


APRENDICES 4 - TRADUCCIÓN AL INGLÉS

Sofía Romano

 Sofía Romano | Aprendices | La Red | 2024

INTRO

In adolescence, I think that my whole being began to have questions that needed answering, for more than just vindication.

I think I am passionate about communication from that place. When two people, two parties exchange, there is richness.

I believe that richness lies in the conciliation of learning and, above all, finding oneself.

It's a kind of eternal search, it won't stop.

PREVIA

Well, I'm told you are a sports journalist.

Yes, yes. Actually I started that in the last few years.

Close it.

I trained in cultural journalism.

Oh, wow.

And since I was also always linked to the performing arts, with dance, I know Gianni, and the theater...

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Did you dance?

Yes, I danced, I taught oriental dance classes.

Ah, classes. You were already into...

Yes, I did that for many years.

Oriental dance.

Yes, Arabic, tribal and Bollywood dance, which is Hindu dance.

Hindu, yes, I know.

I always went to the field, but I didn't study to be a sports journalist.

In fact, I was someone who detested sports journalism, you know?

Oh, really?

But then I said: "Why not? I have no job".

And so I started, I said yes, and I came to like working in sports journalism. I worked at TyC Sports, the year before last.

A vast career.

In very few years, yes, it was crazy.

We're good here, right? One step ahead...

Perfect.

Good, good.

The two trips were for very different reasons and at different times in my life. One was when I was 18 and...

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The trip to New Zealand.

The trip to New Zealand, yes, I did it when I was 18.

Which was more of a curiosity.

I went with the Working Holiday Visa to continue studying English and to be able to work.

I didn't want to continue with my academic life as stipulated. That is: school, high school, university.

I needed to leave formal education and have another type of experience.

I was privileged. Going to New Zealand obviously required a bit of money.

But it was great, it was something that changed my life.

You were very young.

I was super young, but it changed my perspective about how I wanted to live life, what made me happy, what things I was passionate about.

Was it the first time you were away from your family?

Yes, yes.

Far from home, let's say.

Yes, the first time.

That's a jump.

Indeed. I am an only child, so it had a strong impact on my family unit.

You got the color green.

Perfect.

Seat. Perfect. You got the green one and I get the white one as usual.

And these lights change?

Each interviewee gets a color.

I love it.

ENTREVISTA

I define myself as an active woman, with a lot of energy, with a vocation for communication, expression, with an interest in changing some things, in reclaiming others, with a social and collective commitment, with a lot of love for the people I care about and choose to share my life with. And I think that's about it. I had never thought about it, actually.

The first words you mention are "active woman". You work in many areas, but one of them is a masculine world.

What is it like today, for Sofía, for this active and activist woman, to function professionally as she does today?

It is a continuous challenge, which has no end, and you go through it knowing that it has no end. When I mean there is no end, I mean that the changes I fight for are changes I hope will happen.

I don't give up because if I did, I wouldn't have the energy to do what I do. But I know there is still a long way to go. I am 34 years old. I don't know if I will see the changes that are needed to be able to equalize rights and opportunities between men and women.

However, as time goes by I am finding it natural to be in this fight or in this position.

So, while it's something that doesn't depend on me, it's already part of what I do.

I don't know if I'm being clear, Darío, but it's already part of my job.

At what point did it become important to bring these issues up? It is not just: "I'm doing this job, but I'm also trying to send a message here, an expression". Can you identify when did it take place?

In adolescence. I think that there my whole being began to have questions that wanted to be heard, beyond just vindication.

So, I raised some issues, which perhaps occurred in the classroom or in contexts that, viewed from the outside, would seem to have no relevance. Actually, they are super important.

I think that adolescence, from 14 to 16 years of age, is an important transition between childhood and adulthood, and the conflict appears between what you want to be and what you thought you had to be, and it is a complete discovery.

In that discovery there are a lot of contradictions, and in those contradictions I came across the question, that is, the question always as a type of lethal weapon, in a good way.

To be able to express myself, whether from disagreement or a lack of understanding. And I remember that at the time my parents told me that this was something more related to my adolescence, to the stage I was going through.

But if I think about it now I embrace that moment because thanks to that Sofia, to that context, I believe I found something in my essence that accompanies me to this day.

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To me the most important thing is exchanging ideas, what is happening now in the communication field. That's why I'm passionate about it, because if the transmitter and the receiver are not well predisposed, we are not really communicating, we are not sharing a code, and so the message will not be understood.

So, I think I am passionate about communication for that purpose, to be able to exchange ideas, and when two people or two parties exchange words, there is richness there. Whether they agree on what they are talking about or not, whether it is something very transcendent or not, I think it makes our society stronger and more forceful.

And today there may be more openness, the "it's just a phase" warning seems to be on the way out, but it seems to me that there is still a way to go.

Let's go back to the Sofía who was 16, 17 or 18 years old. How did you choose your vocation and began to train? How did you channel your restlessness? How did you figure out the things you liked to do and those you didn't?

I was lucky to have many interests since I was a child. Lucky, considering that sometimes you don't know exactly what you like. And I was lucky that I liked many things, but it was complicated, because my interests were really diverse and went in very, very different directions.

I really liked art, I always liked writing, I always liked dancing, acting, the whole performance part, that is, expression with the body. And when I reached adolescence, perhaps due to influence from family and those close to me, my interest in the legal profession began.

My dad was a lawyer and I associated that to social commitment, which I think is something that is intrinsic to me because if I think about it, well... Did I have a person who told me I should go to fight for this or that cause? No, I think that urge came from me.

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So, I think that is something very much mine, and I don't know why I associated my desire for justice with the legal profession. Let's see, I associated it precisely because justice, and legal justice, in that aspect, go hand in hand.

So, I was going to carry out this desire that I had through the study of law and I was going to be a lawyer, which was something close to home.

Obviously it stood in tremendous contradiction with everything else, which was theater, dance, writing. I remember my mother used to tell me: "Well, some things are just hobbies. Dance is a hobby, Sofía, don't forget". I'd reply "Sure, OK" but my desire was still there.

The same with theater, the same with writing. Now, the legal profession was very well received in my family environment. So, I became accustomed to it. In other words, I convinced myself that the legal profession was a much smoother path for me, that it resonated with me and that I was going to go that way.

So, I didn't dedicate as much time as I would have liked to the other activities and focused squarely on the law, which is what I ended up doing.

Why did you choose to change country, to emigrate, when you were very young?

How old were you? 18 years old. Where did that energy, that drive to switch countries come from?

I heard one day on the radio that there was a Working Holiday Visa to go to New Zealand and obviously I became excited.

And I heard about this country that was so far away and there were two islands and they spoke English and I said: "Ok, English, English is the key to convince my parents," which was what I had to do to get them to give me the money for the ticket, because I was not working at that time.

It changed me entirely. I mean, it was a 180 degree turn in my perspective. I think about that 18-year-old Sofi, on the other side of the world, and I'm amazed. Getting up at 6 in the morning to go to the vineyard to look for grapes, the grapes covered in ice and me without gloves because I had no idea that they'd be so cold. And working until 6 in the afternoon.

Understanding other types of jobs that I was never going to do later on. It was the time to do so. Being able to also dissect the things I was doing and what I wanted to do better or where I was going.

I did a lot of field work, but I ended up working in a restaurant as a night manager, as a waitress. I found my way into it, so to speak.

You said: "The grapes were frozen, they were covered in ice". What went through your mind while you were doing that repetitive task?

Well, what I thought at that moment was: "I can't be this stupid. I can't be so ignorant to come to a place where it's 3 degrees at 6 in the morning and to come like this and not even ask".

The question was the key once more. How could I not ask what I needed to bring? Is something missing? What is the work I am going to do?

I went there and I introduced myself. And when I showed up, of course, they told me what I was going to do, what I was going to... I mean, they sent me to war with a fork, basically.

And I also think that the person in charge of the vineyard at that time wanted me to go with my hands like that, to grab the icy grapes. And when my hands began to freeze, as it happened, my hands were immobilized, because you can keep at it for maybe 30 minutes, an hour, but no longer.

So, there came a time when I could no longer do the job as needed and I had to stop and ask if they could give me some gloves and to withstand the question: "How is it you come here without gloves on?"

I felt: "I should have been prepared for this". But I wasn't prepared for it and I didn't ask enough to know what was needed of me.

Do you remember another moment of your life like the episode with the grapes?

Yes, of course. Of course, but reflecting on it with you, I think that experience led me to ask what is needed of me when I face something that I don't know how to do or that is new to me. Now, I just ask.

I don't mind looking like a fool. What I don't want is to feel stupid, and that happens when I don't have the tools or the impact is so great that I am left in shock. Or when I want to do an activity but due to a lack of knowledge I cannot carry it out.

So, I prefer to ask, to prepare myself. I mean, similar things have happened to me in my job, in communication.

At the same time, sometimes I feel that you have to jump into the pool as long as there is at least some water, because through those types of experiences, learning ends up being more complete, more intense.

I remember an anecdote of yours, where you thought it was just a job interview but you were actually on the air. Brings me back to this idea of yours: "I went unprepared".

Of course, in reality there are times when one can do certain things to go with as many tools as possible. But then there is the other side of life, right? You cannot control what the other person or the other party is going to do.

In this case, I went in prepared for a job interview. I had a meeting with a channel and I was prepared for that, to talk about my work, my

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experiences, to say what I believed I could contribute to the channel. Basically, the preparation that one can have for a job interview.

Now, I couldn't tell them not to do what they ended up doing, which was that when I arrived they told me: "Look, you're going to go on the air". I could have said: "Look, you didn't tell me this, you should have told me," because obviously it involves more preparation.

Besides, I had to talk about Argentine football. I could have told him: "Not like this, this is not how I do things". But at that moment I valued not only the opportunity, but putting myself in that challenge.

I had ten minutes, so while they put my makeup on, I was reviewing the info, watching the games' highlights, becoming acquainted with the teams River and Boca, and I said: "Well, let's see what I can do with this".

So I took it as: "Ok, don't let this situation bring me down, don't let it get me down and do your best". It was a real challenge.

Sofía, I see that you have a considerable power of adaptation, a capacity to adapt to situations.

From the first time you went on the air to the Sofía who is fully in charge, how much learning was involved and how much did you change?

Well, a lot changed in little time, which I sometimes try to take into account, to be able to manage the anxiety. In other words, we live in a world that proclaims immediacy as good, due to the technological era and the technological revolution, so everything that is faster is better.

As far as the work goes, fast is good, but it does not make it better. It is good to set goals for yourself, but if they do not happen quickly, it does not mean that they are not going to ever happen or that this job is not for you.

And at first it was difficult for me to be at peace with that. I am still in the search for balance.

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Just today I was talking about cycles, since my field is very cyclical. I think it happens in other areas as well, but in the media you can have a lot of work and a very busy year and not have much work the following year. And it doesn't mean that you are doing your job badly. Maybe so, but not necessarily.

So, sometimes I kind of stop and say: "Well, not many years have passed since I dedicated myself to this and decided I'm going to try to make a living from this".

So, since I did television for the first time, at the end of 2020, my intensity when it came to communicating changed a lot.

But I have also been able to do other things, which I found fascinating, like entertainment shows, making a program with spiral staircase with lockers, like El Juego de la Oca, and being able to use my body too, not only my voice and opinion. I could entertain the audience from a different place.

I think that the experience of working on Argentine TV made me learn more about the show aspect of TV.

In other words, you take something from everything, and the richness is in absorbing it all and reconciling it all. I think it's a way of finding myself and my profile, you know?

It's a kind of eternal search, it's not going to stop.

I want to invite you to do a small exercise. 16 years have been passed since those frozen grapes.

What would you tell 16-year-old Sofía? What would today's Sofía tell that girl?

I get emotional thinking about it. I would tell her to trust, to trust that feeling.

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On that same trip, I did some gardening work for a lady, her crops and her orchard. And, at one point, I was in the garden and the sun came out. Something very simple, very simple. The sun came out behind some clouds. I was in a very beautiful place, with spectacular mountains, and though I'm not Catholic, I had a very peculiar energetic sensation. It was a moment of happiness, and I felt I had never been as happy as I was in that second. I was alone, there was no one and the sun came out behind some clouds. Nothing really happened, but it was at the end of my trip.

I was about to return to Uruguay, and thinking about it today, 16 years later, I think that all I do is search for that same second. And I've found it. I've found it in different ways, not always involving a rising sun, but in ways that I never imagined.

So, I think I would tell her: "You're going the right way".