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### Interview by Chow Kwok Keung

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## **Hong Kong Childhood- Oral History**

**Interviewer: Chow Kwok keung (Ken)**

**Interviewee: (Twisk)**

**Venue: Wa Hing Building**

**Date: 10/3/99**

Ken: Twisk, I'm interviewer, Ken, it's my pleasure to invite Twisk to have an interview today, it's 10/3/1999, the venue is Wa Hing Building.

I would like to ask some questions about your childhood. Who lived with you when you were a child?

Twisk: Er —when I was a child, I lived with my father, mother, elder brother and Ken: my elder sister. Sometimes my grandmother would come, but she normally lived in China.

Ken: When would your grandmother come?

Twisk: About--- 3or 4 times a year.

Ken: How long did she lived with you every time?

Twisk: It's not certain, sometimes eight days to ten days, sometimes two to three days.

Ken: Any relatives were with you?

Twisk: Um---- I remember that when I was a child, ah---- A relative of my mammy, not close to us. Since they came from mainland and found no place to live in Hong Kong, ah--- because they knew my mammy, they slept in my house's balcony for more than three years. But I didn't know their relationship.

Ken: Oh you didn't know. So were you closed?

Twisk: Ah-----quite closed, but it was the past.

Ken: So what their impacts on you? Or what did you think about them?

Twisk: Impact? ---Ah----Actually, I was rather closed with the man. We usually played together, and I liked to fight with him. Their impacts on me -----positively---- Ah, they made me feel easy to get along with the elders.

Ken: How your grandmother taught you, or what did you think about her?

Twisk: My grandmother----Actually she received very few education, maybe---- I remember that even she had not receive education at all, so it was impossible for her to teach me, but---- I taught that she---- her image was very kind to me, every time I longed to get along with her, when I was young.

Ken: And, let's talk about your other family members. How they taught you, talk about your feeling about them. Or how they played with you?

Twisk: Ah----- I felt that my father worked most of the time, maybe-----but---- when he had time he would bring the whole family to play outdoor activities. For example, BBQ, so I felt that we were very closed indeed. I learned many things from him, for example, I remember that he taught me how to use chopsticks, so his image to me was king, easy to approach. As for my mammy, she was rather, rather strict, maybe she would blame us for a tiny matter. So I felt that she was difficult to get along with. And I quite fear her, fearing that I would make her angry. As for my elder sister and brother. I felt that I was closer with my brother when I was a child. Maybe we were both male, many times I went street or played with my neighbour in the corridor, I would ask him to join. And, my sister was very goot at studying, even today, ah----- that's all.

Ken: I heard that your father was very kind, and yourmother was very strict, so you preferred to get along with your father.

Twisk: Yes.

Ken: So your mammy, you didn't like to be with her?

Twisk: it's not the case, but I rather liked to be with my father.

Ken: For example, when you got along with your mammy, would you resist her teaching, or disobey her?

Twisk: I don't think so, for she was strict, I would not disobey her.

Ken: So what did you learn from them?

Twisk: Ah----- In my mind----I---my mother seldom taught me, for she usually worked, and did house works, and she seldom talked with us. As for my father, he received not very much education, but he usually talked about the way of living to us, such as 'Children should be honest'. Yes----um-----yes----I think the way of living----  
- was learned from my father.

Ken: where they came from?

Twisk: They were from China.

Ken: Both of them, I see, what were their jobs?

Twisk: That time, my mammy, was ..(Three persons came in talking and laughing)

Ken: Carry on.

Twisk: My mammy sold dim sum in a restaurant and my father did many jobs. My father did many jobs in Hong Kong after he came from China, almost had done every kind of job, such as worker, waiter and so on. And my father have been doing factory for some ten years.

Ken: How about your mammy?

Twisk: My mammy did part-time job in restaurant most of the time.

Ken: Were they in the same restaurant.

Twisk: No, but I heard that once they did.

Ken: How about your relationship with them when you were a child?

Teisk: Ah-----ah---how----I felt that we were in harmony. When I was studying , sometimes whether I was happy or not, I would talked with them during our dinner, um, yes. So we were in harmony.

Ken: Would your parents teach you about the children's responsibility?

Twisk: Study harder, for maybe every parents want their children studying harder.

Ken: apart from these?

Twisk: None.

Ken: What would you like to play when you were a child.

Twisk: What did I play when I was a child----ah--- when I was a child, on the same floor in my bulding, there were a group of children whose ages were similar. Many times we would play hide and seek, football or jumping. When I grew, about primary 6, I would like to play TV game in my friend's home after school. For I went school only in the morning---Ah----Yess.

Ken: Were you happy?

Twisk: That time----Actually very happy. For children worry about nothing, when they can play they would be happy.

Ken: Did you like reading?

Twisk: Ah----Sometimes I would read book, for next to my home there was a public library. I remember that a summer I usually went to there reading fairy tales, because I love fairy tales and encyclopedia, so that's why I'm interested in reading now.

Ken: you loved reading fairy tales, so would that make you like to think or imagine ?

Twisk: Yes, yes, but positively, that built up my Chinese foundation.

Ken: Would other children that time have the same interest?

Twisk: Some of them, for example, I remembered a classmate in my class, he was ranked number one in class almost every year. I just sometimes went to the library, maybe three or four times a week, but I saw him in the library every time. He went to library every day in Summer. But, some of the pupils, some classmate would not go to the library.

Ken: How about some interesting story when you were a child?

Twisk: Interesting story, actually there were many, I Remember that ----but----but I didn't know whether it is an interesting story. I remember that I played with my brothers ----it was a Summer. We were so careless that we poured out blue liquid medicine on the floor, and it was just a tiny matter in the beginning. But we had little knowledge about it, that we poured out some water on the floor. So we both poured out water pot by pot, and we poured without ceasing on the floor. Then the whole floor was wet. When mammy came back, of course, she scolded us, and she chased my brother beating him. Then my brother hid in the toilet, but I had no place to hide. At last, my mammy beat me a lot. Actually it was quite interesting.

Ken: Any event affected your life?

Twisk: Yes----Ah----I remember----actually I forgot how old I was that time---- but perhaps I was in primary 4. Once I went street with my brother, and we wanted to eat, but he had no money. So he stole the snack food. And I was very young, I followed him. I saw that he stole things then I stole things. But I was caught by the shopkeeper.

The shopkeeper asked me why I stole. And I answered him that 'I saw my brother stole, so I stole.' My brother had gone already, and the shopkeeper asked me to go.

Ken: Any other events are deep in your mind?

Twisk: I remember that once I was in Kindergarten. For My mammy sold dim sum in restaurant, and the family members all went to work or school, so no one can take care of me. And my mammy took me to the restaurant every morning. I remember that I got up very early, nearly 5 to 6 o'clock. Sometimes my mammy held me to the restaurant even when I was still sleeping. When I woke up I found that I was in the restaurant. Once I was so boring that I went to a kindergarten's home without telling my mammy. My mammy was worried about me when off-duty. She looked for me every where, It was lucky that she finally found me.

Ken: What was the impact on you?

Twisk---Ah ---Maybe I got carefully after that ---I would be considerate.

Ken: Have you experienced any accident?

Twisk: Once I went street with my family, a pot was thrown from above, it was lucky that it hit none of us. But it affected me that I would walk faster under my building.

Ken: Who did the house works and cooked rice?

Twisk: Most of the time my mammy did it.

Ken: How about your living area?

Twisk: I lived in public house, not very big, about 400 to 500 feet, but I felt that the circumstances was not bad, in Tsing yi, it was quite comfortable. There were many school.

Ken: Would your family asked you to worship gods?

Twisk: They would not asked me to worship gods, but they would do it themselves.  
There were many idols in my home. Once I was so boring that I counted them one by one, I thought that there were five gods in my home.

Ken: Did you believe?

Twisk: yes, I did.

Ken: Were your family interested in politics?

Twisk: No, my family was indifferent to politics.

Ken: Have you got some closed friends?

Twisk: Ah---Ah---yes, my neighbours.

Ken: what was your relationship with them?

Twisk: Our relationship, very closed, we would pay with each other almost every moment .(A girl came in asking questions)

Ken: what their impacts on you?

Twisk: For I enjoyed such a relationship, I longed to make some good friends. So I have high expectation on making friends.

Ken: How to conclude your childhood.

Twisk: Abundant. I'm lucky that I have experienced very much, my family is good, and I lacked not friends.

Ken: How about your childhood compared with others' ?

Twisk: Similar.

Ken: Okay, So thank you that you be the Interviewer.

END.