I: Ok. How would you define a meme?

A: I would define a meme as a portrayal of an idea… uh, through.. you know either a still moving (correcting himself).. still or moving picture.

I: What is your first experience with a meme?

A: Um, (thinking) my first experience with a meme was with the uh.. rick roll videos.

I: Can you expand on that?

A: Uh, rick rolling was a form of an internet prank where you would be um, enticed into clicking on a video (pause) uh, typically on youtube and instead of getting what you clicked on you would end up watching a video of a popular singer uh, whose first name is Rick. Um, and you’d just kinda get trolled.

I: What do you prefer? GIF, video or image?

A: Um, I prefer (thinking) Gifs. Uh, I know one of the most popular ways of, you know, portraying uh memes is through images.

I: What memes do you find more relatable?

A: Um… (long pause) ones that have (thinking) clear emotional portrayal?

I: Like what?

A: Um.. let’s see (thinking). Uh, typically the memes with excessive outrage.

I: Give me an example.

A: Um, (thinking) there’s a popular meme of, uh (thinking) an individual responding to something they see on their computer, and as a response they flip the table.

I: Do you use memes as a way to communicate?

A: Sometimes, it really depends on the situation. If it’s a light hearted back and forth, absolutely. Memes are a fun way of communicating. Um, in a more serious conversation however, if its like more uh (thinking)… there’s more depth to the uh, message I’m trying to portray then no. Memes… memes wouldn’t be appropriate for that.

I: Would you rather use memes to express yourself rather than words?

A: Again, same answer. Depends on the response. Um, its (long pause) complicated. So, again, if I need to portray more of an in depth message, then no. Uh, however, if its like fun and light hearted, then yes.

I: Do you use memes to lift yourself?

A: Not really. I don’t have any sort of uplifting memes that I go through. Uh, its more of just a witty banter.

I: Why do you feel like memes are an appropriate way to express your emotion?

A: Um.. (long pause) if it’s a very basic emotion and if its light hearted and fun, memes work pretty well. Uh, its just a basic portrayal of what I’m feeling.

I: Do you think meme culture is toxic?

A: Um (sigh) I wouldn’t necessarily limit it to just meme culture. Um, there aggressiveness in all forms of communication, and we’ve had that through out all human history. So, you know any mode of communication you have especially if its in a form of anonymity or if you’re not necessarily face to face, uh, with the individual you’re communicating with, there’s gonna be situations where you have some forms of aggressiveness.

I: Do you think memes should stay for the long run?

A: I don’t really think that’s more of a conscience decision as much as it is an effect of the times. So, as a communication medium, memes didn’t exist 25 years ago. Neither did the infrastructure with which we send them. However, again, because we didn’t have them 25 years ago, who’s to say we wont (correcting himself) we will have them 25 years in the future? Its just a symptom of everchanging times.