

Transcript of Interview with Gabriela Hinojosa
 Interview conducted by Estefania at my house, on January 5th
 Abbreviation for Estefania; E
 Abbreviation for Gaby; G

Notes

E:	My name is Estefania Rodriguez, Como te llamas? (What is your name)	
G:	Gabriela Hinojosa Gonzales	
E:	We are in Tacoma WA at home today is Wednesday January 5th and the person I'm interviewing is my mother. Okay, where were you living before you moved to the US?	
G:	Mexico	
E:	Do you ever feel homesick?	
G:	Yes, I miss, I miss- I miss my country, I miss my family, I miss food, I miss the- I guess have fun with my friends back there.	
E:	Do you know what you miss the most?	
G:	Yes, parties.	
E:	How long have you been living in the United States for?	
G:	28 years.	
E:	How old were you when you moved to the United States?	
G:	16	
E:	Uh, how did you feel when you found that you were leaving your homeland.	
G:	It's just a mix of emotions um I was excited but at the same time I was afraid, and I didn't know how much of a big change we were going to encounter but uhhh yeah I mean-	
E:	Do you know why you guys decided to move to the United States?	
G:	My dad said it was for a better life and at that time uh the, the organized crime was actually very, it was starting, you could start to see in your own community, so my dad decided to actually um just look for a safer place.	
E:	Can you tell me about your experience um in crossing the border?	
G:	Uh eh- mine is very simple uh, crossed in the morning and, we were at the same day in the US we didn't -count encounter no no-nothing it was actually a good experience that's what I could say and of course I was young and you could see like as an adventure so it's uh-	

E:	Can you tell me how you felt when you first moved to the US?	
G:	Pressure.	
E:	From?	
G:	Language, responsibility um, my parents couldn't find work and my younger brother of course he didn't he was too young to start working my older brother didn't know the language and also it was it was hard so actually me and my mom found jobs first and I started working to help out my family but um as soon as my dad and my older brother were able to um or they were employed then, my dad pulled me of-of work and I just went full time to school.	
E:	What was your first job, with your mom?	
G:	A factory. It wasn't with my mom, my mom found something else but me I worked at a uh, it was a, it was a factory. Was a clothing factory.	
E:	Do you remember exactly what you did?	
G:	Yeah, we used to trim um trim the-the thread yknow the leftovers and just prepare the clothing, so it'll be ready to-to sell out. It as it was a clothing factory. Yeah.	
E:	Did you like it?	
G:	I liked it because I was very efficient and not everybody would actually be in that type of environment you don't actually get pa-paid by the hour you get paid by um items and bundles. So, I was young, and I got the hang of it and so I would actually make more money by getting paid by the item and buy bun- by b-bundles and so the owner um offered me to get paid by the hour. um yeah.	
E:	Um do you know what the American dream is?	
G:	I kind of have an idea um and I think it's it-it ba- it is based on opinions I could say I'm living a dream. To others probably would be not even close but I think um we're. I think we're-we're living the dream	
E:	So, when you first moved to the United States did you think that you were living the American dream?	
G:	Oh yeah.	
E:	With all struggles?	
G:	With yeah, even with the struggles eh- I mean it's different 'cause even in Mexico we didn't really we weren't poor we were like middle class if you would call it. We weren't rich but we were living comfortable and of course when you come over here and you see dollars and you see like you know that the money is way worth more here than it is over there in your country	

	<p>then yeah of course you know you automatically think- and you come to you know different neighborhoods and you see that the-the way how people are living here so you're like wow this is nice and everything you see is like really new and you think it's good and-and you do think that you were living the American dream</p>	
E:	<p>What were the major differences you immediately saw from your homeland and US?</p>	
G:	<p>Oh gosh the immediate differ- i-it's uh the landscape, um structures I guess the, uh that it's more way-way more cleaner over here. I guess in a way you kind of get forced to have your area clean, your house clean and stuff you- you know like that and the government actual the city gets involved about cleaning streets and little trash and even though you do see it but uh it's not as much uh eh, you could see that right away and so th-that's definitely a shock but at the same time it's like wow you know it's nice it's not as dirty as it is in other you know in other countries especially in mine you know. I'm not saying that it's dirty I mean but you could definitely see the difference.</p>	
E:	<p>What about the poverty?</p>	
G:	<p>Eh- where in Mexico? Or here?</p>	
E:	<p>-uh both the difference between the poverties here and there.</p>	
G:	<p>Well, I mean again I think it all depends. It's based on opinions and based on what you think is really poor. Um I could tell you definitely my country is very poor, and I think that has to do with the government, and you see it more over there. You see kids begging for money you see, it's-it's very common to see little kids begging for money or trying to work or the little kids to try to do something and you-you could see a lot of that an-and that's heartbreaking over here you don't see it as much because obviously you know there's a system where the government gets involved and-and takes um br- uh it takes uh resp- not I-I shouldn't say responsibility but it does I mean like th-there's resources over here where a child shouldn't be working or it's considered child labor and stuff like that and so that's definitely-</p>	
E:	<p>um, how different were the schooling systems</p>	
G:	<p>I think it's way different but uh it also depends on um it has to do with the language in my opinion and again I could be wrong and this has to be with do with difference in opinion and my opinion I think in my country the schooling is way more advanced, but I also think that the US has um I guess more um resources than what our country has and so I think in a way you get stuck and like over here you have- like if you don't have money I think the school you know there's always like resources lots of resources so there's no way that you would not be able to study because bas- you know because of that and over there in Mexico if you don't have like for instance *sigh* if you don't- if your parents don't have money to buy uniforms because uniforms are required over there if there's no money for like books and stuff like that then eh- you definitely get stuck even if you are actually are a very smart child and you know it's really difficult if you have like</p>	

	<p>scholarships and things like that than it-it is really hard for ther-there's not that much resources again which is very there's a lot of people that are very intelligent but it has to do with the poverty and they-they just unless they get really, really lucky and-and they get sponsored and then yeah they can succeed otherwise I think a lot of the *[indistinct]* I would say like 80% of the pop-population they get stuck because of that and I think it has to do a lot with the government too.</p>	
E:	<p>Do you think the schools in your homeland were better or worse than the schooling systems here?</p>	
G:	<p>I think there were better-better at-at least for me you know, but then again, the-the US has way more resources than we do over there. So, it's-it's kind of hard it's-it's kind of a tricky question so uh, I'm-I'm I'm in between eh- of my opinion but obviously the US has way more resources, so I guess there's a balance yknow?</p>	
E:	<p>You had to learn when you came to the US right?</p>	
G:	<p>Mhm.</p>	
E:	<p>Did you have to learn it immediately when you came, or did you learn overtime?</p>	
G:	<p>I learned overtime it took me about maybe four years to actually start speaking because when we first arrived um to the US it was um a lot of Hispanic community so you wouldn't have the necessity to express yourself in a different language you-you get used to it and then you-you understand but you won- just won't reply back and I think that has to do a lot because a lot of the times you get embarrassed because you have an accent and-and stuff like that and you're own kind would actually make fun of you because you have you know you have an accent but uh- it took me awhile to be able to be fluent and comfortable speaking English.</p>	
E:	<p>Uh, what was the hardest part about learning English?</p>	
G:	<p>The accent.</p>	
E:	<p>So, the grammar and-</p>	
G:	<p>Grammar and-and-and also because its um you-you you've ki- you kind of want to like, you find yourself translating from, you think of it-it obviously in Spanish at the beginning you think and then you want to translate and so when you literally do the translation then it's backwards. So that was I think my-my most uh difficult um thing I had an-and in order for you to actually learn you have to think in English you can't think in Spanish and translate because then you, you'll encounter a lot of mistakes.</p>	
E:	<p>So, in Spanish um the words are spelled exactly how they- how they sound right?</p>	
G:	<p>How they sound, yeah.</p>	

E:	But in English the words are pronounced differently from how they're spelt.	
G:	Right, mhm. Yeah.	
E:	So, was that also a challenge for you in learning English?	
G:	Well, yeah part of it too you know.	
E:	Did you ever feel that you had to learn English because you were afraid that people would criticize you for not being able to speak the language?	
G:	No, not necessarily.	
E:	Were there times that you were afraid of being an immigrant in the United States?	
G:	Maybe at one point when uh, you're not very uh- knowledgeable in that area and you hear what's-what's being said in you know on the TV news and-and yeah you kind of get a little bit scary but my- other than that no I don't think so.	
E:	Um, what are the differences that you see in the way that the government works in Mexico than in the US?	
G:	I think every country has corruption but-but mine is like definitely my country definitely is very open you know with the corruption. Now this new president is actually making a lot of changes but for instance the US uh- like I said there, I think there's corruption in ev-every country, but I think the US hides it a little bit more and there's ways I guess how you can get around it. And then I think they're a little bit more strict on that.	
E:	So, you're saying that the cu- the government here is more discreet about the corruption and there are ways that they can get away with it?	
G:	Perhaps yeah perhaps yeah, but over there in Mexico it's like way on the open, it's like-	
E:	So, like once you're caught for something you're-you're done?	
G:	No, not necessarily you-you get caught and you keep on doing it in the open you just don't care.	
E:	Mm.	
G:	Yeah.	
E:	Uh, what was your childhood like and what are the differences between your childhood and people's childhood now	

G:	<p>I think that our childhood was precious and-and it was, it was wonderful where you can just go out without having to worry about um the crime and you could go out and run and-and I remember when my mom would let us out and have fun and stuff like that, go out with our friends at night and now it's like you're over here you know it's like, even going to school you're worried about being shot at or just random things like that so there is a huge difference and it has to do a lot with I think, that so much work that people are just working constantly that we lose that connective-connect-connectivity with our families that we're not involving ourselves and therefore it's a ramification of different problems and we end up or people end up just acting up and just committing crimes. It's just way different than what, like for instance you I remember you guys growing up still wasn't as bad but now it is.</p>	
E:	<p>Thank you for letting me interview you.</p>	
G:	<p>You're welcome.</p>	