Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: STEVEN BUI
Interviewer: Kevin Bui
Date: February 8, 2014
Location: Garden Grove, California
Length of Interview: 01:14:51

FIELD NOTES

The interview was conducted in Steven Bui’s house, specifically his office. Only the narrator, Steven Bui, and the interviewer, Kevin Bui, were present during the interview. Mr. Bui had signed all consent and release forms the day before (2/7/14). Also on that day, we determined that it would be better to interview at his home than at his work office because the office would be too noisy. On the day of the interview, I set up the microphone and gave the narrator a copy of the questions. The microphone was placed on Mr. Bui’s desk. Mr. Bui sat behind his desk while I sat in front of it. However, the chair I had was taller than the desk, making it hard to check on the recording. An earphone was used with the microphone to ensure that the audio was fine.

Steven Bui dressed casually in sweatpants and a jacket. He was calm throughout the interview, perhaps having previous experience doing an interview. During the interview, he would mix up words such as “he” for “she.” He also said “um” and other noises a lot. During the interview, he also played with a piece of paper near him. Also during the interview, Mr. Bui was confused on some of the questions asked. This could be due to me phrasing the question in a confusing way. The interview was relatively short because he did not elaborate on several answers he gave. This can be in part of me not pushing more in certain areas. After the interview I took three pictures of Mr. Bui, one in his home office, and two in his backyard.

It is recommended we conduct a follow-up interview with Mr. Bui to elaborate more on life in Orange County. I could ask more about his social life as he did not mention it that much during the interview. I could also ask more about his time between his life with his family now in California and meeting his wife. Questions could be given to him earlier so that he could elaborate more on his answers. Also, several breaks should take place during the interview next time to avoid fatigue and stating things too quickly. The same location can be used for the interview because it did not cause any problems. However, the desk used should be clear to keep Mr. Bui from being distracted.