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# The American Education System and an Immigrant's Pursuit of Social Mobility with Lola Esmeralda

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1 EP: How's the weather?  
2 JG: The weather is good here. I mean a lot of people have been getting sick, but I'm  
3 getting better.  
4 EP: Yeah, Same thing here.  
5 MG: I sent the stuff.  
6 JG: Okay! Thanks, Mom.  
7 MG: You'll get it Thursday.  
8 JG: Oh, perfect!  
9 JG: Okay, want to start now?  
10 EP: Okay.  
11 JG: So—  
12 EP: where were you educated?  
13 JG: Where were you educated?  
14 EP: I was educated in the Philippines.  
15 JG: Where in the Philippines? Where did you live there?  
16 EP: What kind of school did you attend?  
17 JG: Oh, but what city did you live in the Philippines?  
18 EP: Oh, Batangas. B-A-T  
19 JG: B-A-T  
20 EP: A-N-G  
21 EP: A-S. Batangas City. L..A. (Laughter) That Spelling?  
22 JG: I got it!  
23 EP: Okay. Batangas, that's where I lived. You want my address there?  
24 JG: (Laughter) That's okay.  
25 EP: I won't give that! I've been here fifty years. You know that!  
26 JG: (Laughter) I know that.  
27 EP: I've been here fifty years.  
28 MG: With Lolo Bert?  
29 EP: No, because I came here as a student.  
30 JG: When you were in the Philippines... Hello?  
31 (There is a loss in streaming. New video call is made. Sound of Buttons.)  
32 EP: We got lots of work to do.  
33 JG: I know!  
34 EP: When are you going to submit this? Friday?  
35 JG: Um, yeah, next week.  
36 EP: Oh, next week.  
37 MG: Next week. Okay  
38 JG: Okay, I stopped at 'Where were you educated?' and you said you were educated in  
39 the Philippines at Batangas City. And you..  
40 EP: You want to know the college?

41 JG: Yeah, what college?  
42 EP: St. Brieget's. B-R-I-E-G-E-T-apostrophe-S and then college.  
43 JG: Okay, and how many years where you there?  
44 EP: In that school? I've been there for. Let's say I graduated high school and four years  
45 of college. That's fourteen years.  
46 JG: You had the same school?!  
47 EP: Yes, I was lucky because they opened up the college after I graduated from high  
48 school so I just continued the same school.  
49 JG: Wow... So even when you were a little girl you were there?  
50 EP: Yes, and not only little girl. Because that's where my mother started school too.  
51 JG: Wow!  
52 EP: Same school... Yes...because of the Americans. We were under the American time.  
53 We were under the American regime at that time. The 1930s.  
54 JG: Woah. And what kind of school was it? Was it a public school?  
55 EP: No, it was a Catholic Private School. Run by nuns.  
56 JG: What kind of nuns were they?  
57 EP: Good Shepard.  
58 JG: So, you were there for fourteen years?  
59 EP: Mhm.  
60 JG: And you had the. Did you have the same teachers?  
61 EP: No.  
62 MG: It's different teacher.  
63 EP: No, it's different teachers and different nuns.  
64 (Connection is lost a second time).  
65 MG: There you are again.  
66 EP: Can you...  
67 JG: I can hear you.  
68 EP: I got six years of an... education  
69 JG: Of a what education?... Hello?  
70 (Connection lost again. New call. This time only the audio is recorded.)  
71 JG: I'm gonna try to just get the audio.  
72 MG: Ok.  
73 EP: Ok.  
74 MG: Can you see lola?  
75 JG: I can.  
76 EP: And I can see you too!  
77 JG: Good!  
78 EP: Boy! You look good!  
79 JG: (Laughter) Thank you!  
80 EP: I guess Dallas is doing some good for you, huh? (Laughter)

81 JG: Well, at least I look cus I am certainly kind of sick.  
82 EP: Oh yeah, huh? Where are we?  
83 JG: You said you had six years of an education. You said six years of a  
84 EP: Elementary.  
85 JG: Elementary... Mmm.  
86 EP: We don't have middle school, right.  
87 JG: You don't in the Philippines?  
88 EP: At that time, now they changed the curriculum. We talked about the... right?  
89 JG: The? Did we talk about what?  
90 EP: We are talking about this when I was educated, right?  
91 JG: Yes.  
92 EP: Okay, so I will when I... So, we only have six years of elementary education. And  
93 after grade six, we go to high school, and first year, second year, and third year, fourth  
94 year.  
95 JG: Okay.  
96 EP: Mhm, and then after that... You can continue at... First of all I did two years of  
97 elementary education. I got a certificate for that to teach elementary.  
98 JG: Okay, so you got a certificate to teach elementary.  
99 EP: Yeah, and at the same time, I... for my music...  
100 JG: For music?  
101 EP:... Mhm... So I got a certificate for junior music teacher. Then, when I was still there,  
102 I still continued, you know, for another two years to finish my bachelor of science for  
103 education. Major in elementary education  
104 JG: So you're an education major.  
105 EP: Yes...  
106 JG: When you were growing up did they teach you like math, and science or?  
107 EP: Oh, you want the.. yeah, our curriculum from the very beginning... American. The  
108 same thing as your education here. Because we were... so we use all your curriculum and  
109 everything. Whatever you have here, we were taught in English.  
110 JG: Oh, so you were taught in English.  
111 EP: Yeah.  
112 JG: Oh, because you're American... you're American.. You're American?  
113 EP: We were under the American occupation at that time.  
114 JG: Oh, okay  
115 EP: Ready, we have a Commonwealth government. And everything was run by the  
116 Americans.  
117 JG: So, if you were taught in English, did they teach you Tagalog at all or?  
118 EP: No, no Tagalog.  
119 JG: They didn't teach you Tagalog at all?  
120 EP: No, at that time, no. Kind of unique, right?

121 JG: Yeah. So you...  
122 EP: And what is... What id so unique at that time is that we don't have a national  
123 language.  
124 JG: You don't have a national language at that time?  
125 EP: No, so in a different region, they have a different dialects.  
126 JG: Mhm..  
127 EP: That's what... (Laughter) You can ask your mom.  
128 JG: Wow.  
129 EP: She speaks a different dialect than me. You know what is so good, Julie.  
130 JG: What?  
131 EP: When they established after the Japanese occupation.  
132 JG: Mhm.  
133 EP: They realized that we are all Filipinos and we cannot understand each other, so  
134 Tagalog became our national language, which is my dialect.  
135 JG: Oh, that's your dialect?  
136 EP: Yeah, so we were lucky.  
137 JG: You got lucky, you didn't have to learn everything again.  
138 EP: No... So the curriculum is patterned after the United States' curriculum whatever  
139 they teach there in English. You want to know the subjects?  
140 JG: Yes.  
141 EP: The most important in that school is religion... in the morning for half an hour.  
142 JG: Oh, so in the mornings, you had religion?  
143 EP: Yeah, religion...(cough)  
144 EP: And then we have English, which is language and spelling.  
145 JG: And everybody had to take English?  
146 EP: Oh, yes... Mhm... we have sciences... Oh, remember, Julie, we don't have  
147 computers at that time. Mhm.  
148 MG: Nothing.  
149 EP: Everything done by hand.  
150 JG: Everything by hand.  
151 EP: Mhm, yeah. And this is the funny part. We have arithmetic, I don't know if you  
152 know arithmetic.  
153 JG: Yeah.  
154 EP: We memorize everything.  
155 JG: You memorized everything.  
156 EP: Yeah, your multiplication. We had to recite that.  
157 JG: Every single one?  
158 EP: Yeah, we memorized everything... In grade six, we had history  
159 JG: What year was this?  
160 EP: Grade six.

161 JG: You had the history of the Philippines?  
162 EP: Mhm, and then, one to four, you have the geography.  
163 JG: Geography.  
164 EP: You have physical education and good manners and right conduct.  
165 JG: You had a class called good manners and right conduct?  
166 EP: Yes.  
167 JG: What did you learn in that class?  
168 EP: Oh, how to respect your parents, how to respect the nuns, yup, respect the elders, not  
169 only the nuns too. The elders. And be courteous. Oh gosh.  
170 JG: (Laughter) Did you learn stuff like table manners?  
171 EP: Yeah. Like the etiquette.  
172 JG: Do you think they should teach that here?  
173 EP: Huh?  
174 JG: Do you think they should that here in the States? Here in the United States.  
175 EP: I think they should teach that here because the people here are... The students here  
176 are very rude.  
177 JG: Really? What they?  
178 EP: Yeah, because when I started teaching here in the United States, I said I'm not going  
179 to teach anymore.  
180 JG: Why?  
181 EP: Because they're very rude. They don't respect the elders.  
182 JG: That's terrible. When did you start teaching in the United States?  
183 EP: 1966.  
184 JG: 1966.  
185 EP: Yeah.  
186 JG: that's when you came here?  
187 EP: Mhm.  
188 JG: 1966.  
189 EP: Yeah, I was teaching in Madonna High School run by nuns also which is my teacher  
190 in the Philippines (Laughter).  
191 JG: Oh, really?  
192 EP: Yes, my very first teacher in the Philippines is my boss in here.  
193 JG: That's, that's, that's funny. Did you know that was going to happen?  
194 EP: No. I only found out when I...  
195 JG: When you came to work?  
196 EP: Yeah, but no I came here as a student so I have to enroll.  
197 JG: Uh-huh.. Wow.  
198 EP: Yeah.  
199 JG: Wait, what college did you go to here in the States?  
200 EP: New Mexico. In New Mexico State University

201 JG: New Mexico State.  
202 EP: New Mexico State in Las Cruces.  
203 JG: Where is it?  
204 EP: In Las Cruces. L-A-S C-R-U-C-E-S.  
205 JG: Good, Thank you.  
206 EP: It's two words. The nuns were there.  
207 JG: The same nuns?  
208 EP: Mhm. Two of them were my former teachers. (Laugh)  
209 JG: And what did you study when you were in New Mexico State?  
210 EP: I'm taking my masters.  
211 JG: Your masters? What was your master in?  
212 EP: My master was in guidance and counseling.  
213 JG: Did you study music too?  
214 EP: No, I taught music.  
215 JG: You taught music?  
216 EP: Mhm. In school.  
217 JG: Did you have to... Did you memorize things for music? Or how did you?  
218 EP: Yeah, everything memorize.  
219 JG: That's how you learned to do school?  
220 EP: Mhm.  
221 JG: And you, you started teaching grade six when you became a teacher?  
222 EP: Yeah, now at first, what did I do? Yeah, the job was hard for me in public school.  
223 JG: It was hard? Oh so, you taught in a public school?  
224 EP: Yeah, I taught in a public school.  
225 JG: Is that not the same as the Madonna High School?  
226 EP: No, that was in the Philippines. When I became a teacher, I taught there at a public  
227 school. Music and grade six. You know in the Philippines, you are taught everything in  
228 one to four. In five to six, the teacher go from one room to the other because if the  
229 children go, you know it will take time...  
230 JG: Yeah, because they'll get distracted.  
231 EP: Yes. Mhm. And I taught for eight years.  
232 JG: Did you teach at Madonna High School before you taught at the public school? Or  
233 did you teach at the public school?  
234 EP: No. no. I taught at the public school first in Batangas. I stayed there for eight years.  
235 JG: Okay.  
236 EP: And then...  
237 JG: And then you went to the United States?  
238 EP: No, I worked five years. I worked five years in the Office of the Division of the  
239 Superintendent of Schools... province.  
240 JG: In what province?

241 EP: Batangas.  
242 JG: Batangas.  
243 EP: Mhm. My hometown is the capital.  
244 JG: Okay.  
245 EP: You got it?  
246 JG: I got it. So you were eight years a public school teacher in the Philippines. And then  
247 five years, you worked for the superintendent.  
248 EP: As Division Guidance Coordinator.  
249 JG: Division Guidance Coordinator, okay.  
250 EP: Mhm... of my province  
251 JG: Mhm..  
252 EP: And then, my supervisor, the superintendent advise me “Why don’t you go to the  
253 United States?” Because at night, I go to school. To study my  
254 JG: To study your masters?  
255 EP: Yeah, first year, my masters was also in St. Brieget’s College night school. Mhm. I  
256 stayed there for one whole year. And then I moved to the United States.  
257 JG: And then, that’s when you started working at Madonna High School.  
258 EP: Mhm, which is the school for the problematic children.  
259 JG: Oh, so it was for kids with a lot of problems.  
260 EP: Yep, and so I could my guidance with them. Mostly, they were from broken homes.  
261 JG: From broken homes. And this is in the sixties?  
262 EP: 1966-1967. Then I met Lolo.  
263 JG: You met Lolo  
264 .EP: I met your Lolo in Coronado, California, San Diego. I went there for vacation.  
265 Christmas Vacation because I cannot go home. Like you I was working and saving the  
266 money. Although, My first tuition came from my parents. I work here.  
267 JG: What happened after that? Did you get married?  
268 EP: Do you really want to know? I met him on December 20<sup>th</sup> and we got married on  
269 January 7<sup>th</sup> of the New Year.  
270 JG: That’s like seventeen days.  
271 EP: That’s right. He won’t let me go back to New Mexico.  
272 JG: So, you didn’t go back?  
273 EP: No, I went back there to get my things and told my counselor, my advisor in college  
274 that I am not going to continue. She said “What happened? You take vacation and now  
275 you are quitting? You are not a quitter!” That’s what she said. But I’m quitting  
276 JG: You told her that you got married!  
277 EP: Yeah.  
278 JG: And this is.. This is the Madonna High School, right?  
279 EP: Yeah, the Madonna High School. And the nuns were so happy to see me getting  
280 married because I was already thirty-four. You know the nuns actually...This is a secret,



281 huh... when I was there, I was thinking of entering the convent that why I boarded with  
282 them. To see how life in the convent really is. And then when I was there... For some  
283 reason, I had my patron Saint, Rita, the patron saint of the impossible. I was asking if this  
284 life was really for me send me a sign. And the sign was when I went to San Diego I met  
285 your Lolo. I don't want to be alone (Laughter)  
286 Yeah, and we got married so I discontinued.  
287 JG: So, you didn't finish your master?  
288 EP: I was hoping I could continue that, but I got pregnant.  
289 JG: So, you were no longer an, um... Did you teach again after that?  
290 EP: Well I was thinking when we moved here, that I did that all the time for ten years  
291 nothing, but stay home and raise my children, just like your mom. Working. Well, I  
292 found out when we moved here, we really needed to work because your Lolo also  
293 sending money to his parents.  
294 JG: In the Philippines?  
295 EP: Nothing, I was thinking nothing would be left for us, because the children are  
296 growing. Every year I buy them new clothes. So I started thinking about when Eileen,  
297 you know my youngest was in kinder. That's when I started working when she went to  
298 school. So, I applied for a job in the public school here in Prince William and they did not  
299 call me because they wanted all the new teachers graduated from here, but I consider  
300 myself graduated from the United States because of my master. But then I met my friend  
301 who said to me "Why don't you join me? And we will work with you know those  
302 computers."  
303 JG: In computers.  
304 EP: Yeah, and at that time, computers were key to tape. Have you heard of key to tape?  
305 JG: Key to what?  
306 EP: Key to Tape.  
307 JG: Key to tape.  
308 EP: Key board to the tape, you know it's not like what we have now.  
309 MG: (Laugh) It's a tape  
310 EP: You know when you punch, it goes to a tape. And then this tape goes to a very big  
311 machine to make a copy of it. So I worked on that. It's a... what do you call that thing...  
312 I pass right away. . So, three years I stayed there. I worked at night! I worked from five  
313 o'clock in the afternoon to three in the morning. And we have only one car. (Laugh)  
314 JG: Wow, so you share? In the night, you got the car?  
315 EP: He'd come home. He comes home at like 2:30 in the afternoon or 3:00. So I'm  
316 getting ready. The supper's all done. And then at four o'clock, I leave. The same car the  
317 car stayed out until 3 o'clock in the morning... at night. So when I come home, that's  
318 when he takes the car in the morning. At five in the morning, he takes the car. That car  
319 never stops. Mhm.  
320 JG: Wow.

321 EP: I worked at night until the day. That's a sacrifice I should take.  
322 JG: Yeah, and so, you after you came, after you got married and had your kids, it was  
323 hard for you to become a teacher again?  
324 EP: Yeah, because I... You know what I found out. After two years, they called me.  
325 JG: After two years?  
326 EP: After two years, they called me if I wanted to work as a sub. I said, "How much are  
327 the teachers making?" I am making more money doing the computer than to be a teacher.  
328 JG: So, you started working with computers instead?  
329 EP: Yeah, I started working with the computers, then I found another better one in  
330 McGraw Hill Books Company.  
331 JG: Oh, the textbook company?  
332 EP: Yes, but this are not doing the textbooks. They are doing a... what do they call it?  
333 A book in real estate.  
334 JG: A real estate book?  
335 EP: A real estate book. I worked there for maybe only two years. And then your Uncle  
336 Bert says there's an opening in Alexandria Hospital. They are doing charges that the  
337 patients use. So, the whole day, I do nothing but punch and key. And then at night,  
338 sometimes I brought my work my work and corrected them. They paid me. Mhm. I  
339 stayed there for eighteen and a half years.  
340 JG: Oh, wow. At the hospital?  
341 EP: Yes, until I retired.  
342 JG: Wow. Did you? When did you? Where the Filipino public school different than the  
343 American schools when you were teaching?  
344 EP: Well, I did not teach in the public school here, only the catholic private schools. So I  
345 cannot compare how it is in the United States, except when my children came, started  
346 going to school. I think the United States, they are better than the Philippines, because I  
347 will tell you this, Julie. When I left the Philippines, they started to teach the national  
348 language. The national language is harder to learn than the English.  
349 JG: Oh, really?  
350 EP: Oh, yes. They called it Filipino language. That is the name. I am more trained in  
351 English than the Filipino language.  
352 JG: For school? Do you think learning in English made it easier to get jobs too?  
353 EP: Oh, yes! Definitely...  
354 JG: But, okay. You said that they taught the etiquette class. They taught that at your High  
355 School.  
356 EP: They taught that through all the years from elementary. They used to, but not  
357 anymore.  
358 JG: Not anymore?  
359 EP: Nope. Not anymore. It's not like here. Sometimes, you can insert, you know. That's  
360 one thing that I noticed, Julie.

361 JG: What? What did you notice?  
362 EP: My children are all at first. They started from a Catholic School in Connecticut.  
363 JG: In Connecticut?  
364 EP: I was trying to put them in Catholic School here. I cannot afford it. For those two, I  
365 have to pay \$250 and that is free. They pick them up from your doorstep by the bus.  
366 JG: The public school or the?  
367 EP: The Catholic school. This is according to the nuns in Sacred Heart, it was a  
368 donation of the community in that town.... It was a donation that they all got a free ride  
369 right from the doorstep, so I don't have to worry or anything. They went house to house.  
370 Maybe because housing at the time.  
371 JG: So, it was expensive to send them to catholic school?  
372 EP: Here in Virginia.  
373 JG: But not in Connecticut? Because they had donations?  
374 EP: No, they got that, what do you call that from the county...  
375 JG: They got a grant? Or a loan?  
376 EP: It's like a... maybe you could say a donation... The county is give a private loan...  
377 So we got a lower tuition.  
378 JG: That's nice. I wish they did that here.  
379 EP: I wish! I said no I cannot send them to private school here.. .And then we bought a  
380 house at the same time...  
381 JG: At the same that you moved, you bought your own house.  
382 EP: Mhm.  
383 JG: So you really couldn't afford it anymore... So you sent them to the public school.  
384 Did you like the public school?  
385 EP: Oh no, at that time, I don't like it. My first experience when I sent them here. You  
386 know what, they wanted to demote them to a lower grade.  
387 JG: Why?  
388 EP: Because they thought they, we, were Filipinos, that we don't know English.  
389 JG: The public school?  
390 EP: Minnieville. (A road in the school county)  
391 JG: Yeah.  
392 EP: Eileen and I went there. I was so mad.  
393 JG: Garfield? (A school)  
394 EP: It's on Minnieville, not too far from my place. So I just walked there because your  
395 Lolo Bert had the car. So I crossed the street. Just across Greenville. And then I went...  
396 The principal, he doesn't know what's going on, so they called the teacher... I said,  
397 "Why are you going to demote them? Give them a test and see. Because they were  
398 educated here. They were born here... And I got educated here." And then when they  
399 heard that I could speak English, they changed their tune. Because I think there are not  
400 too many Filipinos that can speak English at that time. Yeah. And they thought because

401 we were Filipinos, we came from the Philippines. They were born here. They went to  
402 school in Connecticut in the private school. And you know, Julie...

403 JG: What did they say?

404 EP: ... They are losing interest... Because...why are they teaching that here? I said  
405 because... That was when they only started to do teaching here. They were so behind.

406 JG: The school?

407 EP: Yeah, the public school compared to the private school. Now they are giving tests to  
408 the teachers, and if you cannot pass the teacher's exam then you cannot teach.

409 JG: So, now they give a teacher's exam. That's better, right?

410 EP: Yes. To improve. They came to find out that Prince William County is always at the  
411 end in Virginia. Oh yeah, at that time. I don't know how they upgraded it. When Fr. Ed  
412 graduated from Garfield High School. There was almost 1000 seniors.

413 JG: There was 1000 seniors in his graduation?

414 EP: 970. I think

415 JG: 18?

416 EP: In just one year.

417 JG: eighteen hundred?

418 EP: 970

419 JG: 970!

420 EP: Graduated.

421 JG: That's a lot. That's huge.

422 EP: And then they started building schools. You know. Because it was overcrowded.

423 JG: The one school.

424 EP: It was overcrowded.

425 JG: That's good.

426 EP: After that, they only had Woodbridge High School and Garfield High School and  
427 that was in 1976. So you can imagine what the learning was like. It was overcrowd. Too  
428 many students. For some reason we moved here, so many militaries came here too. Most  
429 of them were children of the militaries. And you know how it is. If you are lucky, If you  
430 come here and you were like my children, ahead. Sometimes, they lost interest.

431 JG: Oh, because they're ahead, they lose interest.

432 EP: Yeah. It's good thing when they... you know when they got involved in music, they  
433 have music education in here like in the Philippines, when they got involved with music,  
434 they love to play their violins, so they don't fight.

435 JG: So, they have something fun to do too.

436 EP: Yes, exactly. And your Lolo is the one doing all the homework. He made sure they  
437 are doing their homework because you know I work on Saturdays and Sundays too. And  
438 they changed schedules; I only worked four times a week. They changed it to ten.

439 JG: Ten times?

440 EP: Ten hours a day to complete the 40 hours in a week, which is good for me because I  
441 only have to travel four times a week.

442 JG: And then you get to spend more times with your kids.

443 EP: yes, exactly. And by the way, I was working in, you know Leesburg Park in Tyson's  
444 corner. I was working around there Route 7.

445 JG: So, did you prefer the education in the United States?

446 EP: Oh, yes.

447 JG: And it was because it was in English?

448 EP: At the time.... These students now they need a translator. The students now learn  
449 Tagalog, the Filipino language. And Now English is like a Foreign language.

450 JG: You think learning in English gave you more opportunities?

451 EP: Oh yes definitely, I was bilingual.

452 JG: You are still bilingual.

453 EP: Oh yeah, when I was in Alexandria Hospital, there were so many Filipinos there  
454 because they get their parents in the Philippines. They don't speak English, the parents of  
455 these workers around here. So, I became a translator. Those nurses get me all the time.  
456 They don't understand each other.

457 JG: The parents and the kids?

458 EP: Mhm. It's not the kids. It's the parents.

459 JG: Oh, because they cannot speak English.

460 EP: Not very much. You know why?

461 JG: Why?

462 EP: First of all, I remember when I was growing up, before the Americans came, we were  
463 taught in Spanish because we were under the Spanish for 500 years. And then the  
464 Americans came... We were occupied by the Japanese for 4 years, we were taught under  
465 the Japanese language. Then the Americans came, back to English. I did not go to school  
466 during the war. So, after that they realized we need to establish a Filipino language  
467 sometime. Because when I graduated from High School, we didn't have a Filipino  
468 Language. It's very true that the Filipinos are unique. We can understand Spanish, we can  
469 understand English a little bit, and we don't understand each other... Because they speak  
470 their dialect. It's ok now. The Filipino language is taught in every school. That's why  
471 when I was talking to what's' the name of the Hoonan.

472 JG: Ms. Zalna.

473 EP: What's her dialect?

474 MG: Binisaya

475 EP: It's different from us.

476 MG: Cebuano

477 EP: Cebuano.

478 JG: Oh, she's from Cebu.

479 EP: I have a friend from here. Sometimes, she talks to me. We will be talking on the  
480 phone. She always integrated her dialect. I say “Nila, I don’t know! I know Tagalog!”  
481 JG: Do you still think it’s a good idea to teach English in the Philippines today?  
482 EP: I think so, back to the old thing. They are handicapped when it comes to the other  
483 countries. But according to them, they are the Filipino nurses because they can speak  
484 English. Like in Europe... they know English. And they can understand what they are  
485 saying.  
486 JG: It’s still good to have a national language, right?  
487 EP: Yes. Yeah.  
488 JG: But it gives them more opportunity for like nursing to know English?  
489 EP: Yeah.  
490 JG: So, you could be globalized?  
491 EP: And not only that, you know English is spoken all over the world. You know that,  
492 don’t you?  
493 JG: Yeah, it helps connect everyone.  
494 EP: Mhm. I have a funny story about that. When my uncle died, one woman from...  
495 another island with another dialect... When my uncle died, he wanted to be buried... the  
496 remains in Batangas... And then all of the cousins that we never met, they don’t know  
497 how to speak Tagalog, and I don’t know how to speak their dialect. They were just  
498 looking and pointing at us and they said “They are in school”. And then the mother said,  
499 “Why don’t we just speak English?” And then we understood each other.  
500 JG: In English?  
501 EP: Yeah, because think.  
502 JG: That’s cool.  
503 EP: Because we learned that in school. That’s the advantage of knowing English.  
504 And by the way when we were under the Americans who established everything  
505 including a curriculum, it was all patterned after the states.  
506 JG: The United States?  
507 EP: Because of the Secretary of Education, or whatever, brought that over there.