, there were not many plants, no rain, it was not raining, it was hard to keep the farming. I said "let's go, let's take our daughters, there things will get better."

PATRÍCIA

And was it better?

DAMIANA

Thanks God it was better! We are both of us retired and we are living until the day God wants us to live.

IZAIRA (off)

She married him when she was 27, later he died. When my father died she was 39.

PATRÍCIA (off)

And then, did she marry again?

IZAIRA (off)

Then she married Sir Djalmo. Then they've got a house in Sarandi, they bought it, she and Sir Djalmo and we moved there where she lived the rest of her life.

INTER TITLE

the affection

MUSIC

Theme for grandma Ana

IZAIRA (off)

Always she made something in the sewing machine.

PATRÍCIA (off)

That square quilt?

IZAIRA (off)

Sure, sure, she did that many years. I remember, yes. She cut, she got it, joined scraps, cut out ribbons, like this, and went setting up the quilt.

LUCINEI

My grandmothers are, like this, the most important thing for us in the ranch, because my grandmother she wakes up in the morning, she will already throw corn for the chickens. And she wakes up, like this, waking up everyone "What are you thinking? It is time to wake up; do you think you are a teacher? No, you work in the field, get up, that are pigs to treat, the field to dig, milk to get, it is time, let's wake up." She is angry like this, "let's fo folks, let's go, the sun is in the middle of the sky, it passed the time to wake up."

PATRÍCIA (off)

The sad song of the soundtrack of Federico Fellini's film La Strada was one of the songs my grandma used to sing the most.

EXPEDITO (off)

So, I find it all very interesting. And nobody, no, everybody has their jobs, but no one can live without agriculture. It is so, if it was not the agriculture, they don't plant the rice, the bean, the corn, the cassava, for us to feed, the green vegetable, all this, we have the cost of our work.

MUSIC

Theme for grandma Ana

INTER TITLE

My grandmother, Ana Ribeiro de Souza, lived from 1912 to 1983.

Final credits