

ICLT#4: Interview Reflection Paper

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Mohamed Lekrama

Interview Reflection Paper

The interview process was very insightful, as it helped me understand my interviewee's cultural experiences and how he navigated different cultural backgrounds. It also allowed me to compare and contrast some of the stories and challenges he had faced during his intercultural journey.

Most importantly, several of the insights he shared helped me better understand some of my own past experiences with foreigners in my home country.

The process of interviewing was quite challenging, particularly in determining what kinds of questions were appropriate and permissible to ask. Even with a prepared set of questions, it was difficult to adhere strictly to them while also giving my interviewee the freedom to express himself in his own way. I realized that sticking too closely to prearranged questions can hinder the spontaneous flow of conversation and reduce the active engagement of the interviewee.

When that happens, the interaction becomes somewhat superficial.

Being interviewed, on the other hand, is not much less intense or challenging than conducting the interview itself. At times, I found it difficult to anticipate what the interviewer expected from my responses, and I would catch myself wondering whether I was answering in the right way.

I found the transcription phase to be the most fascinating part of the process. As I listened to the recording, I was struck by how rich some of Tyler's answers were. Yet, I also realized how limited human attention can be—how even when we listen attentively, we often grasp only what we expect or want to hear, missing many nuances. Transcribing allowed me to revisit the

conversation with greater control, to slow down the process, and to engage more deeply with what had been said. This provided a much clearer and more complete understanding of my interviewee's experience—something I could not fully grasp by listening just once.

Finally, the sharing stage was both inspiring and rewarding. It was motivating to see how much effort another person invested in trying to make sense of my experience, interpreting it in a way that differed from how I might have seen it myself. This mutual reflection deepened my appreciation for intercultural dialogue as a process of co-constructing understanding—where both speaker and listener learn from each other.