

Indonesian transcript:

Pewawancara: Tadi saya dengar bahwa Mas Agus itu berkeluarga dengan.. eee orang Bukit ee.. Pekanbaru.. Ee.. saya ingin tahu tentang kehidupan keluarga di Pekanbaru umumnya dan dengan mencontoh keluarga Mas Agus sendiri. Apakah Mas Agus ikut struktur keluarga Padang atau struktur keluarga yang multi yang dibawa sejak lahir dan eee... besar di daerah-daerah tertentu di Indonesia?

Agus: Ee...kalau di Pekanbaru, itu mayoritas Melayu, Melayu-Riau, eee... Melayu-Riau yang menarik eehehmm...kalau untuk kontek eee.. kulturenya di Riau itu sama seperti Palembang, patrilineal, garis bapak. Kalau saya sendiri, saya tidak eee.. menggunakan eee.. kultur Minang ataupun ee Palembang bareng.. tapi saya lebih mencoba membentuk sendiri. Bagaimana rumah tangga itu dibangun atas rasa kesepakatan. Bagaimana tidak ada yang lebih tinggi, tidak ada yang lebih rendah, tapi perbedaannya hanyalah pada tanggung jawab eee... kemudian pada posisi masing-masing..eee.. seperti itu.

Pewawancara: Kalau, masalah karir itu sendiri apakah di Padang perempuan di eee.. anjurkan untuk berkarir atau malah dilarang?

Agus: Saya pikir mayoritas di Padang, tidak hanya di Padang tapi juga di Sumatera bahkan Indonesia. Terutama daerah-daerah yang masih mempercayai eee.. cara pandang lama, ya perempuan agak sulit untuk kemudian mengembangkan diri. Karena mereka dibatasi oleh kewajiban-kewajiban domestik katanya. Tapi hmm... kalau bagi saya, saya jelas menolak itu, karena saya berangkat dari keluarga yang juga menolak itu.

Saya laki-laki satu-satunya di rumah, saya 6 bersaudara, semuanya perempuan dan ibu saya paling keras menyuruh semua saudara saya untuk sekolah, sampai semuanya memang sekolah. Walaupun itu ditentang oleh keluarga besar. Ngapain di sekolahkan, perempuan?

Nah, semangat ibu itu juga eee.. saya bawa ketika berumah tangga, saya mendorong istri saya untuk terus sekolah setelah dia selesai S-1 untuk mengambil S-2, saya saja belum selesai S-1 waktu itu dan terus ngambil S-3 saya aja belum ngambil S-2, dan saya juga ditertawakan, Apa kamu ga takut nanti seperti itu kata orang. Tapi saya pikir bukan soal takut apa tidak, tapi bagaimana kita memberi kesempatan yang sama.. he eh..

Pewawancara: Jadi, istri Mas Agus sendiri seorang eee... yang berkarir?

Agus: Ya.. he eh..

Pewawancara: Sebagai apa kalau boleh bercerita sedikit ?

Agus: Hmm dia peneliti bahasa, bekerja di eee... Diknas, di.. eee.. tugasnya di yang tetapkan di Balai Bahasa, Balai Bahasa Padang, eehmm kemudian sekarang sedang studi S-3 nya di UGM. Hmm... ya.. mengenai karirnya itu saya tidak begitu mengetahui tapi saya tahu dia seperti itu.

Pewawancara: Sementara dia sudah lebih tinggi pendidikannya, tidak ada perasaan ee... takut disaingi atau di.. atau.. di posisinya lebih tinggi istri daripada suami?

Agus: Tidak, malah saya ee.. menemukan kebanggaan seperti Ibu saya menemukan kebanggaan ketika dia melihat anak-anaknya semua sekolah walaupun perempuan dan dia sendiri hanya ahhh.. tidak tamat sekolah dasar.

Pewawancara: Ok, jadi eee hubungan keluarga yang dijalin sekarang ini hubungan keluarga modern mungkin ya?

Agus: Modern.. Post-modern saya pikir (Tertawa)

Pewawancara: Post-modern bahkan.

English translation:

Interviewer: I heard that *Mas*¹ Agus is married with ... eee ... someone from Bukit ... eee ... Pekanbaru² eee ... I want to know more about family life in Pekanbaru in general and your family in particular. Do you follow the Padang³ family structure of multi-family structure that you were born into and the ones you grew up in within different areas in Indonesia?

Agus: Uh ... in Pekanbaru, the majority are Malay, Malay-Riau, uh ... Malay-Riau. One thing that is interesting about the Malay-Riau people is ... ehmmm ... in the context of ... the culture in Riau is about the same like Palembang,⁴ patriarchy, following the father's lineage. Meanwhile, I, myself, I am not ... uh ... I do not use uh ... neither Minang⁵ nor uh ... Palembang culture. I prefer to try to form my own. How a household is built on agreement. That no one occupies a higher or lower position, the difference is on responsibility uh ... and then on each position uh ... that's the way it is.

Interviewer: What about career pursuits? Are women in Padang encouraged or actually prohibited to pursue a career?

¹ *Mas* is Javanese for brother.

² Pekanbaru or Pakanbaru is the capital city of Riau, a province in Indonesia on the island of Sumatra.

³ Padang is the capital and largest city of West Sumatra, Indonesia.

⁴ Palembang is the capital of South Sumatra, Indonesia.

⁵ Minang is the name of an ethnic Indonesian group, which is indigenous to the highlands of West Sumatra in Indonesia.

Agus: I think the majority of people in Padang, not only in Padang but also in Sumatra ... all over Indonesia, especially in those areas that still hold ... the old point of view; well it's difficult for women to develop themselves because people said that they (women) are restricted with domestic responsibilities. But, hmm ... for me, I definitely reject that. I come from a family that rejects that notion.

I am the only man in my house. I have 6 siblings including myself. All are women and my mother is the one who encouraged all of my siblings to go to school, until all of them are really finished school, even though it was opposed by the larger family. Why should they be schooled? Women?

Well, I brought my mother's spirit with me when I got married. I supported my wife to continue her education to get her Master's degree after she got her Bachelor's, while I was not finished with my undergraduate studies at the time, and to get her PhD when I still haven't obtained my Master's degree. Many people would laugh at me. People always said: "Don't you feel afraid?" But I think it's not about whether I am afraid or not, but on how we gave each other an equal chance.

Interviewer: So, your wife is, uh, someone with a career?

Agus: Yes.

Interviewer: What kind of career does she have? Could you share more about her career?

Agus: Hmmm she's a language researcher, she works in ... the Ministry of Education, in uh ... Her permanent job is in The Center for Languages, the Center for Languages in Padang, eehmmm ... now she's continuing her studies to get a PhD from UGM.¹ Hmmm. Well, about her job, I'm not really sure what she does, but that's all I know.

Interviewer: While your wife's education level is higher than your education level, are you afraid of competition? Or in, in terms of positions, that your wife occupies a higher position than her husband?

Agus: No, not at all. In fact, I find pride ... just like my mother who found pride when she saw that all her children finished school despite the fact that most of them are women, meanwhile she herself didn't even graduate from primary school.

Interviewer: Okay, so uh ... the family relations that you have now can be considered as modern, correct?

Agus: Modern. I think it's post-modern. (Laughs)

Interviewer: Even post-modern ...

¹ UGM stand for Universitas Gadjah Mada or Gadjah Mada University. Gadjah Mada University is the largest university in Indonesia in term of student population. It is also one of the oldest universities in the country.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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