

Transcript of Interview with (interviewee's name)
Interview conducted by (your name) at (place), on (date)

Notes

Britney	Okay, so it is May 16 th , 2022, uhm, I'm Britney Ta and I'm with my aunt Bay, uhm, in Tacoma Washington. Bay, you wanna say hi? [Laugh]	
Bay	Yeah.	
Britney	[Laugh]	
Bay	What you asked?	
Britney	[Laugh] I asked if you wanted to say hi. Whatever. Okay, so, uhm, questions. How long have you lived in Washington?	
Bay	How long huh?	
Britney	Mhmm.	
Bay	Uhhhh, I went to uh, came here about... December 1999.	
Britney	1999?	
Bay	Mhmm. Almost uhhh, 2...	
Britney	Almost 23 years ago?	
Bay	Yeah, uh, 2000.	
Britney	Mhmm, 2000, yeah.	
Bay	2000.	
Britney	Mhmmhmm.	
Bay	And now maybe 22 years, right?	
Britney	Yeah, 22 years. Almost 23.	
Bay	Mhm.	
Britney	Uhm... Where did you live before?	
Bay	Where I live before?	
Britney	Mhm.	
Bay	My country or here?	

Britney	Yeah, your country.	Translation: What was the district called?
Bay	Yeah, my country Vietnam.	
Britney	Mhmm.	
Bay	And uhh... Saigon, I lived in Saigon city.	
Britney	Mhm. And-	
Bay	And ah, quận bình thành gì? Ah, Saigon city, Saigon city, mhm.	
Britney	Saigon city, yeah?	
Bay	Mhm.	
Britney	And what made you leave uhm Saigon city to come to Washington?	
Bay	Mhm. Uh... say it again?	
Britney	Uhm... What made you- What made you leave Saigon city to come to Washington?	
Bay	Why come here?	
Britney	Mhm!	
Bay	Well, because uh, before 19... Before, uh, 1975, communists come to take over Saigon.	
Britney	Mhm.	
Bay	And... We, my family lost their jobs, lost their jobs, lose their jobs.	
Britney	Mhm.	
Bay	Lose everything. And grandma, grandpa go to uh farm.	
Britney	Oh.	
Bay	Farm. Work-	
Britney	Farm work? Like on the fields?	
Bay	And after that, uhm, my sister, my, my first sister, she have uh, one daughter- one son. His son- her- no, her son.	
Britney	Her son?	

Bay	Her son.	
Britney	Mhm.	
Bay	Half Vietnamese, half American.	
Britney	Ahh.	
Bay	That why Grandma applied for, uh, government for, uh, United States. Yeah, applied.	
Britney	Ahh. She applied to leave?	
Bay	Yeah. And after 1991, 1991.	
Britney	Mhm.	
Bay	Government, uh, United States government accept for, uhm, Grandma take, uh, Grandma, Grandpa take your dad, your dad, and your cousin. Yeah.	
Britney	Mhm. So-	
Bay	Come to, uhm, United States.	
Britney	So wait, in 1991, they accepted you guys, but you guys left in 1999?	
Bay	No uh, Grandma, grandpa, and your dad with, uh, your cousin, Giang. La, uh your cousin, ba còn là cậu của anh giang	Translation: (My) dad was (my cousin) Giang's uncle.
Britney	Mhm.	
Bay	And come to United, come to the U.S. and ah, after that, my- your grandma-	
Britney	Mhm	
Bay	-She applied for, uh... uh, she give for. She applied for, uh, U.S. citizen.	
Britney	Uh, citizenship?	
Bay	She had- yeah, citizenship.	
Britney	Mhm.	
Bay	And she uh, she applied for me and, uhm, your aunty, Le, to come here.	
Britney	Mhm.	

Bay	1999.	
Britney	Mhm, yeah.	
Bay	That's why I come here.	
Britney	Mhm.	
Bay	Why I've been here. [Laugh]	
Britney	Was it rough getting citizenship?	
Bay	Hah?	
Britney	Was it hard getting the citizenship?	
Bay	Hard?	
Britney	Was it hard, yeah.	
Bay	Oh, yeah, because I took care a lot.	
Britney	Mhm.	
Bay	My sister, my young sister and young brother.	
Britney	Mhm.	
Bay	I'm number 7.	
Britney	Yeah.	
Bay	My family, I'm number 7. But under me, I have 6 children. 6 uh, two sisters and 4 uh...	
Britney	Brothers?	
Bay	4 brothers.	
Britney	Mhm, big family.	
Bay	Yeah, big family. That's why I take care of all them.	
Britney	Mhm. Uh, and what was life like in Saigon?	
Bay	I live in Saigon when I was young.	
Britney	Mhm, yeah.	

Bay	And 1975, I, I uh, my age uh, 18 years old.	
Britney	Mhm.	
Bay	Yeah.	
Britney	You were 8 years old?	I misheard, but Bay was 18 not 8 in 1975
Bay	Yeah, 1975, I had, I was, uh, 18 years old.	
Britney	Mhm.	
Bay	But uh... No job, no school because communists, they come in.	
Britney	Mhm.	
Bay	No, I have no school.	
Britney	Mhm.	
Bay	No job, no everything.	
Britney	Mhm.	
Bay	And young, I just grow up look like Amy. Amy 18, yeah.	Amy is my sister.
Britney	Mhm. Uh... Same age as Amy?	
Bay	No, I mean uh, that uh, the age, 18, then 1975, 18 years old.	
Britney	Yeah.	
Bay	I don't have a job, I don't have to go to school. Or, high school, I finished high school, that's it.	
Britney	Mhm. It was a big struggle?	
Bay	Mhm.	
Britney	Uhm... Then... uhm... how do you think your childhood differs from, um, the childhood that um, the um, the kids in our family have over here?	
Bay	I don't understand.	
Britney	Uh...	
Bay	How.... How they come in, huh?	

Britney	How- How do you think- okay. How do you think your childhood and uhm, in Saigon is like... How do you feel about it and how do you think it differs from, um, kids of our generation, like, so like, how, um, me, Amy, and Riches grew up and how like Megan and um, Lexi grew up? You know?	Amy and Riches are my two older siblings while Megan and Lexi are my two younger cousins.
Bay	Mhm. When I was young, I, erm, in Vietnam, the teacher, not uh, teach, uh the children clearly if they have, uh, look like free for when I have uh, enter, tiểu học gì?	Translation: What school level was it?
Britney	Hm?	
Bay	Under high school, what do you call it?	
Britney	Oh, middle school?	
Bay	Yeah. If your parents, they have some money, they pay money for school. And you guys can go learn, learn in school, but grandma, grandpa, because they had a lot of children.	
Britney	Hm, ah, they couldn't pay for it?	
Bay	Yeah, that's why they don't have money and let me, uh, go to school, that's why very hard. And then, uh, school from uh the job.	
Britney	Mhm. You- oh, you were working instead? Or?	
Bay	Yeah, work, like I learn how to seamstress. Thợ may, thợ may uh, seamstress.	Translation: thợ may means tailor.
Britney	What?	
Bay	Seamstress. When you may thợ.	
Britney	Sewing?	
Bay	Yeah.	
Britney	Sewing?	
Bay	Yeah, sewing.	
Britney	Oh, sewing!	
Bay	Sewing. Look like... tailor.	
Britney	Tailor? Ah yeah.	
Bay	Tailor made.	

Britney	Yeah. Sewing, sewing tailor made clothes. Uhm... I remember you saying that uhm, Ba couldn't go to school til he was like 7, I think?	
Bay	7... No-	
Britney	No?	
Bay	When you go first school uh, look like, 6 years old.	
Britney	Mhm.	
Bay	6 year olds.	
Britney	Oh, 6.	
Bay	6 year old, yeah. Every, every, uh children they have 6 year old they go to first class.	
Britney	Mhm yeah. Okay then, um... And then- So, how was it like adapting to life in America? Was it hard? Adapting?	
Bay	Nói lại lớn nữa?	Translation: Say it again, louder?
Britney	How was it, uh, adapting to life over here in America?	
Bay	So hard, huh.	
Britney	What- Yeah, like was it hard living here? When you first started living here?	
Bay	Cô không hiểu.	Translation: I don't understand.
Britney	You can't- hmm... How do I explain it...	
Bay	Lớp học đặc biệt?	Translation: Favorite class?
Britney	Uh- uhm. Living, like...	
Bay	Living, huh?	
Britney	Yeah, like was it hard, uh, when you first moved here? To America.	
Bay	Yeah, I worked so hard.	
Britney	You worked so hard?	
Bay	So hard and um... Ah, I don't have a uh, when I go to work, I don't have a motorcycle.	

Britney	Oh, you don't have a motorcycle?	
Bay	I just uh, bicycle.	
Britney	Ahh.	
Bay	Yeah. When going to work, bi- by bicycle uh, from home, go to work. Almost 45 minutes.	
Britney	Ah, that's long.	
Bay	Yeah, and some weather... okay, some weather, heavy raining.	
Britney	Ah yeah. Especially in Washington.	
Bay	Yeah, heavy raining.	
Britney	Mhm... Do you think...	
Bay	Còn muốn hỏi gì không? Con viết xuống cô mới biết.	Translation: Any other questions? If you want to ask anything else, write it.
Britney	I- I honestly don't know. I don't know how well this will work, uhm, because I don't know if I can type full sentences in it.	Talking about my aunt's electronic Vietnamese-English Dictionary here
Bay	Ah I see. Yeah, before I, I remember a little bit, but now maybe I'm getting old. Almost forgot something, so that's why sometimes I forgot what the way- what the word they say.	
Britney	Ah, yeah. You have me pronounce the word a lot. Or type it. Or look it up. Uhm... oh yeah, um.... Um... How was... How was- when you first came over to America, how were your language barriers?	
Bay	How old... when finished school, huh?	Language barrier manifesting on the language barrier question
Britney	No- uh. [Laugh] You wanna answer that, go ahead, but that's not what I asked.	
Bay	Cô viết xuống.	Translation: Write it down.
Britney	Umm how were your language barriers? So, like you know how we're, um, right now, we are struggling to talk because of our language barrier because you don't understand that much English.	
Bay	No, no. Yeah no, before, because in Vietnam, I never studied English.	
Britney	Yeah, you never studied English.	
Bay	That's why I didn't know- I just know, when I come here, I just know yes or no.	

Britney	Ah.
Bay	Only, but now I learn a little bit, yeah. I learn more, more, more, but some people they talk, but I understand a lot, if they not, some, some people, they're very good. They're American, but different. Different uh, east, or south, or....
Britney	Oh, yeah from a different region?
Bay	Yeah, look like Uncle Ken, very hard to listen to him.
Britney	Ah, you can't understand him?
Bay	Some of the guys, talk to me, ah I understand a lot, that's why I feel better. Yeah, look like before, I and Co Le, Aunty Le-
Britney	You can speak Vietnamese.
Bay	No, we learn. We learn from uh, how to make uh, citizen. Citizen.
Britney	You learn from citizens?
Bay	Yeah, that's why I got- I learn uh, 100 questions.
Britney	100 what?
Bay	Questions. Câu hỏi.
Britney	Mhm.
Bay	Learn English- learn uh, ah learn 100 questions from your, your got uh, citizenship.
Britney	Mhm.
Bay	Yeah. That why I'm lucky when I got a guy, he uh, look like uh... con, in-in- ?
Britney	Interview?
Bay	Yeah, interview- yeah, interview. See? I- Before I remembered wrong, but now a little bit... maybe I'm scared my...
Britney	He interviewed you?
Bay	Yeah, the guy. He American, he interviewed me and he call exactly my name, and now I understand and I feel better. If first time, some people interview you, but you don't understand, you will be scared, you lose. But some you understand first, you will calm down and you focus and

	remember something. That's why I got citizenship. Look like American now	
Britney	You're a proud American now! Uhm... And what are your experiences with oppression? Here or in Vietnam.	
Bay	Oppression huh?	
Britney	Oppression, yeah.	
Bay	Ah, no good.	
Britney	No good?	
Bay	No, I mean from here, good, but uh... from... I... because American English... too much words.	
Britney	Too many words?	
Bay	Yeah. Different-	
Britney	Uh, oh grammar? Yeah. Yeah, grammar is confusing and in Vietnamese, your grammar is much more simpler because you don't have- there's no past or present form.	
Bay	Yeah before Grandma, she very good. She speak French.	
Britney	Oh, she speak French?	
Bay	Yeah. And uh, first she listened to- she know about English more than me. I remember long time ago when I just come here one year, I and grandma go to uh, market.	
Britney	Market?	
Bay	Look like uh Safeway. And uh, we brought some juice. But-	
Britney	Juice?	
Bay	Look like Jamica? The cashier she forgot, "What they called?" she look at me, she thought me good at English, but I didn't know. But Grandma answered.	
Britney	Oh.	
Bay	Yeah.	
Britney	Oh, that's interesting because I don't remember grandma speaking English.	

Bay	Yeah, but now she old. She forgot some things.	
Britney	Mhmm, yeah. Yeah, that's rough. The language barrier is huge.	
Bay	Yeah, I wish I turned 10 years younger, I would learn English better because when you guys young, your tongue easy. But for my- Asian people very hard to learn English because inside our tongue-	
Britney	Oh, yeah the tongue placements, yeah. Yeah-	
Bay	Look like when I remember, when I learn English from community house.	
Britney	Community house?	
Bay	Yeah, community. But I remember one. The guy he said, "I have my friend, I worked so hard because I take care of my house." He said house, not <i>house</i> .	
Britney	House.	
Bay	House. That's why I remember. And the teacher, his name Randy, he said when you speak, the tongue, he put his tongue out. Made me scared, embarrassed and that's why I don't-	
Britney	You were embarrassed?	
Bay	Yeah, embarrassed. He-he took his tongue outside, we scared and embarrassed.	
Britney	I see. Um.... Oh, yeah speaking of, so how did you um... How did you feel when... my siblings and me starting speaking English over Vietnamese?	
Bay	You good English, over than me. I hope you guys speak two languages better than me too.	
Britney	Hey when I was growing up- by the time I was growing up, Amy and Riches were already speaking English.	
Bay	Yeah, that's why I helped you guys and keeping my language better and you guys... have two jobs and sometimes you guys... good job.	
Britney	Oh no... I don't know, but yeah.... Uh... Unfortunately, we did not retain Vietnamese, just English. Okay... Um... And what parts of your culture that you wished were passed down to your family?	
Bay	What that?	
Britney	What parts of your culture, like tradition and customs that you wished carried on over to um, like younger generations like um, me and my	

	siblings, Amy and Riches.	
Bay	I wish you guys... good job and uh.. take care of yourselves and...	
Britney	Nice, except that's not what I mean.	
Bay	Because you- you guys don't want to keep language. Some American guy, he white. White people.	
Britney	White, mhm.	
Bay	But they speak Vietnamese too, they sing a song too.	
Britney	Oh yeah, you showed me the other day. Um.... Yeah, you were- I remember a lot growing up, you would always show me people speaking Vietnamese and going "look at this person, they can speak Vietnamese, you can't. Look at this girl younger than you, she can speak Vietnamese well, look at how well she's speaking Vietnamese, what about you?"	
Bay	Linda, she had uh, some students just come into Vietnam. And they went to school look like Bin- look like Tin. Look like your cousins.	
Britney	Yeah, Bin and Tin.	
Bay	I didn't know, that's why some- con, cô không biết nhiều tiếng anh, nếu con biet tieng Vietnam thì dễ cho cô. You will help new students. Look like Linda.	Translation: I don't know much English, if you knew Vietnamese, you could make it easier for your aunt
Britney	Vietnamese is hard to... learn.	
Bay	Not so hard.	
Britney	The tones are hard in my ears. And in my head.	
Bay	Because uh, Vietnamese language from the... not too much but English, ten thousand words.	
Britney	Ah, not as many words.	
Bay	Vietnamese not over ten thousand, maybe one thousand. Yeah, too much. English too much, too many.	
Britney	Yeah, the um.... Yeah, there's not as many words and... the words themselves aren't very long, they're like usually one syllable. Uhm, so how successful do you think your family was at getting a better life in the United States?	
Bay	What did you say?	

Britney	Uhm... because you know how, uh.... You came to America for a better life right? How successful do you guys think you were? Like, did you get a better life.	
Bay	How to come here to work huh?	
Britney	Huh? No- no? How successful do you that um, you and the family um, were at getting a better live moving over here.	
Bay How been moving over here... cô coi thử còn viết gì, cô mới hiểu.	Translation: Let me look at your questions, I didn't understand.
Britney	It's number nine.	
Bay	[Reading the questions]	
Britney	Hang on, let me.... Um, give me a second, hang on. It's question... it's question nine.	
Bay	Question nine huh. Thành thạo con nói cô không hiểu, nhưng cô đọc chữ cô mới hiểu con hỏi gì.	Translation: Sometimes I don't understand what you're saying, but if I read, I can understand what you're asking.
Britney	Sorry, my English...	
Bay	[Reading the question] My family come here and before we don't have a job, we work so hard. Now we have some uh, we have a job, we have everything we want, but they uh, we have to uh....	
Britney	You have to what?	
Bay	Buy two houses.	
Britney	Oh, buy two houses.	
Bay	Mhm, some families they come here, they don't care. They uh, don't buy a house, that's why they don't have a house. The rent, the apartment, you pay money every month. And when you get out, you got nothing, but you buy the house, you pay every month and over 15 years or 30 years, you got the house.	
Britney	In this economy, buying a house is a nightmare.	
Bay	You have any regrets? Is there anything...	
Britney	Oh, that's the second part of question two. I mean not two, nine. Uhm... So, how do you think moving over here affect your families' future generations.	
Bay	Affect huh?	

Britney	Like, yeah affected, yeah. Like how do you think it changed me, amy's-my, amy's, and riches' life moving over to America. Like how you think it affected our lives.	
Bay	Because you guy born here, you guys don't know.	
Britney	Yeah, we get free education. You guys always-	
Bay	Cô không biết, cô muốn coi bấm chữ trong máy cô mới hiểu chữ gì.	Translation: I don't know, I want you to write it in the electronic dictionary so I can understand.
Britney	What word do you need?	
Bay	Regrets huh. Do you have regrets? Is there anything in your life you would change? Regrets huh? Affect... Do you have regrets... In here? Regrets in here?	
Britney	Regrets at any moment in your life I guess.	
Bay	Hm... I don't know yet.	
Britney	You don't know yet? You don't know if you have any regrets?	
Bay	Because before, not now huh. I want future where you take care, I got money, I take care of you guys over.	
Camille	Bay!	
Britney	Camille? We're busy Camille!	
Bay	No, they interview me!	
Britney	Wow, what an interruption, Um... oh no, should we let her in?	
Bay	Về với mẹ đi!	Translation: Go back to mom!
Britney	Wonder if there's a way to cut this out, anyways, um...	
Bay	Sợ gì?	Translation: What are you scared of?
Camille	Bay...	
Bay	Chị đang làm bài!	Translation: Your older sister is doing homework!
Camille	Sợ...	
Britney	What she doing? Sợ gì? Come here. Sợ gì? Hm?	
Bay	Ngồi đây nha, đừng có đụng cái máy nha.	Translation: Sit here, don't touch the computer.

Britney	You can't touch anything, but I'm doing my homework. Um... So, do you have any regrets? ...Oh no.	Translation: Sit here, you can play with this. Don't destroy my computer. I don't know what it means.
Camille	Bay...	
Bay	Ngồi đây nha, cho con chơi cái này. Đừng bảm phá hư máy của tôi. So um... Cô không biết là ảnh hưởng gì.	
Britney	You don't know?	
Camille	Oh wow. Bay.	
Bay	Because I like it here better than in Vietnam.	
Britney	Better? Yeah, like you lived a better life.	
Bay	Because in Vietnam, so hard, work job- hard. In here, I can enjoy everything and I can go travel. But in Vietnam, very hard, I can't go travel.	
Britney	Do you miss living in Vietnam?	
Bay	No.	
Britney	No?	
Bay	Because uh...	
Britney	It was too hard?	
Bay	I worked so hard and I have to take care of grandma. I don't have, before I don't have... boyfriend.	
Britney	Oh yeah? Chris or?	
Bay	But he- no, before I have uh husband, Tim, he passed away, but I, after that I have boyfriend. But your daddy, he don't like my boyfriend. If I move out with my boyfriend, nobody take care of grandma. That's why it very hard.	
Britney	Ah... that's why-	
Bay	If I get out with my boyfriend, I feel guilty. Not taking care of mom.	
Britney	Um... so how do you like America now- I guess you already kinda answered that. I have some other.... This is about the interview that's being recorded right now, I'm looking at my questions. Okay, so what does your culture mean to you?	

Bay	Culture huh? Mean to you?	
Britney	Culture? How do I explain it...?	
Bay	My culture... A big outside, sweater, I like it. And some people, they're very nice. Look like my boss, this morning, he said "hi, morning," but in my country, my boss, he look- he come to you and he see you, but he didn't say hi. Look like my boss, I have to say "yeah" with him, that's why I like it.	
Britney	I don't think you understand what culture means, but that's okay.	
Bay	Culture?	
Britney	Like um, the customs and traditions of our ethnic background, but whatever. Um... were there any times you wished/wanted to reject/hide/change your ethnicity.	
Bay	I don't have anything.	
Britney	No?	
Bay	No regrets or hide something, I don't have.	
Britney	What I'm referring to in this question is like, have you ever like disliked and wished you could change the fact you were Vietnamese. Because I know that growing up, I did, I didn't like the fact I was Vietnamese.	
Bay	Hm... nothing.	
Britney	No? You didn't have that experience?	
Bay	I'm easy.	
Britney	You're easy- you're easy going you mean?	
Bay	Easy, go anywhere anything.	
Britney	You don't huh.	
Bay	I wish, I wish I good English, speak good. And I will take care and answer you all you want.	
Britney	Sorry I am also not good at Vietnamese, so I can't help you either. Yeah so, um....	
Bay	Look like um, before Linda, she interviewed same.	
Britney	Huh?	

Bay	Linda, before. She do a job like you, she hỏi look like-	Translation: Finished yet?
Britney	She interviewed you?	
Bay	Yeah, she interviewed me.	
Britney	Oh. Huh. Yeah, I don't know much about Linda. I, Linda, I don't talk to her. I don't talk most to my relatives. Yeah um... Is there anything that makes you proud to be Vietnamese?	
Bay	Xong chưa	
Britney	This is the last one.	
Bay	Which one?	
Britney	The last one, the bottom.	
Bay	You miss live in Vietnam, you ever wish to go back? No. No, I don't ever want to go back. Just visiting, okay.	
Britney	Visiting is okay.	
Bay	Yeah. What thing you from out-	
Britney	Um... no, no, the last question, is there anything that makes you proud to be Vietnamese? Are you proud to be Vietnamese?	
Bay	Yeah, I'm proud to be Vietnamese.	
Britney	Yeah? Is there anything specifically that makes you proud?	
Bay	Because Vietnamese, they learn, they good. From future, they learn and they're good. And they help out. Not- Look like hit some people. I don't	
Britney	Oh, hit? Mhm.	
Bay	I'm proud American, but because I'm Vietnam... Good.	
Britney	Good?	
Bay	Yeah.	
Britney	Are you proud of our family?	
Bay	Yeah, I proud and I got some uh, my friends, my family, my big family. My grandma, my grandpa, I lost my grandpa. He not tall, but he very good heart.	

Britney	He has a good heart?	
Bay	And my father too. My father, he never hit me. Nothing. Yeah, I'm very proud and happy of my family. My grandma, my father, yeah. And now I got you guys.	
Britney	Yeah, now you have us and you get to take care of us. Okay, well that's all the questions I have and I can't think of any more.	
Bay	Yeah, okay thank you.	
Britney	Mhm. Okay, thank you for answering my questions, we talked for a whole hour or something.	
Bay	Yeah, I hope I can speak English well and I can answer anything you want.	
Britney	Well, mostly. If you... I don't know, if you need to learn English, you got quite a few kids here who mostly speak English so... Just ask Amy, she's doing nothing.	
Bay	I wish I could turn back ten years old.	
Britney	Ten years ago or when you were ten?	
Bay	Yeah- no. ten- now I'm sixty, but I want to turn back ten years where I'm fifty.	
Britney	Oh, ten years ago.	
Bay	I want to go back to school, learn more English.	
Britney	Oh I see.	
Bay	Yeah, because now I'm very old and I don't want. But some old people, seventy years old, they go back to high school.	
Britney	Yeah, they go back to school because they can do that.	
Bay	They wanna finish high school.	
Britney	Yeah, it's never too late to learn and go back to school. Alright, once again, thank you for coming to this interview, I will now end it.	