11.5. interviews

SESSION 1 with lady and man

Lady

Family portrait from childhood / lapsuuden perhekuva

2:28 We had bit of diffiiculty to understand what this assignment meant, but I brought these along. This is a portrait from of my family, from childhood. My father has died already. This portrait is on display, so we see it every day.

2:48 interviewer: Yes. Who are shown in this photo?

2:51 Who are these? Well, this my eldest sister Maj-Lis, this my next sister Vuokko, who is older than me. This my youngest sister Kerstin. This is my mother Olga. This is me. This is my sister, a younger sister, Seija, and this is my… I have to *(rotates the photo)*, my brother Sven. It lacks… well, Maj-Lis is here. Who is missing? The only one missing is father. This is Jon, the youngest brother Jon.

3:35 interviewer: Yes, a big (family)...

3:36 Seven childer. I am the middle one. And everyone is alive.

3:45 interviewer: Yes, that is nice.

3:46 Except mother of course.

3:49 interviewer: It seems there is there is lot of age difference. Your mother was widowed quite young.

3:55 Yes, she was widowed young. Father was fifty… Father died year -52. And mother was then … I’ve got to remember this. Mother was 42. As I recall. Something like that. I can remember it wrong a little bit, but not much.

4:16 interviewer: An admirable women. Managed well. ihailtava nainen.

4:18 She managed quite well, and she is… was, she is deceased, well, utmost proud, ambitious. She wanted to show immediately after father died, to take this portrait to show that she has this kind of gang, and she is taking care of it. And well, everything has went quite well. And of course it is nice that everyone is alive. You boys can look as well (showst the photo to the observers). I’ll recite the names, Maj-Lis Maria, Vuokko Tuulikki, Kerstin Helena. This is mother, Olga, she didn’t have second name. She is a wartime, born sometime during the war, and back then the second name was not used. She was bit sorry because she didn’t have a second name. Her maiden name was Laajala, and my maiden name, and father’s name is Sumell. This is me, Sara Anneli. This is Seija Mariitta, here Sven Jalmar named after father. And this is Jon Valdemar. We have Swedish names, I am from Kokkola.

5:45 interviewer: What do you think first, what comes to your mind from this photo at home? Yes, when you look at it, what comes to mind?

5:51 Well, it reminds that I should call Maikku, this older sister, because she is always expecting my call, even if I call everyday. And also comes to mind, that, uh. Well, Kerstin lives in U.S.A., and there. She doesn’t keep touch, and of all these people, I am the one who keeps in touch with everyone. They ask how is Kerstin, when have you called her? Many of them don’t call, or keep touch. So I have been the one for some time now, who keeps these siblings posted on what happens and where.

6:41 interviewer: Yes.

6:43 Did I answer the question?

6:44 interviewer: Yes. How would you describe this by appearance, if someone hasn’t seen this ever? How would you describe this as an object? Not as an item with significance to you, but as an object.

7:02 Uh, I would descri… Or what would a strange person say about this portrait? He would say, that wonderful, to have this kind of … portrait.

Kuparipannu, Copper coffee pot

7:12 interviewer: Yes. should we view the others?

7:16 Items? Well, I may have lost out of the subject, but I brought this along. This a copper pot. My mother bought this for me when I, so to speak, moved out (to the world), meaning here in Oulu to study. Well, she bought this pot, and it was in the nursing school where I first studied. In that kitchen many other did make coffee with this than me. Isn’t it cute?

7:48 interviewer: Yes. It is wonderful. Is it in use anymore?

7:50 Well, not really. It on top of a white cupboard. But I took this along because I have something to tell about this item. It is a copper pot.

8:03 interviewer: I’ll check what this says. Peltitehdas Oy, Helsinki

8:11 And it is no use to throw this away.. ever. Some of the children will have it then. I have two children. What I’ll show next.

8:24 interviewer: Please, show.

Villapusero, wool blouse

8:25 This a sweater. It was like, that I was on business trip in Helsinki and and Stockmann I saw this, and the mother’s day was coming soon, and I bought this for my mother. Mother was still alive back then. This is Marks & Spencer. And when mother died, I took this for myself, and I wear it, it is a good garment. And it is in use. Was this an appropriate story?

9:01 interviewer: Yes, most definitely.

9:04 Mother wore this, when I got bought this for her. She did not had much time to wear it. She died, perhaps six months after the christmas. Yes, six months after the christmas she got it.

9:16 interviewer: Yes. How would you describe for example this color?

9:20 Well, this is, yes. Hmm. Burgundy.

9:26 interviewer: Yes. A beautiful garment.

9:30 Isn’t it. SHould be in use.

Äidin tossut, Mother’s slippers

9:31 Then there is, well, mother’s slippers. They match with that *(points out the sweater)*. I bought them to her as a christmas gift, and she died after it in January. And the belong into this same. I wear these at home. Only disadvantage is that they are quite slippery, these the sort that when they age, they become slippery. I have fell down with these sometimes, but I won't throw them away.

10:01 interviewer: Mmmm. If they fit well to your feet.

10:03 Yes they do, and then there is sentimental value.

10:06 interviewer: Sentimental value

10:07 Yes. These here.

Sokerisakset / Sugar scissors

10:09 Then. Topi took these along, because… Do you know what these are?

10:17 interviewer: Some sort of pliers, but…

10:19 These are sugar scissors. Back in the days sugar was shaped, it was called loaf, sugarloaf...

10:28 interviewer: Yes

10:31 … That is was not in bits. This was used to take that sugar. This is of course from my home, when home, everything was divided, and we took items, and this not naturally going to waste. I am not sure whether father made this, but most likely. There was a story of my father, that during the wartime, when they shot down airplanes, some people, among my father used that metal which landed, and melted it and made items from it. My sister has scissors, which, according to her, father made out of metal from a Russian airplane which has dropped down to the ground. I think that these are that sort, because there isn’t written a factory name. Do you (*Zeeshan*) feel that these are handmade? Check. They are sugar scissors. You guys are so young that you don’t know the use of them. I mean, sugar was shaped like (*makes the shape of cone with hand movement).* Then it is cut like this, and then we took sugar.

11:54 interviewer: I have heard of a sugarloaf, and heard of sugar scissors, but….

11:56 You have? But this was first time you saw. Fortunately I brought these along.

Vispilä / whisk

12:01 Then I have everyday-items that I use. This is a common whisk. I am not a cook, Topi cooks mostly, but occasionally I make food, and this is like a very good whisk. This is from my home. The stuff that is from there.

12:25 interviewer: Yes, your childhood home or?

12:28 Yes. When we were dividing the stuff, I took this one.

Mikroastia / container to heat food in microwave

12:35 And this is bit newer item. THis is in our daily use, we heat food in the microwave oven in this. Ja tää on sitten uudempi asia.

12:46 interviewer: Yes

12:47 This is so called current utensil.

12:49 interviewer: Yes. Does it include any memories?

12:54 Well, not really. Hey. Yes it does include. This is my mothers. It came from there. Yes. But the story, Topi probably remembers it better, but I’d say that we bought this for mother. And when we were dividing the stuff. But I can be wrong about it, but probably it was like this. That’s why it was given to us.

13:22 interviewer: But in any case, you think of this more as a utility article…

12:27 Yes, this is not a memorabilia. It is in our cupboard, and used almost every day. This is very good microwave dish.

13:32 interviewer: Yes, looks very good.

13:37 What next?

13:39 interviewer: There is plenty….

13:40 Enough already?

13:42 interviewer: No, please, show if you have more.

Additional talk about the family portrait:

15:20 interviewer: You have lots of items related to your home and especially to your mother.

15:22 Well, yes. Ain't this portrait a nice one ?

15:26 interviewer: Yes

15:28 This is my sister, did I say we are seven. Yes, and one of us is there in USA and two are in Sweden. And this photo is in Sweden at my sister in the hallway, when the house is entered, there at display. This Kerstin, one would think that she is, well not necessary a mentally handicapped, but this expression on her face. She is irked by it as an adult. This portrait is taken in a studio. My mother was very proud. She showed, when father died, that she will take care of us. We always wore clothing made by a dressmaker. There was a will show to people that we will go on.

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11.5. Man

Kolikkokukkaro / Coin purse

6:16 interviewer: We can start to view your items.

6:20 Yes, there are some. For example this coin pursu. It belonged to my late mother-in-law. It felt that she always had money. On this side she had bills, and this side coins. At probate no-one wanted it, so I say that I am glad to have it. It is now in our car as parking meter purse. There is also these, I think these (tokens) are more valuable than two euros. Money can be spent, but these not. One can go on without money (?X)

7:09 interviewer: Is this made of leather?

7:12 yes.

Olutkolpakko / beer coblet

7:14 Then this is not everyday action, but I have this memorous X. Twothousa… sorry ninety...

7:24 interviewer:-97

7:25 -97 we were in business trip at a coal mine in Poland. The mine delivered us, the Raahe “KOPSIng place” the coal which was made into KOPSI. There was this, not a god, but somesort of mythical creature, a protector of the mine. And the festivals was annual. We visitors were given this mug. It is not very valuable, but it was the first time I got to visit in a coal mine. Iron mines are other Finnish mines are familiar, and I have worked in many. Mainly in research as a foreman. I don’t drink beer everyday, but sometimes I have one, and it includes nice memories.

Coarse salt / Karkea suola

8:30 And here is as everyday item a coarse salt. It is by the oven on the table, and I always use it. I think that coarse salt is better than fine one. It is in daily use.

8:48 interviewer: Do you have always..? Is it used in the family..?

8:50 Sorry?

8:52 Do you have used coarse salt in your childhood or is more like an adulthood ….?

8:55 Well, more like an adult… Yes, well, if we salted a fish, then we used coarse salt. Never a fine salt.

Pliers / Pihdit

9:05 Then there is this kind of pliers. We received these decades ago, when our first-born born in -72, he was born with section, and wife produced milk only a short period of time and we had to use milk bottle. Our acquaintances gave these, they’ve had that phase already, to pick the milk bottle from the heat. Nowadays we don’t pick up milk bottle, but these help with picking up some boxes such as oatmeal from upper shelf.

9:44 interviewer: XXX originally.

9:46 Yes, that time.

Candle extinguisher / Kynttilänsammutin

9:51 Then there is a candle extinguisher. Of course we don’t use this every day, but when we extinguish them. This is bought from Lintula monastery long time ago.

10:07 interviewer: Was it a holiday trip?

10:09 Yes, a holiday. We visited both monasteries.

Scout spoon / Partiolusikka

10:15 Then there is a simple looking scout sppon. I use this at home, and I must add that it is a rare occasion if I don’t eat soup with this. I was a scout as a child. I don’t know if it from there, but this spoon is our daughter’s or son’s scout spoon. I think that everything tastes better with this. Wife tells me that she don’t put this into a dishwasher but she washes it right away.

10:53 interviewer: Do you anything else remaining from that set? It includes...

10:56 No I don’t, it includes a fork and a knife. Well, the knife we might have, but I don’t use it because it is bit blunt.

Egg slicer / Munaleikkuri

11:06 Then, or do we have already? 1, 2, 3, 4. We have four already.

11:08 interviewer: There is five.

11:09 Five, six X. This is a egg slicer, yes. Sometimes, we don’t have a prober place for this, it is found in cupboards or… But we use only five, don’t we?

11:29 interviewer: Yes. Is this a utility item or?

11:35 Utility item. Yes. When the eggs are boiled and sliced. Really good.

11:42 interviewer: Yes, this feels sturdier than the plastic versions.

11:46 Yes, this bought in store close to the market place, where they sold kitchenwares. Little more expensive that the plastic one, but this is durable.

Frying pan / Paistinpannu

12.01 This kind of pan. This, well… .

12:03 interviewer: Lasts forever.i

12:04 This was in use of mother-in-law, her late husband bought this from an auction. She cooked with this, and I think that the present teflon, or what ever these pans are, are “no-good”. The steaks and everything was prepared so good, and when she died, they held a probate, and fortunately no-one wanted it. I wanted it. It is like “greased-thru”.

12:45 interviewer: Yes. I can see that it is been in use.

12.48 Yes. But now lets select the items.

12:52 interviewer: Do you really....

12:55 In use.

12:56 interviewer: In use.

Can opener / Purkinavaaja

12:57 Yes, yes. And this kind of completely normal can opener, but really good. Have you ever used this?

13:09 interviewer: No I haven’t. I have always used the normal.

13:10 This is fast. Just put it between these. Squeeze. Cuts good. And it has pliers. Snip.

13:23 interviewer: The last (bit)

13:25 Yes, off it goes. But should we start to divide these.

Speculations

13:31 interviewer: Could it be this (the pan) because it is in use and the mother-in-law…

13:37 Yes, related also. Also the for this (purse)

13:40 interviewer: And this (spoon) is cute. And this (candle extinguisher), or maybe this (coblet).

13:51 I don’t drink beer daily.

13:55 interviewer: Is this used for drinking?

13:56 Yes it is, yes.

13:58 interviewer: Yes. And it includes that wonderful story.

More about coblet

14:01 Yes, I’d say that people should visit or see what is the work in the coal mine. I worked in Rautaruukki and Otamäki corporation mines. Otamäki merged with Rautaruukki in year -68. I worked there as a research branch foreman. I would say that it an office-like work compared to coalmines. The corridors are narrow, and there is always danger of collapse and explosion. Gas. We were handed out a oak or hickory canes, so that we don’t lose balance. Metal was prohibited, for not to light a spark. It was an experience

15:07 interviewer: Should we take one of these two, both are related to mother-in-law?

15:12 Mother-in-law, yes. Do we need to handle these later on?

15:16 interviewer: Yes, you bring them again the next time.

15:21 This (pan) is larger, if we put this away. yes.

Chosen items:

Coble, pliers, candle extinguisher, scout spoon.