

Interview by Ahmad Suaedy with Zulkifli, Jakarta, 15 January 2015

MA, Anthropology, ANU, 1992-1994

Zulkifli : I was born in uh, Bangka, 13th of August 1966. My parents are farmers. And I have one sister and four brothers, and I am the fifth of... my family. And of course I went to primary school until high school in Bangka and then after graduating from senior high school, [to be] exact, State Islamic Teacher High School in Pangkal Pinang and-- in 1986. And at that time I went to Palembang to continue my studies at [the] Institute of Islamic Studies in Palembang and...

Interviewer : IAIN atau...?

Zulkifli : IAIN Raden Fatah, Palembang and I did it in four years until 1990...and--

Interviewer : What major?

Zulkifli : Islamic education. Faculty of Tarbiyah. I graduated in 1990 and after that I was selected to, in, uh, the Ministry of Religious Services Program, called the *Calon Pembibitan Dosen*, in the pre-departure training for lectures in 1990...yeah. For nice months I was selected to participate in the Program here in English, for nine months. And after that I applied for [an] Australian Scholarship. At that time it's called AIDA. And then changed into ADS and I continued my studies at ANU.

Interviewer : 1991, ya?

Zulkifli : 1991, yeah, I applied in 1991 and in January 1992 I went to Australia at the ANU. I took Anthropology, a masters degree in Anthropology. In the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology. Faculty of Arts in ANU. And I finished in 1994--

Interviewer : For PhD?

Zulkifli : Two years. No no no, for Masters Degree. Yeah. So finished in 1994. January 1994.

Interviewer : So back to [your] background first. Your school and how you go to school, uh, by bus or by...

Zulkifli : Yeah, uh noo. Uh...walking!

Interviewer : How far?

Zulkifli : It's about...No, not far. It's about two kilo's from my home. And all students walked to school.

Interviewer : Is this SMP or...?

Zulkifli : No no...primary school and my secondary school, junior high school. *Madrasah Tsanawiyah*. It is within the *pesantren*. It is called Pesantren Al Islam in my village. You know in Bangka this is the oldest *pesantren*. Mm-hmm.

Interviewer : What is the name?

Zulkifli : It's called Al Islam. yeah, Al Islam. So after primary school I went to junior high school, at that *pesantren*...

Interviewer : Why did you go to *pesantren*? Is it because of yourself or your family?

Zulkifli : Most because my parents wanted me to study at -- because in my village most students went to *pesantren*.

Interviewer : Because it was the *pesantren* that have formal...?

Zulkifli : Yeah, formal, yeah yeah. Because there was *madrasah* within the *pesantren*. So the *madrasah* is in the afternoon, but we should go to the *pesantren* in the morning too. We attended *pengajian kitab* in the morning, afternoon, evening. But I did not live in the *pesantren* because we called it [savre kalong -- audio unclear, 00:05:13], we just uh--

Interviewer : So you didn't live in the *pesantren*, ya.

Zulkifli : Yeah, I did not live in the *pesantren*. Because it--

Interviewer : So it's just two kilomerers?

Zulkifli : No no no. From my house to the *pesantren*, it's only less than one kilo. Less than one kilo. The primary school is is about two kilos. Not far from my house.

Interviewer : And uh, your brother are all...?

Zulkifli : My brothers all went to the *pesantren*. My sisters and my brother -- but two of my eldest brothers went to uh, not to *pesantren*, but to junior high school in Pangkal Pinang. State Junior High School. My first brother and my second bother. They went to the state schools.

Interviewer : What about your, your...parents profession?

Zulkifli : All of my brothers are teachers. My brothers--

Interviewer : Different majors?

Zulkifli : Yeah different majors.

Interviewer : What about your parents?

Zulkifli : My parents are farmers.

Interviewer : Also mother?

Zulkifli : Yeah, also mother. So none of them are ... civil servants.

Interviewer : How did you make the decision that you have to go to IAIN? This is because...?

Zulkifli : This is partly because, you know, because...most of my friends, not from my parents. It's more from myself and many of my friends went to Palembang. Actually it is different from long tradition in my village, because most students went to Java. Prefer going to Java to study.

Interviewer : Jakarta?

Zulkifli : To Yogya, Jakarta and most of them went to *pesantren*... Gontor and Ponorogo. My elder brother, after finishing Junior High School, he went to Ponorogo but not to Gontor. But my first, eldest of my brothers went to Gontor, and then after that to Al Amin, Madura.

Interviewer : Tell me about the *pesantren*. The background, is it NU or Mohamadiah?

Zulkifli : NU. It is NU.

Interviewer : When did this establish?

Zulkifli : It was established in 1930. Not new, but compared to other *pesantren*'s in that region it is the oldest *pesantren*.

Interviewer : But so many *pesantren*'s there, *ya*?

Zulkifli : No so many. Less than --at that time-- less than ten *pesantren*'s. Yeah not many *pesantren*'s in Bangka.

Interviewer : Okay, then you joined in the, *apa tadi, Pencalonan*...

Zulkifli : Yeah, yeah, uh, *Program Pembibitan Dosen*.

Interviewer : So after to finished in IAIN, then you were recruited to become a lecturer?

Zulkifli : Yeah, yeah, I became a lecturer at Palembang in 1991. So formally, officially, I was...I became a lecturer in March 1991. Until I finished the program. Before I went to Australia.

Interviewer : So [you] directly joined in this year...?

Zulkifli : Yes. Joined in the uh, test and I was elected. Because most of the -- ALL of the participants of the program became...

Interviewer : How many persons at that time?

Zulkifli : At that time twenty-nine. It is the third program. Yeah. The first and the second were in Semarang, and the third one is here. So it was the first time in Jakarta.

Interviewer : And why did you choose Australia?

Zulkifli : Why....uh....

Interviewer : Is this the only one? Or you have uh...

Zulkifli : This is the only one. See the first time I joined the Program uh, I intended to go to Australia. You know uh...maybe because when I was [a] child, I heard a lot about Australia. And uh, many Australian worked in the mining in Bangka, and I heard a lot of the Australian people and maybe that impressed me, since I was a child. So I choose the only--

Interviewer : So from the beginning you want...

Zulkifli : From the beginning I wanted to go to Australia.

Interviewer : So this is the only one you applied?

Zulkifli : The only place. The only place. The only university that I applied is ANU.

Interviewer : Oh ANU. And you applied first to ANU or to--

Zulkifli : Only.

Interviewer : Yeah, I mean AIDAB.

Zulkifli : AIDAB first and then we were asked to choose [a] university. We chose [a] university...so...

Interviewer : So you can choose another university also?

Zulkifli : Of course we can choose. But I prefer to go to ANU.

Interviewer : Who [was] the first you called in ANU? Maybe a supervisor?

Zulkifli : My supervisor, Jim Fox.

Interviewer : So before you went to Australia, you communicated...?

Zulkifli : Yeah, yeah. I communicated. I met him here in Jakarta.

Interviewer : When [you were] training?

Zulkifli : Before I left. Yeah, when training. Before I left for Australia.

Interviewer : Did you meet before you called to Jim Fox? Did you meet here?

Zulkifli : Yes, I met with Jim Fox here. But of course I was recommended by Pak Zamakhsyari Dhofier, because uh...why I chose Anthropology...Actually it was not from myself, *ya*. It was Pak Zamakhsyari Dhofier recommended one of us. He said that there must be one of us, that forty-nine people, who took Anthropology as their major. And at that time Robert Kingham asked me directly whether I was ready for that. And I accepted and then yeah...I chose Anthropology.

Interviewer : So tell me about the first time you arrived in Australia, culturally, academically...

Zulkifli : In January, I think the 22nd of January, at if I'm not mistaken, I arrived in Australia, and I fled there without any friends, only myself--

Interviewer : And James Fox?

Zulkifli : ...And I... when I arrived there I met Jim Fox. And he--

Interviewer : No friends there?

Zulkifli : No friends. I met no friend. No friend I know at that time. But when I arrived at ANU I met several friends who joined the English Program. English for Academic Purposes at that time, because before I left for Australia I joined [the] three month training for...we called EAP.

Interviewer : So nine plus three ya?

Zulkifli : Nine plus three. Nine was the Administry of Register Service Program, and three month for English for Academic Purposes at the ALF... IALF, *ya*. Indonesia Australia Language Foundation.

Interviewer : Then how did you find the house and so on?

Zulkifli : Yeah, it was uh...assisted by [the] students board. There were students who-- who-- no, I mean there was a student, undergrad student who picked me up at the airport, at Canberra, Canberra Airport...

Interviewer : This is because of the program?

Zulkifli : The program gave us assistance, something like that--

Interviewer : This is an Indonesian student?

Zulkifli : No. He uh, yeah, took me to the university uouses, and there I met several Indonesian friends.

Interviewer : So how long you live in...in...

Zulkifli : In that place? In that place it's about two weeks and after that I looked for [an] apartment something like that, outside campus. Outside campus.

Interviewer : How did you find it?

Zulkifli : Friends. Because from friends.

Interviewer : So you called up some friends?

Zulkifli : Yeah yeah. Called friends, because at that time --

Interviewer : Are they helpful?

Zulkifli : Yeah yeah yeah. I think all people, all students are very helpful. Indonesians as well.

Interviewer : What about the culture and food especially in...

Zulkifli : Yeah, of course, because it is the first time for me to go abroad and meet with different cultures. Food of course is very difficult to find. And during two weeks at [the] University House, I yeah...At that time--

Interviewer : [unsure...unsure of - audio unclear,00:16:07] hahahaha....what is that? nasi....?

Zulkifli : Yeah yeah yeah...no, no *nasi*. *Tidak ada nasi, ya*. And at that time, Canberra, Canberra is an administrative city you see, on Saturday, the market was closed. So it's very hard to find food.

Interviewer : And at that time, in January, I think the cold season.

Zulkifli : No, no, it's hot. January is hot. Summer...

Interviewer : So just like Indonesia, ya. Not too different?

Zulkifli : Yeah. In January it's summer. Yeah.

Interviewer : What about the culture? Did you join in some occasions or certain events?

Zulkifli : Yeah, uh, in January there was Australian Day, you see. Yeah Australian Day in January. So we went to, like, markets and many cultural events at that time, and of course it was very impress[ing] because it was [my] first time, ya. So we went to the place and saw events.

Interviewer : Did you meet the international students when you were in campus? Dormitory?

Zulkifli : Yeah. Dormitory? Yeah. Most of [my] friends are foreign students and we went to International...what in Social Board of something like that and we were given some kind of orientation. Not only academic orientation. Uh, but also cultural orientation from AIDA at that time. We made many friends.

Interviewer : And then you moved to [an] apartment? This is the only Indonesian, or also international...?

Zulkifli : No I...I... lived in an apartment outside campus...

Interviewer : How long [far] from campus?

Zulkifli : It is about five or six kilos. So I took a bus everyday from my apartment.

Interviewer : Twenty? Thirty minutes?

Zulkifli : Yeah, it is about twenty minutes, more...thirty minutes from campus. It is in a rural area.

Interviewer : Are there many people? International students?

Zulkifli : No, it is built to a family house. There is a house and outside the house there is a apartment. So I live there myself. It's uh...

Interviewer : You were still alone, ya?

Zulkifli : Yeah, alone. I was not married yet at that time.

Interviewer : And what about the activities on campus. Did you also join in associations?

Zulkifli : No. I just focused to study. Uh, besides, I follow some kind of uh, like, *pengajian*, Indonesian...uh...

Interviewer : PPI?

Zulkifli : PPI. There was a PPI program...sometimes I joined their activity.

Interviewer : But were you very active or...?

Zulkifli : No. Not active. Just member.

Interviewer : If left time then...paper?

Zulkifli : No no time, because I realized at that time, it's very hard, very hard, to be need of time. Time is very important. Because you see, my background is in education and I studied Anthropology. I moved to another field of study. You see, when I first met Jim Fox, it was still in January, he directly gave me a book to read and review. The book was very famous in Anthropology. It's called the *Sanusi of Cyrenaika*. It's about Sanusia Sufi orders in Libya and it was published in 1948, if I'm not mistaken, by...written by Evens Pritchard, a famous Anthropologist... For me at that time it was a very difficult book. But yeah. Jim Fox is my supervisor, and he pushed me directly...and after that then he gave me another book and then another book... I should read this and write a review on the book. There are many many books by Anthropologists on Sufi orders [that] he gave me to read. The first time, the first one is that book the *Sanusi of Cyrenaika* and then [Sane of Atlas - audio unclear, 00:21:55] and then *Sufi and Sufi Ordership, Egypt*. By most--

Interviewer : Sort of like Islamic Anthropology?

Zulkifli : Yeah, something like that.

Interviewer : Because he knows about your background?

Zulkifli : Yeah, yeah.

Interviewer : Then what uh, did you bring something...for this data...that you would like to write from Indonesia?

Zulkifli : No no, not yet. So I was introduced in that tradition. That's why the way Jim Fox guided me in that aspects and then, influenced me very much in writing my thesis. And I wrote Sufism in Java in my thesis.

Interviewer : Oh you wrote about that?

Zulkifli : Yeah yeah, that's about Sufi orders in Java.

Interviewer : The community or...?

Zulkifli : That is on Sufi. Sufi is a--

Interviewer : Yeah, I mean in Indonesia the special community?

Zulkifli : Yeah, Qadariyah and Sabentiyah. And it was published by INIS, 2002, by Leiden.

Interviewer : Did you research about that in --

Zulkifli : I did not do fieldwork. I just rely on library studies.

Interviewer : But not the -- you didn't have difficulties the [#### - audio unclear, 00:23:22]

Zulkifli : No I -- I communicated with some members of uh, like members of Qadariyah and Sabentiyah, so I ordered books, and I called my family in West Java to find books written by this, by this...um like by Abah Anum. So I bought the book. So at that time I did not find any difficulties.

Interviewer : Did you also go to another city when you were studying?

Zulkifli : When in Australia? Yeah! Yes! I went to Sydney, several times...

Interviewer : What for?

Zulkifli : Uh, for vacations, for [a] trip with friends. I went to [a] friends house. You see, after a year in Australia, I went home and I got married and I brought my wife to my place and there was [a] relationship [relative] of my wife in Sydney so we went to see--

Interviewer : So in the second year...

Zulkifli : Yeah, in the second year.

Interviewer : Did you get a boy?

Zulkifli : No. Actually we got it, but it was [a] miscarriage. In the third month when we were there.

Interviewer : You got married in Palembang?

Zulkifli : Here, in Sukabumi. My wife is from Sukabumi.

Interviewer : You met here before right?

Zulkifli : Yeah.

Interviewer : Hahaha...so you bring something in [your] head?

Zulkifli : Yeah, hahaha... We have different cultures.

Interviewer : So your wife uh, happy in...?

Zulkifli : Yes, yes.

Interviewer : What did she do there?

Zulkifli : Actually she has some kind of skills *ya. Apa itu, merangkai kayak bunga atau membuat itu...* But only several.

Interviewer : [*Bunga sell?* - audio unclear, 00:25:47]

Zulkifli : Yeah yeah. It was uh, given by another friend to make it, and then after that people from the south took it from us, so she just did it in my apartment.

Interviewer : He didn't work in another...?

Zulkifli : No.

Interviewer : And you also?

Zulkifli : No. No time. No time. For me at that time I should study, only study.

Interviewer : What about other activities like seminars in other universities?

Zulkifli : Yeah, most of, when we had information about seminars, especially on Anthropology or an Indonesian update in ANU, so we join the seminar. And I took classes as well in Indonesian Studies. Like by Anthony Jones. At that time he still delivered lectures. So I joined, sit in the class. Not formally.

Interviewer : What about in other cities? Melbourne or...?

Zulkifli : No.

Interviewer : Okay. Only Sydney and...

Zulkifli : Only Sydney and some small village around Canberra.

Interviewer : What about the television? Do you regularly watch something on television?

Zulkifli : Yeah. I bought a television in my office, in my room, in my apartment.

Interviewer : What program did you always watch? You're favorite?

Zulkifli : Usually news *ya. News....uh. Yeah. Because sports is not...*

Interviewer : What about culture? Like films?

Zulkifli : Yeah yeah, culture. Because you see I studied Anthropology. So the main concept is culture. Culture is the key concept in Anthropology.

Interviewer : Did you have an Australian close friend? Maybe live in...?

Zulkifli : Yes I have close friends who lives next to Canberra -- but he is a student as well in ANU. His name is Marshall ... Marshal Carr...? Or something like that. You know, he is a lecturer at ANU as well. We regularly meet...

Interviewer : You have visited his house?

Zulkifli : No. He visits me and we go out to some other place. Uh, why we became close [is] because he was uh, once uh, like a youth exchange, *pertukaran pemuda*, and he at the time took Bangka as a place.

Interviewer : Ah. You mean before?

Zulkifli : No no. But he explained to me that he was [a] participant of the youth exchange, several months in Bangka. So he became close to me.

Interviewer : Still communicate up until now?

Zulkifli : Yeah, until now. We communicated. We...he sent me his article.

Interviewer : Has he ever come here?

Zulkifli : Here? No, but he often comes to Indonesia.

Interviewer : Often come to Indonesia?

Zulkifli : Yeah. He did his fieldwork in Yogya. It's about something like--

Interviewer : Lecturer?

Zulkifli : ...culture. No no, he did his fieldwork in Yogya. His thesis is on...wayang, or something. Yeah. He knows more about Yogya.

Interviewer : So after coming back to Indonesia, you still communicate with some people, or lecturer, or something?

Zulkifli : Uh, yeah, with Jim Fox especially.

Interviewer : Until now?

Zulkifli : Until now. That's why um, he...when I finished my MA for a long time you see, I waited to continue my study. So I went to Leiden in 2001, to do a PhD in Leiden. And Jim Fox uh--

Interviewer : 2000 and?

Zulkifli : 2001. And Jim Fox always supported me--

Interviewer : Until?

Zulkifli : Until 2005.

Interviewer : Also Anthropology?

Zulkifli : Uhh...That's called Language and Cultures of Southeast Asia and Oceania. But within the prime work of INIS, you see, Indonesia Middle Arts School Approach in Islamic Studies. And I met Jim Fox too in Leiden. When he, he, you see, uh, he evaluated the Program in Leiden he came to my room and...

Interviewer : So what topic did you write in Leiden?

Zulkifli : In Leiden? The Struggle of the Syiah's, The Syi'is in Indonesia. This is my dissertation and it is published by the ANU, You see.

Interviewer : ANU?

Zulkifli : Yeah, ANU Press. And Jim Fox uh, wanted to publish it in the ANU. He told me at the time. Because my thesis was published at Leiden, so your dissertation should be published at ANU.

Interviewer : Okay, yes, exchange ya...

Zulkifli : Exchange. Yeah.

Interviewer : What do you mean by 'struggle'?

Zulkifli : *Perjuangan*.

Interviewer : No no, I mean, what do you mean Syi'i Indonesia struggle is what, because--

Zulkifli : *Perjuangan orang Syiah*, to become recognized. This is a struggle for recognition.

Interviewer : This is for the people or for the government?

Zulkifli : For both. Formerly from the government, but socially, culturally, religiously from the majority should be... so this is the most important thing for this.

Interviewer : Yeah yeah, because at that time 2001 I think there was no... no... uh...

Zulkifli : Organization?

Interviewer : No...*pelarangan*.

Zulkifli : No no. Until now no...no...I did my fieldwork--

Interviewer : No I mean like in Jawa Timur. I mean you anticipate something happen after that.

Zulkifli : Yeah yeah. Because that was the key. The maximum target ya. The Syiah.

Interviewer : So you predict the next to happen, something like... rising intolerance?

Zulkifli : Yeah yeah... Because you see, this is [a] long history between Sunni and Syiah.

Interviewer : What is the most problem in recognition of Syi'i in Indonesia? I mean, where? East Java, Central Java?

Zulkifli : Java. In Java. Jakarta? East Java, the most important place ya. I went to several places in East Java. I went to Yapi, Bangil, Jember...

Interviewer : Was there an indicator that the government was building something, criticizing the Syi-i? Because right now it's rising from NU which was not [happening] before, *ya*.

Zulkifli : Yeah yeah, there is increasingly high tension, anti Syi-ah in Indonesia. And this has become a great concern for the government, including Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, you see, 2012 or something like that and he really, really was concerned about this tension. And I was invited to one TimPres as well to talk about this because of-- SBY really needed to get information about this. I said there will be an increase, a rise on anti-Syiah, but it is not become widespread among Indonesia.

Interviewer : Is this just political, or is there a movement or...?

Zulkifli : Of course it is more political. Because you see, when we talk about minority and majority...

Interviewer : I mean, international, I mean from Saudi Arabia...?

Zulkifli : Yeah, yeah. There is always that factor. It really depends on Saudi-Iran relations. And their efforts within the uh, international connection for religious privacy. That is always about that factor. So what happened here and other places, like Pakistan, there is always...

Interviewer : Exploitation.

Zulkifli : Yeah.

Interviewer : Do you often visit Australia until now?

Zulkifli : No only once.

Interviewer : When?

Zulkifli : 2011 I went to Melbourne.

Interviewer : To do [a] presentation?

Zulkifli : To make some kind of cooperation actually at that time with Pak Bachtiar Effendy. From the University.

Interviewer : What about the embassy? Do you have some kind of communication?

Zulkifli : No, just a few years after I finished my study I went to the embassy.

Interviewer : You have been invited or...?

Zulkifli : There was a meeting of alumni. Australian alumni. Some graduates.

Interviewer : And you still have an email from the...what is that?

Zulkifli : From the university? from the alumni?

Interviewer : Yeah.

Zulkifli : No, no I didn't get information from the alumni. Maybe because it's been a long time. Very long time.

Interviewer : More than...?

Zulkifli : Yeah, more then twenty years. 1994. 21 years.

Interviewer : Why did you not go to Australia again after you got your PhD?

Zulkifli : Oh. Actually I really wanted to go to ANU again, and Jim Fox recommended me strongly, but you see, at that time he suggested me to apply, for example, a scholarship from the university, but I didn't do it. And uh, I once applied for ADS, but you know...at that time--

Interviewer : When?

Zulkifli : Hmmmm....1996, something like that. Because after graduating you should wait for two years before attempting to apply so I waited for two years and then I applied. In 1996. But no response. Usually there was a response whether I was selected or not. And at that time, no response, no information. Because we should apply to the government, the Ministry of Religious Affairs first. So I don't know is my application was sent to ADS or not. Yeah, not directly. We could not send the application directly to ADS at that time. We should send it to the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Interviewer : Maybe selected in...

Zulkifli : No, no selection at that time. They just send it actually. So I don't know.

Interviewer : Tell me about your career in the university after you came back to...

Zulkifli : Yeah. After I finished my MA in 1994, I taught in Palembang in the Faculty of--

Interviewer : Oh back to Palembang ya?

Zulkifli : Back to Palembang. At Tarbiyah Faculty, and then we -- 1994-1995 -- we established a new faculty, Adab Faculty, 1995. Uh, not directly to become [a] faculty but it was uh, at my faculty, so at that time I became Secretary of the program that is called History and Islamic....Islamic History ya. And Arabic Literature to [the] program. And in 1998 we established the faculty and I became the Vice Dean. Academic Vice Dean in that faculty.

Interviewer : So in AIDAB?

Zulkifli : In AIDAB. So I became a lecturer in AIDAB in 1998. And then -- because the Dean became uh, Vice Rector in 1999 or 2000, I became the Dean of the Faculty in 2000. But it took only one year because in 2001 I went to Leiden to continue my PhD. So I stopped becoming the Dean. In 2000-2001

I became the Dean of that faculty. Then I went to Leiden 2001-2005 and I intended not to [go] back to Palembang. I prefer here.

Interviewer : From Leiden you came here?

Zulkifli : So 2005 I went back but I didn't go to Palembang. I stayed here and I stayed because I have [a] house in Sukabumi with my wife and I often gave assistance in [the] Ministry of Religious Affairs several types of programs in 2006. And in 2007 I was a selected to become Chairman of State Islamic College -- STAIN -- in Banka Belitung, in Bangka. Because this institute, STAIN -- Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Negeri -- in Bangka Belitung was established in 2004 and the Rector, the Chairman, was dead in 2007 and at that time, provisionally, *sementara*, I was sent to--

Interviewer : So it was held the [IT's - audio unclear, 00:43:18]

Zulkifli : It's was in 2011. I was not there. I came here, became a lecturer in 2010.

Interviewer : How was the process?

Zulkifli : Because uh, uh usually... because I really wanted to leave Palembang, and then there was uh--

Interviewer : So at that time your position was...?

Zulkifli : Rector, *sementara*, yeah. PGS -- *Pengganti Sementara* -- because of the death of the Rector. So 2007, actually--

Interviewer : So you applied for this?

Zulkifli : No I was selected because I know Pak Abdurahman Masuoen very well, uh, he at the time became the Director of Higher Education for Administration Service, and Bapak Suparpa and they looked for lecturers from the place, from Bangka, you see. And we met and I was sent to that place to become PGS, *pengganti sementara*. They said at that time only six months, yeah. I accepted because I really wanted to leave. So in my mind uh, I leave Palembang, to Bangka, and I moved here. And that occurred.

Interviewer : So you moved formerly from the Religious Department?

Zulkifli : No no no. From Palembang. Because my status is still a lecturer. I was still [a] lecturer at Palembang at the faculty of Adab.

Interviewer : So [were] you just moving...

Zulkifli : Moved my status from that place to Bangka, to Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Negeri.

Interviewer : But your position still in Palembang at that time ya?

Zulkifli : 2007 my formal official place, my official position was lecturer at Palembang. And 2007 or 2008 I moved my status to become [a] lecturer at Bangka Belitung. And then 2010 I moved here. When I finished my position in Bangka Belitung.

Interviewer : What about your position now?

Zulkifli : Head of Sociology Department. Head of Sociology Department.

Interviewer : But your background is Anthropology, hahaha...

Zulkifli : Yeah yeah.

Interviewer : You are from AIDAB...hahaha...

Zulkifli : Anthropology and I became Professor of Socio--Culture Anthropology. Because um, I don't know. Pak Din, Pak Bachtiar wanted me to place, to take this position. Yeah.

Interviewer : Sometimes we have to...

Zulkifli : Yeah yeah yeah, actually many...many of my friends, anthropologist, Pak Djamal-- many asked to establish a program to run a...an Anthropology Program. But we [are] still think[ing] about it, whether it is good or not.

Interviewer : Terima kasih Pak Zul...

Zulkifli : Sama-sama... sama-sama...

Interviewer : Jadi namanya memang hanya...

Zulkifli : Zulkifli saja. Itu yang ditulis di ijazah.

\*\*\*\*\*end\*\*\*\*\*

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