

TRANSCRIPT 2 - CONVERSATION

MOLLY: That lecture was kind of interesting. It made me think about issues I've never really considered before.

AYMAN: Like what?

HANNAH: I agree. It never occurred to me that outsourcing could affect people in negative ways. I always thought it was advantageous.

MOLLY: Well, like Hannah just said. Somehow I frequently manage to lock up my computer and am always calling the Help Line. Sometimes I get rather frustrated with the language gap between the Rep and me; I never seem lucky enough to get someone who speaks the same language. It didn't occur to me that someone here lost that job to someone outside the country just because the labor is cheaper. Somehow that doesn't seem fair.

(Murmurs of agreement.)

AYMAN: It's all about profits and margins, and making sure your company makes as much money as possible.

MICHAEL: Wait a minute! There are too many conversations going on here!

(Laughter from the others as Michael continues talking.)

MICHAEL: Too many of us talking at once! Profits and margins are business terms.

(Ayman groans as Michael continues.)

MICHAEL: Can we stick to globalization?

AYMAN: Well...outsourcing really does concern profits. One of the main points the lecturer made for outsourcing is that cheaper labor allows businesses to expand faster.

HANNAH: True, but I agree with Michael. Can we stick to terms we heard in the lecture? Otherwise, we'll end up off-topic before you know it.

(Everyone expresses agreement.)

AYMAN: Okay. Point taken. But there are some positive aspects to outsourcing. Countries like India are able to give people jobs that would otherwise be unemployed.

HANNAH: What was the phrase used in the lecture for why businesses in developing countries don't grow?

MOLLY: Here. I have it in my notes. Ummmm.

AYMAN: (Speaks a little over Molly as she is looking.) Molly, you write everything down! How do you do that?

MOLLY: (Laughs) I don't know. A lifetime of good study habits. Here it is: "a lack of money hinders the growth of local companies." Remind me what 'hinder' means?

AYMAN: It's not being able to do something because something else is in the way. You know. The companies can't get any bigger because they don't have enough money to grow. Small local companies may lose business, but at least people somewhere else have a chance to work when production and labor are outsourced.

HANNAH: Hmmmm. Hinders...Not going out Fridays because I don't have any money left?
(Everyone laughs.)

AYMAN: Yep! That's it!

MICHAEL: Isn't the whole idea behind globalization is that it makes the world somehow seem smaller? We buy stuff made in countries all over and listen to other kinds of music. It's the same with food, too. My neighborhood is full of different kinds of restaurants: Thai, Spanish, Italian. And Chinese, too.

MOLLY: You're right! Remember in one of our classes they were talking about fortune cookies? I had no idea what they were. Now I can even find them in some of the markets here.

MICHAEL: And don't forget about the internet. My Mom tells stories about mail overseas taking weeks to get here. All we do is send an e-mail, and it's there within minutes. I can't imagine waiting weeks to hear from my friends in Europe.

AYMAN: Don't forget on-line games, too.

HANNAH: And chat rooms.

MOLLY: And Facebook. I can't live without Facebook!
(They all laugh.)

MICHAEL: Molly! I thought the only thing you were addicted to is your cell phone!

MOLLY: Well...it's all part of globalization, isn't it?.

AYMAN: Talking about all this makes me wonder how all these trends got started.

MICHAEL: That's the topic next week. I'm kinda interested in that, too. Maybe it will help me understand my Mom better. You know, bridge the generation gap. Or whatever that process is called.
(They all laugh. Fade out as conversation continues...),

HANNAH: When my Grandma tells stories...

MICHAEL: (Talking over her.) We're off topic again...