

APPENDIX A

TRANSCRIPTION CONVENTIONS

1. Characteristics of speech delivery

Punctuation is used to capture characteristics of speech delivery rather than to mark the conventional grammatical units.

- a. : A colon indicates an extension of the sound or syllable it follows, and more colons prolong the stretch.
- b. . A period indicates a stopping fall in tone, not necessarily the end of a sentence.
- c. , A comma indicates a continuing intonation, not necessarily between clauses of sentences.
- d. ? A question mark indicates a rising inflection, not necessarily a question.
- e. ! An exclamation point indicates an animated tone, not necessarily an exclamation.
- f. _ A single dash indicates a halting, abrupt cutoff, or, when multiple dashes hyphenate the syllables of a word or connect string of words, the stream of talk so marked has a stammering quality.
- g. • Bullets indicate the poor recording of the conversation, and thus the researcher is not able to transcribe that part of the conversation.

2. Empty parentheses ()

When single parentheses are empty, no hearing could be achieved for the string of talk or item in question.

3. Double Parenthesis (())

Double parenthesis are used to enclose descriptions of other assorted phenomena including vocalizations like laughter, details of the conversational scene, or various characteristics of the talk.

4. Italics (*ITALICS*)

Words in italics indicate the level of stress.

5. Left-handed Bracket [

The point at which an ongoing utterance is joined by another is marked with a single left-handed bracket, linking an ongoing conversation with an interrupting utterance at the point where overlap begins.

6. Contiguous Utterances =

When there is no interval between adjacent utterances the second being latched immediately to the first (without overlapping it), the utterances are linked together with equal signs.

Note: Adapted from "Explanation of Transcript Notation" in Jim Schenkein (Ed.) (1978). *Studies in the Organization of Conversational Interaction*. New York: Academic Press, xi-xvi. According to the authors, although contributions have come from many sources, the work on the transcription format is largely the work of Gail Jefferson.

APPENDIX B

LIST OF INFORMAL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Interviewer's Questions

1. Are you English educated? (to adults and veterans only)
2. Do you use English:
 - a) at home?
 - b) at work?
 - c) to friends?
 - d) to other Tamil friends?
3. Do you speak Tamil at home?
4. Do you use Tamil with your friends when speaking in English?
5. Why do you use Tamil and English when you are speaking to your friends and family members?
6. Can you read and write Tamil and if so, where did you learn it?
7. If you are angry with your friends, how do you scold them? Please give six words that you will use.
8. Do you use Bahasa Melayu in your English? If so, why?
9. Do you use Chinese or any other words in your English? If so, why?

Note:

The questions in Appendix B, is a rough guideline for the interviewers. The interviewers of the study coined their own sentences (where necessary), so as not to disrupt the flow of the informal interviews that they were conducting.

Appendix C

Interview 1

Age Group: 10-20 Year

K is the Interviewer

Transcription

Comments

K : Tell me, do you use English at home?

S : No lah - not much. Eh, no I, I, I eh Bahasa Malaysia,
Tamil - also English lah.

R : My parents donno (do not know) English. I use eh, eh
broken English with my brother. My sister too small lah.

K : To friends? Do you use English?

S : More BM, but eh, I, I usually mix =

R : = I mix like rojak (fruit noodles), you know =

["Rojak" Malay dish
of mixed fruits and
= My noodles.

S : English not so good, you know?

R : Actually, I use more English with friends than in my
house.

K : What languages do you use when you speak to your
other Tamil friends?

S : You mean to Indians ah?

TranscriptionComments

R : Biasa lah. Eh? Maccan? (Brother-in-law?)

((LAUGHTER)))

"Maccan" - A
nickname used in
Tamil. The
participants of the
21-49 Year Age
Group also used the
Tamil word
"maccan" to their
close friends.

R : Biasa lah. Eh, Maccan, what's the time, ah?

K : = Eleven thirty, going to be =

R : = To friends ah, I use, actually, I like to use Tamil
more.

((LAUGHTER)) Eh, eh what do you tink (think) ah?

Maccan?

K : Why do you call him Maccan? Are you related?

S : ((LAUGHTER))

R : So used to it lah. Donno (Do not know) why. We jus
(just) speak like that. Sudah biasa. (Used to it.)

K : Can you read and write Tamil?

R : No lah. Not good. I can only read only but I cannot
write =.

S : = I also lah, umm!

TranscriptionComments

K : Eh, when you get angry ah, with your friends, what words do you use to scold them?

R : Nothing. () I jus (just) keep quiet, jus (just) like that lah.

K : What about you?

S : Big question lah - *YOU SEE*, when I get angry ((LAUGHTER)) with my friend, I, eh, eh, usually say, "Poda! (Get lost!)". - and he will balas balik (answer back), "Nee poda! (You get lost!)"

((LAUGHTER))

R : ((LAUGHTER)) I jus (just) shout "idiot" sometimes "stupid" - sometimes when I am very, very angry I, I, I, eh, eh, =

K : = What words do you use?

R : Ketha varthai. (Vulgar words.) ((LAUGHTER))

"Ketha varthai" - (Vulgar words). The participants of the study expressed mock vulgar words in their English conversations.

K : In Tamil?

S : Yes, but that one only if I am very, very angry only =

TranscriptionComments

R : = I pakai (use) that kind of words, uh only to my friends. My father will eh, *WHACK* me! Yeah lah. With friends very normal lah. Eh. Sometimes wen (when) I'm biasa-biasa (usually in normal situations) also I use lah - to my best friends. But, if a third person say that to me means I will whack him. ((LAUGHTER))

K : What about Chinese words?

S : Chinese words ah? No, - Eh, I, I, use Chinese words to "Main-main" -
Chinese girls. Main-main (Just for fun) only. Bahasa Melayu
phrase used to
explain about a habit.

K : Such as?

R : Mmm - Wo ai nee? (I love you?) "Wo ai nee" -
Participant K claims
to use Chinese to
show interest to girls.

K : *WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?*

R : ((LAUGHTER)) Some eh, something like "I love you"
((LAUGHTER))

K : You don't say "Wo ai nee" to Tamil girls.

R : Oh, no lah - very dangerous.

K : Why?

S : Aiyo! They will take it seriously =

TranscriptionComments

R : = and then they will bring their fathers, parents and

habis lah saya (I will get into trouble)

((PROLONGEDLAUGHTER))

S : Too serious, dangerous also! ((LAUGHTER))

R : Hmm - Nee how ma? (How are you?)

"Nee how ma?" -

K : What does that mean?

Chinese used to

R : How are you?

attract attention,

K : ((LAUGHTER))

especially from the

R : Ah, this one sometimes I say to Tamil girls, just to opposite sex.

bully them but only to cute ones lah. ((LAUGHTER))

K : Any other Chinese words?

S : Bad words got lah. Actually sometimes I say "Wo ai nee" to Tamil girls, just for fun lah. Not serious one, you know?

R : I get angry means ah? I bantai (just speak out) only.

Indians ah? Chinese ah? Don't care one lah!

K : To the girls also ah?

R : To the girls I jaga my mulut sikit (I watch out my words). But I got say, "shit", "bullshit", "bladyfool" (bloody fool) and something like that. Enough or not?

K : Okay, that's enough. Thank you then.

Interview 2

Age Group: 10 - 20 Year

K is the Interviewer

Transcription

Comments

K : Hey girls - - and thanks for the conversation

V : No problem. You wan (want) some more also can.

I : It's nice talking to you all.

W : Hey, the teacher coming ah?

X : Donno (Do not know).

K : Can you just add some more? Do you use eh, English at home?

Z : Yes, little-little =

W : = I use Tamil also, a lot. My mother, father =

[

X : = My house also.

Z : What about your friends?

V : Friends ah? ((LAUGHTER)) Actually, I use more BM than English.

W : With Tamil friends, er actually we use more English and BM with our Tamalan (Tamil) friends!

K : Oh I see. Why? Why do you think people use English and BM with their friends?

X : Er, er, - I donno (do not know).

Z : Eh, of course lah, they're Malay and Chinese!

TranscriptionComments

K : What about Tamil friends like now?

Z : Yeah lah, because we are Tamils, we understand each other.

So we actually mix lah. Like campur (mixture).

K : Oh, you mean you campur (mix) BM, English and Tamil?

V : Yeah, may be.

X : Eh, I must go now lah. OK, akka (sister), excuse me.

"Akka" - Tamil
word used to
address an elder
female.

((Interviewee X
leaves.))

K : Okay. Thanks ah! - So you were saying?

V : I campur (mix) languages, I think.

K : Why?

V : Aiyo, this is getting more difficult lah. ((SHORT UNEASY
LAUGHTER)) Er - why ah?

W : Because I know the language. So I use lah.

K : You sedar tak (Do you realize) - when you mix the languages.

W : I don't think, I, I eh really think when I mix languages. It's
automatic.

V : Like enjin (engine). You start means, it cannot stop.

((LAUGHTER))

TranscriptionComments

W : Some more ah, we understand better if we use Tamil and

BM together, you know =

[

V : = We feel closer also ah? Can tell secrets

also eh? To a Tamil friend =

W : = Eh, come on, what secrets you have?

K : Just one more thing lah. But - can you tell me 5 words that
you will use if you get angry with your friends? ((SILENCE))

K : Any word that you use.

W : () ((LAUGHTER))

[

V : I eh, I use more English words lah

like "stupid", "monkey", "bodoh" (stupid), "bladyfool"

(bloody fool) =

[

"Paei" - Tamil word

W : = but, eh wait lah. I use Tamil words also,

used to scold

you know, like eh - don't laugh ah, like eh, "raskol" (rascal)

people.

((LAUGHTER)), "kaluthai" (donkey), eh ((LAUGHTER)) ()

"paei" (devil).

K : What else?

W : *SAKKAI! (ABORIGINE!)* I use that to my brother. Also to
my friend, next door.

K : Why do you use it?

TranscriptionComments

W : Aiya, if he's comot (clumsy and untidy) especially his hair - "Sakai" - old Malay
 Then I'll say, "Dei sakkai, (Hey aborigine) go and comb your hair!" term for
 "Aborigines". The

V : My amma (mother) will scold me if I say "sakkai" to my new term that is
 brother - but I use "paei" (devil) to him! ((LAUGHTER)) used now is "Orang
 Asli".

W : () ((NOISE))

V : If I get very, very angry I will jus (just) say "*POTHUM!*"
(ENOUGH!) and "*VAYE MUDU!*" (Shut your mouth!).

K : Hey, hey *GIRLS!* I will "vaye muduran" (shut my mouth)
 now!

((LAUGHTER))

V : Not you lah, akka (elder sister).

((LAUGHTER))

K : I didn't mean it lah. Just a joke. Nanti you orang tension lah
 (I was just joking, otherwise you will be tensed) - Okay.
 Thanks for the chat =

[

W : = Thank you.

V : Bye.

Interview 3

Age Group: 21-49 Year

K is the Interviewer

TranscriptionComments

K : So I hope you all can help me out. What do you think, about
Indians - we speak eh, why do we use Tamil words?

Y : Tamil words ah? English words ah? Mix panni pesuram lah.
(We mix and talk.)

K : So, why do you think we use Tamil in our English?

Y : I think because we are all used to it lah. ((LAUGHTER)) I "lah" is a Bahasa
don't realize it =

Melayu partical and

[

is vastly used by the

K : = You don't realize ah?

Malaysian Tamils

of this study.

X : I find it, I am also like that you know?

K : Oh! Really?

X : But you see wen (when) you see someone, a non-Tamilian,
let's say we are forced to speak in English throughout. But
when we see a Tamil it automatically jus (just) comes out.

K : Comes ah?

X : YAH! Anthenerathille Tamilile suthama pesa mudiye. (At Tamil is used
the same time, (I couldn't) speak purely in Tamil.) There you subconsciously in
see, in one sentence, - I really regret it but I couldn't, you the Interviewee's
know? English

TranscriptionComments

conversation.

K : Ah, so that's why =

X : = I donno (do not know) why I do it also lah. I also donno
(do not know).

K : You do the same thing in temple or not?

X : Everywhere, everywhere also, I speak the same. Tak boleh Interviewee X
elak. (Cannot avoid it.) claims that she
could not help using
Bahasa Melayu
lexical items in her
English
conversations.

K : Temples also, eh? Do you think we are too sentimental with
the Tamil thing?

X : Probably also lah. You see, inge ullukku varambothu English
pesuvange (when they come in here they use English).

K : Ah - and =

X : = I'll give you an example lah. What I've come across, Tamil is used
because they are () ((NOISE)) they want to be formal, so during their English
what I'll do is first one, two lines I'll speak in English. Then "automatically"
I'll start automatically in Tamil also. So, I'm still, na vanthu, conversations.
Tamil pesa arammicuruven (I'll start speaking in Tamil).
Then they'll reply and ask me in Tamil. And I will look ()
eh - actually I use the Tamil sentimen (sentiment) lah.

TranscriptionComments

K : Ah - sentiment ah?

X : But when it's a non-Tamilian, then we have to speak in English. There's no choice, I mean - isn't it?

K : So that's what happens lah!

X : So, what else you want to ask?

K : The thing is that's why many of them said, especially the girls lah. Guys, - what do you think? Why do you use Tamil to your friends?

Y : ((COUGH)) Hmm - Used to it lah.

K : Avalavu tha na? (Is that all?)

Y : Tamilile tha-n na athikama pesuren. (I speak more in Tamil.)

Furthermore, na vanthu (I am) English ((NOISE)) - uh not very good. So Tamilu athigama pesuren. (So I speak more Tamil.) ((LAUGHTER))

K : You think it is because we're not good in Tamil ah - I mean not good in English ah?

Y : No, not good in English - not good in English - furthermore, I'm not that good in English, so most of the time I eh, - use Tamil when I communicate with my friends. And its eh, its eh, plus I prefer to talk Tamil most of the time, may be because of my background - for may be because of eh - self-concept, you know? Every body have this self-concept - idea for priority for Tamil.

TranscriptionComments

K : Yes ah? But I =

X : = Yoga, inga full-stop vaikkanuma? (Yoga, should I put a full-stop here?)

Tamil used to ask questions.

Y : Illa, theva illa. (No, no need.)

K : She's writing for you ah? Doing a thesis or what? =

Y : = No, this one is a, one motivation programme.

K : Cheh! (Wow!) Glamour-va irrukku. (It sounds glamorous.)

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Y : It's not senang (easy) you know, eh, she got married lah then
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X : = But I feel very shy lah, when I couldn't speak the sentence,
eh, eh =

[

K : = in English?

X : No, no in Tamil.

Y : Did you see the movie I told you? Poningala? (Did you go?)

X : Actually I saw the movie in the theatre already.

Y : Yes ah?

X : Actually, I saw the movie in Dataran Merdeka.

Y : Theatre? Going ((NOISE)) () ah?

X : Since you didn't bring I thought you're - last Saturday only. I

Tamil used to agree

TranscriptionComments

saw, theaterle pathen (I saw in the theatre).

to something.

Y : Nalla irruka? ((Was) it nice?)

X : Nalla irrukku. ((It was) nice.) *OK* lah. Not as nice as "Dil To Pagal Hai" (a Hindi movie's title).

Y : Ithu vanthu - the title ah? (Is this the title?)

X : Ama. (Yes.)

K : Eh, I think I'll make a move now.

X : Okay, come lah when you are free.

Interview 4

Age Group: 50 ≥ Year

K is the Interviewer

TranscriptionComments

K : ((LAUGHTER)) we are not bad you know. *AT LEAST* eh
I'm going to immortalize your voice!

L : *IMMORTALIZE* - Now that is a big word - antique one.

K : So you were telling me about education - those days.

M : I owe my language power to my mother lah - those days.

L : = But it is different now. Youngsters today. They just don't
know how difficult the parents work to =

K : = But you still use English at home right?

L : Yeah but you know, you youngsters have lost the art of eh -
speaking English.

M : Even at work also lah () It's just not the same anymore. But
Latchu, at least we eh, meet up - to keep =

[

L : = the language alive.

M : ((LAUGHTER)) Yeah. Alive.

((BACKGROUND NOISE))

M : But eh - young lady, tell me sincerely. What do you think of
our English and yours - the way you all speak English - nowadays?

K : Oh, that's a tough one. ((LAUGHTER)) *WELL, WE:::LL I
FOLLOW THE TREND* ((LAUGHTER))

TranscriptionComments

M : See you dare not answer. But I still think it's the system

((NOISE))

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K : So you think it's all right to use Tamil or other words in our English then?

L : Yeah. Quiet all right. But don't overdo it. *WELL YOU STILL CALL A TOSAI, A TOSAI ISN'T IT?* = ((LAUGHTER))

[

M :

= *BUT MY*

DAUGHTER HAS CHANGED FROM AMMA TO

MUMMY! ((LAUGHTER)) – that's how Chandraleka and Suresh call. Mummy! ((LAUGHTER))

K : ((LAUGHTER)) But uncle you never get angry with your, your, eh grandchildren or daughter or even friends?

M : Who? Me?

K : Hmm.

M : Nowadays, I just scold my grandchildren.

K : In English?

M : Oh, they're so::: good in their English. But Suresh is quite sensitive when I say, "Aiya, keep quiet", that's it his face will go one kind.

Appendix D

Conversation 1

Age Group: 10-20 Years

Situation: Three Friends Trying a New Microwave Oven

Transcription

Comments

P : Jus (Just) get me a pencil and I will jus (just) note down.

Q : You all come back hungry. No kari (curry). Where can you all start cooking? Sugu (Tamil name) here finish what?

S : You see ah! We put the water inside. Then we put what, what we wan =

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P : = For the steam fish ah?

Q : What you – Sugu, where got lubang-lubang (holes) one? What is the =

[

S : = That's the water inside. Underneath is "puttu" – an Indian another layer. We make puttu all like that lah!

snack made from

Q : Steaming? Steaming is like that ah?

rice flour and

S : If we want something cooking we have to leave water to =

coconut.

[

TranscriptionComments

Q : = So eggs also we must put water like that lah =

S : = *NO NEED*.

P : But for steaming all we need water what =

Q : Of course lah – stupid boy lah you.

P : Tomorrow morning, I'll buy the fish.

Q : Can lah. You see =

[

P : = this steaming what, I told you.

Q : ((NOISE)) I think duck-stew would be nice also.

P : Or would you like to eat baked potatoes?

Q : We eat European style lah. Microwave all not Malaysian people. Where can cook nethili sambel ((sambal) – anchovy gravy) all inside there?

"nethili" – anchovy.

"sambel" (sambal)

– Bahasa Melayu

word is combined

with the Tamil

word "nethili" to

refer to a kind of

favourite

Malaysian dish.

S : ((LAUGHTER)) Can you teach us all cooking ah? Before mother and father come back? Kaima (we'll get into trouble) lah!

"Kaima" – a slang

word used to warn.

TranscriptionComments

_Q : What is this bahan (ingredient)? Konjee (Starch)?

"Konjee" (Kanji) -

P : Sugu, can cook what?

starch made from
tapioca flour.

S : () Sheau May (a kind of Chinese food), fried
kacang (beans), fried fish and rasam (Indian soup). Wow!

"Rasam" - sourish
tasting Indian
soup.

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S : What are you doing, Paul? ((COUGH)) You are baking
ah? Bread -- ((COUGH)) =

Q : Bread bakar (toasted) already. Yes ah? *SUGU!*

S : *QUICK*, quick off it lah. Paul, may be you can
koraikiran (reduce) the minutes. *AIYO, THE WHOLE*
PLATE IS =

"koraikiran (korai)"
- to reduce.
Tamil is used in a
critical situation to
express fear.

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Q : = *NO LAH!* Can wash it ((COUGH))

P : Oh! This plate cannot use lah.

S : *LOOK AT THE PLATE. THE WHOLE PLATE IS* =

[

Q :

=

That means we cannot use lah. Aiyo! *LUCKY I* - - I don't
think you rugi (lose). Lucky I tried, then you cooking

TranscriptionComments

something more longer ((LAUGHTER))

P : How to switch this thing off?

S : ((NOISE)) You don't need the bread. Throw it away!

P : Ah – yeah! Don't eat the bread.

Q : Aiyo, bread smell so strong lah. ((STARTS SINGING)) – *SONIA, SONIA SOKKA VAIKKUM SONIA* "Sonia, Sonia Sokka Vaikkum Sonia" is a popular Tamil song.

S : Stop that nonsense lah!

Q : You donno (do not know) how to toast bread also lah. I have to help you all lah. *SONIA, SONIA – NEE HOW MA? (HOW ARE YOU?)*.

S : Shit, so difficult to clean this!

P : Hei, kudu (give). I'll do it lah. Get some tissue and it will come off clean. ((LAUGHTER)) "kudu" is a Tamil word used as an offer to do something.

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-
-

P : And then I wen (went) out quickly. But my mother, she will never leave one.

Y : Bising pannunangala? (Did she scold you?)

TranscriptionComments

X : I cabut (ran away) only. And then, my brother also

JOIN ME!

Y : *Aiyo!* And =

[

Tamil used to attract

S : = Kasu mela, kasu vaccu ((Lyric of a popular Tamil song)) Dei wanga da polam! (Hey, come let's go!) *Aiyo, aiyo, amma* (mother)!

attention.

Conversation 2

Age Group: 10-20 Years

Situation: Three Friends at a Bus-stop Outside their School

Transcription

Comments

L : Enna, poruttam, nammakkul ennaporuttam (Lyric of a popular Tamil song).

The participants sing songs in Tamil.

M : Eh, antha (that) movie, wah! You must see it lah.

((NOISE))

N : Eh last week lah. I went – ()

((NOISE))

L : What padam (movie) was it?

M : Eh, whose pen is this? ((NOISE)) Jadi, kalau pengetua means, pentadbir sekolah ini (So, if it is the principal, he is the organizer of the school) =

The participants use Bahasa Melayu lexical items when talking about their

N : = So?

M : Kalau Raja means, pentadbir negara ini. (So, if is the King, then he is the organizer of the country.)

school matters.

N : Sirikira lah (She is laughing), korangu (monkey)!

"Korangu" -monkey in Tamil. Tamil is

TranscriptionComments

L : Ask your mama (uncle) to take lah. Or your anni used to complain.

(sister-in-law) to take it.

Terms to address
relatives such as

N : Aiyo-yo! (Oh My God!) My mama (uncle) is here. See "mama" and "anni"
– there lah near the = are mentioned in

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Tamil. Tamil used to

M : = Na 59 lah (I got 59). Pochi, the scold and curse
sorrie naai. (Gone, the infected dog.) Stingy fellow. Paei. people in a mocking
(Devil.) manner.

((NOISE))

N : That's why lah. You should have darab (divided) it.

Then the whole thing will be okay.

M : I got *SEMBILAN PULUH TIGA (NINETY THREE)*

LAH. Gone case lah! ((LAUGHTER))

L : Eh, eh why are you shaking like a gila karachi (mad
woman)?

N : Aku lah orang pertama to kena. (I'll be the first person
to get into trouble.)

L : *ATHU METHULE AMMA, NETHE PA = ((LYRIC OF* Tamil used in singing
A TAMIL SONG)) Tamil songs.

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N : = Eh, look

TranscriptionComments

I've got a lot of pimples in my face. So tention (tension)

lah. After this, for three days =

L : = What, what you wan (want) to do?

N : I will go to Permatang, my pathi's (grandmother's) house.

"Permatang" – name of a village. Names of places such as "Permatang" are mentioned in Bahasa Melayu.

L : I saw Mala today and actually =

[

N : = For her no problem

lah. ((BACKGROUND NOISE)) Quick lah. ((NOISE))

M : My periappa (father's elder brother) came the other day.

"Periappa" – a term used to address one's father's elder brother, the younger brother is called "Sittappa".

N : Lollu (irritating) only lah. He scolded a bit, then biasa lah ((it was) normal), this kind of thing. ((LAUGHTER))

()

"Lollu" is a slang word but here is used by the participant to express irritation.

P : Not eating ah? ((NOISE))

TranscriptionComments

L : Mala, want to eat Indian doughnut?

N : What is Indian doughnut?

L : There in my tangan (hand)!

M : Ada Kaduvulae! (Oh God!) Vada lah. (It's vadai.)

((PROLONGED LAUGHTER))

"Vadai" — an Indian snack made from dhall. It looks like a doughnut.

N : So, Mala — Do you like Paul? ((LAUGHTER))

M : Eh, how to like the bullshit, pandi (pig) lah you. I like Dorai ((LAUGHTER)) a lot. Takkar (Fantastic) lah.

"Takkar" is a nonsense word which probably means "fantastic".

N : ((LAUGHTER)) Eh, eh, eh his hair, looks like a *EKOR* (TAIL).

L : *KASU MELA KASU VACCU, KOTTARA NERAM*
ITHU - ((Lyric of a Tamil song))

Tamil song lyrics such as "Kasu mela kasu vaccu, kottara neram ithu" are used in singing Tamil songs.

N : ((LAUGHTER)) No need to banding (compare) lah. I will still *LIKE DORAI ALSO, NOT THE OTHER PANDI* (PIG)! ((LAUGHTER)) He looks ((LAUGHTER)) like a

Names of animals such as "pandi" (pig) are used when

Transcription

paikka (fool) lah.

Comments

scolding friends.

"Paikka" is a slang word but here it is used to describe a person.

M : Eh, pothum (enough) lah.

Conversation 3

Age Group: 10 - 20 Years

Situation: Four Friends in a Classroom during a School Project

Transcription

Comments

M : I wan (want) a differen (different) one!

L : Na (I) also wan (want).

M : Get a cellotape lah.

P : ((LAUGHTER)) Babi. (Pig.)

M : Vaye mudu da! (Hey, shut up!)

L : Eh, pothum kaluthai (enough donkey), enough. *EH*

MAYIRU! ((*HAIR!*)) - used vulgarly)

Names of animals
such as "naai",
"kaluthai" and
"yanai" are
mentioned in Tamil.

P : Use a scissors lah. Easy. No need to gigit (bite). Naai
maari. (Like a dog.)

"lah" is a Bahasa
Melayu partical.

((LAUGHTER))

L : Talking like a mami (old lady) lah =

P : = *WHAT MAMI (OLD WOMAN) AH* =

[

L :

= *MAMA*

The Tami word
"mami" is used
to tease a friend.

TranscriptionComments

(OLD MAN) DA (HEY), okay?

M : See lah! Sikkikirruu lah. ((It has) tangled.)

P : Wait lah. No need to hurry one. Eh, jus (just) wait lah.

L : What letter start with "e" ah?

P : That you donno (do not know) ah? Elephant lah, like "Donno" is
you! ((LAUGHTER))
Malaysian English
for "Do
not know".

L : Poda (Go away - (for males)) yanai (elephant)

M : Eh, siikirum (be quick)!

L : Wait lah. We are trying our best. Cannot do lain-lain
(other things).

M : Yaru? Who is doing also?
Tamil used to ask
L : No lah. They all wan (want) to do what? questions.

P : Eh, enge (where) lah?

M : Put it here.

P : Excuse me. I want to eat my rotti (bread) now.

Goodbye.

M : Eh, pothum (enough). This gum, all coming out =

L : = Aiyo! My kayyi (hand) aiyo, kena lah. Got tissue
not?

((NOISE))

TranscriptionComments

M : Where's Prabu?

Names of Tamil boys
and girls are
mentioned in Tamil.

L : Teriyathu ((I) do not know).

M : Sariyana, attakasam lah aven (He's terrible), running
here, running there.

L : Rangi (Naughty) lah. Okay, polama (shall we go)?

S : Finish ah? Eh, not bad lah.

L : We are going now. Must wash hands first lah. Eh, did
you see Babu (Tamil boy's name)?

S : Babu ah? But aven poittan (he has gone). Why?

L : Dia selalu macam itu (He's always like that). Cabut
, (Ran off).

M : Come lah. Useless, forever sariyana kanjan (a very
stingy fellow). Takut nak bayar duit gam! (Scared to pay
for the gum!)

•

•

•

B : *BAH!*

L : *AIYO! (OH GOD!) =*

B : = Wo ai nee! (I love you!)

TranscriptionComments

L : Mayiru ((hair) - used vulgarly). Don't shout like that

lah! Enge (Where) did you go?

B : Ave-n China-n (The Chinese man) wanted me – to, to, "kamching" is a
 what, eh to clean the grass. Ange (There), ellam (all) China- Chinese word which
 n (Chinese). Came back. Cabut (Ran off). Ana (But) eh, you means "friendship".
 have to be kamching (friendly) with him one otherwise
 you'll get into trouble.

M : Dry already ah?

L : Mm.... Boleh (Okay) lah! Babu, throw the sampah
 (rubbish) lah.

B : Hey, amoi (young unmarried girl) wait for me. I'll join "Amoi" is a Chinese
 you in a minit (minute). Ithu verae! (This (thing) is word that is used to
 (irritating)!) ((B MENTIONS A CHINESE VULGAR address a "young
 WORD)) ((NOISE)) unmarried girl".

Conversation 4

Age Group: 10 - 20 Years

Situation: A Group of Friends Near a Theatre Entrance

Transcription

Comments

R : Eh, ennakkum kudu (give me also)!

Tamil is used to ask for something.

S : What is the date - seven ah?

R : Yeah, elu (seven). What, eh, what padam (movie)?

Tamil used to mention numbers.

S : Go get some pori (crackers) lah!

((BACKGROUND NOISE))

Tamil used to mention names of snacks such as "pori".

R : Na varule da! (Hey, I don't want to come!) How much more?

Q : Take my money first lah.

((NOISE))

P : Ama va (Is that so)? ((LAUGHTER)) Antha alu (That man) look at the line. Potong trip. (Cutting queue.)

Tamil used to tease someone.

Q : Mama. (Old man.) Excuse lah. ((LAUGHTER))

P : Gundan (Fat man). Lollu (Irritating) lah.

((NOISE))

<u>Transcription</u>	<u>Comments</u>
R : Eh, sapedatha (do not eat) lah. Before the movie you'll finish everything.	Tamil used to warn.
P : Eh, eh, <i>WHO IS THAT?</i> Raju ah?	
R : Mandae ((Your) head) lah! Donno (Do not know) who. Not Raju. Raju wa-vuthu padam pakka varathu? (Raju will never come to watch a movie?) Athu-m to watch Dil To Pagal ((Title of a Hindi movie)) ah?	
S : Dei, wange da polam! (Hey, come let us go!)	
P : Eh, where's, eh, where's my money?	
S : Nah! (Here!) Rendu velli. (Two ringgit.) ((NOISE)) That one is mine. <i>EH</i> , pothum, pothum (enough, enough), otherwise it will tumpah (spill).	Tamil used to mention money, and to decline.
P : Eh, cekap (efficient) lah!	
((LAUGHTER))	
R : What time will finish? Three hours ah =	
P : Look mami varada (the old lady is coming)! Dey, look at Kushbu, cute ah? ((LAUGHTER)) Nalla alagana kannu (Nice beautiful eyes)! I ch, =	
R : = Alamak (Oh God), sariyana lollu pudichavan da (such an irritation fellow) lah! I'll come afterwards. You all go first. complain.	Tamil used to
((BACKGROUND NOISE))	
P : Dei, ava oru (Hey, she's a) useless fellow da (hey)! This fellow, no need to tell one, always doing something. Dei,	

TranscriptionComments

pathu po (Hey, go carefully)!

R : *SARI!* (*OKAY!*) ((LAUGHTER))

S : She's cute what?

P : Go lah you.

Conversation 5

Age Group: 10 - 20 Years

Situation: A Group of Friends during a School Canteen Day

<u>Transcription</u>	<u>Comments</u>
((LAUGHTER))	
N : Eh teacher coming lah. ((LAUGHTER))	
M : Dei, maccan. (Hey, brother-in-law.) How are you?	"Maccan" is used as a
N : How's everything?	nickname.
L : Eh, inge (here). Come lah.	"lah" is a Bahasa
((BACKGROUND NOISE))	Melayu partical.
P : Maccan, Maccan. (Brother in law, brother in law.) Buy something lah. Call your friends lah!	
L : Call the girl lah! Aiyo, girls means ah everthing can jalan (work out) one.	"Aiyo" is used to express surprise.
P : Poda (Go away - (for males)). ((LAUGHTER)) Akka, akka (Elder sister, elder sister) interested or not?	To express family terms - in this case "akka" is used as an honorific term.
O : ((LAUGHTER)) What are your (you) all having, I mean selling? ((LAUGHTER))	
N : Everything!	
O : Eh, everything under the sun ah?	
N : ((LAUGHTER)) Got laddu (a sweet candy), urundai	Tamil is also used to name Tamil food and

TranscriptionComments

(snack), muruku, eh I mean mixture. Ithu enna da? (Hey, snacks such as what is this?) Appalama? ((Is it) fried appalam?) "laddu", "urundai",

((PROLONGED LAUGHTER))

"muruku", "jelebi",
"pori" and
"appalam".

P : Poda (Go away – (for males)). Akka (Elder sister) this "Poda" is used to is eh, eh, pori (crackers), round pori (crackers). scold (usually in jest)

((LAUGHTER))

a friend.

O : Got jelebi (a kind of soft sweet candy) or not?

P : Got, got. Dei (Hey), the red one. One ten dollars.

O : Ah, what kasu (money)?

P : Summa (Just for fun). One dollar only. Dei (Hey), take the plastic. ((BACKGROUND NOISE))

O : Thank You.

N : Come again. Thank You.

L : This one looks like payasam (sweet porridge) lah. "Payasam" is a kind Quick, bungkus (pack) it in plastic. Buat lelong (cheap sale) of sweet lah. Eh, mana plastik (where's the plastic)? porridge usually

prepared in temples.

P : Sariyana attakasam (It's really terrible) lah! Real To express attakasan (terrible). dissatisfaction.

L : Be careful. Suudu (Hot) lah. Belum (Hasn't) set lagi Tamil words such as (yet). "suudu" and

TranscriptionComments

P : Get a kuchi (stick) lah. Easy to kacau (mix).

"pothum" are also

used in critical

L : Sticky. Aiyo, get the girl lah. Hey, Ruby! Pothum situations.

(Enough) lah. Come quickly!

R : Na varule da! (Hey, I won't come!) Not time yet. Some more got 20 minutes!

L : Please lah. At least help us bungkus (wrap) the paal kova (milk candy). Plastic irruka? (Is there any plastic?)

P : Irrukku (There is) =

R : = All of it Ashok's fault. Said his relative pandai (smart) lah, konon (it seems)!

((NOISE))

Conversation 6

Age Group: 10-20 Years

Situation: A Group of Friends in L's Home

Transcription

Comments

L : I went to koil (temple) on Friday lah. Serdang temple, "Sapadu" - food. not bad lah, poojai (prayers). Got sapadu (food) all. Saw Nathan there. Complete with vesthi (dhoti). Complete with tinur ((tirinur) – holy ash).

Names of Tamil clothes such as "vesthi" are mentioned in Tamil. Tirinur" is a kind of holy ash used in Hindu prayers.

M : ((LAUGHTER))

K : He tink (thinks) he's a sami (priest) or what? Expect to put maalai (garland) and all ah! Eh, varan da (he's coming)!

Words pertaining to Hindu religion such as "sami", and "maalai", are mentioned in Tamil.

N : Eh, maccan (brother-in-law)? Coming ah? Tonight?

Eh, eh, where's everybody? Enge? (Where?)

L : My mother and sister went to Sungai Buaya. To see my tata (grandfather) and pathi (grandmother). Pathi

Family terms such as "tata" and "pathi" are also

TranscriptionComments

(grandmother) very sick

mentioned in Tamil.

K : = Why, what's wrong with her?

L : Very sick. Muntah-muntah (Vomitting). Mother is saying got some darah (blood) also.

Bahasa Melayu words such as "muntah" (vomit) darah (blood) are also used to explain a situation.

M : My periappa (father's elder brother) came the other day. He though your pathi (grandmother) was here.

L : She wanted to go back lah. Every day making noise. I love my tata (grandfather). My pathi (grandmother) very fussy one. Last-last (At last) my father send her back, then tengok-tengok (see), dia muntah darah (vomitted blood)

((NOISE))

-
-
-

T : Poda, (Go away)! I don't care mayiru (hair – (here used in a vulgar sense))! Whatever also I don't care.

Tamil words like "poda" is used to scold friends.

((LAUGHTER))

TranscriptionComments

L : Come on ellarum polama (shall we all go)? Sami

((God) – here used mockingly), polama (shall we go)?

N : Paru (Look) lah. I eh, eh, eh, na poren (I want to go)

lah and don't forget. I will see you tonight. Bye-bye.

M : Ada kadavule (Oh god), it's raining outside lah! Tamil is also used to
Heavy lah! express surprise.

T : Wait lah then. I'll tell your (you) all. First you must go
and pakkaran (see), appuram (then) you must decide!
Jangan membabi buta. (Don't do it blindly like a pig.)

L : Last Friday I went what. Antha alu (That man).
((LAUGHTER)). Enough da (hey) ((LAUGHTER))
antha alu mande (that man's forehead) ((LAUGHTER))
and his vayiru (stomach) all same level. What to do, bota
((botak) – bald), pavem (pitiful).

((PROLONGED LAUGHTER))

M : ((LAUGHTER)) ((M MENTIONS 2 VULGAR "Mayiru" is used in a
WORDS IN TAMIL AND CONTINUES mock vulgar manner.
LAUGHING)) () Dei poda (Hey go away (male))
mayiru (hair). I am not going to bother.

L : Poda (Go away (male)). Nee (You) eh, eh eh, downan
(do not want) means =

M : = Ada poda I will go by myself. Mayiru! ((Hair!) –
used vulgarly) You're a real kaluthai (donkey)!

TranscriptionComments

L : Sari, sari pesaame irue (Okay, okay, be quiet)!

Conversation 7

Age Group: 10-20 Years

Situation: Two Friends in a School classroom

Transcription

Comments

M : Form 5 - Form 5, that girl. Vidya (Tamil name), is my cousin lah.

"Vidya" - names of Tamil girls are mentioned in Tamil.

D : Oh?

M : Yeah!

D : () The other day when she did her comprehension passage, she got 14 ah?

M : But her BM is good lah. She - she got 5 A"s you know for her PMR. She so proud one. Gred (Grade) one. Only her English - you know why? She wans (wants) to do her A- Levels, konon! (It seems she wants to do her A-Levels!)

D : Attukku, begining lea start pannir irrukunum (For that, she should have started from the beginning)

M : Earlier! In fact January itself she is going to where? - Er, ATC College.

D : Emm.

M : ATC College. She, eh, eh, with her eh her Trial

TranscriptionComments

Results can ah? She can () her. Straight away A-Levels.

Then Law lah - and she said wasting one year lah, this lah
that lah =

D : = Indians are very much interested in Law ah?

M : So many lah! You know this Kiran? He also lah.

D : Yeah - I remember him. *HIS SISTER ALSO AH?*

M : Yeah, the other day she told me =

D : = But I donno (do not know) how she - ((SILENCE))

D : But her parents are well-to-do. But, Usha her good
friend, what =

M : = Yeah, anntha munu perum (The three of them), are
good friends what?

D : And all three of them are good in Maths.

M : In fact, my favourite subject is Maths also.

D : And Rajiv?

((LAUGHTER))

M : Rajiv and the other two are also very good in their
Maths. Rajiv's sister =

D : = *YEAH*, what with her?

M : She's very good in Sangitham (Indian Classical Music) "Sangitham" -

- she used to sing in the temple what!

Tamil classical
music.

D : Yeah, yeah.

Conversation 8

Age Group: 10-20 Years

Situation: Two Friends near a Playground

Transcription

Comments

A : Why you did not come to school yesterday, Puppy?

P : Fever =

A : = Guess what?

P : What?

A : Because of the essay ah?

P : Go to hell lah. All saying like that. Eh?

((BACKGROUND NOISE))

A : Why lah? You don't look sick. You were very, very sporting, but that day you tertidur (fell asleep).

P : And then what? Oh, my Goodness, then what?

A : You didn't go to school =

P : = Ala (But), you ah creating a good story. Why you didn't write this story? If you ask earlier I could tell the story, ala. Miss lah. The first prize lah.

A: What for - dei (hey) what for? Sollu (Tell) lah.

"Dei" - Tamil word used to call a friend.

P : Bayem, Annu, bayem. (Fear, Annu, fear.)

Tamil used to express fear.

TranscriptionComments

A : They are going to do the pembentangan (presentation), so you don't need the undi (vote) tomorrow.

"Pembentangan" - a Bahasa Melayu word which means "presentation", in this case probably of a school assignment.

P : This thing all they're going to undi (vote) ah?

A : If I get number one means, die lah.

P : Eh, look at that motor (motorcycle).

P : The mechanic, like a Malay guy ah?

A : He's a Indian ah? He's talking to Meena. Hey, betulkan your dupata (shawl)! You look like an old mami (lady), like this!

P : Om Shanthi Annu, Om Shanthi. (Be at peace Annu, be at peace.)

"Om Shanthi" - a Sanskrit expression used in Hindu prayers.

A : Dei, dei, dei (Hey, hey, hey) who is that ah?

P : Very handsome lah.

((LAUGHTER))

Conversation 9

Age Group: 21-49 Years

Situation: Four Friends at a Café in a Shopping Complex

Transcription

Comments

K : Mahadevi is a Sami peru (God's name) is it? Eh,
Krishna

((LAUGHTER))

R : Mm – Yes – Ranjini?

M : Yes, Santhana Letchumy, Seetha Letchumy, Thairia Names of Hindu
Lecthumy, Vidhya Letchumy (Names of Hindu Goddesses) Goddesses are
all ah. mentioned in Tamil.

R : She's special. She's S. Letchumy! ((PROLONGED
LAUGHTER))

L : Ah, ah, - HAH! Very funny lah! ((LAUGHTER))

R : Look at her sitting!

K : Meditating! ((LAUGHTER))

M : I had a eh, a friend from UK send me a Deepavali
card. It's in my room – who's not having period –with all
the Letchumy there.

K : I'm – so I cannot touch lah.

R : They printed it there or what? Very nice ah?

M : My father's birthday, my mother's birthday, my Hindu New Year and
sister's birthday, anniversary, Varusha Purapu (New Year), Hindu Prayers are

TranscriptionComments

all Letchumy Pooja (Prayers for the Goddess Letchumy) lah mentioned in Tamil.
at home.

R : Mmm =

M : = Mengamuk (Angry) lah they all. Cannot eat cake, Names of food such
cannot eat erachi (meat). Nothing. as "erachi" (meat) are

L : Your mother is killing your all = mentioned in Tamil.

[

M : = The best part is

when my father was 55. He planned to call a few friends
and wanted to have makan besar (feast) - -

((BACKGROUND NOISE))

M : - and my mother decided to invite the Letchumy Dyna "Letchumy Dyna
Mandram (The Association for the Meditation of Goddess Mandram" – Tamil is
Letchumy) – and *AAH!* We all had to eat marakari used to mention
(vegetables). My mother is damn particular about the Hindu Religious
mantras (songs of praise to Hindu Gods).

Associations and to
explain other Hindu
religious term such as
"mantra".

K : Sure it helps ah? I mean spiritually, may be yes – but
eh, materially?

M : Yes, there is. It helps if you say the mantras (songs of
praise to Hindu Gods) for one year, for money –

TranscriptionComments

Letchumy ((the) Goddess of Wealth) will come.

K : That reminds me, I, at one time wanted to get a part time job at ITM. So, they asked me to, to, to what you call?

– That to write an essay, as to why I wanted the job there.

So, I put there lah, “At this point of life, money tops all my other desires”. So ((LAUGHTER)) so definitely I didn’t get the job there lah ((LAUGHTER))

((PROLONGED LAUGHTER))

M : ((LAUGHTER)) Sincerity never gets you anywhere – You very sincere ah? Krishna? ((LAUGHTER)) Nor does perfection also.

R : Why did you buy all those shells? So horrible – Tamil word used to odinjirukku (broken). So these are your souvenirs lah? complain and to

L : Yeah. You can’t get a perfect one you take what you comment on have. something.

K : *OH I SEE? THAT RINGS A BELL!* So I take the pensioner ah? ((LAUGHTER))

L : Not so teruk (bad) lah. Out of shape means you think I Bahasa Melayu terms will take ah? ((LAUGHTER)) such as “teruk” are used to comment on a person’s looks.

R : Out of shape? ((LAUGHTER))

K : Maybe I go out and find a perfect one?

TranscriptionComments

L : Then I donno (do not know) lah. You can never find a perfect one. If he looks perfect then something must be wrong with his attitude. If his attitude is good then something wrong with his looks. So, I'd rather go for attitude than looks – because I've to live with him.

R : Now, I don't feel like calling Baskaran ((NOISE))

((LAUGHTER))

L : Some people don't enjoy a good relationship. What (horoscope term) ah Rajesh?

R : I didn't know all that lah. They just said, "Get married!", and I got married.

((LAUGHTER))

L : Pathu porruthatile athu irrukku (It's there in the ten "Porutham" is a parts of the horoscope terms) lah. Maha, saw yours already Tamil horoscope ah? term which is used in

((NOISE))

choosing life partners.

M : Not yet lah. Couldn't be ((NOISE))

L : Sometimes ah, they couldn't have a good sexual relationship with their partner – what to do – you got married with your man? Have to satisfy them. Then they cari lain, susah lah. (they look for another one, it would be difficult.)

R : Thank God, Baskaran is not like that. ((LAUGHTER))

Conversation 10

Age Group: 21-49 Years

Situation: Four Friends at a Holiday Resort

<u>Transcription</u>	<u>Comments</u>
I : My uncle is very fair what. My aunty is ma-niram (not very dark). Married. And the son is, you know lah like the ayah (grandmother) is like charcoal!	
S : Katha-kari (Really dark) = ((LAUGHTER))	"Katha-kari" – Tamil is used to describe sensitive issues such as person's skin colour.
S : = Actually when I go into my clan, I feel very inferior, you know!	
M : Why?	
S : Because I'm the darkest you know.	
B : Go lah, you = [
S : = No eh, compared to them lah. They all have lovely complexion. Something like tairu (yogurt) and ripe lemon. Lovely and =	"Tairu" - is "yogurt" in English and is used to stress on the skin colour of
I : = yeah lah. Especially the guys. S:::o the people mentioned	

<u>Transcription</u>	<u>Comments</u>
handsome you know.	in the conversation.
But I wouldn't want your jati (caste) guy lah - very money minded. ((NOISE))	"Jati" - A Tamil word which means "caste" in English.
I : The aunty I told you ah - now she said she got a Malayalee daughter-in-law =	
[
M : = To compensate the son's colour	
((LAUGHTER))	
I : They got relations in India also. My, my father owns land in India, near Velloor lah.	"Velloor" - Tamil word is used to mention names of places in India.
B : Like my grandfather, he sold, that's my grandmother's dowry.	
M : Only, my house no campuran (not mixed).	
S : Asli lagi. (Still pure.)	
I : Illa (No) lah. I think we're all Malaysian Indians. They are India Indians.	"Illa" - (No). Tamil is used to deny.
((LAUGHTER))	
S : ((LAUGHTER)) Write a thesis, Meenakshi?	
((LAUGHTER))	
M : Now only we're getting out of it - slowly lah.	
I : Yours ah?	

<u>Transcription</u>	<u>Comments</u>
M : The best part is my mama (uncle), my father's brother.	"Mampus" (died) -
He has, well, he <i>HAD</i> , now he mampus (died) already lah.	Bahasa Melayu word
((LAUGHTER))	is used in a slightly
	degrading way to
	mention someone's
	death.
S † Paru (Look at her) lah!	"Paru" - Tamil word
	is used to tease
	someone.
M : He had nine son lah! Yeah. <i>NINE. TWO MARRIED</i>	"Negro" - member of
<i>MALAYSIANS</i> . One married an Indian, in India - one	the black-skinned
married a Filipina. One married a Negro!	race from Africa.
	Today, the common
	term for "Negro" is
	"Black".
B : Aiyo, a Negro ah? - who, the uncle married a Negro or	
the aunty?	
M : No - the kids all.	
: Yeah - my husband's cousin married a Negro also. She's	
from Boston =	
[
B : = How does she look?	
: Ava nalla sovuppa eruppa. (She's really fair.) She's a	"Ava nalla sovuppa
Master's	

<u>Transcription</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Degree holder. Ava, Japanele lecture pannikittu errukka. (She's lecturing in Japan.)	eruppa" - Tamil is used to describe one's skin colour.
M : Daring lah - to marry a foreigner. Didirunu ennachi acha? (What if anything happens suddenly?) ((NOISE))	
S : You think easy to get, - what you say? PR ah? - What to do? Love.	
I : She didn't tell ah? The daughter fall in love. What is wrong? In falling in love ah? These people =	
B : = Some people, to them it is dosa (sin) - like a sin only lah - To fall in love.	
I : What is wrong - to fall in love? Love. What if - low, low-caste. Eh, Meena if you fall in love with a pariah (a caste) ah, goundar (a caste) ah you won't marry him ah? Kallar (a caste) ah?	Names of castes are mentioned in Tamil.
M : I will lah.	
I : I mean, later if you find out.	
M : Love what, of course lah.	
B : Yeah. Why, what's wrong with that?	

Conversation 11

Age Group: 21-49 Years

Situation: A Group of People in a Friend's House

Transcription

K : ((LAUGHTER)) Eh, nothing can be used lah.

L : Lucky I won't forget it lah.

M : Where's the roti (bread) ah?

Comments

"Roti" - bread.

Bahasa Melayu word is used to mention names of food.

L : Aiyo Kadavule! (Oh, my God!) Ellam pochu. (Everything is gone.) Gone lah. So, on Sunday you all here go to the Lukut pasar malam (nigh market) ah?

"Aiyo Kadavule" - Tamil is used to express surprise.

"Lukut" - Bahasa Melayu word is used to mention names of places.

"Pasar malam" - (night market).

Bahasa Melayu word is used to mention public places such as night markets.

TranscriptionComments

M : What for?

L : Go lah. Jus (Just) look around () jus (just) nice, "Durian", and
() around. Can buy durians (a kind of local fruit), "rambutan" are local
rambutans (a kind of local fruit) all. fruits.

M : You all don't eat the palla kottae (jackfruit seeds) ah? "Palla kottae" - Tamil
What you all do? How you all cook? word is used to
mention names of
fruits and seeds.

L : Look ah? Jus (just) rebus (boil) and eat lah. "Rebus" - is boil in
Bahasa Melayu.
Bahasa Melayu word
is used to explain a
recipe.

M : You rebus (boil) and then you talikaran (saute) with
vengayam (onions). ADU::: *LIKE THAT LAH!*

L : Appidiyum saiyyalama? (Can you cook it like that
also?) But - ((LAUGHTER)) Na - than tukki pottuthene!
(But I threw them away!)

((LAUGHTER))

L : What I mean is ((LAUGHTER)) you can do it in the
() if I didn't throw the kottaes (seeds) away!

((LAUGHTER))

R : Okay lah - not bad. I means, I just boil it and eat it

TranscriptionComments

straight way!

M : Oh, if you make pala kothae (jackfruit seed) curry, it's also so nice.

L : Ah, ah, yes if you put in the mocha kottae (a kind of lentils) curry - it's nice.

"Mocha kottae" - the seeds of a kind of lentil which are cooked and eaten as a vegetable in Indian curries.

M : My neighbour's mom is very good at it. They're Ceylonese - they make it with udan ((udang) - prawns), meen talai (fish head), paitangga (long beans) =

"Udan" (udang) - Bahasa Melayu word is used to name ingredients in Indian

L : (fish head)? Vesaname atha? (Is it the one that we threw away?)

[= What meen talai recipes. Tamil words such as "meeen talai" and "paitangga" are used in explaining a process such as a recipe.

M : No, no. Take, the big head, like eh, eh ((red fish) - a kind of fish), you know and use it. And you grind chilli.

"Ikan Merah" - a kind of fish mentioned in Bahasa

K : What are we going to eat?

Melayu.

TranscriptionComments

M : No, no - we are going to eat tosai for dinner. Give Latha to eat.

"Tosai" - kind of Indian pancake made from rice flour and water.

L : I am full. I ate one packet - maybe we could keep it for supper.

M : This holidays, - if you all are free means, come over lah.

K : If we go there and =

L : = Call our mummy also, first thing, you know what lah.

R : *OH MY* =

[

M : = *GOD!* ((LAUGHTER))

R : I think we have created a *MONSTER!* ((LAUGHTER))

M : ((LAUGHTER)) And then I will take you all out and we can eat the famous Kajang Satay.

R : Kajang Satay?

L : Jus (Just) come and lepak (loaf) around and go lah?

M : Eh, Kavitha? What are you doing pinnalae (behind)?

K : No lah. Hungry.

L : My son, Siva - I have a funny feeling, he's very thin, demam (fever), vomiting. My brother said he looks like E.T. ((LAUGHTER))

((NOISE))

TranscriptionComments

M : Go to Metro lah.

L : How? The TNB one ah? Athu ellam pulla erukkum
lah! (The (path) is full of grass!)

M : Park near the Chinese temple and walk lah!

L : Dowan ((I) do not want) - so risky, I'll jus (just) walk
lah.

M : Or you jus (just) use urule kilangu (potatoes) lah!

L : I donno (do not know) how to cook before I got
married. During the holidays, I jus (just) called my mother.

Phone =

[

M : =You just add some milagai tulu (chilli powder) and
kilaru-kilaru (mix) =

[

L : = and ask "Eppadi kari vaikkirathu?
Eppadi kari vaikkirathu?" (How to cook curry? How to
cook curry?)

((LAUGHTER))

L : Now, ok...y lah! It jus (just) comes lah! Jus (Just) why
I don't believe, sela peru (some people) say that you must
learn cooking by 16 or 17. Even, even if I have a daughter,
no lah you enjoy yourself. Because your whole life long
you're going to be in the kitchen. So you enjoy your life, jus
(just) like that.

Conversation 12

Age Group: 21-49 Year

Situation: Three Friends at a Restaurant

Transcription

Comments

B : Does he exercise a lot?

H : Enna (What) exercise?

"Enna" - what.

M : Morning, he'll go to exercise all, povaru (he goes).

"Povaru" - The Tamil

He's crazy, man - mottae vaillu adikkum, avar oduvaru (He

word such as

runs in the hot sun) - toppi pottukittu oduvaru (he runs

"povaru" are used to

wearing a hat) - antha raothu orathilea (near the roadside).

emphasize on

Anthu dust - um kathu - m. (In the dust and air.)

something done by

someone.

H : In Eng Ann Road.

M : Yeah. In Eng Ann Road. If you want fresh air, must go

out from there. Athu - m (Even that), not near the Highway

lah.

H : Enna teriyuma onne (You must know something), one

"Tambi" if literally

must be serious in their exercise. Tambi (Younger brother),

translated is

those days he was a runner. Now look at him.

"younger brother"

but here it is used as

a nickname.

B : .Body-builder! ((LAUGHTER))

TranscriptionComments

M : In fact eh, I also sign guarantor for this girl lah -
Sumitha's sister-in-law, but they all paid lah.

H : It goes how you know - the first guarantor, mothae
(first), the first guarantorrukku kuduppangae (first the first
guarantor gets (the letter)).

Tamil is used when
talking about serious
money matters.

M : No. I tink (think) equal share lah, eh?

B : hat first guarantor? I think equal share lah.

H : Equally lah.

M : Equally share eppadi theriyungala? (Do you know how
the equal share works?) Either you are totally eh, the
amount you are responsible both, or - equal or divide by
two, you know!

B : Appurom? (Then?)

M : You, - pattayiram velli kadan vangiyirunthanne,
vachukkungalae. (Say, if he has borrowed ten thousnd velli
(ringit)) - you are pattayiram velli liable, and ((NOISE))
also pattayiram velli liable. (You are liable for ten thousand
ringgit and ((NOISE)) also liable for ten thousand ringgit.)

Malysian Tamils use
the Tamil word
"velli" for "ringgit"
when speaking to
other Tamils. The
literal translation of
"velli" is "silver".

B : How can that be?

H : That is cheating?

M : Neenga kuduka - illana (If do not give) the next
guarantor will kena (have to pay) lah.

TranscriptionComments

B : No, no eh I think ellarum (all) sign podhunum
nacnikiren. (I think that everyone should sign.)

M : Ana (But) I think only one must go to the court!

B : Start pannuvama? (Shall we start?)

M : Sariyana pasivere. (Very hungry.)

Tamil used to express
hunger.

Conversation 13

Age Group: 21-49 Years

Situation: Two Friends at Home

Transcription

((NOISE))

D : How do you go about it all?

M : All that is our job lah. I take it as my job. What to do?

D : Murunge kirai yah (Is it murunge leaves)?

M : Yeah. Pinnalae (Behind). I eh, we have a lot. Tree too big, ask my husband to cut the eh, eh dahan (branch).

Comments

Names of vegetables such as "murunge" are mentioned in Tamil.

Bahasa Melayu word such as "dahan" is used probably in the conversation when the participants could not remember or know the exact English equivalents during their English conversation.

TranscriptionComments

D : Very good. A lot of vitamins, good for the body.

Those days eh, my grandmother rajin (hardworking) lah.

Kirai yae_aanjhu ((she'll) pluck the leaves), onne onne ah

(one by one) ()

M : I will do lah. Many ways to cook it.

D : How do you cook it? ((LAUGHTER))

M : Easy only. First you must talikkiran (saute) the onion and appuram antha murunge kiraiya pothu (then add the "murungai" leaves) cook pannanum ((you) must (cook)).

Tamil is used in explaining a recipe.

But never wash the kirai (vegetable).

D : Eh, er, not even once ah?

M : No. Otherwise it will become pahit (bitter). My mother-in-law's petua (advice).

D : Oh?

M : But true lah. Before I got married, in my mother's house, we will really wash it. Nallave irrukathu (It was never tasty)! Now, nice. Wange, pesikittae pearettiralam (Come, let's cook (the murungai leaves) as we are talking).

D : Innikku enna kari (What's the curry today)?

M : Udan ((Udang) – prawn) sambel (gravy). Now, I paereteran (cook) some kirai (vegetables) enough lah. My mother-in-law, she must have some kirai

Names of food such as "udan" (udang) are mentioned in Bahasa Melayu.

TranscriptionComments

(vegetables) otherwise she will not eat. Very choosy. Enge poringe? (Where are you going?)

D : Looking at your mavu (milk) tin. You use "Anlene" ah?

M : Oh, that one my mother-in-law is drinking. She dowan (doesn't want) to listen. Pestering my husband. The other brand all she say she get vaittalai (diarrhea). Pasiyare (Breakfast) nowadays she doesn't want. Tosai potta, idli kepanngae (If I cook tosai, she'll ask for idli). Then for sometimes, she wanted rava ((a kind of snack made from "sugi" flour)). Now, athu-m (even that) stop. Every day milk lah. Now less complain. You're using "Every Day", isn't it?

Words like "dowan" (do not want) can be termed as "Malaysian English" because even though the pronunciation is wrong, almost all Malaysians understand what is means and many Malaysians also use it in their informal spoken English. Names of Indian and Tamil food such "tosai", "idli", and "rava" are mentioned in Tamil.

TranscriptionComments

D : Ama (Yes). Kadugu pottingala? (Did you put mustard seeds?)

Names of ingredients in a

M : *OH NO!* Don't put kadugu (mustard seeds). Kasakkum. (It will be bitter.)

recipe such as "kadugu" are mentioned in Tamil

D : Where's your mother-in-law?

M : Pinnalae (Behind) doing something. ((NOISE)) You hungry not?

D : Never mind lah!

M : I'll kindran you Milo (a kind of beverage), Ok?

"Kindu" is Tamil for

D : What do you mean "kindran"? You think I am a cow or what?

mix. However, most Tamil people

((UNEASY LAUGHTER)).

consider "kindu" as a crude term if it is used in offering drinks or food.

M : Eh, I mean I'll mix you a cup of Milo lah!

((LAUGHTER)) Kirayae taste panni parunge. (Try tasting the vegetable.)

D : Konjam uppu podunge (Add in some salt) lah. And then it will be ready. You taste and see?

M : Yeah lah! Mm. Must put a bit more (). And then put some manjal (saffron) but not so much lah. Jus (Just) a little bit will do. For the colour and eh, taste.

TranscriptionComments

((NOISE))

D : *AIYO*, pothunge, ennale sapedae mudiyathu (God, enough, I can't eat anymore). Just had food, at home.

M : Sari, sari. (Okay, okay.)

•

•

•

M : So all of you went =

[

D : = my brother has a van what?

M : Your mami (mother-in-law)?

D : Actually, my periappa (father's elder brother) called first and then only she went.

M : He'll go ah, to temple all? Povara? (Will he go?)

D : Mm.... Almost every one. But my anni (elder brother's

wife) is another one, plus my periamma (mother's elder sister). She also masuk (got in). Penuh (Full) lah.

((LAUGHTER))

Family terms such as "mami", "periappa", "periamma" and "anni" are said in Tamil.

D : So, see you, nalaikku pappom (see you tomorrow).

Enge mamiya? (Where's (your) mother-in-law?)

Solliyirunge. (Tell her.)

Conversation 14

Age Group: 21-49 Years

Situation: A Group of Friends in G's House

<u>Transcription</u>	<u>Comments</u>
G : Vange, eppavanthinge? (Welcome, when did you come?)	Tamil is used to welcome Tamil friends.
B : Not long. About 15-20 minutes only. Meet my friend from Fiji.	
G : Hello.	
F : Hello.	
G : Avenge (She) can, can speak Tamil or not? ((LAUGHTER))	
B : <i>CAN</i> . But rombae (a lot of) slang oda (with) pesuvange ((she) speaks). Came for the Hinduism Conference in Klang.	
G : Oh, I see. Eh, know how is it going? The preparations?	
B : That one all no problem. Our boys can take care one?	
C : Uncle, uncle, can this aunty speak Tamil? ((LAUGHTER))	
M : Parunge, konjang-konjanmma edatta pudichittange	

TranscriptionComments

(Look, (he has) taken the place little by little). Too pampered
by the father =

[

C : = Uncle, sollunge (tell), aunty can speak

Tamil ah?

M : Want to study means susah (difficult).

G : Parunge ((You) see) the other day the teacher gave
stupid project work to them =

B : = Enna (What)?

G : Told them to look for lalang ((a kind of weed)). Stupid "Lalang" is a Bahasa
isn't it? Of all things, lalang ((a kind of weed)). She told to Melayu word.
draw a lalang ((a kind of weed)) and write a project on
LALANG (WEEDS). CAN YOU IMAGINE IT? The teacher
avae sariyana tantara kari (she's a very cunning person)!
Give them this kind of stupid work and they relax. This is
the kind of education system we have, in this country. And
in my, our house no lalang (weed) at all.

((LAUGHTER))

B : Lalang (Weed) eh, eh, eh, appuram (then)?

G : Then =

((LAUGHTER))

TranscriptionComments

M : = then he took him, Sunday verae ((and) it was), near
 Port Klang, near the jambatan (bridge) ((LAUGHTER)) *TO*
TAKE LALANG (WEED)!

((LAUGHTER))

B : Nowadays, rombae kashtam (very difficult), however
 we do it, things will go wrong. Come to *SPM, HSE*, then
 Unisity (University). Then they are caught in =

I

G : = the system

lah. Blame the system.

•
•
•

G : She's a eh, sariyana nari ((as cunning) as a fox) lah. The Tamil simile
 Enna pombalae? (What a woman?) What to do? "sariyana nari" (as

B : In Fiji you don't have this thing, I suppose? cunning as a fox) is

F : ((SPEAKS WITH A HEAVY SLANG)) No, not very used by Participant
 much. But we do have our own problems. ((LAUGHTER)) G.

((C MAKES SOME GURGLING SOUNDS))

((LAUGHTER))

TranscriptionComments

G: Take the drinks lah. Getting cold lah. Eh, eh, eh, come,
come here. Eh don't =

((LAUGHTER))

M: = look at him, vittai kamikkiran ((he's) showing off)!

B: Yeah lah. Nowadays children are like that, what?

Conversation 15

Age Group: 21-49 Years

Situation: Three Friends in a Yoga Training Hall

Transcription

Comments

B : Appuram (Then) eh, eh appuram (then) everything all right ah?

S : Swamiji not here ah? Koil pakkam ponigala (Did you go to the temple)?
Tamil is used to address a Hindu priest.

B : Mm. Last night, I was there what? Everything Okay. I will read the thevaram (Hindu hymns) what? That one I will not miss!

S : Ponggal is one thing lah. But other then that nothing special lah.

((SILENCE))

B : How's the preparation for the Poojai (Prayer)?
Things used in Hindu

S : Eh, everything is okay except for the pu (flowers) and maalai (garlands). The pusari (priest) in Klang temple also, okay lah. Eh, not bad lah.
prayers such as "pu", and "maalai" are mentioned in Tamil.

B : Mmm. Athu nambe (That our) Letchumy ((name of a Tamil lady friend)) can take care what?

L : No problem. Powremi Poojaikku pu ellam ennoda porruppu (I will prepare the flowers for the Full Moon Prayer).

TranscriptionComments

S : Thanks.

((NOISE))

B : Something. Eh, something eh, eh, not right lah. I put
tinur ((tirinur) – holy ash), I jus (just) came out of the
temple eh =

[

S : = Why, all, all right ah?

B : No lah. Not quite, eh, eh actually a palli (lizard) fell on my shoulder!

English. However
many Hindus,
particularly the
orthodox ones
consider "palli" as an
unfortunate omen.

S : Ada Kadavulae! (Oh God!) Better not get married to the girl lah. I mean =

Tamil is used to
express surprise.

[

B : = I think so also lah.

((SILENCE))

S : But, it may not be that serious lah. I mean it's a "Dhosyam" and
dhosyam (sin of one's past life) on the part of the bride, "karma" are Sanskrit
the bride's side, nothing to do with your maccan lexical items
(brother-in-law).

that are considered as
Tamil words,

TranscriptionComments

B : I donno (do not know) lah. They all say karma (Hinduism law of cause and effect) lah, this lah, that lah.

due to over-use.

((SILENCE))

Moreover, there are no exact equivalents for "dhosyam" and "karma" in Tamil.

P : Vanakkam (Hello). How's the poojai (prayer)?

Tamil is used to welcome a friend.

B : Swamiji, neenga kashtha padathinge, naangae irrukkom

(Dear priest, don't worry, we are here).

P : Sari, start pannalama ((shall we) start)?

((PROLONGED SILENCE))

P : *OMMMM* (Mystical sound of Hinduism)....

"Om" ((a Hindu mystical sound used in Hindu prayers and in the practice of yoga)) is a Sanskrit term that is considered Tamil word due to the lack of an equivalent.

Conversation 16

Age Group: 21- 49 Years

Situation: A Group of Factory Workers during Break-time

<u>Transcription</u>	<u>Comments</u>
((BACKGROUND NOISE))	
R : Eh, eh, na pathukku summa tha irrunthan, aven than vanthu pesunan (I was minding my own business, it was he who came and spoke).	
S : Kanmaniyae, engae poyirunthinge? (Darling, where have you been?) ((LAUGHTER))	Tamil is used to tease a friend.
T : Hi, where's Mano? Extra load, got to send to production section. Eh, where eh, no thanks, where's Mano?	
U : Join us lah =	
T : = No I eh, the Chinae pandi (Chinese pig) gave me fifteen minutes only. Ippa ellamae rombae kashthama irrukku. (Nowadays everything is very difficult.) Must chow (go). Didn't see Mano ah? Avaru vantha, intha kasae? (If he comes, this money) Can you him give this money to him?	"Chow" is a Chinese word which means "go".
U : Oh, eh, eh okay lah!	
T : Thanks. ((NOISE))	
S : .Ennu rendu munu iruntha pothum! (It would be better if (I have) two or three more!)	

<u>Transcription</u>	<u>Comments</u>
R : Mm. Enge ((Sir) – an honorific term), tea ready ya (is the tea ready)? Cepat sikit! (Be a bit quick!) Eh, maccan (Brother-in-law (used as a nickname)) what's the time, ah? How's the matter? Habis lah. (Finish.) Finish lah. What you think?	Honorific terms such as "enge" are mentioned in Tamil. Bahasa Melayu words such as "habis" are mixed in the participants conversation.
U : Poda (Go away (for males)). I don't it will come to that. Eh, mayiru, he didn't do anything jus (just) wait there only.	Crude terms such as "poda" and "podi" are said in Tamil.
S : I don't think it's that serious lah. What if she goes away? Tinks (Thinks) she's Aiswarya Rai (name of a beauty queen from India). Aven (He) stupid lah. Jus (Just) say Pona podi (Go if you want to (female)), is not the end of the world. Ave enna (Is she) ()	
((NOISE))	
S : But, ave sayyirathu konjam kuda sari illae (what she is doing is not right at all). Kasshtam. (Difficult.)	Crude terms such as "ave", and
((SILENCE))	"pombalae" are used to scold people and to express dissatisfaction.

TranscriptionComments

U : Hm. Antha pombalae (that woman) what is she saying?
Kamching ah polamae? (We could become friendly with
her?)

"Kamching" is a
Chinese word
meaning
"friendship".

S : Enna? (What?) She wans (wants) me to go and pujuk
(persuade) her. Eh, come on lah, enna mayirukku ((for what
hair) – here used vulgarly (should I)) enna mayrukku I must
go and do it? You know what she said, "Go lah, you
mayirandi (hairless fellow) illana na poi sayyiren (if not I
will go and do it) and don't come begging afterwards" -ne
sonna (she said). Shit the mayiru thinks ego, money can
solve =

Tamil vulgar words
and such as
"mayirandi", and
"enna mayirukku" are
used among the
participants.

[

U : = Sabar – sabar (Be
patient).

The Bahasa Melayu
word "sabar" (be

((THE TAPE WAS SWITCHED OFF AT THIS
MOMENT))

patient) is used to
pacify a friend.

((LATER IN S's HOUSE))

((NOISE))

S : Aiya, what is so funny lah. I mean eh, eh, if eh, you
know how is it with =

[

U : = eh, stop blaming her lah.

TranscriptionComments

T : Wangea (Come), tea and kuih (cakes) is ready.

Tamil is used to

S : Wa-la, poi tinnuvom (Come, let's go and eat).

invite friends to have
tea.

T : You don't have to tindran ((tinnu-eat) eat (like an animal)) okay? Take your own time and what you say? accept invitation.

Sapedingae (eat properly) okay?

Confusion is created

S : ((SHORT EMBARRASSED LAUGH))

by the use of the

U : Eh, come la yah (man)!

Tamil word "tinnu"
and "sapedingae".

Conversation 17

Age Group: 21 – 49 Years

Situation: A Group of Friends at a Supermarket

Transcription

Comments

S : You see ah, we must help our people? Enna sollurengae
(What do you say)?

C : Some people when they come, bae- bae – ne nippangae
((they will) stand foolishly). I will always help lah. Our
people. Enna sollurengae (What do you say)? Nowadays
rombe kashtham (very difficult) to see people, right person
to get help. But I will help one.

C : I sell. I also, when I sell my vegetable in the gerai "Gerai" is a Bahasa
(stall), they come and speak in all kind of language. Even Melayu term.
for, orang Bangla (Bangladeshi men), one came and started
speaking in Bangladesh! All sort of people. Yen appadi?
(Why is that so?)

S : Yeah lah, just like us. Nalu illa anju (Four or five) Tamil is also used to
years ago, how were we? mention numbers.

C : Yeah, we have changed all – good friends, very good
friends ayittam ((we have) become).

M : Enna (What) anything exciting ah? =

[

TranscriptionComments

C : = Vangae Mecna Tamil is used to
(Welcome Mecna). Just in time = welcome friends.

[

M : = for what? ((LAUGHTER))

((NOISE)) ()

L : Adi pathanettukku ((For the) festival of the 18th day of Tamil is used to
the month of Adi) shall we put a kadai (stall)? mention names of
Hindu festivals.

M : You help me. I am also helping you. ((LAUGHTER))

Talaivar nallavaru. (The leader is a good man.) Help
pannuvaru (he will(help)). Avunge Datin (She (the) Datin)
is also very helpful. Mariamma. She eh, avunge ((an
honorific term)), she wants to prepare the print.

L : The last time, eh two years ago =

[

C : = yeah, yeah. I was
also there what =

[

L : = sudam (camphor), manjal (saffron), pu Things used in Hindu
(flowers), ellam vitten ((I) sold). But my pembantu (helper) prayers such as
= "sudam", "manjal",

[

M : = yeah, yeah

and "pu" are
mentioned in Tamil

TranscriptionComments

= you were telling me the other day, but people saying you didn't give a chance to the girl to explain.

even though they are sold in stalls and not in temple vicinities.

C : She dare cheat us, just a sinnae pillae (small girl).

Tamil is also used to scold a young person.

L : Yes ah ma ((an honorific term))? Are you sure?

C : I jus (just) hate it lah. Yen vaye mudikittu iruntha ave (Why did she keep her mouth shut)? Cannot open the mouth ah? Fed up lah. This people.

L : Let go lah. ((SILENCE)) Appuram? (Then?) How was the Sangabishegam (A kind of Prayer in Hinduism in which shells are used)?

"Sangabishegam" is a special Hindu prayer performed by Hindus.

M : Okay lah. Pirachina illae (No problem). But after I bought the sangu (shell). Mine, one ten dollar but a little bit cracked lah. Wanted to change but by that time everyone bought already so =

[

C :

=

Ada kadavulae! (Oh God!) Don't tell me that the sangu (shell) is broken!

Tamil is used to express surprise.

M : Eh, not broken lah jus (just) a crack only!

C : Put it in the river lah! Don't keep it. My advice!

TranscriptionComments

L : Appuram? (Then?) Appuram? (Then?) I heard your mother is looking for a ponnu (bride) for your brother.

"Ponnu" is "bride" in English. However the participant used the Tamil word "ponnu" in the conversation, probably due to the cultural Hindu connotation in Tamil weddings.

M : Seen already. After Adi (the month of Adi) only going to fix the date. But the ()

"Adi" is a month in the Hindu calendar.

((NOISE))

Hindu weddings are usually not performed in the month of "Ādi".

Conversation 18

Age Group: 50 ≥ Years

Situation: Two Friends at a Temple Hall

Transcription

Comments

R : I thought it was you - saw the car parked in front of my house.

D : Eh?

R : Anybody there? Today what - yesterday Kantha-sasthi (Hindu religious festival). Tuesday?

"Kantha -sasthi",
"Thiru- kalyanam" -

D : Tuesday what? Yesterday, I went to temple.

Tamil used to name

R : Monday was Thiru-kalyanam. (Hindu religious festival)

Hindu religious
festivals.

D : Enge? (Where?) Klang?

R : Banting Murugan Temple, our temple - morning I went lah - six days. For Navarathiri (Hindu religious festival).

D : Here lah - our temple?

R : Earlier somebody wanted to sponsor for the cacat (handicapped) people also - actually these people simply park their motorcycles =

D : = All their things getting lost. It's punyam (good deed) if you help the cacat (handicapped) people.

"Punyam" -Hinduism
word used to denote
a good deed.

R : Yes ah?

D : So::: many stray dogs. Very bad lah.

TranscriptionComments

R : Actually, thought of having thousand square feet, just nice for the parking.

D : Everybody complaining ah?

((NOISE))

R : () actually you must go slowly, go slowly, then you can see the lights there.

D : So dangerous you know?

R : It's the same with the other Taman (Housing area) also lah.

"Taman" - Housing area. Popular Bahasa Melayu words such as "Taman" are used even though there are perfect substitute words in English.

D : Nobody lah. Nobody is serious lah. I met Kumar today. He brought everything - told him to come down. In fact, I was very busy too.

R : Talk a lot of things, especially in Kuala Langat - you know how many? More than 20. But only kavadi in Murugan temple. The procession, all temples can. A kavadi should be followed, eh, what you call, followed very strictly.

A "Kavadi" is something like a mini-chariot, which is carried by a Hindu devotee as a pledging

TranscriptionComments

of vow to the Hindu
God called Lord
Murugan.

D : From the religious point of view eh?

R : Yes, - and they have to apply for the use of musical
instrument =

[

D : = That one no problem lah =

R : = The number of followers following. Give a talk lah.

D : Like in Klang - they had a very good eh, eh they used
only Nathasawaram and Mrithangam (Indian musical
instruments).

"Nataswaram",

"Mrithangam" -

Tamil words used in
naming Indian
musical instruments.

R : Actually, we must get all the temples in this area and
give a talk lah =

D : = In fact, most of the districts, they have very good
temple discussion lah.

R : Mariammam temple, Vinayagar temple - the
progression is very fast.

"Mariammam
temple", "Vinayagar
temple" are
names of Hindu
temples.

TranscriptionComments

D : But what is the purpose of big big temples and yet people don't use them? In the motivation course ah, only 15 Indians turned up. But Raja talked very very nice. It was very very good lah!

Names of places and streets such as "Jalan Maharajalela" are mentioned in Bahasa Melayu.

R : This one only happening in rural temples.

D : *EXACTLY!* That's the point. The town people ah, are more interested in religion, more knowledgeable. Morning when, I first, six months, I going to KL ah, I will pass by the Mariamman temple. And I go for the Pooja (Prayers) - and then only I go to Jalan Maharajalela. So working people cannot say that they cannot go to temple.

R : We need to pray and to meditate peacefully. That's why lah - in olden days people built temples far away from housing areas - for peace, no asap (smoke), no motorcycles, cars.

D : Yeah - all away - from the housing areas.

Conversation 19

Age Group: 50 ≥ Years

Situation: Two Friends in an Office

Transcription

Comments

D : Thought of changing my car. Er, get a buyer for me?

Ask your son- in-law?

K : So difficult now to sell off the car, you know - which car you want to sell? All the cars - have gone down so much.

K : Twenty three?

D : Because its five years old lah - 93 model.

K : Twenty three? The other day my brother went and asked. His car is six years old.

D : Iswara also? Sedan or Aeroback?

K : Ah, ah - the second hand car dealer only offered 19.

But better with Ramesh lah.

D : Nineteen only ah?

K : That's the maximum they are offering.

D : Aiyo. Like, Proton they are offering 21. Yours =

[

K :

=

Yours six years. Mine five.

TranscriptionComments

D : Mine is new. One person use. My wife eh

((LAUGHTER)) took care f it like eh, eh anything - 93

model. Now went down to 29 - Aiyo! Look at that?

K : But Malayisa - economy is picking up fast.

D : But if you have cash money =

K : = Anju varusham (Five years), I collected the money -

"Anju varusham" -

to buy the Honda! And all just like that - gone - with

Tamil used to denote

((NOISE))

time and regret.

-
-
-

K : It's all karma (sin) lah - last life - what to do?

D : () but I'll ask Ramesh and see lah. If the price is good, I'll come to your house - or I'll tell your missus.

K : But you add in accessories you get two, three thousand only. In fact, Karim spent only 21 thousand only.

D : That fellow, that Kumar lah, he took for about 10 percent.

K : Oh!

D : So, that's why my son-in-law - eh Ramesh said it will come to your car.

Transcription

K : Yah lah, - "mother and daughter, all the same lah".

Somehow it comes to the same amount.

Comments

"Mother and daughter, all the same" - translated Tamil proverb.

Conversation 20

Age Group: 50 ≥ Years

Situation: A Group of Friends at the Market

Transcription

Comments

S : We can talk about anything. As usual. Our house problems. Family. Any topic. Our usual talk.

C : ((LAUGHTER))

((NOISE))

C : Anyway, I have only helped you a little bit only. Tamil is used to Ladies are not like that. No time. At home, my mention family grandchildren pathi-pathi -ne ((will be) calling terms. grandmother-grandmother). The chicken. Another problem. Names of animals Got koli (chicken). Appuram (Then) vegetables. So many and birds are work. My husband won't help. mentioned in Tamil.

((NOISE))

M : Adi pathanettukku, kadai podalama (Shall we set up a Names of Hindu stall on the 18th day festival of the month of Adi) on festivals such as "Adi Saturday? My daughter, son-in-law has a kadai (stall) there, pathanethu" are every year. Can make some money. mentioned in Tamil. "Kadai" is Tamil for "stall".

<u>Transcription</u>	<u>Comments</u>
S : For me, I cannot. Only on that day Datin Indra is coming. Nallavengae, rombe nallavange. (She's a very good lady.) She helps everyone. Busy lah. Then, the new talaivar is coming next Saturday. Helpful guy.	"Karipap" is a traditional Malay snack.
M : If you join with me, both of us can sell <i>KARIPAP</i> (<i>CURRYPUFFS</i>) <i>TOGETHER!</i> ((LAUGHTER)) But must bring the tepung (flour) all from home lah.	
S : You go to Makro ((a supermarket)) to buy the thing. Cheaper. And easier. You can put saivam (vegetarian) and also assaivam (non-vegetarian). We must do something. How we want to find the money. This is the world. No money, no talk. Panam irruntha tha-n patthu-m pesum. (Money can do anything.) ((LAUGHTER)) Kasu. (Money.) We must be like the chetti (money lender). ((LAUGHTER))	"Saivam" and "assaivam" are used to mention meat eating and non-meat eating Hindu people. "Panam irruntha tha-n patthu-m pesum" is a Tamil proverb, which stresses on the importance of (kasu) money.
M : Enna (What)? You need tepung (flour) only what? But saiva karipap vegetarian currypuffs laku ((are much) in demand) a lot. In the koil (temple), on Adi pathanettu (the 18 th day festival of the month of Adi) every one don't eat	"Tepung" is flour in Bahasa Melayu.

TranscriptionComments

kavichi (meat). Sollunge pappom (Try saying). I'm very sure you can join.

C : I don't have enough time lah. My vegetables and koli (chicken).

S : For you because of your koli (chicken) lah. Vegetables no problem lah. If you move here a bit your koli (chicken) will move there.

((LAUGHTER))

C : Naai, pathuchu-na lavakkunu koliye pudichirum! (If the dog sees, it will quickly catch the chicken!)

M : Aiyo (Oh God)! Your dogs ah?

"Aiyo" is an expression of surprise.

C : Have you been to my house?

M : Illa-ye (No)!

C : My house is very ulu ((situated in a) remote place).

Every morning, my son take me out to here – market.

Otherwise very difficult!

M : Enge (Where)? Sungai Lang tha-nae ((Is it) in Sungai Lang)?

Tamil terms are used to ask

questions and to explain things in detail.

<u>Transcription</u>	<u>Comments</u>
C : No. Go past Sungai Lang. Turn left. Kelapa sawit .(Oil palm trees.) Some more kelapa sawit (oil palm trees). Got orang asli (natives) at the junction. Go some more. Then only my house = [M : = Aiyoh.	"Sungai Lang is the name of a place in Bahasa Melayu. "Kelapa sawit" is a Bahasa Melayu term for oil palm trees. "Orang asli" is a Bahasa Melayu term used to mention the aborigines of Malaysia.
C : But people know my husband.	
M : Tell them Om Namasivaya, they will know ah?	"Om Namasivaya" is a name given to a person. However, the expression is actually also a mystical Hindu mantra.
C : OH NO! They call him Siva. They know.	
M : Yeah. On Namasivaya too long and complicated. Tak masuk mulut. ((They) cannot pronounce it.)	

TranscriptionComments

C : What do you think? I hope you faham (understand) ippa puriyutha (now can you understand)? My house is the last house. You just have to walk, walk and be careful of the naai (dogs)! There are plenty. Stray dogs. Anju (Five) dogs alaiyithu (are roaming)!

Tamil words are used to mention numbers.

M : Mmm!

C : Why I can't open kadai (stall)? But my daughter is calling me to Telok ((name of a place)). Konja nalalaikku (For some days) I want to stay outside. No point.

S : AH! Dogs are? Unge dog illaya? (Don't you have your own dogs?)

C : Got. Six.

S : Food all?

C : The koli (chicken). For the dogs only. We have a big cooker. We put lah, all the dead chicken in the cooker and boil. No salt.

M : Yeah. Salt will cause the dogs to =

C : = their hair will fall. But unge (our) dogs even, I'm very afraid. Sometimes they will show their teeth: *EEE-NE!*

TranscriptionComments

And if the chicken fall down, they will also bite and
tinnurunge ((they will) eat), very wild.

The Tamil word
"tinnurunge"
(tinnu-eat) is usually
used to mention
animals eating food.

M : My son is here.

C : Hello.

L : Hello. Polama? ((Shall we) go?)

C : Come-ya (~ ya is a term used to acknowledge a young "~-ya" is a term used
male child). Come to pathi (grandmother). He's a quiet boy to address a young
lah. child.

M : Shy. Appa (Father). Amma (Mother) dowan (do not Tamil is used to say
want). Pathi pothum! (Grandmother is enough!) Sari, poittu farewell to friends.
varom. (Okay, (we are) leaving.)

S : Okay. See you.

Conversation 21

Age Group: 50 ≥ Years

Situation: Three Friends at a Park

Transcription

Comments

S : Vangae! (Come!)

Tamil used to

M : Avaru varale ya? (Didn't he come?)

welcome friemnds.

N : Who?

M : Karuvadu. ((Salted fish) – here used as a
nickname.)He said he'll be here at five. Five twenty achu.

"Karuvadu" is used
as a nickname.

(It's already (five twenty).)

S : Shall we?

M : Vange. (Come (let's go).) Got the tape ah? Irrukku. ((I
have) got it.) So, how was the meeting?

S : Okay lah. Usual things only. The talaivar (leader)
came. And they discussed the usual agenda =

[

M : = as usual, long hours I
suppose?

S : Yes. But this time the talaivar (leader) spoke less. Open
to the floor – they called. So, all committee members started
giving ideas. As usual, Balaraman, eh, eh

Tamil used to
mention names of
Tamil men.

TranscriptionComments

((LAUGHTER)) he started to open his mouth – wanted to do this, do that. But this time, some solid things were fixed. Nalu mani neram ((For) four hours), I waited.

M : Neenga (You), didn't have anything to say ah?

"Neenga" is a Tamil honorific term to address a man or a woman.

S : ((LAUGHTER)) Oh, I, eh, asked about the allocation for the top student prize money.

M : Look over there!

N : Enge (Where)?

Tamil used to ask questions.

M : We waited for him there. And now look at him. Where he is!

((SILENCE))

S : My grandson, got 5 A's. So he is eligible to get the prize. Donno (Do not know) how much they are going to give.

M : Vanakkam (Welcome) Mister Vela. We were all waiting for you at the tree.

Tamil used to wish a Tamil friend.

V : And I thought at the entrance, that side. See you're holding the tape.

M : Sari. (Okay.) Shall we continue? ()

TranscriptionComments

((NOISE OF DOGS BARKING))

S : Rombe nallavaru. (Very good man.) I like his eh, eh, he is very fair lah.

M : Who? Talaivara? ((Is it) the leader?)

S : Mm. What do you think? I hope you faham (understand), ippa puriyutha (now do you understand)?

M : This time who is the sectary (secretary)?

S : Avunge (She), Mariammal.

M : I heard. The new talaivar (leader) is coming next Saturday? To the temple? Labu temple.

"Labu" is the name of a place in Bahasa Melayu.

S : Yeah. I forgot. I asked my daughter-in-law to prepare everything. For the poojai (prayer) all, everything must be clean – pu (flowers), maalai (garlands), manjal (saffron) everything.

Tamil used to mention names of things used in Hindu prayers such as "sudam", "maalai" and "manjal".

N : All that can leave to the ladies.

V : Nambae (We) cannot meddle in it. Siramam (Difficult).

S : But I didn't stop. I asked for the wheel chair for my brother-in-law.

TranscriptionComments

Talaivarum othaivi saivaru. (The leader will also help) lah.
 Dia orang baik. (He's a good man.) Took him with me.
 Asked the talaivar (leader) for the money. On the spot. The
 talaivar (leader) luluskan (granted permission) it. Told me
 to take him to the Jabatan Kebajikan (Welfare Department)
 also. The lady there. The head. Nallavenge (She's good).
 But the fellow at the counter made me, us, I took my
 brother-in-law also anju (five) aru (six) times, made us
 walk. Finally asked my, eh, Krishnan, to sign and told us to
 go home. Now waiting for their reply. Pothum da (God, it's
 enough) pothum (enough). Sami (God). Athukku talaivar
 (For that) better. But that also must wait and see!

Bahasa Melayu
 words are used to
 mention government
 offices such as
 "Jabatan Kebajikan".
 The Tamil word
 "Nallavenge" is used
 to praise a lady.

M : Shall we sit there?

V : Enge (Where?)

Tamil is used to ask
 questions.

M: Over there, the bench.

Conversation 22

Age Group: 50 ≥ Years

Situation: A Group of Friends at a Wedding Function

Transcription

Comments

((NOISE))

((LAUGHTER))

N : Add some. Nice. Mm.

L : Enough, enough.

M : This standing and eating won't do. Come, let's go and sit down. Some chairs. ((NOISE))

L : Hello. Vange (Welcome)! Not bad ah? Saambar (Dhall curry). What's this?

Tamil is used to welcome friends.

M : Eh, takkali (tomato) lah. The skin.

Tamil is used to mention names of Tamil food, such as "saambar" and names of vegetables such as "takkali".

T : Eh, enna (what) my sister's daughter's daughter – Hema.

Tamil used to mention names of Tamil girls.

Transcription

M : Who, the one in Kulim ah?

T : Ama (Yes). You know her husband, isn't it?

M : Yeah, nambe (our) Rajakrishnan's maccan oda (brother-in-law's) brother isn't it? Rajakrishnan's brother is married to my, eh, eh, irunge (wait) to my daughter's husband's sister. They are in Sarawak now. Both teachers. Doing very well.

((NOISE))

L : This, whole month, full of weddings. Yesterday went to Ramalingam's son's parusam (engagement). A lot of people. Idli (a kind of snack), tosai (a kind of snack). Evening what?

((NOISE))

T : Irunge (Wait). ((NOISE)) Just put a little bit more saambar (dhall curry). Enough saambar (dhall curry). Okay, okay!

Comments

"Kulim" is a Bahasa Melayu word used to mention a place.

"Maccan" is Tamil for brother-in-law and is used as such in meaning by the 50 ± Year of participants.

"Parusam" is engagement in English. The Tamil "parusam" is well known for its various rites and cultural conventions.

"Tosai", and "idli" are names of Indian snacks, usually eaten with "saambar" for

TranscriptionComments

breakfast and in the evenings. "Payasam" is a kind of sweet porridge.

Tamil used to decline offers.

-
-
-

M : Want to tambah (add) some more payasam ah? I'll get you another glass. Hema?

L : Er, pothum, ellam pothum (enough, everything is enough), just right. ((BACKGROUND NOISE))

T : Enna ithu? (What is this?) Gulab ((sweet candy) - usually soaked in sweet syrup) ah? Cheh! The gulab's (sweet candy's) syrup kena (stained) my shirt. Very messy.

"Gulab" is a kind of sweet candy soaked in syrup and is traditionally prepared by North Indians.

-
-
-

M : Nowadays, I am minding my own business.

TranscriptionComments

T : Still selling the typewriters?

M : Yeah. But eh, business is very bad. Computers have come. Big hit. So, nowadays I service typewriters only. Er, killing my time. Pothum (Enough).

Tamil used to express satisfaction.

T : Your son?

M : He's okay. Into computers. Nalla (Good) business. I tried helping. But cannot. Leceh (Irritating). Na ethu senjalum tappu .(Whatever I do seems to be wrong.) Young blood. Nambe (We), we take our own time. Business style is different.

((LAUGHTER))

L : Appuram pappom. (See you later.) Sorry because I have to go to Kampong Rajah. Bye.

Tamil used to take leave. "Kampung Rajah" is a Bahasa Melayu word used to mention a place.

M : Okay. Pappom (See you) – Namaste (Welcome). *NO*, *NO!* Qhuthafis (Goodbye)!

"Namaste" and "Qhuthafis" are two Hindi words.

((LAUGHTER))

T : ((LAUGHTER)) Ennya-yah (What is this (man)) started talking Hindi after eating gulab jamun (sweet candy) ah!

((LAUGHTER))

M : ((LAUGHTER)) Goodbye.

Conversation 23

Age Group: 50 ≥ Years

Situation: A Few Friends in a Friend's Garden

Transcription

M : Vankkam -ma, ullukku vange! (Hello ladies, come inside!) Please sit down. I'll call her

V : Never mind. Enge? (Where?) In the garden ah?

((LAUGHTER))

M : Yes.

L : We'll go there lah. Enge? (Where?) Sarama?

S : Hello! Come inside – ma (honorific term). Please come in.

V : Is it okay? Outside can hear ah? Should be okay. I think
((LAUGHTER)) Pu parichittingala? (Have you plucked the flowers?)

Comments

Tamil is used to invite friends.

To ask questions.

To mention names of Tamil friends.

"~ma" is an honorific term used to address a female friend or acquaintance.

The "pu" mentioned by the participant is actually the jasmine flower. This flower has a highly symbolic value in Hinduism.

TranscriptionComments

S : Ah, a little bit more. Sit there. For a while. Finishing.

((NOISE))

•

•

•

V : Have the brought the po = preatham (body)? What time is the funeral?

"Preatham" is the polite term to mention a dead body. The crude term is "ponam".

M : Tomorrow. The body has come. Morning itself.

Parithavam. (Pitiful.)

V : They prepared food or not?

S : Think they catered. I didn't go. Velu went. Fixed everything. Rice and saambar. Enough what? Everybody hungry. We must feed the children. The taengai (coconut) broke perfect, it seems.

"Taengai" (coconut) is used in Hindu funeral rites. It is a common believe among Tamils (and even among other Hindus) that if the coconut used during the funeral rite breaks evenly, then

TranscriptionComments

the dead person is
said to have died a
timely death and the
soul will get peace
and rest.

M : Excuse me. Carry on talking.

V : Mm.

S : It seems the daughter and son was wearing karuppu
(black). A black punjabi suit. The boy T-shirt. But got white
or eh, blue lines.

"Karuppu" is an
inauspicious colour
for the orthodox
Hindus. Traditionally
this colour is not
used even in the case
of a death.

V : That's all right lah. But sometimes karuppu (black) eh,
is not so good. Generally! Or use grey lah. Blue also can
what?

S : But still?

V : Enna kari? (What curry (did you cook)?)

S : Morning I heated up yesterday's idli (a kind of snack).
Made saambar (dhall curry) only. Not good lah. With the
dead body in the neighbourhood.

TranscriptionComments

Got urugaai (pickles) for urappu ((for a hot and spicy) "Temerloh" is a taste). Enough lah for my husband! My daughter will be Bahasa Melayu word coming tonight, from Temerloh. My daughter's classmate mentioning a town. what, avaru (he)? So young. What to do? His time has "His time has come" come. - translated Tamil proverb.

V : Mm. What to do?

S : Today's pu (flowers) all, I'm giving it there lah. No Family terms such as need to charge all. Punyam tha – na? (It is a good deed, "periappa"(one's (isn't it?)) Avaroda periappa (His father's elder brother) is father's elder doing everything. Crying lah! Sari vange! (Come (let's brother) are said in go)!). Tamil.

((LAUGHTER))

L : ((LAUGHTER)) Cyba (Pam)

((NOISE))

Conversation 24

Age Group: 50 ≥ Years

Situation: Four Friends at the Home of M

Transcription

Comments

L : She, my daughter want to join the RELA =

[

M :

= Why

she wants

to =

[

S : = She wants means, no one can stop her.

N : So, she's coming to the Lucky Draw or not?

M : What, what is your number?

O : Ompathu, Anju, Koson, Anju (Nine, Five, Zero, Five) = Numbers are
] mentioned in Tamil.

M : = Wan (Want) Neskopi or not?

L : No, no - need lah =

[

O : = No poojiam (zero).

"Poojiam" is the
standard

((LAUGHTER))

L : ((LAUGHTER)) Cyber (Zero), - Poojiam (Zero),

pronunciation for

((NOISE))

"zero" in Tamil.

TranscriptionComments

O : Remember, we went for the function - they used
poojiam (zero) for zero.

M : The numbers lah. They'll tell in Sanskrit. Lucky draw.

L : Cyber also. Sanskrit - that's why from there only they "Cyber" ((Saiber))
got Cyber space, Zero space. comes from Sanskrit

O : ((LAUGHTER)) and is used in

L : *BETUL! (RIGHT!)* Sanskrit word, cyber (zero). Standard Tamil to

O : Why they want to put Zero space? denote "zero".

L : () it's starting with zero and one only isn't it? Your
binary - computer language starting with zero and one.

O : Zero and one.

L : Yeah. All the computer language is starting with Zero
and One. Computers don't know what you are talking about.
Say you put one, that fellow will tell, that fellow, W is zero,
zero, one, zero, zero, one, zero.

((LAUGHTER))

L : Like that only they live. Eight character - So they
convert W to Zero back to =

M : = ((COUGH)) Nah, drink your Neskopi (Nescoffee).

L : Thanks.

O : Eh, that Gobi fellow. His son met with an accident at
Sri Langat ah.

TranscriptionComments

L : Yeah, yeah. Nearly died. His good luck. That's why ah,
a mother should never say those kind of words. Always tell
the son to die lah, this lah, that lah =

[

M : = True, true.

L : Even if you tell eh, like eh, like a joke, only lah, a
mother's word will carry a lot of weight =

L : Even though she doesn't mean it but, god will fulfill her "Theivavakku"
wish - because it's mother. So you see, she said, "Let the "Summa koda
lorry langgar (hit) you". She didn't mean it. But he really sollakudathu namba"
dilanggar (was hit) lorry the next week. Don't ever say these - Tamil words and
kinds of words. Mother shouldn't say. Their words is sentences are used to
powerful, theivavakku (God's words). Summa koda explain and to warn.
sollakudathu namba! (We shouldn't say it even for fun!)

O : ((COUGH))

L : See the Mahmud? Last moment only he wanted to see
his mother. Tak ada masa untuk emak. (No time for
mother.)

M : The wife also died isn't it?

L : Atha nala than, yaru vaye le pattalum mother eh respect "Atha nala than, yaru
pannanum. (That's why we must never talk against our vaye le pattalum
mother and we must respect our mother.) mother eh respect
pannanum" - Tamil