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

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

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!
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 =
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-bisa (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 Chinese girls. Main-main (Just for fun) only.

K: Such as?

R: Mmm - Wo ai nee? (I love you?)

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 =
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?" - Chinese used to attract attention, especially from the opposite sex.

K : What does that mean?

R : How are you?

K : ((LAUGHTER))

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

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!
Transcription

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.

Comments

"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))
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
used to scold people.

W: = but, eh wait lah. I use Tamil words also, you know, like eh - don't laugh ah, like eh, "raskol" (rascal)
((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?
W: Aiya, if he's comot (clumsy and untidy) especially his hair - 

Then I'll say, "Dei sakkai, (Hey aborigine) go and comb your hair!"

V: My amma (mother) will scold me if I say "sakkai" to my brother - but I use "paei" (devil) to him! ((LAUGHTER))

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

Transcription

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?
(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
don't realize it =

[K ]

K : = You don't realize ah?

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 mudiyile. (At
the same time, (I couldn't) speak purely in Tamil.) There you
see, in one sentence, - I really regret it but I couldn't, you
know?

Comments

"lah" is a Bahasa
Melayu partical and
is vastly used by the
Malaysian Tamils
of this study.

Tamil is used
subconsciously in
the Interviewee's
English
Transcription

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, everwhere also, I speak the same. Tak boleh elak. (Cannot avoid it.)

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, because they are ( ) ((NOISE)) they want to be formal, so 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 arammicuruen (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 sentiment (sentiment) lah.

Comments

conversation.

Interviewee X claims that she could not help using Bahasa Melayu lexical items in her English conversations.
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.
Transcription

K: Yes ah? But I =

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

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 irukku. (It sounds glamorous.)

Y: It's not senang (easy) you know, eh, she got married lah then =

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

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

X : Nalla irukku. ((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

Transcription

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 =

[ = the language alive.

L :


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

((NOISE))

•

•

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

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 =

[ ]

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 snack made from another layer. We make puttu all like that lah!

Q : Steaming? Steaming is like that ah?

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

[ ]
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?

S: ((LAUGHTER)) Can you teach us all cooking ah?

Before mother and father come back? Kaima (we'll get into trouble) lah!

"nethili" – anchovy.

"sambel" (sambal) – Bahasa Melayu word is combined with the Tamil word "nethili" to refer to a kind of favourite Malaysian dish.

"Kaima" - a slang word used to warn.
Q: What is this bahan (ingredient)? Konjee (Starch)?

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

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 =

[   ]

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
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

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))

"Sonia, Sonia Sokka Vaikkum Sonia" is a popular Tamil song.

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

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

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

Y : Aiyoo! And =

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

Comments

Tamil used to attract attention.
Conversation 2

Age Group: 10-20 Years

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

Transcription

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

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) =

N : = So?

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

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

The participants sing songs in Tamil.

The participants use Bahasa Melayu lexical items when talking about their school matters.

"Korangu" -monkey in Tamil. Tamil is
L : Ask your mama (uncle) to take lah. Or your anni (sister-in-law) to take it.

N : Aiyo-yo! (Oh My God!) My mama (uncle) is here. See – there lah near the =

M : = Na 59 lah (I got 59). Pochi, the sorrie naai. (Gone, the infected dog.) Stingy fellow. Paei. (Devil.)

((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 A TAMIL SONG))

N : = Eh, look
Transcription

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 =

[ = 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 "Sittapppa".

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))
Transcription

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 MEIA 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 Names of animals will still LIKE DORAI ALSO, NOT THE OTHER PANDI (PIG)! ((LAUGHTER)) He looks ((LAUGHTER)) like a 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

M : 1 wan (want) a differen (different) one!
L : Na (l) 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 )

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

((LAUGHTER))

L : Talking like a mami (old lady) lah =
P : = WHAT MAMI (OLD WOMAN) AH =

[ 
L : = MAMA

Comments

Names of animals such as "naai", "kaluthai" and "yanai" are mentioned in Tamil. "lah" is a Bahasa Melayu partical.
The Tami word "mami" is used to tease a friend.
(OLD MAN) DA (HEY), okay?

M : See lah! Sikkikirrucu 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 you! ((LAUGHTER))

"Donno" is Malaysian English for "Do not know".

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

M : Eh, sikirum (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 questions.

L : No lah. They all wan (want) to do what?

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 : = Aiyoh! My kayyi (hand) aiyoh, kena lah. Got tissue not?

((NOISE))
Transcription

M : Where's Prabu?

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)?


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!)
Mayiru ((hair) - used vulgarly). Don’t shout like that lah! Enge (Where) did you go?

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

Dry already ah?

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

Hey, amoi (young unmarried girl) wait for me. I’ll join you in a minit (minute). Ithu verae! (This (thing) is irritating)!! (B MENTIONS A CHINESE VULGAR WORD) ((NOISE)) "Amoi" is a Chinese word that is used to address a "young unmarried girl".
Conversation 4

Age Group: 10 - 20 Years

Situation: A Group of Friends Near a Theatre Entrance

Transcription

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

S : What is the date - seven ah?

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

S : Go get some pori (crackers) lah!

((BACKGROUND NOISE))

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.)

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

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

((NOISE))
R: Eh, sapedatha (do not eat) lah. Before the movie you'll finish everything.

P: Eh, eh, *WHO IS THAT?* 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 Tamil used to one is mine. *EH*, pothum, pothum (enough, enough), otherwise it will tumpah (spill).

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 eh, =

R: = Alamak (Oh God), sariyana lollu pudichavan da (such Tamil used to an irritation fellow) lah! I'll come afterwards. You all go first. complain.

((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,
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

Transcription

((LAUGHTER))

N : Eh teacher coming lah. ((LAUGHTER))

M : Dei, maccan. (Hey, brother-in-law.) How are you?

N : How's everything?


((BACKGROUND NOISE))

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.

P : Poda (Go away - (for males)). ((LAUGHTER)) Akka, akka (Elder sister, elder sister) interested or not?

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

Comments

"Maccan" is used as a nickname.

"lah" is a Bahasa Melayu partical.

"Aiyo" is used to express surprise.

To express family terms - in this case "akka" is used as an honorific term.

Tamil is also used to name Tamil food and
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transcription</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(snack), muruku, eh I mean mixture. Ithu enna da? (Hey, what is this?) Appalama? ((Is it) fried appalam?)</td>
<td>snacks such as &quot;laddu&quot;, &quot;urundai&quot;, &quot;muruku&quot;, &quot;jelebi&quot;, &quot;pori&quot; and &quot;appalam&quot;.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>((PROLONGED LAUGHTER))</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P : Poda (Go away – (for males)). Akka (Elder sister) this is eh, eh, pori (crackers), round pori (crackers).</td>
<td>&quot;Poda&quot; is used to scold (usually in jest) a friend.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>((LAUGHTER))</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O : Got jelebi (a kind of soft sweet candy) or not?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P : Got, got. Dei (Hey), the red one. One ten dollars.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O : Ah, what kasu (money)?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P : Summa (Just for fun). One dollar only. Dei (Hey), take the plastic.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>((BACKGROUND NOISE))</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O : Thank You.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N : Come again. Thank You.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L : This one looks like payasam (sweet porridge) lah. &quot;Payasam&quot; is a kind of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quick, bungkus (pack) it in plastic. Buat lelong (cheap sale) porridge Lah.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eh, mana plastik (where's the plastic)?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P : Sariyana attakasam (It's really terribble) lah! Real attakasan (terrible).</td>
<td>To express dissatisfaction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L : Be careful. Suudu (Hot) lah. Belum (Hasn’t) set lagi (yet).</td>
<td>Tamil words such as &quot;suudu&quot; and</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Transcription

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

L : Sticky. Aiyo, get the girl lah. Hey, Ruby! Pothum (Enough) lah. Come quickly!
(Roughly) 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?)

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

((NOISE))

Comments

"pothum" are also used in critical situations.
Conversation 6

Age Group: 10-20 Years

Situation: A Group of Friends in L's Home

Transcription


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)!

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

Comments

"Sapadu" – food.
Names of Tamil clothes such as "vesthi" are mentioned in Tamil.
Tirinur" is a kind of holy ash used in Hindu prayers.
Words pertaining to Hindu religion such as "sami", and "maalai", are mentioned in Tamil.
Family terms such as "tata" and "pathi" are also
Transcription

(grandmother) very sick

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

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

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.

((LAUGHTER))

Comments

mentioned in Tamil.

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

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

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!
Heavy lah!

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 WORDS IN TAMIL AND CONTINUES 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, dowan
(do not want) means =

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

Comments

Tamil is also used to express surprise.

"Mayiru" is used in a mock vulgar manner.
L : Sari, sari pesaame irue (Okay, okay, be quiet)!
Conversation 7

Age Group: 10-20 Years

Situation: Two Friends in a School classroom

Transcription

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

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 panni 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
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, antha 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!
D : Yeah, yeah.
Conversation 8

Age Group: 10-20 Years

Situation: Two Friends near a Playground

Transcription

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.


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

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

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

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 an 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.)

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

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.

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
all Letchumy Pooja (Prayers for the Goddess Letchumy) lah
at home.
R : Mmm =
M : = Mengamuk (Angry) lah they all. Cannot eat cake,
cannot eat erachi (meat). Nothing.
L : Your mother is killing your all =

[ = 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
Mandram (The Association for the Meditation of Goddess
Letchumy) - and AAH! We all had to eat marakari
(vegetables). My mother is damn particular about the
mantras (songs of praise to Hindu Gods).

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 -
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 –
odinjurukku (broken). So these are your souvenirs lah?
L : Yeah. You can’t get a perfect one you take what you
have.

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
will take ah? ((LAUGHTER))

R : Out of shape? ((LAUGHTER))

K : Maybe I go out and find a perfect one?
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 irukku (It's there in the ten parts of the horoscope terms) lah. Maha, saw yours already ah?

((NOISE))

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

Transcription

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))

Comments

"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 "Tairu" - is have lovely complexion. Something like tairu (yogurt) and "yogurt" in English ripe lemon. Lovely and =

[ ]

I : = yeah lah. Especially the guys. S:::o the people mentioned
handsome you know.

But I wouldn't want your jati (caste) guy lah - very money minded. ((NOISE))

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 Veloor lah.

"Veloor" - 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.

((LAUGHTER))

"Illa" - (No). Tamil is used to deny.

S : ((LAUGHTER)) Write a thesis, Meenakshi?

((LAUGHTER))

M : Now only we're getting out of it - slowly lah.

I : Yours ah?
M : The best part is my mama (uncle), my father's brother. He has, well, he HAD, now he mampus (died) already lah. ((LAUGHTER))

S ↓ Paru (Look at her) lah!

M : He had nine son lah! Yeah. NINE. TWO MARRIED MALAYSIANS. One married an Indian, in India - one married a Filipina. One married a Negro!

B : Aiyoh, a Negro ah? - who, the uncle married a Negro or the aunty?

M : No - the kids all.

I : Yeah - my husband's cousin married a Negro also. She's from Boston =

[ ]

B : = How does she look?

I : Ava nalla sovuppa eruppa. (She's really fair.) She's a "Ava nalla sovuppa Master's
Transcription

Degree holder. Ava, Japanele lecture pannikittu errukka. (She's lecturing in Japan.)

M : Daring lah - to marry a foreigner. Didirunu ennachi acha? (What if anything happens suddenly?) ((NOISE))


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? Names of castes are mentioned in Tamil.

Kallar (a caste) ah?

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?

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 (night market) ah?

Comments

"Roti" - bread.
Bahasa Melayu word is used to mention names of food.

"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.
M: What for?

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

M: You all don't eat the palla kottae (jackfruit seeds) ah? What you all do? How you all cook?

L: Look ah? Jus (just) rebus (boil) and eat lah.

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
Transcription

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.

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

"Udan" (udang) - Bahasa Melayu word is used to name ingredients in Indian recipes. Tamil words such as "meen talai" and "paitangga" are used in explaining a process such as a recipe.

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

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

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 =

[ = 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 prinalae (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))
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

B : Does he exercise a lot?

H : Enna (What) exercise?

M : Morning, he'll go to exercise all, povaru (he goes). He's crazy, man - mottae vaillu adikkum, avar oduvaru (He runs in the hot sun) - toppi pottukittu oduvaru (he runs wearing a hat) - antha raothu orathilea (near the roadside). Antha dust - um kathu - m. (In the dust and air.)

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 must be serious in their exercise. Tambi (Younger brother), those days he was a runner. Now look at him.

B : Body-builder! ((LAUGHTER))
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 guarantor rukku kuduppangae (first the first guarantor gets (the letter)).

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, vachukkungala. (Say, if he has borrowed ten thousand velli (ringgit)) - 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 "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.
B: No, no ch I think ellarum (all) sign podhunum naenikiren. (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.
D: Very good. A lot of vitamins, good for the body. Those days eh, my grandmother rajin (hardworking) lah. Kirai yae_anjhu ((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)).
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 paedeteran (cook) some kirai (vegetables) enough lah. My mother-in-law, she must have some kirai

Tamil is used in explaining a recipe.

Names of food such as "udan" (udang) are mentioned in Bahasa Melayu.
(vegetables) otherwise she will not eat. Very choosy. Enge prine? (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. Pesting 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.
Transcription

D : Ama (Yes). Kadugu pottalingal? (Did you put mustard seeds?)
M : *OH NO!* Don’t put kadugu (mustard seeds). Kasakkum. (It will be bitter.)

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

((UNEASY LAUGHTER)).

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 podunje (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.

Comments
Names of ingredients in a recipe such as "kadugu" are mentioned in Tamil

"Kindu" is Tamil for mix. However, most Tamil people consider "kindu" as a crude term if it is used in offering drinks or food.
D : *AIYO*, ponthunge, ennale sapeda mudiyathu (God, enough, I can't eat anymore). Just had food, at home.

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

M : So all of you went =

[ = my brother has a van what?

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)))

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**

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

G: = the system

lah. Blame the system.

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

B: In Fiji you don't have this thing, I suppose?

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

((C MAKES SOME GURGLING SOUNDS))

((LAUGHTER))

The Tamil simile "sariyana nari" (as cunning as a fox) is used by Participant G.
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

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)?

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)?

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.

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).

Comments

Tamil is used to address a Hindu priest.

Things used in Hindu prayers such as "pu", and "maalai" are mentioned in Tamil.
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!

"Palli" is "lizard" in 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 =

[  

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 lexical items the bride’s side, nothing to do with your maccan (brother-in-law). Tamil words,
Transcription

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

((SILENCE))

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

B: Swamiji, neenga kashtha padathinge, naangae irukkan (Dear priest, don’t worry, we are here).

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

((PROLONGED SILENCE))

P: OMMM (Mystical sound of Hinduism)....

Comments

due to over-use. Moreover, there are no exact equivalents for "dhoisyam" and "karma" in Tamil. Tamil is used to welcome a friend.

"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

Transcription

((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 poiyunthinge? (Darling, where have you been?) ((LAUGHTER))

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?

U: Oh, eh, eh okay lah!

T: Thanks. ((NOISE))

S: Eruv rendu munu iruntha pothum! (It would be better if (I have) two or three more!)
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?

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.

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.)

((SILENCE))
Transcription

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

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 mayrukkku 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=

[ ]

U: = Sabar – sabar (Be patient).

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

((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.
Transcription

T : Wangea (Come), tea and kuih (cakes) is ready.
S : Wa-la, poi tinnuvom (Come, let’s go and eat).

T : You don’t have to tindran ((tinnu-eat) eat (like an animal)) okay? Take your own time and what you say?
Sapedingae (eat properly) okay?
S : ((SHORT EMBARRASSED LAUGH))
U : Eh, come la yah (man)!

Comments

Tamil is used to invite friends to have tea.
Tamil is also used to accept invitation.
Confusion is created by the use of the Tamil word "tinnu" and "sapedingae".
Conversation 17

Age Group: 21 – 49 Years

Situation: A Group of Friends at a Supermarket

Transcription

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 (stall), they come and speak in all kind of language. Even 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) years ago, how were we?

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

M: Enna (What) anything exciting ah? =
C: = Vangae Meena
(Welcome Meena). Just in time =

[ ]

M: = for what? ((LAUGHTER))

((NOISE)) ( )

L: Adi pathanettukku ((For the) festival of the 18th day of the month of Adi) shall we put a kadai (stall)?

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 (flowers), ellam vitten ((I sold). But my pembantu (helper) =

[ ]

M: = yeah, yeah

Comments
Tamil is used to welcome friends.

Tamil is used to mention names of Hindu festivals.

Things used in Hindu prayers such as "sudam", "manjal", and "pu" are mentioned in Tamil.
Transcription

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

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

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

C : I jus (just) hate it lah. Yen vaye mudikittu inuntha 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)?

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!

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

C : Put it in the river lah! Don’t keep it. My advice!
L: Appuram? (Then?) Appuram? (Then?) I heard your mother is looking for a ponnu (bride) for your brother.

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

((NOISE))

Comments
"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. "Adi" is a month in the Hindu calendar. Hindu weddings are usually not performed in the month of "Adi".
Conversation 18

Age Group: 50 ≥ Years

Situation: Two Friends at a Temple Hall

Transcription

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?

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

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

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

"Kantha -sasthi",
"Thiru- kalyanam" -
Tamil used to name
Hindu religious
festivals.

R: Yes ah?

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

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.

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.

Comments

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

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

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.

Comments
of vow to the Hindu God called Lord Murugan.

"Nataswaram",
"Mrithangam" - Tamil words used in naming Indian musical instruments.

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

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!

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

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.
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 -
to buy the Honda! And all just like that - gone - with
((NOISE))

•
•

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


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.

((NOISE))

M : Adi pathanettukku, kadai podalama (Shall we set up a stall on the 18th day festival of the month of Adi) on Saturday? My daughter, son-in-law has a kadai (stall) there, every year. Can make some money.

Comments

Names of Hindu festivals such as "Adi pathanethu" are mentioned in Tamil. "Kadai" is Tamil for "stall".
Transcription

S: For me, I cannot. Only on that day Datin Indra is coming. Nallavenga, rombe nallavange. (She’s a very good lady.) She helps everyone. Busy lah. Then, the new talaivar is coming next Saturday. Helpful guy.

M: If you join with me, both of us can sell KARIPAP (CURRYPUFFS) TOGETHER! ((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))

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 18th day festival of the month of Adi) every one don’t eat

Comments
"Karipap" is a traditional Malay snack.
"Saivam" and "assaivam" are used to mention meat eating and non-meat eating Hindu people. "Panam irruntha than patthu-m pesum" is a Tamil proverb, which stresses on the importance of (kasu) money.
"Tepung" is flour in Bahasa Melayu.
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.
Transcription

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 =

\[
\begin{align*}
M : & = \text{Aiyo.}
\end{align*}
\]

C : But people know my husband.

'M : Tell them Om Namasivaya, they will know ah?

C' : \textit{OH NO!} They call him Siva. They know.

M : Yeah. On Namasivaya too long and complicated. Tak masuk mulut. ((They) cannot pronounce it.)

Comments

"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.

"Om Namasivaya" is a name given to a person. However, the expression is actually also a mystical Hindu mantra.
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)!

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 enge (our) dogs even, I’m very afraid. Sometimes they will show their teeth: EEE-NE!
Transcription

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

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 male child). Come to pathi (grandmother). He's a quiet boy lah.
M : Shy. Appa (Father). Amma (Mother) dowan (do not want). Pathi pothum! (Grandmother is enough!) Sari, poittu varom. (Okay, (we are) leaving.)
S : Okay. See you.

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

"~ya" is a term used to address a young child.

Tamil is used to say farewell to friends.
Conversation 21

Age Group: 50 ≥ Years

Situation: Three Friends at a Park

Transcription

S : Vangae! (Come!)
M : Avaru varale ya? (Didn’t he come?)
N : Who?
M : Karuvadu. (Salted fish) – here used as a nickname.) He said he’ll be here at five. Five twenty ahu. (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

Comments

Tamil used to welcome friemnds.
"Karuvadu" is used as a nickname.
Tamil used to mention names of Tamil men.
Transcription

((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?

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

M : Look over there!

N : Enge (Where)?

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.

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

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

Comments

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

Tamil used to ask questions.

Tamil used to wish a Tamil friend.
Transcription

(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.

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.

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.
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). Athukkan talaivar (For that) better. But that also must wait and see!

M : Shall we sit there?

V : Enge (Where?)

M : Over there, the bench.
Conversation 22

Age Group: 50 ≥ Years

Situation: A Group of Friends at a Wedding Function

Transcription

((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 (Dhal curry). What's this?

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

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

Comments

Tamil is used to welcome friends.

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

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
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.
M: Nowadays, I am minding my own business.
Transcription

T : Still selling the typewriters?
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.

M : Okay. Pappom (See you) – Namaste (Welcome). NO,

NO! Qhuthafis (Goodbye)!

((LAUGHTER))

T : ((LAUGHTER)) Ennya-yah (What is this (man))

started talking Hindi after eating gulab jamun (sweet candy)

ah!

((LAUGHTER))

M : ((LAUGHTER)) Goodbye.

Comments

Tamil used to express satisfaction.

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

"Namaste" and "Qhuthafis" are two Hindi words.
Conversation 23

Age Group: 50 ≥ Years

Situation: A Few Friends in a Friend’s Garden

Transcription

M : Vankam -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.
Transcription

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?

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

Parithavam. (Pitiful.)

V : They prepared food or not?


Comments

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

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

Got urugai (pickles) for urappu ((for a hot and spicy) taste). Enough lah for my husband! My daughter will be coming tonight, from Temerloh. My daughter's classmate what, avaru (he)? So young. What to do? His time has come.

V : Mm. What to do?

S : Today's pu (flowers) all, I'm giving it there lah. No need to charge all. Punyam thā - na? (It is a good deed, (isn't it)?) Avaroda periappa (His father's elder brother) is doing everything. Crying lah! Sari vange! (Come (let's go)!)
Conversation 24

Age Group: 50 ≥ Years

Situation: Four Friends at the Home of M

Transcription

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

M : = Wan (Want) Nesko pi or not?

L : No, no - need lah =

O : = No poojiam (zero). "Poojiam" is the standard pronunciation for "zero" in Tamil.

((LAUGHTER))

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

((NOISE))
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 got Cyber space, Zero space.

O: ((LAUGHTER))

L: BETUL! (RIGHT!) Sanskrit word, cyber (zero).

O: Why they want to put Zero space?

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.
Transcription

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 wish - because it's mother. So you see, she said, "Let the lorry langgar (hit) you". She didn't mean it. But he really dilanggar (was hit) lorry the next week. Don't ever say these kinds of words. Mother shouldn't say. Their words is 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 vayele pattalam mother eh respect pannanum. (That's why we must never talk against our mother and we must respect our mother.)

Comments

"Theivavakku"
"Summa koda sollakudathu namba"
- Tamil words and - 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!)

"Atha nala than, yaru vayele pattalam mother eh respect pannanum" - Tamil