Elena Davidiak - Interview Cristanir

Interviewer/Interviewee

Interviewer: Where are you from?

Interviewee: Colombia.

Interviewer: How long have you been to the United States?

Interviewee: Approximately 17, 18 years.

Interviewer: Do you usually communicate in English?

Interviewee: Yes, in both languages.

Interviewer: When you need to see a doctor, do you usually visit a Spanish

speaking physician, or not?

Interviewee: No.

Interviewer: And why not?

Interviewee: Because I feel comfortable; in the area where we live, I consider

that it's a little complicated to find a specialist, above all specialists who speak Spanish, then many times you have to visit a specialist and not a general physician and then you learn the American

terminology, symptoms and how you can express—

Interviewer: And has your experience with medicine been mainly positive or

negative?

Interviewee: Positive, very positive.

Interviewer: Do you feel that it's different from the one in Colombia?

Interviewee: No, I don't think so. I think that here it's better regarding the fact

that there's more technology, there are more resources with

equipment where you can—more sophisticated, I would say, more

technology in that, diagnosis equipment, but I think that

knowledge is really good both here and there.

Interviewer: Do you feel you were always able to communicate well with

physicians?

Interviewee: Yes, for me it is easy. If I don't understand, I ask them to say it

again more slowly.

www.thelai.com Page 1 of 2

Interviewer: What would have improved your experience?

Interviewee: What has improved?

Interviewer: What would have improved your experience?

Interviewee: What would have improved? at first, because I have been here for

17 years, but at first, I would have definitely liked to have someone who carried out a simultaneous interpreting for me and that we understood each other because there are many people who speak Spanish and that make translations, but they are from other countries; then, sometimes, at first, the translations—, I didn't understand because they brought someone who had different words

in Spanish that I didn't understand.

Interviewer: It would be translation from Spanish into Spanish

Interviewee: Yes, because, there are many Caribbean people and I'm from

Colombia and in the center of the country vocabulary is different from what is used in the Caribbean so sometimes I couldn't even

understand what they were telling me in Spanish.

Interviewer: Any specific moment that you would like to talk about that was a

little more complicated, or funny?

Interviewee: Like an example, you mean? An example? Yes. I suffered from a

disease that I didn't know anything about, and when they began to talk about—it was necessary for me to come home and google some terms because I felt they have spoken in Chinese to me, and then, just words that—like saying 'cyst' which is kind of a small ball, a tumor or something like that, I didn't understand what a 'cyst' was, then I just said yes to everything, and later I had to come and search what a 'cyst' was. Then, yes, sometimes it gets a little complicated when there is new terminology or vocabulary.

Interviewer: Thank you very much. That would be all.

Interviewee: Oh, then it was something painless, really fast.

Interviewer: Yes, that was fast.

[End of Audio]

www.thelai.com Page 2 of 2