

Malay Transcript:

Wan Nadia: Nama bapa saya Wan¹ Mohammad Alam; dia bekerja sebagai seorang jurutera. Dia bekerja di Kuala Lumpur, walaupun kami tinggal di Shah Alam², tetapi ibu saya bekerja di Shah Alam. Maka, bertempat di Shah Alam adalah agak sesuai untuk keluarga saya.

Nama ibu saya Nur Aini binti Abdul Masjid³. Dia seorang pengurus syarikat, dan syarikatnya adalah sebuah syarikat elektrik.

Emily: Adakah ibu bapa Nadia⁴ dari Shah Alam atau Kuala Lumpur?

Wan Nadia: Bukan, mereka daripada Kelantan, Kota Bharu⁵. Ibu saya lebih dekat dengan laut, tapi⁶ ayah saya lebih dekat dengan sungai.

Emily: Adakah ibu bapa kamu suka tinggal di Kuala Lumpur?

Wan Nadia: Ya, mereka suka tinggal di Kuala Lumpur. Kelantan agak ketinggalan zaman – agaklah⁷, agak – sebab kemudahannya tidak disediakan elektrisiti dan paip tidak beberapa bagus.

Emily: Sudah berapa tahun ibu bapa Nadia tinggal di Kuala Lumpur?

Wan Nadia: Saya rasa dalam tiga puluh tahun? Macam itu? Sudah lama juga.

Emily: Dan adik⁸ Nadia? Adakah dia seorang pelajar juga?

Wan Nadia: Adik saya seorang pelajar jurutera juga, seperti ayah saya.

¹ Wan is a common name for Malaysian Muslims that originate from the states of Kedah, Kelantan and Terengganu, but it is not a surname

² Shah Alam is the state capital of Selangor, located approximately 16 miles from the country capital of Kuala Lumpur; Kuala Lumpur is landlocked by the state of Selangor in West Malaysia

³ Nur Aini is equivalent to a first name, while Abdul Masjid is the name of her father. There are no last names for Muslims, they go by 'bin' (son of) or 'binti' (daughter of) as an indication of familial descent, followed by their father's name

⁴ While the second person is commonly referred to as 'you' in conversations, it is also not uncommon in Malay to refer to the second person by name in conversations

⁵ Kota Bharu is the capital of the state of Kelantan

⁶ *tapi* – abbreviation for the word *tetapi*; Malay abbreviations are commonly used in everyday or informal speech, and also in text messages or online chats, but are considered incorrect or improper when used in official contexts, such as newspaper articles, when making public speeches or at school

⁷ *-lah* – *-lah* is a Malaysian suffix tacked on to the end of a word for verbal emphasis, but it doesn't actually mean anything

⁸ *Adik* is a gender-neutral term for a younger sibling, but here it refers to a younger brother

Kakak saya sudah kahwin, dan dia tinggal dengan keluarga suaminya.

English Translation:

Wan Nadia: My father's name is Wan⁹ Mohammad Alam; he works as an engineer. He works in Kuala Lumpur, although we live in Shah Alam, but my mother works in Shah Alam¹⁰. So, living in Shah Alam is rather suitable for my family.

My mother's name is Nur Aini binti Abdul Masjid¹¹. She is a company manager, and her company is an electrical company.

Emily: Are Nadia's¹² parents from Shah Alam or Kuala Lumpur?

Wan Nadia: No, they are from Kelantan, Kota Bharu¹³. My mother is [from a village] closer to the sea, but my father is [from a village] closer to the river.

Emily: Do your parents like living in Kuala Lumpur?

Wan Nadia: Yes, they like living in Kuala Lumpur. Kelantan is rather outdated – quite really – because the facilities [there] aren't equipped with electricity and [the water] pipes aren't very good.

Emily: How many years have Nadia's parents been living in Kuala Lumpur?

Wan Nadia: I think about 30 years? About that long? It's been a long time.

Emily: And Nadia's younger brother? Is he a student too?

Wan Nadia: My younger brother is an engineering student too, like my father.

My older sister is already married, and she lives with her husband's family.

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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 every day. 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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