

Pseudonym	Dialect Zone	Provenance	Sex	Age	Educational Level	Religion	Ch.7 Text No.
Tommy Murphy (TM)	SUE	Foley, Co. Armagh	M	52	PG qualification	C	7.3.3

KPC Did you feel that you were affected by *The Troubles*, or did you feel that it just kind of passed over you?

TM Well, you g... you go... you got used it. I enjoy... I enjoyed *The Troubles* in a way.

KPC How did you enjoy them?

TM I enjoyed them because there was a bit of activity, and it's Armagh in the news – 'Oh, great, Armagh's in the news.' A bit of a buzz about, 'There's a bomb in Armagh.'

KPC Mm.

TM 'Great, let's go and see the destruction.' 'Oh, somebody was shot.' 'Oh, good, let's go and see the blood.' So I, I, I enjoyed *The Troubles*. Bit of excitement.

KPC And was that, do you think, a sort of general thing amongst your generation or...?

TM Well, I don't know. You're in, you're, you're, you're in a similar generation.

KPC But, I mean, I suppose amongst boys...

TM Well, I think so. Oh, I think boys, I think boys got a buzz, yeah.

KPC Mm.

TM I th... I, I, I mean, I think, don't think people, I don't think growing up people were aware of it being em, a problem.

KPC Mm.

TM Em, you know, eh, because it, it was just your life.

KPC Mm-mm.

TM No, but, no, I, I... well, m... maybe I'm odd. No, no, I, I, em, 'Great', whenever Armagh was in the news. 'Oh, great.'

KPC And what about...

TM Great stuff.

KPC ... when you reflect back on it now, do you think that it did affect your life?

TM Well, I th... I'm just a... aware that I've got, eh, Luke's just started university, and he's not home at half three, four. But even at Queen's, everything stopped at half eleven...

KPC Mm.

TM ... you know, there was no night clubs.

KPC Mm..

TM Em, people, people didn't go down the town because everybody lived round Queen's.

KPC Mm-mm.

TM So, actually, people didn't walk up and down, you know, and, and actually, it was kind of hard to imagine anything later 'Oh, gosh, that whole row is...' there's, there's, em, restaurants and people go out night and there's night clubs in Belfast. 'Oh, aye...' they'd have said, 'Oh, aye, well, there wasn't in our day.'

KPC Mm.

TM And, and going to Queen's meant you went to Queen's...

KPC Mm-mm.

TM ... and you stayed up there.

KPC Mm-mm.

TM So, you know, looking back now, of course, you realise it was all very different.

KPC Mm. And do you think that, em, people who didn't grow up in that kind of environment actually understand the nature of what went on, or not? You know, people like you know here, for instance...

TM No, no.

KPC ... do they have... do... but do you think they have quite a different view of what it was like?

TM Yeah, but, pe... people wouldn't understand. Yeah, it's a different life style...

KPC Mm.

TM ... so people wouldn't, people don't understand it, no. People don't understand sectarianism, tribalism and, em...

KPC Even though it clearly exists in places like Glasgow and...?

TM Yeah, well, they, they, ach, they would, yeah, but people here wouldn't, people I mix with wouldn't.

KPC Mm.

TM You have to be careful, mind your Ps and Qs, because my, em.... yeah, I mean, it did... it did... it did mark me, but everything - life marks you, life changes you.

KPC Mm.

TM I mean, I, I, I see myself as, em, you know, I, I was shaped by it actually, and I, and I would call myself, em, just interesting, I mean, I would call myself 'sectarian'...

KPC Mm.

TM ... in the sense that, that, that, that I, you know, lived all my life working out what people were. And it wasn't so you could go and kick them, but it was kind of, you ha... you knew, so then you would, you'd know what to say to them, and so you wouldn't go up and talk to, em, a Protestant about Gaelic football.

KPC Mm.

TM Or going to Donegal for your holidays.

KPC Mm.

TM Or s... or doing Irish or going to the Gaeltacht or something. Or, or, or, whatever...

KPC Did you ever find a situation where you got it wrong, and ended up...?

TM No, very rarely. Very rarely.

KPC And what sorts of strategies did you use for figuring it out?

TM The distance between their eyes.

KPC Mm, really?

TM No... no... not really.

KPC *[laughs]*

TM No, it, it was, em, ach, ach you can't... well, actually, you know, I, I think it was looks, everything, attitude to avo... eh, well accents then, c... but I, I don't have the ear for it now.

KPC So tell me.

TM There would have been, there wo... would have been, you know, Catholic ways of speaking, and Protestant ways of speaking.

KPC Mm-mm.

TM And, em, names and dress and papers under their arms, throw a ball at somebody, see what they do with a football.

KPC See if they kick it or not?

TM See whether... whe... whether they play...

KPC Or they bounce it?

TM ... i... i.. it was, yeah, yeah.

KPC Mm.

TM Em, eh, names.

KPC Mm-mm.

TM You know, em, yeah. Oh, no, I, I, I was, em, ach, you knew right away. You would be very quick at it. You know, you'd pick it up fairly quickly.

KPC Mm. And presumably, people would of you, with a name like Rafferty?

TM Yeah, aye, people know right away, yeah.

KPC Mm. And what about in terms of where they lived?

TM That's right.

KPC Was that also a marker for you?

TM That's right. Well, see, em, it wou... yeah. I, I mean, it... I knew the geography of Armagh.

KPC Mm, mm-mm, so tell me a bit about what that would have been at that time.

TM Well, I just knew... well, well, Foley was all Catholic, Ballymacnab was all Catholic. You got to Lisnadill and you started Protesta... you, you...

KPC Mm-mm.

TM And I, I knew it and understood it.

KPC Mm-mm.

TM And felt it.

KPC Mm-mm.

TM On that road, you know – ‘I’m now in Pr... I’m now in Protestant territory.’

KPC Mm-mm.

TM And then there was, of course, round the Twelfth of July there would have been Union Jacks on houses, and then I remember thinking, because then Catholics bought a house near... the... the... there’s an orange hall down beyond Lisnadill.

KPC Mm-mm.

TM And a Catholic bought a house beside it.

KPC Mm-mm.

TM An.. an... and I was, ‘Surely not, you know, a Catholic, a Catholic house in...’ you know, I remember thinking this was, this was strange.

KPC Mm.

TM And then several Catholics built... but this wa... and I, I actually understood it, and said, ‘Oh, you’re moving into, into Protestant territory.’

KPC Mm.

TM So I, I, I und... I understood it as, em, in, in, in... yeah. I, I, I had a real sense of, of geography. And then being brought up in *The Troubles*, I was

fascinated, 'Oh, so-and-so's disappeared from...' you know, the, the whole section.... you know, somebody would be killed. 'Oh, that's in retaliation for that. That's the Protestant area near the Catholic area.'

KPC Mm.

TM 'That's whatever...' you know. Well, ach, then more easily The Falls and the Shankill and East and West Belfast.

KPC Mm.

TM So I, I had a, you know, I mean, I was very, I was very in touch with sectarianism.

KPC Mm.

TM [unclear 1:00:22]

KPC Did you ever feel threatened yourself in a situation that you got into?

TM No, no... not really, no. I mean, I didn't put myself into a situation.

KPC Mm.

TM A bit of name-calling in Armagh now and again, and... was I ever frightened? No... no... not really, no. But I, I never, no, I mean, I never went into, you know, I remember exploring the Shankill on a Saturday. That was, was actually a brave thing to do, because it was in *The Troubles*, so if you were stopped, you might be at risk, you know. But, eh...

KPC Mm.

TM ... 'I'll go and explore and I'll just walk quickly and...' you know. But that, that was... ac... that was actually kind of daring thing to do.

KPC Mm.

TM You know, go into somebody else's territory.