

University of Northern Colorado

Scholarship & Creative Works @ Digital UNC

Heritage Conversation Partners

Department of Anthropology

23-2-2022

Evergreen Session Four Clean Transcript

Oscar Gonzalez

Liner Solarte

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digscholarship.unco.edu/hcp>

Recommended Citation

Gonzalez, Oscar and Solarte, Liner, "Evergreen Session Four Clean Transcript" (2022). *Heritage Conversation Partners*. 6.

<https://digscholarship.unco.edu/hcp/6>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Department of Anthropology at Scholarship & Creative Works @ Digital UNC. It has been accepted for inclusion in Heritage Conversation Partners by an authorized administrator of Scholarship & Creative Works @ Digital UNC. For more information, please contact Jane.Monson@unco.edu.

February 23, 2022

ANT 300 class- Applied Anthropology,

University of Northern Colorado

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

* * * * *

INTERVIEWERS: Emily Dzhinenko and Katie Carter

PARTICIPANTS: Oscar Gonzalez and Liner Solarte

Transcript:

Captioning Provided by:

Partners Interpreting

www.partnersinterpreting.com

508-699-1477 (V)

508-809-4894 (VP)

* * * * *

This text, document, or file is based on live transcription. Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART), captioning and/or live transcription are provided in order to facilitate communication accessibility and may not be a totally verbatim record of the proceedings. This text, document, or file is not to be distributed or used in any way that may violate copyright law.

* * * * *

(Captions provided by a live Captioner.)

CAPTIONER: Standing by.

EMILY: Good morning. We are going to wait just a couple more minutes and then we can get things started.

OSCAR: Good morning. I am ready to ask her if she will come.

EMILY: Okay. Has anyone heard from anyone else if they will be able to make it or not?

OSCAR: Liner is coming.

KATIE: And Miranda said she would not be able to make it, but I have not heard from anyone else.

EMILY: Good morning.

LINER: How are you guys?

EMILY: I know one of our classmates, Miranda, she will not be able to make it today. I'm not sure about the two others that are typically here. I think we should go ahead and start. And if they join, that will be great. And if not, we will figure out why later. So, this week we want to talk about homes, family, and housing. I know we have talked about a lot of this throughout the past sessions, but there are some topics we have not necessarily covered. What is the most common kind of home, like is it an actual house, apartments, condos? Is that a mixture of everything?

LINER: In Venezuela, it is a house. And most of the people live in houses, I think. And there are also condos and apartments. There are different kinds of houses. Here we are finding that here -- I think it is when people live on a farm, it is mostly the same. But over there, it is a very humble house. I don't know how to describe that. Like the walls might be made up of this, very thin, [Indiscernible] pipes like for water or the toilets. People have to carry the water. Most of the time they have lights and electricity. Something like that.

OSCAR: In El Salvador we have a territory with high probability of earthquakes. So, we don't have buildings. When you go to El Salvador, you might have a couple of buildings, no more than two or three buildings because in the past some earthquakes destroyed everything. So we are in a small country, a really, really small country. The custom, the construction of the houses and the offices, might be small buildings, two or three floors, no more than that. So, I think we have like the same structure, the concrete structure like Venezuela has, like Liner explained it. We have a coast, a big part of the country is in front of the ocean, the Pacific Ocean, so in that area, the houses are like for poor people. It's like a farm near that area. Everything, like the material we use to build houses there, is concrete. We don't have the same structure. We don't ever use wood or other materials that we are using here in the US. But concrete is cheaper there. We have plants and mountains that they produce. The concrete is cheaper there. So, it is a strong structure. If you build a house, you can have the same house maybe 100 years without doing higher maintenance. Because you have to take care of your electricity, and the ceiling, you have to take care of the

ceiling because of course, it is impossible to have a ceiling for more than 20 years or something like that. But for sure it is better than here because we don't have extreme weather conditions [in El Salvador]. There is just the same conditions, tropical weather. So, it is easier. Here we have cold conditions, like right now. And then we have hot conditions. And I think that damages every material that our houses are made of. In my case I used to have at the beginning of my life, outside of my house, my family house, I start having a small apartment. I buy an apartment in 1995, a long time ago. And then I sold the apartment and buy a small house and then buy another one, and at the end of the day we lived in a big house in a beautiful area, a safe area. As we talk in other meetings, you have security issues in my country. So, we have to pay more to live in a safer area. So that is what I can share about that.

LINER: I remember I went to -- I went to the Netherlands, Amsterdam. I went [Indiscernible] and after that, I realized in that moment the big gap that there is in my country. When you work on the trees [Indiscernible] you don't know if the people who live over there have money or a lot of money or something. But when you go to Venezuela, you know who is very poor and who has money just seeing the houses from the street.

EMILY: I guess just to answer the American perspective even though I am assuming you guys have seen it, it is really a mixture of houses and condos and apartments. I think who lives in them is more separated by generations of younger adults such as those in their 20s or some in their 30s. They definitely live in an apartment unless they are freshly married. And they took a loan from the bank. But the majority I would say younger people in the apartments and the older wealthier people have houses from what I've seen. But it is not exclusive. There are a lot of families that live in apartments. There are a lot of young kids that live in a house, but they are all renting a different room in it. It is so full of young adults. That is what I have noticed at least. What about you, Katie?

KATIE: I have noticed kind of the same and just in relation to like smaller towns. Like I grew up in a smaller city. We had lots of houses. We did not have a ton of apartments. Then as you get closer to bigger cities and things like that, there are a lot more apartments and condos from what I have noticed. And then lots of people just own a ton of land and have houses.

EMILY: Which family members live in your houses or typically live in a house in your country? In America if you are not a different ethnicity, typically it is just one or two generations in a house, but a lot of my friends that are either Hispanic or Chinese, you know, they continue with their cultural traditions of having maybe three or four generations living in one house together. So, what is it like for you guys?

OSCAR: In our case we don't have a tradition to live together. But we used to visit each other I think every weekend when I lived there and had my family. We try to be closer, to be in contact every week. But everyone, every family was in their own house. And I am the older son to my

family. I have my siblings, two guys, and everyone has their own house. My younger brother has an apartment because he is younger, but younger, I think at 37 years is not so young. But he decided to have an apartment, a luxury apartment. But everybody lives in their own space. We don't live together. I think we would have a lot of trouble too when there are too many hours being together. It is not easy. My mom is the queen of the house, and she doesn't want to let anybody make a decision. So, we decided to move to our own space.

KATIE: In my experience, a lot of my family live in separate houses. But I have grandparents that would live in the same town so we could see them a lot of the time and that has happened more recently. And I do have a lot of family everywhere. But I've had a lot of aunts and uncles start to move to where my siblings and parents and I live so that we can all spend more time to because we have not seen each other very often. I am not sure about other families because I have known people and had friends who have multiple generations of being in the same house. I cannot speak for everybody in the US, but that is my experience with this.

EMILY: Liner, are you able to answer right now?

LINER: Excuse me, yes. Can you hear me?

EMILY: Slightly. Could you be a little bit closer to the microphone?

LINER: Okay. Now?

EMILY: Yes.

LINER: In Venezuela it depends. Because when people don't have enough money, they can live four generations in one house, and the same house. Most of the time they build their house, and they used to build it in the [Indiscernible]. Their houses are growing if the families are growing. Because they don't have a place to go and enough money to buy an apartment or house. Or even a piece of land. They might make their houses on the top of their mama's house on the top of the house. But when people have enough money then they tend to move to another place and not two generations in one house.

EMILY: Is it expensive to buy or build a house for you guys? I have never had to buy a house, but it is pretty expensive and difficult here in America.

LINER: It is like the same. It is cheaper down there, but people don't have the money. It is almost the same. I bought my apartment when I was 28. And I had three jobs at that moment. But they made me pay faster -- it was the same price, but money didn't have the same value.

OSCAR: For me it is the same. In my country it is difficult for people to have their own house. You have to be in a good job and have the credit to buy a new house or a used. And as Liner said, the houses are cheaper there. Right now, we live in a 350,000-dollar house. But it is like a 1 million house here. There is a huge difference. For me paying \$1800 there is a lot of money. It is too much money. But here if you are renting an apartment, you might be paying \$1800. It is not uncommon to pay that. I know it is a lot of money, but it is more easy to make money here than there. So, everybody starts in a small house. If they say the area is not safe, maybe the prices are lower. But here in the US, if you want to live in Detroit, for example, a house there is cheaper there than in Colorado or some areas in California, for example. So, I think it is the same.

EMILY: Another question we have is when should children move out? Is it encouraged? In America here typically it is not like when the kid turns 18, they need to move out because they are going to college or if they haven't moved out by a certain time in their 20s, it makes it sound like maybe they are lazy. I feel like that view is shifting since the economy is much more difficult and the housing market is a lot more expensive. So, it is much more popular for kids to be moving back home especially when the pandemic began. I know there were a lot of kids moving back home into their parents' houses so they could save money and have somewhere to live.

LINER: Leaving the house as a kid is not encouraged. If kids move out, it is because they want to. It is not because they have to. In my case I moved. My apartment, I left my apartment during the previous three years. It was because of the environment to move from my apartment. If you don't -- sometimes in Venezuela if there is an empty apartment, most of the time if there is an empty house, people can move into your house and get into your house without permission. [Indiscernible] you can take them out. That is why I moved. Because of that environment, not because of my mom told me," Hey, move out or move in with your buddies." No. I used to tell everybody my mom and I are very comfortable here in my mom's house. And my mom is happy. I have my apartment as an investment.

OSCAR: In my country you move when you get married. It is not a custom to move to another house like when you are 18 years old. For us it is strange to do that. We live with our family until we get married. As I told you, my younger brother, he got married when he was 33 years old, and it was maybe like three or four years ago. I am not sure how old he is right now. But for me it was too much it. Because all the time he used to go to drink every Friday and Saturday and getting into bed too late. And my dad was worried about him. That is the part that I don't like with our tradition, to move until we get married. But it is like that in my country. I moved when I was really young. Because I got married when I was 18 years old with my school girlfriend. So, I moved when I was young. But it is not the common thing. It is not a tradition to live with your

family a couple of days when you get married. If you get married, you move it. It is like that. But here, I noticed that the children, 18 years old, they are still like almost children it. I mean it is getting older, but it is really young to make their own decision. It is a different culture here. My daughter is 18 years old and sometimes we talk about how she wants to move. For me, you know my brain is like it is really difficult to think about that. Because I know life is not easy. You know she has her own space here and she will move when she wants it. I don't want to push her to move, to live alone.

EMILY: Is marriage typically one of the few reasons why children move out? Are there a lot of different reasons? I know you had your reason and Oscar, you just gave one but are there other reasons that children move out? Or not very common.

LINER: Yes. Very similar. They move when they get married. But I am single. *(Laughter)*

EMILY: I feel like in America when people start dating, they will usually start living together when they get engaged and sometimes even beforehand. And if they are still with their parents by the time that happens, they move out and are already living together when they get married.

OSCAR: In my country everything is closer. If you go to universities, it's like 30 minutes from your house, or maybe 40. So, its in the same city so the people may go to live in another city to study. But in the case of my wife, for example, she lives in a small town, like one hour-and-a-half from the capital. She made the decision to move just for studying and every weekend she goes back to her house with her family. Sometimes that happens. But it is not common. People used to live with their family, you know, study in the same city. And that is why we didn't have to move. It is easy for the guys; you know for the young people. They don't have to pay rent. It is expensive there. We talked about money last week and for example if you were 18 years old, 20 years old, looking for a job, they will pay you no more than \$350. With that you cannot live alone. And that is why you have to stay with your family. And maybe they push you to go to work to help them pay some bills in their house, but not for living alone. You realize it is impossible to live alone if you don't have a proper education and nice job to make your life alone

EMILY: I had a friend when she was 18, she was told to move out. In now she has like 22 and she lives with her parents again because it is just so expensive and her parents are finally realizing like oh, that wasn't really that smart of a decision to have her leave when she was 18. She cannot necessarily afford to live by herself even with a well-paid job like we could. So, I have noticed a lot of that happening here in America. Katie, what have you noticed? What has your family -- what are the kind of do?

KATIE: In my experience my aunt and uncle moved out of their parents' house after moving in again because of the financial situation. One thing I have noticed with my family is that a lot of

the older generations talk behind their backs. Like, “Oh, they are not good enough to get their own place” They just say really bad things about them because they are having a difficult financial situation. That is just something I’ve noticed. It’s still something that’s looked down upon a lot in America. It is definitely changing, but I feel like a lot of older generations still want people to move out and live on their own and they don’t want to keep depending or having people depend on them.

EMILY: Yes, that is kind of a thought that once your kids turn 18 you don’t have to financially take care of them anymore. That is not your problem or your task necessarily. It’s not like this is my child and I would do everything I can to help them with whatever for as long as it is needed. It is more like you are 18 and you are moving out. I might support you, but you have to do everything on your own now. Who is the most important person in a typical family? Does one family member have more control over the household or the family?

LINER: Mama. (*Laughter*)

OSCAR: In our tradition it is mama. The mother is the one who tells us what we have to do. It is the same in my house. My wife listens to me but also tells me what to do. I cannot tell her different.

LINER: In Venezuela, we see that many people, even if the children have more, they get together every now and then. For example, every week, every two weeks. They gather also on holidays. But when mama passes away, everybody gets a break, and it is very difficult to get together again.

OSCAR: The same thing happened with the family. We used to have amazing holidays and Christmas or the New Year holidays when my grandmother was alive. But when she passed away nobody gets together. My family, my mom and my dad started to have a new tradition with some friends. But, for maybe 18 or 20 years. I enjoyed a lot to be with my family. It was amazing. A lot of people eating the same food. That taste of the grandmother cooked the food. And we were sharing amazing moments. But I think at that time I don’t understand how valuable [*struggling with pronunciation*], how can I say that, At the moment I did not realize how important it was to me or how amazing it was the time I was living. Everybody wants to grow up and make my own decision and maybe I did not enjoy that moment. But right now, I feel it was an amazing part of my life. I would like to live it again, but it’s impossible. It is now just a part of my past.

EMILY: A quick note, you were very close on the word. It is valuable. You are very close. You are doing a great job.

OSCAR: Say it again please?

EMILY: Valuable.

OSCAR: Excuse me. Again? (*Laughter*)

EMILY: Valuable.

LINER: (*Laughing*)

OSCAR: Okay, okay. Don't judge. (*Laughter*)

EMILY: It is value and able together. You say those two words as one real quick. Valuable.

OSCAR: [Mutes himself and practices pronunciation of "valuable"]

LINER: You are muted!

OSCAR: I know! I was practicing, "valuable". I muted because I did not want you to listen. (*Laughter*)

[Oscar correctly says the word]

EMILY: That's awesome! That's great. Well, practice is going well so far. You did well that one time. I don't really -- I have not lived with my parents for a long time. I cannot really say too much as to who was the most important person in my household growing up. If Katie has more accurate answer or personal answer, that would be nice to hear.

KATIE: I don't speak for everybody, but in my family, it was typically my mom just because she brought in the most income for my family and she would do a lot of the cooking as well. She did a lot for my family. She was considered the most important person in the family. I know it is different for a lot of people. I know here in the U.S. a lot of times it is considered who brings in the most amount of money, but that is also varying from household to household.

EMILY: It was mentioned earlier that sometimes houses are built, and you just continue building and living at that house. Is it common for that to be the case when living in a house, to build or have -- how does that work?

LINER: Excuse me?

EMILY: Building houses? Here in America, you typically buy an already built house. You don't build your own house. How is that in Venezuela? Do you guys build your own houses more often? Or do you just buy already made houses?

LINER: We have both. People who live in the countryside frequently build their own house. Or some people who live in the city, in the -- I don't know -- in the suburbs, they can build their own house. But many times, you can buy an already made house. That is my case.

EMILY: I think it would be really fun to learn how to build my own house. I would feel very self-sufficient and capable. But I know it is expensive. Everything is. Maybe it is less expensive than buying a house. But in the future that is kind of what I would like to do which is build my own house, have a backyard for my dogs to run around in and play.

LINER: Yes. It would be fun. But I don't know if it is going to be easy to have my own house, to build it. But I would love to build it. For example, maybe a house with a container. I like that design.

EMILY: There are a lot of cool houses out there. What about you, Katie? Would you ever want to build a house?

KATIE: I think so. I think it would be a lot more fun. You can put in what you want to, and you don't have to work around what was already given to you. But I have heard it is cheaper in the US most of the time to build your own. But I have never had the experience of buying a house. So, I don't have anything to go off.

EMILY: One day I will own a home. I am just looking at some more questions. Do you think children should look after their parents once they get old?

LINER: I think yes. And I do that. If they don't have money, they are not able to work. And I think it is unfair to don't help them when they have done everything for me.

EMILY: What do you think about how in America people send their parents to like assisted living or senior homes?

LINER: Okay that is interesting. That is a good question. I don't think it is -- I mean -- I used to have two siblings, one of them has passed away. And the other one, she doesn't take care of my parents. The only one is me. So, in one moment in my life, I started to think that was very hard when I lived in Venezuela, to take care of them. And I felt, I started to feel the pressure because my older sister thinks I should do that, I should do that even alone. She has her kids, their kids, sorry. And I have to take care of my parents because I'm single. And in the moment, I thought oh, my gosh if I have children in a moment of my life, I'm going to do my best to be independent. An older woman, an old independent woman because it is very hard for kids to take care of their parents. So, I don't think it is a bad thing. Maybe right now you have a lot of options. Maybe I can buy a house, a place next to my house because parents like to feel independent too. And it is a way to take care of family and give them some level of independence.

EMILY: Yes.

LINER: It is very complicated for me at least.

EMILY: I think it is a very complicated thing. My grandpa recently turned 98 or 99 and in the past two or three years he was moved into a senior living home. But my uncle moved out and lived nearby so that my grandpa still has his independence and can socialize with people and do things, but also his son is there to help take care of him if there is anything unexpected that comes up, or if he needs to drive his car somewhere. So, it is definitely an interesting combination of independence and stability for care.

LINER: Yes.

EMILY: What about you, Katie?

KATIE: My grandparents are extremely stubborn, and they don't want people to care for them other than themselves. And so, they refused to be put into a nursing home despite getting pretty old. And my parents don't really have the time to look after them. So, it is just a complicated

situation in my family. But I think a lot of the time, I think it is good for the children to try to take care of their parents when they get older, but I know a lot of times it can be really difficult especially if the children are not in the situation where they can take their time to take care of another person along with themselves. And I think it just depends on where people come from.

EMILY: Oscar, I asked how you feel about children taking care of you when you get older, the children taking care of parents. And how senior homes or assisted living homes are viewed.

OSCAR: Okay, in my country we don't have proper senior homes. Maybe here we have professional places where you can find many options. Maybe in a suburb we would have a couple of good ones, but they are really expensive. Rich people can pay that. And it is most common that the family take care of their elders. And for example, I remember when my grandmother was sick and maybe she was like four years in a bed where she could not walk. And they had to feed her in her mouth every day for four years. So, one day it was my dad. Another day was the other brother, then a sister. So, they took turns on who will take care of her. As I told you, we don't have many professional options. My mom says that when she will be older, she don't want us to take care of her.. She wants to be in a professional place for taking care of her. So maybe people are changing their minds. But I am not so sure if when she gets older my brothers will let her be there. I am not so sure. Because it is not our culture.

LINER: It is the same for me in Venezuela. We have places, places for assistance to help people, seniors, but it is not our culture.

EMILY: We only have about five minutes left. And there are two questions that I think we have, but I will only ask one. How his divorce viewed and what happens when two people living together get divorced? Where do they live and how does that work?

OSCAR: I will tell my story. I got divorced when I was 25 years, 26, or something like that. And we were living in our own apartment. I rented a small house and she stayed there with our children and maybe in six months she decided to move with her family and let me live with my children. Then she moved to the US and then I took care of the children for the rest of the time. Now they moved to live with her because she got married here with a guy and that is why we are here too. Because they are legally here, and she made the request to change their legal status. And so, the children have the green card here. And it's accustomed that the people used to sell their house. And in my case, we sold everything. We sold the apartment and at that moment I decided that she take everything. I don't want to use nothing. But I think it depends on every situation. We had a bad situation between us. And she has problems about stress, and she was very violent. And I had to go to the police. And that is not common there. If you are a man and you do something like this, it is like you are just weak. You have to solve your problem on your own. It is not good to go to the police, but I know I had to do it because of my children. They were in danger at that moment.

LINER: In Venezuela, for people they divide everything. The cars, the house, maybe they sell everything and divide 50/50. They can then buy another house. Or they move back to their parents' house.

EMILY: Is divorce looked down upon? Like something you failed at marriage or something you find as a smart choice?

LINER: People think you fail. But sometimes, women might have divorced parties. They think it is a smart choice.

EMILY: In America there are typically lawyers that are involved to help divide who gets what. Is that a similar process?

LINER: Yes

OSCAR: It is the same.

EMILY: Okay.

OSCAR: But cheaper. There, it is cheaper if you divorce there. Really cheaper. *(Laughter)*

EMILY: Well, I really enjoyed the session. Is there anything else you guys want to add in the last couple of minutes we have together?

LINER: I think when people get divorced here, there's child support. In America you have to take care of your child until your children get 21. But in Venezuela is not like that. Many, many parents don't take care of their child. And if so, they get a small amount of money for their child. And most of the time the woman works, and they are a single mom. Maybe that is why families, the most important member of the family, is mom. Because she gets all the responsibility.

EMILY: I like that. Family is mom in a sense. Katie, Oscar, do you have anything you want to say? Are we good to end it? I think you guys did great today. I had another great time. I'm really happy we got to do this.

OSCAR: Thank you for everything. It was really valuable. [Laughter]

EMILY: That was good.

OSCAR: I have to practice. Valuable. I will be practicing that. But I wanted to say that for me, how can I say -- value able --Valuable conversation. [*Laughter*] don't smile, Liner. I will practice. I want to say something. Tomorrow is an amazing day because Liner was having her birthday. And so, I want to sing "Happy birthday to you. Happy birthday to you." [*Singing*]

LINER: It is bad luck if you sing that song the day before. (*Laughter*)

OSCAR: I am celebrating your birthday all week.

LINER: All week? (*Laughter*)

OSCAR: You have to come here. We have to celebrate here too.

LINER: Thank you. Thank you.

OSCAR: Okay.

EMILY: All right. Have a nice day. Have a nice week you guys. Thank you.

CAPTIONER: Meeting dismissed.

12:03 PM