Religious Interview

Name of Student

Name of Instructor

Name of Course

Name of Institution

Date

**Religious Interview**

**First Part**

**Reflection on an interview from the project Documenting Diversity: Religious Perspective in Oral History**

**The name of the interviewee**

The interview selected from the project “Documenting Diversity: Religious Perspective in Oral History” involved Liz Remelius, an undergraduate, continuing with her religious studies.

**The religious background of this individual**

The religious background of the interviewee is Christianity. The interviewee was born in a Christian family who believed in the existence of God. The interviewee is a black American who comes from a humble background. The African American background influences the interviewee's view on religion. From the interview, it is evident that the participant's generation is linked with Protestants, making it possible for the interviewee to stick to religion.

The interview shows that the socioeconomic status of the interviewee is medium where the majority of the family members from the participants lack the quality education. The income per household is also low because of the low wages of the parents. The socioeconomic status of the participant makes them believe that religion is significant in their lives. Liz's race and gender also influence her view on religion. In the interview, she indicates that her parents were more concerned with her on Sundays when going to church than with the male siblings. Therefore, this is an indication of how gender influenced her view of religion.

**A description of how this person’s ideas have changed over time**

The interview shows that the participant's ideas on religion have changed over time. Liz indicates that when she was young, she was bound to Christianity. During her teenage age, she did not recognize the existence of other religions in her life and viewed them as unfavorable. The rigid mind on Christianity originates from her background, where she gets connected to the church to a large extent. However, as she grew up, she learned the different religious groups like Islam and Hinduism, which made her realize their importance. Liz began to change the idea of the existence of one religion and started accepting other people from different religions in her life. The change in thoughts on religion shows that religion cannot make a person get disconnected from the community because of their choice. Likewise, she changed the views from the perspective of religion as inherited from the parents and family members and realized that religion is a personal choice from an individual.

**Personal reflections on the person’s story**

One of the interviewee's story's lessons is that religion does not depend on an individual's socioeconomic status. The interviewee explains how they came from a humble background, yet they still believed in the faith. Another lesson from the story is that it cannot make a person less in the community. The interview shows that nowadays the society consists of both believers and non-believers. However, coming from another religion does not make a person more minor in the community as they all share the same culture.

One thing I found interesting from the interview is how the interviewee's family was more concerned about the female members attending church than the male members. The family was linked to Christianity, and I find this interesting when they leave the male siblings at home and allow the female members to attend the church. I agree with the point that as people continue to grow, their minds on religion change. In the past, there were different perspectives on religion that continue to get outdated as people develop new views towards the various religious groups existing.

**A description of what questions you would like to be able to ask this person**

One of the questions to ask the interviewee is what she wants other people to know about her religion. For instance, there are other people from different religions who have their perspectives towards religion, and thus, the participant may have something she wants others to know about Christianity. Another question to ask the interviewee is how science affects religion. Since the interviewee is a firm believer, she can help answer how science has affected religion. The other question involves the unique aspect of Christianity. Every religion has its particular part, which they perform differently from other religions. Therefore, the interviewee can explain the uniqueness of their religion and why she thinks it is different from other religions.

**Second Part**

**Reflection on an interview from a family member**

**Interviewee name**

The name of the family member I interviewed is Charlotte Johnson.

**The religious background of this individual**

Charlotte Johnson belongs to the Christian faith. Charlotte is American, and she believes that ethnicity has had a significant influence on her perception of religion. Charlotte, like many people, feels that Sunday morning hours are the most segregated for religious activities. Ethnicity and religion are deeply interrelated; ethnicity affects how a person thinks about religion. The connections between religion and ethnicity allow people to advance their understanding of each social happening. The relationship between race and religious affiliation helps in explaining why American society has strong religious affiliations. Americans' religious affiliations differ along ethnic and racial identity lines. People establish their ethnic identities depending on their religious affiliations.

I think Charlotte’s gender identity also influences her views on religious affiliation and participation. Charlotte has a strong religious affiliation, and her gender explains her commitment to religion. Gender plays a significant role in how people perceive religion. Home management is associated with women, and it helps them to develop stronger religious beliefs. Females are more likely to accept religious believes than males. Women are less likely to involve in work that gives them time to engage in religious issues. Female’s lack of work commitment is associated with higher levels of religious participation. A person's place in society affects their commitment to religious matters. Women are more spiritual because they have fewer commitments compared to men.

Socioeconomic status affects Charlotte's view on religion. Charlotte is a graduate but does not have a job currently. The socioeconomic status of a person involves their education, income, and occupation. The social-economic identity also affects a person's perception of religion. People with lower social-economic class tend to associate with religion than those with higher socioeconomic status. However, the relationship between social-economic status and religion is small compared to other factors. Married people and those that are responsible for young children are likely to have higher religious participation. The connection between religious involvement and socioeconomic status has hiked interest in studies on religious affiliation. Occupational commitment interferes with a person’s participation in the religious community. Education exposes a person to new ways of life that might interfere with their religious beliefs, participation, and affiliations. People that have low or no income are more likely to involve in religious participation.

**A description of how the interviewee's ideas have changed over time**

Charlotte’s ideas concerning religion have changed due to her exposure to different environments when learning. Society has undergone various changes over time that affects people’s ideas on religion. Education allows a person to interact with people of other religious affiliations, acting their ideas on religion. Technology has also changed Charlotte's perception of religion. Technological advancement has affected how people view religious participation. People watch sermons using online platforms, which reduce the physical presence. Technology has brought a new perception of religion; the digital church.

**Personal reflections on the person’s story**

One of the lessons from the interviewee's story is that gender significantly influences a person's view of religion. Women are more religious than men because they have fewer occupational commitments. Work commitments often interfere with a commitment to religious participation. Another lesson from the interview is the deep connection between religion and ethnicity. The association explains the solid religious affiliation in American society. One of the interesting points is that home management is a significant factor that explains why women are more religious than men. Women engage in taking care of the sick, the elderly, and the child, which gives them time to develop spiritual connections. I agree that work commitment reduces a person’s responsibility to religious participation.

**A description of what questions you would like to be able to ask this person**

One of the questions I would ask the interviewee about things that strongly believe in her faith. People have different perceptions about things that make them firm believers. Another question I would also ask her information concerning her thoughts about the unique aspect of her religion. Individuals have various views concerning the elements that make their religion unique. I would also ask the interviewee to give information on issues that she would like people to know about her religion.