**Transcript of Hamra’s interview**, **7th March 2019** *(Hamra is a pseudonym)*

Q1\_KJA: So before then, em, when people talked about critical thinking, what did you think that critical thinking meant?

HAMRA: Actually, um, because we ah, we ah, we had a discussion in our class about the critical thinking, it will help us in our, on our essays and writing, so we talk about the critical thinking, it’s like ah, when you try to analyse the information you get it, and try usually to question what you, ah, read, what you have read. For example, if I read any articles, I have to question what I read to understand or, like this.

KJA: Yeah.

HAMRA: But, I do not use it a lot, to be honest, because I don’t know how I can question the information, how … so … yeah.

KJA: OK

HAMRA: Yeah.

KJA: So it’s mostly about, um, analysing -

HAMRA: Yeah

KJA - information and questioning

HAMRA: Questioning the information

Q2\_KJA: Yeah. So, um, after the critical thinking course, my course, um, did that idea change? Or not.

HAMRA: Um, actually I get … new information about critical thinking like, ah, I try to think in the opposite side, like, ah, not confirmation bias, another one, because I notice, ah, there is a lot of ah, opposite sides at work, there are other evidence, but usually we just look to one side.

KJA: Okay

HAMRA: Yeah. Ah, also, um, about the, it’s the same when you said, we look out the frame

KJA: Yes

HAMRA: Yeah, so, I usually try to look to the bigger picture, than the small one.

KJA: Okay

HAMRA: Yeah.

KJA: Do you have any examples of that?

HAMRA: Yeah, um, mm, let me think … ummm … for example, you gave us example about the climate change

KJA: Mmm

HAMRA: You said everyone will look to the climate change, uh, a different aspect. For example, environmentalist will think about the environment, the economics will think about what will happen to the economy. And so, that everyone look from one side, no-one look to the big picture, everyone have, like, what they, um, interest in or -

KJA: Yeah

HAMRA: - what they worried about.

KJA: Yeah.

HAMRA: Yeah.

KJA: OK, that’s interesting.

HAMRA: Yeah

Q3\_KJA: Yeah. Ah, so, before you started the course, um, did you think that you were a good critical thinker.

HAMRA: No.

KJA: Okay! (Both laugh)

HAMRA: No. (Laughs)

Q4\_KJA: Um, alright. And what about now?

HAMRA: Uh, it’s getting better. Because usually, I, just as I said, I think in one way, but now I try to understand all, maybe there is another, uh, another possible, uh, like if I want to write, ah, answers my essay, I think maybe the opposite way, it will be better, and I try to find out about this way. So I try to look to the both way to understand, but usually we just look at the one way. And also I understand sometimes why the people just wait other people to do something to uh, to like uh, for example, you, ah, we watched in your critical thinking, uh, shop the emergency fire alarm and nobody move, and I notice why sometimes in the class, the teacher say something important, but nobody write, until the first one open the book, or something, so ALL of the class open and write, but before that, nobody do it. So I understand why, because we just need someone to, like, encourage us to do that.

KJA: [Yes, yes

HAMRA: [Yeah.

KJA: It’s difficult to be the first, isn’t it?

HAMRA: Yeah, yeah.

KJA: Okay. Right. Umm… Okay, so can I just ask you about, um, climate change.

HAMRA: Yeah

Q 5\_KJA: So, what did you think about, or feel about, climate change before starting the course? Did you think about it?

HAMRA: I heard about it, and, but I do not, I don’t think it’s real problem or, I, uh, I don’t feel, uh, the danger of the climate change, because … nobody talk about it, to be honest, yeah. But when we join the course, and we look at the different aspects and the real danger of the climate change, and we watch some really sad videos about some, ah, flood and we understand really what is the situation. Becau - also we understand why people do not think about the climate change, because they do not understand the real danger of the climate change as you watch – as we saw some videos. After that, I understand why this situation happened right now.

KJA: Okay. So, was that from my course, or was it-

HAMRA: - Yeah, yeah, uh, when, ah before I watched the video, ah, we watched the video about, um, ah, no, at the beginning you gave us some, uh, some ah, piece of news talk about the flood in India or something –

KJA: Yes, a statistic, wasn’t it, about the floods in India being three times more likely

[or something like that

HAMRA: [and so we read the statistic but we do not feel anything, but after we watched the video and we watched the real situation we feel upset and some of us cry and as you, you crying

KJA: [I was crying (laughing)

HAMRA: [Yeah

KJA: I think you were crying

HAMRA: Yes, because it was very, very sad. So, I understand why people do not think about this. And also you gave us example about some city, uh, um, ah, the people in, ah, California I think, the people after the danger put all the safety measure, after that they do not do it. So maybe because we do not notice the real danger, there is no, there is no aware, there is no awareness about it. So maybe that’s why.

KJA: Yes. I think that’s just human nature.

HAMRA: Yeah, yeah.

KJA: I think I would be the same if I lived in California, actually.

HAMRA: Yeah

KJA: So, human nature was – I was kind of looking at human nature, and how that affects how we think.

HAMRA: Yeah.

Q6\_KJA: Um, okay. That’s been really great. Is there anything else you want to say about the course?

HAMRA: Mm… I think it’s good if we take critical thinking as a course because we focus on the way to think how … in the class we just focus on critical thinking or writing. We question what we will read, we analyse, blahblahblah, but, when we take it as a normal in our life, it’s good because sometimes we do not notice what we, what, why, sorry, why we did that, but after we, uh, take this lessons, we understand a lot of thing, why we did it, ah, how we can improve it. After the video of the alarm, I say to myself, “I will be the first one, uh, in this situation, I do not need to wait someone to make, encourage me to go out, or in anything, not in, just in ah, danger situation or something like that. So, yeah, I will try like to improve myself in this situation, yeah.

KJA: Yeah, OK. So, um, can I ask you if there was any, uh … Which workshops did you go to, did you go to all of them?

HAMRA: Ah, I missed the first one because of my ankle

[problem

KJA: [Oh, of course, yes

HAMRA: and I attend the, the rest of them.

KJA: So, yes, we had, um, number two was about confirmation

[bias -

HAMRA: [Bias, yes

KJA: - number three was about framing

HAMRA: Framing yeah

KJA: Number four was about cultures and tribes and taboos

HAMRA: Yeah

KJA And number five was about risk-

HAMRA: [Risk

KJA [and probability. So which one did you think was the most useful, do you think?

HAMRA: Mmm … all of them, but especially maybe the confirmation bias

KJA: Okay

HAMRA: Yeah, I like it

KJA: Can you tell me why?

HAMRA: Ah, because um, we saw a video about, ah, some people talk about, um, some, like a mathematical equation or something like this and the people do not think in the opposite, or give the incorrect answer, they just try to give the correct, correct answer in the same, uh, in the same way, like, two plus two equal five.

KJA: Yeah

HAMRA: They do not think about three plus one equal five, they just look at two plus two equal five, four, sorry. So that’s make me think there is a lot of situation in my life, I just think in the way the people think before me. I don’t think in the opposite side, or I don’t try to [state?] why this, why we do not try another thing. So, I like the confirmation bias.

KJA: Mm, I thought it was good fun, too.

HAMRA: Yeah, I like it.

KJA: Um, what about the, ah, the one about culture and tribes and taboos, did you um understand what that was about?

HAMRA: Culture?

KJA: Number, number four was about culture

[and tribes

HAMRA: [When you give us the boy and girl and-

KJA: No, no, no, it was the one – did you come to that one? – it was the one where I was looking at, um, different kinds of culture, like hierarchical and … egalitarian

[did you come to that one?

HAMRA: [Yeah, I come, yeah yeah, I came to this one

KAJ: Because my friend Nick, who was watching, said, “Oh, that was very confusing, I was confused.” He said this, my English friend.

HAMRA: Yeah

KJA: Uh, did you find that confusing, or useful

[or interesting-

HAMRA: - [I think at the time of the lecture it was OK, but maybe because it’s like, difficult, uh, difficult terms, so that’s why I do not remember it. But, like confirmation bias was, it’s easy to understand it and to stay in my mind. But maybe if I review the lecture, I, it will be OK.

KJA: Well, we’re going to have a review of the, all the courses, um, tomorrow. So, like, I’m going to do a little quiz, and you just work with your group, and you try and answer the questions that will help you remember the workshops. And then we’ll try and apply what we’ve learned to some reading texts. So I haven’t done, I didn’t want the course to be very heavy

HAMRA: Yeah

KJA: And I know it’s Friday afternoon and everyone’s tired, so I didn’t do a lot of heavy stuff-

HAMRA: Yeah

KJA: - reading and writing but we’re going to look at some, some texts on Friday and see if we can see any bias in the text, can we see the writer trying to, ah, use our emotions and not talk to our logical side, and things like that. So I hope you’ll enjoy it, and I hope you’ll find it’s useful.

HAMRA: Yeah, sure.

KJA: Ah, I’m also going to send everybody, um, a feedback form, because not everybody has got the time to be interviewed –

HAMRA: Good, ah

KJA: - so I’m going to send everyone a kind of feedback form where they can also give their feedback, um, so if there’s anything else you think about that you forgot to say today, you can put this in the feedback form as well.

HAMRA: Yeah, yeah, OK, sure.

KJA: So, would you recommend this course to your friends?

HAMRA: Yeah, absolutely, yeah.

KJA: Good! Please do!

HAMRA: Yeah absolutely (both laugh)

KJA: Thank you so much Areej, that was really rea… (recording finishes).