Interviewer: Cong Ottih

Interviewee: Anonymous

**Cong:** What’s up man? H-how are you doing?

**Interviewee:** Pretty good, just chilling today.

**Cong:** Just chilling.

**Interviewee:** Just trying to get a little bit of work done.

**Cong:** Mk, homework.

**Interviewee:** Came to ATEC.

**Cong:** mm, mmk. uhm.. Are you familiar with memes?

**Interviewee:** Is that even a question? (laughs)

**Cong:** I mean I gotta ask you know some people are not so.

**Interviewee:** Yeah, nah I’m pretty familiar with memes.

**Cong**: Ok, uhh how would you define a meme?

**Interviewee:** Uhmm just a c- uhhh.. I would say picture of a laid back text that’s like amusing.

**Cong**: Mhmm, ok, mk, uhhmm. You have a first experience with memes?

**Interviewee:** That’s kind of a-That’s a tough question. Uhhhh.

**Cong**: Yea, do you remember your first experience?

**Interviewee:** (laughs)

**Cong:** (laughs)

**Interviewee:** Let’s say I sa- (laughs), uhh. I don’t think so. Probably really young, probably some-some time like, like back when, I don’t know uhh. Probably like some NBA memes.

**Cong:** NBA?

**Interviewee:** Yeah

**Cong:** Oh, basketball.

**Interviewee:** Yea, some basketball memes when I was like, in like, eighth grade or s-seventh grade or something like that.

**Cong:** Ok, cool cool. Uhm, yea what do you prefer like gifs, like videos, or image memes? You know they’re all different.

**Interviewee:** I think like video memes.

**Cong:** Video?

**Interviewee:** Yeah, cause it’s.. uhh. I guess it’s like, I laugh at a picture, but like I don’t know videos is-it’s overall more entertaining like..

**Cong:** Mhmm

**Interviewee:** well it is most of the time.

**Cong:** Mhmm, give me an example of something recent.

**Interviewee:** Uhhhhh. Like the 21 Savage meme where like (chuckles) uhhh I don’t know he did like an interview. He started talking about like, uhhh.. him like drinking tea and uhh [?] I don’t even know. I-It was like should’ve known all along that..

**Cong:** Yeah

**Interviewee:** 21 Savage was english.

**Cong:** British?

**Interviewee:** Yea

**Cong:** That’s crazy. Uhhmm. What memes do you personally like find more retable?

**Interviewee:** Hmmm, I don’t I-I wa- like watch memes to like relate to them. I just watch em for the comedy you know?

**Cong:** Yea

**Interviewee:** So like uhh.. relatable? I don’t know like there’s no like, direct meme. uhahhhh. (pause). I don’t know about memes, I just know like uhhh. You know like uhm, like instagram pages like TFM that like post like college content I guess. I don’t-

**Cong:** What do you mean? yea

**Interviewee:** Yea, do you know about tfms?

**Cong:** Yea, if I do.

**Interviewee:** The Total Frat Move.

**Cong:** Ohhhh

**Interviewee:** It’s just like..

**Cong:** Oh

**Interviewee:** It’s just like

**Interviewee:** I guess like funny college related content.

**Cong:** Ok, ok that’s a first. I’ve never heard of that.

**Interviewee:** Oh really?

**Cong:** Yea.

**Interviewee:** That’s kind of surprising. Uhh. Other than that, I don’t know about like, things that I could relate to with memes, I’m not sure.

**Cong:** Yea, cause umm. Like different cultures are different. So some people might have uhh different memes for example like I’m African.

**Interviewee:** Yeah.

**Cong:** So somebody shows me a meme I might get it more quickly.

**Interviewee:** Ohh ok, that’s what you mean yeah.

**Cong:** Than someone else.

**Interviewee:** Yea I-I get that. I don’t think I’ve had-had it’s like.

**Cong:** Well just culture in general.

**Interviewee:** Yea. I don’t know. I don’t-I don’t. (pause). I don’t think I have like a particular meme that like relates to my culture but, I-I can-can understand your point.

**Cong:** Ok, uhm. Yea, on to the next question. Do you use memes as a way to communicate?

**Interviewee:** Like do I personally make them or do I like send em to my friends?

**Cong:** Yea, to your friends.

**Interviewee:** Yeah, of course that’s like. Uh I mean like, I feel like it’s a good easy way to communicate that way you know. Find a meme that’s funny to share with your friends and like, obviously some memes are like kinda controversial. So obviously it

**Cong:** Yea

**Interviewee:** starts like a, you know at least a conversation between your friends.

**Cong:** hmm, ok. Uhm, do you think you would rather use memes to express yourself instead of words?

**Interviewee:** Hmm.

**Cong:**  Now it’s getting deep.

**Interviewee:** (laughs)

**Cong:** (laughs)

**Interviewee:** I don’t know about that because I feel like, you know most memes are written by other people. And you’re gonna obviously like- you know like say like, agree with the meme and agree that that’s you’re viewpoint.

**Cong:** Ok.

**Interviewee:** But, I feel like using your own words normally describes what you feel a little bit better.

**Cong:** Ok.

**Interviewee:** Something like that.

**Cong:** Ok, i-interesting. Uhm, so if you’re ever feeling like down or sad, do you ever use memes to lift yourself, to make ya laugh.

**Interviewee:** I’d say yeah.

**Cong:** be in good spirits.

**Interviewee:** definitely.

**Cong:** Yeah?

**Interviewee:** Yea, I’ve probably done that before. Cause I mean like, if you have an instagram it’s like literally not possible to not watch memes at some point.

**Cong:** Mmm, that is true.

**Interviewee:** So I mean, it’s definitely like, yea I guess so yea for sure.

**Cong:** Ok. ok umm, why is it that you-you do that?

**Interviewee:** Hmm, I mean, I mean us people in like twenty first century obviously we need to be entertained at all times.

**Cong:** Ok.

**Interviewee:** So, I think memes are obviously the easiest way cause like, sc-scrolling through like Instagram on your phone. Like, just can come up across anything funny. So I don’t know it’s uhh just like a, easy source of entertainment and it’s like normally always funny so.

**Cong:** Ok, uhm. Why do you feel like memes are an appropriate way to express yourself? Or, to express your emotions?

**Interviewee:** I think cause uhh. Hmm that’s a weird question, uhhhhh. (pause). I think normally it just is like. I don’t know if it expresses my emotion normally, I just like, if I see this funny meme I’ll just like send it to a few friends.

**Cong:** Mhmm.

**Interviewee:** And then like.

**Cong:** Really?

**Interviewee:** It’ll just be like (laughs). You know like just trying to share some laughs with people.

**Cong:** Ok.

**Interviewee:** But, I don’t really like-like most of my-the memes that I watch are just like funny and not like you know sad. Or really- like something that would like make you mad or something.

**Cong:** Really, that’s interesting cause um some memes. Or let me ask you do you think the meme culture is toxic or bullying in a way?

**Interviewee:** For sure, a little bit. (laughs)

**Cong:** Yea, that’s why I ask that. So.

**Interviewee:** I mean yeah for sure. I mean a lot of memes just like make fun of people cause you know even like the 21 Savage meme like the whole like thing that’s going on. I mean, a lot of people are trying to like stray awa- like a lot of celebrities are trying to like be like, yea it’s not that cool that everyone’s like, you know, making fun of the situation that.

**Cong:** Mhmm.

**Interviewee:** You know this guy has actually been deported, gone to jail for this.

**Cong:** Yeah.

**Interviewee:** Yea, it’s still like pretty amusing.

**Cong:** That’s true. That’s how it happen to us. Like laughing at people’s pain.

**Interviewee:** Yea, cause like so like Demi Lovato.

**Cong:** Mhmm.

**Interviewee:** There is like a bunch a memes when she got uhh- she went to rehab forrr, I think it’s, like coke. Or it was, I don’t know some serious ass -but I don’t even think it was coke it might of been like her- yeah it was heroin. She went to rehab for heroin, I think last year. I remember so many memes about it. But obviously like, it’s something serious. And, uh-

**Cong:** I didn’t know that actually.

**Interviewee:** I know that she didn’t really approve with a lot of people making fun of her for, you know, going to rehab.

**Cong:** You think it could’ve been bullying for her in a way?

**Interviewee:** Oh for sure.

**Cong:** Really?

**Interviewee:** Yea yea, I think definitely, it’s- you know it’s like kicking someone when they’re down.

**Cong:** Yeah.

**Interviewee:** Yeah, so definitely she- I-I definitely feel like she definitely felt uh, bullied like in that situation.

**Cong:** Ok uhm, I kno- I mean, that reminds me of the uhh, the 1st meme from a long time and I-I felt sorry. It was, the shovel girl? The girl getting hit in the head with a shovel.

**Interviewee:** Oh yeah.

**Cong:** Li-like, seeing that over and over again, I question for her if that could of been a bullying experience.

**Interviewee:** Yeah, a-I remember that. That-that was a long time ago.

**Cong:** Yea.

**Interviewee:** Yea definitely seeing that like everywhere on the internet would’ve been like pretty traumatic like- yea traumatic situation like, people who don’t even know you know the meme.

**Cong:** Mhm.

**Interviewee:** Like they even know your name, they just know you as the girl who got hit by a shovel (chuckles).

**Cong:** Yea, exactly. Uhm, give me an example of a meme where it’s like you’re not laughing at somebody but it’s like- meant to be happy not anything bullying.

**Interviewee:** Hmm, that’s actually kind of tough then. A lot of memes are actually like very degrading on people. Uhhhh. Hmmm. I don’t even know if I can think of one. (pause). Cause so many memes just like make fun of people. Like you know like basketball memes, like you know wh-when like Lebron dunked on Jason Terry.

**Cong:** Oh yeah.

**Interviewee:** And then like.

**Cong:** Yea that is- Got you got you.

**Interviewee:** Umm.

**Cong:** Yeah.

**Interviewee:** Uhh it’s kind of hard. I think most memes do make fun of people in the end. Uhh. This is very heard to think of.

**Cong:** Well I mean..

**Interviewee:** Do you have an example?

**Cong:** Uhmmm. Hmmm. Without that being the end result, I can’t think of anything else.

**Interviewee:** Yeah.

**Cong:** At the top of my head either. Uhh. Yea that’s something I would have to dig.

**Interviewee:** Yeah.

**Cong:** On the internet for, probably. Well, let me ask you this um. Do you think memes should stay for the long run? Like, do you see memes in your future, ten years from now?

**Interviewee:** Honestly. For sure uh- I definitely see it in the future. It’ll probably like expand to be something else.

**Cong:** Ok.

**Interviewee:** Like obviously as we like progress as like people in modern era.

**Cong:** Mhmm.

**Interviewee:** Our source of well- like yea our content changes a-along with us. So I think it’ll obviously change. But, I-I think something similar will be-will be there. Cause it’s like quick content it’s not like-

**Cong:** Yeah.

**Interviewee:** Like you know memes are just like you read it or you watch it. It’s like at- at most like ten twenty seconds. And then you’re done, like you either share it or just move on. So it’s like that quick content thing is like- definitely don’t see it going anywhere.

**Cong:** What they call it? Sometimes people call it microwave content.

**Interviewee:** Yeah.

**Cong:** Cause it’s so fast.

**Interviewee:** Yea.

**Cong:** And- yea. You don’t think it’s anything like a fad of any sort?

**Interviewee:** Definitely not, cause it’s like- if it’s a fad? (gasp) I mean. It would’ve like, you know fads normally come in waves. But this has just been like growing strong ever since it was really introduced. Like, I don’t even know when it was introduced.

**Cong:** Yeah it’s been a long time.

**Interviewee:** But, It di- I don’t think there’s been like even a slow down of memes.

**Cong:** Hmm. Noo.

**Interviewee:** I don’t even know like, I don’t know-

**Cong:** I’m trying to remember when it was introduced. Yea it’s been a really long time. I mean it has been going strong.

**Interviewee:** Yeah.

**Cong:** Maybe it just started off as a picture and now it’s like videos

**Interviewee:** Yeah.

**Cong:** and gifs. And, like you said, text to go along with it.

**Interviewee:** Yeah.

**Cong:** Yea.

**Interviewee:** Cause I even have friends that like- they like make memes. But they make it about like, like my- like, you know, other friends that we have like. Ye-I have one friend who’s like- he uhhh, he’s like really good at like making memes really fast.

**Cong:** Mmm.

**Interviewee:** Cause like, he would like try to fire up at somebody in our group chat and just like quickly slide out a meme.

**Cong:** Dang.

**Interviewee:** Just like, go to snapchat like cu- I don’t know. You know how on snapchat you have like the scissor thing and you can like, you know cut out pictures of people’s face

**Cong:** Yeah.

**Interviewee:** and use them later. Like he would do that and then just like. Crop out different people’s face on different images and like make a meme really fast.

**Cong:** Whoa. Ye-that’s some talent.

**Interviewee:** Yeah I know. (chuckles) That’s some talent, cause he’s also like a pretty good artist.

**Cong:** Do you make memes?

**Interviewee:** Me personally? I think I’ve made like. Like one or

**Cong:** One.

**Interviewee:** like two in total like ever. This is like kind of, a lot of work for-

**Cong:** It is.

**Interviewee:** You know, a short amount of like humor.

**Cong:** It is um, yea man to do it at a fast pace that must be some kind of talent.

**Interviewee:** Yea, especially cause now you know how on like. Uhhh, I guess on like every-, well I mean on iMessage you can like just google like gifs and like memes.

**Cong:** Mm. mmmm. Yea, yea I know.

**Interviewee:** Yea, so it’s like- it’s kind of like unnecessary to make your own meme.

**Cong:** Memes are fully a part of the culture now in 2019.

**Interviewee:** Yea, for sure.

**Cong:** Yea ok, welp. Thank you for the interview.

**Interviewee:** Yeah, no problem.

**Cong:** Appreciate it.

**Interviewee:** Yea uhh, I enjoyed this talk.

**Cong:** Yea, no it was really useful.

**Interviewee:** Yeah, for sure.

**Cong:** Alright.

**Interviewee:** Alright, [?].

**Cong:** Thank you man, good luck on your homework.

**Interviewee:** Yea.