

Appendix A: Interview Transcripts

FILIPINO-MALAYSIAN CHINESE COUPLES

TRANSCRIPT FILE 1

R= (Researcher)

W= FCCB (Filipino wife)

H= FCCA (Malaysian Chinese husband)

- 1 **R:** How do you communicate with each other as husband and wife?
- 2 **W:** We communicate in a very friendly manner. We speak English most of the time because it's the language that we understand better. But in my case I do speak of course Tagalog, Ilokano, English, Bahasa, and Bedayuh and now I'm learning Iban.
- 3 **R:** You speak 6 languages. Of these 6 languages, what is your first language?
- 4 **W:** The first one is Ilokano and the second language is Tagalog then English
- 5 **R:** How about you, (husband) do you speak similar languages with your wife?
- 6 **H:** No, I speak 3 languages very fluently, two Chinese dialects and Tagalog. Obviously my choice is English
- 7 **R:** Are you fluent in Chinese?
- 8 **H:** No, I guess in Bahasa because Chinese is just used in conversing with friends.
- 9 **R:** In your place, what language is widely spoken?
- 10 **H:** I would say Malay, Bahasa but most of the time we speak Bahasa here with people around.
- 11 **R:** What language do you think that you feel more comfortable to use?
- 12 **H:** I think English, I prefer English.
- 13 **R:** Why English?
- 14 **H:** I think English is very common. I was brought up in an English language school and that is the so called lah. The medium of instruction used in school at that time was English. I was brought up in English and I am comfortable in English. Even with my children I speak English; of course once in a while I speak Bahasa. I would say 70% will be English, 25% will be Bidayuh and 5 % Bahasa Malaysia.
- 15 **R:** How about in your case (facing the wife) which of the 6 languages you feel more comfortable to use?
- 16 **W:** Well, it's English. I will choose English too because I believe it's an advantage because it is useful in the business. It is useful when you mix with other people. My husband told me also that we should speak English to the children.
- 17 **R:** At home what language is used when only both of you are talking?
- 18 **W:** English
- 19 **H:** (joins the conversation) I communicate English with my wife.
- 20 **R:** So only English is used at home.
- 21 **H:** No, sometimes other languages come out naturally like Chinese and others but obviously English is more convenient. It comes out naturally. Even though she can speak the local languages (referring to the wife) I mean of course not that fluent I would say we prefer to speak English with one another. I also encourage my children to speak English.
- 22 **R:** Do you mean English and other local languages are mixed?
- 23 **W:** yes

- 24 **R:** What languages that you speak aside from English?
- 25 **H:** A bit of Chinese and Bahasa.
- 26 **R:** How about Tagalog?
- 27 **H:** Well, I think only in the Philippines (laughs)
- 28 **W:** Yes and they learn very fast.
- 29 **H:** It depends with the environment. When we go to the Philippines, I think the children will automatically talk in Tagalog but they speak English most of the time.
- 30 **R:** When you are talking with the children what language do you speak?
- 31 **H:** I would say, as I said just now still will be English and then mixed with Chinese and other local languages.
- 32 **R:** How about when you go out at home? For example in the market, do you still use English?
- 33 **H:** English
- 34 **W:** English
- 35 **R:** So English is the major language that you speak at home. How about in your case (facing the husband) did you strive to learn her language which is Filipino?
- 36 **H:** Well I would say, it's not easy to say. I'm not interested (laugh) but sometimes it just comes. It's not to say that I don't know. Actually, I can speak the language. It's that I am not the person that practices it, using it all the time but I would definitely. I'm learning the language but I'm not using it as a medium of communication. But there are times when I go to the Philippines it would become useful at least I'm able to communicate with the people.
- 37 **R:** So you could interact with the people in the Philippines.
- 38 **W:** Yeah.
- 39 **R:** How about in your case (facing the wife) did you strive to learn Chinese and Bidayuh?
- 40 **W:** Yes I do.
- 41 **R:** So why did you strive to learn Chinese and Bidayuh?
- 42 **W:** Because his sisters could not communicate in English. He's the only one who can speak English.
- 43 **R:** Is it the only way for you to interact with them?
- 44 **W:** Yeah because they can't speak English. So I need to learn otherwise it's hard to talk to them because even in Bahasa Malaysia they are not fluent.
- 45 **R:** You have been married for 17 years throughout your married life were you able to discover among yourselves a "private language" that only the two of you can understand?
- 46 **H:** Yes, there are words that we used for each other.
- 47 **R:** It's just like that you play with words, something like that?
- 48 **H:** Not exactly but we called names like "kolo pangit" (laugh) in Tagalog means ugly but it's not the word "ugly" but I used that word. You know the connotation of honest or love. It's not really the word people would say why called the wife "pangit" you know what I mean.
- 49 **W:** That's true everybody was shocked.
- 50 **H:** But for me that is not. We don't normally bother consciously having a special word, not really.
- 51 **R:** By the way, what is your idea about husband and wife relationship?
- 52 **H:** I believe that both of us have the same, you know what I mean husband and wife have equal responsibility in the house, upbringing of children, taking care of the house and equal responsibility, you know. If one is not free to do it then the

other one should be able to do it, I see. I think it's a joint shall we say responsibility lah. That's what I do at home, if she's not at home I keep the house clean (laugh) because I like to see the house clean and tidy. To me it's a responsibility of both husband and wife to bring up the family that is in a manner that, you know, harmonious and happy family.

53 R: (facing to the wife) Yeah, that's right. What do you think about husband and wife relationship?

54 W: Yeah, similar with my husband and another thing is that. I prefer that there is always communication between me and him. A clear communication because marriage is always affected because of lack of communication between husband and wife. Therefore, like what he said sharing the responsibility is there. It's just like for me and him I think there's no problem about that. We are still learning and growing but there's no problem about it.

55 R: How about as husband and wife are you interdependent with one another?

56 H: Well, I think in that sense, maybe but if we look at it individually we are independent persons. She does her own and I do my own. At the end of the day we do something beneficial to both of us, understanding each other's strength and weaknesses, you know. To say interdependent, I won't say that I can't do anything without her. I don't believe in that. Each of us has our own strength and weaknesses. I don't expect her to depend too much on me in order to do such things. She has her own strength for example back to the Philippines for example for a holiday or to visit the family, don't expect me that I don't know what to do (laugh). We have our strength and weaknesses. In that sense as husband and wife we are of course totally together.

57 W: Yeah, I agree with him

58 R: I know that in a husband and wife relationship, I would say that there is no such marriage like a bed of roses and there are always conflicts between husband and wife and it's a natural phenomenon between husband and wife. Do you avoid conflict?

59 H: Well, we try to. The conflict is always there. We try to see it, resolve it in a peaceful manner. There is any conflict but obviously we can't avoid conflict. Conflict is always there but it's how we handle it and if we want to destroy conflict the family it will destroy. I think using our own experience and then also as we as a family that is quite cohesive in one religious views, our Christian views. I think the conflict is something that you must embrace but you must handle it properly but don't allow it to destroy you whatever we have. That's how we look at it. We don't try to avoid it and we are going to hide the conflict. If there's any conflict, we try to hang on or you know and take care in a manner that is to resolve in a peaceful manner.

60 R: I think one good thing is that both of you, the center of your marriage is God so that makes the relationship going and that makes the relationship better. What about your interest, do you have the same interest as husband and wife?

61 H: No, I don't think so.

62 W: No

63 H: We are quite different (laugh).

64 R: (facing to the husband) How about in your case?

65 H: We don't have. We have different but it doesn't mean that we can't be together. We have different interest that it can also be that can help us to go together. Of course my interest I like reading, you know.

- 66 R:** Are you more of a bookworm?
- 67 H:** Yeah, I read a lot. I also like traveling to different places. I don't think she would like to read a lot but definitely she would also love traveling. Of course she likes music. I also listen to music but I don't play with music. There are some interests that we converge together.
- 68 R:** Despite your difference, are you saying that you have something in common?
- 69 H:** Yes, we have something in common. It's not that we are totally different. We have our own personal taste, you know.
- 70 R:** What about your friend. Do you have the same or different group of friends?
- 71 H:** In my own working environment, I have my own set of friends. Those are my colleagues and those are people who are working of the same industry but as a family we have common friends, a family friend. These are mostly Christian friends that we have. We are very close to them. Aside from them we have different group of friends.
- 72 W:** I have also some group of friends. Like what he said the family or Christian friends especially the Filipinos, we are very close to them. These are five couples.
- 73 R:** Are there instances that both of you did not understand one another because of language differences?
- 78 H:** I don't think so.
- 79 R:** So it's not a problem.
- 80 H:** Because when I first met her we communicate in English.
- 81 R:** So the first language that you use when you first met is English. Is it the reason why you choose English as the medium of communication because that's the language you use when you first met?
- 82 H:** No, I think it's not because of that but because as I said earlier, just now that when I grew up I already in the school in those days the medium of instruction was in English so Bahasa was only late in 1970's, you know, was introduced in school so but earlier than that was in English. I grew up in an English language environment and it just comes very natural. Sometimes in my own "Kampung" when I meet my brother and sister sometimes I speak in English. Some of them speak in English also but not very good la then only after that I switch to Bidayuh. But to my brother in law who was in the same school with me then I speak English with him.
- 83 R:** If your wife speaks in Tagalog, do you response in Tagalog?
- 84 H:** No (laugh) I respond in English.
- 85 R:** Did it happen when you speak in Tagalog?
- 86 W:** Yes, I talk to him in Tagalog.
- 87 R:** What about in your case did it happen that you ask her in Chinese or Bidayuh?
- 88 H:** Yeah, she responds also in English (laugh)
- 89 W:** Sometimes (laugh) I reply in Chinese and Bidayuh. I think he can pick up Tagalog but it's not easy for him to, you know, say it out.
- 90 R:** Where there instances were both of you really struggle to speak with each others language just to make the conversation going?
- 91 W:** Yeah it happened. Yes, I think so
- 92 H:** Myself, I can't recall. I am more comfortable in English. Yes I'm very much comfortable.
- 93 R:** How do you handle (facing to the wife) when you are lost with words?

- 94 **W:** The first time, ah last time-yes. I had struggles, in fact it's only the grace of God that had given me the sign that I can speak much better. Sometimes I forgot "what's that again?". It happened to me many times and I was lost.
- 95 **R:** How do you handle that situation?
- 96 **W:** I think it's because I only speak with my husband and I learned from him.
- 97 **R:** But if it's a Tagalog term, how do you manage?
- 98 **H:** Because she will explain what it means.
- 99 **R:** Yeah, sometimes with action.
- 100 **W:** He is always there to help me. He slows down so I can understand and follow him.
- 101 **R:** So sometimes he is the tutor.
- 102 **W:** Yeah (laugh)
- 103 **R:** Do you compare your languages?
- 104 **W:** No
- 105 **R:** Are you proud of your mother tongue but the problem you grow up in an English speaking environment.
- 106 **H:** Definitely because even though I don't speak my language, that's my first language but I am more comfortable in English. It doesn't mean that I'm not proud of my mother tongue. In fact, I'm trying to learn more about my mother tongue. I do record the old words that are really missing. Actually, I keep all these words. Hopefully, one day when I'm free I can just compile like a dictionary. I've been keeping all these words in my book. One day I hope at least write it down and probably not really published but probably just do something like hard cover. Whatever and pass it to my children so they won't lost it. I'm proud of my mother tongue but I'm just comfortable in English (laugh)
- 107 **R:** One thing I doubt, because of the invasion of English throughout the world and English is becoming very dominant
- 108 **H & W:** [yes, yes]
- 109 **R:** Do you still pass on to your children the Filipino language?
- 110 **W:** Oh yes, I'm trying to teach them actually but it is also like my mother tongue. My first language is Ilokano but I've never forgotten that and I'm proud of my mother tongue.
- 111 **R:** Are you teaching your children the Ilokano language.
- 112 **W:** Yes, Ilokano but because they are so used with Tagalog, I just say, they learn Tagalog first but when they go back to my home town they learn Ilokano very fast.
- 113 **R:** So how many languages do you speak at home?
- 114 **H:** First language is English, Chinese, Bidayuh, Bahasa only when my friends are around and Tagalog.
- 115 **R:** What made you choose English as the medium of communication at home? Why not your first language?
- 116 **H:** I think it all boils down to me. As I said earlier I'm so much comfortable in English.
- 117 **R:** So it's for comfort.
- 118 **H:** Not really for my comfort. I believe that they are in Bahasa Malaysia medium school and they will learn Bahasa in school and then the thing is that it's not to say that Bahasa is not important because it's our language but the thing now is that the government is coming back to English and if you look at it they are better than some of the graduates (laugh). That's why the graduates could not get a job because.... So I want my children to be fluent in English and also be able to

communicate in Bahasa because these are as far as Malaysia is concerned these are the two languages that will bring them to where they should be.

119 R: Definitely

120 H: I think, the government now is considering English as an important language. Just a few days ago the Prime Minister said it's not to put aside Bahasa, you know, it is still very important but English is important to be established and they are encouraging international schools, you know, to come and establish here and the medium of instruction is in English. So that's the whole thing la. In my house it boils to practicality. Well, I'm comfortable in English but I'm also particular that is the same I want them to be able to communicate very well because you know I always, I also try to help them improve their vocabulary as well as their past tense or present tense.

121 R: Yeah, the tenses of verbs. That's very important.

122 H: I'm just trying to teach them proper English.

123 R: In the proper way of using the language.

124 W: Yes

125 R: I think that's good that you serve as a trainer for your children to speak the language.

126 W: We are not teaching also our children not to embrace our mother tongue, we also let them know.

127 H: We encourage them to speak our mother tongue and that's why they can actually speak my language. I don't actually teach them but when they are talking with my brother, sister and my cousins they first love naturally the language, so they speak.

128 W: The same thing with Tagalog they just come naturally. I believe children nowadays.

129 R: In short your children learn a lot of languages at a very young age.

130 W: Yes

131 R: How many languages that they speak?

132 H: I would say, my youngest can speak five English, Bahasa, some Iban, Tagalog and Mandarin

133 R: (laugh) Quite a lot, very impressive. So they can speak different languages. So generally I could say that husband and wife the language that you always use is English but you switch to Chinese, Bidayuh, Malay and Filipino. You use Filipino especially when you are with a group of Filipinos.

134 H: Well, I think, so much easier for us to understand one another, I mean a common language. We have a common language like she knows how to speak English and I speak English as well. The way we communicate, the understanding is much better rather than if both of us can't understand English the marriage will not be successful. I'm not saying other languages are not successful but then we have a common language, we have a better understanding.

135 R: I'm just curious, have you not thought of having Bahasa as the medium of communication because that's the national language in Malaysia?

136 H: It never came across my mind (laugh) as the medium of communication especially at home.

137 R: I think, I got the information I needed. Thank you very much to both of you for your time.

END

TRANSCRIPT FILE 2

R= (Researcher)

E= FCCB (Filipino wife)

H= FCCA (Malaysian Chinese husband)

- 1 **F: Yung tanong ko ihahalo mag code switch ako ng English at Tagalog. Itanong ko lang paano kayo magusap ng asawa mo?** (*In my questions I will mix English and Filipino, I would just want to ask how do you communicate with your husband?*)
- 2 **E: Pag nausap kami yung natural lang pero English ang gamit namin kasi dyan kami nasanay at ako rin I speak** (*We communicate naturally but we use English because we are used to it and I speak*) English, Tagalog, Bisaya, Malay, Chinese and Iban. Hokkien, I understand a bit.
- 3 **R: Ano ang first language nyo?** (*What is your first language?*)
- 4 **E: Waray.**
- 5 **R: Waray. Tapos yung 2nd language nyo ay Tagalog,** (*Then your second language is Tagalog*) next is English, then Iban and Bahasa. **Yung proficiency nyo, alin kayo mas proficient? Sa waray very proficient kayo?,** (*Which language are you proficient? In Waray are you proficient?*)
- 6 **E: Of course, yes.**
- 7 **R: Proficient pa rin ba kayo hanggang ngayon?** (*Are you still proficient until now?*)
- 8 **E: Cebuano, yeah. Waray and Cebuano. I can speak both.**
- 9 **R: So proficient pa rin kayo sa Waray** (*So you are still proficient in Waray*)
- 10 **E: Yes.**
- 11 **R: Kahit na matagal na kayo dito?** (*Even if you have stayed here longer?*)
- 12 **E: Yes, Waray is my past. Hindi pwede makalimutan yan.** (*It cannot be forgotten*)
- 13 **R: Merong iba kasi pag nawala sila for a few years medyo** (pause).(*There are other people when they left their place for a few years, it seems*).
- 14 **E: Yeah. Umalis ako ng Leyte mga 15 years. Mga 15 years nag spend ako ng Manila hanggang pumunta ako dito.** (*I left Leyte 15 years ago. I spent 15 years in Manila until I reached here*)
- 15 **R: For fifteen years and how many years here?**
- 16 **E: 16 years.**
- 17 **R: So hindi nyo pa rin nakakalimutan?** (*So you haven't forgotten your language*)
- 18 **E: Hindi (no)**
- 19 **R: Pero hindi na kau nagsasalita ng Waray dito?**(*But you don't speak Waray here*)
- 20 **E: Paminsan minsan sa pinsan ko.** (*Sometimes with my cousin*).
- 21 **R: So yung second language nyo?** (*What is your second language?*)
- 22 **E: Tagalog.**
- 23 **R: Tagalog not English. What about in Cebuano, are you proficient?**
- 24 **E: yes.**
- 25 **R: Saan ka natuto ng Cebuano?** (*Where did you learn Cebuano?*)
- 26 **E: My colleagues when I was in Manila.**
- 27 **R: You speak Cebuano, Waray, Tagalog, English , Chinese, Iban, Bahasa Malaysia. All in all, seven languages.**

- 28 **R: Yeah, pero yung Malay talagang proficient na kayo ng Malay.** (*Yes, but you are proficient in Malay*)
- 29 **E:** Not that well verse but I can communicate.
- 30 **R:** You mean, conversational Malay?
- 31 **E: oo.** (*yes*). **Kasi yung mga bata** (*Because the children*) I taught the children.
- 32 **R:** What language that is widely spoken in this place?
- 33 **E:** Majority of the people here speak Chinese.
- 34 **R: Yung mga kapitbahay nyo?** (*What about your neighbor?*)
- 35 **E:** English.
- 36 **R:** So the community language here is Chinese but sometimes people speak English.
- 37 **E:** Yes
- 38 **R:** How about Malay?
- 39 **E:** So far they are all Chinese, it's a Chinese community.
- 40 **R:** If you were to choose out of the 7 languages that you knowe which language will you prefer.
- 41 **E:** I think English.
- 42 **R:** Why?
- 43 **E:** Because using English we can communicate to all, I mean anywhere, so as for me, I prefer English. It's useful and convenient.
- 44 **R:** Here in Kuching what language would you prefer?
- 45 **E:** I prefer English.
- 46 **R:** At home?
- 47 **E: Sa bahay** (*at home*), yes, English.
- 48 **R:** Is it because you want your children to learn English?
- 49 **E:** Yes, **pero** (*but*) they want to learn Tagalog (laugh).
- 50 **R:** For how long have you been using ng Waray?
- 51 **E:** Waray, I've been using it since birth lah.
- 52 **R: Pero yung Tagalog?** (*How about Tagalog?*).
- 53 **E:** Tagalog, only when I studied in Secondary. In School lah because we had it in School.
- 55 **R:** What about English?
- 56 **E:** English, in school. Yeah.
- 57 **R:** The Malay?
- 58 **E:** Only when I started (pause). I think when I came here.
- 59 **R:** How about Chinese?
- 60 **E:** Chinese, you know, I just follow the children.
- 61 **R:** Do you encourage your spouse to speak your own language?
- 62 **E:** Yes, he can sing Tagalog.
- 63 **R:** What about when you communicate with your husband, do you speak in Tagalog?
- 64 **E:** Yes, he can understand, he can communicate simple Tagalog.
- 65 **R:** Do you speak Waray with your husband?
- 66 **E:** No, because he doesn't speak Waray.
- 67 **R:** Is it because most of your friends speak Tagalog? Is it one of the reasons why he wants to learn?
- 68 **E:** Yeah, he joins the Filipino community.
- 69 **R:** How about your children?
- 70 **E:** We speak English.

- 71 **R:** So you speak English, was there a chance that you talk to them in Filipino?
- 72 **E:** Yes, especially nowadays a lot of Filipino programs and they love it. They understand some Filipino words.
- 73 **R:** What language do you speak with your in-laws?
- 74 **E:** We communicate in English even to my nephews and nieces. Only to my mother-in-law I speak Chinese, Iban and Malay.
- 75 **R:** Why?
- 76 **E:** Because she doesn't speak English.
- 77 **R:** So that's the only way for you to communicate with them.
- 78 **E:** Yeah.
- 79 **R:** If only you and your husband are talking, what language do you speak?
- 80 **E:** English.
- 81 **R:** Was there an instance that you spoke in Chinese, Iban, Malay or Filipino?
- 82 **E:** Very seldom.
- 83 **R:** Does it mean to say that you mix English, Chinese, Malay, Iban and Filipino?
- 84 **E:** Very seldom.
- 85 **R:** Was there an instance that you wanted to keep something for yourself that's why you had to speak in Filipino so that your partner would not know?
- 86 **E:** Very seldom because I'm very vocal.
- 87 **R:** When you are mad, what language do you use?
- 88 **E:** I talk to him honestly in English.
- 89 **R:** In English not in Tagalog.
- 90 **E:** No, I want him to know (laugh).
- 91 **R:** By the way, for how many years have you been married?
- 92 **E:** Going to 16 years.
- 93 **R:** For 16 years have you discovered or have you created a private language of your own just for the two of you?
- 94 **E:** No.
- 95 **R:** You haven't invented anything just like some other couples.
- 96 **E:** Never.
- 97 **R:** What is your idea about husband and wife relationship?
- 98 **E:** Husband and wife (laugh). It's a helpmate.
- 99 **R:** Why did you say a helpmate?
- 100 **E:** Because the two of you can help each other. I mean in marriage there must be God because you cannot tell that marriage doesn't have disappointments, misunderstanding, all these things especially us we are of different races. Even with your own country people, we still but if God is in between whatever it is. Yeah, you know God is the center of our marriage, the fall back in every disappointment. You know working people like us sometimes we are stress then we have so many things to do and sometimes we come to a point that we have arguments.
- 101 **R:** Yeah, that's right.
- 102 **E:** I mean, it's a part of relationship, you cannot avoid. Yeah, I'm very open, you know, you cannot hide that marriage is like a bed of roses. No, it's not true.
- 103 **R:** How about your relationship as husband and wife? Are you interdependent?
- 104 **E:** Like us, we have everything lah.
- 105 **R:** Yeah, it's just like one could not stand without the other.
- 106 **E:** Sometimes too close. Sometimes if someone is missing it's difficult for the other to walk.
- 107 **R:** Yeah, it's just like our legs.

- 108 E: Limping.
- 109 R: Husband and wife are just like our legs.
- 110 E: Yeah lah.
- 111 R: Unless he has to jump but everytime he jumps he would feel the pain. If the two are working, he can walk anywhere he wants to go.
- 112 E: Yeah that's right, it must be balance.
- 113 R: Like what you said, it's impossible for a husband and wife not to have problems or not to have conflict. Do you avoid conflict?
- 114 E: Yes of course, if we can avoid, we have to avoid (laugh) because it is not also good lah. Yeah, sometimes there are times that we can avoid it. Not really there's something in understanding different point of view, you think like that and the other partner think like that sometimes when you come to the end you disagree or agree (laugh).
- 115 R: So what do you do?
- 116 E: You have to talk.
- 117 R: In your case, do you talk often to your husband?
- 118 E: I have to talk, I have to find out why. I just want to have an answer in everything I have questioned. I want to have an answer. It's me.
- 119 R: After the conflict do you discuss with your spouse?
- 110 E: Yes.
- 111 R: What about when you discuss, do you still use English?
- 112 E: Yes.
- 113 R: Are you really able to express what you feel when you speak in English?
- 114 E: I have to but yes, yes.
- 115 R: It's not that because sometimes when you say it in Filipino.
- 116 E: Yeah. Sometimes I think there are times that the words that you say are misunderstood.
- 117 R: Yeah.
- 118 E: Yeah, in fact you think not like that, the way you portray, the way you deliver the word, the way you say it sometimes the other side.
- 119 R: They don't understand.
- 120 E: Unlike in Tagalog, Gruhhh....
- 121 R: As a wife, do you prefer to be more independent?
- 122 E: Yes because for me I used to be independent since I was in Manila.
- 123 R: Do you prefer to be more independent with your husband?
- 124 E: Hmm. Not really, it depends on the situation.
- 125 R: It depends on the situation.
- 126 E: But.
- 127 R: Generally you want to be independent.
- 128 E: Yes, but you cannot because in my point of view you are still husband and wife. Whatever things you plan you should consult. You have to inform the partner lah. Then there are times that you still want, I mean for me, in my point of view you are a husband and wife and what ever things you plan, you should consult or inform the partner lah. However, there are times that you still want, I mean for me, in my point of view. No, I still have and I can use it because I am free and I have my own identity. As husband and wife we are one and whatever I want to do I have to tell my husband. Whether I like it or not I have to tell him.
- 129 R: Do you have the same interest with your spouse?

- 130 E: Yes, some, like us the whole family is in the music ministry. He likes to cook and I am not really good at it but I am encouraged to do that.
- 131 R: Are there some interests that he likes that you don't like or vice versa?
- 132 E: Yeah.
- 133 R: So how do you deal with that?
- 134 E: We have to talk. Whether you like it or not you have to be very open because for me as a couple you cannot hide, I mean I respect his identity but he cannot hide everything from me. I also have my identity but I have to respect him as a husband. I have to tell everything whatever I want to do I have to tell him about my activities.
- 135 R: So you are very open to him. Is he very open also to you?
- 136 E: I think (pause).
- 137 R: Not very open as you are. I think it's normal for guys to be secretive (laugh). For the Filipinos I think it's different.
- 138 E: I think for us Filipinos, we are very **malambing** (*caring*).
- 139 R: So what about your friends. Do you have the same group of friends?
- 140 E: I have, I can say friends' friend. I have a lot of friends but different level of friendship.
- 141 R: So what about your friends. Are your friends also you husband's friends?
- 142 E: No, my husband's friends, I don't really go with them. Yes, there are a few of them that are really friends especially the church friends but aside from church I have only one my cousin's husband, his childhood friend.
- 143 R: Yeah.
- 144 E: I don't have many friends.
- 145 R: But a few are your common friends.
- 146 E: His friends are my friends.
- 147 R: Are your friends are also his friends.
- 148 E: Yeah, all the activities. He knows all my friends.
- 149 R: Do you know also all his friends?
- 150 E: Yeah.
- 151 R: Were there some instances that both of you did not understand each other because of language differences?
- 152 E: No lah because we communicate.
- 153 R: Was there a chance that you don't understand each other?
- 154 E: The diction.
- 155 R: Yeah, their diction and what about their pronunciation.
- 156 E: very seldom. **Nagyayari yun katulad ng** (*it happened like saying "GO BACK"* (laugh), *"MY BAG"* (laugh). But now he is used to it lah and I also change my pronunciation instead of saying (BAG) I say (BEG) fro (GO BACK), I say (GO BECK) (laugh). I have to adjust so that he can understand.
- 157 R: How about your spouse, does he adjust also like saying (BAG)?
- 158 E: Sometimes. In my case sometimes just a slip of the tongue. Sometimes I am not aware.
- 159 R: That you have spoken that.
- 160 E: Yeah, anyway he understands Filipino (laugh) Filipino pronunciation (laugh).
- 161 R: **Pag ikaw nagsalita ng Filipino anong language ang isasagot nya?** (*If you speak in Filipino, what language does he speak?*)
- 162 E: **Minsan Filipino minsan English.** (*Sometimes in Filipino, sometimes in English*) It depends.
- 163 R: **Kung inumpisahan mo ng Filipino?** (*What about if you start in Filipino?*)

- 164 E: Yeah, if there are simple words, yes he speaks or answers in Filipino.
- 165 R: **NagFilipino din ba sya?** (*Does he also speak in Filipino?*)
- 166 E: Yes (laugh). He says “**bakit?**” (*why*)(laugh). Simple Tagalog.
- 166 R: **Nakakaintindi ba sya ng Chinese?**(*Does he understand Chinese?*)
- 167 R: **Nangyari din ba sa kanya na nagsasalita ka ng English tapos biglang sumagot ng ibang language.**(*Did it happen that you spoke in English then he answered in other language?*)
- 168 E: **Oo, parang biro lang.** (*Yes, just for fun.*)
- 169 R: Which of the many languages that you are really proud of?
- 170 E: English because most of my friends use English. Most of them are Chinese, Malay, Iban, and Bidayuh.
- 171 R: **Paglumabas kayong magasawa kagaya sa Shopping malls, movie house or other places anong language ginagamit nyo?**(*If you go like in the shopping mall, movie house and other places, what language do you use?*)
- 172 E: It depends, if we shop and I notice an expensive thing I speak in Filipino. One time we went to the Philippines if the ting is expensive I don’t speak in English but I speak a different language because they might raise the price. I speak Malay so they would just think that I’m from the other region. That’s our trick (laugh). We have a code when we go out.
- 173 R: Are you proud of being a Filipino that you have your own language?
- 174 E: Yes, I’m very proud.
- 175 R: Do you sometimes compare the Filipino language to other languages here?
- 176 E: **Oo.** (*yes*)
- 177 R: Was there a point that you compare the Filipino language with the Malaysian?
- 178 E: No.
- 179 R: When you meet other Filipinos what language do you use?
- 180 E: Filipino.
- 181 R: What about when your husband is around?
- 182 E: No, we respect my husband. We say “excuse us” and we speak in Filipino but of course if he is involved then we speak in English.
- 183 R: Yeah, to accommodate him.
- 184 E: Yeah.
- 185 R: **Pero sila?**(*What about them?*)
- 186 E: **Sila minsan nagsalita ng Chinese.** (*They sometimes speak Chinese*)
- 187 R: **Minsan nag ma Malay.**(*Sometimes they speak Malay*)
- 188 E: Malay and English.
- 189 R: Do you share your traditions and cultures with your husband?
- 190 E: Yes, I share to my husband the Filipino culture and traditions so that he will learn to undersand me better.
- 191 R: So in general, I can say that the language that you preffer as husband and wife is English. Then sometimes you code switch to Chinese, Malay , Iban and Filipino. However, when you talk to your children you speak English and when you speak with your neighbors it depends whom you are speaking with.
- 192 R: Thanks a lot for your time. I guess, we have covered everything.

END

TRANSCRIPT FILE 3

Informant: E-wife and P-husband

Interviewer- R

R= (Researcher)

W= FCCB (Filipino wife)

H= FCCA (Malaysian Chinese husband)

- 1 **R:** I would like to know the language that you use at home.
- 2 **H:** yeah
- 3 **R:** I would ask you first. How many languages do you speak?
- 4 **W:** Six, such as Filipino, Tagalog, Spanish a bit, Japanese, Cantonese, English, Hokkien and Bahasa Malaysia.
- 7 **R:** What is your mother tongue?
- 9 **W:** Tagalog
- 10 **R:** Ok, and that's your first language, what is your second language?
- 11 **W:** English
- 12 **R:** Of many languages, which language do you prefer if you were given the chance to choose?
- 13 **W:** If I given a chance to choose ah...probably my first choice is English and the second choice is Hokkien (laugh) very simple.
- 14 **R:** Why English?
- 15 **W:** English is an international language and it's for people to communicate. My second choice is Hokkien because I'm married to a Chinese. His mother tongue is Hokkien and my mother in-law doesn't know how to speak on English so I have to learn their language to communicate with her.
- 16 **R:** You mean you are now proficient in Hokkien?
- 17 **W:** Yes, you cannot sell me (laugh). Actually if you have interest in learning a language you learn it very fast, like Hokkien which I learned it for less than three months. Everytime I hear a new language, a phrase or a new sentence I would ask him then he will translate it for me from Hokkien to English and I write it down. For me huh I'm married to him and my mother in-law doesn't know how to speak in English. You know lah in Philippines you must have a good relationship with your in-laws, sisters- in-law and brothers in-law. My mother in-law doesn't know even you know a little bit of English
- 18 **R:** Is it difficult for you to deal with your mother-in-law?
- 19 **W:** It is difficult to communicate actually. So I have to learn fast. I'm not ashamed to try or say even if it's wrong or correct or whatever I'm not ashamed of people I just try and then they will correct me so I learn so fast. Everytime I speak with my husband in Chinese, other people will identify me as a Chinese because I can speak fluently and I think I look like a bit of Chinese (laugh).
- 20 **R:** Did you learn Chinese by yourself?
- 21 **W:** Yes, particularly by listening.
- 22 **R:** By the way, how about you (referring to the husband) how many languages do you speak?
- 23 **H:** Unfortunately I don't know much (laugh). Of course I know English, I know Mandarin, I know my own dialect which is Hokkien. Unfortunately I cannot speak Tagalog (laugh), I cannot speak Spanish, I cannot speak Bahasa, I cannot speak Bahasa. As a Malaysian I don't know I just cannot speak Bahasa because I'm not good in language anyway.

- 24 **W:** He spent more years in the UK so he is more to English (F- yeah), so when he came back here it's back to Bahasa.
- 25 **H:** yeah
- 26 **R:** But you can understand Bahasa Malaysia?
- 27 **H:** Ah I would say I have difficulty in understanding although I understand a little bit but when people communicate for longer I get lost I just get lost, you know.
- 28 **R:** If you were given the chance to choose a language which language do you prefer?
- 29 **H:** I will choose English because it's easy to communicate with people especially when people around you are from different races. Most people understand English. I If I speak Hokkien I'll be out.
- 30 **R:** What about Bahasa Malaysia or Filipino?
- 31 **H:** Not Bahasa, and not Filipino.
- 32 **R:** What language do you use when you are talking to each other?
- 33 **W:** Three languages actually, (laugh). We normally in English but after a few months two or three months after marriage, huh, we speak Hokkien and then continuously after 15 years we speak in Hokkien. Now because of our children we have to mix it up with Hokkien and English.
- 34 **R:** So you speak English so that your children will also learn how to speak English.
- 35 **W:** yeah and sometimes I do teach my children with Filipino but very little sometimes I mix Filipino and English.
- 36 **R:** When you communicate do you mix English and Hokkien?
- 37 **W:** Something like that lah..It's a normal conversation but the funniest thing is that my children know how to speak Mandarin (laugh) that's the magic thing nobody teaches them maybe its just in the blood lah. Maybe because they are Chinese and they go to school and they mix with the Chinese, Orang Ulo, Orang Asli and then they pick here and there. Ones they mix with the Filipino groups they pick up something there and they learn to it and they know the meaning of something like that but they were good in Mandarin, English, and Hokkien.
- 38 **R:** Why do you mix different languages?
- 39 **W:** I happens naturally because I need to. I have to mix Bahasa Malaysia, Hokkien and English particularly to my husband so that he can understand because if I just use one language, he might not understand. Most of the time we mix Hokkien and English. I think he for me huh my idea is I think he prefers me to speak in Hokkien than to speak in English because now huh I do know more Hokkien than English (laugh). I keep speaking in Hokkien than him it's even easy to scold him in Hokkien than English. Although it's very hard to express sometimes your thoughts but I need to speak his language I might hurt his feelings but when you do it in Hokkien it's very easy (laugh).
- 40 **R:** So it's more convenient for you to speak English and Hokkien?
- 41 **W:** yeah normally yes
- 42 **R:** How about in your case? (referring to the husband)
- 43 **H:** In my case, I mix a bit of English and Hokkien.
- 44 **R:** why?
- 45 **H:** Sometimes when I am angry I prefer English to voice out my anger
- 46 **R:** But your first language is Hokkien, am I right?
- 47 **H:** yeah
- 48 **R:** Is it easier for you to express your feelings in English?

- 49 H:** Sometimes ah I feel that I want to say it English, I want to stress or emphasize my stand or my point. Although I mix. But sometimes I have misunderstanding and quarrel with her I tend to use some English to send my message across. I also want to make sure that she knows. (laugh)
- 50 W:** Actually it's mixed up he prefers English and I prefer Chinese because for me huh it's very easy to express myself in Hokkien. Sometimes I don't know who am I. Am I a Filipino, Chinese, Orang Ulo, Orang Asli? (laugh)
- 51 R:** It's interesting.
- 52 W:** It's quite interesting
- 53 R:** How about you (referring to the husband)? Did you try to learn Filipino language?
- 54 H:** Ah for me ah I'm actually not good in language learning, language even in overseas I try to pick up ah Swedish, French whatever lah I just I just fail half-way thru or sometime in the beginning of a few weeks. I just gave up you know because I know that I find difficulty and I just lost my interest.
- 55 R:** I think it's normal to some people.
- 56 H:** Even in Chinese we have many dialects huh. In other dialects I also have difficulty you know just try to say or whatever lah, it's not easy for me also even though I understand.
- 57 R:** For 15 years that you have been married, have you invented some words that it's only the two of you understand?
- 58 W:** yeah, what is it that we've seen in Tagalog movies? (laugh). We didn't really invent but we just follow, (laugh) I think you know that movie.
- 59 R:** yeah
- 60 W:** My children normally ask when we watch that movie that ah actually that day they call mom, so the father said darling, honey, sweetheart, its vey common right? Why you don't call mommy too? The children talk to the father, so when they come to me they tell me the same thing, so I told them that there's no need I can call your daddy "saying" or whatever. We used to call ourselves but not quite know darling ok? Otherwise means if we really quarrel its really hard (laugh)
- 61 H:** And we don't call honey each other (laugh).
- 62 W:** It's silent mode.
- 63 R:** That's how to say the power of silence (laugh)
- 64 W:** Yes, yes but we normally call each other even after we got married is by names and if just the two of us we have fun lah we call darling lah or whatever but not in front of the children. Actually in front of the children sometimes we call each other by name but sometimes I call him daddy lah or whatever lah, just for fun.
- 65 R:** Yeah that's right, but do you have a specific language of endearment something?
- 66 W:** Others call the wife mommy and the mommy calls the husband daddy. We feel funny about it, you see because you don't know which side you stand, it makes our children confuse. If they call me mommy and then my husband calls me mommy. It's confusing for children. It's better to address ourselves by names
- 67 R:** As husband and wife what is your idea about husband and wife relationship?
- 68 W:** Ah ok, for me huh I do believe in God, and the Lord says that you have to follow whatever your husband says, or you have to obey whatever your husband says. Our relationship huh so far okay lah.
- 69 R:** What is your idea about husband and wife relationship? (referring to the husband)

- 70 H:** Of course you must love your wife lah you know your married to your wife. It means you have to be like in the bible which says that you must love your wife and you cannot get a second wife or third wife. Actually for me I try to be good husband lah and love my wife even though sometimes things might may not be ok all the time. We still have problems, ahh sometimes we have to do things , in the end you still think that she is your wife you have to love her.
- 71 R:** maybe one good thing is that if God is the center of your marriage it really builds better relationship for the husband and wife.
- 72 H:** Sometimes I feel God in everything that I do. I feel God that He switches me back to do the right things huh.
- 73 W:** Actually huh, his belief huh, we were both Catholics before and I'm the first one who became born again. After a few months it was him. As a devoted Roman Catholic becoming a born again Christian is very hard. After a while maybe the lord is proving us or really showing us the way to become good Christians or whatever.
- 74 R:** God has become the center of your life and your marriage.
- 75 W:** It's just that sometime you will have ups and downs with the Lord lah. It's not perfect anyway as human being, no one is perfect, alright? So in your Christian battle we have to struggle. As holiness huh and then as a human being when it comes to relationship with your family and with husband.
- 76 R:** That's why we have the cross, right?
- 77 W:** Yes, so its like that lah. When you really believe in Him just put all your trust to Him. However, as a Christian you still struggle, correct or not? It's between you and the Lord, so I believe that whatever relationship that we have right now is from the Lord and it's a blessing lah.
- 78 R:** Yeah that's right if your center of relationship is God. By the way, as husband and wife do you avoid conflict?
- 79 H:** Uhhh...conflicts sometimes (laugh..) I would say, we avoid sometimes. We just or I just walk away, I don't want to say anything because when we argue I become a bit violent. Sometimes, I just walk away to cool myself down, you know. Sometimes she's more getting mad because I just go away (laugh..)
- 80 W:** It's not that really. I just express myself, huh. That's why I cry lah (laugh).
- 81 H:** This woman likes to cry (wife laugh).
- 82 R:** I guess, that's how you express your anger.
- 83 W:** You know ah, as a wife it's so stressful. He has a stressful time and he doesn't know That I am also stressed because we seldom be together for the whole day. We're only together at night time. When he brings the children back home he doesn't know that I'm so tired looking after the children for the whole day something like this lah. So sometimes as a woman maybe the hormones or whatever lah sometime theirs a time that you nananana... and my husband become so angrye. He can't take it. And then he will voice out his anger and we end up fighting lah but not physical only verbal. For fifteen years of marriage huh we don't hurt each other praise the Lord lah it never happened.
- 84 H:** Sometimes at the end of the day, we think it's easier to go back lah you know.
- 85 W:** Actually in our relationship uhh we never say sorry, never, correct? Normally huh, I say sorry whether its your fault or not lah just for the sake of our relationship. I found that men in Malaysia have a hard time to say sorry especially the Chinese. They never say sorry but the action speaks louder than the words
- 86 R:** yeah, right.

- 87 H:** It doesn't mean that we don't say sorry or sorry. We just can't express ourselves because being a Chinese uhh in our culture we have difficulty to express our feelings particularly to say sorry, you know. For me I don't know actually. I guess, my action shows.
- 88 W:** But for this guy huh, he will express lah. It's just the word sorry that he can't express.
- 89 H:** Even to show love to our parents I have not expressed it verbally. Affection for us especially for guys we don't show, it's not natural (laugh)
- 90 R:** As husband and wife, do you have same interests?
- 91 W:** I think so, we do like food (laugh). We are very adventurous in food. We like Cooking.
- 92 R:** Perhaps, that's one of the reasons that you stick together because you have the same interest.
- 93 H:** Yes we like eating (laugh) socializing, watching movies, watching TV and most of all we love God.
- 94 R:** That's good, you have something in common.
- 95 W:** We do have a lot of things in common.
- 96 R:** Do you have the sane group of friends?
- 97 W:** Uhm, for me uhh ok let me say this. He doesn't want me to mix around with the activities he knows. However, we go for happy hours.
- 98 R:** As a Filipino, are you still proud of your language?
- 99 W:** Oh yes I do (laugh).
- 100 R:** How do you express your pride of the Filipino language?
- 101 W:** I think, my mother tongue becomes a Hokkien (laugh) that's why they call me "baruk". When they ask some questions with a Filipino group of friends they been talking Tagalog so sometime they speak to you in Tagalog but at at home we rarely hear the Tagalog language. But I'm still proud that I'm a Filipino and I'm still proud of my mother tongue. It's just that because I am not using it at home for many years.
- 102 R:** Do you feel more comfortable when speaking in Tagalog or you feel more comfortable now using Hokkien, English or Bahasa Malaysia?
- 103 W:** I prefer English, Hokkien and Bahasa (laugh) unless I am with the Filipinos I still can communicate in Tagalog.
- 104 H:** How about your mother tongue (Hokkien), are you still proud of it?
- 105 H:** Yes.
- 106 R:** How do you express your pride?
- 107 H:** I'm very proud to be a Hokkien and a of course when I speak to my mother, brothers and sisters we all speak in Hokkien except sometimes you know a little bit of English you know but everyday mostly Hokkien. With my other friends whom I'm not really familiar with we speak in Malay but it's better to speak English, you know. Sometimes I speak Chinese and English but it depends lah. With Chinese mostly will be Chinese lah it's a mix with some Filipino, whatever but we speak English so that others can understand.
- 108 W:** But for me eventhough I mix with Filipinos but I feel comfortable using English than Tagalog.
- 109 R:** I would like to sum up the interview. I would say that the preferred language is English with some mixing with Chinese (Hokkien) and Bahasa Malaysia. Thanks a lot for your time and your help.

TRANSCRIPT FILE 4

Informant: W-wife and H-husband

Interviewer- R

R= (Researcher)

W= FCCB (Filipino wife)

H= FCCA (Malaysian Chinese husband)

(refused to be interviewed with the recorder. The interview was conducted with no recorder)

1 R: How many years have you been here in Malaysia?

2 W: Almost fourteen years.

3 R: Are you now familiar with the Malaysian culture?

4 W: Yes of course, in fact I can speak Bahasa Malaysia.

5 R: If I'm not mistaken, you can speak other languages as well.

6 W: Yeah, I speak English, Japanese, Chinese, Tagalog, and Bahasa Malaysia. I speak five languages.

7 R: Do you speak other Philippine languages?

8 W: No, Tagalog only. Tagalog is my first language but I also learn English when I started studying in the primary. I feel more comfortable in Tagalog.

9 R: In your community, how do you communicate with them?

10 W: Here, people talk mostly in English. I speak English with my neighbors. However I sometimes speak in Chinese because some of them do not speak English, maybe more or less 40 % of our community speaks Chinese.

11 R: What Chinese dialect do you speak?

12 W: I speak Hokkien. I started speaking in Chinese for a few years and I speak Bahasa Malaysia for almost 10 years.

13 R: When you are at home, how do you communicate with your husband?

14 W: We communicate using English but I encourage my children to speak in Tagalog. I teach them but not my husband.

15 R: Are your in-laws staying with you at home?

16 W: No, but they often come to visit us. They are Chinese and when they come they don't speak any English. That's why I speak Chinese with them because they don't know English and they don't speak good Bahasa Malaysia as well.

17 R: Did you learn Chinese by yourself?

18 W: Yes, I did not go to any formal schooling. I really struggle to learn Chinese because everytime they talk they speak in Chinese and I look stupid and I can't interact with them.

19 R: When your in-laws are not around, does your husband talk to you in Chinese?

20 W: No, he speaks English but sometimes we use Filipino and Chinese. My husband can understand a bit of Tagalog like cursing (laugh). My friends speak with him in Tagalog.

21 R: When you're angry what language do you speak?

22 W: If I'm mad I speak in Tagalog and the worst thing is that I started to curse in Chinese. You know, my husband perceives it differently (laugh). Maybe because it's his own language. The funny thing is that we speak many languages at home like English, Chinese, Tagalog and Malay.

23 R: Do you mix different languages at home?

24 W: Yeah, we do even with my children, husband and friends.

25 R: What about if you are in the market, do you speak in English?

- 26 **W:** I speak Bahasa or Chinese but not in English. Some of them they don't speak English. If Malay, I speak Bahasa Malaysia and if Chinese I speak in Chinese.
- 27 **R:** What about your husband, how many languages does he speak?
- 28 **W:** He speaks Chinese, Bahasa, and Chinese. He speaks a lot of Chinese dialects like Hokkien, Mandarin and Cantonese but Hokkien is frequently used.
- 29 **R:** Did your husband try to learn Filipino?
- 30 **W:** He did but he is not really good in learning other languages. Perhaps I'm a poor teacher.
- 31 **R:** What about with your mother-in-law how do you communicate with her?
- 32 **W:** I talk to her in Chinese, Hokkien because she does not speak English much. She speaks to me in Chinese.
- 33 **R:** At home when your mother-in-law is around, you speak in Chinese?
- 34 **W:** Yes, but most of the time we speak in English. Actually, at home even my mother-in-law is around we speak English with our children but sometimes I speak with them in Chinese. I guess, all of us at home prefer English because it is easy to use. It is the only language that we can communicate with other locals..
- 35 **R:** As a Filipino, is there any language barrier between you and your husband?
- 36 **W:** No, I think if I speak in Tagalog it is not a problem for her. You know, he knows already that when I speak in Tagalog he will assume that I'm already angry.
- 37 **R:** Perhaps, he has already observed it. By the way, how many years have you been married?
- 38 **W:** 13 years.
- 39 **R:** Was there any language problem during your first year of marriage?
- 40 **W:** No it was ok.
- 41 **R:** As a married woman, what do you think is an ideal marriage for you?
- 42 **W:** I think an ideal marriage must have a husband who is a good provider and the wife must be a good wife too. true or not? The husband must function as the head of the family. That's why at home, it's my husband always makes the final decision but we discuss everything before the decision is made. House related decision it would be mine
- 43 **R:** If conflict occurs, do you avoid it?
- 44 **W:** If I can avoid it, I will but sometime I can't. My husband knows me so well and he knows easily if I'm mad because I just keep quiet and he knows it already. I don't really argue with my husband, we talk if there are problems.
- 45 **R:** Do you have similar group of friends?
- 46 **W:** No, he doesn't normally join with my Filipino friends particularly outside. He has his own group of friends because he has different interests.
- 47 **R:** Do you have the similar interests?
- 48 **W:** No, we have different interests.
- 49 **R:** By the way, you've been here in Malaysia that long. Do you still take pride of your own language which is Filipino?
- 50 **W:** Yes of course. I am a Filipino and I must be proud of my own language.
- 51 **F:** Do you discuss your belief and tradition?
- 52 **W:** Yes, we do but I share the Filipino practices most of the time. However, I am careful that he might not like it or misinterpret it.
- 53 **F:** What about your husband?
- 54 **W:** I don't like when he shares the Chinese culture because he always criticizes the Philippine culture. Sometimes I am disappointed.
- 55 **F:** I see, thanks a lot for your time.

TRANSCRIPT FILE 5

Informant: W-wife and H-husband

Interviewer- R

R= (Researcher)

W= FCCB (Filipino wife)

H= FCCA (Malaysian Chinese husband)

- 1 R: How do you find your stay here in Malaysia?
- 2 W: It's great because my family is here and I am now comfortable with the Malaysian culture. I am comfortable now because I can interact with the locals. But the problem my Malay is not really good yet. I'm still learning more.
- 3 R: Does it mean to say that you can speak Malay?
- 4 W: Yes a bit.
- 5 R: Since you can speak a bit of Malay now, how many languages do you speak?
- 6 W: I speak (Bisaya) Cebuano, English, and Tagalog
- 7 R: How about Chinese
- 8 W: I speak a little bit of Chinese and a bit of Bahasa Malaysia as well. However, at home we use English. We prefer English at home because that is the language that my husband and I can really understand.
- 9 R: what about Bahasa Malaysia and Chinese?
- 10 W: Sometimes lah, you know but not all the time. English is commonly used.
- 11 R: What languages do you speak (referring to the husband)?
- 12 H: I speak English, Malay, Mandarin and other Chinese dialects. Hakka is my first language and English is my second language. I also speak Hokkien and Bahasa Malaysia fluently.
- 13 R: You speak many languages but do you use those languages at home?
- 14 H: At home I speak most of the time in English, but sometimes I speak in Mandarin with her or sometimes a bit of Bisaya (Cebuano). My wife can understand a bit of Chinese and I also understand a bit of Bisaya.
- 15 R: How fluent are you in Chinese (referring to the wife)?
- 16 W: Not really that fluent, just a bit I have just started to learn.
- 17 R: Can you interact with your wife in Chinese?
- 18 H: Yeah, I always do that but I mix with different languages at home when I talk to my wife. It's more fun to use different languages. It's really fun. We mix with local languages also for fun but English is always used.
- 19 R: How about with your in-laws how do you interact with them?
- 20 H: (laugh) She speaks in Malay, broken Malay.
- 21 W: I speak Malay and Mandarin with my in-laws but I speak in English with my child.
- 22 R: Do you encourage your son to speak different languages?
- 23 H: I prefer to teach him English and Mandarin because English is an important language.
- 24 R: I am just curious, when you first met what language did you use?
- 25 H: We used English. I think, English was chosen because that's what we both understand and up to now English is still used.
- 26 R: Did both you learn from each other's language?
- 27 W & H: We both learn from each other's language. My husband learns Bisaya and I learn Chinese. I also learn Bahasa Malaysia from my husband.
- 28 R: As husband and wife, what do you think is an ideal couple?

- 29 H: A wife must be a friend (laugh) my baby. I think we have similar views on this.
- 30 W: I agree with my husband.
- 31 R: As husband and wife are you interdependent with each other?
- 32 H: Yeah, of course we are.
- 33 W: We share a lot. In decision making and some other tasks at home. As a wife I do the household chores and my husband does his own.
- 34 R: If you encounter conflict, do you avoid it?
- 35 H: No, we don't avoid, we face it.
- 36 W: I think it's better to face the conflict rather than keeping it. It helps us realize something, you know.
- 37 R: In that case, how do you settle it?
- 38 H: We just keep quiet (laugh).
- 39 W: We talk but when both of us are really mad, we just keep quiet for a while then we talk. But most often we keep quiet.
- 40 R: Are you showing the power of silence?
- 41 W: No
- 42 R: By the way, do you have similar interest?
- 43 H: Yes, we do have but there are some interests that it's just my wife who likes it
- 44 R: What about your friends. Do you have something in common?
- 45 W: Yes we have, my friends are his friends and his friends are also my friends.
- 46 H: Yeah, right.
- 47 R: Did you encounter any problem because of language differences?
- 48 H: So far, we have not encountered.
- 49 W: I think because we always speak in English.
- 50 R: If your wife talks to you in Bisaya, how do you respond (referring to the husband)?
- 51 H: I respond in English.
- 52 W: But when my husband will talk to me Chinese I respond in Chinese.
- 53 R: Did you struggle to understand each other's language differences?
- 54 W: Yeah, but it was a few times only.
- 55 H: So far for me, it is rare.
- 56 R: As a Filipino (referring to the wife) are you still proud of your own language even if you are now in Malaysia?
- 57 W: Yes, I am proud because I am still a Filipino and I love my country and my language.
- 58 R: Do you share each others cultural practices?
- 59 H: Yes we do (laugh)
- 60 W: Yes, I share often but when he shares, there is always a comparison between Chinese and Filipinos. He says a lot of things against Filipino women.
- 61 R: Like what?
- 62 W: He sometimes says that a lot of Filipino women are prostitutes and loud. It hurts, you know.
- 63 R: Perhaps that's how others perceive it.
- 64 W: I think so but it hurts me when he says something that is not supposed to be spoken. You know what I mean.
- 65 R: To some up , I can say that you speak different languages at home and English is chosen as the medium of communication with some mixing in Chinese, Malay and Filipino. Thanks a lot for your time.

TRANSCRIPT FILE 6

Informant: A-wife and P-husband

Interviewer- R

R= (Researcher)

W= FCCB (Filipino wife)

H= FCCA (Malaysian Chinese husband)

- 1 R: How many years have you been married?
- 2 W: Almost 10 years
- 3 R: How do you find your marriage in 10 years?
- 4 W: It is fine. Our relationship has deepened. I guess, I learn to understand my husband more. I learn a lot of things from him and he learns a lot of things from me as well. We become more adjusted from each other.
- 5 R: As a Filipino wife with a Malaysian husband, how do you communicate?
- 6 W: We communicate in many languages but we use English most of the time with some mixing of Tagalog and Chinese. My husband speaks Tagalog because he used to work in the Philippines. Chinese language is used particularly when our children are around because my two daughters can speak Chinese.
- 7 R: Do you talk to your husband in Chinese?
- 8 W: No, I don't speak Chinese. I speak only Tagalog, Ilokano, English and a bit of Spanish. My children can speak Chinese.
- 9 R: Which is your first language? Tagalog or Ilokano?
- 10 W: Tagalog is my first language then Ilokano, English and Spanish.
- 11 R: Since you are now in Malaysia, do you learn Bahasa Malaysia?
- 12 W: A bit and I guess slowly I will.
- 13 R: If only you and your husband are at home, how do communicate?
- 20 W: We just talk naturally. I speak in English and Tagalog it's mixed already like Taglish. I think at home we can mix English and Filipino because my husband will sometimes talk to me in Filipino because he can speak Filipino. He has some Filipino friends and when they talk they mix English and Filipino (laugh).
- 21 R: At first when he was still learning Tagalog, what language did you use?
- 22 W: We used English because I didn't know any Chinese.
- 23 R: Did he teach you how to speak Chinese?
- 24 W: He taught me, we had a lot of dictionary.
- 25 R: Any word of Chinese that you know?
- 26 W: I learned a few words. I normally use it to crack some jokes.
- 27 R: To make some jokes you use Chinese words
- 28 W: Yes, sometimes a bit when my power is on (laugh). I mean, if I feel like making some jokes I use some Chinese words. But most often I speak Taglish.
- 30 R: Why do you speak Taglish?
- 31 W: Because sometimes he understands in English then in Tagalog sometimes we join together but If he doesn't understand in Tagalog I translate in English. Sometimes there are some words in Filipino that he does not understand. As a result, we use English most of the time.
- 32 R: Why English?
- 33 W: Because he knows English and it is convenient for the two of us. Sometimes he will attempt to speak in Chinese but I can't really speak and understand the language.
- 34 R: Did your husband encourage you to speak Chinese?

- 35 W: Yes, he wanted me to learn Chinese that's why he is teaching our kids.
- 36 R: What about with your Chinese in-laws, how do you communicate with them?
- 37 W: They don't speak English. They speak only Chinese. I don't talk to them because they can't understand me. If they talk to me, they will ask my husband to translate in English and Chinese. Even to some of my husband's brothers they don't know English. Actually, my in-laws are old because my husband is the youngest.
- 38 R: What can you say about husband and wife relationship?
- 39 W: There must be an open communication so that you can talk about everything or every problem and there is no hesitation.
- 40 R: Are you interdependent with one another?
- 41 W: Yeah, we consult with each other particularly when it involves decision making. When he decides he talks to me first and when I decide some other things I also talk to him. But if it's only a small thing we decide alone.
- 42 R: So if it's a big problem, the two of you will decide.
- 43 W: Yes
- 44 R: When conflict arises, as a husband and wife do you avoid it?
- 45 W: Yes, we avoid conflict but if it is really unavoidable then we face the reality and discuss whatever conflicts that we have.
- 46 R: Do you have similar interests?
- 47 W: Sometimes no, sometimes yes you know. There are things that he likes that I don't like and there are also things that I like but he does not like. In general, I would say that we do not have few interests that are similar. Besides, we have an age gap. He is 40 and I'm 34. It's a big gap. Sometimes I want to go out and he wants to stay home. But if there's a family function then he will go.
- 48 R: What about friends, do you have the same group of friends?
- 49 W: We have some common friends but he has some friends that are not my friend and I have some friends who are not his friends.
- 50 R: Do you share your beliefs and cultural practices with your spouse?
- 51 W: Yes, we share.
- 52 R: Like what?
- 53 W: Like fiesta, Christmas and other celebrations in the Philippines.
- 54 R: What about your husband?
- 55 W: We seldom share but he criticizes a lot (laugh).
- 56 R: All in all, you prefer English as the medium of communication at home but more mixing of languages happened. You mix English with Filipino and Chinese. Thanks a lot.
- 57 W: Thanks too.

END

TRANSCRIPT FILE 7

Informant: W-wife and H-husband

Interviewer- R

R= (Researcher)

W= FCCB (Filipino wife)

H= FCCA (Malaysian Chinese husband)

- 1 **R:** For how long have you been here?
- 2 **W:** I've been here for 9 years but I frequently go back to the Philippines every year during Christmas.
- 3 **R:** How do you find your stay here?
- 4 **W:** It's ok sometimes it's not. But so far this time it's ok. Before it was really a struggle because everytime they gathered together they speak in Chinese and I don't know any Chinese. Even in front of me they speak in Chinese. It was hard. I realize that I need to learn Chinese so I can talk with my in-laws.
- 5 **R:**How do you cope up with that situation?
- 6 **W:** I started to learn Mandarin by myself and it took me a year to learn to speak Chinese. When they knew that I could already speak Chinese they were very careful in talking in front of me and I started talking with them in Chinese.
- 7 **R:** So Chinese is frequently used at home?
- 8 **W:** No. if only the two of us with my husband we speak English, sometimes Chinese and Bahasa Malaysia.
- 9 **R:** So when do you speak Chinese?
- 10 **W:** We use Chinese when my mother-in-law and his sisters are around. They don't speak English.
- 11 **R:** Since you can speak Chinese now, how many languages do you speak?
- 12 **W:** I speak English, Tagalog, Ilocano, Hokkien, Chinese (Mandarin) and a bit of Malay.
- 13 **R:** So (6) five languages
- 14 **R:**Which of those languages is your first languages.
- 15 **W:**Tagalog
- 16 **R:** Then when your second language is English
- 17 **W:**No Ilocano, then English, then Chinese
- 18 **R:**Ok, but you know a bit of Malay
- 19 **W:** Yeah, a bit only few.
- 20 **R:** Can you speak straight Malay?
- 21 **W:** No but I mix it only you know. Actually, I learn Malay through my Malay friends and by watching TV.
- 22 **R:** What about your husband, what languages does he speak?
- 23 **W:** He speaks English, Chinese and Bahasa Malaysia. His Malay is not really good but he is fluent in English and Chinese. So, when he talks to me it's always in English and sometimes he uses Chinese because can understand now.
- 24 **R:** What about before you learn Chinese, did he mix some Chinese when he talked to you?
- 25 **W:** At that time he talked to me in English but when his family members were around they talked in Chinese. Then I started to feel indifferent. I was thinking that they might be talking about me but I don't understand their language. That's why I really wanted to learn Chinese.
- 26 **R:** By the way, in this place what language that most people use?
- 27 **W:** Here it's is Chinese. Most of our neighbors are Chinese and they speak Chinese with each other.
- 28 **R:** Do they speak Mandarin?
- 29 **W:** No, almost all of them speak Hokkien. I also learned from my neighbors because they talk to me in Chinese.
- 30 **R:** What about at home?

- 31 **W:** Right now, my my mother in-law is with us. So most of the time when she is around we speak Chinese but when she is in her room I and my husband we speak in English, Chinese and a bit of Filipino.
- 32 **R:** As a married woman, how do you describe a husband and wife relationship?
- 33 **W:** I think the ideal relationship is that husband and wife must understand each other and must communicate very often. My relationship with my husband right now is not really good. We quarrel a lot, you know. I really don't know. He is different now. I think he has another girl. I caught him once (silence and the wife cried). He even told me to find another one after I caught him (cried again).
- 34 **R:** So what's your plan now?
- 35 **W:** I don't know.
- 36 **R:** I'm sorry to ask you that question.
- 37 **W:** It's ok. I'm just very emotional. I'm very problematic this time. We seldom talk and he goes out very often. (Followed by the wife's confession about their relationship)
- 38 **R:** Does he share something to you?
- 39 **W:** No, he is very direct and blunt when saying something. He even told me to look for another man (cry).
- 40 **R:** Perhaps you haven't shared to him the Filipino culture.
- 41 **W:** I do but I think he does not listen to me.
- 42 **R:** Thanks a lot for sharing your experiences and I perhaps we can help you even in our own little way.
- 43 **W:** No, it's ok...I'm just emotional this time.

END

TRANSCRIPT FILE 8

Informant: W-wife (Filipino) and H-husband (Chinese)

Interviewer- R

R= (Researcher)

W= FCCB (Filipino wife)

H= FCCA (Malaysian Chinese husband)

- 1 **R:** How long have you been married?
- 2 **W:** 11 years
- 3 **R:** How did you meet?
- 4 **W:** We met here in Malaysia?
- 5 **R:** When you first met him, at that time could you understand Malay or Chinese?
- 6 **W:** (laugh) we used sign language.
- 7 **R:** Sign language?
- 8 **W:** English of course (laugh). Both of us speak English. I myself can speak different languages like English, Tagalog, a bit of Maranaw, Cebuano, Malay, and Russian.
- 9 **R:** Of so many languages, what is your first language?
- 10 **W:** Cebuano is my first language and English is my second language then other languages follow.
- 11 **R:** What about your husband how many languages does he speak?
- 14 **W:** He speaks Mandarin, English, Hainanese, Cantonese, a bit of Russian and

Bahasa Malaysia

- 15 **R:** He speaks many Chinese dialects. What is his first language?
- 16 **W:** Hainanese is his first language and English can be considered his second language.
- 19 **R:** Both of you speak many languages. At home how do you communicate?
- 20 **W:** We communicate in English. Actually, English is predominantly used and with some Malay.
- 21 **R:** So when you got married you were already fluent in Malay.
- 22 **W:** Conversational Malay. My neighbors have helped me to speak Malay because they teach me .
- 25 **R:** What about Chinese or any Chinese dialects?
- 26 **W:** No, not a single word.
- 27 **R:** So you didn't learn any Chinese.
- 28 **W:** No, i didn't learn even a bit of Manadariin.
- 29 **R:** What about your husband, did he try to learn Cebuano or any Philippine language?
- 30 **W:** Yeah, he can understand a little bit but could not really speak the language.
- 31 **R:** Since you have two children, how do you communicate at home?
- 34 **W:** Yes, we made it a point that first language should be in English so that it will be easy for both of us and for the children to communicate. However, we are also aware that our children need to learn other languages.
- 35 **R:** Did you have any agreement that both of you should use English at home?
- 36 **W:** I think it's natural because we are in an international community, you know.
- 37 **R:** yeah
- 38 **W:** So English could help us for communication even until now. Although, we use English most of the time but if given the chance to really choose a language I guess I would prefer Cebuano because it's my mother tongue.
- 39 **R:** I see.
- 40 **W:** I think, you know sometimes it's difficult for me to translate to different languages. So it's better to use my mother tongue because I can express my feelings freely.
- 41 **R:** What about in dealing with your in – laws, how do you communicate with them?
- 42 **W:** I talk to them in Bahasa Malaysia and English. But most of the time I speak in Bahasa Malaysia.
- 43 **R:** Is it the reason why you learn Bahasa Malaysia.
- 44 **W:** No, because I knew Bahasa Malaysia before I met my husband. But like what I said we speak different languages at home. English remains to be dominant, you know but we mix with Malay and Cebuano depending on the situation.
- 45 **R:** So you mix English, Malay and Cebuano.
- 46 **W:** yes
- 47 **R:** what about Chinese?
- 48 **W:** No, we don't use it because I can't speak. But my children can speak Chinese.
- 49 **R:** As a wife and has been married for long, what do you think is the ideal husband and wife relationship?
- 50 **W:** That's quite interesting. I think an ideal husband and wife is a couple who live in trust and know the real purpose of marriage.
- 51 **R:** As husband and wife are you interdependent with one another?
- 52 **W:** Since we live together as husband and wife the bond must continue. Therefore, we need each other and we should work together.

- 53 R: In the course of your marriage have you encountered any conflict?
- 54 W: Yes, but in relationship I think emotionally we're already very matured. The level emotion is stable, mature and dependable like that. We face whatever problems or conflict we encounter.
- 55 R: What about your group of friends, do you have the same group of friends?
- 56 W: Yeah, basically colleagues and from old – old friends.
- 57 R: What about your likes and dislikes?
- 58 W: There are things that he doesn't like but I like. Generally, more or less we have something in common
- 59 R: Was there a time that you don't understand each other?
- 60 W: (laugh) Words that need context, you need to understand the meaning. Just joking.
- 61 R: When miscommunication occurs, do you simplify your language?
- 62 W: Yeah, we simplify our language so that we can understand each other. Although, we assume that how we look at things and there is no filtering of Information.
- 63 R: When talking to your husband are you careful of any topic that you discuss that he might be offended?
- 64 W: Not at all, we discuss things or anything and I don't think that I need to select anything I want to share
- 65 R: What about in conversation is interruption very common?
- 66 W: Oh yeah, interruption is common but it depends. If it's for sharing, I couldn't wait for my turn. it's normal
- 67 R: In general, you say that English is frequently used at home but you sometimes mix it with Malay and cebuano.
- 68 R: Thanks a lot for your time.

END

TRANSCRIPT FILE 9

Informant: W-wife (Filipino) and H-husband (Chinese)

Interviewer: R

R= (Researcher)

W= FCCB (Filipino wife)

H= FCCA (Malaysian Chinese husband)

- 1 R: How do you find your communication with your wife?
- 2 H: I love talking to her because we make a lot of fun and we are able to discuss many things that I believe help in building up our relationship.
- 3 R: Do you think language helps a lot in making your communication successful?
- 4 H: Yes I agree with you. Language plays an important role. I and my wife at least have something in common. Both of us speak and understand very well in English and we have no language problem. Actually, I speak quite a number of languages: Foochow, Mandarin, English, Bahasa Malaysia, Hokkien, Hakka and a few more Chinese dialects.
- 5 R: So you speak a number of languages.
- 6 H: Yes, but of so many languages I speak I think I like Hokkien.
- 7 R: Why do you like Hokkien?

- 8 H: Because most people in Kuching speak Hokkien.
- 9 R: Is Hokkien a community language?
- 10 H: Yeah, Hokkien is used as a community language in some communities but in our community most people speak Foochow.
- 11 R: So, Foochow is more convenient for you. How about English?
- 12 H: Yeah, it's convenient for me to use English but it depends lah. We use English in business meetings most of the time.
- 13 R: How about Bahasa Malaysia, how often do you use it?
- 14 H: Just a little bit only, very rare yeah.
- 15 R: When do you use Bahasa Malaysia?
- 16 H: Bahasa Malaysia is used in government offices and when talking to the Malays. But for most Chinese I use English and mixed with Hokkien or Foochow dialects.
- 17 R: In your case (referring to the wife), how many languages do you speak?
- 18 W: I speak Tagalog, English, a bit of Spanish and Bahasa Malaysia.
- 19 R: how about Chinese
- 20 W: No, I don't speak Chinese. I tried to learn but its hard to pronounce, I guess it's easy for me to understand than to speak (laugh). As a Tagalog speaker, it's really difficult for me to learn Chinese.
- 21 R: Is Tagalog your first language?
- 22 W: Yes, Tagalog is my first language but I speak other languages as well. English is my second language where I learned when I was a kid. Actually, I feel more comfortable using English now. At home that's what we use very often.
- 23 R: So you prefer English to be the medium of communication at home.
- 24 W: Yes, because it's the language that my husband and I understand. Besides English is a universal language wherever you go you will be understood. One more thing is that since I am in publishing and we use English most of the time.
- 25 R: Can you speak Bahasa Malaysia fluently?
- 26 W: Yes, I can communicate but not really fluent. I can understand.
- 27 R: At home, how do you communicate with your husband?
- 28 W: I have no choice I think but to speak in English and a bit of other languages like BM and Filipino. Sometimes my husband will attempt to speak in Chinese. The mixing is used for fun only, sometimes lah.
- 29 R: Can your husband understand Tagalog?
- 30 W: Yeah, but he knew only a few words lah like baboy, manok (laugh).
- 31 R: Did it happen to you (referring to the husband) that when you speak in English she responded in Tagalog or Malay?
- 32 H: No, seldom lah (laugh).
- 33 W: No, it's more like playing with words that I unintentionally do. I think sometimes it's just a natural thing to do, you know.
- 34 R : You mean, using other languages other than English english is fun?
- 34 H : Yeah, it's fun because we mix different languages.
- 35 R: When you go out like in public places do you still use English?
- 36 H : Me, I use Mandarin but it all depends to the people I'm dealing with. If I go to the market for example and I talk to a Chinese vendor I soeak in Chinese and if I talk with the Malay then I speak Malay.
- 37 W: For me it's different because I don't speak Chinese. Even outside I speak English most of the time but when a Malay speaks with me I Malay then that's the

time that I start talking in Malay but with some English because I'm not really good in BM.

40 R: Have you tried learning his Foochow language?

41 W: No but maybe in the future. Actually, I'm interested.

42 H: I'll teach her how to cry. (laugh).

43 R: How about you (referring to the husband) how do you find Tagalog language?

44 H: It's nice and I really want to learn. It might be difficult but I think I can. Actually, I am starting to learn Tagalog at home and with her Filipino friends. But at home you know, sometimes I use Hokkien when I am frustrated because she does not understand.

45 W: Actually, when you use your own dialect you can express your anger better. I use Tagalog when I am really angry. You know the funny thing sometimes I talk to him in Tagalog but he does not really understand.

46 H: You know my wife has become my language teacher at home. Sometimes I ask her, what's this, what's that.

47 R: Have you invented some words that only the two understand?

48 H/W: No

49 R: As husband and wife, what can you say in husband and wife relationship?

50 W: First of all marriage is a blessing and not everyone can get married. You grow more as a person in terms of character and everything your life become more meaningful because you share with another one so dear to you.

51 H: In my own point of view, I would just want to put it like this, it's a divine romance that God put us, we are his bride.

52 R: As husband and wife are you interdependent with each other?

53 W: Yeah, we are interdependent particularly in making decisions at home we consult each other.

54 H: all decisions made should be discussed and we talk about it. It's not that I'm a man and to make the decision. I listen to my wife.

55 R: How do you deal some conflicts?

56 W: When we have conflict, we communicate. We are open to each other and we discuss things.

57 H: Both of us are open to discuss whatever disagreements we have. So conflict is unavoidable but can be resolved through proper discussion

58 R: Do you have common interest?

59 W: I think, it's a matter of preferences. But I would say we have something in common. Like me, I love to read and he does too. He likes to sing and I sometimes do.

60 R: So you have some common interest.

61 W: Yes we have.

62 H: We do things together, we share whatever have.

63 R: When you're upset or angry do you express your anger in your mother tongue?

64 W: Yeah, sometimes but I also express it in English because we respect each other so much and we honor each other we don't want to be mean.

65 R: How do you find our Filipino language?

66 W: It's a beautiful language and I talk to my child in Tagalog to retain my Filipino culture.

67 R: Do you have the same group of friends?

68 W: Yeah, we have some groups that we meet similar people like in church but of course we also we have different groups of friends.

- 69 **R:** Do you share your cultural beliefs and practices?
 70 **H:** Yes we share. Honestly, I say a lot about the Philippine culture and she gets angry.
 71 **W:** Yeah, because he criticizes the Philippines many times. I feel bad.
 72 **R:** Did you encounter some language problem when only the two of you are talking?
 73 **W:** Yeah, for me like sometimes but it rarely happens. I think, it's more of different words, pronunciation and sentence construction.
 74 **R:** It shows that your language preference at home is English with some mixes with Hokkien and Tagalog.
 75 **H:** Yeah
 76 **R:** Thanks a lot. I really appreciate your contribution in my research.

END

TRANSCRIPT FILE 10

Informant: W-wife (Filipino) and H-husband (Chinese)

Interviewer: R

R= (Researcher)

W= FCCB (Filipino wife)

H= FCCA (Malaysian Chinese husband)

- 1 **R:** How do you communicate with your husband?
 2 **W:** I communicate with him in English and other languages (laugh). Most of the time is in English. I can speak different languages like English, Japanese, Chinese, Tagalog, and Bahasa Malaysia.
 3 **R:** Any local Filipino language that you speak?
 4 **W:** No, Tagalog only.
 5 **R:** With the many languages you speak, how do you find using these languages?
 6 **W:** I feel great because I can express myself in many ways but I love Tagalog most because I'm a Filipino then English. I feel more comfortable in Tagalog.
 7 **R:** In your community what language that is commonly spoken?
 8 **W:** Here, mostly in English. I speak English with my neighbors. However I sometimes speak in Chinese because some of them do not speak English, maybe more or less 40 % of our community speaks Chinese
 9 **R:** What Chinese dialect you speak?
 10 **W:** Hokkien, I speak for a few years and I also speak Bahasa for almost 10 years.
 11 **R:** At home, what language do you use when you are talking to your husband?
 12 **W:** English but I encourage my children to speak in Tagalog. I teach them but not my husband
 13 **R:** What about with your in-laws, what language do you speak?
 14 **W:** Chinese, because they don't know English and they don't speak good Bahasa Malaysia as well.
 15 **R:** What encouraged you to learn English?
 16 **W:** Because everytime they talk they speak in Chinese and I look stupid and I can't interact with them.

- 17 R: Between you and your husband, what language do you speak?
- 18 W: English but we mix in Filipino and Chinese. My husband can understand a bit of Tagalog like cursing (laugh). My friends speak with him in Tagalog
- 19 R: When you get mad what language do you speak?
- 20 W: If I'm mad I speak in Tagalog and the worst thing is that when I started to curse in Chinese.
- 21 R: Do you mean you mix different languages at home?
- 22 W: yeah, we do even with my children and my husband and friends.
- 23 F: When you are in the market, what language do you use?
- 24 W: I speak Bahasa or Chinese but not in English. Some of them they don't speak English. if Malay, I speak BM and Chinese when Chinese
- 25 R: What about your husband, how many languages does he speak?
- 26 W: He speaks Chinese, Bahasa, and Chinese. He speaks a lot of Chinese dialects like Hokkien, Mandarin, Foc chow and Cantonese but Hokkien is frequently used.
- 27 R: Did your husband try to learn Filipino?
- 28 W: He did but he is not really good in learning other languages. perhaps I'm a poor teacher.
- 29 R: What about to your mother-in-law what language do you speak?
- 30 W: I speak in Chinese, Hokkien because they do not speak English much. They speak to me in Chinese
- 31 R: If you were to choose what language will you prefer?
- 32 W: I guess English, because it is easy to use because it is the only language that we can communicate with the locals but with my kids I speak in Chinese.
- 33 F: Is there any language barrier between the two of you?
- 34 W: No, I think if I speak in Tagalog. But he knows already when I speak in Tagalog he will assume that I'm already angry.
- 35 R: How many years have you been married?
- 36 W: 13 years
- 37 R: Was there any problem with the language during your first year of marriage?
- 38 W: No it was ok.
- 39 R: By the way as a wife what do you think is an ideal marriage for you?
- 40 W: I think husband must be a good provider and the wife must be a good wife. true or not?
- 41 R: Who makes decision?
- 42 W: It's my husband always makes the final decision but we discuss everything before the decision is made. House related decision it would be mine
- 43 R: Do you avoid conflict?
- 44 W: If I can avoid I will but sometime you can't. My husband knows me so well and he easily know if I'm mad because I just keep quiet and he knows it already. I don't really argue with my husband, we talk if there are problems.
- 45 R: What about your group of friends, do you have similar group of friends?
- 46 W: No, he doesn't normally join with my Filipino friend particularly outside. He has his own group of friends because he has a different interest.
- 47 R: **Pag kayo lang naguusap meron bang time na hindi kayo nagkaintindihan kahit English?** *(If only the two of you are talking is there a time that you don't understand each other even if it is in English?)*
- 48 W: Yeah, because sometimes I can't understand his English, and sometimes he does not understand my English.
- 49 R: How do you manage the conversation?

- 50 **W:** Sometimes he notices it and after that he will talk slowly then it becomes clear to me
- 51 **R:** I see. So far you don't have any problem in communicating with him.
- 52 **W:** Yeah.
- 53 **R:** Ok. Thanks a lot for your time.

END

FILIPINO-MALAYSIAN INDIAN COUPLES

TRANSCRIPT FILE 11

Informant: W-wife (Filipino) and H-husband (Indian)

Interviewer: R

R= Interviewer

W= FCIB (Filipino Wife)

H= FCIA (Malaysian Indian Husband)

- 1 **R:**For how many years have you stayed here?
- 2 **W:** I stayed here for two years.
- 3 **R:** How do you find your stay in Malaysia?
- 4 **W:** It's great, I learn many things. First I learn to speak a bit of Malay and I learn the Malaysian culture.
- 5 **R:** So you learn another language which is Malay.
- 6 **W:** Yeah, aside from English, Tagalog, Pangasinensi I also speak a bit of Malay.
- 7 **R:** It's great you speak a number of languages. How do you find yourself being married to a Malaysian Indian?
- 8 **W:** So far so good. We have no big family problems. I think we both know each other well so we have no much problem. In spite of our differences we compliment with each other. Although he speaks different languages but we still have something in common.
- 9 **R:** How do you communicate with your husband?
- 10 **W:** I talk to him in English. Actually, my husband speaks Tamil and other Indian languages, English and Bahasa Malaysia but he is fluent in English. We both use most of the time in English. But you know sometimes I say something in Filipino and he will be surprised.
- 11 **R:** It seems that English has become your preferred language at home.
- 12 **W:** Yes, I think it's also beneficial to use English because it's a universal language and there's no need for us to adjust each other.
- 13 **R:** Are you trying to learn Tamil?
- 14 **W:** I'm trying a bit because my father-in-law is encouraging me to learn.
- 15 **R:** How do you communicate with your in-laws?
- 16 **W:** My husband's family speaks in English and I don't have any problem at all. They speak Tamil but most of the time they speak English at home.
- 17 **R:** Is it the reason why you are not really eager to learn Tamil?

- 18 W: Yeah, aside from that it's difficult to learn Tamil and it is not commonly used.
- 19 R: Does your husband learn to speak Tagalog?
- 20 W: No, he has no eagerness to learn Filipino language, for him it's English only. In fact, he is not even well-verse in Tamil.
- 21 R: I see. Do you have a child?
- 22 W: **Wala pa.** (*we don't have yet*)
- 23 R: As a wife, what do you think is an ideal husband and wife?
- 24 W: As husband and wife, you must be together and **kaya nga kayo nagpakasal** (*that's why you get married*). I gave up my job in the Philippines just for him.
- 25 R: **Paano ka makipag blend sa kanya** (*How do you blend with him*) he has a different culture?
- 27 W: It's difficult I'm still adjusting **kasi iba ang kanilang** (*because they have different*) culture **parang ang lalaki** (*it seems the man*) is really superior unlike for Filipinos **hindi masyado** (*not much*).
- 28 R: **Nag share ba kayo sa** (*Do you share in*) decision making?
- 29 W: **Nag share kami pero sya pa rin nag decide.** (*We share but he is the one who decides*).
- 30 R: **Meron bang time na nag conflict kayo?** (*Was there a time that you had conflict?*)
- 31 W: a lot of times **kasi nasa adjustment period pa kami** (*because we are still in an adjustment period*) Perhaps **dahil magkaiba ang culture** (*because we have different culture*). **Ang Filipino very loving kasi pero sa kanila hindi masyado** (*Filipinos are very loving but for them they are not really*) they never talk about emotion. **Tayong mga Pinoy very emotional pero sa kanila they hide it kahit mahal ka hindi masyadaong na express kaya malaking adjustment.** (*We Filipinos we are very emotional but for them they hide their feelings even if they love you, they are not really expressive that's why it's a big adjustment*)
- 32 R: When you have conflict with your husband do you avoid it?
- 33 W: Sometimes **pero pag nandyan na** (*but when it's there*) then you have to face it.
- 34 R: So you are adjusting?
- 35 W: Yeah, **ako ang nag adjust para sa kanya** (*I am the one who adjusts for him*). **Yung culture nila** (*their culture*) I don't like.
- 36 R: Do you celebrate Indian celebration?
- 37 W: Yes but not at home **pero sa bahay ng in-laws ko** (*but in my in-laws' house*) .
- 38 R: Do you wear Indian attire?
- 39 W: Yes, **nagsusuot din medyo iba ako kasi Christian ako at sila Hindu pero hindi ako nila pinipilit na mag hindu pero sinasama ako sa temple, sumsama naman ako at sumusunod din ako sa dress code nila** (*I wear but a bit different because I'm a Christian and they are Hindu but they don't force me if I don't but they accompany me to the temple, I go and I follow their dress code*).
- 40 R: Do you celebrate Christmas?
- 41 W: Yes we do celebrate, **nung nagakasama na kami saka lang sya nag celebrate. Hindi nya pwede pigilan ako kelangan kung i practice ang Christain values.** (*When we were together that's the time that he celebrated. He cannot stop me because I need to practice my Christian values*).
- 42 R: Do you share your cultural belief and practice?
- 43 W: Yes, we discuss. They have a lot of superstitious beliefs but interesting for me as a Filipino. He sometimes asks me about the Filipiono women in Malaysia (laugh)
- 44 R: What about?

- 45 W: He directly tells me that there are Filipino prostitutes. My husband is very direct.
- 46 R: So at home you use English most of the time and rarely you mix with Filipino because your husband prefers English. Thanks so much for your time.
- 47 W: you're welcome

END

TRANSCRIPT FILE 12

Informant: W-wife (Filipino) and H-husband (Indian)

Interviewer: R

R= Interviewer

W= FCIB (Filipino Wife)

H= FCIA (Malaysian Indian Husband)

- 1 R: **Nang asa mo nagpuyo diri?**(Where do you stay here?)
- 2 W: **Sa Jalan Loke Yeow lang malapit sa Hang Tuah.** (In Jalan Loke Yeow near Hang Tuah)
- 3 R: How do you find your stay in KL?
- 4 W: So far okay. My husband work in a bank and I stay at home, plain housewife.
- 5 R: **Ilang taon na kayo ngasama?** (For how long have you been together?)
- 6 W: **Mga 9 years na.** (Almost 9 years)
- 7 R: How do you communicate with your husband?
- 8 W: I communicate with him in English most of the time. He also speaks with me in English although my English is not really good because my first language is not English. I speak Cebuano, Tagalog then English and Malay (laugh). But my husband speaks English well and he speaks Tamil, English **ug Bahasa Malaysia kay diri man sya na tawo** (and Bahasa Malaysia because he was born here)
- 9 R: So when you are at home you speak English.
- 10 W: Yeah we speak English but I sometimes mix a bit of Cebuano.
- 11 R: English has become your language at home.
- 12 W: **English jud minsan Tamil ug Malay, depende sa situasyon, pag may Malay mag Malay ko.**(It's really English sometimes Tamil and Malay, it depends on the situation, if there's a Malay then I speak in Malay)
- 13 R: **Sa Indian ninyo nag kaila unsa imo salita?** (With your Indian friends what language do you use?)
- 14 W: English
- 15 R: **Kabalo imong asawa magTagalog ug Cebuano?** (Does your husband know how to speak Tagalog and Cebuano)
- 16 W: **Dili pero gusto nya pero kapuyan ko mag tudlo ba.**(No, but he wants but I feel tired teaching him).
- 17 R: **Sa mga anak unsa inyong gamit nga pinulungan?**(With your children what language do you use?)
- 18 W: **English lang, pag nag Tagalog ko i translate ko in English.** (English only, if I speak in Tagalog I need to translate in English).
- 19 R: **Kung ok lang sa inyo, Ilang taon na po kayo?**(If you don't mind, how old are you?)

- 20 W: 50 years old
- 21 R: **Imong asawa?** (*Your husband?*)
- 22 W: 45 years old.
- 23 R: **Pagnagusap nyo unsa inyong gamit?** (*When you talk what language do you use?*)
- 24 W: **English lang jud tapos gagmay nga Bahasa Malaysia.** (*English only with a bit of Bahasa Malaysia*). **Medyo sayun sya para sa trabaho sad. Kapoy na sad mag aral ug bag-o nga language.** (*It seems easy for work reasons. It's tiring to learn a new language*).
- 25 R: Do you speak in Cebuano when you are mad?
- 26 W: **Nag bisaya ko kay mahutdan ko ug English. (laugh). Di jud niya masabtan. Kadugayan pag didli sya makasabot mulakaw lang na sya. Tahimik lang naman sya ako pirmi ang sigi ug baba.** (*I speak in Bisaya because I might run out of English (laugh). He can't really understand. After that he would go. He is just quiet and I talk a lot*)
- 27 R: **Pag may conflict kayo,** (*If you have conflict*), Do you avoid conflict?
- 28 W: **Dili man, we just face it kung nandyan na.** (*No, we just face it when it's there*)
- 29 R: How about in decision making who makes the decision?
- 30 W: **Kaming duha, iyaha sya mag decide, akoa then ako ang mag decide. Lahi lang sya. Dili sya naga consult sa akin, iba talaga sila.** (*The two of us, each of us decides our own. I decide myself for my own. He is different. He does not consult me, he is really different*)
- 31 R: Do you celebrate Indian celebration?
- 32 W: **Yeah, nagsuot sad ko ug Indian attire. Sya rin nag suot ug Filipino attire.** (*I wear an Indian attire. He also wears a Filipino attire*).
- 33 R: What other celebrations you celebrate?
- 34 W: **Christmas nag celebrate kami sa balay gidala gani naku sya sa simbahan.** (*Christmas, we celebrate it at home. I even brought him to church*).
- 35 R: **Sa pagakaon?** (*What about the food?*)
- 36 W: **Ok lang, pero sya Indian food jud mao nay iyang pagkaon, pero ako kaon nalang.** (*It's ok but he prefers Indian food, that's his food, but I just eat*)
- 37 R: What do you prefer, Indian or Filipino food?
- 38 W: Of course, Filipino food.
- 39 R: Do you have common friends?
- 40 W: **No, ang friend ko, friend ko. Mga friend nya friend nya.** (*No, my friend is my friend. His friends are his friends*).
- 41 R: **Ang inyong likes ug dislikes?** (*How about your likes and dislikes?*)
- 42 W: **Magkaiba.** (*Different*)
- 43 R: What about?
- 44 W: **Alam mo (you know)** he tells me that he sometimes does not like our culture. **Di ko alam** (*I don't know*) perhaps because of other Filipino women.
- 45 R: I see.
- 46 W: Yeah.
- 47 R: Thanks a lot.
- 48 W: **Ok lang yun** (*It's ok*).

END

TRANSCRIPT FILE 13

Informant: W-wife (Filipino) and H-husband (Indian)

Interviewer: R

R= Interviewer

W= FCIB (Filipino Wife)

H= FCIA (Malaysian Indian Husband)

1 R: Ilang years na po kayo dito? (*For how many years have you been here?*)

2 W: 1994 pa (*Since 1994*).

3 R: Taga saan po kayo sa Pilipinas? (*Which part of the Philippines you come from?*)

4 W: Zamboanga

5 R: How do you communicate with your husband?

6 W: I talk to him in English. But sometimes we talk in Malay. It depends but often we mix different languages.

7 R: You mean, you can speak Bahasa Malaysia?

8 W: Yes, I can speak a bit of Malay. Actually, I speak four languages such as Chavakano, Cebuano, Tagalog, English, and Malay. All in all there are five languages that I speak.

9 R: What about your husband, does he speak other languages?

10 W: Yes, he does. He speaks Tamil, Malay and English. He can speak three languages.

11 R: Can you speak Tamil?

12 W: No, I don't, I find it difficult to speak in Tamil. I don't speak Tamil but my husband can speak a bit of Tagalog.

13 R: By the way, how many children do you have?

14 W: We have only one child.

15 R: When your child is around, what language do you use?

16 W: You know, we always speak in English even with or without the presence of our child and we use a few words in BM and Filipino. When we talk to the child it's plain English because that's how my child has used to. It seems that English has become our child's first language. My child is learning Tamil but I also teach the Filipino language.

17 R: As a couple, have you invented some words that only the two of you can understand?.

18 W: Yeah, just a few words that we use for fun. It's just our own invention.

19 R: Since both of you speak different languages, did it happen that you simplify your English so both of you can understand each other?

20 W: Yes, sometimes. I think both of us do this thing

21 R: As a wife how do you view a husband and wife relationship?

22 W: As husband and wife proper communication is needed to understand each other better. In a relationship, it should always be give and take.

23 R: Are you interdependent with each other?

24 W: yeah, we are. We discuss our plans and big family decisions.

25 R: What about when conflict occurs, how do you deal with it?

26 W: We discuss any conflict that we have and solve it by ourselves.

27 R: How about your circle of friends, is it similar to your husband?

28 W: Not really some of my friends are his friends and some of his friends are my friends. We have some common friends.

- 29 R: Do you have similar things that you like and dislike?
30 W: We have something in common but often we differ. I guess, we have different interests.
31 R: As a wife of an Indian husband, do you celebrate Indian celebrations?
32 W: yeah, we do celebrate like Depavali and others.
33 R: Are you adjusted with the Indian food?
34 W: I think so but I still prefer the Filipino food..
35 R: Do both of you share your cultural practices?
36 W: Yes, we both share our cultural practices. We have no problem except that he is disappointed of the Philippine politics.
37 R: That's for sure.
38 W: Yeah, he criticizes a lot but Malaysia has also some political problems, right?
39 R: Yeah, but they don't criticize a lot here.
40 W: Poor Philippines.
41 R: How about our Filipino language, are you still proud of it?
42 W: Definitely, I'm very proud of it that's why I teach my child to speak in Filipino.
43 R :Thanks a lot for your time.

END

TRANSCRIPT FILE 14

Informant: W-wife (Filipino) and H-husband (Indian)

Interviewer: R

R= Interviewer

W= FCIB (Filipino Wife)

H= FCIA (Malaysian Indian Husband)

- 1 R: For how many years have you been married?
2 W: I've been married for 25 years.
3 R: For 25 years how did you find your marriage?
4 W: I would say, it has been productive. I think our marriage is a bit different from other couples because we knew each other through letters. My husband now used to be my penpal. When we decided to get married we had our wedding in the Philippines then we came to Malaysia because my husband is a Malaysian Indian.
5 R: When you first met your husband how did you communicate with him?
6 W: I think when we personally met, we were like old friends because we already knew each other through our letters.
7 F: Did you encounter problems in communication with your husband?
8 W: At first there was none because we basically communicate in English and both of us can speak and write English well although we also speak other languages. I speak Cebuano, Tagalog and Malay while my husband speaks Tamil, English and Chinese.
9 R: How did you meet your in-laws?
10 W: They also went to the Philippines. At first they could hardly accept me, that's the truth and I struggled a lot but now they are fine with me.
11 R: As interracial couple, how do you communicate with each other at home?

- 12 **W:** We simply communicate in English pure in English,.We do not mix any other languages but sometimes I make some jokes in Tagalog.
- 13 **R:** Can you converse in Malay?
- 14 **W:** Yes this time I do. Pehaps because of the number of years that I stay in Malaysia.
- 15 **R:** How about your husband does he speak in Tagalog?
- 16 **W:** Yes, he knows how to speak Tagalog. He can communicate because we frequently go back to the Philippines. Although both of us can speak Tagalog but we still use English at home my husband was educated in an English medium school. You know, even when I'm mad I always speak in English.
- 17 **R:** As a couple, how do you deal when you encounter conflicts?
- 18 **W:** I'm a bit strong and both of us face and discuss our conflicts. I ven had conflicts with my in-laws. Since they do not like me, I spoke to them directly. I'm straight forward and I do not care if they do not like me. I'm different and I guess my daughter is like me. Sometime huh I just laugh.
- 19 **R:** Do you teach your daughter the Filipino culture?
- 20 **W:** Yes I do.
- 21 **R:** Since your husband is an Indian, do you celebrate Indian celebration?
- 22 **W:** No, we don't. We only celebrate christmas.
- 23 **R:** Are you ok now with your in-laws?
- 24 **W:** Yes, we are ok now.
- 25 **R:** How often do you visit your in-laws?
- 26 **W:**If they invite me, then I will visit them.
- 27 **R:** As husband and wife, are you interdependent?
- 28 **W:** Yes, we are. We plan and decide some things together. He consults me and I do too.
- 29 **R:** What about your group of friends, do you have similar group?
- 30 **W:** Not really, I have a lot of friends that he does not know and he has friends also that I am not close.
- 31 **R:** What about your hobbies?
- 32 **W:** We certainly differ.
- 33 **R:** You were married dor quite sometime, have you experienced that both of you invented some words that only the two of you understand?
- 34 **W:** Yes but that was long time ago. This time we are old and we no longer invent our own words.
- 35 **R:** I see. Since you have been away from the Philippines for quite sometime, are you still proud of your own language?
- 36 **W:** Yes, I am and I still use Cebuano. I'm very proud of it.
- 37 **R:**Thnak you very much for your time.
- 38 **W:** You're welcome

END

TRANSCRIPT FILE 15

Informant: W-wife (Filipino) and H-husband (Indian)

Interviewer: R

R= Interviewer

W= FCIB (Filipino Wife)

H= FCIA (Malaysian Indian Husband)

- 1 **R:** How do you find your stay here in KL?
- 2 **W:** It's fine. I enjoy with my family. My husband is very understanding.
- 3 **R:** That's good you have an understanding husband. By the way, as a Filipino, how do you communicate with your Indian husband?
- 4 **W:** We communicate normally in English, I think that's the only choice because he cannot speak fluently in Filipino and I don't speak fluently any Indian languages. Besides, the two of us speak different languages. I speak English, Malay, Tagalog, and now learning Malayalam and Tamil and my husband speaks English, Malaysalam and Tamil. So far we have not encountered problems in communication except with some personal and family problems.
- 5 **R:** Does it mean that English is the only language used at home?
- 6 **H:** Yeah, English because it is easy to communicate. I also tried to speak Tagalog with my wife because I know a few words.
- 7 **R:** Are you really eager to learn Tagalog?
- 8 **H:** Yeah, I am learning it now.
- 9 **R:** Can you can speak a bit of Tagalog?.
- 10 **H:** Yeah, like **kumain ka, na halika na.** (*Have you eaten, come here*)
- 11 **R:** What make you learn Tagalog?
- 12 **H:** Because of my wife and it seems that I often get married daily with her (laugh).
- 13 **R:** How do you find the languages that you speak?
- 14 **H:** They are helpful because you can interact with different people. But of the languages I speak, English I guess is more important or it can be Tagalog for the two of us. I sometimes speak with my wife in Tagalog and English. We mix sometimes.
- 15 **R:** How many years have you been married?
- 16 **H:** It will be 9 years.
- 17 **R:** Nine years, oh that's quite long. For 9 years have you invented some words that only two of you can understand?
- 18 **W:** Yeah, we talk in Tagalog so that no one can understand like when we go to Sha Alam. Some words that we invent are of Tagalog origin. (laugh)
- 19 **R:** Yeah, so what about Malayalam can you speak? (referring to the wife)
- 20 **W:** No, I don't. It's difficult.
- 21 **R:** How do you communicate with your in-laws?
- 22 **W:** I communicate with them in English. They are good in English but they also speak Malayalam.
- 23 **R:** How about Bahasa Malaysia, do you speak with them?
- 24 **W:** No, only English. They have not talked to me in BM. I speak Malay a bit in the market and sometimes with my husband.
- 25 **R:** In your community here what language that is widely spoken?
- 26 **W:** Actually, Malay but when they talk to me they speak in English, sometimes others speak in Mlay but if they notice that I don't speak Malay others try to speak in English.
- 27 **R:** What if you have Filipino friends who come to your house what language do you speak?

- 28 W: We speak mixed English and Tagalog.
- 29 R: How do you find English and Tagalog languages?
- 30 W: I think, English is international but I feel more comfortable in Tagalog because it's my mother tongue.
- 31 R: As a wife how do you describe an ideal husband and wife relationship?
- 32 W: Both husband and wife encounter the good times and bad times. Despite the difficulties both of them must understand each other.
- 33 H: I agree with my wife that an ideal husband and wife relationship must always be there both in good times and bad times.
- 34 R: What about in your relationship are you interdependent with each other?
- 35 W: Sometimes only. When we make major decisions at home. But for minor decisions I decide my own and he decides his own. For major decisions the two of us.
- 36 R: Have you thought of doing things by yourself?
- 37 W: So far, no. My husband cannot do without me, so we must always do things together.
- 38 R: Do you have common friends?
- 39 W: Yeah, my friends are also his friends and his friends are also my friends. We have the same friends.
- 40 R: Do you like and dislike similar things?
- 41 W: Sometimes, he likes curry and I also like it. I like Indian food.
- 42 R: Do you wear the Indian Sari?
- 43 W: Yeah, but I wear Sari occasionally only when they ask me to wear particularly in her sister's house if they have a function I need to wear the Sari but with his uncle there is no need to wear it.
- 44 R: So it depends on you.
- 45 W: Yeah, it's up to me if I want to wear the sari it's ok but if I don't like it's not really necessary.
- 46 R: In your relationship, do you avoid conflict?
- 47 W: Sometimes, but if it's already there we just face it.
- 48 R: What about Jo. Do you avoid conflict?
- 49 H: Sometimes, but if it's already there we just face it.
- 50 R: When you're angry and you quarrel what language do you speak?
- 51 W: When I'm really mad, I say it in Tagalog.
- 52 R: Why?
- 53 W: It is easy to say.
- 54 R: Do you think your husband can understand you?
- 55 W: Who says, he can't understand, he understands.
- 56 R: Oh he understands, what about you Jo what language do you speak when you are angry?
- 57 H: English
- 58 R: In the course of your marriage, have you invented some words that only the two of you can understand?
- 59 W: Yes, we have invented but we keep it ourselves because it's very personal.
- 60 R: I see, how about you (referring to the wife) you've been in KL for several years, are you still proud of your mother tongue?
- 61 W: Of course, I'm a Filipino and I'm proud of my own language. That's why I teach my husband to speak and learn Tagalog.

- 62 R: Your language loyalty towards Filipino language is still there. Thank you very much for your help in my research.
- 63 H: you're welcome.

END

TRANSCRIPT FILE 16

Informant: W-wife (Filipino) and H-husband (Indian)

Interviewer: R

R= Interviewer

W= FCIB (Filipino Wife)

H= FCIA (Malaysian Indian Husband)

- 1 R: How many years have you been married?
- 2 W: For 13 years.
- 3 R: Thirteen years, that's quite long. Is your husband an Indian? ,
- 4 W: Yes, Indian but he is an English speaking Indian.
- 5 R: Do you speak any Indian language or languages?
- 6 W: No lah, even my husband seldom speak Indian language. I speak only Tagalog, English, Malay and Kapampangan.
- 7 R: So, you speak four languages. Is Tagalog your first language?
- 8 W: No, not Tagalog. My first language is Kapampangan and my second language is English then Tagalog.
- 9 R: I see, by the way how do you communicate with your husband?
- 10 W: It's easy (laugh) I just talk to him in Malay and English. You know my husband can speak only 2 languages, Malay and English.
- 11 R: Only two languages, what about any Indian languages?
- 12 W: He does not speak but he can understand.
- 13 R: You mean, he does not speak any Indian language at all.
- 14 W: He can understand only the simple Indian words.
- 15 R: So at home you speak only two languages?
- 20 W: Actually only English but sometimes I use Malay. My husband speaks English all the time but he speak a little bit slow when he wants me to clearly understand his message.
- 21 R: What if your husband talks to his Filipino friends?
- 22 W: Still in English.
- 23 R: Did he attempt to learn Tagalog?
- 24 W: No, he is not interested to learn Tagalog.
- 25 R: Did you attempt to learn any Indian Language?
- 26 W: No, but I learn Malay.
- 27 R: I see, you mentioned it earlier. When do you use Bahasa Melayu?
- 28 W: When I speak to a Malay and sometimes I and my daughter speak in Malay.
- 29 R: English has become your choice at home.
- 30 W: Yes, English because it's the only language that I and my husband can understand each other.
- 31 R: You have been together for many years, is there any words that both of you have invented that only the two of you can understand?

- 32 **W:** Got, that one our language when I get mad “**putang ina mo**” (*son of a bitch*) that’s it’ if he heard this words he will stop this is my secret word to him because he knows me already that I’m mad.
- 33 **R:** What about with your in-laws, how do you communicate with them?
- 34 **W:** In English.
- 35 **F:** Yeah, what about when your husband talk to your parents what language does he speak to them?
- 36 **W:** My mom don’t know how to speak English, only one word they can understand both when it’s time to eat the word “**makan**” (*eat*) then my husband will say **inang makan** (*mother let’s eat*). Sometimes they use sign language to understand each other (laugh).
- 37 **R:** What can you say about husband and wife relationship?
- 38 **W:** All I can say is that there must be understanding, give and take is the most important. I don’t keep any secret both husband and wife must be open to each other so that you can understand each other and your relationship will last forever.
- 39 **R:** What about when you encounter conflict, do you avoid it?
- 40 **W:** We don’t talk about it. We just face the conflict.
- 41 **R:** What about in decisions making, are you interdependent?
- 42 **W:** We talk about it, if it’s ok for both of us then we go on.
- 43 **R:** At home, there are no other languages used except English and Malay.
- 44 **W:** Yes, English but if my husband knows how to speak in Tagalog. I’d rather choose Tagalog because it’s easy to say. But the problem is he doesn’t know and understand Tagalog that’s why we use English.
- 45 **R:** Do you like and dislike similar things?
- 46 **W:** Almost similar but of course there are also some things that I like but he does not like or things that I don’t like but he likes.
- 47 **R:** What about your group of friends, do you have similar friends?
- 48 **W:** When it comes to his friend I can be friends (of his friend). But when it comes to my friends, he will not be friend with them. My husband is not, you know. He does not like my other friends.
- 49 **R:** What about the celebration of Indians like Deepavali. Do you celebrate?
- 50 **W:** Yes and everything we celebrate.
- 51 **R:** All Indian celebrations.
- 52 **W:** Yeah, we talk about it sometimes with his brothers and sisters.
- 53 **R:** In general, your choice of language is English because that’s only the language that your husband can understand and he doesn’t know Tagalog and it’s only English. Then when it comes to marriage you’re interdependent and you don’t avoid conflict but you face it.
- 54 **R:** Thanks a lot for your time.

END

TRANSCRIPT FILE 17

Informant: W-wife (Filipino) and H-husband (Indian)

Interviewer: R

R= Interviewer

W= FCIB (Filipino Wife)

H= FCIA (Malaysian Indian Husband)

- 1 R: For how long have you been married?
- 2 H: We have been married for 8 years.
- 3 R: How many children do you have now?
- 4 H: We have 6 siblings
- 5 R: I see. How do you describe when you communicate with your wife?
- 6 H: We communicate like friends. Everytime we talk we use English and Malay. Sometimes we use Tagalog but I don't really understand it.
- 7 R: So you speak different languages?
- 8 H: Yes, I do. I speak English, Malay, German and a bit of Filipino.
- 9 R: Is Malay or any Indian languages your first language?
- 10 H: No, my first language is English.
- 11 R: So you don't speak your ethnic language.
- 12 H: Yeah, eversince I have been using English.
- 13 R: So most of the time you speak in English with your wife.
- 15 H: Yeah but sometimes I mix with Malay and wife sometimes uses Tagalog.
- 16 R: As a Filipino, how do you find communicating with your husband?
- 17 W: I think, we have no problems in communication because we understand each other. We both speak English.
- 18 R: What about Malay? Your husband said you use Malay sometimes.
- 19 W: Actually, I speak different languages including Malay. I speak Tagalog, English, Malay, a bit of Spanish, Tamil and Hindi. English is frequently used at home and Malay is used rarely.
- 20 R: So you speak a lot of languages. Do you speak any Filipino dialects?
- 21 W: No, I only speak Tagalog and it's my first language.
- 22 R: When you first met what language did you use?
- 23 H: Of course in English. My wife at that time could not speak Malay. Now that she knows Malay, we already use it at home.
- 24 R: When do you use Malay often?
- 25 W: If we want to buy something with kids we speak in Malay.
- 26 R: By the way, did you attempt to learn and speak Tagalog? (referring to the husband)
- 27 H: Yeah, I tried to manage pick up a few words but still I could not speak fluently.
- 28 R: How about with your in-laws, how do you communicate with them?
- 29 H: I talk to them in English because both of them can speak and understand English
- 30 R: What about you, how do you communicate with your in-laws? (referring to the husband)
- 31 W: I speak to all of them in English.
- 32 R: Since both of you speak a number of languages, do you pass it on to your children?
- 33 W: Yes we do. In fact I teach them Tagalog words. They learn simple words like kain-inom (*eat and drink*), its easy to translate.
- 34 R: What's your view about husband and wife relationship?
- 35 H: The thing is that no couples are the same. Understanding must be there. You must understand each other.
- 36 R: What about you, what is your view of husband and wife relationship? (referring to the wife).

- 37 **W:** Trust must always be there because if there's none the relationship will not be good. Then we talk like friends and treat each other as friends.
- 38 **R:** Are you interdependent with each other?
- 39 **H:** Yes, definitely. Well difficult for things we talk about it.
- 40 **R:** As husband and wife sometimes conflict arises, do you avoid it?
- 41 **H:** We talk about it. We face it.
- 42 **R:** Do you have the same interest?
- 43 **H:** Just a sort of things but not everything.
- 44 **R:** What about friends, do you have common friends?
- 45 **H:** Some, we have common friends. Sometimes couple to couple or individual.
- 46 **W:** Yes, we have some common friends but he has some friends whom I don't know. I have friends too who are not his friends.
- 47 **R:** Did it happen that you don't understand each other because of language problems.
- 48 **H:** No, we didn't have any problem.
- 49 **R:** As husband and wife, do you have languages that only the two of you can understand?
- 50 **H:** Yes, we have.
- 51 **R:** What about when you're talking to your wife and she never understands what you are trying to say, how do you resolve it?
- 52 **H:** So far we have not encountered any problems. Filipinos are good in English. She's ok. She can understand.
- 53 **R:** Thanks a lot. To sum up my interview, I would just want to reiterate that your language choice at home is English but you also use Malay and Filipino. Thanks a lot for your time.
- 54 **H/W:** You're welcome.

END

FILIPINO-MALAY COUPLES

TRANSCRIPT FILE 18

Informant: A (Wife) and H (Husband)

Interviewer: R

R= Interviewer

A= FCMB (Filipino Wife)

H= FCMA (Malay Husband)

- 1 **R:** I would just want to know about the languages that you speak at home. Let me start first with your wife. How many languages do you speak?
- 2 **A:** Three I think. When I'm with my husband I speak English but with my family I speak Bisaya and with some of my friends I speak Tagalog and Bisaya.
- 3 **R:** You speak different languages but what is our first language?
- 4 **A:** Bisaya then Tagalog and English but I use these three languages depending on the people I'm speaking with. With my friends of course I use Tagalog but here in Malaysia I speak English. But of these many languages, I prefer English.

- 5 **R:** How about you (referring to the husband), How many languages do you speak?
- 6 **H:** I speak Malay, English, Chinese (Mandarin).
- 7 **R:** You also speak three languages and what is your first language?
- 8 **H:** My first language is Bahasa Malaysia but at home we speak English most of the time. Although, we use also Malay often and Filipino (laugh) Bisaya. Of the four languages I feel and I prefer English to be spoken at home because it is a universal language and both of us I guess prefer English (laugh).
- 9 **R:** What about Bahasa Malaysia since it is your first language?
- 10 **A:** We sometimes use it when we are playing.
- 11 **H:** Actually it depends where we are, if we go to my parents house of course she speaks in Bahasa because my parents don't understand English but at home she speaks English, Bisaya and Malay.
- 12 **R:** You mix different languages at home?
- 13 **A:** Yeah, because sometimes when I really cannot express something but I feel that I need to explain to him I'll say it in Bisaya and he understands.
- 14 **R:** Are you learning the Philippine language: Bisaya?
- 15 **H:** I just learned from her.
- 16 **R:** What about you (referring to the wife). How did you learn Bahasa?
- 17 **A:** I learned from him.
- 18 **R:** What drives you to learn Bahasa?
- 19 **A:** Well my parents and of course my parents-in-law because my in-laws don't know English.
- 20 **H:** But my father can speak English.
- 21 **R:** What about you (referring to the husband) when you speak to your wife's mom what language do you use?
- 22 **H:** I'm forced to speak in Bisaya (laugh)
- 23 **A:** You know, I'm with him all the time and when we shop. When I'm alone in the mall or anywhere and I don't understand Malay I have to call him and ask him to speak to the other person I'm talking on the phone (laugh).
- 24 **H:** normally she will tell me and I will talk to the person.
- 25 **R:** What about if you have visitors at home?
- 26 **A:** It depends on the visitors. If the visitors are Filipinos we normally speak in English and mix with Cebuano or Tagalog. but sometimes some of his friends don't know how to speak English so we speak in Bahasa Malaysia. Speaking Malay at home helps me to learn the language faster.
- 27 **R:** You have been married for almost 2 years, what does it mean to you being a husband and a wife?
- 28 **A:** For me I think as a wife I will have to be more responsible at home, in the house. Everything what your husband has to wear, eat and other things must be prepared by me.
- 29 **R:** What about you (referring to the husband) what do you think is the role of a husband?
- 30 **H:** For me since I become a husband, I think it's not difficult but challenging. I must earn money and provide the things that my wife needs, the house needs because if I don't provide things she can't do her responsibility as a wife and then as head of the family everything is under my responsibility.
- 31 **R:** Are the two of you interdependent with one another?
- 32 **H:** No, we are not. We share.
- 33 **A:** we have to share by thinking, making decisions and everything.

- 34 **H:** Actually we discuss, we discuss if we make decisions because if we don't discuss there will be an argument for sure (laugh).
- 35 **R:** Do you avoid arguments or conflict?
- 36 **A:** I don't avoid conflicts (laugh) I trigger conflict (laugh). When I don't agree with him, I really have to fight for it and he must listen to me. I'm like that but sometimes I also compensate him.
- 37 **H:** We are different, I do avoid conflict for example if I know that that she wants to do something but I know that it is negative then she still wants to do it I just let her do it until she got the result. Then she will realize, she will learn from it because I know I cannot really stop her.
- 38 **R:** If the conflict is already there, do you discuss?
- 39 **H:** fighting (laugh)
- 40 **A:** Honestly, we fight.
- 41 **R:** When you fight, do you discuss after that?
- 42 **H:** Yes, we do. I do it first. I realize that fighting is normal at the same time you can let out whatever inside you even though you're husband and wife you sleep together, eat together still I don't know what's inside her, when it's fighting time that's the time that you know each other.
- 43 **R:** When you discuss, what language do you use?
- 44 **A:** We use English but if we argue to really express my feeling I use both English and Bisaya. If I say something bad I say it in Bisaya.
- 45 **R:** What about your friends? Do you have similar group of friends?
- 46 **H:** No, different. I don't have really Filipino friends but she has many Malaysian friends but she knows my friends.
- 47 **A:** Yeah, that's right.
- 48 **R:** To sum up, English is your preferred language at home but most of the time when you communicate you mix English with other languages like Bahasa Malaysia and Filipino (Bisaya). Thanks a lot for your time. Thank you.

END

TRANSCRIPT FILE 19

Informant: W-wife (Filipino) and H-husband (Malay)

Interviewer: R

R= Interviewer

W= FCMB (Filipino Wife)

H= FCMA (Malay Husband)

- 1 **R:** **Paano mo tawagin yung husband nyo?** (*How do you address your husband?*)
- 2 **W:** I call him Abdul Asis.
- 3 **R:** **Ilang years na po kayo married?** (*For how long have you been married?*)
- 4 **W:** **8 years na kami ngayon.** (*We have been married for 8 years now*)
- 5 **R:** For 8 years, did you learn to speak Malay?
- 6 **W:** Yes, I can speak Malay fluently now but of course I'm more fluent in Cebuano because it's my first language and English I think is my second language. When people see me, they think I'm a Malay because I speak Bahasa Malaysia and I look like a Malay.

- 7 **R:** Does your husband speak other languages apart from Malay?
- 8 **W:** Yeah, my husband speak Malay and English.
- 9 **R:** How do you communicate with your husband?
- 10 **W:** We communicate as typical husband and wife. We discuss a lot of work and family related things.
- 11 **R:** When you discuss things did you encounter some problems like language problems?
- 12 **W:** So far, we didn't have any problems in language because we use English and Malay at home and both of us are fluent in these two languages. At first when I have just started learning Malay there were a few things that I could not understand sometimes but later on everything went on smoothly.
- 13 **R:** I see, even if your husband is a Malay, English is still prevalent at home.
- 14 **W:** Yeah, I think because we started everything in English and at first I could not speak good Malay and later on it became natural for us. That's why at home there are always two or three languages used like English, Malay and Filipino.
- 15 **R:** How did you learn Malay?
- 16 **W:** I studied Malay and I watch Malay shows on TV and I follow the English subtitle.
- 17 **R:** You mentioned earlier that at home you speak English and Malay. Does it mean to say that you mix English and Malay language often at home?
- 18 **W:** Yeah, English and Malay are used most of the time at home. Yeah, it's mixing two languages. I think because we started using English when we first married then later when I learned Malay we started using Malay as well. Sometimes we use Tagalog at home because I want my children to learn Tagalog so that when my relatives see them they can communicate.
- 19 **R:** What about your husband, does he speak Tagalog?
- 20 **W:** No, he does not speak Tagalog but he understand some words. When we talk sometimes I use some words in Tagalog and he understands me.
- 21 **R:** What about when you talk to your in-laws?
- 22 **W:** **Malay kasi hindi sila marunong mag English. Pero sa bahay English o Malay ang gamit namin** (*Malay because they don't know English. However, we use English and Malay at home*)
- 23 **R:** **Ilan na po ang anak ninyo?** (*How many children do you have?*)
- 24 **W:** **Wala pa kaming anak.** (*WE don't have a child yet*)
- 25 **R:** **Ano po ang language dito sa community nyo?** (*What language is commonly used in your community?*)
- 26 **W:** **Malay kasi karamihan ng kapitbahay namin mga Malay.** (*Malay because most of our neighbors are Malays*)
- 27 **R:** As a wife what is your idea about husband and wife relationship?
- 28 **W:** I think, husband and wife must understand each other and it will result good relationship between husband and wife.
- 29 **R:** What about if you have conflict with your husband, how do you deal with it?
- 30 **W:** If there is a conflict we talk and we tell to each other our problems and we settle.
- 31 **R:** When it comes to decision making, who decides at home?
- 32 **W:** **Ang asawa ko, ako sunod lang ako.** (*My husband, I just follow him*)
- 33 **R:** **Anong celebration ang sinicelebrate nyo?** (*What celebrations do you celebrate?*)
- 34 **W:** **Hari Raya, yung asawa ko hindi mahilig mag celebrate pero ang Hari**

- Raya at Ramadan sini celebrate talaga namin.** *(My husband loves to celebrate but we really celebrate Hari Raya and Ramadan)*
- 35 **R:** As a wife, do you have similar friends with your husband?
- 36 **W:** Yeah, **karamihan mga Malay, kagaya ng mga kaibigan ng friends ng asawa ko.** *(Mostly are Malays, like my husband's friends)*
- 37 **R:** **Ano po ang food na preferred nyo?** *(What food do you prefer?)*
- 38 **W:** **Malay food na, kasi bihira na kami kumakain ng Filipino food kasi most of the time sa bahay Malay food talaga kasi yun ang gusto ng asawa ko.** *(It's Malay food because we seldom eat Filipino food and most of the time at home it's Malay food because that's what my husband prefers)*
- 39 **R:** Having been married for several years, have you and your husband invented some words that only the two of you can understand?
- 40 **W:** None that I can remember.
- 41 **R:** I see. Thanks a lot for your time.
- 42 **W:** Welcome

END

TRANSCRIPT FILE 20

Informant: W-wife (Filipino) and H-husband (Malay)

Interviewer: R

R= Interviewer

W= FCMB (Filipino Wife)

H= FCMA (Malay Husband)

- 1 **R:** **Ano po ang pangalan ng husband nyo?** *(What's your husband's name?)*
- 2 **W:** His name is Ismael Abdullah
- 3 **R:** How do you communicate with your husband?
- 4 **W:** We talk to each other as husband and wife. We don't hide anything.
- 5 **R:** Did you encounter any communication problems?
- 6 **W:** Problems. I don't think so. We both understand even if we speak different languages but at home we use English and Malay. Both of us can speak these two languages.
- 7 **R:** How many languages do you speak?
- 8 **W:** I speak Bicol, Tagalog, English, Malay and I am learning Arabic and Chinese.
- 9 **R:** So, you speak six languages.
- 10 **W:** Yeah.
- 11 **R:** How about your husband, what languages does he speak?
- 12 **W:** The same with me English, Malay, Arabic and Chinese.
- 13 **R:** **Ilang taon na kayo married?** *(For how long have you been married?)*
- 14 **W:** **22 years na.** *(For 22 years already)*
- 15 **R:** What language do you use when you speak to your children?
- 17 **W:** **Halo halo, English, Malay, Chinese minsan Arabic at Filipino.** *(Mix English, Malay, Chinese sometimes Arabic and Filipino)*
- 18 **R:** When you talk to your husband, what language do you use?
- 19 **W:** Malay and English. **Pag di ko ma express in Malay nag English ako.** *(If I can't express in Malay, I speak English)*

- 20 **R:** When conflict happens between the two of you, do you avoid it?
- 21 **W:** No, In fact, **sa mga material na bagay nalang kasi wala na syang family. Sa mga material na bagay kami nga argue. Kasi pag may holiday ng mga anak namin wala kaming mapuntahan kasi wala syang mga close relatives, medyo mahirap. Minsan naisip ko walang mapuntahan yung mga anak namin pag may break.** (*It's only in material things because he has no other family. We argue in material things. When our children have the school holiday we have nothing to visit because he has no close relatives, it's a bit difficult. I sometimes think that my children have no place to visit during the holiday.*)
- 22 **R:** Are you interdependent with each other? For example in decision making.
- 23 **W:** Yes, and in decision making **sya pagdating sa major decision like sa education ng mga anak namin pero sa mga material things sa bahay ako lahat.** (*When it comes to major decision making he decides like our children's education but when it comes to material things at home I decide.*)
- 24 **R:** **Pareho po ba kayo ng group of friends?** (*Do you have similar group of friends?*)
- 25 **W:** **Medyo lang kasi both of us are busy sa work.** (*Partly because both of us are busy at work*)
- 26 **R:** How do you find your husband who happens to be Malay?
- 27 **W:** **Ok naman, mas religious ang husband ko, pero ako bilang isang Pilipina medyo iba ng konti pero sumusunod pa rin naman ako.** (*It's ok, my husband is more religious but being a Filipina I'm a bit different but I still follow*)
- 28 **R:** **Ano pong celebration ang pinagdiwang nyo?** (*What celebration do you celebrate?*)
- 29 **W:** **Marami, Hari Raya, Ramadan, Christmas kasi yung pamilya ko sa Pilipinas hindi naman Muslim at parang nakasanayan ko na rin kasi culture yan ng Filipino kaya nag celebrate ako ng Christmas minsan Chinese new year din.** (*A lot, Hari Raya, Christmas because my family in the Philippines is not Muslim and it seems that it's part of the Filipino culture that's why I celebrate Christmas sometimes Chinese New Year*)
- 30 **F:** **Ano yung food na gusto ninyo?** (*What food do you like?*)
- 31 **W:** **Ako mahilig sa Filipino food at Malay food. Ok lang sa amin.** (*I like Filipino food and Malay food. It's OK for us*)
- 32 **R:** Have you invented some words that only the two of you can understand?
- 33 **W:** Yeah but that was long time ago. This time as we become older we no longer do that.
- 34 **R:** I see. Thanks a lot for your time.
- 35 **W:** it's ok.

END

TRANSCRIPT FILE 21

Informant: W-wife (Filipino) and H-husband (Malay)

Interviewer: R

R= Interviewer

W= FCMB (Filipino Wife)

H= FCMA (Malay Husband)

- 1 **R:** Since you were converted to Islam, **ano na po ang complete name nyo?***(What is your complete name?)*
- 2 **W:** Yasmin Binti Abdullah
- 3 **R:** **Saan po kayo sa Pilipinas?** *(Which part of the Philippines you stay?)*
- 4 **W:** **Sa Singalong Manila, doon ako pinanganak, malapit kami sa San Andres Bukid. Palipat lipat kami sa Manila.***(In Singalong Manila, I was born there we live near San Andres Bukid. We move many times in Manila)*
- 5 **R:** **Ilang taon na kayo dito sa Malaysia?***(How many years have been here in Malaysia)*
- 6 **W:** **23 years**
- 7 **R:** **Ano ang first language nyo?** *(What's your first language?)*
- 8 **W:** Tagalog, tapos English but now mostly English and Bahasa Malayu but most of the time English but for my children most of the time Malay.
- 9 **R:** **So maraming languages ang gamit nyo sa bahay?** *(So you use different languages at home)*
- 10 **W:** Yeah, most of the time **nag mix mix kami ng magka languages kagaya ng English , Malay at Filipino.** *(We mix different languages like English, Malay and Filipino)*
- 11 **R:** **Saan kayo nag meet ng husband nyo?** *(Where did you and your husband meet?)*
- 12 **W:** In the Philippines because we studied there.
- 13 **R:** **Ano yung language na gamit nyo nung first meeting nyo?***(What language did you use during your first meeting?)*
- 14 **W:** English particularly when I first came to Malaysia because my in-laws can speak English. Even at home now most of the time English but mixed with Malay and Tagalog **pero pag nagalit ako nagmumura ako in Filipino pero naintindihan na ng asawa ko yun.***(But when I'm mad I curse in Filipino but my husband understands it)*
- 15 **R:** **Sa loob ng 23 years may na invent ba kayong mga words na kayo lang makaintindi?.** *(For 23 years have you invented some words that only the two of you can understand?)*
- 16 **W:** **Wala talaga, lalo na nung nagasawa sya ng another woman talagang English na kami parati.***(No, really, especially when he married with another woman we really talk in English often)*
- 17 **R:** **Ilang taon na kayo dito?***(How many years you've been here?)*
- 18 **W:** 23 years already
- 19 **R:** What can you say about Filipino-Malaysian marriages?
- 20 **W:** **Mas madaling intindihin yung Filipino-Filipino, medyo maraming conflicts na hindi magkaintindihan kagaya sa religion marami kang susundin at hindi kagaya sa atin we can do whatever we want dito kelangan mo sundin yung asawa. Dito wala kang choice kelangan mo magpaalam. Pero nung nagasawa pa sya ng isa medyo ayaw ko pero part ng religion nila. Yung husband ko medyo mahilig kini control nya ako. Mahirap. Siguro ganyan sya para hindi ako makalabas at makita sya sa labas baka makita sya sa kanyang another wife.** *(It's easy to understand a Filipino-Filipino marriage, it seems that we have a lot of conflicts that we can't understand each other like the religion you have a lot of rules to follow unlike in our country we can do whatever we want, here you always have to follow your husband. Here there is no choice you really have to ask permission. When he had another marriage, it seemed that I didn't like but it's part*

of their religion. My husband likes to control me. It's difficult. Maybe he is like that so I can't go out because I might see him with his another wife.)

- 21 **R:Paano yung time nyo sa isat isa?** *(How's your time for each other?)*
- 22 **W: Wala kaming masyadong time kasi na divide yung time nya sa akin at second wife nya.** *(We don't have much time because his time is divided with me and with the second wife)*
- 23 **R:** As a Filipino wife what is your reaction about having a second wife?
- 24 **W: Halos lahat ginagawa ko parang gusto kung maging perfect housewife, pero wala pa rin. Nasaktan talaga ako sa ginawa nya pero yun ang culture nila.***(I did everything just to make me a perfect housewife but nothing happens. I was really hurt for what he did but that is their culture)*
- 25 **R:** Are you interdependent with each other?
- 26 **W: Not really. Siya lahat nagdedecide, minsan tinatanong ako pero pag di nya gusto sya pa rin ang nasusunod.***(He decides everything, sometimes he asks me but if he does not like, it is still his decision)*
- 27 **R: Ano ang involvement nyo sa decision making?***(What is your involvement in the decision making?)*
- 28 **W: Wala sya lang pero ngayun natuto na ako.** *(Nothing. It's only him but now I learn)*
- 29 **R:** Are you independent?
- 30 **W: Yeah, noong nagasawa sya ng isa dun ako natuto** *(When he married another woman, that's where I learn)* to stand with my own feet. I tried to earn by my own.
- 31 **R** Did you discuss about it?
- 32 **W: Wala naman masyado, medyo martyr yata ako.***(Not really, It seems I'm a martyr)*
- 33 **R :** Iba ba ang culture natin sa Malay?*(Is our culture different from the Malays ?)*
- 34 **W: Yeah, malaking pagkaiba, na compare ko yung Filipino men at Malaysian men ang mga Filipino medyo caring, loving and sweet. Sila parang walang pakialam hindi nga nag embrace at tawagin kang sweetheart. Iba talaga, sila walang pakialam hindi ka man lang yayain sa labas. Hindi sila romantic.** *(Yeah, there is a big difference, I can compare Filipino men and Malaysian men. Filipino men are caring, loving and sweet. Malaysian men don't care, they don't embrace you they don't call you sweetheart. They are really different, they don't care. They don't even bother to bring you out. They are not romantic)*
- 35 **R:**Do you have similar interest?
- 36 **W: Magkaiba kami. Siya sa bahay lang, ako mahilig akong manood ng movie.** *(We are different. He stays at home and I like to watch movie)*
- 37 **R:** Do you have similar group of friends?
- 38 **W: Wala syang masyadong friends. Most of the time sa bahay lang kaya nagulat ako bakit nagkaroon ng second wife. Before may affair sya sa Indoneisan girl parang girlfriend at boyfriend.** *(He does not have a lot of friends. Most of the time he stays at home that's why I was surprised why he got a second wife. Before he had an affair with an Indonesian girl just like boyfriend and girlfriend)*
- 39 **R: Sino yung second wife nya?** *(Who is his second wife?)*
- 40 **W: Malay, alam ko hindi ko masyado ma express sa kanya. Sila mas nag enjoy kasi pareho silang Malay nakapag joke sila at tumatawa. Ako hindi ko magawa yun hindi ako makapag joke in Malay di ko alam.***(Malay, I know I can't really express my feelings towards him. The two of them are enjoying because*

they are both Malays, they can make jokes and laugh. I can't do that. I can't make jokes in Malay, I don't know.)

41 R: I see. I think you have provided me a lot of information. Thanks a lot for your time.

END

TRANSCRIPT FILE 22

Informant: W-wife (Filipino) and H-husband (Malay)

Interviewer: R

R= Interviewer

M= FCMB (Filipino Wife)

H= FCMA (Malay Husband)

1 R: How many languages do you speak?

2 M: Four

3 R: Four languages, quite a lot.

4 M: Not language it's Bisaya, Tagalog, English and Malay.

5 R: Bisaya is your first language then the second language is English.

6 M: Tagalog can also be my second language.

7 R: Which of these four languages that you feel comfortable?

8 M: I think English and Bisaya of course.

9 R: What about Tagalog?

10 M: Tagalog, yes I'm proficient.

11 R: Tagalog then Malay.

12 M: Yeah

13 R: In your place what language that is widely spoken?

14 M: English. You mean our neighbors?

15 R: Yes, with your neighbor

16 M: English

17 R: If you were to choose, which language would you prefer?

18 M: Other than Bisaya, of course English.

19 R: Yeah of all languages including

20 M: Bisaya

21 R: You prefer Bisaya.

22 M: Not really (laugh) English is better.

23 R: So you prefer English rather than Bisaya (laugh). Why English instead of Bisaya

24 M: Because it's easy to understand..

25 R: Here it's easy to understand..

26 M: Yeah

27 R: How long have you been using Malay because Malay is something new to you, right?

28 M: 17 (pause) 18 years.

29 R: That's quite long, so you must be proficient in that language.

30 M: Quite, quite

31 R: The Tagalog language for how many years you've been using that?

32 M: It's learned, you know, that language is learned it is just really something that you use since when you were young. Yeah, English and Tagalog they are both

- learned, they're not my mother tongue but then again mas preferred ko yung English kay sa Tagalog.
- 33 **R:** Is it because you are in Malaysia?.
- 34 **M:** It could be.
- 35 **R:** That's why you prefer English. What about your husband? What is his preferred language?
- 36 **M:** English
- 37 **R:** English
- 38 **M:** Yeah, he is Malay but he is not good at it. (laugh).
- 39 **R:** It's quite surprising.
- 40 **M:** I am better, I'm better than him when it comes to his own language.
- 41 **R:** That's quite surprising.
- 42 **M:** Manoy is not really good in Malay. Yeah, he is more of English, American English.
- 43 **R:** He prefers American English instead of Malay but he grew up in Malaysia. Right?
- 44 **M:** Malaysia, yeah
- 45 **R:** Malaysia
- 46 **M:** But the family. They always travel.
- 47 **R:** So it's just like he becomes more proficient in English language. By the way, do you encourage your children and your husband to speak Tagalog or Filipino?
- 48 **M:** Yeah, something like that.
- 49 **R:** You encourage?
- 50 **M:** Yeah.
- 51 **FR:**You mean your husband speaks Tagalog now?
- 52 **M:** Yeah.
- 53 **R:** When you speak in Tagalog, can he understand?
- 54 **M:** I speak to them in Tagalog.
- 55 **R:** They learn also Tagalog from you.
- 56 **M:** Not only from me, I guess from the beautiful auntie's (laugh while looking at the two Filipino women on her side). Because when they can hear Tagalog everyday more or less they will get it, so they will start asking, mommy what's that?
- 57 **R:** No such formal training that you know the language, it's just like they learn from you and your friend.
- 58 **M:** Yeah
- 59 **R:** That's quite interesting. What about with your in-laws? What language do you speak?
- 60 **M:** English
- 61 **R:** How about Malay?
- 62 **M:** Sometimes we do speak Malay a bit, a bit.
- 63 **R:** Yeah.
- 64 **M:** Yeah (laugh)
- 65 **R:** It's just like you mix English and Malay.
- 66 **M:** Yeah.
- 67 **R:** How about an intimate talk with between you and your husband. What language do you use?
- 68 **M:** It's always English and sometimes Tagalog, even my dialect .
- 69 **R:** Can he speak also Cebuano and can he understand?
- 70 **M:** a bit, not all.

- 71 **R:** He is becoming multilingual.
- 72 **M:** Yeah.
- 73 **R:** So how about when you go out for example the two of you go out and let us say in a supermarket in a department store, what language do you speak?
- 74 **M:** English.
- 75 **R:** When you go to the market?
- 76 **M:** Still in English.
- 77 **R:** So English is often used.
- 78 **M:** Not unless we speak to the people in the market.
- 79 **R:** But between the two of you, do you still use English?
- 80 **M:** Yes.
- 81 **R:** What about if there's an argument. I know it is inevitable between husband and wife not to argue, what language do you use?
- 82 **M:** English
- 83 **R:** Interesting that English is still used
- 84 **M:** Yeah
- 85 **R:** Even though you're expressing your anger.
- 86 **M:** We are more, we can express it better when we speak in English.
- 87 **R:** Can you express more of yourself in your own language?
- 88 **M:** No.
- 89 **R:** I see.
- 90 **M:** Different.
- 91 **R:** It's just like if you look at the level of languages that you learn, it's just like English is on top and followed by Cebuano.
- 92 **M:** Yeah, it's Cebuano but here in Malaysia usually it should be Malay. English, Malay, Tagalog and Cebuano is the last.
- 93 **R:** Yeah
- 94 **M:** Because not many people understand it. Even our own friends don't understand Bisaya (Cebuano)
- 95 **R:** Right, it's just like you seldom speak Bisaya here.
- 96 **M:** I always speak Bisaya with my other friends, the same Bisaya people (laugh).
- 97 **R:** So what about in front of your children what language do you speak?
- 98 **M:** English.
- 99 **R:** Did you attempt to speak in Malay?
- 100 **M:** Yeah, we do.
- 101 **R:** You do that, like you mix. How often do you mix English-Malay, English Cebuano, or English?
- 102 **M:** If we are with our friends, especially with the Malay or my daughter's friends. When they come over, usually we mix because they don't quite understand English.
- 103 **R:** Most of the time you mix these different languages.
- 104 **M:** Yeah, in Malay but when I'm with my friends because she (Maris' daughter) always joins with us, you know, she also joins the conversation and it's more on Tagalog. English-Tagalog.
- 105 **R:** Yeah, it's more of English-Tagalog, English-Tagalog. By the way, for how many years you've been married?
- 106 **M:** 18 years.
- 107 **R:** Are there some private languages that you've invented?
- 108 **M:** Yeah (laugh).
- 109 **R:** It's just like only the two of you can understand.

110 M: Yeah, they cannot get it, only between us (laugh).
111 R: You invent some words.
112 M: Yeah we do it's like words (laugh).
113 R: It's only the two of you can understand.
114 M: Yeah.
115 R: How do you do that, you just invent like that?
116 M: No, it's something that we joked about when we are talking. O yeah that's the thing and that we start in calling it in a different way. So we put it, you know, in every conversation or when other people around that we use it, okey that one, that thing.
117 R: Is it intentional?
118 M: Sometimes it is, but actually you discover it yourself. It is not really that we talk about, this is how we call it. It is not just we discover it (laugh).
119 R: It's just like you're playing with words.
120 M: Yeah (laugh).
121 R: This one has something to do with, you know, with your relationship as husband and wife. What is your idea about husband and wife relationship?
122 M: In what?
123 R: What can you say about husband and wife relationship?
124 M: You mean in our everyday term?
125 R: Yeah.
126 M: It's more of friends.
127 R: Do you mean treating one another as friends.
128 M: Yeah and respecting. Well, something like that.
129 R: I'm just curious in a husband and wife relationship, it's just like with your friends, sometimes you like your friend but sometimes you don't like. Does it happen with husband and wife?
130 M: It does, some of the irritating traits (laugh), you cannot avoid that but then again you take it as he is your friend at the same time a husband. Easy to understand him more. But mostly friends.
131 R: Do you agree with this idea that if you are the wife you must be submissive to your husband?
132 M: No, no.
133 R: It's just like.
134 M: It's just like, ok, is it fair? The question, Is it fair? I think we don't have to think being I'm your wife and you are my husband, we don't think that way. We think more like, we respect each other.
135 R: As husband and wife are you interdependent with one another?
136 M: In more ways than one. We are interdependent.
137 R: Yeah, with one another. So it's just like you sense it but you cannot express why. Sometimes there's something but you could not just explain.
138 M: Why? (laugh). Yeah, that kind of feeling.
139 R: How about conflicts?
140 M: What?
141 R: Do you avoid conflict with each other?
142 M: Yeah, most of the time. I think we both do. So if you can't just help it, we start to argue everything, and if we have to argue, we try not to hurt each other and then (laugh).

- 143 R:** But there are husband and wife, you know, when they're not in good terms, they fight with words. Does it happen to you or you're just a quiet person.
- 144 M:** No, he talks a lot. After that mine is only one sentence. If he doesn't like something, he talks a lot. So if I don't argue with what he says, I just say in one sentence and then everything all the meaning is there. It doesn't really go to argument.
- 145 R:** So, who usually keeps quiet?
- 146 M:** I'm the one. I'm always quiet. I don't want to talk. If I don't like something, I'll just explain it in one sentence but if he doesn't like something, he talks too much about it. When I say enough, "enough".
- 147 R:** That's quite different with some other couples.
- 148 M:** Yeah, we don't shout at each other. No (laugh).
- 149 R:** So you just keep quiet.
- 150 M:** But if he talks too much, I mean something below the belt, I'll say enough. It's only one word. We don't end up in a quarrel.
- 151 R:** That's right, what about. Do you have the same interest?
- 152 M:** No, not really. Some of it, yes but most of our interest are not the same.
- 153 R:** You really agree much with your interest and his interest.
- 154 M:** Not really, yeah.
- 155 R:** So, does it affect your relationship since you don't have similar interest?
- 156 M:** No, it doesn't.
- 157 R:** I see, it doesn't.
- 158 M:** We just try to work it out (laugh). Even if he likes it that way then I will just, let him be. Yeah, so it doesn't bring any conflict.
- 159 R:** What about your group of friends. Do you have the same group of friends?
- 160 M:** Yeah, normally it's all the same but last time no. He had his own group of friends. I know them but I didn't mix around with them. All my friends he mixed around with them.
- 161 R:** You mean this time it's different.
- 162 M:** Yeah, no it's like.
- 163 R:** So you have common friends now.
- 164 M:** Yeah, common friends.
- 165 R:** Your friends are his friends and his friends are also your friends. However, you said before it was different.
- 166 M:** Yeah, before it was different because when he had to do a lot of traveling, working, you know. Of course, I don't want to mix around with these people and I didn't even know how deep was his friendship with those people.
- 167 R:** Yeah, that's right.
- 168 M:** It's so easy to predict but now we share the common friends.
- 169 R:** Do you have difficulty in mingling with his Chinese friends and with his local friends?
- 170 M:** No
- 171 R:** I see.
- 172 M:** They all know mw that I'm a Filipino.
- 173 R:** Were there instances that both of you did not understand one another because of language differences?
- 174 M:** No
- 175 R:** When you first met what language did you use?
- 176 M:** English.

- 177 R: English.
- 178 M: Yeah.
- 179 R: Is it one of the reasons why you prefer English because it's the language that you use.
- 180 M: Maybe, it's just that we get used to it.
- 181 R: Yeah, maybe because that's the language you used when you first met.
- 182 M: Maybe that would be.
- 183 R: So there were no instances that you don't understand each other. Was there an instance that when you speak in Malay he responds also in Malay, when you speak in Cebuano, he also speaks in Cebuano?
- 184 M: Whe I speak in Cebuano, it's very seldom but he just tries to respnd, reply in that language but it's not common that we use.
- 185 R: Was there an instance where you speak in Cebuano and then he speaks in English or in Malay?
- 186 M: Yeah, but not in Malay, in English.
- 187 R: You speak in Cebuano and he responds in English.
- 188 M: If he cannot get it in Cebuano, he'll answer in English (laugh)
- 189 R: The other way around. Is there an instance that your husband speaks in English and you respond in Cebuano or Tagalog?
- 190 M: No.
- 191 R: Never, it's just like you always accommodate him.
- 192 M: Yeah.
- 193 R: Is there an instance that he cannot accommodate you because of language proficiency problem and you respond in Cebuano or Tagalog?
- 194 M: No, never.
- 195 R: So, do you sometimes compare your language with your spouse?
- 196 M: With his language, yeah, I do.
- 197 R: You compare your own language to his own language..
- 198 M: Not really]
- 199 R: Are you proud of being a Filipino?
- 200 M: Yes, that's why I use Cebuano, you know, (laugh). Actually, I don't have to do that but then again I want to remind him that I am a Cebuana.
- 201 R: It's just like that you are proud that you are a Cebuana.
- 202 M: Yes.
- 203 R: What about with your husband?
- 204 M: Binibisaya ko yan.
- 205 R: You do that one to your husband?
- 206 M: Yeah, but not around with my friends.
- 207 R: You do that one to your husband to let him know that you are a Cebuana.
- 208 M: Yeah.
- 209 R: Does he speak this language?
- 210 M: He tends to remember the words that I normally use and even though he is not very good at it, he tried.
- 211 R: What about your husband, does he do the same thing?
- 212 M: In Malay, no, because he is not really good in his own language, I guess. I mean, he can converse. Yeah, some of the words he doesn't quite know. I have to put that into his mouth (laugh). I mean, he is not very good in his own language (laugh).
- 213 R: It's quite surprising for him to do that.

- 214 M:** Yeah that's why I call him a very funny Malay and he says he is a modern Malay (laugh).
- 215 R:** So, how do you show him that you are a Filipino?
- 216 M:** Not really, it's seldom, only when it has a purpose. Not really that we do it everyday. All the time, no. It's just when there's a purpose. I talk in Cebuano so that he will remember that I'm a Cwbuana and something like that. Maybe it's an ego thing.
- 217 R:** Is there an instance that he imposes that at home that this is the language that you should speak?
- 218 M:** No, it's just a natural thing that we have to use English.
- 219 R:** It comes out naturally.
- 220 M:** Yeah.
- 221 R:** Some would say, we have to use English so the kids will also learn.
- 222 M:** Not in our case.
- 223 R:** It's just like a natural understanding.
- 224 M:** And I'm the one who tells him, can you speak in Malay to you children because they need to learn and that they would learn more if they hear it from you and not from me because I'm not a Malay.
- 225 R:** So everything just comes out naturally. No one imposes which language must be used at home.
- 228 M:** Yeah.
- 229 R:** In general, the language is not imposed by anyone, so it just comes out naturally. Ok, that ends up everything. Thank you so much for your time.

END

Appendix B: Recorded Conversations

Conversation 1

A husband and wife conversation during lunch time with the presence of the wife's brother.

Husband - H

Wife - W

Wife's brother- A

Note: The recorder was placed in the middle of table while having lunch.

A: Karon ra luto Lyn, kaging naman to (...) (*Lyn you can cook now, this one has dried*)

W: (()) Kataw-anan kaayo imong kuya gabii kalit lag ana, hon sakit kaayo akong tiyan, hon sakit kaayo akong tiyan, unya ming ingon ug kuan *terima kasih*, (laugh) gusto ko, gusto kaayo ko sagpaan siya kay sakit kaayo akong tiyan lagi gabii niana lang *terima kasih, terima kasih why?* because of my dream you know (()) (*Your brother was so funny last night he abruptly did like this, hon, my stomach is really aching, hon, my stomach is aching, then he said thank you (laugh) I want, I really wanted to slap him because my stomach was really aching and then he just said thank you, why thank you?*)

H: You're dreaming (.). I didn't dream. I didn't remember anything

A: But you know that you're saying something?

H: I didn't, I can't remember anything. (())

W: Katulo na nako siya gi pukaw. Hon, hon, hon pag hilom uy (.) pag hilom ikaw to. Kinsa man diay akong katapad? ikaw man. (*I wake him up three times. Hon, hon, hon keep quiet (.). It was you. Who do you think who was beside me? it's you.*)

A: So what's your dream that time?

H: Uuhh

A: You're dreaming about what?

H: I don't know I don't remember anything (...)

A: Kuan lang to Lyn na alingpungatan. (*You know Lyn you were just surprised.*)

H: But I know I was dreaming of something.

A: And then **ingon ka** dream, (*you said dream*). You even told me that my dream was **terima kasih** (*thank you*). Then after you know only seconds then he was already snoring. He is always like that (mumbling).

W: Pukawon na siya (*You wake him up*) (...) You alarm.

A: After that you can remember your dreams **no?** (**right?**)

H: Normally if I dream, only few dreams that I can remember. Normally I know that I dream but I forgot.

A: You know that you dream something that night. After I woke up and I tried to remember my dream.

W: Say **terima kasih** (*thank you*). **Nangutana pa gyud ko terima kasih?** (*Then I asked, thank you?*)

A: Did you experience dreaming that you're running and then you try to run fast but you cannot run fast it's like someone is running after you.

H: Oh yeah

A: You want to run faster but you cannot do anything.

H: Yeah, I was sitting in a taxi, bus or LRT then one guy who looked like a thief lah looking for money or anything. I wanted to punch him you know but my hand was so slow (ahhh.) (()) you know (cell phone ringing) very **gigil** (*giggling*) lah because you want to punch him.

W: My experience when I was young with Aries and Archel (laugh).

A: Sleep walk **ya** (*brother*) (.). I even tried to put my blanket inside the refrigerator

H: **Gago.** (*Crazy*)

W: He went to Aries, then mama said “Arlyn ah (.) wake up ah.” wake your brother up because he is sleeping in the living room. I woke him up, I said, Aries **balhin na daw ingon mama** (*Aries you transfer, mama said*) so he's like that (uh uh) with the blanket and the pillow because he always sleeps in the living room with the blanket and pillow. He's still young that time.

A: **Sige ko matulog sala.** (*I always sleep in the sala*)

W: **Oo** (*yes*)

A: **Nganu man?** (*why?*)

W: **Tan-aw TV (watch TV)** (pause). **Unya tapos hon** (*and then after that hon*). Hon you know he woke up with his eyes closed, took the pillow with the blanket and then walking through the refrigerator then opened the refrigerator (()). My mother was surprised and then we stopped him you know.

A: **Maka remember man ko na everytime na gina sugo ka na pukawon ko maka dungog man ko na mangatawa namo daan.** (*I can remember that everytime they asked you to wake me up I could hear them laughing*)

W: And then one time, he slept again in the living room. **Aries balhin didto pugak, balhin,** (*Aries transfer there, Pugak transfer*). He stood up then opened the door then urinate outside. (()) **Gago ning bata ni** (*this child is crazy*).

A: **Permanente ko ana.** (*I was always like that*).

H: Did I tell you that? (.)

W: **Si Archel kay lain man kay manadyakay** (*Archel is different because she kicks*).

H: Willie the dreamer, my ex-drummer. Before he was worst. Don't sleep beside him because he's dangerous. While sleeping he can sit down and then sit beside you and he will just grab like that and then punch like that.

A: **Buang** (*crazy*).

H: Yeah it's true, crazy.

A: My uncle is like that too.

H: One time we were in Armada Hotel ,I think that was almost 3 o'clock in the morning I was listening to the song for a practice the next day. He woke up, I thought he woke up and then I asked him it's only 3 o'clock in the morning lah where are you going I said. He just kept quiet, he was really serious you know, with his long hair but he didn't let go his hair you must have target you must have target, (()) **buang siya** (*he is crazy*). (())

W: - **Si boyeng gyud, Ries** (()) **kami ni Love Love chismis pa kaayo mi ato ba permanenti man ko matulog ato sa ilahang balay pasa pasa diri ris** (*Boyeng ris (laugh) we had a chat with Love Love, I always sleep in their house...pass here and there*)

H: What is that **pasa?** (*pass*)

W: **Pugak, pina ana pa gyud** (*Pugak was really like this*), they are best friends: Mar Mar, Aries, Boyeng. Three of them had the same dream, (()) **sa kakapoy siguro na ris katawanan man mo uy.** (...) (*Out of tiredness maybe Ries, you were really funny*)

H: He walks sleep.

W: **Ang dilikado diha,**(*The danger there*) is that if he walks outside the door.

H: I don't know with Alang huh, I forgot maybe he walked into the window. (...) **A:** Singing, I never forget.

H: In China it's very funny you know. One day I had to wake up early in the morning and then I told him (?) he went to the toilet then he came out and came back again. (()).

W: (()) **Hon ako gyud hon in Shang-ri-la ba Shanghai,** (*Hon when I was in Shangrila Shanghai*) Sarita told me **huy huy** (*hey hey*) Arlyn we have an early work time today ha? So wake up early 5 o'clock, we have to go down. It was five o'clock in the afternoon hon (.) so of course lah I have to prepare the alarm. What I did was **kuan** (*that*) I alarmed at 5 o'clock. I thought I slept early so I set the alarm at 12 o'clock midnight. So the alarm sounded loudly. I woke up and I felt dizzy, then I took a hot shower then I got my clothes from the wardrobe and then after I put make up then I was looking outside and asked myself, why it's still dark? Actually, I woke up 5 o'clock in the morning.

H: (()) **gago** (*crazy*).

W: It was supposedly 5 o'clock in the afternoon(.). I don't want them to get angry because kuya Marlo gets angry quickly when you are late.

H: Because you're always late. Finish already the back up? finish already?

A: I don't know, I have just checked it now. The folder is already there.

W: Ah finish na, finish na?

H: I will install that one.

W: **Siya nalang mag install Ries, microsoft word lang man kaha Ries?** (*He will be the one to install ris, it's only Microsoft word*)

H: Word only right?

A: **Unsa gani na year ni Lyn?** (*What year is that Lyn ?*)

W: 2003 (...). After you finish hon you go up and prepare my clothes. Why you don't eat this one?

H: So much, I'll take it away.

W: This one is nice

H: No lah, the curry (...)

W: You want water? (...)

H: A little bit only (...)

W: Wala pa, wala pa ta naka booking hon, sa hospital ba wala pa ang booking. (*No, no, we haven't booked honey, the booking is not in the hospital yet*)

H: if not today tomorrow morning I will get. (...)

H: Raihan, Raihan.

W: Hony, he wants to go out in my tummy. Lets go to the hospital hon.

H: Is it in Bandar Baru or Taman Putra?

H: Can, can

W: In Taman Putra **ada?** (*there is*)

H wala (*no*)

H: Is this a recorder Ries?

A: yup.

H: wah so small ha. (())

Conversation 2 (Filipino – Malay Couples)

A Filipino-Malay couples talking about the wife's trip to the Philippines

Wife- **W**

Husband- **H**

W: I'm planning to visit my family in the Philippines in December. What do you think?
Ada suggestion? (*do you have a suggestion?*)

H: **Ta ada suggestion** (I don't have any suggestion), my question is **ada budget ah?** (*is there a budget?*)

W: **Saya punya tabungan tapi tidak terlalu besar** (*I have some savings but not really big*)

H: **Yah, itu bergantung kepada anda jika anda pikir itu cukup untuk anda, maka anda boleh memutuskan.** (*Well, it's up to you if you think it's enough for you then you may decide*).

W: That's why I'm telling to you.

H: **Apa?** (*what?*) Sometimes you make decision by yourself. I know you.

W: I don't, **Aku hanya ingin kau tahu** (*I just want you to know*).

H: Then, if you go, **berapa hari kau akan di sana** (*how many days will you be there?*)

W: Maybe **lima blas hari** (*fifteen days*).

H: Huh, **lima blas hari** (*fifteen days*)? Quite long ah.

W: I seldom see them.

H: Yeah, I know but what about our child?

W: I will bring him.

H: (silent)

W: What do you think?

H: What about one week? **Cukup?** (*enough*)

W: Too short **lah**, I need to meet my sister who has just arrived from Australia.

H: When is she arriving?

W: On the 23rd of December.

H: Yeah **lah** then **kembali** (*come back*) after Christmas. Let's say December 26 or 27.

W: I plan to spend the New Year there as well.

H: When is your sister leaving?

W: She will be back to Australia on the 20th of January.

H: If you stay there until the New Year that means you will stay more than **lima blas hari** (*fifteen days*) if you leave on the 10th of December.

W: Then I will just make it on the 15th of December so it would be **tepat lima blas hari** (*exactly 15 days*).

H: You will come back on the 2nd of January.

W: **Jangan bimbang** (*don't worry*), I will ask my sister to pay for my fare in coming back.

H: No, we can book a return flight for you lah. The only problem is that you will spend more while staying there.

W: No **lah**, my sister will definitely spend more because she has been away for so many years.

H: Did you check how much is the airfare?

W: Not yet but I will call my friend later and ask her.

H: Why do you check it directly? You always ask from your friend.

W: Because she is always updated.

H: You can check it online.

W: I don't have **Kad credit** (*credit card*).

H: You just check **dan anda tidak perlu** (*and you don't need*) credit card to check.

W: Ok, I will check later.

H: Ok.

W: If it's cheap then we can book later.
H: We will see.
W: By the way I will bring the **mangga** (*mango*) that you like.
H: But don't bring the ripe one.
W: Yeah, I know. I will ask my mother to order.
H: Where do they buy the mango?
W: Next to our town.
H: Far from your place.
W: Not really, some of our neighbors they just walk in going there.
H: Really?
W: They become used to it.
H: I see.

Convesation 3 (Filipino-Indian)

A husband and wife conversation at home while cleaning the car

Husband - M

Wife - F

H- So we buy the house or not?
 W- What you think?
 H- I think we should buy, I think me and my mother would buy.
 W- yeah, yeah
 H- **Bukas** (*tomorrow*) we possibly see.
 W- **Totoo** (*true*) So, how's the room?
 H - Later we can fix
 W- You don't want to look for another house.
 H- Not necessarily.
 W- You said already. Final decision lah. Hmmm. What are you doing? Don't make me wet lah. What are you doing?
 H- Putting **air** (*water*) for the car.
 W- Don't make me wet. Here already huh, putting what.
 H- Putting water for the car. The car wash.
 W- Huh?
 H- The car wash?
 W- Where you put?
 H- There (pointing the finger)
 W- What did mother say about the **rumah** (*house*).
 H- [It's nice]. Put the cover there.
 W- **Di mana** (*where*)?
 H- There?
 W- No. hmm. The house. hmm, the area, how? **Sa labas**(*outside*) you can see.
 H- [Not everything when you go up]
 W- **Ano?** (*what*)
 H- [How many] times there you go up. Yeah, if you are staying the house more. I think it's peaceful and not tight like that. All the the house are very far far, k? It looks like ahhh.
 W- Yeah, **sige** (*ok*) .

H- [Then] security also.
W- So lah, **tawagan ko si Philip** (*I will call Philip*).
H – Call him now lah
W- You call him now?
H- [I'm doing] the car wash
W- Why you have the two percent to put the down payment now ah.
H- [I think] we can give the check
until the loan is approved lah.
W- Oh my God! No more money ah.
H- [Can] you get that ah.
W- I don't know where you put?
H- In that place. Ok
W- ok.

Convesation 4 (Filipino-Chinese)

A husband and wife conversation at home while resting)

Husband - M

Wife - F

W- Even the underwear no stock ah, can?
H- [can]
W- He want to buy.
H- Huh
W- He want to buy.
H- Underwear?
W- **Oo, at saka** (*yes, and also*) stocking, black. Later you bring them.
H- Office one.
W- **Oo, at saka** (*Yes, and*)
H- **yung maganda** (*the good ones*)
W- **Uhm yung magandang quality at saka yung underwear yung magandang quality, addidas** (*the one with good quality and the underwear must be of good quality, addidas*)
H- [Addidas?]
W- **Ano bang magandang quality doon?** (*What's the good quality there?*)
H- Lee Cooper
W- **Ayun, Lee Cooper. Large lang yata sya. Kapag malaki big size. Nakita mo na sya. Baka medium ok na kaysa large.** (*That's it, Lee Cooper. It's only large. You saw him. Maybe medium is ok for him*)
H- **Magandang quality.** (*Good quality*)
W- **May nakita akong addidas, ung nice quality, di ba?** (*I saw the addidas with nice quality, right?*)
H- **Ano?** (*What?*)
W- **Addidas, yung nasa stock.** (*Addidas that's in the stock*)
H- Hmmm.
W- Why so many? **Big ba?** (*is it big?*) How much is the price?
H- Hmmm.

W- **Nakuha mo yung stock number? Mei Mei, na champion in sports.** (*Did you get the stock number? Mei Mei was the champion in sports*)

H- Huh?

W- Mei Mei is the champion

H- What type?

W- Kasi she was then dancing. **Makulit din** (*also naughty*)

H- [What?]

W- **Makulit din parang Kingkoy. Tapos nag join kami for one game. Nag join kami ng contest.** It's game contest. (*Naughty also like Kingkoy. Then we joined for one game. We joined the contest*)

H- With whom? With Mei Mei?

W- Yeah, **sya nga nag invite at sa akin, join join lang.** (*She was the one who invited me, join only*)

H- [uhm]

W- **Si Mei Mei gusto nya sports.** (*Mei Mei likes sports*)

H- **Karamihan mga bata?** (*Majority are children*)

W- Yeah, **kaya nga group nila**(*their group can do it*). **Sila yung smallest group sila pa ang nag first** (*they are the smallest group yet they rank first*). **Three lang yung team nila** (*they have only three teams*) Yellow, Red, Blue

H- Mei Mei knows the game lah.

W- Oo, **alam nya yung game. Alam nya**(*she knows the game. She knows*)

H- [First siya] (*she is the first*)

W- **Hindi yung group nila** (*No, their group*).

H- Do you think she can follow?

W- **Oo, syempre** (*yes, of course*) she can follow the game

H- They win

W- Yeah, **group nila** (*their group*). **Six sila yun** (*they were six*). **Alam nya yung mga games** (*she knows all the games*). (Silence). **Maraming mga tao sa Shah Alam?**(*are there a lot of people in Shah Alam?*)

H- Not so many

W- You arrange the stock. Maybe later or tomorrow you bring.

H- Hmmm. Yeah.

Convesation 5 (Filipino-Chinese)

A husband and wife conversation together with the interviewer at home.

Husband - M

Wife - F

W: **Si koan hon yung Eurasian.** (*the Eurasian hon*)

H: I think, Jeffrey

W: yeah

H: Mixed **ma**. (“ma” particle)

W: **Filipino iyang wife** (*his wife is a Filipino*)

H: Yeah, Jo

W: Yeah lah (“lah” particle)

H: What is the title of his paper?
W Interracial communication.
H: Oh, is it about interethnic communication.
W: Yeah, there you go (())
R- Ahh yeah.
W- **Mao ra gud si Diana** (not the real name) (*it's the same, Diana*)
R- **Ano ang pangalan?** (*what's her name?*)
H and W- Jocelyn
R- I gave them the questionnaire but they did not return.
W- Why?
R- I don't know.
W- Maybe you should ask more, you know.
R- yeah.
W- It will also enlighten and help your data collection
H [More better] result. (laugh). What's the paper?
R- It's about language choice of interracial marriages.
H- Maybe you can include cross cultural communication.
W- [There] you go.
H- I've encountered several cross cultural communication.
W- The expert is Francis (())
H-We deal more on foreign relations and some international students.
W- **sig na, sig na**(*ok, ok*)
H- Yeah, they conduct also research.
R- My research is a bit related to cross cultural communication
W- Yeah, cultural understanding is necessary
R- I first thought of inter-ethnic marriages in Sarawak but I don't know the various ethnic languages.
H and W- [Sabah and Sarawak]
R- It's quite difficult because I don't know the language.
W- Oh yeah. **Kaon sa saging Dong.**(*eat the banana Dong*)
R- **Sabi ko wag na pero sig lang.** (*I said no, but it's ok*) Filipino culture. (())
H- You're going to Taman Connaught?
R- No, I'm going to my friend's house in Taman Putra.
H- I see.

Convesation 6 (Filipino-Indian)

A husband and wife conversation together with the interviewer and two visitors at home.

Husband - M

Wife – F

Researcher-R

H:You just go straight to Ampang and you can see the traffic light.

R: Ah, yeah

W: You can take the LRT and stop in Ampang Station

H: Yeah
W: That one after Ampang Park, Damai Station.
R: I haven't been there yet. I reached only Ampang Park. That's the last destination I had.
W: You don't know already. I think you just take one station ahead ah.
R: I think I can come here often.
W: Sure you are always welcome.
H: His place **belakang** (*behind*) Giant?
W: Yeah, **alam mo ba yun?** (*do you know it?*)
H: **Alam ko** (*I know*) before reaching the place **ada** (*there is*) McDonalds, right?
W: Yeah **lah. Pwede?** (*can*) you drive him later.
H: No problem.
W: Remember, we passed by several times in that area.
H: I think there is a cemetery there.
W: Yeah, I think **sa kanan o sa kaliwa** (*right or left*)
H: **Kanan** (*right*) if coming from our place.
W: **Nakalimutan ko na.** (*I already forget*)
H: I saw the accident there before just in front of Giant.
W: That was horrible.
H: Yeah, I could not believe how it happened.
W: I think because some drivers here in KL are not careful.
H: Yeah, some but the accident that happened there was really different.
W: **Sama lah** (*the same*) in other accidents.
H: No **lah**, different.
W: What else is new here (()).
H: It was really an accident.
W: I could not imagine how it happened when I saw a car inside.
H: Yeah, I thought only one car inside.
W: Yeah, **banyak** (*many*) inside.
H: I think four.
W: Yeah, **dami** (*many*).
H: This time even if you are careful in driving accident may still happen because others are crazy.
W: Agree. **Tama** (*right*). By the way, **anong oras mo sila ihatid** (*what time are you going to send them?*)
H: Maybe after an hour.
W: **Ada** (*Is there*) hot water?
H: **Wala na** (*no more*).
W: **Sinong nagubos** (*who consumed*)
H: Don't worry, I'll boil again.
W: Yeah, I'll give them some tea before they leave.
H: Ok lah.
W: I'll tell them that you will send them back after an hour.
H: Ok.
W: **Mamaya ihatid na kayo ng husband ko** (*later, my husband will send you*)
R: **Ok lang, wag na.** (*It's ok, don't worry*)
H: It's ok your house is just near our place.
W: Yeah , it will take only 10 minutes.
R: **Malu lah.** (*shy*) (())
W: **Wag na kayong mahiya** (*You should not be ashamed*)

R: Thank you.

W: Why don't you try this tea.

H: Yeah. This is nice.

R: Thanks.

Appendix C: List of Participants

Number	Couples	Ethnicity	Nationality	Residence
1	FCMA1	Malay	Malaysian	Kuching, Sarawak
2	FCMB1	Filipino	Filipino	Kuching, Sarawak
3	FCMA2	Malay	Malaysian	Kuching, Sarawak
4	FCMB2	Filipino	Filipino	Kuching, Sarawak
5	FCMA3	Malay	Malaysian	Kuala Lumpur
6	FCMB3	Filipino	Filipino	Kuala Lumpur
7	FCMA4	Malay	Malaysian	Kuching, Sarawak
8	FCMB4	Filipino	Filipino	Kuching, Sarawak
9	FCMA5	Malay	Malaysian	Kuala Lumpur
10	FCMB5	Filipino	Filipino	Kuala Lumpur
11	FCMA6	Malay	Malaysian	Kuala Lumpur
12	FCMB6	Filipino	Filipino	Kuala Lumpur
13	FCMA7	Malay	Malaysian	Kuala Lumpur
14	FCMB7	Filipino	Filipino	Kuala Lumpur
15	FCMA8	Malay	Malaysian	Kuala Lumpur
16	FCMB8	Filipino	Filipino	Kuala Lumpur
17	FCMA9	Malay	Malaysian	Kuala Lumpur
18	FCMB9	Filipino	Filipino	Kuala Lumpur
19	FCMA10	Malay	Malaysian	Kuching, Sarawak
20	FCMB10	Filipino	Filipino	Kuching, Sarawak
21	FCCA1	Chinese	Malaysian	Kuching, Sarawak
22	FCCB1	Filipino	Filipino	Kuching, Sarawak
23	FCCA2	Chinese	Malaysian	Kuching, Sarawak
24	FCCB2	Filipino	Filipino	Kuching, Sarawak
25	FCCA3	Chinese	Malaysian	Kuala Lumpur
26	FCCB3	Filipino	Filipino	Kuala Lumpur
27	FCCA4	Chinese	Malaysian	Kuching, Sarawak
28	FCCB4	Filipino	Filipino	Kuching, Sarawak
29	FCCA5	Chinese	Malaysian	Kuching, Sarawak
30	FCCB5	Filipino	Filipino	Kuching, Sarawak
31	FCCA6	Chinese	Malaysian	Kuala Lumpur
32	FCCB6	Filipino	Filipino	Kuala Lumpur
33	FCCA7	Chinese	Malaysian	Kuala Lumpur
34	FCCB7	Filipino	Filipino	Kuala Lumpur
35	FCCA8	Chinese	Malaysian	Kuching, Sarawak
36	FCCB8	Filipino	Filipino	Kuching, Sarawak
37	FCCA9	Chinese	Malaysian	Kuching, Sarawak
38	FCCB9	Filipino	Filipino	Kuching, Sarawak
39	FCCA10	Chinese	Malaysian	Kuching, Sarawak
40	FCCB10	Filipino	Filipino	Kuching, Sarawak
41	FCIA1	Indian	Malaysian	Kuala Lumpur
42	FCIB1	Filipino	Filipino	Kuala Lumpur

43	FCIA2	Indian	Malaysian	Kuala Lumpur
44	FCIB2	Filipino	Filipino	Kuala Lumpur
45	FCIA3	Indian	Malaysian	Kuala Lumpur
46	FCIB3	Filipino	Filipino	Kuala Lumpur
47	FCIA4	Indian	Malaysian	Kuala Lumpur
48	FCIB4	Filipino	Filipino	Kuala Lumpur
49	FCIA5	Indian	Malaysian	Kuala Lumpur
50	FCIB5	Filipino	Filipino	Kuala Lumpur
51	FCIA6	Indian	Malaysian	Kuala Lumpur
52	FCIB6	Filipino	Filipino	Kuala Lumpur
53	FCIA7	Indian	Malaysian	Kuala Lumpur
54	FCIB7	Filipino	Filipino	Kuala Lumpur
55	FCIA8	Indian	Malaysian	Kuala Lumpur
56	FCIB8	Filipino	Filipino	Kuala Lumpur
57	FCIA9	Indian	Malaysian	Kuala Lumpur
58	FCIB9	Filipino	Filipino	Kuala Lumpur
59	FCIA10	Indian	Malaysian	Kuala Lumpur
60	FCIB10	Filipino	Filipino	Kuala Lumpur

Appendix D: Written Consent

Date:

Dear Participants,

I am Mr. Francisco Perlas Dumanig, a post graduate student at the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. I am currently conducting a study on “*Language Choice, Accommodation Strategies and Code Switching in Interracial Couples’ Communication*”. Part of this study is to conduct a survey and interview with Filipino-Malaysian couples’ language choice in verbal communication in the home domain.

In line with this, I would like to ask your participation in the data gathering. All information gathered both in the survey and interview will be considered highly confidential.

If you would be willing to participate in this research please tick below and write a brief information about yourself.

Yes No : I will participate in the survey.
 Yes No : I will participate in the survey.

Name: _____ Contact Number: _____
Address: _____

Thank you very much.

Respectfully yours,

Francisco Perlas Dumanig

Appendix E: Sample Interview Questions

Language usage:

1. How many languages do you speak? Which of those is your first language and 2nd language?
2. What language that is widely spoken in your place? Is it Chinese, Malay or English?
3. If you were to choose, which language will you prefer? Why?
4. For how long have you been using such language?
5. Do you encourage your spouse and children to speak your ethnic language? Why?
6. What language do you speak with your spouse? Child/ children? Maid? In-laws? Why?
7. If only the two of you (husband and wife) are talking, what language do you speak with each other? at home and public places like church, market and Department stores. Why?
8. When you are talking with your spouse, do you switch from one language to the other? For instance from English to Malay or Chinese? Why?
9. Does code switching happen most of the time during your conversation (at home, workplace, public places)? Why?
10. How do you code switch from _____ to _____?
11. Why do you code switch?
12. Do you speak other languages, like your spouse's language? How good are you in speaking each other's language?
13. Have you discovered something and created like a "private language" for yourselves?

Marital Schemata:

1. What is your idea about husband and wife relationship? Why?
2. As husband and wife, are you interdependent with one another? Why?
3. Do you avoid conflicts with one another? Why?
4. As a spouse do you prefer to be more independent? Why?
5. Do you have the same interests? Why?
6. Do you have the same group of friends outside the family? Why?

Convergence and Divergence:

1. Were there some instances that you both don't understand one another because of your language differences?
2. How did you handle this situation?
3. If your spouse speaks in her own language, do you speak also the same language with her? Why?
4. Were there instances that you responded to your spouse in a different language so he/she could not understand what you say? Why?
5. Were there instances that you really struggle to speak with your spouse's language just to make the conversation going?

Identity:

1. Do you sometimes compare your own language with that of your spouse? Why?
2. Are you proud of being a Malaysian Chinese or Filipino?

3. How do you show that you are a Chinese, Malay or Filipino when you are talking to your spouse?

Appendix F: Transcription conventions

Bold letter	First language (Bahasa Malaysia, Filipino, Chinese)
Times New Roman	English language
<i>(Italicized)</i>	English translation
(.)	Short pause
(...)	Long pause
[]	Overlapping in speech
(())	laughter
(?)	Unintelligible