

Narrator: Hanyue Duan  
Interviewer: Mingye Nie  
Date: May 18, 2022  
Location: Zoom  
Length of Interview: 34:19

Mingye Nie: So I start to record now.

HANYUE DUAN: Okay.

Mingye Nie: So hi my name is Mingye Nie and today is May 18 2022 and I'm interviewing how you are drawn through Zoom for the University of California San Diego, and our history project. Hi Hanyue, do you agree to grant the university permission to record and publish this interview for educational purposes?

HANYUE DUAN: hi Mingye. Yes, I agree.

Mingye Nie: Okay yeah that's great um so to start off with could you tell me about yourself your age. I know you're currently studying your undergrad in news so could you give me a little bit of information about that.

HANYUE DUAN: yeah, of course. My name is Hanyue Duan, you can call me Hanyue, I'm currently a junior at this is my first quarter attending classes in person. Because of the COVID-19. Yeah it's also because that I am a transfer student, and this is my first year in a four-year university, majoring in economics and accounting minor right now.

Mingye Nie: Oh yeah.

And by the way, I am a first-generation college student.

Mingye Nie: Oh yeah so um are you born in the US, or are you just immigrant?

HANYUE DUAN: No. Immigrant.

Mingye Nie: I came to the States, when I was 14 in 2014 so I'm pointing to right now. Oh so where are you from?

HANYUE DUAN: I'm from the very North part of China. It's a kind of a middle-sized city named Shengyang and if you don't know that's okay, because it's at the very least part of Beijing, which is the capital of China and the driving distance is like driving from San Diego to San Francisco.

Mingye Nie: So it's very cold there right?

HANYUE DUAN: Yes, weather is very, very chilly during winter.

Mingye Nie: So could you tell me a little bit of how you were growing up, and especially the experience when you moved to the US.

HANYUE DUAN: Of course. I grew up with my grandparents, you know very small community. That community, the size is very, very small it's like everybody knows each other. Literally the name of each other. But it's very lovely. And I would say it's the best memory in the past of my life.

Mingye Nie: So why would your family choose to send you to the US or what's the story about that?

HANYUE DUAN: Yes, so my family started to thinking about moving me to us in 2013 so when you're before we actually move to the States. My parents think the main purpose is just my parents want me to have a together more professional education.

Mingye Nie: So um which high school are you attend.

HANYUE DUAN: I attended a high school in riverside county and the city his name is East well the name of the high school is Eleanor dos will have school.

Mingye Nie: how's your experience there.

HANYUE DUAN: Oh that's that's um that's amazing. Experience and we saw an amazing GPA graduate graduated with a total GPA weighted TPA of 2.20 I was really kind of lost myself during my high school time the whole four years. When I came to the States I speak zero English. My high school, I will say is really a large size high school, which has a total of 4000 students, yeah 1000 students each each year and there's only. Seven people in my group that can speak the same language with me why just euro in the school as a freshman. I was really, really nervous. and scared of moving to a new environment. So, at first, I was really confused why, I was there, why. Why I should start a new. I will say why I should start a new life in a strange environment to me. So I take five years to find the answer, and in this five years, I would say. My English skill just approved very little bit everything everything changed just before after I moved to San Diego in 2019. yeah, this is the last story.

Mingye Nie: So what do you think is the biggest challenge or obstacles you over again, and your high school.

HANYUE DUAN: I would say the language. The language, the Culture difference as well. Absolutely, the Culture difference.

Mingye Nie: Okay, so um you just mentioned, that you are first Generation Students right.

Hanyue Duan: Yes.

Mingye Nie: So you just when you graduated from high school you travel you go to the college or you just go to the university.

HANYUE DUAN: I mentioned that I graduate from high school with some point two GPA it's all good it's all good I graduate from high school with a 2.2 GPA. And the Community college is still is my only choice, so at first, I decided to go to go to the College named Irvine valley college the everything for the year moment. But uh after just one month I did the enrollment the application, I find out that I want to live with my parents East well more than move to Irvine. That's really cost a lot to move to Irvine I need to find a place to leave. I need to rent. I need to work on myself. And to work on my tuition fees everything yeah so it ties, so I decided to go to a Community college just two miles away from where I leave. It's called Norcal college. City of Norcal it's famous for the horses it's. On the on the roads there's a lot of the horse roles. It's really cool and it's like an old town. So it's a long story, so let me think where should I beginning, beginning with.

Mingye Nie: Take your time.

HANYUE DUAN: yeah so I graduated from high school in 2018 when I was 18 I was pouring in 2000. I first I didn't really want to continue to continue with the school because I don't think this is the way I should leave my life. I think I need a at deserve a more cool draw. Other than your student. But because of my parents. Sometimes Asian parents. I was I wouldn't say they want to control me just they want them to be happy, so I euro to norco college. Ah, just at that September 2018. My grandma got really seek, but she was sleeping China that time she never been to the States I haven't seen her for four years since I moved to the states in 2014. And my attention was totally.

Mingye Nie: distracted yeah.

HANYUE DUAN: distracted by because of the sickness of my grandma. And Just a few months after died she passed away. I was really sad and feel stressful, all my attentions from school from a live I cry during night I always if because I grew up with my grandparents, so I grew up with my grandparents up to eight. So she's just like my mother. So yeah i'm sorry I don't know what to say but. Feah for the for the first quarter in normal college I just did three classes with GPA of 3.0 and just a few months later, after the past way of my grandma and know that I need to do something to change my life. So I think at first, I thought, maybe I can I can make some money because maker big money at least the biggest just just to me I won't be a truck driver it's really a good salaries, to be able to talk viral.

Mingye Nie: yeah it's really compelling.

HANYUE DUAN: yeah and I talked with my parents I talk with my father will wish wish my cousin.

HANYUE DUAN: This that.

HANYUE DUAN: You don't want to waste your House on it.

Mingye Nie: isn't it.

HANYUE DUAN: I respect the traverse the truck drivers that are really great for us our society doesn't have the truck drivers we don't have an Amazon we can't buy anything online we don't have the food we don't have anything we don't have. Yeah and at that I talked with my counselor because of the classes, I just took three of those. During my first year in college he had he said on you, you got a 3.0 GPA is pretty pretty good pretty good, so why don't you just continue to stay in school, be a student and, in this time in at the same time, you can find a way to live your life, you can find a cooler career. It's yeah and after this, I talked with my father and everyone around me said, you should try to college first it isn't even try it you don't need you right now, you just want to make some money you don't want to. If you are not sure about your future just want to make some money you just want to make her family happy. He say yes, and I after that a truly continue to think about going to school. And San Diego is my best choices, I would say, because I really like the wider here, and this is the first place I traveled I traveled to after I came to the States. Yeah it's with with the. Asians Asian traveling group it's really it's really a.

Mingye Nie: unique experience.

HANYUE DUAN: yeah and. I first say I'll say sure, maybe I want to try to start a new life in San Diego and maybe I can try my best to transfer to the University of California San Diego. And this school after I moved to San Diego this school is I remember the first time I got here everything everyone looks like the same age as me. yeah yeah exactly they are talking with their friends their have your backpack on their way to the classes. Oh just looks very.

Mingye Nie: Attractive. I have the same feeling because I'm also a transfer student and a half, when I just go to the tour like uc Irvine use SEM always feel attractive and I just tell me to myself that I have to go to here to finish my university so. yeah I really curious that when you graduated with 2.2 GPA I think you definitely cannot believe you can transfer to a university, especially the university like uc sd with the strong academic ability and resources so i'm really curious about. What who inspires you um besides, maybe your cause what besides your counselor or parents. So could you tell me who inspire us or who really put a great impact on you to change your mind and something like that.

HANYUE DUAN: Yes, so on the first one, the first person, I want to appreciate to. HANYUE DUAN: Is my counselor in San Diego master college. He really did everything for me when I just got here with no idea what squares how how I can be successful in the school. At first, my goal is just San Diego State University, because I think that one is difficult enough for me to transfer to you. But he's he said man you you got to try your best right now, you only took three classes with a 3.0 GPA it's it's nothing it's nothing to your whole community college life. And he started to doing the plan with me, which I think is the more most important thing you need to do right now, immediately

for you need to plan for everything, not even for the school work for the coursework for a full year graduate into plan for your future. And after that, I'm trying to pay all my attentions on some classes, I remember the first one is called the accounting was 16 K it's it's really a funny I still remember the professor and we're still contacting sending emails. Back to back right now on. It's really the beginning of my message college life. Let me start to think about what I really want to learn what I really want to do as my career in my future. So that's why I'm Monterey county random. After that just just after that semester, because it's a semester in the in the Community college. The covid made everything change to online courses, the homework, the exams. First, I can not control myself because I'm the kind of person that had to someone watch me a lead me to study to study everything.

Mingye Nie: But I'm also still like that. um I have to I have, I will perform well with pressure and supervisors and I have to have to align to push me to study to do the homework to do this.

HANYUE DUAN: yeah and on. Yes, I would say, everyone is kind of that. yeah so but I beginning to planning for the transfer application, because I know I need to do the application in September. So I got just a few months is. And I start to taking classes as start to do your research about the uc applies, because I don't want to leave California and, as I mentioned San Diego is the best place, I want to go. And at first. I thought my GPA is around like a 3.4, but it was actually 3.8.

Mingye Nie: wow that's a really competitive grade.

HANYUE DUAN: yeah because some some courses in Community college is not transferable. eunice for the University of California for the full year you see requirements. So it doesn't include in your GPA so that's why a I did a mistake. yeah and I started the planning and Oh, by the way, the third. The third per important person I think it's my dad. Although I'm the first generation student, but I will say my parents star or high school dropouts, but we have a really, really good. Relationship it's not like a general type of the they're not like the general type of the Asian parents were just like France, they want to the world, they really want me to be is the only thing they want me to do. So he give me a lot of suggestions you have anything I feel all his classes, yes kind of hard. : A guy really anxious about about my exam so by my application, they just talked with my father and she said no worries. I got your back you can do anything you want just do it. yeah and then I did the occasion. I apply to every UC schools. Because I think it's just too far away from me. And I got admitted to all of it. I was, I was almost crying to that was really great yeah amazing experience in the in the mesa college.

Mingye Nie: Oh so based one on your experience, do you have any advice to give to the first Generation Students like you.

HANYUE DUAN: yeah So the first one, I think, yes, you need to you need to do the plan you need to plan for everything, not even just I mentioned the very sorry here it's just me just not a very near thing like what should I eat tomorrow morning, what should I do more with what should I do. After tomorrow morning with after tomorrow breakfast need to start to think about something far away, not too far away. Just like a maybe next week maybe if I want to doing a workout if I want to go to gym you need to keep on it, you need to have a plan first and then you need to keep on it. And the second thing I think is that every struggle and challenge you are having right now in the way you are in the future, when you are looking back they just the very good experience and a very quickly you or something you are very good for about in the future when you're looking back so don't worry about a struggle, the challenge. Is the thing of make you nervous anxious it's just a I think it's just the experience for refer life. It's not something will stay forever beat the challenge beat the struggle, you are the best have some plan working on it in your own way to successful.

Mingye Nie: yeah. I totally agree with you on says either the first chance student and I think what is important is to trust yourself um.

HANYUE DUAN: exactly.

Mingye Nie: know there are parents, they are not attend the university, but I think the the background of contacts totally different now, since we we have more resources and we have a better. We have a better platform now, so I think the most important thing is to ask for help yeah counselor friends and maybe your. They will give you a lot of help and they would.

HANYUE DUAN: I mean our resources is way better than their generation and yeah that's the reason why we should work on it yeah we should keep our attention on it.

Mingye Nie: And just don't afraid of. The like, if you think going to the university is a really big task you have to break it to small one, like you got a class 4.0 GPA got an A in each class and to break it to the small parts like to finish your homework on time and try to get a bad grade of each assignment, then you just add it up, you get a good GPA, then. you're just go to the best university is really easy.

HANYUE DUAN: yeah I totally agree with you, with your opinion. um I first I saw the university is huge it's really hard to make some friends, but after that, after I decide to coming to the UC San Diego beginning at the start of this quarter studying attending start attending lectures classes in person, I would say the people around you most likely are the same major we see because that's why you are taking the same opera classes and it's very easy to make friends. Because when you guys are working on the same homework, you are working on the same problem questions you have that are not solved in class, we are working on the same project it's very easy to make a new relationship. And you guys are in the you guys are doing the same education, you have the similar education background this you have too much to say here you have too much to to communicate about some. I was really happy to come back to on campus classes it's a amazing experience.

Mingye Nie: I also love to love to in person class, I think I prefer in person than online. yeah we have you have more interaction, not only with Professor of work with your friends, and you can meet new people's everyday.

HANYUE DUAN: Exactly.

Mingye Nie: yeah so um I just you just add you starting your first year of college during the Kobe 19.

Mingye Nie: during the weekend that me so.

Mingye Nie: I want to know how has it impacted your life.

HANYUE DUAN: Oh so i'm personally right now, I think.

HANYUE DUAN: To the code is really bad is really make some people lost their life and.

HANYUE DUAN: But, in some ways, is really make some industries developed it like the remote stuff.

Mingye Nie: We were we use now.

HANYUE DUAN: yeah and we're now in some we're not doing research for the interest online I saw so many interfaces have the options on it is tagged as remotely.

Mingye Nie: yeah unless they did they try to do some hybrid.

HANYUE DUAN: yeah yeah and. Right now, I think the pandemic is almost gone and. At first I thought everything going to be. Go person to person again, but right now i'm really happy to see some still remote me because in some industry, I will see remotely is more easier than person to person. Is when you start at a comfort place you are having right now, maybe you're working experiences more better. And you can work.

Mingye Nie: Flexible we can just you can save your time, you can just save your commute time. yeah traffic, the traffic will bother.

HANYUE DUAN: Oh, my goodness.

Mingye Nie: So says, most of the big company they choose to. Let their stuff to work from home.

HANYUE DUAN: yeah because of the, as you said, the Community the commuting costs the opportunity cost.

us some ways it really saves a lot of time for everybody and it's kind of some money for the firms but um I would say in some industries. That you have to be there you have to be there.

Mingye Nie: Like we tell like retail in this free course yeah. And maybe if you are work in person like into you have more interaction with your group, and I think that. You can just work faster, because the atmosphere as a friend.

HANYUE DUAN: Yes, yes, right now, everything is the Ai can take place, instead of a lot of things already like right now just, for example, the ev cars, the electric cars and the auto pallets I mean it's really it's really it's really, really cool because. The the the Ai sometimes I can say 100% but sometimes. They can do something when people is kind of. We were typing and people is kind of maybe sleepy maybe tired after work. The Ai they're just computers and they can make the better choice. To have a better a reaction time, then they were bringing him, they were after work tired boring.

Mingye Nie: Because Ai is more accurate and especially in the calculation important they are faster and the accuracy is improve a lot.

HANYUE DUAN: yeah yeah. Let's just back to the topic is not for.

Mingye Nie: So how your family or community being affected by covid?

HANYUE DUAN: yeah the to covid the hey as you see, right now, we have a really a huge influence the inflation rate and the covert a you can just see the stock market today is going down very huge. I think right now we're in a recession, because of the fat start to start to increasing the interest rate and a lot of families just there's so many places. On some families table that's are empty right now, because of the way to so many lives. I think it's really, really sad for them yeah we are right now I think if you haven't took the to the vaccine, yet you have to take it to make it's, not just for yourself, is for everyone. To like us get to work As soon as possible to like the community the society. The school everything back.

Mingye Nie: Coming back.

HANYUE DUAN: Thank you will was we're having to do right now, and the covid it's bad.

Mingye Nie: yeah.

HANYUE DUAN: But it finally finished almost finished.

Mingye Nie: it is hardly to find an advantage or benefit from covid

HANYUE DUAN: No benefits. Only benefits, I think, is just. For some industry, the remaining this is. Like a.

Mingye Nie: So that's the last question that I have for our interview today, so do you have anything you want to say before I an hour interview.

HANYUE DUAN: yeah so The last thing I want to say is.

HANYUE DUAN: it's sometimes life is hard life is tough but you should always be grateful and you should always don't get knocked out by the challenge by the struggle, everyone is so individual everyone has their own experience after they grew up they look back, everyone has their own stories. And this really. You need to work hard on what you are working right now, but just don't not caught by them yeah.

Mingye Nie: Thank you and I really enjoyed talking to you so.

HANYUE DUAN: Thank you.