

Interview by Ahmad Suaedy with Syafiyah, Malang, 23 October 2014

MA, TESOL, University of Canberra, 1992-1993

Interviewer : Please start from your background. Your family, your education, and education of your parents and so on until you go to University in Malang.

Syafiyah : Uh...I graduated from--

Interviewer : Uh, but, please your name

Syafiyah : My name is Syafiyah.

Interviewer : And the university in Australia?

Syafiyah : University of Canberra.

Interviewer : Masters?

Syafiyah : Masters. I did my Masters degree there, from 1992 up to 1993. Yeah and I took TESOL -- Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. Yeah, in the Faculty of Education.

Interviewer : And position here?

Syafiyah : I am now a Vice Dean for Students Affairs and Cooperation.

Interviewer : Bu Isti was there?

Syafiyah : Oh Bu Isti has finished [the interview]? Hahaha...

Interviewer : [Addressing other person] Makasih Bu...

Syafiyah : If you want to know my educational background before going to Australia, I graduated from this University, State Islamic Institute -- IAIN -- yeah, it used to be IAIN and now it is UIN. And uh, I also did English Education, *Jurusan* [##### - audio unclear, 00:01:38] *Bahasa Inggris*. And before studying at UIN, at IAIN, sorry, I studied at [an] Islamic High School at a *Pondok Pesantren* in Jombang.

Interviewer : What about your parents background?

Syafiyah : My parents background? Uhhh... My parents ran the *pesantren*, yeah...

Interviewer : What is the name of the *pesantren*?

Syafiyah : Al-Fathimiyah.

Interviewer : In Jombang?

Syafiyah : Al-Fathimiyah Bahrul Ulum Tambakberas Jombang. Hehehe...

Interviewer : So you studied fully in the *pesantren*?

Syafiyah : Yeah. I graduated from an Islamic School there.

Interviewer : From [#### - audio unclear, 00:02:36] until Senior High School or...?

Syafiyah : Yeah. From, yeah. From Primary School up to High School.

Interviewer : All in the *pesantren*?

Syafiyah : Uh, no no!

Interviewer : You moved to another--?

Syafiyah : Oh yes, I went to another school when I was a student of Primary School, In Pondok Pesantren Maslakul Huda, Kajen Pati.

Interviewer : [#### - audio unclear, 00:03:02]

Syafiyah : Ya ya.

Interviewer : So how long were you there?

Syafiyah : Six years.

Interviewer : After?

Syafiyah : From the-- third year.

Interviewer : Junior High School?

Syafiyah : Third year of Primary School.

Interviewer : Oh Primary School? Okay.

Syafiyah : Up to [the] second year of Secondary School. Junior High School, sorry. And then after that I moved to Jombang again--

Interviewer : In your *pesantren*? Your parents?

Syafiyah : Yeah, in Jombang again from 1982 up to 1985. I graduated in 1985 there.

Interviewer : Is this like SMA or MAN?

Syafiyah : Like... *seperti apa ya mbak ya?* PGA?

Interviewer : Oh PGA.

Syafiyah : Like PGA. *Mualimin-Mualamat Madrasah Mualimin-Mualimat*, yeah.

Interviewer : Then?

Syafiyah : Then after that I continued my study in this university and it used to be IAIN and in 1992, yeah, I continued studying at the University of Canberra.

Interviewer : Why did you choose the English Faculty?

Syafiyah : English Department?

Interviewer : Yeah yeah, why, because your background is *pesantren*.

Syafiyah : I think it was something interesting for me and I wanted to be a teacher in English. And I think as somebody, coming from *pesantren*, we need to also learn English, not only Arabic Language. Because we are part of a global community in the future. At that time this is what I had in mind. And it's not enough if we only master Arabic Language ya. To broaden our knowledge on science, on technology, on other sciences, not only religious--

Interviewer : So you thought about that when you were in *pesantren* also? You studied hard about English in the *pesantren*? You have dreamed to go to a university in English, right?

Syafiyah : Yeah...also my parents, my mother, supported me. She encouraged me to take English Department. So it was not only my choice, but also my parents, my mothers choice and I proceeded..

Interviewer : Would you mind if [I take] a photo you? Just continue your...

Syafiyah : Oh yes, I don't mind, haha...

Interviewer : Just continue your.... Then, your...at that time there are many people [with the] background [of] *pesantren* who chose English?

Syafiyah : No not really...not really. It was very popular and I think most of them would be interested in deepening uh...religious, what is it called, religious knowledge? Knowledge on religion, yeah. Not many-- there were some, there were some, but probably not many as those who were interested in deepening their knowledge in religion. So, yes.

Interviewer : Uh, so uh, please tell me about your struggling in English in IAIN at that time.

Syafiyah : Uh, well. I didn't really find it difficult at that time because before continuing my studies at IAIN, I took a kind of private course. An English course. So I didn't only learn English at school, but I also took...*kursus* ya. Hehehe... Yeah, an English course in Jombang. So that helped me a lot.

Interviewer : So here you finished in uh, *apa*...

Syafiyah : 1989 or 1990 yeah I finished my studies here. I graduated from this University.

Interviewer : And you worked to be...

Syafiyah : Uh yeah, I started working here in 1991 actually, but before starting working -- officially -- I continued my study there. And after finishing my study there I started working here.

Interviewer : To got to Australia?

Syafiyah : Yes, yes...I went to Australia in 19--

Interviewer : So you uh, got scholarship in Australia, not from here?

Syafiyah : Yeah, I got my scholarship from AIDA. It's now AusAid. It used to be AIDA.

Interviewer : No no, I mean you were not the representative of IAIN at that time?

Syafiyah : Uh yes, I did...I was. Uh, I joined --what was it called-- Pre-departure Training Program, *Pembibitan Calon Dosen, ya*, organized by Mora. I joined that program for nine months, and then after that I took IELTS test, but I still had to take another three months training at ILF in Jakarta before going to Australia.

Interviewer : Any difficulties or problems with this process?

Syafiyah : Uh, yes of course. Yes of course. If I didn't find, uh, too many difficulties at UIN, maybe because of the standard *ya*. Maybe because of the standard. Not too high standard. But when I started learning English again, when I joined [the] Pre-Departure Training Program and also ILF, I found some difficulties, *ya*.

Interviewer : What kind of difficulties?

Syafiyah : Higher standards. Especially in speaking. And also listening. Because I didn't get a lot of practice activities for that, *ya*, when I studied here.

Interviewer : How did you choose the university in Australia? By yourself or--?

Syafiyah : I got some information, and I tried to look for more and more information about universities in Australia and about-- especially those that ring my interest. Some subjects of my interest. And then I found the University of Canberra. Even though I didn't really know very well, I didn't really know very well but I just believed that all university in Australia are good.

Interviewer : So you concentrated to one University or you have another?

Syafiyah : Just one Univesrity. I only chose the University of Canberra.

Interviewer : Because of...?

Syafiyah : Because of the courses offered. Because of the courses offered that meet my interest.

Interviewer : Tell me when you arrived in Australia and adapted.

Syafiyah : Oh yeah, well, because I went there with my husband, so I didn't really have personal problems *ya*. That means that I went there with my family. My family.

Interviewer : You have children?

Syafiyah : Not yet not yet. I had my first child there. And it was fantastic. It was one of my fantastic experiences. And uh, well I need to adjust with my new situation of course, with new conditions -- especially with [] a new, what is that called...with...with...new..new.. kind of learning environment. Different expectation learning atmosphere. So the academic atmosphere there is not really the same as what I found in this university. Uh, what I found quite hard, *ya*, at that time I had to struggle, I had to work more, I have to work hard *ya*, more, compared to when I did it here.

Interviewer : How did you find the room, the house and that...

Syafiyah : Well, of course...very good. Well, to me, very well facilitated the houses there...

Interviewer : You got information from friends?

Syafiyah : From friends yes, and also from -- *apa namanya* --advertisements.

Interviewer : You got difficulties to find the...

Syafiyah : Not really...not really... Some people told me about what kind of accommodations I could take, so I think as an overseas student, an overseas student, I got some help from people in charge of that. In charge of international student affairs *ya*.

Interviewer : So you went together with your husband?

Syafiyah : Yeah with my husband. My husband also studied there.

Interviewer : No I mean, together?

Syafiyah : Together.

Interviewer : Usually you first and then your husband...

Syafiyah : No, at the same time. At the same time.

Interviewer : Because he also got the--

Syafiyah : The same program, yeah. So both of us got scholarships, both of us joined the Pre-Departure -- we met there *ya* -- Pre-Departure Training Program.

Interviewer : In the same university?

Syafiyah : In the same university. We did it in uh, in...UIN Shayid. UIN Syahid.

Interviewer : So different University..but...

Syafiyah : The same University. The same.

Interviewer : From here?

Syafiyah : Oh no no no. He graduated from IAIN Surabaya. The same IAIN, Sunan Ampel. Yeah Sunan Ampel. This university used to be the branch of Sunan Ampel Surabaya.

Interviewer : So this is very good, ya.

Syafiyah : Yeah, it was good. It was good that I had the opportunity to go there together with my husband. And...this means that I didn't find to many personal problems.

Interviewer : So how did you manage uh, your boy, your...uh...

Syafiyah : Yeah...it was hard. Really really hard and I had to manage when I should study and when I should take care of my child. And luckily, my mother in law helped me. She stayed there for one year, accompanying me. Yeah, so... When I got my first child, after I delivered my baby, my mother in law accompanied -- came there.

Interviewer : So this was the first year?

Syafiyah : Second year. I was pregnant in the first year. Yeah, I had my first baby in the second year.

Interviewer : What about the childcare and something...?

Syafiyah : No, because my mother was there, my mother in law was there so I didn't think that I need childcare anymore.

Interviewer : What about the doctor?

Syafiyah : Oh yes yes, very helpful. I found it very easy to see a doctor there, because there is a university doctor, assigned by the university to help us students. And that was very helpful.

Interviewer : And regularly you brought the baby there?

Syafiyah : Yes yes...

Interviewer : And no problem at all about the service?

Syafiyah : No no. No, not at all.

Interviewer : And information for example where is the doctor and so on?

Syafiyah : Yes everything was uh.... I was very well-informed about that. Including some activities necessary for pregnant women, haha. At that time, I didn't find that kind of activity here.

Interviewer : All information is ready?

Syafiyah : Yeah, yeah, everything is...ready.

Interviewer : What about your house, I mean there are international communities?

Syafiyah : Mmmm, no I didn't live in student accommodations, I mean, I rent a -- what is it called -- a kind of apartment? What is it called? I forgot it. Umm, it's attached to a house. *Apa namanya tuh?* It is not a house but it is just one part of a house. What is it called? I forgot it!

Interviewer : Ohh...uh.... But ran by campus ya?

Syafiyah : No, I rent it by myself.

Interviewer : No I mean, the management is part of campus?

Syafiyah : No no no. No.

Interviewer : But are there many students from other countries, like Southeast Asia or...in your apartment?

Syafiyah : Oh no. I just rent uh, separate. In the second year I rent a house, but before that, what is it called? It's not really an apartment. *Apa namanya ya?*

Interviewer : For student ya?

Syafiyah : For-- uh, it can be for anybody. And it belongs to somebody else in the house. So, what is that called? I forgot the name. But yeah...

Interviewer : But you are like separate house...

Syafiyah : Separate place in-house. So somebody, somebody else is rent the house and I rent only a part of the house.

Interviewer : But are there many students?

Syafiyah : It's not really an apartment. *Apa sih namanya...* I forgot it.

Interviewer : It's uuhhhh...*rumah susun* maybe?

Syafiyah : It's not. It's not. It's a house. That is only...a part of a house.

Interviewer : Okay. Are there many... unit [network - audio unclear, 00:18:39], ah, how many...are there many?

Syafiyah : Uh, at that time....

Interviewer : How [do] you socialize with another...

Syafiyah : A couple from Greece. So the house belongs to Greek *ya*. And I rent only... *aduh kok lupa ya namanya saya ya*. There is [a] room, a kitchen, and also a living room.

Interviewer : No problem about that?

Syafiyah : No. I didn't have any problem with my housing.

Interviewer : How about your activities on campus? Except the academic but also the student...

Syafiyah : Student association? Um, unfortunately I was not very active in joining other activities because I was busy with my child, and just once in a while I joined some other activities. Especially activities organized by [the] Indonesian community there.

Interviewer : You often joined in the activities there?

Syafiyah : Yeah, once in a while I joined in the activities.

Interviewer : Recreation?

Syafiyah : Yeah yeah, recreative. activities. A lot. I liked joining recreative, refreshing activities. Yeah, visiting some interesting places in Australia. Bu Istiada [has] more experiences because she was alone there, so she could go everywhere. She liked it.

Interviewer : So you went to another city?

Syafiyah : Uh, only to Sydney, unfortunately, hahaha...

Interviewer : But the tourism in Canberra?

Syafiyah : Yeah, I went to some interesting places, uh tourist resorts in Canberra to, *apa Bu*, Snowy Mountain, and then...aduh kok lali, apa namanya yang di itu? Bayyyy...uh, a lot of kangaroos there. Yeah, I found a lot of kangaroos there. Barrr.... *Aduh apa ya?* It was a long long time ago. I forgot the name.

Interviewer : Do you have friends, Australian, or from other countries? Still contact until now?

Syafiyah : Hmm, not anymore. Yeah, not anymore now.

Interviewer : But you have, at that time?

Syafiyah : Yeah. Yeah yeah. But not anymore right now.

Interviewer : What about your academic activities, like your supervisor, or how [is] your relation with your supervisor?

Syafiyah : I think my supervisor was very helpful in helping me finish my final project. I think they were quite helpful.

Interviewer : What topic did you write?

Syafiyah : Uh, for my final project? I made [a] comparative study between Indonesian and Australian structure, especially the use of past form.

Interviewer : In English?

Syafiyah : Yeah in English. Uh--

Interviewer : In the class or in the...

Syafiyah : Not really. Oh that was not my final project. My final project [Aronolysis - audio unclear, 00:22:30] , or the use of past form in -- by Indonesian students, yeah.

Interviewer : In Indonesia? Or?

Syafiyah : There. My subjects? My subjects of study were the students take...uh, studying there at the time.

Interviewer : You did research in the class or in the, uh, uh, interview?

Syafiyah : Not only...by interviewing, by yeah, by interview and also some other instruments to elicit their performance, how they practiced using the past form which is different from the Indonesian language. Our language is [a] tense-less language and English is [a] tense language, so sometimes we find it difficult to use [the] appropriate form.

Interviewer : How were your struggles to look for the student to do research, to do the interview at that time?

Syafiyah : Ummm, yeah because we had a lot of Indonesian friends there, so I didn't really find it difficult to find my subjects. Because yeah, there were a lot of Indonesian students are studying there.

Interviewer : Not only in Canberra University?

Syafiyah : Uh, only in the University of Canberra.

Interviewer : Many, so many...?

Syafiyah : Many yeah, quite many students coming from Indonesia.

Interviewer : So you were full two years in Canberra before coming back to Indonesia?

Syafiyah : Yeah, no no no. For two years I lived there.

Interviewer : When you came back here, how old [was] your baby?

Syafiyah : She was still 19 months. I was pregnant for my second baby when I came back here.

Interviewer : And...what year...?

Syafiyah : Yeah my second child was born here.

Interviewer : How far along were you?

Syafiyah : Four months.

Interviewer : So after moving back here, how was your adaptation again?

Syafiyah : Yeah yeah yeah. Another effort. Yeah because I got used to things, uh, things which were, to me, what can I say, good. I mean, everything was very easy to do there. I thought I found that I was very well facilitated there. And then suddenly, coming back here, everything was quite hard.

Interviewer : Especially for your baby?

Syafiyah : Yeah, my baby.

Interviewer : Because he had to adapt again?

Syafiyah : Yeah yeah yeah, adjusting with a new environment again. And only in the second week of staying here, my baby got some problems with her health. Yeah, because of the changing of probably different weather, and also different environment. Well I think frankly speaking, at that time, I found that Australia was quite clean. yeah, quite clean. Had a much better environment then here. Here we have lots of mosquitoes. And then suddenly my child got a lot of problems with her health.

Interviewer : What about the academic? You went back to class and...

Syafiyah : Yeah I started working, I started teaching. And that was my first experience in teaching. So when I went to Australia, I had not had any teaching experience. And then coming back from Australia I started working and I started teaching and it was kind of a...kind of a... learning process for me. Learning to teach, hahaha... And I got--

Interviewer : Your career?

Syafiyah : My career? Uh yeah. I was...I taught from 1994 up to now, and in 19-- *berapa* ya, 2000, from 2000 I uhh...I was given a kind of responsibility for organizing the department. I was appointed the Head of the English Department at that time.

Interviewer : The dean?

Syafiyah : No...and then uh, the dean of faculty from 19--, 19--.... *Bu, menjadi PD3 itu mulai tahun berapa Bu, saya lupa saya.*

Lady: 2009?

Syafiyah : Yeah, from 2000 up to 2009 I was the Head of the English Department, and from 2009 up to now I was responsible for Student and Cooperation Affairs.

Interviewer : And now the Dean or the...?

Syafiyah : Vice Dean. She is the Dean.

Interviewer : What are you planning in maybe a more academic title?

Syafiyah : Uhh, well, luckily I have finished my, not really...uh, here, we call it our S-3 degree. PhD program. Yeah, I did my S-3 here and I have finished. Uh, at the beginning of this year. Early 2014. Same subject. Same major, English Education. [at UM - audio unclear, 00:29:43]

Interviewer : Just wait for the professorship hahaha...

Syafiyah : Hopefully! Just continue with my routines...yeah.

Interviewer : Terima kasih! Thank you very much, hahaha.... Moga-moga nanti bisa dilanjut...

*****end*****

Duration: 29:59