

Oral History Interview Transcript

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Student Name: Emily Shi

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Oral History Transcript

Interviewer: Emily Shi (ES)

Interviewee: 穆莹 or Mu Ying (MY)

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Length of Interview: 44:18

Conversation Medium: WeChat Video Call

The interview was conducted in Mandarin Chinese with the exception of certain words which were stated in English. English translations of interview questions and answers are below each line.

[Beginning of conversation entailed explanations of the oral history project, request for recording and consent, and an explanation of the interview structure]

MY: 你先问你问吧你。你问我来回答，嗯。

You can start to ask me questions and I will answer.

ES: 您可以简单介绍一下您小时候的生长环境吗？

As an introduction, can you describe the environment that you grew up in?

MY: 我小时候的生长环境。嗯，基本在北京呆着。我家里的是一个 rich。属于 rich family 呢，我的住房的呢，是一个带花园的，呢，很占地很大的就是很有很大的，呢呢，带个 garden 的，呢，和那个，呢。呢，楼房带一个院子。呢。条件是非常好的，呢，占整个的一个 block 的那个。呢，呢，这个大小。呢。啊，再再问。嗯。

The environment I grew up in when I was a child... Well, I basically stayed in Beijing in my childhood. The family I grew up in was considered 'rich'. My house had a garden...it occupied a very large area with a big garden and yard. The conditions were very good, the house occupied almost the whole street block. You can ask me another question.

ES: 您小时候的家里是怎么取暖的？在北京啊怎么取暖的？

How was your home heated when you were a kid? How did you keep warm in Beijing?

MY:我们这个房子非常好有那个取暖设备。呃，是用哪一种题型就是就是中国叫做暖气是暖气片。暖气片取暖，整个的房子都取暖，可是当时呃一般的就是 ordinary families 都是，用煤。呃，用这个 coal，取暖。啊

Our house was very nice in that it had special heating equipment. Ah, what is the technology called? It is called heating in China. It's a radiator. The whole house was heated by radiators, but at that time, it was common for 'ordinary families' to use coal to keep warm. Yes, using coal to keep warm.

Emily: 你在学校或者社会里的时候啊，有没有看到过很多是用煤取暖取暖的？什么地儿尽管你说啊，在学校或者别的社会里的房子。

When you were in school or in society, did you see many people using coal for heating? How did people generally keep warm in different settings?

MY: 嗯，呃，在北京当时就是，呃。呃，我们呢就是三四十年代报，呃，每北京大部分时间都是用 coal 取暖用扣取暖，我在这个是，呃，七八。呃，就是七十年代就是呃，seventieth to 80s，到过中国的很多的地方，呃，看到了，呃，不同的地方，因为，呃，地区的，呃，环境不同。呃，采取不同的取暖的呃方式。比如说像我到了西藏他的高原地区，他用那个，呃。Focused light，呃，用，focused light stove 这个做这个做饭就是有呃 focused light 就是光照呃，在。呃，这个内蒙呃，inner Mongolia，呃，他们当地都是草原呃，就用，呃。牛粪，干了以后晒干的用来烧，，烧这个牛粪取暖，做饭，呃，那么在一些山区，呃，农村广大的农。对呃，都用当地的就是柴火，就是一些干的树枝干的树枝，取暖，呃，烧饭，呃，一直到现在，我估计也还是有不少的地区是这样。但是，呃，呃，从这个二十世纪以来已经有很大的改观我估计像，呃，那个 inner Mongolia 这个广大的草原他用太阳能或者是用风风力就是 wind energy，呃，那么山区也有不少已经开始呃，用那个。水的 water。Water 的供应，呃，就用电，北京呢？呃，呃，还有有一些地区，呃，目前已经用就是 gas 比较多，嗯，我们当然北京。呃，现在就是，呃，全是管道的就 natural gas 了，就是 tube 的，呃，就是打开了这个 little gas，嗯，所以这个呃，变化还是很大的，就是最早的时候就是很原始的，就是这个烧柴，呃。手，呃，用牛粪呃，做做这些，呃，这个这个什么，呃，持续很长时间不可，呃，我觉得可能有一些地区还是这么用就不去，呃，尤其是山区交通就是 transportation。不太方便。inconvenient 的这些个 area 呃，可能他还是就地取才，呃，就是这样一直到现在，呃，它们也找不到这的就是 gas tank 的这个，呃，生产的，呃。拿不到这个，所以他们就就地取材吧呃，就来生活做饭。

嗯，而且我还有一些问题问题是关于您小时候的时候，您在家里做饭也是用电还是你们用别的什么东西？特在用那个没得这个 stove。

In Beijing during the 30s and 40s, we used coal for heating most of the time in Beijing, in the 70s or 80s here. From the 70s to the 80s, I visited many different parts of China and saw different places where the regions and environments were different. I noticed people used different means to stay warm in different places. For example, when I went to this plateau area in Tibet, because of high altitude, people use focused light stoves to cook. In inner Mongolia, it is grassland, people use cow dung bricks to cook. You know they dried cow manure and then use it as fuel to cook and to heat. In some mountainous areas, there were large numbers of farmers in rural areas. In these places in the countryside, they all used local firewood, which is using dried tree branches to cook and heat. Even today, I think there are a lot of places that still use these methods. I guess it is still like this in many areas. However, there are also a lot of changes since 2000. In Inner Mongolia, solar and wind energy are more and more popular. In mountainous area, people use hydroelectric energy. In Beijing and other cities, natural gas is widely used for cooking. I have natural gas pipeline which goes directly to my house. We went through huge changes in energy use, from tree branches, cow dung bricks to natural gas. However, in some not very easily accessible areas and mountain areas, I think people are still using the old methods. They may have trouble getting gas tanks delivered. So, they have to use the old methods.

ES: 我还有一些关于你小时候的问题。那时，你们是用什么做饭的？用电吗？

I still have some questions about your childhood. What fuel did you family use to cook? Did you use electricity?

我还有一些关于你小时候的问题。那时，你们是用什么做饭的？用电吗？

MY: M: 煤炉

Coal stove.

ES: : 嗯，然后在家庭里，您的父母是如何分工做家务的。

How did you parents divide housework?

MY: 呃，我们，呃，都请人帮忙。就是找人帮忙，父母因为都比较 rich，他们不自己做，就是找找帮忙的 worker。

We had help at the time. We just asked for others to help. Since my parents were relatively rich, they didn't do it themselves. They hired workers to help.

ES: 嗯，然后您小的时候主要的交通工具工具是什么？你们用什么交通工具去不同的地方啊，然后和今天来说主要的变化是什么？

I see. I am also wondering...what were your primary modes of transportation as a child? How did you get from place to place? If you compare to today, what are the major changes?

MY: 嗯，我们小时候，呃，小学的时间，呃，呃，基本上是做，呃，呃。跟人力车。人力就是人拉着的车，后来呢就是、三轮车三轮自行车。前边是有人骑车后边有座位。做根据座椅一坐个三轮车基本上就做这个，呃，中学的时候中学的时候，呃，那阵儿就呃 fortieth 这个 lesson forty, 这个短时间我就，呃，主要的是企业在带。拜拜，可我出去都是骑车，嗯，呃，就是这样，呃，还有一些就是，呃，就是电车就是电车 bus，呃呃。这个真是大概中学的时期都是这样子呃，大学呃，上大学以后就，呃，五十年代。1950s, 这段时间，呃，那就基本上在学校住了，就很少出门呃，有的时候出门也还是 by bike。

When we were children, in elementary school, we basically travelled with rickshaws. You know, somebody pulls a car, driven by a man, with two wheels. Then later there was a tricycle or a three-wheeled bicycle. There are two wheels in the back. Someone is riding it in the front, and you sit in the back. Then during my middle school years, that is during around the 1940s, I used a bicycle to go to places. There were also some trams, electric buses at the time. That's my middle school years. In my college years, it was the 1950s. In the 1950s, during that period, I basically lived in a school dorm. I rarely went out. If I needed to go out, I mostly used bikes. Bikes are convenient.

ES: 嗯，你记得那个时间有有人在开车吗？或者大部分是坐汽车或者别的三轮车

Do you remember anyone driving at that time? Or was it mostly by car or other modes like tricycle?

MY: 呃，那阵很少有人有私家的车，没有，我们没有私下车。我小学时期，家里头是有一个 Car，呃，后来因为，呃，日本人占据了以后没有汽油。就是开车。没有 gas 供应，所以这汽车就停止了，就改成了，呃，就换了其他的交通的工具了。

Automobiles were not popular at the time. Few people had private cars at the time. Not everyone can afford a car, we didn't have private cars. When I was in elementary school, my parents had a car. However, in the late 30s and early 40s, the Japanese invaded and there was no gasoline. There was no gas supply, so the car stopped. We had to use other means to travel.

ES: 嗯，这个呃，还要说对不起。During Japanese occupation 的时候您看到过有别的大的变化吗？

What other big changes did you see during Japanese invasion and occupation?

MY: 那个，那人们都在日本的占领之下，呃，生活，呃，就开始都很贫困了供应，东西给日本人拿走，拿到日本去了。

Under the Japanese occupation, people began to be very poor. Everyone was poor. The Japanese took our stuff and sent them back to Japan.

Emily: 您记得是多少年没有油吗？

Do you remember how many years you went without oil/gas?

MY: 嗯，有。Japanese 在北京的占领要八年了。Eight years。

Yes, the Japanese occupied Beijing for 8 years.

ES: 然后这个时候您有没有看到别的呃，油和别的 energy 的像做饭或者取暖的变化。

Around that time, did you see changes in oil and other energy sources, such as those used for cooking and heating?

MY: 你说什么的变化环境的变化啊，像取暖或者做饭啊。

What are you talking about? Changes in the environment, like heating or cooking?

ES: Japanese occupation 的时候有没有大的变化？

Changes during the Japanese occupation – were there large changes?

MY: 唉，那现在是有很大变化呀。呃，原来就是虽然建林很富有，也烧的是煤炭，嗯，也烧的煤炭，那环境污染那还是很厉害的。嗯，至少有烟呐，有烟呐那。后来，呃，这个自己，呃，就，呃，后来住在平房的时候，呃，也是烧煤炭那么点起没来没烟呢，非常大的 smoke 非常多，吸收了很多的，呃，有害的物质。而且，呃，那个那个墙壁，呃，呃，常常都被熏得黑了。墙壁都会熏黑了，都污染黑了呃，那天空的空气，呃，也越来越不好。我记得我，我在小时候就是小学时期，呃，我那个看天上的星星都非常的密。我们，呃，这个暑假的期间，吃完了晚饭就到我们这个呃，家里头楼上的露天的整个的一个阳台，在阳台上我们就看星星。呃，看到这个，呃，呃，能够看到就是我们家呃，能看到我们家住在和平门内就是比较难难的这部分能够看到中间的呃，北海的，呃，北海公园。北海公园的白塔。都看得非常清楚。那么天上的各种各样的，我特别喜欢看天上的星星，呃，比如像，呃，北斗星。呃，先后星呃呃这个呃老人星呃，牛郎织女星星，都看得天天都看这个还有没有部位呃，看着这个。所以那个天空是非常的清凉的，清朗的是很好的。后来呢，就随着这个城市的人口增多，呃，还有这个烟尘，呃，慢慢的，我到现在为止，呃，也很少在北京看得见。都看得很少就是。呃，就是北斗星几乎都看不清楚了。

Alas, there were many big changes. Before, even though my family was rich, we also burned coal. We burned coal. So the environmental pollution was very serious. It brought a lot of pollution. There was lots of smoke. We absorbed a lot of harmful substances. There was lots of smoke when cooking. The walls were turning black. The air in the sky was also getting worse and worse. I remember when I was a child in elementary school, I saw that there were many stars in the sky. During summer vacation time, after dinner, everyone went to the open-air balcony at the top of our house, and we watched the stars from the top of the balcony. I can see the White Pagoda in Bei Hai park in the center of the city from my house which is in Heping Men at the south end of the city. At night, we can see a lot of stars in the sky. I liked to watch stars at night. We can see the Big Dipper, the Queen of Heaven, the Canopus, the Altair and Vega, and the Milky Way. The sky was very clear. As more and more people moved to the cities, coal burning brought a lot of pollution and smoke. A lot of poisonous stuff. Even today, you cannot see stars clearly at night, not even the big dipper.

ES: 然后这个时候和从小到大您有没有经历过或者看到过保护环境的一些社会活动？

And at this time and when you grew up, have you ever experienced or seen any social movements to protect the environment?

MY: 现在是不断地加强环境的保护保护的监测。比如像以前呃农村里头经常的烧庄稼杆儿。田里头的这个肥料来增加肥料，天空里头就监测哪个地方有烧这个，呃，秸秆冒烟。呃，马上就知道了，马上就就去，停止或者是处罚，呃，那么城市里头，呃，改成了天然气。也没有那么多的烟了，没烟了。所以这个呃，监测不仅是监测烟烟雾，呃，现在是监测可吸入的颗粒物。这个监测的可吸入的颗粒度，嗯，呃，给判断今天的天气是优是良还是呃，轻度污染重度污染，呃，严重污染，呃，就是这个这种呃，这些污染物。所以这个环境的监测越来越精细了。越来越精细了呃，天空的这个什么质量呢？呃，也开始好了，呃，比如说像能够看见北京的就是蓝天白云了就恢复，我小时候就给十年前的北京城这样，但是我觉得呢？可能还有楼房的，还有就是房屋和人口的密度太大，所以也受了一些就是，呃，增加了呃天空的污染，还有就是这个小，Car的监测呃，也是从呃开始不怎么监测以后就呃就呃住建的监测的更好了，比如像吧，呃，最开始的时候那阵儿很少有那个私人的 private car。呃，所以这个路上，呃，就是就是这个污染的比较少，后来这个 car 多了，但是这个 car 都后边说有那个呃呃尾气就尾巴的那个，呃，车尾巴冒着气。都是非常非常的多的，呃，在以后呢，呃，这些有尾气的这个车呃叫黄标车把它给取缔了，不许他开了，现在就改成了现在目前的这个就很少，就是呃外边的这个，这个现在的这个 car。虽然都呃，看不见冒烟了，很少了，所以这都是改善。都改善，都是在监测，呃，逐渐的，呃污染严重的部分地方变好。

Now we are constantly strengthening environmental protection and monitoring. For example, farmers used to do stubble burning in rural areas. They used this to increase fertilizer. Nowadays government banned stubble burning. They set up monitoring stations to monitor air quality. If someone is burning stubble, they'll know it right away. They'll stop or impose penalties. In the cities, people changed to either natural gas or propane for cooking. There is not so much smoke anymore compared to before. This monitoring is not only monitoring smoke. Now they are also monitoring inhaling particulate matter. The inhalable particle size monitored is used to determine whether the day's weather is good or bad. They publish the air quality regularly. Light pollution, severe pollution, all these pollutants. So, the monitoring of this environment is becoming more and more sophisticated. It's getting more and more detailed. It's starting to get better. The air too. For example, the blue sky and white clouds that can be seen in Beijing are being restored. It is recovering the sky of Beijing from when I was a child. Ten years ago, this was not the case.

However, I also think that right now the population is huge. There is too large of a density of houses and buildings and cars, which has caused some problems. It added to increased pollution in the sky. Also, before there were very few people with private cars. On the road, there was less pollution. Later, there were more cars, but the cars were said to have exhaust gas coming out.

The emissions from cars is bad for the environment. Sometimes you can see the black smoke coming out from the car. Now these cars with exhaust fumes are called 'yellow label cars' and they are banned. They are not allowed to drive on the road. There are very few of them. Nowadays, there are big improvements in technology. The cars are a lot cleaner. O can't see the smoke. It's very little. The government also increased the monitoring of the environment. Gradually, some of the places with serious pollution are getting better.

ES: 您记得是什么时候这些环保呢，环境的東西开始了吗？

Do you remember when they started the environmental protection measures?

MY: 大概都是呃呃，cultural revolution 结束以后，也就是说，1980s 以后逐渐的改变的。

It probably all changed gradually after the Cultural Revolution, that is, after the 1980s.

ES: 嗯，然后我知道你已经开始说，呃，北京的变化，可是我也想问有没有别的变化，您看到过在北京从小时候到现在。北京城的变。

I know that you had started to talk about the changes in Beijing, but I also wanted to ask if there were any other changes you saw in Beijing from your childhood to now. The changes in the city?

MY: 嗯，呃，那就很多了，不知道您指的哪方面，我就说能源这方面的改革吧，呃，呃，最大的我觉得有利的就是妇女，因为这个呃。做饭烧火是占了中国妇女的大部分的时间。所以，呃，以前呢烧煤啊，炉灶呃，就占据了很长的时间，呃，比如像吧，我一阵儿就是在，呃呃。八十年代呃，呃。

以前我们都是，呃，就是八十年代的左右都烧那个煤烧煤炉子，呃，那么这个我每天下班回来以后，得上把这炉子先点着了然后等着点着，那么就一个炉子。呃，这一块也就烧一个多小时，我，我得加一块没我煮了饭饿就没劲了，所在做饭我得再添一块没呃才能够在在烧饭，呃，做菜。所以这个饭有的时候都已经凉了，就不能同时进行，那么就是为了这个烧火做饭，呃，这个呃的这个不方便占用了大部分的时间。呃，

自从能用了天然气，煤气 tank, 呃，呃，natural gas 以后。那。烧饭做饭，呃，非常方便那么炉子呃，一边做饭一边炒菜做菜，呃，很快就出来了，这样的话给了我很大的很多的时间，不只是我所有的家庭的，呃。这个，呃，不管你是不是工作，像我本身是医生，

工作很忙，但是回家我得吃饭，全家都得吃饭，我得用我自己的休息时间，呃，来，呃，来做饭。呃，做完了饭以后就时间来阅读，呃呃，更根本就谈不上去看电视看娱乐节目没有。呃，那么自从，呃，改善了就是做饭时间缩短了这样的一个劳动解放了妇女，大部分的时间都省出来了，那我就可以，看书啊，写一些东西，呃，我可以就是偶尔也能看一些的呢，节目电视的节目。嗯，我觉得这是最大的好处。这个最大的变化就是能源的改革，呃，给我造成的，呃，给我们这个呃造成的最大的利益，嗯，这是，呃，各家的自己个人的体会，至于国家的，呃，那么工业化呀。那些方面，呃，呃，我可以理解，呃，我并不并不很深入，反正现在是，呃，相当的，呃，工业相当的强大了

There are so many changes. I am not sure what kind of changes you want to know. Let me just talk about changes related to energy. I think for the biggest change in energy use, switching from coal to natural gas, women benefited the most. Cooking and lighting fires took up most of Chinese women's time. In the past, burning coal for the stove took up a lot of time. For example, that time was the 80s. Before the 1980s, we all used coal-fired stoves. I was very busy at work. After I came back from getting off work every day, I had to burn coal to light the stove first, then wait for it to fully light up. We just had one stove. Each piece of coal also only burned for about an hour. I had to use another piece of coal. I had to add another piece of coal to be able to cook and make dishes. So sometimes the food would already be cold. We couldn't cook multiple dishes at the same time. So just burning fire to cook, it was very inconvenient and took a lot of time. This inconvenience took up most of the time. After we switched to natural gas, cooking became very convenient. There was more than one burner on the stove, and we could cook, stir fry, everything at the same time. We could quickly cook. It gave me a lot of time, not just for my family. Whether you work or not, for example. I was a doctor, and I was very busy at work, but when I got home, I had to eat. The whole family had to eat. I had to use my own rest time to cook. But then, after I quickly finished cooking, I had time to read, not to mention watching TV and watching entertainment programs. The large improvement was that cooking time was shortened. This liberated women. Most of their time had been saved. Then, I could read, write something, I could occasionally also watch some TV programs. Well, I think that was the biggest benefit. The biggest change in energy reform that brought me the biggest benefit. I could feel it. Each person has their own experience. I know the energy revolution also affected other areas, but I did not feel it for myself very in-depth. But the industry is quite powerful.

ES: 嗯，你记得这个 natural gas 是哪一年开始用的吧？然后哪一年开始。有这个新的时间吗？

Do you remember when you started using natural gas?

MY: 呃，开始用的时间我觉得是九十年代，呃，九十年代的，呃，呃，就是 90s 的，呃，early 9 开始 early nineties 开始。

I think it was the early nineties.

ES: 呃，我也有一个问题是在北京发展和城市化的过程中你能感觉的明显的变化吗？

I also had another question. Was it obvious to you when Beijing was undergoing significant urbanization and development while it was happening? Or not so obvious?

MY: 我肯定可以感觉到非常大的变化

I could definitely feel the big changes.

ES: 这些变化是像什么？

What were those changes like?

MY: 对我来说，最大的好处就是我从做饭中省出很多时间去做我想做的事情。

For me, the biggest benefit is that I can save a lot of time from cooking to do the things I want to do.

ES: 嗯，然后我知道您刚才说有过很多保护环境的社会活动，我想知道这些社会活动大部分是普通的公民还是像，呃，政府干的。

I know you just said that there have been a lot of social activities to protect the environment. I was wondering whether most of these social activities are done by ordinary citizens or more like the government, elites?

MY: 我看都有，个人也得要努力，嗯，嗯，比如说像一些换炉灶啊，呃呃这个什么的，呃呃呃呃，保持就是垃圾的处理呀，垃圾的处理呀。另外，呃，不要在院子庭院里头，呃，烧一些，呃，树枝子杂物，呃，都是这个都是这些私家的，呃，这个院落的，这也得配合。

I think there are both. On the individual level, we have to work hard. For example, we needed to use energy efficient stoves and maintain garbage disposal methods. Don't burn branches and debris in the yard. Process garbage more carefully. These activities occurred in private households and the courtyard. These activities are at individual level. This also needs to be coordinated.

ES: 嗯，小时候用煤的时候是不是也是有这些社会活动，呃，更多时间，呃，您长更大的时候才开始的。还是到了九十年代以后逐渐开始的

Did these social activities start when you were a child, when coal was being used? Or did it only start when you grew older?

MY: 前头根本呃，谁也不注意，嗯，但是都很贫困的时期有什么呃，就用什么根本。没法挑，就是你选择没法选择。呃，你当时就有煤炭供应，你就得烧煤炭，你这少蜂窝煤就没煤球，嗯，没也只能用这个。别的你没办法也想在城市这些你你也也不能少。哎，就是这个 branches 干树枝，呃，你给你供应什么你就用什么。

People are starting to pay attention to these kind of things in the 1990s. Before that, people didn't really pay attention. The country was poor. People used whatever basics they could find. There is no choice. You had a supply of coal at the time, so you had to burn coal. You had a few briquettes, or no briquettes. If you didn't have anything you could only use this. You couldn't do anything else, and you couldn't do without those things in the city. It's those branches. You use whatever is supplied to you.

ES: 嗯。然后您小时候和长大的时候您觉得有很多人在讨论能源吗？还是是没有那样？嗯，像人。呃，老师或者别的人会不会讨论能源的这个东西还是没有怎么说。

I see. And then when you were a child and when you were growing up, did you feel like a lot of people were talking about energy or not really? Such as teachers or other adults?

MY: 没有。以前没有人讨论这些问题。尤其是从做饭这个角度。

No. Nobody talked about these issues in the past, especially from a cooking perspective.

ES: 人们是在 1990 年之后才开始关注能源和环境的问题吗？

Did people start to pay attention to energy/environmental issues in the 1990s?

MY: 非常坦率的说, 我之前从来没有考虑路过类似的问题。 我本人也是在你找我要问能源和做饭的问题之后才开始想这些问题。

To be very frank, I have never thought about these issues. I myself only started thinking about it when you first approached me and wanted to ask me about energy use/cooking related questions

ES: 我知道您之前在美国住过。 您可以和我说说您眼中中美在能源应用中的区别吗?

I know you also lived in the United States before. Could you please tell me about the differences in terms of energy use between America and China?

MY: 我是在 1980 年代作为访问学者去的美国。 当时, 我对能源应用并不了解。 我主要是在学校的饭厅吃饭。 但我注意到宿舍有一个电炉, 非常方便。 当时的中国我们还在用煤炉。 就像我之前告诉你的。 大概需要一两个小时才能把炉子点着。 24 小时中的两个小时。 那是很多时间。 在美国, 我没有见过烧煤的炉子。 我们在中国是 1990 年代才开始普遍使用天然气的。

I went to the United States as a visiting scholar in the 1980s. At the time, I didn't know much about energy. I mostly ate in the school dining hall. But I noticed and remember there was an electric stove in the dormitory, which was very convenient. At that time in China, we were still using coal stove. Like I told you earlier, usually people spend about two hours to light up the coal stove. 2 out of 24 hours. That's a lot of time. In the United States, I have never seen a coal stove. We in China only started to use natural gas widely in the 1990s.

ES: 您可以讲讲小时候如何用水和洗衣服吗?

Can you talk about how you used water and washed your clothes as a child?

MY: 在城市里, 大家基本都用自来水。 大部分地区都有自来水。 少数地方用井水。 您奶奶的母亲刚刚搬到北京来的时候, 他们买的房子, 没有自来水。 非常不方便, 他们很快申请接通了自来水。 1950 年代起, 大多数人都有自来水。

In the city, we have running water. I remember most places have tap water. Only a small number of places used well water. When your paternal grandma's mother first moved to Beijing, they bought a house with no running water. It was very inconvenient. There was a well in the yard and they had to pump water out. So, they quickly applied to a permit to connect to the city

tap water. Starting in the 1950s, most people had running water, but some households in Beijing used well water.

ES: 那时，人们谈有关节水和节能的问题吗？

Did people talk about “saving” water or energy at that time?

MY: 那个年代几乎所有人都用煤。

Almost everybody used coal at that time.

ES: 当你从用煤转到用天然气时，做饭的方式有改变吗？

When you switch from coal to gas, did you change the way/types of foods you cooked?

MY: 从 1990 年代开始，情况开始不同。天然气非常快。家里有多个炉头可以同时烧。现在，除了天然气之外，还有电炉，烤箱，微波炉。你可以用电饭煲做米饭，省时省力

Starting in the 1990s, conditions began to change. Natural gas cooking is very fast. There are multiple burners at home that can be burned at the same time. Nowadays, there are electric cooking machines. In addition to natural gas, there are electric stoves, ovens, and microwaves. You use a rice cooker to cook rice, saving time and effort.

ES: 除了做饭之外，您还注意到中美能源应用的区别吗？

Other than cooking, did you see any differences between the US and China?

MY: I think the air quality in America is better than here. I remember being able to see stars at night. Also, when I look at my leather shoes, after many days of use, they are still relative clean (in America). This is impossible in China.

ES: 您是从什么时候开始注意到污染的问题的。

When did you begin to notice pollution as an issue?

MY: 事情是慢慢发生的。不是忽然在某一个时间点突然发生的。所以的事情都是逐渐发展的。比如，我小的时候。天上可以看到星星。现在当我看向天空是，星星不在了。我什么也看不到。这是一个缓慢发展的过程。不是突然一下就这样了。

Things happen gradually. It wasn't like there was a and suddenly you felt it. Everything is gradual. For example, when I was a child, I could see the stars in the sky. Now whenever I look at the sky at night, the stars are gone. I cannot see anything. This is a slowly evolving process. It's not a sudden change.

ES: 您提到一些为保护环境发生的社会活动。您具体指的是什么活动

You mentioned earlier that there were some social movements to protect the environment. What kinds of movements were you referring to?

MY: 我不懂你提的问题。

I did not understand your question.

ES: 您讲过为了改善环境而做的一些事情。请问有没有因为环境问题发生大规模抗议或反政府的行为。

You talked about some of the movements around protecting the environment. I was wondering if there were any protests or anti-government activities you noticed related to environmental issues?

MY: 为了环境反对政府？没有，没有那方面的事情。

Against the government? No, there was nothing like that.

ES: 您看到过或做过对环境有益的任何工作吗？

What kinds of activities did you see or participate in, then?

MY: 没有，我并没有参加过任何活动？在社会演化过程中，情况不断改善。但我并没有为改善环境专门做过任何事情。我没有努力。

I did not participate in any specific activities. As society evolves, things change. The situation continues to improve. But I did not consciously do things to improvement the environment. I did not do anything specifically. I did not try hard.

ES: 在中国，多数人都和你一样吗？您遇见过那些专注改善环境的人吗？

Were most other people you knew in China more like you, or have you met people who were focused on or protesting for improving the environment?

MY: 我想应该是有。因为我这都是从新闻，报道上看到的。我没有完全决出这些人我只是从新闻中看到的。

I think there should be. Because all this stuff I saw from the news and reports. But I personally did not encounter many of those people.

ES: 您还记得您从什么时候开始才看到和这些有关的新闻吗？

Do you remember when you read this kind of news?

MY: 我没有注意过类似的问题。也没有考虑过这些问题。我只是一直专注于我自己的事情。我一直致力于我自己的学习。从小学，中学大学，还有之后的医学院，做个好医生在这个方面没有时间也没有意识去考虑其他的问题，特别是环保这方面的问题

I did not pay too much attention to it. I did not think about much in the past. I just kept focusing on my own things. My primary focus was focusing on school. From elementary school, middle school to university, and later medical school, in order to be a good doctor, there was no time or awareness to critically think about other issues, especially related to environmentalism.

ES: 你在学校学医或者物理或事科学的时候，老师有没有讨论能源的问题？或者讨论能源？

When you were studying medicine, or physics or chemistry in school, did your teachers ever give questions about energy? Or discuss energy as a concept?

MY: 我不记得当时讨论过类似的问题。

No, I don't remember anything about that.

ES: 这就是我所有的问题。非常感谢您的时间。

Those were all of my questions. Thank you very much for your time.

MY: 如果你还有其他问题。可以给我发短信，然后我们可以再约。

If you have additional questions, you can send me a message and we can schedule another one.