INTRODUCTION

Minnesota is home to one of the largest Hmong communities in the United States. More Hmong live in the Twin Cities than in any other urban area in the United States. Originally from Laos, the Hmong supported American troops during the Vietnam War. Beginning in 1976 and continuing in four waves until 1996, many came to the United States as political refugees. The Hmong have strong kinship and clan ties. Many who originally were resettled in other areas, chose to move to Minnesota to be close to family members and other relatives.

The elder women’s experiences included maintaining home and family while their husbands fought alongside American soldiers in the Vietnam War. They fled their farms and villages and crossed the Mekong River into Thailand where they lived in refugee camps before resettling in the United States.

The experiences of the oldest members of the community are vastly different from those who came here as children and those who were born in this country. Today, Hmong women work as teachers, lawyers, and decision makers in their respective positions—opportunities not available to them in their homeland. The youngest never experienced war or resettlement and are unfamiliar with the privations of their elders.

This oral history project chronicles the contributions and experiences of Hmong women with ties to Minnesota. Members of the Hmong Women’s Action Team, a group of Hmong women community leaders and activists, interviewed each other and their mothers and grandmothers, and in one case her daughter. They share their stories of life in the Minnesota, Thailand, and Laos. Three generations from six different families are represented in this series of eighteen interviews.

The interviews help provide a greater understanding of Hmong women’s roles in the home and community, challenges and successes in public and private realms, and across time and space.
An Interview with

See Lee
Narrator

MayKao Hang
Interviewer

On
January 23, 2000

For the
Hmong Women’s Action Team Oral History Project
Hmoob Thaj Yeeb Oral History Project

The transcript is presented in both English and Hmong.
See Lee

Note: The interviewer is the granddaughter of the person being interviewed.

MH: Today is January 23, in the year 2000. This is an oral interview with See Lee, and my name is MayKao Hang, I will be doing the interview.

See Lee, before we start, I would like to ask a little about yourself. What is your maiden name?

SL: My maiden clan name is Lee.

MH: What clan did you marry into?

SL: I married into the Yang clan.

MH: How old are you now?

SL: I am 80 years old.

MH: Eighty years old, how many children do you have?

SL: I have seven children.

MH: How many boys and how many girls?

SL: I have three boys and four girls.

MH: Are your children grown and have they started their own families?

SL: Yes, they are grown, and they have their own families, but my two older children died.

MH: What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

SL: I worked the rice fields.

MH: You did not attend any school?

SL: No, I did not attend school, and I worked the rice fields.

MH: Are you working now, or are do you just stay home?

SL: I just stay home.
MH: Do you receive money from the government, and how much do you receive?

SL: I received $370 from the government, once a month.

MH: Oh, is the money you received called social security benefit?

SL: Yes, it is social security benefit.

MH: Who do you live with?

SL: I live with my sons Blong and Vang.

MH: Are Blong and Vang brothers?

SL: Yes, they are brothers.

MH: Is your husband still alive?

SL: Yes, my husband is still alive.

MH: How old were you, when you married your husband?

SL: I was sixteen years old, when I married my husband.

MH: Did your husband have more than one wife?

SL: No, my husband did not have more than one wife. We knew we wanted each other from the beginning.

MH: When did you come to America and how long have you been to America?

SL: I came to America in 1980.

MH: So, it has been a long time…you came to America in 1980 and this is the year 2000. So you have been in America for 20 years. Where were you born?

SL: My parent gave birth to me in Thaj Thoos.

MH: Where is Thaj Thoos?

SL: Thaj Thoos is in Loom Heej Province.

MH: Is Loom Heej Province in Laos and did you always live in Loom Heej?

SL: I always lived in Loom Heej.
MH: What kind of Hmong are you?

SL: I am Hmong Lee.

MH: Are you Blue Hmong, White Hmong or Stripe Hmong?

SL: I am Blue Hmong.

MH: What is your religion?

SL: My religion is still the old tradition.

MH: I have asked a little about yourself. Now, I will be asking you about when you were a little girl. Could you tell me, when you were a little girl, did you go to school?

SL: No, I did not go to school. I worked in the fields, watched the house and took care of younger children.

MH: When you were a little girl, what were your duties at home?

SL: When I was a little girl, my duty at home was to grind corn.

MH: Are there any other duties?

SL: Yes, I ground corn and carried water.

MH: What about when you were little bigger?

SL: I worked on the rice and cornfields.

MH: Are there any other duties?

SL: No, there weren’t any other duties except working on the rice and cornfields.

MH: What about before the war started?

SL: There are no schools to go to.

MH: Did you volunteer in your community when you were a little girl?

SL: No, I did not.

MH: When you were a teenager, what are the more specific duties that you learned and hoped to nurture in your married life?

SL: I learned how to cook rice, vegetables, feed the chickens and pigs.
MH: Did you learn to sew clothes too?

SL: No, I did not when I was little.

MH: When you were a teenager (*hluas nkauj*), what kind of work did you learn?

SL: When I was a teenager, I learned to sew clothes and do embroidery (*ua paj ntaub*).

MH: When you were a teenager, what kind of entertainment did you have?

SL: There wasn’t any entertainment, because a war was being fought in the country.

MH: Did you have any time for fun?

SL: No, I don’t have any time for fun.

MH: How about once in a year, do you have any fun?

SL: No, when all the rice and corn have been gathered and stored in the storage rooms, I stayed home and worked on my embroidery (*ua paj ntaub*).

MH: Then celebrated New Year, right?

SL: After the New Year celebration, I worked on my embroidery (*ua paj ntaub*).

MH: When you were a teenager, was there anything that you wished for yourself?

SL: Yes, there was, but I could not afford it.

MH: Did you wish and or think of things that you could carry forward when you started your own family?

SL: Yes, I did think about those.

MH: Could you elaborate more about those?

SL: I knew that I was a daughter, when I grew up, I would be married. In order for me to have a good marriage, I knew that I should consider a family with either chieftains or politicians backgrounds.

MH: Was there anything that you wanted when you were little?

SL: In Laos, there were things that I wanted but there was no war during that time. The county was at peace, we did not think that we could be in a war.
MH: We will be talking about women’s work. In order to be considered a good woman, what kind of work did she have to do?

SL: The kind of work…that a woman usually does, would be pounding or grinding food, *(tuav cos, zom zeb)*, haul water from the water well, feeding the chickens, pigs, and working on the rice, vegetables and cornfield.

MH: Could a woman handle conflict and make decisions for her family? Like when you married, did you handle couples’ quarrels in your family or did your husband do that?

SL: When I married my husband, we lived with my in-laws for a year I had so many things in my heart that I wanted to say but I could not...

MH: Did you as a woman make any decisions regarding family conflicts between, for example, a quarrel between a husband and a wife?

SL: Yes, I did.

MH: Would you elaborate more?

SL: I came from a family background where we were leaders in the community. I watched and listened to see how family handled problems. I listened to the problems and knew what the right way was to solve problems.

MH: Did you attend these meetings to solve problems with men?

SL: Yes, I did attend these meetings with men.

MH: How did you proceed? Did you sit along with the men or with a group of family members?

SL: Yes, we discussed and fine-tuned our strategy on how to handle tense conflict. For example, this is the right way to approach and handle a couples’ quarrel. How your message is being said is not right.

MH: During this time, even through you were a woman, you had a right to attend such a conflicts meeting with men?

SL: Yes, I attended meetings. My husband always wanted me to go with him because he was not persuasive and convincing enough. There was one time that I did not go with him. He lost the argument and he was mad at me. He lost because I did not go with him.

MH: What about other men, did they bring their wives too?

SL: Yes, a couple of men brought their wives. The smart wives could go, those that were not smart enough couldn’t go.
MH: What about handling conflicts in community. Did you attend these conflicts as well?

SL: Yes, I did go to those meetings.

MH: Ah…

SL: There was a case that I went by myself. I sold a plot of land and the owner did not pay me the agreed amount.

My husband refused to go with me. The Lee clan and I went to discuss this case with the Looj Khiam clan. They wanted me to stop because they had received 100. They no longer wanted to sell the land, and they wanted me to return the money.

I went with The Lee clan family and The Looj Khiam clan didn’t want me to have the 100 deposited. They wanted me to return the money and to sell to someone else. I didn’t agree with this. We should present our story to the elder members. If the elder members found in my favor, I wouldn’t have to return the money. Otherwise I would return the money. Mr. Paj Xyeem Lis, said that I am both very smart and very mean. They didn’t want to deal with me.

MH: Did you win?

SL: The Looj Khiam clan took this case to Paj Maib’s courthouse. They presented to Paj Maib’s courthouse because Paj Xyeem Lis said that I am very smart and that I have a silver tongue. As soon as I finished presenting my story to Paj Maib at Paj Maib’s courthouse. He found in my favor. The defendant had to pay me the agreed land price.

My husband never went with me on this case. He did not attend any community meetings unless I went with him. There was nothing that I could say to interest him or make him go alone.

MH: Back where you lived, was a woman ever elected as a leader?

SL: No, there wasn’t. Hmong women were very uneducated.

MH: Do you think that you were a leader then?

SL: The community and I think that I’m a very smart person.

The Lee families are very smart and they are politicians. I’m the smartest because I know everything about court procedures and how to decide a case. They call me a person to contend with.

MH: Who is the leader of your Lee family clan?
SL: The leader of my Lee Family clan is Tooj Pov Lis.

MH: Who is Tooj Pov Lis, is he a leader too?

SL: He used to be a mayor. He used to be a mayor but he died in France.

MH: Do you and Tooj Pov Lis have the same parents?

SL: Yes, we have the same parents but he died in France.

MH: What about supporting your family. How do you do it and how do you know that it is good for the family? What is this support called?

SL: I worked very hard but my husband did not appreciate my efforts.

My husband did not support me, he played around too much. He did not encourage me. No matter how hard I worked or tried, my strength seemed to be weaker and weaker.

MH: What is it that you were good at? How did you work to support your family? For example like worked on the rice, vegetables and cornfield or worked on your embroidery (ua paj ntaub)?

SL: I worked on rice, vegetables and cornfield. Burned and slash new fields for the next season.

MH: Did you have a business?

SL: No, I didn’t have a business.

MH: When you married your husband, did you and your husband decide on how many children to have and did you use protection like birth control?

SL: I didn’t have children. I thought I would not have any babies. Due to my religious belief, my husband asked a spiritual doctor to pray to our ancestors as well as cleanse my body and soul. After several of these spiritual rituals, I was able to conceived and have children.

I prayed and prayed! The Spiritual doctor called my ancestors and asked for children, then I had one child then four more children.

I could not conceive after my fifth child. We asked the Spiritual doctors again. After several visit to my husband, I conceived and had three more children later.

MH: What if a woman does not want to have many children. Can she use this Spiritual doctor to help protect her from conceiving? Does this ever happen?
SL: In Laos, there’s no protection available.

MH: Do you know when your family needed or the Community needed or wanted your expertise on problems solving? Do you remember when you became an important person in your family or the Community?

SL: Everybody said that I was the smartest and most knowledgeable. I always know what to say.

MH: Was there a time, that a person who did not think that you were got his way?

SL: No, there was not anybody.

MH: What about in your family?

SL: My family says I’m a good person.

MH: Why did you decide to escape and move to the refugee camp during the war.

MH: During the war, when you decided to escape and move and what was the move like?

SL: The Vietnamese soldiers came over.

I’ll tell you, the Vietnamese soldiers came over.

MH: Why did you or your husband decide to escape and move during the war?

SL: We decided to escape and move.

MH: Why did you decide to escape and move?

SL: The Vietnamese would have arrested us. We hid ourselves in the woods however, I moved back to my house. My husband and others hid in the woods and moved to the mountains. My husband, your father (MayKao Hang’s), Txiab, Ntxawm, and his daughter-in-law, Yias, were coming back home with Foom. They were hiding at the cornfield. I carried a backpack for safekeeping, this bag was for Ntxoov Vaj. I gave this backpack to my youngest brother-in-law to protect because I have to go and meet my husband. I saw many Vietnamese soldiers when I had to sneak out to go and meet my husband in the cornfield.

When I got there, I told my husband and others that at this very moment, the Vietnamese soldiers were arresting people. I told them to go back and hide in the deep forests. My aunt, Ntxawm Foom, said your husband “forced us to come back.” My youngest brother-in-law, he is about the height of Kais Txhuas is to now, moved from the cornfields to the
mountain. I lectured my aunt, Ntxawm Foom, for being foolish and we moved to follow our men and we met Vietnamese soldiers. They asked us where we were going. We told them that we were going to the corn and rice fields, then we escaped.

**MH:** Was your husband and Vang still at the cornfield?

**SL:** I have not given birth to Vang yet.

**MH:** Oh! You haven’t given birth to Vang yet?

**SL:** I gave birth to your father Blong, Yias, Txiab, and Ntxawm.

**MH:** Is that when you and your husband escaped and moved to the refugee camp before the war was over?

**SL:** We escaped to Phav Npooj. We moved from Phav Npooj to Toov. From Toov, we walked to Laj Huab.

**MH:** So you escaped from one place to another?

**SL:** Yes! Despite this hard and difficult time, we managed a spiritual ritual for your father’s soul.

Your uncle Yias was still very little he couldn’t walk very much and we managed a spiritual ritual for your father’s soul.

**MH:** How did you and your husband decide to move to America and why did you and your husband decide to move to America?

**SL:** We knew how bad the Vietnamese soldiers are, so we decide to move. We knew if we stayed the Vietnamese soldiers would kill us. They announced that all people in Tooj Pov Lis’s group must move out because the Vietnamese soldiers wanted to talk to them.

**MH:** My father moved before you and your husband?

**SL:** Yes, your father and you move before us.

We moved to Laj Huab. A group of soldier known as Koos Les is coming but before they reached Laj Huab we moved to Loob Puam. From Loob Puam, we moved to Npabnas and Xasnashaib.

From Xasnashaib we moved to Nab Taub. We stayed in Nab Taub but your father moved to Xamnyabnuslis (Sayaboury) to teach. Your father attended school in Vientiane, Luang Prabang. Your mother stayed with me but he came to visit when Maiv Ntxhoo, my daughter, was learning to crawl and sit.
Your father took his family to Vientiane, Luang Prabang. We didn’t like the Vietnamese so we moved to Looj Ceeb (Long Cheng). After they captured Long Cheng, we moved to Phavkheb from there we moved to Phamcoos. During this period, your parents moved back to Xamnyabn puslis (Sayaboury) where they just slashed and burned new fields and planted the rice seed. The tension between the Vietnamese soldier started again so your family escaped leaving your grandfather behind.

SL: Your grandfather went and applied for our paperwork through the airport. We then moved to Najmauj and from Najmuaj we moved to Vibnais and finally to the America.

MH: What do you remember most about the life in the refugee camp? Were there many people?

SL: Yes.

MH: When you moved to the refugee camp.

SL: When we moved to Vibnais?

MH: When you escaped to Thailand, what is the name of the camp. Where were you stationed and what is name of the camp?

SL: We stayed in Thailand, then your father sponsored…your uncle and I were interviewed because your grandfather could not repeat your father’s letters. [Laughs]

MH: Where did you and grandfather stay in the refugee camp?

SL: We stayed in section four.

MH: Section four, how long did you and grandfather stay before coming to America?

SL: We stayed for six months.

MH: Was there anything good about the whole six months?

SL: We stayed for two nights in Bangkok.

MH: Was there anything good about the refugee camp when you and grandfather stayed there?

SL: No, there wasn’t anything good about the refugee camp. The rice and vegetables are rationed by the camp officers. There was nothing to do and we stayed day in and day out.

MH: How did you stay in the refugee camp? Did you say that you stay day by day?

SL: I stayed day by day. We wanted to eat and drink, but we could only sit around.
**MH:** Where did you buy food for your family in the refugee camp?

**SL:** The people stayed by themselves. We didn’t talk with each other.

**MH:** Why didn’t they talk with each other?

**SL:** We stayed by ourselves, and did not talk with others because they were not my relatives and we don’t know them.

**MH:** How did you support your family in the refugee camp?

**SL:** There were few resources available in the refugee camp. We scrounged for food to eat.

**MH:** Did you search food in the forest?

**SL:** We picked tapioca leaves from the tips of trees and bought food with money.

Your father sent money from America. We used that money to buy food to eat. [Laughs]

**MH:** If my father did not send money then you wouldn’t have any money to buy food, right?

**SL:** Yes, if you father didn’t send money then we wouldn’t have had any money to buy food.

**MH:** Did the Thai people allow you to work?

**SL:** They did not allow us to move out of the refugee camp. They did not want us to cut trees for firewood. We just stayed in the refugee camp. We stayed in the camp for six months. On the eighth day, we heard from the Immigration office that we have been cleared through and we will be coming to America. We stayed overnight in Bangkok for two nights. On the eleventh day, we boarded a jet destined for America. I don’t remember the city name when we got to America but we were delayed for two additional days. It was the sixteenth day before we finally reached your father.

**MH:** Do you remember, what month did you come to America?

**SL:** It was August.

We came to America in the 80’s.

**MH:** On August 8, 1980, when you stayed in the refugee camp…

**SL:** That’s wrong, it October—no it was February.
MH: You came to America in February when it is very cold. When you stayed in the refugee camp, how were men and women treated?

SL: Honestly, men treated women badly, not like here in America. Here in America, the woman has a say and has more control of a husband’s activities. A woman couldn’t say things to their husbands back then.

MH: We talked about in the camp. Can you tell about your life when you came to America, what it’s like? Why did your family decide to come to America? We talked about this and why did my father come to America first?

SL: Your father came to America first, but before he came, he locked himself in the house and was crying at the corner of the house.

MH: When you came to America approximately how old were you?

SL: Me, I was 63 years old.

MH: 63 years old?

SL: 64.

MH: What is the easier thing that you learned when you got to America?

SL: Due to my age, I did not learn anything (schools). I stayed home and baby sat for my sons and my older son-in-law. I wasn’t able to do anything else, however, in America it is very easy to adapt.

MH: Why do you say that?

SL: I may not be educated, but you can adapt. It’s not very hard to adapt. It’s very easy.

MH: What is the easiest to learn?

SL: I learned how to turn on/off the water tap and cook on the gas stove. I learned how to turn the on/off switch.

MH: What is the most difficult thing that you learned?

SL: No, there wasn’t anything.

MH: So there wasn’t anything except the language barrier, right?

SL: Yes, I don’t speak English and I’m not educated.
**MH:** What is one thing that helped make your life better, and that makes you want to stay in America?

**SL:** Your parents helped and my younger son too.

**MH:** Do you behave differently?

**SL:** I don’t behave differently.

**MH:** You don’t behave differently. You stayed home and took care of grandchildren?

**SL:** Yes, at the time, MayKao, Carol, Naly, and Dao were little so I stayed home and watched them.

Carol was about Dao’s height…Uh!, Dao was born and I have baby-sat him since he was two. He was running around and disappeared to our Aunt Pov’s house.

I was very worried because I couldn’t find him. He crossed over the street and went to Aunt Pov’s house.

**MH:** What are you most stressed about? When you lived in Laos, what helped if you were stressed? Was there anything that you learned that helped get over these stresses? Did this help your new life in America?

**SL:** Yes these helped my family.

**MH:** Hmm, helped your family?

**SL:** Yes, right! I worked on the corn and rice fields. I also worked in the poppy fields. These helped my family.

The money from the sale of poppies helped to support my family.

**MH:** What about in America, do you grow poppies? What do you do to support your family?

**SL:** I’m qualified for social security benefit so I don’t do anything else. [Laughs]

**MH:** So it is better that you don’t go to work?

**SL:** Your father said that I worked hard and long enough when they were young. I should retire and wait for my retirement benefits. When I came to America, if I had been a little younger, maybe I could have gone to school.

I don’t know any English…[Laughs]
MH: When you and grandfather came to America, were you very old?

SL: That’s correct.

MH: What is the difference between a woman’s life in America and Laos?

SL: The women in America have better lives than their counterparts.

MH: Why do women in America have better lives?

SL: Because the women in America have the same rights as their husbands. Everything is a lot easier between a woman and man, right? In Laos, men treat women like a second-class citizen. They said they are the better person and have rights.

MH: So now they have the same rights?

SL: Yes. In America, the men must treat women right and fair.

MH: You have been in America for a long time, are you an America citizen?

SL: No, I am not.

MH: No you are not, yet?

SL: I’m a very old person I have applied for an America citizenship. So far, I haven’t heard anything yet.

MH: We have talked about when you came to America. We will be talking about woman’s work, not about the housework in and around the house but work outside the house. For example during the war in Laos, do you know anything about what was happening?

SL: Yes I knew.

MH: How did you hear about the war and who started it?

SL: We have an old proverb that says that the sun will shake, the rice will jump, the earth will split (like an earthquake) and the water will flood (like a tidal wave).

MH: Who said this?

SL: The elder people predicted that these things would happen and this proved to be the truth. What you do think happened what the sun shakes and the earth quakes and the waters flood (like tidal wave)? The elder people said that if you filled a bucket to the rim the water would start to shake and drop out of the bucket.
MH: So the elder people said this proverb so than you heard?

SL: Yes they said that. When I was young I didn’t know that the country would be going into war. I married your grandfather for a year before and gave birth to Txiab. Five months later, the Japanese came over. The Japanese left and the Vietnamese started the war. When the war was over, the Vietnamese soldiers watched us like a hawk even went to the rice and corn fields with us. Everywhere we went they went with us.

MH: Why did they behave like that?

SL: They wanted to know if you worked on your rice and corn fields.

MH: Why, did they help you?

SL: I don’t know. About four or five Vietnamese soldiers would go and help me and my husband work our fields.

They help me work on the field until sunset than they came home.

MH: Did you feed them?

SL: They had their own food. It was a very harsh and difficult time but there was much work that needed to be completed. I still needed to grind corn and rice, pick vegetables, and gather corn. We hid in a cave whenever the Vietnamese drop bombs. After the air strike, we would come out to continue our daily routine.

MH: During the war, were there any leaders that were important to the Hmong people that you supported or heard about?

SL: No, there weren’t any. Everybody was surrounded by the Vietnamese soldiers including my brothers who lived in Looj Hej. The soldiers were very strict. My brothers had opium that weighed about two pounds and four ounces and wrapped in gold papers. They hid this opium in a cave called *nyiaj*. However, the secret was leaked out and the Vietnamese soldiers went and took out the opium. They put this opium in a secured house.

MH: What about your brother Tooj Pov. Was he a leader than?

SL: Yes, he was a leader.

MH: Was he important, and how do you respect him as a leader?

SL: A leader should have a good standing with his people.

MH: In America, do you see a woman become a leader, is this wrong?
SL: In this country, I think that a woman can become a very good leader.

MH: Do they have a woman leader in this country?

SL: Yes they do.

MH: If a woman becomes leader in this country, can she change the country?

SL: If a woman is the leader, she can run the country as good as any man. She has the same power.

MH: A woman can go to work, and some women have jobs that pay more. Do these women behave differently then in Laos and Thailand where woman can’t do this?

SL: In this country, women are very smart they have many jobs to choose from and the jobs are very different from Laos. In Laos, a woman didn’t go to school, she worked on the rice field. However, it depends on the woman’s heart and mind. I will tell you I lived with my brothers I knew to use a scale and how to handle a business bargain too.

SL: I handled business bargain like, “how much is this?” “this will cost this much?,” and “how about that, how much is it?”

MH: In Laos, you said that a woman has no rights, and no matter how worried you are you can’t tell others?

SL: My husband was very uneducated. When I married, I started to teach him everything from using a scale to speaking Laotian. Your grandfather did not help me very much. If we had guests, I handled and administrated all household activities from slaughtering pigs to cooking and how much to cook so that it would be for my family and our guests. I killed pigs, clean, and cook them. I set everything in the dining hall and invited my guests to dinner. My guests seemed surprised that I knew how to do this and how I could handle this. My husband, your grandfather was very proud and very arrogant because our guests praised me for a job well done and everything I did reflected on him.

MH: You said that in Laos, a woman can’t gainsay her husband no matter how hard and bad it is. A woman can be very smart and she can’t go out and let everybody know how her husband is treating her?

SL: Yes, even if you were very smart woman you still can’t say.

MH: What about in this country?

SL: You are smart and knowledgeable.
MH: What is the difference in this country?

SL: Aiv (May Kao Hang), if you are smart as well as a nice person, people will like you. I’m very smart and my heart’s big enough not only for your grandfather but everyone else. I don’t have a mean bone in my body, travelers always stopped by my house.

MH: What do you wanted people to remember about Hmong woman? What does it mean to be a Hmong woman?

SL: I wanted you to remember that I’m very, very old now. I want you to remember that I’m from a very good family background where they are good people, very smart, and well behaved. Because of my background everywhere your father goes, he says he’s a Yang and he’s a Lee.

SL: We went to Npaws Npes (Green Bay) when Ntxhiav who as Ntxoov Vaj’s daughter from France came to visit him. Your father said he’s a Lee and Ntxhiav said you lied. You are a Yang, your father said I’m a Yang and Lee mixed together. (Laughs)

Aiv, do you remember what I said to you when you were very young? I said that for you to have a good marriage, you must know to work your beauty, it must be coming from within your heart. You must know how to treat and talk to your guests. You must treat them with courtesy and talk to them with a smile. Moreover, you must cook and find enough food to feed your guests. If you accomplish all these things you have brought respect to your family name. People will say that they want to stay with you and your husband because they feel comfortable staying with you. They have enough food to eat and a warm bed to sleep.

I am telling you if your grandfather had worked harder to be a better person, we would have gotten farther in life. My life wouldn’t have been so hard. My brother said to me that I was smart and could speak so well, if I had married someone else, I wouldn’t have had a hard life.

Of all my sisters, I was the smartest, the most knowledgeable and the fastest. My brother, Tooj Pov said that I didn’t make a good marriage because my husband was not good enough for me.

MH: We will have to stop our discussion for now, if we have any more questions, we’ll come back. Thank you very much for participating, Grandmother.
See Lee

Note: The interviewer is the granddaughter of the person being interviewed.

Interviewer (I): Today is January 23rd in the year 2000. This is the oral interview with See Lee, and my name is MayKao Hang, I will be doing the interview. Niam pog, ua ntej wb pib nov, kuv yuav noog koj me ntsis txog koj tus kheej nav, es koj yog nkauj hmoob dab tsi?

See Lee (S): Kuv yog nkauj hmoob Lis.

I: Koj los yuav tsev neeg xeem hmoob dab tsi oj?
S: Kuv los yuav tsev neeg hmoob xeem Yaj.

I: Tam sim nov koj muaj pes tsawg xyoo lawm oj?
S: Kuv muaj 80 xyoo lawm.

I: 80 lov, ua koj muaj pes tsawg tus me nyuam?
S: Kuv muaj 7 tus.

I: Pes tsawg tus tub pes tsawg tus ntxhais?
S: Uas… niam no 3 tug tub 4 tug ntxhais.

I: Lawv twb loj tas lawm pob, lawv twb mus ua neej?
S: Lawv loj tas lawm os, ua neej tas, tab sis tuag ob tug hlob lawm.

I: Uas qeb siab tshaj plaws ua koj kawm ntawv tiav yog dab tsi?
S: Ua teb noj mov xwb oj.

I: Tsi tau kawm ntawv li puas yog?
S: Tsi tau kawm ntawv li os, ua liaj ua teb.

I: Tam sim no koj, koj ua hauj lwm thiab los koj nyob tsev xwb os?
S: Nyob hauv tsev xwb os.
I : Nyob hauv tsev xwb lov. Yog li ib xyoos twg koj puas tau txais nyiaj, nyiaj hli los thiab los puas yog hais tias lab thab npaas puas pab nyiaj me ntsis rau koj thiab?

S : Ib hlis, ib xyoos, ib hlis txais tau $370.

I : Oh, lov, cov nyiaj ntawd yog nyiaj laus lov?

S : Wj, yog nyiaj laus.

I : Nyiaj laus, ces tam sim no koj nrog leej twg nyob xwb?

S : Tam sim no kuv… nrog Nplooj nyob.

I : Koj nrog Nplooj nyob thiab koj nrog Vaj nyob thiab lov?

S : Wb nrog Nplooj nyob ces ho nyob ib txhia pem Vaj nyob ib txhia ntawm Nplooj xwb.

I : Nplooj thiab Vaj nkawv yog koj 2 tug tub lov?

S : Ws, yog kuv 2 tug tub.

I : Oh! ces ua… tam sim no koj tseem, koj tus txiv tseem nyob thiab poj?

S : Tseem nyob.

I : Ws, thaum koj yuav txiv naj koj hnuub nyoog li cas xwb?

S : Thaum kuv yuav txiv kuv muaj hnuub nyoog 16 xyoo.

I : 16 xyoo lov, es yog li es thaum koj yuav yawg nev, es neb ws, neb ib txwm muaj ib leeg, ib leeg niam xwb los yog hais tias yawg, puas muaj niam hlob niam yau thiab?

S : Uas yeej yog ob niam txiv, nkauj txhav qaib nraug txhav noog xwb.

I : Oh lov, koj tuaj teb chaws meskas xyoo twg thiab koj tuaj tau ntev npaum li cas lawm?

S : Tuaj xyoo…. Kuv tsi paub hais tias tuaj teb chaws no li cas.

I : Ws tuaj teb chaws no.

S : Tuaj xyoo 80.
I : Tuaj xyoo 80 lov, ces tuaj tau ntev lawm thiab.

S : Aws…

I : Ces køj tuaj tau pes tsawg xyoo lawm, xyoo 80, tam sim no yog xyoo 2000 lawm ces yuav luag tau 20 xyoo thiab. Yog li thaum køj, køj niam thiab køj txiv yog køj nyob qhov twg?

S : Nyob Thaj Thoos.

I : Thaj Thoos lov, Thaj Thoos yog nyob lub teb chaws twg?

S : Nyob teb chaws Loom Heej.

I : Teb chaws Loom Heej lov, nyob Nplog teb lov… Ces køj ib txhiab ib txhis nyob teb chaws Loom Heej lov?

S : Ib txhiab ib txhis nyob teb chaws Loom Heej.

I : Koj yog, hom hmoob dab tsi oj?

S : Kuv yog hmoob Lis.

I : Hmoob Lis lov, køj yog hmoob dawb los hmoob ntsuab los yog hmoob ab tsi?

S : Kuv yog hmoob dawb.

I : Ces tam sim no køj, køj kev ntseeg yog raws li cas, køj tseem køj kev cai qub los yog tias hloov es køj kev cai n-tshiab lawm?

S : Coj kev cai qub.

I : Ok, kuv noog me ntsis puag ta txog køj tus kheej lawm ces tam sim no kuv ho yuav noog køj txog thaum køj tseem yog me nyuam yaus nav. Køj sim piav saib thaum køj tseem yog me nyuam yaus køj puas mus kawm ntaub kawm ntawv thiab?

S : Tsis kawm li oj, ua teb, zov vaj zov tsev, menyuam yaus ces zov tsev xwb.

I : Lov, thaum køj tseem yog me nyuam yaus es yog me ntxhais nev, køj tej dej num hauj lwm nyob tom tsev yog dab tsi xwb?

S : Hauij lwm nyob tom tsev ces niam no… txhuam pob kws…

I : Puas muaj lwm yam thiab?
S: Txhuam pob kws thiab mus ev dej xwb.
I: Txhuam pob kws thiab mus ev dej lov, ces thaum koj ib nyuag loj zog lawm nev?
S: Ib nyuag loj zog lawm ces mus ua teb.
I: Puas muaj lwm yam thiab?
S: Tsis muaj, mus ua teb ces mus, no ua hauj lwm, thiab mus ua teb tej xwb.
I: Thaum es teb chaws tsi tau ua rog?
S: Ces tsis muaj ntaub muaj ntawv kawm.
I: Koj puas muaj, thaum koj tseem me nav, puas muaj tej hnub los tej yam es kev pab, es koj mus pab zej zog, kwv tij nej tsa sawv daws thiab?
S: Tsi muaj li os.
I: Tsi muaj li lov, nyob hauv tsev, tu vaj tu tsev lov, thaum koj, koj yog me nyuam ntxhais nav, es tej yam hauj lwm uas koj tau xyaum es kom koj paub naj, es hos hais tias mus ua neej yog dab tsi xwb?
S: Xyaum ua mov noj, ua zaub ua mov noj xwb las as, mus xyaum ua zaub ua mov noj, thiab xyaum pub qaib pub npua xwb.
I: Ua ris tsho tej ntawd nev?
S: Ris tsho tej ces niam no yus me me yus tsi tau txawj kawm.
I: Thaum ib nyuag loj zog lawm nev, zoo li hais tias tej yam yus xyaum es hais tias kom zoo li thaum yus yuav tiav hluas nkauj tej ntawd nav, es tej yam uas yus xyaum yog ab tsi?
S: Ib nyuag loj zog ces, yus xyaum xaws khaub ncaws thiab yus xyaum ua paj ntaub.
I: Thaum koj tseem yog hluas nkauj nav, nej tej kev mus ua si los yog hais tias mus ua kom yus tej kev lom zem es yog dab tsi xwb?
S: Teb chaws ntawd ces khwv khwv, yeej tsi muaj kev lom zem li nej niam no.
I: Tsi yog li ntawm no, tab sis mas puas muaj tej lub sij hawm es yus ua hluas nkauj es yus ho mus ua si li luag tej thiab os lov?
S: Tsi muaj li os.
I : Tsi muaj lov, ib xyos ntuj zeeg no es puas muaj tej yam?

S : Tsi muaj ib xyos ntuj zeeg, tsi muaj, thaum twg hais tias ua liaj ua teb tas ces los nyob hauv tsev, los ua paj ntaub.

I : Thiab noj Peb Caug xwb nev puas yog?

S : Noj Peb Caug ces, koj los noj Peb Caug ces, noj Peb Caug tas no yog tsi tau mus ua liaj ua teb ces, ua paj ntaub.

I : Ua paj ntaub lov, thaum koj tseem hluas es tej yam uas kjo xav tau thiab ntshaw rau kjo tus kheej nav hais tias lwm hnub kjo loj es kjo xav zoo li nov no, puas muaj tej yam zoo li ntawd thiab? Yog dab tsi?

S : Muaj mas, qhov yus ntshaw mas yeej ntshaw kawg, tab sis tsi muaj yam uas yus yuav ua.

I : Puas muaj tej yam es hais tias yus npaj siab es lwm hnub yog yus loj es yus yuav mus ua lub nej zoo li nov, yog hais tias xav ntawm tes nov?

S : Qhov ntawd mas yeej muaj kawg.

I : Koj sim piav me ntsis thiab sob?

S : Qhov ntawd mas, yus yeej xav hais tias yus loj lawm es ua neej mas yus yuav tsum ua neeg zoo, yus ua neej yus xav tsav ua nom ces yuav tsum mus ua zoo neeg.

I : Puas muaj tej yam es yus ntshaw thiab, thaum lub sij hawm ntawd es yus yog me nyuam yaus naj?

S : Teb chaws Nplog ces nim yuav muaj tej yam uas yus ntshaw, thaum ntawd es tsi tau muaj tsav muaj rog, teb chaws yeej tiaj tus, teb chaws yeej tsis paub hais tias yuav ua tsov ua rog.

I : Tam sim no wb sim tham txog poj niam lub neej sob, es yuav uas ib tug poj niam es zoo li cas no; cov hauj lwm es poj niam ua yog dab tsi xwb?

S : Hauj lwm poj niam ua ces zom zeb, tuav cos, mus dej, pub qaib pub npua, mus ua liaj ua teb, poj niam yam hauj lwm.

I : Hais txog es hauv yus tsev neeg nav, es yog tias muaj tej yam teeb meem los ab tsi nav, es poj niam kev txiav txim hais txog tej teeb meem ntawd es yog dab tsi xwb? Hauv, zoo li hais tias hauv kjo tsev neeg kiag, es kjo los ua neej nrog yawg nav, es thaum twg es muaj ib yam ab tsi es yuav tsum txiav txim siab txog nav es, kjo txiav txim li cas xwb, los yog kjo nrog yawg tham los ua li cas?
S: Yus los ua neej kiag ces, thaum nyuam khuav los ces yus nrog niam pog txiv yawg nyob xwb oj. Nyob tau ib xyoos yus mus nyob yus lawm xwb. Ces yus lub siab mas yeej khwv tau ntau yam, tab sis yus hais tsi tau tawm…

I: Ces zoo li hais tias yog muaj plaub muaj ntug tej ntawd es yus txiav txim nav, poj niam, koj puas mus nrog lawv txiav txim thiaj los?

S: Mus lawm tiag.

I: Koj sim piav me ntsis txog ntawd soj?

S: Koj mus ces, muaj plaub muaj ntug ces koj mus nrog lawv hais ces, ib yam koj neej koj tsav ua nom lawm nav, koj yeej paub hais tias thaum yus neej yus tsav txiav txim hais li cas nav, ces koj yeej paub naj, ces koj hais mus ces koj yeej hais, hais yuav ua li no thiaj yog, ua li no thiaj thwj no thiab naj.

I: Ces koj puas mus nrog cov txiv neej sab laj thiab?

S: Mus thiab tiag… nrog tej txiv neej sab laj.

I: Mus zaum kiag ua ib ke li lov thaum ib pawg kwv tij los ua ke naj?

S: Hwv! ces yus yeej hais tias, sawv daws mas yam no yog hais li no thiaj yog. Uas niam no qhov nov mas hais li no thiaj yog, hais li nej hais mas tsi yog no thiab naj.

I: Ces poj niam, thaum lub sij hawm ntawd es koj yog poj niam xwb tab sis koj yeej muaj xiv mus nrog hais plaub ib yam li txiv neej thiab lov?

S: Hwv, muaj tiag, kuv hais qhia koj hais tias yawg mas yawg ib txwm ruam ruam nawb, muaj plaub muaj ntug mas yawg kom kuv mus nrog yawg thiaj yeej, yog kuv tsi mus ces yawg tsi yeej lawv os, yawg los mas, cem ib zaug kuv tsi mus ces yawg tsi yeej lawv ces yawg los yawg cem cem kuv.

I: Aws..! (laugh)

S: Yog vim kuv tsi mus yawg thiaj swb lawv.

I: Aws…es luag tej txiv neej es tom tej lawv puas coj lawv cov poj niam mus thiab maj?

S: Coj tus puav thiab, tab sis tus twg ntse xwb thiaj coj mus, tus twg ruam lawv tsi coj.
I: Hos yog hais plaub es ntawm zej zog nev, tsi yog kwv tij xwb tab sis ntawm zej zog hais no los koj yeej mus thiab lov?

S: Aws, yeej mus.

Kuv yeej hais ib, kuv yeej hais ib zog plaub kuv ib leeg, uas niam no lawv yuav kuv ib daim teb ces lawv tsis them nyiaj rau kuv ib lag ib choj nyiaj.

Kuv kom yawg nrog kuv mus. Yawg tsis mus ces kuv mus hais ces ntawm peb cov hmoob Lis Cuab tab sis hmoob Looj Khiam ces lawv hais tias niam no kom kuv txhob hais, kom kuv tsi thxob muab cov teb rau lawv es kom kuv, lawv twb cam ib, ib puas nyiaj lawm kom kuv thim lawv puas nyiaj rov qab rau lawv no nav.

Ces kuv mus hais ces, lawv hais tias kom kuv tsis txhob yuav lawv pua nyiaj es kom kuv rov thim lawv pua nyiaj rau lawv. Kuv thim lawv pua nyiaj rau lawv nav, ces niam no kuv cov teb kuv mam muab muag no ces kuv hais tias kuv tsi kam, lawv twb cas ib puas nyiaj lawm ces, kuv hais yeej ces, kuv yuav, swb kuv mam thim no nav. Ces kuv mus hais ces no yog Paj Xyeem Lis naj, thiaj hais tias kuv mas ntse hwv lawm, kuv phem hwv kuv ntse hwv lawm, mas lawv hais tsi tau kuv.

I: Ces koj yeej?


Yawg yeej tsi nrog kuv mus hais ib... los li hos, hos hais plaub ntawm zej ntawm zos los, yog kuv tsi mus ces yawg yeej tsi mus kuv hais tsis tau li.

I: Aus !.. ntawm nej nyob ntawd xwb nav, puas muaj tej tug es thawj coj es yog poj niam thiab?

S: Tsis muaj.

Cov poj niam hmoob ruam ruam.

I: Ws, thauum lub sij hawm ntawd koj puas thwm hais tias koj yog ib tug thawj coj thiab no maj?

S: Kuv yeej, kuv yeej xav tias zej zog yeej hais tias kuv yog tus ntse tshaj. Kuv neej kuv tsav ntse thiab kuv neej kuv tsav ua nom, kuv yog tus ntse tshaj, kuv yog tus paub kuv hais lawv tias niam no lawv hais tias kuv phem no es kuv hais tias kev
I: Koj hais li ntawd es koj cov neej tsa yog leej twg nab?
S: Yog Tooj Pov Lis nawj.
I: Tooj Pov Lis lov, Tooj Pov Lis yog leej twg, yog ib tug neeg ua nom thiab lov?
S: Ua Cob Moos nawj.
S: Ua Cob Moos tab sis twb tuaj Fabkis lawm ne.
I: Tooj Pov Lis ntawd yog koj dab laug, niam txiv yug ib plab lov?
S: Niam txiv yug ib plab, nyob teb, twb tuaj teb chaws no mam tuag lawm.
I: Aus...yog li es poj niam kev pab es txhawb nqa tsev neeg yog dab tsi xwb? Zoo li hais tias yus los ua neej nav es hais txog khwv noj khwv haus rau yus tsev tib neeg xwb nav es yus yuav txhawb nqa tsev neeg li cas thiaj li zoo los puas yog tias thaum koj, thaum koj me nyuam tseem me nyob teb chaws Nplog nav, koj tej kev es pab nqa koj tsev neeg yog li cas xwb, pab txhawb tsev neeg nav?
S: Yus yeej, yus yeej khwv zoo, yus yeej khwv zoo yus yeej txhaws!.. tas zog tab sis tseem, rau qhov tias yawg lawv tsis cuab yus lub zog.

Yawg lawv tsis cuab yus lub zog yawg lawv ua dog ua dig, lawv tsis rub yus lub zog, ces yus ua npaum cas los yus tsuab tsi tau zog qhov twg tuaj.
I: Ws, tej yam es koj ua es zoo, li hais tias mus khwv pab tsev neeg nav, yog khwv li cas xwb, vib thi khwv maj, tsuas yog ua teb los puas yog hais tias ua, ua paj ntaub los ua ab tsi xwb?
S: Ua teb, luaj teb ntv ntoo xwb mas.
I: Ua lag ua luam nev?
S: Tsis ua lag ua luam li oj…
I: Tsis ua lag ua luam li lov? Es yog li koj los ua neej nrog yawg es neb los npaj siab hais tias, neb puas npaj siab hais tias yuav muaj pes tsawg tus tus tub tus ki no? Thiab zoo tias yuav ua cas npaj es yus thiaj li, zoo li yug me nyuam tuab tuab nav, es yus ua cas tiv thaiv los yug pes tsawg tus ces yuav pes tsawg tus xwb los ua cas?
S: Kuv los kuv yeej tsis, kuv los kuv yeej tsi muaj me nyuam, tab sis lawv ua neeb kho kuo kuv thiaj muaj, es yus yeej xav tias xyov yus puas muaj me nyuam.

Hu !hu ! tab sis ua neeb kho ces thiaj muaj, muaj 1 tug ces thiaj muaj 4 tug.

Ces tsi muaj lawm ces thiaj rov qab kho kho, thiaj muaj lawv 3 tug tom ntawd.

I: Ces yog li ntawd poj niam, tsis haij koj kiag tab sis mas yog es , yus poj niam tsi xav muaj me nyuam coob coob nav, es lawv siv dab tsi los tiv thaij kom tsi txhob muaj me nyuam? Puas muaj tej yam thiab?

S: Teb chaws Nplog mas tsi muaj ab tsi siv li oj.

I: Koj xav haij tiaj zej zog nav, los ib tsiev neeg hwm koj thiaj plaws navyog lub caij twg xwb?

S: Ua cas?

I: Zoo li haij tiaj thaum es koj, koj pom haij tiaj tib neeg nyob ntawm zej zog los haij tiaj hauv koj tsev neeg nav es lawv saib taus koj thiaj plaws nav yog thaum lub sij hawm twg?

S: Lawv yeej haij tiaj uas niam no yus yog tus ntse tshaj ces sawv daws yeej haij tiaj yus yog tus, yus yog tus uas haij taus no mas.

I: Puas muaj tej lub sij hawm es koj xav tiaj tib neeg saib tsi taus koj thiab?

S: Tsi muaj, tsis muaj tej tus saib tis tsaus li os.

I: Lov, hauv uas yus tsev neeg kiag nev?

S: Yus tsev neeg ntawd los luag yeej haij tiaj yus yeej zoo.

I: Ces tam sim no wb tham txog qhov ntawd ces, wb koj sim piav txog thauv teh chaws tawg nav, thiaj thauv es koj mus nyob tom xoom nav es zoo li cas nav. Uas thauv teh chaws tawg koj txiav txim li cas khiav?

S: Teb chaws tawg?

I: Hm thauv teh chaws tawg nav es koj txiav txim li cas koj ho khiav, lub sij hawm ntawd nws zoo li cas?

S: Rau qhov tias nyab laj tuaj.

S: Nyab laj tuaj ces, kuv piav mas piav ntau nwb.
I : Koj piav txog kiaq qhov uas hais tias ua li cas es thaum lub sij hawm ntawd kiaq es yawg neb nav, los yog hais tias koi kiaq nav, ua li cas koj thiaj txiav txim khaiv kiaq thaum lub sij hawm ntawd naj?

S : Txiav txim siab khaiv no?

I : Thaum es yuav khaiv ntawd xwb naj, ua cas koj ho txiav txim siab kiaq khaiv?

S : Rau qhov tias nyab laj yuav ntes.

Nyab laj yuav ntes ces niam no, nyab laj yuav ntes ces mus nyob tim hav nroj hav zoov, ces yawg ruam ruam ces mus rau pem qab los nram tsev lawm. Ces yawg nyob tim hav zoov ces yawg lawv mus nyob rau pem qab tsuas, ces yawg tseem koj koj txiv thiaj cok Phauj Txiab thiaj coj uas niam no hlob Yias, thiaj Phauj Ntxawm lawv rau qab los, ces koj txiv yawg khaiv los ngaum saum roob ces koj lawv rau qab los tsev. Ces nrog Ntawm Foom los ces kuv mus ces lawv los lov quav kws tim tiaj, no kuv ris Ntxoov Vaj ib poo yeeb nav, ris Ntxoov Vaj ib tes yeeb loj luaj no naj, ces kuv thiaj muab rau peb nyuag kuv Ntxawg ev, ev khaiv ces kuv mus mus lug kev ces nyab laj coob coob ces lug kev ces mus txog nram, mus txog tim tiaj ces ua ciav lawv rov qab los txog tim ces, yus ntej, peb Ntxawm Foom mas ruam, ces kuv thiaj tiasnej yuav tuag, tam sim no luaj tab tom ntes neeg, nej los ua dab tsi cia li rov qab no ces, Ntxawm Foom hais tias "hlob yuav kom peb los." Ces peb nyuag kuv Ntxawg me me laj li niam no Kais Txhuas naj ces kuv thiaj kom kuv Ntxawg, kuv hlob los rau qhov twg los kuv tus tub Zeb no ces nyuas kuv Ntxawg cia li ev teev yeeb nkag ! tim hav nroj los mus rau saum roob ze ces kuv thiaj cem cem peb Ntxawm Foom ces peb thiaj rau qab mus. Peb mus txog pem taw toj ces peb mus nyab laj los ces nyab laj hais tias "no nej mus ab tsi os niam," peb mus peb xwb oj, dhau plaws qhov ntawd ces tiaj liag los lawm li os.

I : Ces thawm ntawd ces yawg thiab txiav Vaj lawv tseem nyob tos koj ped…

S : Tsi tau yug txiv Vaj lawv os.

I : Oh! thaum ntawd tsi tau yug txiv Vaj lawv li lov?

S : Koj txiv thiaj hlob yias thiab phauj Txiab, thiaj phauj Ntxawm xwb oj.

I : Aws!..yog ntawd qhov ntawd ua ntej es teb chaws tawg es neb khaiv mus rau tom xoom puas yog li maj?

S : Peb khaiv los rau uas niam…peb khaiv los rau, uas niam no Phav Npooj.

Ces peb tawm Pav Npooj los mus rau nram Toov, ces peb hnyuj hnyo los nram Toov los rau tom Laj Huab.
I:  Ces nej khiav ib qho chaws dhau ib qho chaws mus li.

S:  Hm! ces thaua ntawd tseem muab koi txiv caij caj dab.

Hos hlob Yias tseem me me twb mus tsi tshua taus kev thiaj, tseem muab koi txiv caij yawg caj dab xwb oj…

I:  Thaum es hais tias txiav txim siab es khiav tuaj teb chaws meskas no nev, thaum ntawd ho ua li cas neb ho txiav txim siab khiav tuaj rau teb chaws meskas no?

S:  Rau qhov hais tias, xav hais tias nyob los nyab laj phem phem ces cia tuaj no.

Nyob los nyab laj yuav muab tua pov tseg, lawv hais tias… kom yog Tooj Pov no, Tooj Pov Lis cov hwj huam mas kom txhob nyob ib tug kom tawm tuaj mus tas nrho, ib ntsis nyab laj muab hlais lawm.

I:  Nyog li xuv ntawd, kuv txiv peb twb tuaj ua ntej lawm nev, ua ntej yawg nej.

S:  Hm Nej twb tuaj ua ntej lawm mas.

Ces khiav los mus rau Laj Huab ces no Koos Les tuaj ces, Koos Les tsis tau, Koos Les yuav tuaj ces peb thiaj khiav los rau Loob Puam. Peb khiav los rau Loob Puam ces Koos Les tuaj ces peb thiaj khiav los rau Npab Nas Xas Nas Haib.

I:  Thaum koi xav txog xoom nav, lub xoom nav es koi nco dab tsi xwb, hais txog xoom Vib Nais naj nej nyob Vib Nais naj, thaum ntawd puas muaj hmoob coob coob nyob hauv thiaj los?
I : Thaum neb khiav mus txog sob…

S : Peb khiav tuaj rau Vib Nais?

I : Nej mus poob rau hauv xoom, nej mus lub xoom twg?

Thaum twg tuaj teb chaws meskas naj, es nej mus nyob Thaib teb naj?

S : Peb nyob Vib Nais ces koj txiv ua foos los tos ces peb thiaj xeej xam phaj tab sis yawg ruam ruam, ces yawg hais tsi tau koj txiv cov ntawv, ces cia txiv Vaj wb hais xwb…(laugh)…

I : Thaum ntawd es, thaum es nyob hauv xoom ntawd es yawg nej nyob hauv xoom tau ntev li cas?

S : Nyob qhov twg?

I : Nyob hauv xoom es ua Vib Nais naj.

S : Nyob xoom 4.

I : Hm, xoom 4, nyob ntev li cas es neb thiaj li tau tuaj teb chaws meskas?

S : Wb nyob tau 6 hlis.

I : 6 hlis lov tsi ntev thiab, puas muaj tej yam es zoo?

S : Peb tuaj txog Koos Thej ces peb pw 2 hmos.

I : Puas muaj, thaum koj xav txog es nyob hauv xoom ntawd nav, tej es zoo es nyob hauv xoom ntawd yog dab tsi xwb, puas muaj tej yam zoo thiab?

S : Tsi muaj tej yam zoo, hauv ces nyob es niam no, noj luag tuaj faib txhuv faib mov es noj es noj faib ub faib no noj xwb tsi muaj ab tsi niaj hnub nyob.

I : Hm, thaum es nyob hauv xoom ntawd, koj nyob li cas xwb, koj tias nyob hnub dhau hnub?

S : Niaj hnub nyob.

Kev noj kev haus, nyob xwb.

I : Nrhiav noj nrhiav haus hauv xoom yog nrhaiv li cas xwb?

S : Cov neeg muaj foom ces nyias nyob nyias xwb yeej tsi sib tham li.
I: Ua cas thiaj tsi sib tham li.

S: Nyias nyob nyias es yeej tsi sib tham, yus yeej, ib yam li tsis yog yus cov neeg yus yeej tsis paub li.

I: Txoj kev es khwv noj khwv haus es los pab tsev neeg thaum es lub sij hawm es nyob hauv xoom ntawd nev, yuav ua li cas khwv xwb?

S: Haub yaus, khwv noj khwv haus ces tsi pom qab khwv ces mus nrhiav tom tej coj los noj xwb, nrhiav ub nrhiav no los noj xwb.

I: Mus tom hav zoov?

S: Ws, mus de ntsis qos ntoo, mus yuav tej coj los noj.
Nyiaj ces koy txiv xa tim no los xwb thiaj tau noj...(laugh)

I: Kuv txiv tsi xa los mas tsi tau noj li puas yog?

S: Koy txiv tsi xa ces tsis tau noj.

I: Es thaib puas pub yus mus ua zog thiab maj?

S: Nyob tim ces lawv tsi pub xav xoom tsi pub tawm xoom, ces lawv thiaj tsi pub mus txiav taws. Ces niam no nyob hauv xoom xwb, ces koy txiv xa los ces thiaj tau noj hos koy txiv tsi xav los ces mus de ntsis qos ntoo tej nyoag paj coj los hau es ntsw ntsev noj. Hos peb nyob tau 6 lub hlis ces vas thib 8, ces peb tawm npe peb tuaj rau teb chaws no, peb xam phaj, tawm npe ces peb tuaj tau, peb tuaj pw tom Koos Thej tau 2 hmos, ces vas thib 11 ces peb nce nyoj hoom tuaj lawm ces niam no peb ho tuaj txog pem uas, kuv tsi paub qhov ntawd xyov yog dab tsi as, xyov tem, ab tsi ces lawv ho muab peb nyob pem tau 2 hnuh thiab ces peb tuaj txog qhov nov ces yog vas thib 16.

I: Hm, koy puas neo qab lub hli ntawd?

S: Lub, lub 8 hlis oj...

S: Peb tuaj 80 naj.

I: Lub 8 hlis vas thib 8, xyoo 80, thaum es thaum nyob hauv xoom..

S: Tsis yog lub 10, lub 2 hlis ntuj oj.

I: Lub 2 hlis ntuj lov, thaum ntawd no no puas yog? Thaum es koy nyob hauv xoom es koy xav tias tib neeg saib poj niam thiab txiv neej puas muaj nuj nqis txawv li cas?
S: Ws! txiv neej saib poj niam thiab, txiv neej mas hais ncaj tias txiv neej yeej saib poj niam ces yeej saib tsi tsim txiaj li teb chaws no, teb chaws no ua li niam no lawv hais uas txiv neej, poj niam thiaj hais tias hais tau txiv neej lawm, nyob tim es poj niam hais tsi tau txiv neej.

I: Koj sim piav txog thaum es koj tuaj rau teb chaws meskas no thiab koj lub neej thaum es hais tias nyuam qhuav tuaj txog zoo li cas nav. Yog vim li cas koj tsev tib neeg ho txiav txim tuaj teb chaws no? wb twb tham me ntsis txog lawm thiab, kuv txiv tuaj ua ntej lawm nev puas yog?

S: Koj txiv tuaj ua ntej lawm ces thiaj xav hais tias…. Hauv txaj es koj txiv kaw rooj paim mas koj txiv nim quaj quaj ntawm kaum tsev.

I: Thaum ntawd peb me me aiv es peb thiaj hais li nav ha !… Thaum tuaj txog teb chaws no, kwv yees koj muaj pes tsawg xyoo xwb?

S: Hais kuv, muaj 63.

I: 63 xyoos lov.

S: 64.

I: 64 lov, koj tuaj txog teb chaws no lawm yam es koj xyaum yooj yim thiab kawm es tau sai tshaj plaws yog ab tsi xwb?

S: Tuaj txog ces koj txiv ua noob nyoog loj loj ces tsi kawm dab tsi ces tuaj nyob, zov me nyuam, zov tub Nraus thiaj txiv laus lawv me nyuam xwb twb tsi ua ab tsi, tab sis teb chaws no tuaj xyaum yooj yim tsis nyuab pes tsawg.

I: Ua cas koj ho hais li ntawd?

S: Tsuas yog koj tsi txawj ntawv xwb, tab sis koj xyaum yeej tsi nyuab, koj xyaum yooj yim me ntsis.

I: Tej yam es koj xyaum naj, es yooj yooj yim rau koj nav yog ab tsi xwb?

S: Xyaum qhib dej es xyaum ua mov noj qhib hluav taws…qhib ub qhib no tej txawj qhib los mas.

I: Yam twg es yam uas koj xyaum es nyob teb chaws nov es ho nyuab tshaj plaws?

S: Tsi muaj ib yam nyuab li os.

I: Tsis muaj ib yam nyuab li lov, tsuas yog tsi paub luag tej cov lus xwb puas yog?
S : Tsi paub luag cov lus thiab tsi paub ntawv xwb.
I : Hm, dab tsi pab koj yoog tau sai rau lub neej tshiab es nyob teb chaws no?
I : Ab tsi pab koj yoog nyob teb chaws nov tshaj plaws, los ab tsi yooj yim tshaj plaws es zoo hais tias koj nyob teb chaws no koj ho xav nyob thiab?
I : Pab koj yoog es coj li luag tej, coj li teb chaws coj txawv lawm thiab nav.
S : Cov tim los coj kawg, koj niam thiab koj txiv lawv coj xwb.
I : Koj tsi coj txawv li puas yog?
S : Kuv tsi coj txawv li.
I : Koj tsi coj txawv li, tsuas yog nyob hauv tsev ntau es zov me nyuam ntau xwb?
S : Nyob hauv tsev zov me nyuam ntau xwb, thaum ntawd Maiv Kaus thiab Carol thiab Nas Lis Ntsis Laus thiab Tub Daus lawv tseem me me nev.
Carol luaj li tub Daus…. Uh! thaum ntawv xyov tub Daus muaj, nyaj muaj 2 xyoos lawm nis, mas twb txawj khiav mus rau rraum niam tais Pov lawv nev.
Twb txawj taug kev mus cuav, mus rau lawv es nrhiav nrhiav no naj, twb hla kev yuav es twb mus rau lawm no.
I : Koj txawj tej yam es, es nyob teb chaws Nplog nav, es ho pab tau koj pib lub neej tshiab no thiaj es zoo li hais tias kawm tej yam tshiab no, thiaj yog dab tsi xwb, zoo li hais tias puas muaj tej yam es hais tias koj twb xyaum tau nyob teb chaws Nplog es ho pab tau koj nyob teb chaws no thiab?
S : Pab tau yus lub neej.
I : Hm, pab tau yus lub neej thiab?
S : Hawb yauj !… yus ua liaj ua teb, yus ua yaj yeeb ces thiaj pab tau.
Ua yaj yeeb ces tej neeg…..koj muag thiaj pab tau koj lub neej, es thiaj tau nyiaj, thiaj tau koj lub neej thiaj pab tau.
I : Es nyob teb chaws no ne puas muaj tej yam tshiab es koj ho xyaum es ho pab tau koj lub neej thiab?
S : Tsi muaj li os.
I : Tsi muaj li lov?
S : Tuaj nyob teb chaws no ces tuaj zov nyiaj noj xwb las as hu ha ha !…

I : Zoo qhov es tsi tau mus khwv nyob sab nraud los?

S : Yog koj txiv txhob ua… hnub nyoog laus laus no ces nyaj tej zaum kuv tseem tuaj kawm tau me me ntawv thiab, tab sis koj txiv hais tias nyob teb chaws Nplog es…. Nyob teb chaws Nplog es niam no twb khwv khwv lawm, twb tsis tau so es twb khwv khwv ces cia ua hnub nyoog laus es tuaj es thiaj tsis,…tau so es thiaj tau nyob, es thiaj nyob es noj nyiaj xwb.

Niam no thiaj tsi paub ib lo lus hej, hej, hej...

I : Tab sis thaum yawg neb tuaj, koj yeej laus lawm thiab ov.

S : Yog mas.

I : Koj puas, xav hais tias poj niam lub neej nyob teb chaws nov zoo tshaj li teb chaws tim ub?

S : Huj!… poj niam lub neej nyob teb chaws no zoo tshaj lub nyob tim ub.

I : Yog vim li cas ho zoo tshaj?

S : Rau qhov hais tias, kuv qhia koj haiq tias tuaj nyob teb chaws no ces poj niam ib yam thiab txiv neej xiv sib luag, zoo tshaj, yooj yim tshaj, puas yog? Nyob tim ub ces txiv neej muab poj niam tsuj tuag nthi es txiv neej hais tias txiv neej loj tshaj, tsim txiaj tshaj no ces muab poj niam tsuj tuag nthi.

I : Tab sis niam no ces muaj xiv ib yam lawm no lov?

S : Hwv tuaj txog teb chaws no ces pwj hawm.

I : Yog li koj tuaj tau teb chaws meskas no ntev lawm thiab es koj puas tau yog xam xaj meskas naj?

S : Tsi tau oj.

I : Tsi tau lov?

S : Laus laus lawm xyov mus ua ces lawv sis pheej tsi hnov teb ces puam chawj.

I : Wb tham txog thaum nyuam qhuv tuaj txog lawm ces wb sim tham txog me ntsis txog poj niam tej hauj lwm uas rau hauv lub vaj lub tsev no mus nav, zoo li hais tias tsi yog cov hauj lwm es nyob hauv yus lub vaj lub tsev xwb, tab sis yog hais tias tawm mus sab nraud naj.
Uas thaum es teb chaws ua tsov ua rog nav, koj puas paub txog thiab?

S : Paub.

I : Paub hiab lov? Koj hnow xov hai txog es ua tsov ua rog ntawd qhov twg los thiab ntawm leej twg los?

S : Kuv hnow ntawm nws, kuv paub hai tias….

Kuv paub hai tias, luag hai tias niam no… ntuj yuav qeeg, txhuv yuav dhia, teb chaws yuav co, es dej yuav ntas no naj.

I : Leej twg hai li ntawd?

S : Hwv !.. Thaum teb chaws yuav kawj rog, sawv daws, lawv cov, lawv cov uas hlob, lawv cov laus lawv yeej pom kiag ntawm qhov muag no.

Teb chaws yuav kawj rog ces, niam no sov yog ua li cas ces tias ntuj qeeg ces av co ces dej das, koj ce thoob dej rau pem… txee ces dej das, ho tssov tau ib vab txhuv muab txawb ces cov txhuv dhia cuag cas no nawj, lawv hai li ntawd.

I : Yog li es, koj,… ces lawv cov hlob yog cov hai rau nej lov, ces nej hnow?

S : Hwv, lawv hai li ntawd, ces thaum peb mas yau, tsi paub hai tias teb chaws yuav ua rog, kuv twb yuav yawg tau ib xyoos ntuj ces Nyij Poos mam ntaus, kuv twb yug niam no Phauj Txiab muaj 5 hlis, Nyij Poos mam ntaus, Nyij Poos nto ces, Nyij Poos rov qab ces nyab laj thiaj ntaus, nyab laj thiaj ntaus ces lawv thiaj li sib tua sib tua ces niam no peb thiaj khiav, peb thiaj khiav khiav khiav ces… no nyij poos rov qab lawm ces Nyab Laj ntaus ces, Nyab Laj thiaj tuaj khoo sawv daws. Nyab Laj tuaj nrog yus mus ua teb ov, Nyab Laj tuaj nrog yus mus ua teb, nrog yus los tsev tib si hos.

I : Ua cas lawv ho ua li ntawd?

S : Lawv tuaj ces, lawv tuaj ces lawv…koj ua teb ces lawv mus pab koj ua teb nawj.

I : Hm, ua cas lawv ho los pab?

S : Tsi paub tiag, lawv khuai los pab yus ua teb ces lawv tuaj pab yus ua teb ces lawv mus plaub tsib leeg, lawv mus nrog yus ua teb, lawv mus nrog yus ob niam txiav ua teb. Ua teb tsaus ntuj ces lawv mam los.

I : Es yus puas pub mov rau lawv noj lawv haus thiab maj?
Lawv noj lawv li mos, ces peb khiav mus nyob nram qhov tsua nawb, nyooj hoom pheej tua, nyooj hoom tuaj tua, peb khiav mus nyob nram qhov tsua ces niam no kuv tseem rov qab los. Yus lub neej txom nyem tshaj, rov qab los zom zeb, de zaub tej noj, ntais pob kws tej mus noj ces, nyooj hoom tuaj tua. Nyooj hoom tuaj tos khiav tsheej, nyooj hoom tua ces khiav rov qab mus nram lub niag qab tsuas hav tsau ti ces, nyoob hoom tua tas ces mam rov qab mus.

Thaum lub sij hawm ntawd es teb chaws ua tsov ua rog ntawd nav puas muaj tej nom tsuv es thawj coj es uas es tseem ceeb rau hauv peb hmoob thiab, es zoo li hais tias yus hnov txog, los yus hwm txog hais tias...

Tsi muaj os, kuv dab laug lawv nyob Looj Hej, nyab laj tuaj txog ces Nyab Laj tuaj tua ces no nyab laj khoo, ces nyab laj mus khoo kuv dab laug lawv, ces npas qhav nawj, oh !.. piav mas…kuv dab laug lawv muaj ib co yeeb tej peev loj no, qhvv ntawv daj ces, nyob tim uas qab tsuas…. qab tsuas niayj nav, coj mus zais tim qab tsuas niayj ces lawv foob ces nyab laj ev los, muab rau lub thaww loj loj luaj no, ces Nyab Laj muab tso rau nraum zoov nyab laj ua lub tsev vov rau.

Es koj Dab Laug Tooj Pov lawv puas yog ib tug thawj coj es hais tias koj pom hais tias…

Ib tug thawj coj.

Koj pom hais tias tseem ceeb thiab koj nyiam.

Ws, ib tug thawj coj uas no coj pej xeem huab hwm, coj tej toj xeem, Phoob Toom tej mas.

Es yog li es koj nyob teb chaws nov lawm nav es koj pom hais tias poj niam kev es ua thawj coj ho pauv li cas lawm thiab?

Nyob teb chaws no ua thawj coj ces, poj niam zoo tshaj.

Puas muaj cov poj niam nyob teb chaws no es ho yog ua thawj coj lawm thiab?

Muaj thiab.

Koj xav hais tias poj niam, es ua thawj coj nws ho hloov li cas rau teb chaws no lawm thiab?

Poj niam ua teb, poj niam ua thawj coj rau teb chaws no mas, zoo ib yam txiv neej, xiv loj ib yam, xiv sib luag zos.

Ws… nyob teb chaws nov lawm es, poj niam hmoob, muaj cai, ua tej yam hauj lwm, los tias ua dab tsi txawv, es thaum es nyob teb chaws Nplog, thiab teb chaws Thaib es tej zaum yeej ua tsi tau li naj?
S: Muaj, teb chaws no, poj niam muaj hauj lwm ua ub ua no txawv teb chaws Nplog nav, thiab poj niam ntse tshaj, thiab poj niam ua ub ua no ntaj. Teb chaws Nplog li ua,… poj niam tsi, cov poj niam tsi kawm ntawv, ua ntej noj mov xwb oj es koj niam ruam ruam, tab sis nyob ntawm tus uas lub siab nkiag, lub siab nkiag es lub siab ntse, kuv nrog kuv dab laug nyob kuv qhia koj, teev los kuv txawj luj, muaj ua dab tsi los xam phaj los kuv txawj ...nav.

S: Xam phaj hais tias npaum li no khoom, yog peg tsawg, qhov nov yog pes tsawg, tom no yog pes tsawg no nav, kuv yeej paub tas naj.

I: Tab sis nyob teb chaws Nplog ua li koj hais txiv neej muab poj niam tsuj tuag nthi xwb ces yus txawm txawj npaum li cas los yus qhia rau sab nraud tsi tau los.

S: Tab sis los yuav yawg ces yawg ruam ruam !… ces yus los ces niam no lus nplng los yus mam xeem qhia, teev los yus mam xeem qhia, ab tsi los yus mam xeem qhia tas nrho naj. Yawg mas ruam tshaj tas nrho naj, ab tsi los yus mam xeem qhia tag !… Tib sis, koj paub kuv lub neej mas kuv hais qhia koj ov, Aiv ov, kuv lub neej mas muaj qhua tuaj koj tus, yog tus kheej koj yog tib tug thawj, koj mus ntes ntho tej tus npua luaj li no, yawg yeej tsi paub ab tsi, koj mus ntes ntho tej tus npua luaj no koj lub neej koj ib leeg txhawj nav, koj ib leeg ua tus txob ua tus txhawj naj. Koj mus ntes ntho tej tus npua muaj 3 cheej 4 cheej luaj no los, koj lub tsev qhua nyob tom tag lawm, koj twb coj los tua tom qhov cub no, koj twb kuam tau ua tau dawb paug, koj twb muab txhoov hau siav, koj rau mus rau lawv noj, lawv hais tias thaum twg poj niam txawm siv mus tua npua, txawm siv tua npua los mus ua siav,...Yawg !..mas tau ntsej tau muag rau qhov nov nawb, Aiv nawb.

I: Koj xav hais tias poj niam muaj cai, ua tej yam es tshiab nyob teb chaws no es thaum es nyob teb chaws Nplog es yus ua tsi tau vim yus txawj ntse los yus tus txiv lub yus txuag yus tus txiv lub ntsej muag thiab ces yus, yus qhia tsi tau tawm rau tib neeg lov?

S: Teb chaws no ces koj txawj ntse los niam no koj hais tsi tau tawm rau luag tej naj. Teb chaws tim ub ces koj hais tsi tau tawm rau luag tej li mos.

I: Hos teb chaws no ces …

S: Koj txawj koj ntse los mas.

I: Hos teb chaws no nws hloov, nws txawv lawm rau qhov…

S: Tab sis Aiv ov ua neej nyob, lub siab zoo lub siab dawb kuv qhia koj hais tias kuv los yuav yawg, yawg niag ruam ruam, tab sis kuv siab zoo, kuv siab dawb, kuv txawj kuv ntse, muaj qhua tuaj mas luag nkag hauv koj lub tsev xwb, luag yeej tsi mus tom tej
I:  Es yog dhau qhov ntawd nev koj xav kom tib neeg nco, nco ab tsi txog poj niam hmoob xwb?  Nco ntsoov tias poj niam hmoob pab es pab li cas xwb?

S:  Nco ntsoov hais tias poj niam hmoob no es pab es, pab cov neeg es pab tib neeg es pab… los ua no thiab, ua li kuv hais niam no kuv laus lawm ces kuv qhia nej es nej nco ntsoov nawb mog… es nej kaw tseg es nej nco ntsoov es hais tias pog laus laus es pog hais li no cia no mas.  Peb…pog yog tus uas niam no, los hauv caj hmoob zoo los, los hauv caj hmoob ntsi los, los hauv niam no caj hmoob tsiem txiaj caj hmoob zoo los, niam no koj txiv es tawm rooj plaws koj txiv nim hais tias koj txiv yog hmoob Yaj, koj txiv hais tias koj txiv yog hmoob Lis no xwb…(laugh)

Peb mus txog nram Npaws Npes (Green Bay) es kab tias, niag Ntxhiav naj, Ntxooov Vaj niag Ntxhiav tuaj Fab kis tuaj es… koj txiv hais tias, kuv li kuv yog hmoob Lis laiv no es Ntxhiav tias dag !.. ua luaj os, koj twb yog hmoob yaj los hos.  Koj txiv tias kuv yog hmoob Lis, hmoob Yaj los txuam txoov rau xwb…

Aiv eh !.. ua neej nyob es thaum i kuv twb, thaum i koj tseem yau kuv twb hais hais rau koj ne yom, niam no yus mus ua neej yus txawj khwv yus lub siab dav, lub siab dav ces muaj neeg poog yus, thiab luag muaj qhua tuaj los luag los hauv koj lub vaj lub tsev, koj kheev tham kheev hais.  Luag tias tus poj niam no peb yuav mus so hauv tus no, peb mus hauv tus no es, tus no mas tus txiv tsi nyob los kheev kheev tham kheev hais ces yus tsi laj nyob ov no ov.  Koj dub muag es niam no koj tsi hais, tsi kheev tham ces luag hais tias tus poj niam no, peb mus peb tsi txhob mus, tus txiv tsi nyob lawm mas dub !…txig xwb, dub nciab xwb hos yeef tsi nhiaj mov yus noj no ov, thaum i kuv hais koj, thiab yus nquag nquag, ces yus khwv kom yus lub neej zoo, khwv kom yus lub neej tsiem txiaj, kuv hais rau koj tias yawg li ces yawg khwv nrog luag ua zoo neej es yawg khwv tsiem txiaj ces kuv lub neej yeej zoo os Aiv ov, yawg wb lub neej yeej zoo ov, tab sis yawg tsi khwv tsiem txiaj yawg tsi khwv ua zoo neeg, es kuv lub neej thiaj txom nyem, kuv dab laug hais rau kuv hais tias ; txawj ntsi li kuv, ncauj liab li kuv, niam no yog kuv tau ib tug txiv tsiem txiaj ces kuv lub neej yeej zoo.

Ws tas nrho, tej peb pab viv ncaus, kuv ib tug nrawm tshaj, nquag tshaj, ncauj liab tshaj ntsi tshaj, tab sis ua cas kuv ho tau tus txiv tsi zoo ces puas kuv lub neej lawm, kuv dab laug Tooj Pov hais li rau kuv nawb.

F:  Ces wb tham li no es yog hais tias muaj ab tsi tham ntxiv no ces mam li rov qab tham dua, ua tsaug ov pog.