

# The Myeik (Beik) Dialect of Burmese\*

## Sounds, Conversational Texts, and Basic Vocabulary

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This paper presents a phonological analysis, conversational sample texts, and a basic vocabulary for the Myeik dialect of Burmese.

The Myeik dialect has peculiar characteristics in terms of tonal contours, and voice quality in the tones and vowels. The tone of this dialect, which corresponds to the Standard Burmese creaky falling tone, has a rising contour and is pharyngealized. The vowels of the syllables corresponding to Standard Burmese stopped syllables are pronounced with a conspicuous creaky phonation. Previous studies have paid little attention to these facts. Tone sandhis peculiar to this dialect are also described in this paper.

The texts are translations of the twenty dialogues in Kato's (1998) Burmese primer. Since these dialogues cover as many as possible of the most basic grammatical items of Burmese, translating them into the Myeik dialect can be the basis for future studies of morphosyntactic phenomena of this dialect.

The basic vocabulary contains about nine hundred items.

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**Keywords:** Burmese, Dialectology, Myeik Dialect, Glottalization, Pharyngealization

\* The consultant for the research is Khin Pale (born in 1954), who is a linguist and one of the authors of this article. She is a bilingual speaker in the Myeik dialect and Standard Burmese. She happened to stay in Osaka from 2009 to 2011, as her husband Dr. Maung Maung conducted his duties as visiting professor in Burmese at Osaka University. Kato, the other author of this article, co-taught a field research class on the Myeik dialect with Khin Pale in the academic year 2010/2011. In the class, the students and we compiled basic vocabularies and conversational texts while making analyses in phonology and morphosyntax. The authors also conducted a considerable amount of additional research outside the class. The present paper presents ↗

Map 1: Myeik and other places in Tanintharyi, Myanmar



## 1 Introduction

The Myeik dialect is a dialect of Burmese that is spoken in Myeik (Beik), a town situated in the southern part of Tanintharyi Division (around 12°25'N, 98°37'E), Republic of the Union of Myanmar. This dialect is one of the southernmost dialects of Burmese and can be regarded as the southernmost distribution of the Tibeto-Burman languages. Myeik was formerly called Mergui in English. Standard Burmese pronunciation of the name of the town is /myei?/ or /bei?/, and the Myeik dialect calls the town /bei/. It is called /marít/ in Thai. This article presents basic material on the Myeik dialect of Burmese (Myanmar), covering sounds, conversational texts, and basic vocabulary.

There have been some preceding descriptive studies on the Myeik dialect, including Ono (1971), Nishida (1972: Ch. 6, sec. 4), Khin Pale (1974), and Wang (2008: Ch. 14). The present article is intended to present a more comprehensive and precise view of this dialect. Previous studies are somewhat superficial, and especially have paid little attention to the Myeik peculiar characteristics in terms of tonal contours, and voice quality in the tones and vowels. This paper presents a precise description of these aspects.

The Myeik dialect has many common characteristics with the dialect of Dawei (Tavoy), which is situated about 200 km north of Myeik in the same Tanintharyi division (see Map 1). However, there are considerable differences between the Myeik and Dawei dialects in every linguistic level, especially in phonology; thus, the degree of mutual intelligibility between the two dialects is not very high. The Dawei dialect has been studied more in detail than the Myeik dialect. For the Dawei dialect, see Taylor (1921), Pe Maung Tin (1933), Bernot (1965), Ono (1971), Khin Pale (1979), and Okell (1995). Dialects that can be classified into the same group as the Myeik dialect are distributed from Palaw in the north to Kawthaung in the south. These dialects can be called the “Myeik group”. The boundary between the

↗ some of the outcomes of this research.

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Myeik group and the “Dawei group”, which is a group of dialects including the Dawei dialect, can probably be placed north of Palaw. Thus, the authors assume the language of Palaw to be a dialect of the Myeik group. However, it needs further consideration on the classification of the Palaw dialect because it has more common characteristics with the Dawei dialect than does the Myeik dialect.

In section 2, the phonemic system will be shown, and phonetic descriptions will be made for each phoneme. In section 3, conversational texts will be shown. Section 4 is a basic vocabulary of the Myeik dialect.

## 2 Sounds

The syllable structure of the Myeik dialect can be represented as C1(C2)V/T, where C1 is an initial consonant; C2, a medial consonant; V, a vowel; and T, a tone that covers the whole syllable. In phonemic terms, there is no closed syllable. In the following subsections, the inventories of consonants, vowels, and tones are shown, and each sound is phonetically described.

### 2.1 Consonants

The consonant phonemes are shown in Table 1. There are twenty-seven consonant phonemes. Note that /ph/, /th/, /ch/, /kh/, and /sh/ are not consonant clusters, but single consonants.

Table 1: Consonant phonemes

p	t̪	t	c	k	ʔ
ph		th	ch	kh	
b		d	j	g	
		s	ç	h	
		sh			
		z			fi
m		n	ɲ	ŋ	
w			y		
		l			

All the consonant phonemes can be a C1, and only two phonemes, /w/ and /y/, can occur as a C2. Out of all the consonants, twenty-two initial consonants, /p/, /t̪/, /t/, /c/, /k/, /ph/, /th/, /ch/, /kh/, /b/, /d/, /j/, /g/, /s/, /ç/, /sh/, /z/, /m/, /n/, /ɲ/, /y/, /l/, can be followed by the medial /w/, and five initial consonants, i.e., /p/, /ph/, /b/, /m/, /l/, can be followed by the medial /y/.

The phonetic value of each consonant phoneme is described phonetically below.

/p/ is a voiceless unaspirated bilabial stop [p], e.g., /póywi/ ‘ant’.

/t̪/ is a voiceless unaspirated upper dental apical stop or an unaspirated interdental

stop, e.g. /t̥i/ ‘new’. We can roughly say that this stop corresponds to the English fricative [θ] from the point of view of the place of articulation. Since IPA lacks an individual symbol for this stop, we use a symbol with a diacritic mark, i.e., “t̥”, for this sound.

/t/ is a voiceless unaspirated dental alveolar stop [t], e.g., /t̥i/ ‘ascend’.

/c/ is a voiceless unaspirated alveopalatal affricate [tʃ], e.g., /cé/ ‘copper’.

/k/ is a voiceless unaspirated velar stop [k], e.g., /káu/ ‘good’.

/ʔ/ is a glottal stop [ʔ], e.g., /ʔá/ ‘strength’.

/ph/ is a voiceless aspirated bilabial stop [p<sup>h</sup>], e.g., /phè/ ‘where’.

/th/ is a voiceless aspirated alveolar stop [t<sup>h</sup>], e.g., /thá/ ‘put’.

/ch/ is a voiceless aspirated alveopalatal affricate [tʃ<sup>h</sup>], e.g., /chò/ ‘sweet’.

/kh/ is a voiceless aspirated velar stop [k<sup>h</sup>], e.g., /kháu/ ‘head’.

/b/ is a voiced bilabial stop [b], e.g., /bě/ ‘EMP’. It may be pronounced as an implosive when it is directly followed by a glottalized vowel (See section 2.2): e.g., /b̥ei/ [b̥ei(ʔ)] ‘Myeik’, /b̥ousà/ [b̥əʊsə] ‘what’. Note that when a medial appears, it is never pronounced as an implosive: e.g., /bya/ [bjæ(ʔ)] ‘tray’.

/d/ is a voiced alveolar stop [d], e.g., /d̥ousà/ ‘this’. This phoneme, unlike /b/, is never pronounced as an implosive.

/j/ is a voiced alveopalatal affricate [dʒ], e.g., /jé/ ‘dirt’.

/g/ is a voiced velar stop [g], e.g., /gù/ ‘cave’.

/s/ is a voiceless unaspirated alveolar fricative [s], e.g., /sàŋè/ ‘sparrow’.

/ç/ is a voiceless alveopalatal fricative [ç], e.g., /çà/ ‘tongue’. Some speakers substitute this phoneme with /sh/. This phenomenon can be widely observed among many dialects of Mon State, Karen State, and Tanintharyi Division.

/h/ is a voiceless glottal fricative [h], e.g., /hí/ ‘side dish’.

/sh/ is a voiceless aspirated alveolar fricative [s<sup>h</sup>], e.g., /shá/ ‘salt’.

/z/ is a voiced alveolar fricative [z], e.g., /zé/ ‘market’.

/fi/ is a voiced glottal fricative [fi], e.g., /fiè/ ‘with’. Many function words have this phoneme word-initially.

/m/ is a voiced bilabial nasal [m], e.g., /mò/ ‘mushroom’.

/n/ is a voiced alveolar nasal [n], e.g., /nǒ/ ‘milk’.

/ɲ/ is a voiced nasal that can be transcribed as [ɲ], e.g., /ɲǎŋ/ ‘night’. Its place of articulation is slightly more front than a pure palatal nasal but is more back than /ç/ in this dialect; thus, we transcribe this phoneme with “ɲ”, not “n”.

/ŋ/ is a voiced velar nasal [ŋ], e.g., /ŋè/ ‘small’.

/w/ is a voiced bilabial semivowel [w], e.g., /wá/ ‘bamboo’.

/y/ is a voiced palatal semivowel [j], e.g., /yè/ ‘laugh’. This phoneme has a tendency to become a fricative [j] before the front vowels /i/ and /e/.

/l/ is a voiced alveolar lateral [l], e.g., /lǎ/ ‘moon; beautiful’.

It is noteworthy that there are no voiceless counterparts of /m/, /n/, /ɲ/, /ŋ/, /w/, and /l/, as are found in dialects such as the Yangon dialect.

## 2.2 Vowels

There are three types of vowels: plain vowels, nasalized vowels, and glottalized vowels. Each type includes seven vowels, as shown in Table 2. Note that diphthongs among the nasalized and glottalized vowels are transcribed with two IPA characters, but they are single phonemes.

Table 2: Vowel phonemes

Plain vowels		Nasalized vowels		Glottalized vowels	
i	u	ĩ	ũ	ɨ̰	ʉ̰
e	o	ẽi	õu	ɛ̰i	o̰u
ɛ	ɔ	ãi	ãu	aḭ	aṵ
a		ã		a̰	

The phonetic value of each vowel is as follows:

### (1) Plain vowels

/i/ is a close front unrounded vowel [i], e.g., /cí/ ‘big’.

/e/ is a close-mid front unrounded vowel [e], e.g., /nè/ ‘sun’.

/ɛ/ is an open-mid front unrounded vowel [ɛ], e.g., /mèmè/ ‘mother’.

/a/ is an open back unrounded vowel [a], e.g., /nà/ ‘ache’. This vowel is considerably more back than Yangon /a/, as has been already pointed out by Wang (2008: 327).

/ɔ/ is an open-mid back rounded vowel [ɔ], e.g., /mó/ ‘tired’.

/o/ is a close-mid back rounded vowel [o], e.g., /có/ ‘cord’.

/u/ is a close back rounded vowel, e.g., /ʔù/ ‘intestines’. This vowel is a rounded vowel, but its roundness is less than Yangon /u/. Thus, it can be transcribed as [ʉ̰].

### (2) Nasalized vowels

/ĩ/ is a nasalized near-close near-front unrounded vowel [ĩ], e.g., /lĩ/ ‘husband’.

/ẽi/ is [ẽi], e.g., /tèi/ ‘cloud’. It is a nasalized diphthong that begins as a close-mid front unrounded vowel and glides to a near-close near-front unrounded vowel. Nasalization occurs at the end of the diphthong. The nasalization sometimes does not occur, in which case the phoneme is pronounced as [eĩ].

/ãi/ is [ãĩ], e.g., /shài/ ‘shop’. It is a nasalized diphthong that begins as an open central unrounded vowel and glides to a near-close near-front unrounded vowel. The nasalization occurs at the end of the diphthong. The nasalization sometimes does not occur, in which case the phoneme is pronounced as [ai].

/ã/ is a nasalized near-open front unrounded vowel, as is transcribed as [ã], e.g., /lá/ ‘road’.

/ãu/ is [aũ], e.g., /hâu/ ‘old’. It is a nasalized diphthong that begins as an open central unrounded vowel and glides to a close back unrounded vowel. The nasalization occurs at the end of the diphthong. The nasalization sometimes does not occur, in which case the

phoneme is pronounced as [aũ].

/õu/ is [õũ], e.g., /ṵõu/ ‘coconut’. It is a nasalized diphthong that begins as a mid-central unrounded vowel and glides to a close back unrounded vowel. The nasalization occurs at the end of the diphthong. The nasalization sometimes does not occur, in which case the phoneme is pronounced as [õu].

/ũ/ is a nasalized near-close near-back rounded vowel [ũ̃], e.g., /sũ/ ‘expensive’.

### (3) Glottalized vowels

The glottalized vowels are considerably creaky, and sometimes end with a glottal stop [ʔ] especially when they are in utterance-final position. Their creakiness is much more conspicuous than that of the stopped syllables of the Yangon dialect. Previous studies have not paid attention to this strong creakiness.

The glottalized vowels are always pronounced with a rising pitch [14], which we consider to be the rising tone occurring with the glottalized vowels. In other words, the glottalized vowels can occur only with the rising tone.

The phonetic values of the glottalized vowels are as described below:

/i̥/ is a creaky near-close near-front unrounded vowel [i̥(ʔ)], e.g., /ṵay̥i/ ‘liquor’.

/e̥i/ is [e̥i(ʔ)], e.g., /ṵe̥i/ ‘bag’. It is a creaky diphthong that begins as a close-mid front unrounded vowel and glides to a near-close near-front unrounded vowel.

/ḁi/ is [ḁi(ʔ)], e.g., /k̥ai/ ‘bite’. It is a creaky diphthong that begins as an open central unrounded vowel and glides to a near-close near-front unrounded vowel.

/ã/ is a creaky near-open front unrounded vowel [ã(ʔ)], e.g., /ṵã/ ‘needle’.

/ãu/ is [ãu(ʔ)], e.g., /c̥au/ ‘stone’. It is a creaky diphthong that begins as an open central unrounded vowel and glides to a close back unrounded vowel.

/õu̥/ is [õu̥(ʔ)], e.g., /p̥õu̥/ ‘rotten’. It is a creaky diphthong that begins as a mid-central unrounded vowel and glides to a close back unrounded vowel.

/ũ̥/ is a creaky near-close near-back rounded vowel [ũ̥(ʔ)], e.g., /w̥ũ̥/ ‘wear’.

It could be argued that the rising pitch contour with which the glottalized vowels are pronounced should be interpreted as a creaky-voiced rising tone additional to the three tones shown in section 2.3. This argument resembles the position that the pitch of the stopped syllables in Standard Burmese should be interpreted as an independent tone. Such an interpretation of the stopped syllables in Standard Burmese has been made by many scholars, including Stewart (1939, 1955), Cornyn (1944), McDavid (1945), Minn Latt (1962), Okell (1969), Nishida (1972), Wheatley (1982), Yabu (1992), Myint Soe (1999), and Green (2005). However, we do not interpret the pitch of the Myeik glottalized vowels as an independent tone because the pitch contour of the glottalized vowels behaves in the same way as the rising tone in terms of tone sandhi, as will be described in section 2.3. In Standard Burmese as well, scholars such as Armstrong & Pe Maung Tin (1925), Minn Latt Yêkháun (1966), and Kato (2006) consider the pitch of the stopped syllables to be an allophone of

the creaky tone<sup>1)</sup>.

Note that /i/ corresponds to both Standard Burmese /iʔ/ and /εʔ/ in comparative-linguistic terms. Myeik does not have the vowel /ε/.

### 2.3 Tones

There are three tones in Myeik, as is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Tones

/˘/	low level tone
/˙/	high level tone
/˚/	rising tone

The low level tone /˘/ is pronounced [11], e.g., /mà/ ‘hard’. In phrase-initial position, it is likely to be pronounced with a slight falling contour, which can be represented as [21] or [31]. This tone has an environmentally conditioned allophonic variation pronounced with a falling contour that can be represented as [51]; the contexts in which this variant appears will be described in section 2.3.1. When this tone occurs with a voiced initial, the following vowel sometimes becomes breathy.

The high level tone /˙/ is pronounced [55], e.g., /ná/ ‘ear’. This tone corresponds to the Yangon high level tone (also called “heavy tone” or “breathy tone”). This tone tends to have a falling contour in utterance-final position, just like the Yangon high level tone. It is also noteworthy that while the Yangon high level tone is sometimes pronounced with a breathy voice in utterance-final position, the Myeik high level tone is always pronounced with a normal voice.

The rising tone /˚/ is pronounced [14], e.g., /mǎ/ ‘lift’. Nishida (1972: 297) describes this as a tone with a rising contour [35]. Ono (1971) says that it is high-short in plain syllables and that it has three conditional variations in stopped syllables: high-short, rising, and low-short. Wang (2008: 330) describes it as a mid-falling tone with a contour that he transcribes as [32]. It seems that Nishida’s description is the most correct, because this tone evidently has a rising contour in any environment. It has some allophonic variations, of which the rising contours are flatter, when two or more syllables with this tone are adjacent. This phenomenon is described in section 2.3.1.

A peculiarity of the rising tone is the pharyngealization it entails; this pharyngealization has not been noted by previous studies. The word /lǎ/ ‘moon’, for example, is pronounced [lɑ̃<sup>h</sup>14]. Similarly, the words /mǐ/ ‘catch’, /mě/ ‘forget’, /tě/ ‘straight’, /kǒ/ ‘curled’, /shǒ/ ‘choke’, and /kǔ/ ‘cure’ are pronounced as [mi<sup>h</sup>14], [me<sup>h</sup>14], [tɛ<sup>h</sup>14], [kɔ̃<sup>h</sup>14], [s<sup>h</sup>o<sup>h</sup>14], and [ku<sup>h</sup>14]. When a vowel is wide, pharyngealization is more conspicuous. Thus, from these examples, the pharyngealization of /lǎ/ /tě/ /kǒ/ is stronger than that of the others.

1) There is another possibility for interpretation of the pitch of the Standard Burmese stopped syllables. It considers the pitch as a non-constrative pitch. Bradley (1982: 121) implies such a possibility.



It is worth noting that the Yangon falling tone (also known as “creaky tone”), which corresponds to the Myeik rising tone, entails a creaky voice. Generally speaking, Burmese dialects including the Yangon dialect have tone systems that can be characterized by the term “phonation-prominent tone system”, which was coined by Matisoff (1998), but no dialect has been reported as having a tone pronounced with pharyngealization.

The rising tone is the only tone with which the glottalized vowels can co-occur. Thus, we do not mark tone where glottalized vowels are concerned. For example, the phonological transcription of the word /nə/ ‘spirit’ could be /nǎ/, but since the tone is predictable, we use the former. In the Yangon dialect, the stopped syllable occurs with contrasting high and low pitches, as was first pointed out by Kato (2006). For example, /lɛʔtɪn/ [lɛt53.tɪ11] ‘armrest’ and /lɛʔtɪn/ [lɛt11.tɪ11] ‘the Latin language’ is a minimal pair. In Myeik, however, these words are pronounced the same: /lɪt̚/ [lɪ14.tɪ51] ‘armrest; Latin’.

When the rising tone occurs with a glottalized vowel, pharyngealization is not observed, and only a creaky voice (i.e., glottalization) appears. Thus, /kə/ ‘to attach’ is pronounced [kə̰14], not as pharyngealized [kə̰ʔ14]. Compare the pronunciations of the examples below:

(1) /kə̰ fɪ̀ / [kə̰14 fɪ̀51]  
 attach REAL  
 ‘(I) attached (it)’

(2) /kǎ fɪ̀ / [kǎʔ14 fɪ̀51]  
 dance REAL  
 ‘(I) danced’.

/kə̰/ in (1) is pronounced with a creaky voice, and /kǎ/ in (2) is pronounced with pharyngealization. According to Suzuki (2010, 2011), languages that have pharyngealization are rare in the Tibeto-Burman linguistic stock<sup>2)</sup>. This means that languages having both creakiness (glottalization) and pharyngealization are rare in the same linguistic stock.

Lastly, we have to point out that this dialect has atonic syllables. Their pitch is unstable. The vowel of atonic syllable is [ə ~ ɐ], which we interpret as a weakened /a/; thus, we transcribe atonic syllables as /Ca/ (C is a consonant) without tone marking.

### 2.3.1 Tone sandhi

Tone sandhi in the Myeik dialect is not phonological, but phonetic; i.e., there is no phonological tonal alternation, such as occurs between 2nd tone and 3rd tone in Mandarin Chinese. Tone sandhi in this dialect has never been described.

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2) Suzuki (2010) enumerates some Tibeto-Burman languages which have pharyngealization, such as Axi and Azha Lolo (Iwasa 2003), Hongyan Qiang (Evans 2006), Zhollam Tibetan (Suzuki 2009), and Sanba Naxi (personal research by Suzuki).



Two types of tone sandhi are observed; in both cases, the rising tone is involved. These sandhis not only occur within a word, but also may cross a word boundary or phrase boundary. They are almost obligatory word-internally but optional in the other cases.

First, the low level tone is pronounced with a falling contour [51] when it is preceded by the rising tone. Thus, /c(c)ṽ.c(c)ṽ/ is pronounced [14.51], which can be diagrammed as [↘↗]. Below are examples:

(3) /ʔṣṣṣṣ/ [↘↗] ‘guest’

(4) /cǐ fṣṣ / [↘↗]  
 look REAL  
 ‘(I) looked.’

(5) /ṣṣ ṣṣi / [↘↗]  
 3SG house  
 ‘his house’

Second, when two or more syllables with the rising tone are juxtaposed, no syllable takes the pitch contour [14], but the whole series of syllables is pronounced as [14]. Thus, a combination of two syllables /c(c)ṽ.c(c)ṽ/ as a whole is pronounced with a pitch [14], which can be diagrammed as [↗↗]. It is not pronounced as [↘↘]. Similarly, a combination of three syllables /c(c)ṽ.c(c)ṽ.c(c)ṽ/ is not pronounced as [↘↘↘], but as [↗↗↗]. As a result, the rising pitch of each syllable becomes flatter than in isolation. Below are examples:

(6) /bǎbǎ/ [↗↗] ‘father’

(7) /mǐlṣ/ [↗↗] ‘you (PL)’

(8) /kǎ pyǎ / [↗↗]  
 dance show  
 ‘Show dancing!’

(9) /bǎbǎ fṣṣ / [↗↗↗]  
 father with  
 ‘with Father’

The falling contour of the low-level tone also occurs after a series of rising-tones:

(10) /bǎbǎmṣmṣ/ [↗↗↘] ‘parents’

- (11)/kǎ pyǎ yǎ fiè / [ — — — \ ]  
 dance show must REAL  
 ‘(I) had to show dancing.’

In both types of tone sandhi described above, syllables with glottalized vowels behave in the same way as other syllables with the rising tone. First, the low level tone takes a falling contour after a glottalized vowel:

- (12)/bɔusà / [ / \ ] ‘what’

- (13)/myɪnà / [ / \ ] ‘face’

- (14)/bǎi nà fiè / [ / \ \_ ]  
 stomach ache REAL  
 ‘(I) have a stomachache.’

Second, two or more syllables with glottalized vowels are pronounced with the rising contour [14] as a whole:

- (15)/liṭa / [ — — ] ‘birthmark’

- (16)/ʔoṭhou / [ — — ] ‘hat’

- (17)/liḱauwu / [ — — — ] ‘bracelet’

This is also true when a plain-vowel syllable with the rising tone is involved:

- (18)/myisi / [ — — ] ‘eye’

- (19)/lǎshou / [ — — ] ‘waning of the moon’

These facts concerning sandhi of the rising pitch in syllables with glottalized vowels are why we consider the pitch to be the rising tone in phonological terms.

### 2.3.2 Wave-forms and pitch diagrams of the tones

Figure 1 presents wave-forms and pitch diagrams for the words /mà/ ‘to be hard’, /ná/ ‘to take a rest; ear’, /mǎ/ ‘to lift’, and /mǎ/ ‘to be steep’, which were pronounced in isolation. Figure 2 presents wave-forms and pitch diagrams for the phrases /mà fiè/ ‘(it) is hard’, /ná fiè/ ‘(he) took a rest’, /mǎ fiè/ ‘(I) lifted (it)’, and /mǎ fiè/ ‘(it) is steep’. The word /fiè/ is a realis marker. We used SIL Speech Analyzer (Version 3.0.1) for this analysis.

From Figure 1, we can say that /mǎ/ ‘to lift’ and /mǎ/ ‘to be steep’ have quite similar

Figure 1: Myeik /mà/, /ná/, /mǎ/, and /mǎ/, from left to right

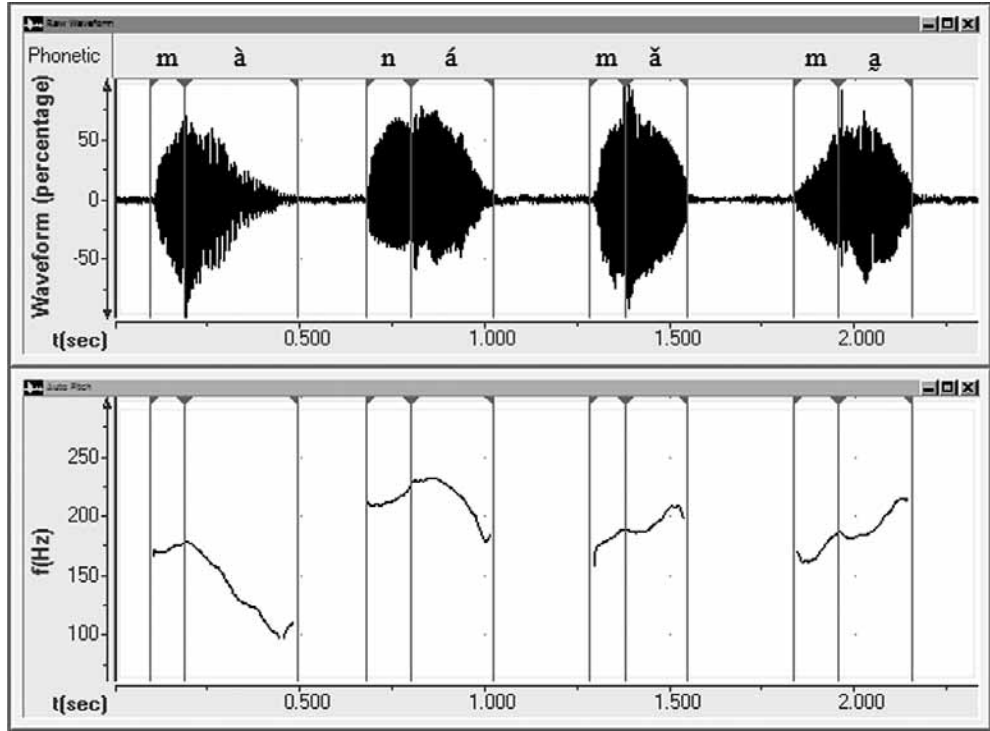


Figure 2: Myeik /mǎ fiè/, /ná fiè/, /mǎ fiè/, and /mǎ fiè/, from left to right

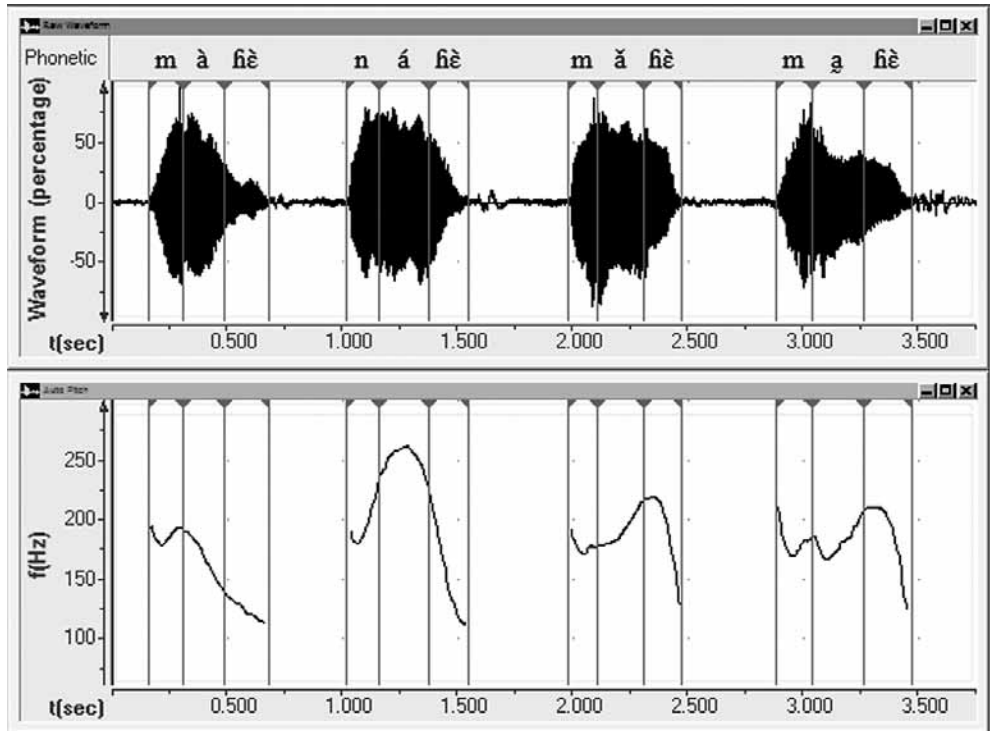


Figure 1': Standard Burmese /mà/, /ná/, /mâ/, and /ma?/, from left to right

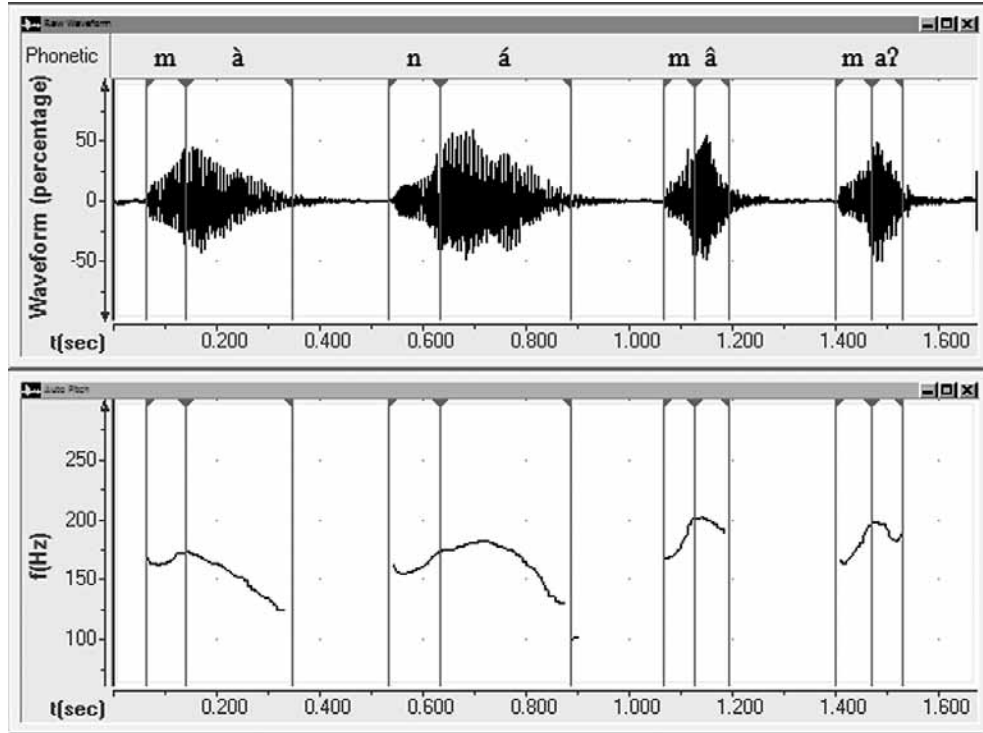
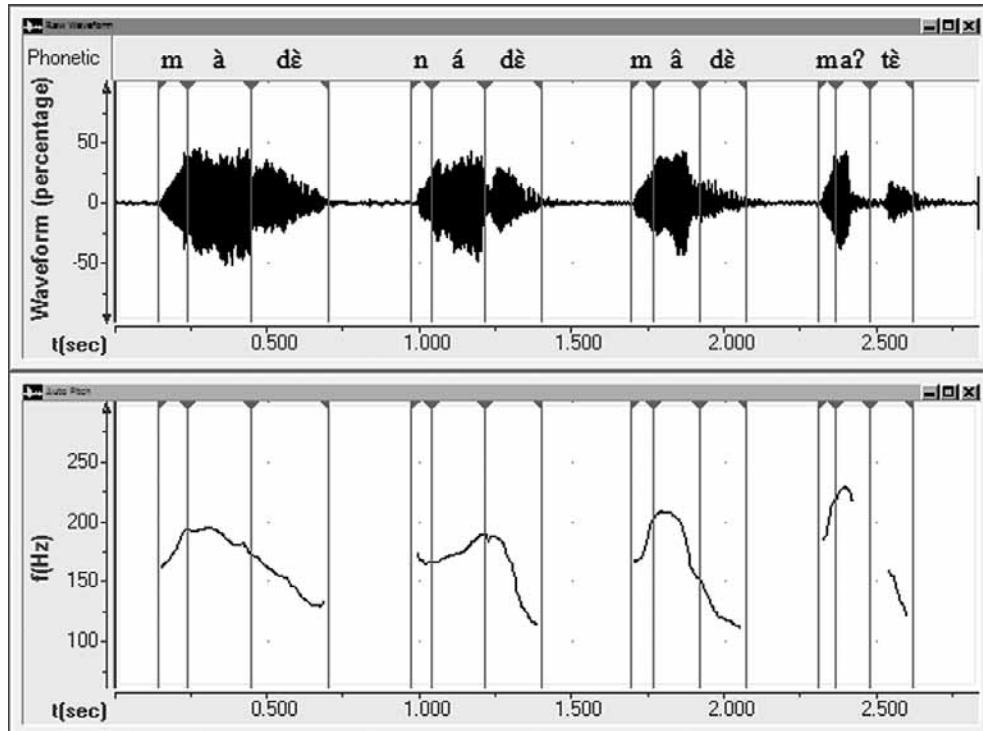


Figure 2': Standard Burmese /mà dè/, /ná dè/, /mâ dè/, and /ma? tè/, from left to right



rising contours. This fact serves as one source of evidence for our interpretation, which considers the pitch contour of glottalized vowels to be the rising tone.

From the pitch diagrams of /mǎ fiè/ '(I) lifted (it)' and /mǎ fiè/ '(it) is steep' in Figure 2, the falling variant [51] of the low level tone can be seen. We can also see that the vowel of the first syllable of /ná fiè/ '(he) took a rest' is much more level than the falling pitch observed when /ná/ is pronounced in isolation.

Figures 1' and 2' present wave-forms and pitch diagrams of Standard Burmese words and phrases pronounced by the same speaker (Khin Pale). Figure 1' is for /mǎ/ 'to be hard', /ná/ 'to take a rest; ear', /mǎ/ 'to lift', and /maʔ/ 'to be steep'. Figure 2' is for /mǎ dè/ '(it) is hard', /ná dè/ '(he) took a rest', /mǎ dè/ '(I) lifted (it)', and /maʔ tè/ '(it) is steep'. It is noteworthy that in Standard Burmese the vowels of /mǎ/ (creaky tone) and /maʔ/ (stopped tone) have falling pitch contours.

## 2.4 Some suprasegmental phenomena

Here we will see some important non-phonological suprasegmental phenomena.

### 2.4.1 Intonations

Various intonations are utilized in the Myeik dialect, although interrogative sentences cannot be made with a certain intonation. Intonations distort the pitch contours of the tones. Their domains usually consist of one syllable, but may consist of bigger units. An essential difference between tones and intonations is that intonations themselves have their own meanings but tones do not. Below are some of the important intonations.

An intonation with a rising pitch, as can be represented as [113] or [112], is sometimes used in the sentence-final position, as is shown in (20) below:

- (20) /ma ʔɔ̀ bǐ[113] /  
       not go already  
       'I won't go anymore.'

It probably denotes the speaker's attitude of hoping to inform the hearer that the sentence includes some important information.

A falling intonation, which can be represented by [553], occurs with certain morphemes such as /dó/, a particle denoting contrastiveness, and /fià/, a subordinate-clause marker denoting supposition. The function of this intonation is probably to denote hesitation or uncertainty. The particle /dó/ is frequently pronounced with this intonation.

An extra-high intonation with a falsetto voice, as can be represented as [66], is sometimes used in expressions such as that in (21). This intonation emphasizes negation. It always falls on the preceding syllable of the morpheme /lé/ 'also'. In order to show its considerably high pitch, we here use the digit '6' for its notation.

(21)/ta khà[66 {falsetto}] lé ma sá fiǎ /  
 one time also not eat vsm  
 ‘I didn’t eat a single time.’

#### 2.4.2 Vowel prolongation

The morpheme /fiòzà/ is a particle nominalizing clauses. See the example below:

(22)/ŋà sá fiòzà /  
 1SG eat NMZ  
 ‘what I ate’ or ‘my eating (something)’

Clauses nominalized by /fiòzà/ can express either entities or events, as the translation above shows. This morpheme has a free variant that lacks the first syllable, namely /zà/. When the form /zà/ is used, the vowel of the preceding syllable may be prolonged as a compensation for lacking /fiò/, and the duration of the syllable is longer than that of an ordinary syllable. In the case of diphthongs, the first elements are prolonged. Below are examples. Prolongation of the vowels is indicated by ‘[:]’.

(23)/ŋà sá[:ɑ:] zà /  
 1SG eat NMZ  
 ‘what I ate’ or ‘my eating (something)’

(24)/tù yè[:ɛ:] zà /  
 3SG laugh NMZ  
 ‘his laughing’

(25)/ŋà yǎ[:ɑ:] zà /  
 1SG get NMZ  
 ‘what I got’ or ‘my getting (something)’

(26)/ŋà chi[:ɪ:] zà /  
 1SG cook NMZ  
 ‘what I cooked’ or ‘my cooking (something)’

(27)/ŋà cǎi[:a:] zà /  
 1SG like NMZ  
 ‘what I like’ or ‘my liking (something)’

One might speculate that these long vowels are the long phonemic counterparts of the vowel phonemes presented in 2.2, but we interpret the prolongation as an intonation-like non-phonemic phenomenon that indicates lack of a syllable, because it does not change

the meaning of words. We have so far not found any other morphemes that induce such a vowel prolongation.

## 2.5 Morphophonemic alternations

When two or more words are compounded, the word-initial voiceless unaspirated consonant(s) of the latter element(s) may alternate with the voiced counterpart(s). Such alternations do not occur after glottalized vowels. Pairs of voiceless and voiced consonants are shown below:

/p/	/t/	/c/	/k/	/s/
/b/	/d/	/j/	/g/	/z/

For example:

(28) /yè/ ‘water’ + /pù/ ‘hot’ > /yèbù/ ‘hot water’

(29) /myè/ ‘soil’ + /cí/ ‘big’ > /myèjí/ ‘earth’

Note that aspirated phonemes do not show such alternations:

(30) /hí/ ‘side dish’ + /chò/ ‘sweet’ > /híchò/ ‘soup’

(31) /mí/ ‘fire’ + /phò/ ‘make a fire’ + /khá/ ‘room’ > /míphòkhá/ ‘kitchen’

Below is an exception for this general rule. In this case, /kh/ alternates with /g/. This might be because this word is a loan word from Standard Burmese.

(32) /yè/ ‘water’ + /khé/ ‘freeze’ > /yègè/ ‘ice’

The consonant /t̚/ also does not show such an alternation because it does not have a voiced counterpart. It is phonetically also never voiced.

(33) /ṛóu/ ‘coconut palm’ + /t̚í/ ‘fruit’ > /ṛóut̚í/ [ṛəu̯55.t̚i55] ‘fruit of coconut’

In Standard Burmese, the initial consonant of the first syllable of a particle shows voiceless-voiced alternation. For example, the verb sentence marker {pì} has two allomorphs, /pì/ and /bì/, which alternate according to the preceding phoneme. When the preceding phoneme is a glottal stop, /pì/ occurs, and otherwise /bì/ occurs: e.g., /tɛʔ pì/ ‘(It) is already rising’; /là bì/ ‘(It) is already coming’. In the Myeik dialect, however, particles do not show such alternations. We take the particle /bì/, which corresponds to Standard Burmese {pì}, as an example:



(34)/t̥̀ bì /  
 rise already  
 '(It) is already rising'

(35)/là bì /  
 come already  
 '(It) is already coming.'

## 2.6 Regular correspondences with Written Burmese

In this section, we will present regular correspondences between the Myeik dialect phonemes and Written Burmese (WB). Romanization of WB follows Okell (1995).

First, the initial consonants of Myeik basically correspond to the Written Burmese (WB) consonants, as shown below. Voiced stops and fricatives, namely /b/, /d/, /j/, /g/, /z/, and /ñ/, are excluded because they do not show regular correspondences.

Myeik	/p/	/t̥̀/	/t/	/c/	/k/	/ʔ/	/ph/	/th/	/ch/	/kh/	/s/	/ç/	/h/	/sh/
			/\					/\			/\			
WB	p	s	t ky kr	k	ø	ph	th	khy khr kh	c	hy hr	h	ch		
	/m/	/n/	/ɲ/	/ŋ/	/w/	/y/	/l/							
	/\	/\	/\	/\	/\	/\	/\							
	m	hm n	hn ɲ	hɲ	hɲ	w	hw y	r	hl	l				

Second, the vowels basically correspond to the WB rhymes, as shown below.

Myeik	/i/	/e/	/ɛ/	/a/	/ɔ/	/o/	/u/
			/\				
WB	i	e	ai aññ	a	o	ui	u
	/ĩ/	/ẽi/	/ãi/	/ã/	/ãu/	/õu/	/ũ/
	/\	/\		/\		/\	/\
	aɲ añ	in im	uiɲ	an am	oɲ	un um	wanwam
	/i/	/ẽi/	/ãi/	/ã/	/ãu/	/ou/	/u/
	/\	/\		/\		/\	/\
	ak ac	it ip	uik	at ap	ok	ut up	wat wap

Third, the tones basically correspond to the WB tones, as is shown below. We take the nasalized vowel /ãu/ as an example.

/âu/	/âu/	/ău/
oŋ	oŋ:	oŋ.

### 3 Texts

This section presents conversational texts in the Myeik dialect. These texts are translations of the dialogues in Kato (1998), a colloquial Burmese primer. The primer has twenty lessons, and each lesson has a dialogue in Standard Burmese. We translated all of them into the Myeik dialect. Since Kato's (1998) dialogues cover as many as possible of the most basic grammatical items of Burmese, translations of them into the Myeik dialect can be a basis for future studies of morphosyntactic phenomena in this dialect. The translated dialogues are numbered [1] to [20] below. Transcription is phonemic. Glosses are given to each word, and important function words and affixes are listed with notes in section 3.2. In the dialogues, these function words and affixes appear in boldface in the glosses, in the same forms as those of the phonemic transcriptions immediately above. When there are synonyms, they are distinguished by superscript numbers. English translations are shown in parentheses.

#### 3.1 Dialogues

##### [1] This is a coconut

(A: a male foreigner B: a Myanmar woman)

A: dè hà pǎtí là.  
 this thing apple là  
 'Is this an apple?'

B: ma hòu fiă. dousà t̄ayití.  
 ma be.so fiă<sup>2</sup> this.one mango  
 'No. This is a mango.'

A: dousà bousà.  
 this.one what  
 'What is this?'

B: dousà ?óutí.  
 this.one coconut  
 'This is a coconut.'

##### [2] I'm fine

(A: Ko Win [a young man] B: Ma Hla [a young woman])

A: mǎlă nè kǎu là.  
 Ma.Hla stay good là  
 'Are you fine, Ma Hla?'

- B: káu fiè. kòwí fiă má  
good fiè Ko.Win fiă má  
'Yes, I'm fine. How about Ko Win?'
- A: káu fiè. cùdò khǔ zé ʈó mè. lai ma là.  
good fiè 1SG now market go mè follow ma<sup>2</sup> là  
'I'm fine. I will go to the market now. Will you follow me?'
- B: ʈí. lai mè. cùmă lé bǎ khǔ bǎ zé ʈó fiǒ.  
yes follow mè 1SG also bǎ now bǎ market go fiǒ  
'Yes, I will follow you. I'm going to the market now, too.'

### [3] I don't like pork curry

(A: Ma Hla [a young woman] B: Ko Win [a young man])

- A: kòwí bousà sá mè.  
Ko.Win what eat mè  
'What will you eat, Ko Win?'
- B: cùdò wǐtáhí sá mè. mǎlă lé bǎ wǐtáhí sá mè là.  
1SG pork.curry eat mè Ma.Hla also bǎ pork.curry eat mè là  
'I will eat pork curry. Will you also eat pork curry, Ma Hla?'
- A: ma sá fiă. cùmă wǐtáhí ma ʈai fiă.  
ma eat fiă<sup>2</sup> 1SG pork.curry ma like fiă<sup>2</sup>  
'No, I won't. I don't like pork curry.'
- B: bousà hí ʈai fiè lófiă.  
what side.dish like fiè lófiă  
'What curry do you like?'
- A: ʈítáhí ʈai fiè.  
chicken.curry like fiè  
'I like chicken curry.'

### [4] Have you finished eating?

(A: Ma Hla [a young woman] B: Ko Win [a young man])

- A: mí sá pí fi lá.  
rice eat finish fi lá  
'Have you finished eating?'
- B: sá pí fi. mǎlă fiă má.  
eat finish fi Ma.Hla fiă má  
'Yes, I have. How about you, Ma Hla?'
- A: sá yă ʈé fiă. cùmă wú hà nè bì.  
eat yă still fiă<sup>2</sup> 1SG stomach hungry stay bì  
'Not yet. I'm hungry.'

- B: dè shò fià cùdò mǒudì pé sá mè.  
 this say fià 1SG mohinga give eat mè  
 ‘So, I will buy you some *monhingar* noodle.’
- A: dagè bǎ lá. phè mà.  
 really bǎ lá where mà  
 ‘Really? Where?’
- B: ʔaŋèchí shài mà. sá fiǐ tawǎ kǎu fiè. là fié.  
 friend shop mà eat fiǐ very good fiè come SFP  
 ‘At my friend’s shop. It’s very good. Come on!’

Note 1: “pé + VERB” denotes benefactive causation. This construction exists also in Standard Burmese, as is pointed out by Kato (1998: 145), but the Myeik dialect uses it more frequently.

Note 2: In order to express possession, the ‘possessor noun’ is simply put before the ‘possessed noun’, e.g. /ʔaŋèchí shài/ (friend / shop) ‘my friend’s shop’. There is no equivalent of the genitive case marker /yé/ of Standard Burmese. However, in the case of personal pronouns that have the low level tone in the last syllable, namely, /ŋà/ ‘1SG’, /nǐ/ ‘2SG’, and /ʔù/ ‘3SG’, the low level tone alternates with the rising tone in order to express possession, e.g., /ŋǎ ʔèi/ (1SG / house) ‘my house’.

### [5] I’ll go to Mandalay

(A: a young man B: a young woman)

- A: cùdò mólítài fià khayí thwǐ mè.  
 1SG tomorrow time travel go.out mè  
 ‘I’ll go for a trip tomorrow.’
- B: phè ʔó fiǒ. baŋàn là.  
 where go fiǒ Bagan là  
 ‘Where will you go? Bagan?’
- A: ma hòu fiǎ. mándalé ʔó mè.  
 ma be.so fiǎ<sup>2</sup> Mandalay go mè  
 ‘No. I’ll go to Mandalay.’
- B: bousà fiě ʔó fiǒ.  
 what fiě go fiǒ  
 ‘How will you go?’
- A: míyathá fiě ʔó mè. míyathá lìmǎ fié bǎ wè pí fiì.  
 train fiě go mè train ticket also bǎ buy finish fiì  
 ‘I will go by train. I have already bought a ticket.’
- B: phèʔù fiě ʔó fiǒ. ʔaŋèchí fiě là.  
 who fiě go fiǒ friend fiě là  
 ‘Who will you go with? With your friends?’

A: bǎbǎmèmè fiě túdù t̃s̃ m̃è.  
 parents fiě together go m̃è  
 'I'll go with my parents.'

**[6] What does your father do?**

(A: Ko Win's friend [a woman] B: Ko Win [a young man])

A: kòwí ʔabǎ fiǎ bousà ʔalou lou fiè.  
 Ko.Win father fiǎ what work do fiè  
 'What does your father do, Ko Win?'

B: cǎu shayà lou fiè. mùlǎdácǎu mà myǎmàzà t̃i fiè.  
 school teacher do fiè elementary.school mà Burmese teach fiè  
 'He is a school-teacher. He's teaching Burmese at an elementary school.'

A: ʔamí fiǎ má bousà lou fiè.  
 mother fiǎ má what do fiè  
 'What does your mother do?'

B: zé yǎu fiè. t̃éikhà myómyó yǎu fiè.  
 market sell fiè goods various sell fiè  
 'She sells at a market. She sells various things.'

A: phè mà yǎu fiè.  
 where mà sell fiè  
 'Where does she sell?'

B: mǐgalàzé fié mà yǎu fiè.  
 Mingalar.Market inside mà sell fiè  
 mèmè shǎi fiǎ lùcǎi myá fiè.  
 mother shop fiǎ people.who.like many fiè  
 'She sells at Mingalar Market. Mother's shop is popular.'

**[7] I have about ten books**

(A: a male friend of Ma Hla B: Ma Hla [a young woman])

A: mǎlǎ mà jàpǎ sàʔou cǐ là.  
 Ma.Hla mà Japan book exist là  
 'Ma Hla, do you have any Japanese books?'

B: cǐ fiè.  
 exist fiè  
 'Yes, I do.'

A: phèmyǎ ʔou cǐ fiè.  
 how.many NC exist fiè  
 'How many do you have?'

B: shè ʔou lau cǐ fiè.  
 ten NC about exist fiè  
 'I have about ten.'

A: myá zǎ má. cùdǒ mà ta ʔou fiàbě ċí fiè.  
 many zǎ má<sup>2</sup> 1SG mà one NC only exist fiè  
 phèmyó ləu pí yǎ fiè.  
 how do pí get fiè

‘That’s a lot! I have only one. How did you get them?’

B: ʔaŋèchí ta yəu jàpǎ fiǎ pǒ pé fiè.  
 friend one NC Japan fiǎ send give fiè  
 ‘One of my friends sent them to me from Japan.’

### [8] I want to go to Shwedagon Pagoda

(A: Ma Hla’s friend [a man] B: Ma Hla [a young woman])

A: mǎlǎ dèně phè ʔó chǐ fiè.  
 Ma.Hla today where go want.to fiè

‘Where do you want to go today, Ma Hla?’

B: cùmǎ dèně ɕwèdagòuphayá ʔó chǐ fiè.  
 1SG today Shwedagon.Pagoda go want.to fiè  
 dè fiǎ nè ká fiě ʔó yǎ là.  
 here fiǎ stay car fiě go yǎ là

‘I want to go to Shwedagon Pagoda today. Do we have to go there by car from here?’

A: ká fiě ʔó fiǒ ma lò fiǎ. ɕwèdagòuphayá fiǎ ní fiè.  
 car fiě go fiǒ ma need fiǎ<sup>2</sup> Shwedagon.Pagoda fiǎ near fiè  
 lán ɕəu ʔó fiǐ yǎ fiè.  
 road walk go fiǐ get fiè

‘You don’t need to go by car. Shwedagon Pagoda is close. We can go on foot.’

B: dèfiébě cùmǎ khǐ chè nà nè fiè. shǎiká fiě ʔó fiǐ yǎ là.  
 but 1SG now leg ache stay fiè trishaw fiě go fiǐ get là  
 ‘Even so, my legs ache today. Can we go by trishaw?’

A: ʔó fiǐ yǎ fiè. dèmyó shò fià shǎiká fiě ʔó zǒ.  
 go fiǐ get fiè like.this say fià trishaw fiě go zǒ  
 ‘Yes, we can. If that’s so, let’s go by trishaw.’

B: phaləu pé yǎ mè.  
 how.much give yǎ mè  
 ‘How much will we have to pay?’

A: ŋáshè ləu pé yǎ mè.  
 fifty about give yǎ mè  
 ‘We’ll have to pay about fifty.’

**[9] Is there a shop selling electric stuff?**

(A: a woman B: a male stranger)

A: dè ná mà lyasi pyisi yáu fiò shài cǐ lá cǐ.  
 this nearby mà electricity goods sell fiò<sup>2</sup> shop exist lá cǐ  
 'Is there a shop selling electric stuff near here?'

B: cǐ fiè khǐbyá.  
 exist fiè khǐbyá  
 khǐ chèníbèi thwǐ là fiò nèyà nabé mà cǐ fiè. myǐ là.  
 now bicycle go.out come fiò<sup>2</sup> place side mà exist fiè see là  
 'Yes, there is. It's right beside the place where that bicycle just came out from. Do you see it?'

A: hokě myǐ fiè myǐ fiè.  
 yes see fiè see fiè  
 dè shài mà yègétitá yáu là. yègétitá cíjí lò chǐ fiè.  
 this shop mà refrigerator sell là refrigerator big.one need want.to fiè  
 'Yes, I see it. I see it. Does that shop sell refrigerators? I want a big one.'

B: hou shài mà cí[:] zà ma cǐ fiǎ nè mè khǐbyá.  
 that shop mà big zà ma exist fiǎ<sup>2</sup> stay mè khǐbyá  
 nè[:] zà dó cǐ mè nè mè.  
 small zà dó exist mè stay mè  
 'I don't think that shop sells big ones. Maybe they have small ones.'

A: hou là. bousà bě phyi phyi tó cǐ fiǎi mè.  
 be.so là what bě to.be to.be go look fiǎi mè  
 cézú tǐ fiè cǐ.  
 thanks put fiè cǐ  
 'Is that so? Anyway, I will have a look there. Thank you!'

B: yǎ fiè lé.  
 get fiè SFP  
 'That's OK.'

Note: /nè mè/ (stay / mè) can be translated with 'probably' or 'maybe', etc. Standard Burmese equivalents are /phyi? mè/ and /-nê tù dè/.

**[10] Gourds are good if you fry them**

(A: a foreign friend of Ma Hla [a young man] B: Ma Hla [a young woman])

A: kòwí fiǎ búti yù là pé fiè.  
 Ko.Win fiǎ gourd take come give fiè  
 búti fiò phèmyó sá yǎ mè. dè tái kǎi sá yǎ là.  
 gourd fiò how eat yǎ mè this as bite eat yǎ là  
 'Ko Win brought me a gourd. How do you eat a gourd? Do I have to bite it without peeling?'



B: ma hɔu fiã lé. ?akhù nwé pí sá yã mè.  
 ma be.so fiã<sup>2</sup> SFP husk peel pí eat yã mè  
 bútı fiã cò sá fià káu fiè.  
 gourd fiã fry eat fià good fiè  
 sá chĩ fià khũ cò pé mè lé.  
 eat want.to fià now fry give mè SFP  
 ‘No, that’s wrong! You have to peel the skin to eat it. Gourds are good if you fry them.  
 If you want to eat it, I will fry it for you now.’

B: cò pí fi. myé cĩ cí.  
 fry finish fi to.taste look look  
 dè chĩyè fiě tǒ sá lé. phèmyó nè fiè.  
 this sauce fiě put eat SFP how stay fiè  
 ‘I’ve finished frying it. Taste a bit of it. Dip it in this sauce to eat. How do you like it?’

A: tawã káu fiè.  
 very good fiè  
 mǎlǎ jàpǎ tó pí hɔu mà yǎu fià káu mè nè mè.  
 Ma.Hla Japan go pí there mà sell fià good mè stay mè  
 tawã yǎu yǎ bẽ.  
 much sell yǎ bẽ  
 ‘This is very good! You better go to Japan and sell fried gourds, Ma Hla. They will sell well!’

B: myau ma pyó fiě lé.  
 lift ma speak fiě<sup>2</sup> SFP  
 ‘Don’t flatter me.’

### [11] Because I ate too much coconut noodles

(A: father B: daughter of A)

A: míyè, dèně cǎu ma tó fiã là.  
 daughter today school ma go fiã<sup>2</sup> là  
 ‘Don’t you have school today?’

B: dèně cǎu pei fiĩ tó fiõ ma lò fiã.  
 today school close fiĩ go fiõ ma need fiã<sup>2</sup>  
 bãbã fiã má yóu ma tó fiã là.  
 father fiã má office ma go fiã<sup>2</sup> là  
 ‘I don’t have to go because school is off today. Don’t you also have office, Dad?’

A: dèně bại nà fiĩ ma tó bì.  
 today stomach ache fiĩ ma go bì  
 hɔu maně fiã ?óunǒkhaushwé tawã sá fiài fiĩ.  
 that yesterday fiã coconut.noodle much eat fiài fiĩ  
 ‘I have a stomachache today, so I’ve decided not to go, because I ate too much coconut  
 noodles yesterday.’

- B: dǒbǎ fiǎ lé bĕ cǎmàyé dadjǐnè gayǔ sai ʔóu lé.  
 father fiǎ also bĕ health a.little attention to.plant ʔóu SFP  
 ‘Please take a little care of your health, Dad.’
- A: gayǔ sai fié bĕ phyj fiè bĕ. tǎ ma nǎi fiǎ.  
 attention to.plant also bĕ happen fiè bĕ capable ma can fiǎ<sup>2</sup>  
 ‘I take care, but it happens. There is no way out there.’
- B: dǒbǎ fiǎ dǒmè dadǎdǎ shé fié bĕ dǐ[66 fa.] lé ná ma khǎ fiǎ má.  
 father fiǎ mother often scold also bĕ a.little also ear ma accept fiǎ<sup>2</sup> má<sup>2</sup>  
 pǐbǎ zǎ.  
 tired zǎ  
 ‘Although Mom often scolds you, you don’t listen to her. You’re difficult.’
- A: ʔèi mà ʔamǐ né yǎu ɕǐ fiò myó bĕ má.  
 house mà mother two NC exist fiò<sup>2</sup> like bĕ má<sup>2</sup>  
 ‘It’s like there are two moms here at home!’

Note: ‘[66 fa.]’ denotes the extra-high intonation with a falsetto voice (See 2.4.1)

### [12] This one is better than this one

(A: a young woman B: a friend of A [a young man])

- A: cǔmǎ ʔǐgǎlei ʔabǐdǎ lò chǐ fiè.  
 1SG English dictionary need want.to fiè  
 dè ʔabǐdǎ fiè dè ʔabǐdǎ phè hà pò kǎu fiè.  
 this dictionary fiè this dictionary which thing more good fiè  
 ‘I want an English dictionary. Which is better, this dictionary or this dictionary?’
- B: dè hà fiǎ dè hà thǐ pò kǎu fiè nè mè.  
 this thing fiǎ this thing than more good fiè stay mè  
 bousà phyj fiǐ ʔǐgǎlei ʔabǐdǎ lò chǐ fiè.  
 what happen fiǐ English dictionary need want.to fiè  
 ‘I think this one is better than this one. Why do you want an English dictionary?’
- A: cǔmǎ ʔǐgǎlei zagápyó ʔǐdǎ tǐ nè fiè.  
 1SG English conversation class ascend stay fiè  
 dè fié bĕ cǔmǎ mà ʔǐgǎlei ʔabǐdǎ ma ɕǐ fiǎ.  
 this also bĕ 1SG mà English dictionary ma exist fiǎ  
 ‘I attend an English conversation class now. But I don’t have an English dictionary.’
- B: dè myó shò fiǎ cǔdǒ ʔèi mà ɕǐ fiòzà pé fiǎi mè.  
 this kind say fiǎ 1SG house mà exist fiòzà give fiǎi mè  
 ‘If that’s so, I’ll give you the one that I have at my house.’
- A: dè ʔabǐdǎ kǎu là.  
 this dictionary good là  
 ‘Is that dictionary good?’

- B: káu fiè. cùdò tǒu phú fiò thé mà ?a káu shǒu bǎ.  
 good fiè 1SG use phú fiò<sup>2</sup> inside mà ?a good end bǎ  
 ?èi lại lé. khǔ bǎ pé faji mè.  
 house follow SFP now bǎ give faji mè  
 ‘Yes, it’s good. It’s the best among the ones that I have used. Come to my house. I’ll give it to you now.’
- A: ?á nà zǎ.  
 strength ache zǎ  
 ‘Thank you.’
- B: ?á ma nà fiě lé.  
 strength ma ache fiě<sup>2</sup> SFP  
 ‘Not at all.’

Note: /?á nà/ means ‘be embarrassed by a feeling of thanks’.

### [13] I can speak Japanese

(A: Ko Win [a young man] B: Ma Hla [a young woman])

- A: mǎlǎ jàpǎlò pyó tạ là.  
 Ma.Hla in.Japanese speak capable là  
 ‘Ma Hla, do you speak Japanese?’
- B: pyó ma tạ fiǎ. kòwí fiǎ má.  
 speak ma capable fiǎ<sup>2</sup> Ko.Win fiǎ má  
 ‘I can’t. How about you, Ko Win?’
- A: dijèhàbǎ pyó tạ fiè.  
 a.little.bit speak capable fiè  
 hòu ?ayǐ dǒukhà fiǎ ta nǐ lǎu ǐ phú fiè.  
 that ago time fiǎ one year about study phú fiè  
 ‘I can speak a little bit. I studied it for about a year long ago.’
- B: tayou zagá má pyó tạ là.  
 Chinese language má speak capable là  
 ‘Do you speak Chinese?’
- A: tayou zagá dǒ tawǎ pyó tạ fiè.  
 Chinese language dǒ well speak capable fiè  
 nǐnè dǒukhà fiǎ ?èi ná fiǎ tayou phójí ta yau  
 young time fiǎ house nearby fiǎ Chinese old.man one NC  
 cùdǒ fiò yǐ tái ǐ pé fiè.  
 1SG fiò day every teach give fiè  
 ‘I can speak Chinese very well. When I was a child, an old Chinese man nearby taught me every day.’

B: dè myó shò fià ʔígaleilò fié bĕ tawă pyó ɬə fiè bĕ.  
 this kind say **fià** in.English also **bĕ** well speak capable **fiè** SFP  
 ‘If that’s so, you can also speak English very well, can’t you?’

A: ʔí. pyó ɬə fiè.  
 yes speak capable **fiè**  
 ‘Yes, I can.’

B: tò ză má.  
 excellent **ză má**<sup>2</sup>  
 ‘How excellent!’

#### [14] I like Myanmar harp

(A: Ma Hla’s Myanmar harp teacher B: Ma Hla [a young woman])

mălă fiă da bə fiò ta khà sáushayà zău mà  
 Ma.Hla **fiă** one week each one time harpist **zău mà**  
 sáu tí ʔí nè fiè.  
 harp play study stay **fiè**

‘Ma Hla studies Myanmar harp at the harp teacher’s house once a week.’

A: mălă ɲə ʔapə fià phè ʔachĕi là ʔí fiő.  
 Ma.Hla next week time which time come study **fiő**  
 ‘Ma Hla, what time will you come to study next week?’

B: sózónə shè nàyi ɬəu là fií yă là.  
 morning ten clock about come **fií** get **là**  
 ‘Can I come at about ten o’clock in the morning?’

A: cùdò sózónə ma ʔá fiă. myö fié fiò ɬó fiő ɕí fií.  
 1SG morning **ma** free **fiă**<sup>2</sup> town inside **fiò** go **fiő** exist **fií**  
 ‘I’m not going to be free in the morning, because I need to go downtown.’

B: dè shò fià ɲănəŋ lé nàyi fiă má yă là.  
 this say **fià** evening four clock **fiă má** get **là**  
 ‘So is it OK at four o’clock in the evening?’

A: ʔí, yă fiè. dè shò fià ɲănəŋ lé nàyi chĕi fiəi mè.  
 yes get **fiè** this say **fià** evening four clock fix **fiəi mè**  
 mălă sáu tí ʔí yă fiòzà pyò bĕ là.  
 Ma.Hla harp play study **yă fiòzà** fun **bĕ là**

‘Yeah, that’s OK. Then we’ll meet at four o’clock in the evening. Ma Hla, is it fun studying Myanmar harp?’

B: tawă pyò fiè, shayà. sáu ʔəɬă fiă tawă ná khă fií kău fiè.  
 much fun **fiè** teacher harp sound **fiă** much listen **fií** good **fiè**  
 dĕjăufi cùmă tawă ɕəi fiè.  
 thus 1SG much like **fiè**

‘Yes, it’s a lot of fun. The sound of the harp is so comforting. That’s why I like it so much.’

**[15] He was bitten by a dog**

(A: a male friend of Ko Win B: a female friend of Ko Win)

A: kòwí khũthĩthĩ ma là fiã má.

Ko.Win up.to.now **ma** come **fiã<sup>2</sup> má<sup>2</sup>**

'Ko Win hasn't come even now.'

B: cùmă twě fiò khà dố là mề bễ pyó fiề.

1SG see **fiò<sup>2</sup>** time **dố** come **mề bễ** tell **fiề**

ma là bì (~ bĩ) là ma ẵ.

**ma** come **bì** là **ma** know

'When I saw him, he said he would come. I wonder if he's not coming.'

A: phiyèshhài mà thài yí fiề sấu zố.

tea.shop **mà** sit while **fiề** wait **zố**

'Let's wait for him in a tea shop.'

B: cùmă ẵ zấu fiò phốu shị cỉ mề.

1SG 3SG **zấu fiò** phone connect look **mề**

dề mà khanǎgề sấu nè ẵ.

here **mà** for.a.while wait stay **ẵ**

'I'll go and give him a phone call. Wait for a while here.'

mălă fiã kòwí zấu fiò phốu shị pí pyà là fiề.

Ma.Hla **fiã** Ko.Win **zấu fiò** phone connect **pí** return come **fiề**

'After calling Ko Win, Ma Hla came back.'

B: tù dềně khwé kại khã thĩ fi là ma nài bì dể.

3SG today dog bite bear touch **fi** come **ma** can **bì** hearsay

'He can't come today because he was bitten by a dog.'

A: mĩ wé. đoukhã bễ.

mother SFP disaster **bễ**

dề shò fià ẵ zấu fiò chịchí tó pí ẵ pé yã mề.

this say **fià** 3SG **zấu fiò** at.once go **pí** encourage **yã mề**

'Oh, my god! So we have to go to him right now and cheer him up.'

Note: The "passive construction" is formed by "VERB+khã thĩ-", e.g., /yại khã thĩ fiề/ 'I was hit'. /khã/ is a verb meaning 'bear, suffer, accept', and /thĩ/ is a verb meaning 'touch'. In this construction, the verb and /khã/ form a noun phrase, and /thĩ/ functions as the head of the clause. Standard Burmese equivalent is "ǎa-VERB+khàn yã dề".

**[16] I came here to study Burmese**

(A: a woman B: Ko Aung Tun [a Japanese male friend of A])

A: kòẵauthủ bamàpyì mà bousà là lờ fiề.

Ko.AungTun Myanmar **mà** what come do **fiề**

'What did you come to do here in Myanmar, Ko Aung Tun?'

- B: cùdò bamàsà ɿ̃ fĩ bamàpyì fiò là fiè.  
1SG Burmese study fĩ Myanmar fiò come fiè  
'I came here to study Burmese.'
- A: bamàpyì yau fiòzà phalau ɿ̃ bì.  
Myanmar arrive fiòzà how.much exist bì  
'How long have you been here?'
- B: khanj̃ lă lau ɿ̃ bì.  
seven month about exist bì  
'It's been about seven months.'
- A: khanj̃ lă fiè dè lau t̃aukhé pyó tạ fiè lá.  
seven month fiè this about even speak can fiè lá  
ʔăʔó ză kwé.  
surprise ză SFP  
bamàpyì ma là khì hòu mà ɿ̃ là fiè lá.  
Myanmar ma come before there mà study come fiè lá  
'You've learned to speak this much in only seven months? That's amazing! Did you study Burmese before coming to Myanmar?'
- B: d̃i[66 fa.] lé ma ɿ̃ là fĩ. dè fiò yau mã bẽ sã ɿ̃ zà.  
a.little also ma study come fĩ<sup>2</sup> here fiò arrive mã bẽ begin study thing  
dèfĩ myámyà pyó tạ ʔău tawă cózá yă fiè.  
thus fast speak can so.that much endeavor yă fiè  
'No, I didn't study any. I began to study only after I arrived here. That's why I had to make a lot of effort to be quickly able to speak Burmese.'
- A: bamà ɿ̃achí má shò tạ fiè lá.  
Myanmar song má sing can fiè lá  
shò tạ fià da b̃ou lau shò pyă lé.  
sing can fià one stanza about sing show SFP  
'Can you sing a Burmese song? If you can, please sing a song.'
- B: ɿ̃achí shò yă fiòzà ɿ̃ fĩ k̃au fiè.  
song sing yă fiòzà ashamed fĩ good fiè  
nau mã bẽ shò pyă mè.  
future mã bẽ sing show mè  
'I feel embarrassed to sing a song. I'll sing it later.'

### [17] How much is this?

(A: Ko Aung Tun [a Japanese man] B: a friend of A C: a storekeeper)

- A: cùdò bamàpyì yau fiò gadé fĩ l̃oujì ta khà[66 fa.] lé ma wu phú fĩ.  
1SG Myanmar arrive fiò<sup>2</sup> since fĩ sarong one time also ma wear phú fĩ<sup>2</sup>  
dèfĩ cùdò khũ bẽ l̃oujì ɿ̃ wè fĩ.  
thus 1SG now bẽ sarong go buy fĩ

bamàpyì mà nè dǒukhà lǒujì wu fǒ kǎu fiè mǒ.

Myanmar mà stay when sarong wear fǒ good fiè SFP

'I haven't worn a *longyi* since I came to Myanmar. So I'm going to go to buy a *longyi* now. It's better to wear a *longyi* while I live in Myanmar, isn't it?'

B: mà fiè. lǒujì wu ǎ fiè.

right fiè sarong wear should fiè

kò?ǎuthú lǒujì wu thá fiè shò fià

Ko.AungTun sarong wear put fiè say fià

nàigàcháṭá má phèṭù[66 fa.] lé ǎ fǒ ma hòu fià.

foreigner that who also know fǒ ma be.so fià<sup>2</sup>

'That's right. You should wear a *longyi*. If you wear a *longyi*, no one will notice that you are a foreigner, Ko Aung Tun.'

A: dè lǒujì phèlau.

this sarong how.much

'How much is this *longyi*?'

C: chàya.

six.hundred

'It's six hundred.'

A: sǔ zǎ má. ǎ ǎu lé.

expensive zǎ má<sup>2</sup> discount ǎu SFP

'That's too expensive. Please discount it.'

C: dè fiò zémǎ bǎ. ǎ fi ma yǎ bì.

this EMP net.price bǎ discount fi ma get bì

'That's a net price. I can't discount it.'

A: ṅáyà thá lé.

500 put SFP

'Take five hundred.'

C: dè shò fià[553] ṅáyàṅáshè thá pé mè lé.

this say fià 550 put give mè SFP

dè thipyì ǎ ma nǎi bì.

this than discount ma can bì

'Well, I will take five hundred fifty. I can't discount it more than this.'

### [18] I came out without an umbrella

(A: a man from Mandalay B: a woman who lives in Yangon)

A: seì nǐ zǎ. da gǎu lóu sò kǒu bì.

mind dirty zǎ one body whole wet run.out bì

'This is too bad! My whole body got wet.'



- B: bousà phyi fiè. mó mǐ fiè lá.  
 what happen fiè rain catch fiè lá  
 ‘What happened? You got caught in the rain?’
- A: hou fiè. thí ma pà bé fiě ʔèi fiǎ thwǐ là mǐ fiè lé.  
 be.so fiè umbrella ma be.with bé fiě house fiǎ go.out come mǐ fiè SFP  
 dè ləu tǎukhé mó ywà mè ma thǐ fiǐ.  
 this about even rain to.rain mè ma think fiǐ  
 ‘Yes. I carelessly came out of my house without an umbrella. I didn’t think it would rain this much.’
- B: yǎgǒu mà shò fià mókàlǎ mà yǐtǎi myó dè ləu bě ywà fiè lé.  
 Yangon mà say fià wet.season mà daily like this about bě rain fiè SFP  
 ‘In Yangon, it rains this much almost every day in the rainy season.’
- A: mólítǎi fiǎ má ywà mè là ma ʔǐ.  
 tomorrow fiǎ má rain mè là ma know  
 ‘Will it rain again tomorrow?’
- B: ywà chǐ fià ywà mè.  
 rain want.to fià rain mè  
 ‘It may rain.’
- A: cùdǒ fiǎ ʔaṇàṭá fiǐ tawǎ ma ʔǐ fiǎ.  
 1SG fiǎ upper.Burman fiǐ much ma know fiǎ<sup>2</sup>  
 cùdǒ mádalé mà nè dóukhà fiǎ phè bě ʔó ʔó  
 1SG Mandalay mà stay while fiǎ where bě go go  
 thǐ ma pà bé fiě ʔó ʔa fiè.  
 umbrella ma be.with bé fiě go be.likely.to fiè  
 ‘I don’t know the weather well because I’m from Upper Burma. When I lived in Mandalay, wherever I went, I would go without an umbrella.’
- B: héi, dè pháʔǔbái fiě myámyà ʔou pyi fiài.  
 hey this towel fiě fast wipe throw fiài  
 ʔaʔé mǐ ma cəu fiǐ lé.  
 cold catch ma<sup>2</sup> afraid fiǐ SFP  
 ‘Hey, wipe your body with this towel right now, because I’m afraid you’ll catch a cold.’

Note 1: ‘V chǐ fià V mè’ means ‘may V’ or ‘might V’.

Note 2: The word /ʔaṇàṭá/ ‘Upper Burman’ is not frequently used in the Myeik dialect. All the ethnic Burmese people that live outside Tanintharyi Division are called /bagǎ/ (male) and /bagǎmǎ/ (female) in Myeik by using the name of the ancient city Bagan (Pagan), where the first Burmese kingdom was established.

**[19] My car seems broken**

(A: a female teacher at a university B: Ko Win [a former student of A])

A: cùmă mólítài fià bagó t̚ó yă mè.

1SG tomorrow time Bago go yă mè

ká fiě lại pǒ pé fiǒ lù çà nè fiề.

car fiě follow send give fiǒ<sup>2</sup> person search stay fiề

'I'll have to go to Bago tomorrow. I'm looking for a person who will take me there.'

B: cùdò lại pǒ pé mè lé.

1SG follow send give mè SFP

'I will take you.'

A: yă ma là.

get ma<sup>2</sup> là

'Is that OK?'

B: yă fiề. shayàmă fiǒ shò fià kùnì yă mè bǒ.

get fiề teacher for say fià help yă mè SFP

'It's OK. I have to help you because you are my teacher, don't I?'

A: cézú bě nó. cùmă ká fiă pyị nè bì nè mè.

thanks bě SFP 1SG car fiă break stay bì stay mè

sị nó fiỉ dẫu ma yă bì.

machine awake fiỉ even ma get bì

'Thank you! My car seems broken. I can't even start the engine.'

B: cùdò pyỉ pé mè lé.

1SG repair give mè SFP

cùdò fiă sị shò fià phè hà bě phyị phyị pyỉ tạ fiề.

1SG fiă machine say fià which thing bě be be repair can fiề

'I'll fix it for you. I can fix everything when it comes to machines.'

A: hòu fiề lá. năfià takhúkhǔ pyỉ fiǒ ẵ fiề shò fià

be.so fiề lá future something repair fiǒ exist fiề say fià

kòwí fiò pyỉ khái mè.

Ko.Win fiò repair order mè

kòwí fiă ?á kó yă ză má.

Ko.Win fiă strength rely yă ză má<sup>2</sup>

dềfiếbế bousà phyị fiỉ ?èithầu ma nè lófiă.

but what happen fiỉ household ma stay lófiă

'Is that so? In the future if I need to have something fixed, I will ask you to fix it. You are a reliable man! But why haven't you gotten married?'

B: dousà ma pyó fiề lé, shayàmă wé.

this ma tell fiề<sup>2</sup> SFP teacher SFP

'Please don't ask that, ma'am.'

**[20] I don't want to go back yet**

(A: Ko Aung Tun [a Japanese man] B: Ma Hla [a young woman])

A: kòʔàuthú phèkhà jàpà pyà fiǒ.

Ko.AungTun when Japan return fiǒ

'When will you go back to Japan, Ko Aung Tun?'

B: nàulǎ fià pyà fiǒ.

next.month time return fiǒ

ʔamà shò fià ma pyà lò tɛ fiá.

truth say fià ma return hope.to still fiá<sup>2</sup>

'I'll go back next month. Actually, I don't want to go back yet.'

A: phèkhà bamàpyi fiò pyà là fiǒ.

when Myanmar fiò return come fiǒ

'When will you come back to Myanmar?'

B: phyi nài fiè shò fià dè nɪ fié mà

happen can fiè say fià this year inside mà

nautha ta khà pyà là ʔóu mè lé.

future one time return come ʔóu mè SFP

myámyà pyà là nài fiǒ shǔ táu pé.

fast return come can fiǒ pray give

'If it's possible, I will come back once again this year. Please pray that I can come back soon.'

A: hou fiò pyà yau fiè shò fià cùmǎlǒ fiò mǎ fió mè nè mè.

there fiò return arrive fiè say fià 1PL fiò forget fió mè stay mè

'When you are back there, I think you will forget us.'

B: cùdò phèkhà lé bǎ bamàpyi fiǎ lù dè fiò mǎ fiǒ ma hou bì.

1SG when also bǎ Myanmar fiǎ person PL fiò forget fiǒ ma be.so bì

'I'll never forget the people of Myanmar.'

A: jàpà pyà yau pí fià bousà lou mè.

Japan return arrive finish fià what do mè

'What will you do when you are back in Japan?'

B: bamàpyi fiě paṭi fiò sàʔou yé fiǒ sei kú há fiè.

Myanmar fiě related fiò<sup>2</sup> book write fiǒ mind cross há fiè

'I'm planning to write a book on Myanmar.'

**3.2 Notes to function words and affixes**

When the function word or affix has an etymologically corresponding Standard Burmese form, the corresponding Standard Burmese form is shown after "SB".

bé Subordinate clause marker meaning 'without V-ing'. SB /phé/.

bǎ Particle denoting emphasis. SB /pé/.

bì Verb sentence marker denoting a 'perfect-like' meaning. It tends to be pronounced /fi/ after the verb /pí/ 'finish'. SB /pì/.

- c̣ì Term of address used by a female speaker. SB /c̣ìɴ/.  
 ḍó Particle denoting contrastiveness. SB /ṭô/.  
 há Auxiliary denoting provision or result. It originates in the verb /thá/ ‘put’.  
 fià Subordinate clause marker meaning ‘if’ or ‘when’.  
 fiă Case particle denoting ‘subject’, past time, and source. SB /kâ/.  
 fiă<sup>2</sup> Verb sentence marker for a negative sentence. This particle functionally corresponds to the Standard Burmese verb sentence marker /phú/.  
 fi̱i Auxiliary denoting thoroughness. SB /laiʔ/.  
 fiè Verb sentence marker denoting realis modality. SB /tè/.  
 fiě Case particle denoting instrument, accompanier, and enumeration. SB /nê/.  
 fiě<sup>2</sup> Verb sentence marker denoting prohibition. SB /nê/.  
 fiì A variant of /bì/.  
 fiĩ Subordinate sentence marker meaning ‘because’, ‘as a result of’, etc. This particle etymologically corresponds to the Literary Burmese particle /ywê/. /fiĩ/ can follow either a verb or a noun.  
 fiò Case particle denoting patient, goal, recipient etc. SB /kò/.  
 fiò<sup>2</sup> Realis relative-clause marker. Its irrealis counterpart is /fiö/, which is different from /fiò/ only in tone.  
 fiòzà Particle which has a function of nominalization of realis clauses. The irrealis counterpart is /fiözà/. The first syllable may delete, and only the second syllable /zà/ remain, but in that case, the preceding vowel may be prolonged, as described in section 2.4.2. The second syllable also may delete, yielding /fiò/.  
 fiö Morpheme that has a similar function to the infinitive *to* in English. When it is used in the sentence-final position, it functions like an irrealis marker. SB /ʔäphô/.  
 fiö<sup>2</sup> Irrealis relative-clause marker. SB /ʔäphô/.  
 fiözà Particle that has a function of nominalization of irrealis clauses.  
 fió Auxiliary denoting completeness. It originates in the verb /ṭó/ ‘go’.  
 kḥbyá Term of address used by a male speaker. SB /kḥomyá/.  
 là Particle denoting a question. It is also pronounced /lá/. SB /lá/.  
 lá See /là/.  
 lófiă Particle used in the sentence-final position of interrogative sentences with interrogative words. It is functionally similar to the particle /lé/ of Standard Burmese but different from /lé/ in that /lófiă/ is optional, whereas the occurrence of /lé/ is obligatory.  
 ma Prefix denoting negation. This prefix is omissible when the verb is followed by an auxiliary. For example, /(ma) sá lò fiă/ (ma / eat / want-to / fiă<sup>2</sup>) ‘I don’t want to eat’. SB /mä/.  
 ma<sup>2</sup> A variant of irrealis marker /mè/. It may be used before the question particle /là/ (/lá/) and certain other morphemes. Note that the form /mè/ also can be used before /là/. SB /mä/.  
 mà Case particle denoting location. SB /hmà/.

má	Particle denoting the contrastive topic of an interrogative sentence.
má <sup>2</sup>	Particle denoting exclamation.
mă	Particle meaning ‘not until V-ing’ or ‘not until N’. SB /hmâ/.
mè	Verb sentence marker denoting irrealis modality. SB /mè/.
mĩ	Auxiliary denoting inadvertency. SB /mĩ/.
phú	Auxiliary denoting experience. SB /phú/.
pí	Subordinate clause marker denoting sequential actions. SB /pí/.
ţé	Particle meaning ‘still’ or ‘again’. SB /ţé/.
yă	Auxiliary meaning inevitability. It can be translated into English with ‘can’ or ‘must’. SB /yă/.
zà	See /fiòzà/.
ză	Particle marking an exclamatory statement. It is put directly after verbs. This particle etymologically corresponds to the Literary Burmese particle /swâ/.
zău	Relator noun that denotes the place where an entity exists. An equivalent of Standard Burmese /shì/.
zõ	Particle meaning ‘let’s V’. SB /sõ/.
ʔa	Prefix that nominalizes verbs. SB /ʔă-/.
ʔóu	Particle meaning ‘still’ or ‘again’. It is also used as the meaning of ‘please’. SB /ʔóUN/.

#### 4 Basic vocabulary

This section presents a basic vocabulary of the Myeik dialect (about nine hundred items). The items of this vocabulary are based on Hattori (1957), with some modifications by the authors. Item numbers with an alphabetic designator, e.g., “98-2a” and “113-a”, have been added by the present authors. Verbs are presented with the verb sentence marker /fiè/ because it is used for the citation of verbs by speakers of this dialect.

1. head /kháu/	10. mouth /baza/	22. face /myjnà/
1-1. hair /shâbì/	11. lip /nakhă/	23. cheek /pá/
1-2. to be bald /kháu pyău fiè/	12. tongue /cà/	24. beard /moushəimwé/
1-3. brain /ʔóunəu/	13. dumb /ʔă fiè/	25. neck /lèbĩ/
2. forehead /naphú/	14. tooth /tʷá/	26. throat /lèchău/
3. eye /myjsĩ/, /myjlóu/	15. saliva /nwèyè/	27. shoulder /pakhóu/
4. eyebrow /myikhóumwé/	16. breathe /ʔaţĩ cù fiè/	27-1. armpit /lĩkadĩ/
5. tear /myiyè/	17. voice /ʔaţă/	28. arm /lĩmău/
6. blind /myjsĩ kă fiè/	18. cough /kháu shó fiè/, /chău shó fiè/	29. elbow /dadăuzĩ/
7. nose /nakhău/	19. sneeze /həchó chĩ fiè/	29-1. wrist /lĩkəuwũ/
8. ear /náywĩ/	20. yawn /ţă fiè/	30. hand /lĩ/
9. deaf /ná pí fiè/, /ná lé fiè/	21. jaw /mézè/	31. finger /lĩchău/
		32. nail /lĩţé/

33. breast /yìphá/  
 34. breast of woman /nǒ/  
 34-1. nipple /nǒtíkháu/  
 34-2. rib /nàyó/  
 34-3. lung /ʔashou/  
 35. heart /nalóu/  
 36. belly /bài/  
 37. internal organs /wútwítá/  
 37-1. intestines /ʔù/  
 37-2. stomach /ʔasàʔèi/  
 38. liver /ʔaté/  
 38-1. kidney /cəukə/  
 39. navel /chi/  
 40. back /cǒ/  
 41. waist /khá/  
 42. buttock /phìthou/  
 42-1. excrement /ché/  
 42-2. have a bowel movement /ché pəu fiè/  
 42-3. bladder /shíʔèi/  
 42-4. urine /tè/  
 42-5. urinate /tè pəu fiè/  
 42-6. break wind /ʔí pəu fiè/  
 42-7. penis /lí/  
 42-8. testicles /gwéze/, /páʔù/  
 42-9. vulva /səupa/  
 42-10. intercourse /ló fiè/  
 42-11. thigh /pəu/  
 43. knee /dú/  
 44. leg /chədau/  
 45. foot /chè/  
 46. lame /thǒjóthǒjó tǒ fiè/  
 47. body /ʔakəu/  
 48. hair of body /ʔamwé/  
 49. skin /ʔayèkhǔ/  
 49-1. mole /ná/  
 50. pus /pyè/  
 51. sweat /chwé/  
 52. dirt /jé/  
 53. blood /tʔwé/  
 54. bone /ʔajó/  
 55. flesh /ʔatá/  
 56. strength /ʔá/  
 57. look at /cǐ fiè/  
 58. to smell (vt) /ná fiè/  
 59. listen /ná khà fiè/  
 60. laugh /yè fiè/  
 61. cry /nò fiè/  
 62. shout /ʔǒ fiè/  
 63. clothes /ʔawuʔasá/  
 64. wear /wu fiè/  
 65. take off /chǔ fiè/  
 66. naked /chétauti/  
 66-1. cap /ʔouthou/  
 66-2. shirt /ʔíjǐ/  
 66-3. sarong /lǒujǐ/  
 66-4. trousers /báubi/  
 66-5. belt /khábə/  
 66-6. jacket /cháʔíjǐ/  
 66-7. collar /kǒlà/, /kǒlǎ/  
 66-8. sandal /phana/  
 66-9. bare foot /chèbalà/  
 66-10. cloth /ʔathè/, /ʔíjǐcà/  
 66-11. cotton /wàgǔ/  
 66-12. hemp /gǒuyai/  
 66-13. wool /tǒmwé/  
 66-14. silk /póthè/  
 67. hide (n) /təyè/  
 67-1. comb /kháuphí/  
 67-2. ring /lǐsu/  
 67-3. scissors /kəcè/  
 68. needle /ʔa/  
 69. thread /ʔachè/  
 70. sew /chou fiè/  
 71. food /sázayà/  
 71-1. rice /zabǎi/ (rice plant), /zabá/ (paddy), /shà/ (uncooked rice), /mǐ/ (cooked rice)  
 71-1a. side dish /hǐ/  
 71-2. wheat /jǒu/  
 71-7. bean /pé/  
 71-8. peanut /myèbé/  
 72. flour /ʔamǒu/  
 72-a. taro /péiʔù/  
 72-b. yam /myauʔù/  
 72-c. potato /ʔalú/  
 72-d. sweet potato /myaukháu/  
 73. meat /ʔatá/  
 73-1. onion /cǐtǔnǐ/  
 73-1a. garlic /cǐtǔphyù/  
 74. fruit /ʔatǐ/  
 75. seed /ʔasè/  
 75-1. fish /tǎ/  
 76. egg /ʔù/  
 77. salt /shá/  
 77-1. sugar /təjáj/  
 77-2. honey /pyáyè/  
 77-3. oil /shǐ/  
 78. grease /ʔashǐ/  
 78-1. butter /thǒbə/  
 79. milk /nǒ/  
 80. water /yè/  
 80-1. hot water /yèbù/  
 80-2. steam /yèngwé/  
 80-3. tea plant /laphǐ/  
 80-4. rice porridge /mǐbyou/  
 80-5. soup /hǐchò/  
 80-6. bread /pəumǒu/  
 80-7. liquor /ʔayi/  
 80-8. drunk /mú fiè/  
 80-9. tobacco /shélei/  
 81. cook /chǐ fiè/  
 81-1. roast /kǐ fiè/  
 81-1a. deep-fry /cǒ fiè/  
 81-1b. steam /pəu fiè/  
 81-2. boil water /yèbù tè fiè/  
 81-3. raw /séi fiè/  
 82. ripe /mè fiè/  
 83. eat /sá fiè/  
 84. lick /yǐ fiè/  
 85. chew /wá fiè/  
 86. drink /təu fiè/

87. suck /sɔu fiè/  
 88. vomit /ʔã fiè/  
 89. spit /thwé fiè/  
 90. hungry /wú hà fiè/  
 90-a. full /wã fiè/  
 91. thirsty /yè ŋã fiè/  
 92. taste /ʔayãtà/  
 92-1. tasty /mèi fiè/  
 93. sweet /chò fiè/  
 93-1. salty /ŋã fiè/  
 93-1a. spicy /sã fiè/  
 94. bitter /khá fiè/  
 94-1. sour /chĩ fiè/  
 94-2. to smell (vi) /nã fiè/  
 95. rotten /pɔu fiè/  
 95-1. mould /mò/  
 96. house /ʔèi/  
 97. build /shau fiè/  
 97-1. entrance /wĩbau/  
 98. door /dagá/  
 98-1. room /ʔakhã/  
 98-2. floor /cãbyĩ/  
 98-2a. mat /phyà/  
 98-3. post /tãi/  
 99. wall /khayã/, /thayã/  
 99-1. window /litãbau/  
 100. roof /khãumó/  
 100-1. kitchen /míphòkhã/  
 101. fire /mí/  
 101-1. fire (v) /mí thẽ fiè/  
 101-2. flame /míðau/  
 102. smoke /míkhó/  
 103. ash /pyà/  
 103-1. charcoal /mítwé/  
 103-2. firewood /thĩ/  
 104. extinguish /mí ɬã fiè/  
 105. burn (vi) /mí lãu fiè/  
 105-1. burn (vt) /mí cõ fiè/  
 105-2. desk /zabwé/  
 105-3. chair /kalàthài/  
 106. sit /thài fiè/  
 106-1. bed /khadi/  
 107. lay down /lé chã fiè/  
 108. sleep /ʔei fiè/  
 109. dream /ʔeimĩ mĩ fiè/  
 109-1. wake /nó fiè/ (vi, vt)  
 110. stand up /thã fiè/  
 111. stand /maɬã yã fiè/  
 111-1. well /yèdwĩ/  
 111-2. hedge /wĩthayã/  
 112. shut (vt) /pei fiè/  
 113. open (vt) /phwĩ fiè/  
 114. live /nè fiè/  
 114-1. stay at (a hotel) /té fiè/  
 114-2. machine /si/  
 114-3. mirror /mã/  
 114-3a. fan /yãtãu/  
 114-4. cup /khwĩ/  
 114-5. dish /zãbyã/  
 114-6. spoon /zũ/  
 115. pot /ʔó/  
 116. pan /dẽʔó/  
 116-1. scoop (water) /yè khã fiè/  
 116-2. pour /yè thẽ fiè/  
 116-3. spill /pheĩ fiè/  
 117. knife /dá/  
 118. edge /dãtwã/  
 118-1. mortar /shõu/  
 118-2. pestle /shõuthãuyó/  
 118-3. grind /ceĩ fiè/  
 118-4. pound /thãu fiè/  
 118-5. hammer /tù/  
 118-6. nail /tã/  
 118-7. saw /lwã/  
 118-8. ax /kãpã/  
 118-9. mattock /pãutú/  
 118-10. sickle /dazĩ/  
 118-11. plow /thè/  
 118-13. whet /twé fiè/  
 119. dust /phõu/  
 120. wipe /tõu fiè/  
 120-1. box /tãtà/  
 120-2. lid /ʔaphõu/  
 120-3. basket /chĩ/  
 120-4. bag /ʔei/  
 121. cord /cò/  
 122. net /pai/, /pãikũ/  
 122-1. cane /tãumwé/  
 123. stick /dõu/  
 123-1. ladder /lègã/  
 123-2. plank /pyĩbyã/  
 123-3. to be born /mwé fiè/  
 125. grow /cí tĩ là fiè/  
 126. alive /cĩ fiè/  
 127. fat /wã fiè/  
 128. thin /pèi fiè/  
 129. tired /mó fiè/  
 129-1. fine /cãmã fiè/  
 130. sick /yógã/  
 130-1. fever /ʔaphyã/  
 131. wound /dãyã/  
 132. to ache /nã fiè/  
 133. itchy /yã fiè/  
 133-a. ticklish /yã fiè/  
 134. scratch /kõu fiè/  
 134-1. medicine /shé/  
 135. cure /kũ fiè/  
 135-1. cured /kãu fiõ bí/  
 135-2. poison /ʔashẽi/  
 136. kill /tã fiè/  
 137. die /tè fiè/  
 137-1. funeral /maɬã/  
 137-2. tomb /tĩchãĩ/  
 138. spirit /nã/  
 138-1. pray /shũ tãu fiè/  
 139. quarrel /yã phyĩ fiè/  
 139-1. war /si/  
 139-2. win /nãi fiè/  
 139-3. to be defeated /cõu fiè/  
 140. run away /thwĩ pyé fiè/  
 141. pursue /lãĩ fiè/  
 142. sword /dãmãjĩ/

143. spear /lǎ/  
 143-1. shield /dǎi/  
 144. bow /lé/  
 145. arrow /myá/  
 145-1. gun /tèna/  
 146. human being /lù/  
 147. male /yaucá/  
 148. female /méimǎ/  
 148-1. baby /tǎgǐjè/  
 149. child /tǎjè/  
 149-1. boy /kǎujè/  
 149-2. girl /kǎumǎjè/  
 149-3. young person /lùjè/  
 149-5. adult /lùjí/  
 150. young /jè fiè/  
 151. old /ʔatǐ cí fiè/  
 152. father /bǎbǎ/, /dǒbǎ/  
 153. mother /mèmè/, /dǒmè/, /dǒmǐ/  
 153-1. parents /mǐphǎ/  
 153-1a. stepfather /phǎjè/  
 153-1b. stepmother /mǐjè/  
 153-2, 3 parents in law /yaukhamǎ/  
 153-4. grandfather /ʔaphó/  
 153-5. grandmother /ʔaphwá/  
 153-6. uncle /phǎjí/ (older than parent), /ʔú/ ~ /yí/ (younger than parent)  
 153-7. aunt /cǐjí/ (older than parent), /dò/ (younger than parent)  
 154. son /tǎ/  
 155. daughter /tǎmí/  
 155-1. grandchild /myé/  
 156. elder brother /ʔakò/, /nǎu/  
 156-a. elder sister /ʔamǎ/  
 156-b. brothers and sisters /jìnamǎ/  
 156-c. brothers /jìnakò/ (not /jìʔakò/)
- 156-d. sisters /jìnamǎ/  
 157. younger brother /jì/ (brother of a male speaker), /mǎu/ (brother of a female speaker) Note: Some speakers use /mǎu/ instead of /jì/.  
 157-a. younger sister /jìmǎ/  
 157-1. brother in law /yaphǎ/  
 157-2. sister in law /mayí/  
 157-3. nephew /tù/  
 157-4. niece /tùmǎ/  
 157-5. cousin /tawúgwé/  
 158. husband /lǐ/  
 159. wife /mayá/  
 159-1. daughter-in-law /chwémǎ/  
 159-2. son-in-law /tǎmí/  
 159-3. marry /ʔèi tǐ fiè/  
 159-3a. family /mǐtǎzǔ/  
 159-4. widow /mǒushómǎ/  
 159-5. orphan /mǐphǎmǎ tǎjè/  
 159-6. friend /tǎjèchí/  
 159-7. enemy /yǎtù/  
 159-8. host /ʔèicǐ/  
 159-9. slave /cù/  
 159-10. name /nǎmè/  
 160. village /tǒ/  
 160-1. city /myǒ/  
 160-2. market /zè/  
 161. hunt /ʔamé lai fiè/  
 162. shoot /pyǐ fiè/  
 162-1. trap /thǎuchǎu/  
 162-2. catch fish /jǎ myá fiè/  
 162-3. rich /cǐbyá cǐ fiè/  
 162-4. poor /cǐbyá ma cǐ fiǎ/  
 163. steal /khó fiè/  
 163-1. rob /lǔ fiè/  
 163-2. rice-field /lèbyǐ/  
 163-3. field /yǎ/  
 164. to work /ʔalou lou fiè/  
 165. take a rest /ná fiè/  
 165-1. plow /thù fiè/, /thè thó fiè/  
 165-2. plant seed /myózcé fiè/  
 165-3. reap (paddy) /yèi fiè/  
 165-3a. plant (paddy) /sǎi fiè/  
 166. peel /nwé fiè/  
 166-1. knit /yǐ fiè/  
 166-2. spin thread /chè jǐ fiè/  
 166-3. weave /yǐkǎ yǐ fiè/  
 167. go /tǒ fiè/  
 168. come /là fiè/  
 168-1. return /pyǎ fiè/  
 168-2. remain /cǎ fiè/  
 168-3. follow /lǎi fiè/  
 169. go out /thwǐ fiè/  
 170. enter /wǐ fiè/  
 171. to be bent /kǎu fiè/  
 171-1. spin /lè fiè/  
 171-1a. rotate /pǎ fiè/  
 171-2. to be lost /lǎ má fiè/  
 171-3. arrive /yau fiè/  
 172. stop /yǎ fiè/  
 172-1. go beyond /cò fiè/  
 172-1a. cross /kú fiè/  
 173. walk /lǎ cǎu fiè/  
 174. run /pyé fiè/  
 175. fast /myǎ fiè/  
 176. slow /sélé fiè/  
 177. crawl /twá fiè/  
 177-1. ride /sí fiè/  
 177-2. carry /yùshǎu fiè/  
 177-3. take away /yùshǎu tǒ fiè/  
 177-4. bring /yùshǎu là fiè/  
 178. road /lǎ/  
 178-1. halfway /lǎ tawǐ/  
 179. bridge /dadá/  
 179-1. to travel /khayǐ tǒ fiè/



180. carriage /lé/  
 181. wheel /béi/  
 182. boat, ship /lè/, /t̃íphó/  
 182-1. paddle /lòdɿ/  
 182-2. row a boat /lè lò fiè/  
 182-3. sail /ywi/  
 183. language /zagá/  
 184. speak /pyó fiè/  
 185. say /pyó fiè/  
 185-1. quiet /jèi fiè/  
 186. ask /mé fiè/  
 186-1. answer /pyà pyó fiè/  
 186-2. folktale /pòu/  
 186-3. tell a lie /lèi fiè/  
 186-4. truth /ʔamà/  
 186-5. letter, alphabet /sàlòu/  
 186-6. write /yé fiè/  
 186-7. read /pha fiè/  
 186-8. paper /sikù/  
 186-9. point at /pyà fiè/  
 187. call /khò fiè/  
 187-1. command /mà fiè/, /sè fiè/  
 187-2. mark /dazɛi/  
 189. play /kázá fiè/  
 190. sing /t̃achí shò fiè/  
 191. dance /kǎ fiè/  
 192. give /pé fiè/  
 192-1. get /yǎ fiè/  
 192-2. sell /yǎu fiè/  
 192-3. buy /wè fiè/  
 192-4. borrow /há fiè/  
 192-5. borrow (money) /ché fiè/  
 192-6. send /pǒ fiè/  
 193. meet /twě fiè/  
 194. wait /sǎu fiè/  
 194-1. mimic /ʔatù khò hè/  
 194-2. praise /chémú fiè/  
 194-3. scold /shé fiè/  
 194-4. deceive /lèi fiè/  
 195. strike /yǎi fiè/  
 195-1. request /táu fiè/  
 195-2. help /kùnì fiè/  
 196. bite /kai fiè/  
 197. take /yù fiè/  
 198. hold /kài fiè/  
 199. grasp /shou fiè/  
 200. release /lɿ fiè/  
 201. throw /pyi fiè/  
 201-1. discard /wé pyi fiè/  
 202. touch /thǐ fiè/  
 203. rub /pɿ fiè/  
 204. wave /lou fiè/  
 204-a. shake /lou fiè/  
 205. push /tú fiè/  
 205-a. push a switch /nei fiè/  
 206. pull /shwé fiè/  
 207. squeeze /ɲi fiè/  
 207-1. carry on shoulder /thǎ fiè/  
 208. carry on back /góu pò fiè/  
 209. kick /kǎ fiè/  
 210. stamp on /ní fiè/  
 210-1. use /t̃óu fiè/  
 210-2. to be lost /pyau fiè/  
 211. conceal /çò fiè/  
 211-1. put back /t̃éi fiè/  
 212. seek /çà fiè/  
 213. find /myì fiè/  
 214. show /pyǎ dè/  
 215. put /thá fiè/, /t̃i fiè/ (load)  
 215-1. wrap /thou fiè/  
 215-2. unfold /phyǎ fiè/  
 215-3. hang /chei fiè/  
 215-4. put in /thě fiè/  
 215-5. take out /thou fiè/, /yùthou fiè/  
 216. collect /t̃éi há fiè/ cf. save money /cíbyá sǔ fiè/  
 217. make /lou fiè/  
 218. break(vt) /phyi fiè/  
 219. repair /pyì fiè/  
 220. to be torn /sou fiè/  
 221. bend /kwé fɿi fiè/  
 222. break (as stick) /chó fiè/  
 223. wash /shé fiè/ (as dish), /çò fiè/ (as shirt), /t̃i fiè/ (face)  
 224. roll /lei fiè/  
 225. tie /chè fiè/  
 226. untie /phyi fiè/  
 227. cover /ʔou fiè/  
 228. swell /pháu fiè/  
 228-2. paste /ka fiè/  
 228-3. tear off /khwà fiè/, /khwàthou fiè/  
 228-4. pull out /nou fiè/  
 229. pierce /thó fiè/  
 230. cut /phyǎ fiè/ (as string), /khou fiè/ (as wood), /ɲa fiè/ (as paper)  
 231. mix /yó fiè/  
 232. dig /tú fiè/  
 233. do /lou fiè/  
 233-1. begin /sǎ fiè/  
 233-2. to be finished /pí fiè/  
 233-3. continue /shɿ lou fiè/  
 233-4. discontinue /phyǎ fiè/  
 234. move /ywe fiè/  
 234-1. slip and fall down /chó lé cǎ fiè/ (not /chò/  
 234-2. fall down /lé cǎ fiè/  
 234-3. get together /sǔ fiè/  
 235. jump /khòu fiè/  
 236. ascend /t̃i fiè/  
 237. descend /shí fiè/  
 238. fall /cǎ fiè/  
 239. wet /sò fiè/  
 240. dry /twě fiè/  
 240-1. compare /nǎiçì fiè/  
 240-2. choose /ywe fiè/  
 240-3. get used /ʔaci phyi nè

- fiè/  
 240-4. repair /pyì fiè/  
 240-5. hurry /gadágamá lou  
 shàu fíó fiè/  
 240-6. change /pyáú fiè/  
 240-7. be good at /tò fiè/  
 241. think /sízá fiè/  
 242. know /tí fiè/  
 242-1. understand /ná lè fiè/  
 242-2. remember /mămí fiè/  
 243. forget /mè fiè/  
 243-1. remind /tādī yǎ fiè/  
 244. teach /tǐ fiè/  
 244-1. learn /tǐ fiè/  
 245. fear /cəu fiè/  
 245-1. surprised /ʔǎʔá tǐ fiè/  
 246. like /cəi fiè/  
 246-1. dislike /ma cəi fiǎ/  
 247. glad /wú tà fiè/  
 247-1. sad /wú né fiè/  
 247-2. suspect /ma yòu fiǎ/  
 247-3. believe /yòu fiè/  
 248. angry /sej pəu fiè/  
 248-1. forgive /khwí lə fiè/  
 248-2. ashamed /cəi fiè/  
 248-3. anxious /sej pəu fiè/  
 248-4. patient /tí khǎ fiè/  
 248-5. stupid /thòu fiè/  
 248-6. clever /lèimà fiè/  
 249. mind /sej/  
 249-1. mad /yú fiè/, /ʔóunəu  
 ywě fiè/  
 250. sky /mó/, /káugì/  
 250-1. weather /mólèwəʔǎ/  
 251. cloud /tèi/  
 252. fog /ní/  
 253. rain /mó/  
 254. thunder /mójó/  
 255. lightning /lyasi/ (not  
 /lyasí)  
 256. rainbow /títǎ/  
 257. snow /níkhé/  
 258. ice /yègè/  
 259. freeze /yè khé fiè/  
 260. melt /ʔayè pyò fiè/  
 261. sun /nè/  
 262. moon /lá/  
 263. star /cè/  
 264. light /ʔalíyǎu/  
 265. shade /ʔayei/  
 266. bright /təu fiè/  
 267. dark /məi fiè/  
 268. wind /lè/  
 269. blow /lè pəu fiè/  
 269-1. silent /tèi fiè/  
 269-2. noisy /nǎ fiè/  
 270. hot /pù fiè/  
 271. cold /ʔé fiè/  
 272. warm /pù fiè/  
 272-1. ground /myèjí/  
 273. mountain /təu/  
 273-1. hill /təugóu/  
 273-2. valley /myi/  
 274. forest /tító/  
 275. plain /kwí/  
 276. lake /yègǎ/  
 276-1. spring /sáchǎu/  
 277. river /myi/, /chǎu/  
 277-1. water /yè/  
 278. bubble /yèmyəu/  
 279. sink /nǐ fiè/  
 280. float /pò fiè/  
 280a. afloat /póusépóusé  
 phyi (~pò) nè fiè/  
 281. flow /myó shí fíó fiè/  
 281-1. waterfall /yèdagù/  
 282. shore /ká/  
 282-1. cliff /jəu/  
 283. sea /pìlè/  
 283-1. gulf /pìlèʔò/  
 283-2. cape /ʔasú/, /ʔə̀nù/  
 284. wave /lái/  
 285. island /cú/  
 286. stone /cəu/  
 286-1. rock /cəutóu/  
 287. sand /tè/  
 288. earth /myè/  
 288-1. mud /cǔ/  
 288-2. clay /cǔzé/  
 288-3. iron /tǎ/  
 288-4. gold /cwè/, /shwè/  
 288-5. silver /ɲwè/  
 288-6. copper /cé/  
 288-7. lead /khé/  
 289. tree /tǐpǐ/  
 289-1. wood /títá/  
 290. grass /myi/  
 291. trunk /pǐzì/  
 292. bark /ʔakhəu/  
 293. stem /ʔayó/  
 294. branch /ʔakái/, /ʔakhi/  
 295. leaf /ʔaywi/  
 295-1. vine /nwè/  
 295-2. thorn /shú/  
 296. flower /pǎ/  
 297. root /ʔamyi/  
 298. sprout /pəu fiè/  
 299. wither /nó fiè/  
 299-1. bamboo /wá/  
 299-2. mushroom /mò/  
 299-a. coconut /ʔóu/  
 299-b. palmyra palm /thǎ/  
 299-c. nipa palm /danǐ/  
 299-d. banana /byóʔí/  
 300. animal /talèishǎ/  
 301. bird /ɲǐ/  
 302. fish /ɲá/  
 303. insect /pógəu/  
 304. dog /khwé/  
 304-1. cat /cəu/  
 304-2. horse /myí/  
 304-3. cattle /nwá/  
 304-3a. buffalo /cwé/

- 304-4. sheep /tɔ́/ /təutě/ (gecko), /bada/
- 304-5. goat /bě/ (leiolepis), /mijǎu/
- 304-6. pig /wi/ (crocodile)
- 304-7. chicken /ci/ 311-1a. frog /phá/
- 304-8. lion /chĩtě/ 312. horn /jò/
- 304-9. tiger /cá/ 312-1. fur /ʔamwé/
- 304-10. bear /wǐwũ/ 312-2. leather /táyè/
- 304-11. wolf /wùpalwè/ 313. claw /chěté/
- 304-12. fox /myèkhwé/ 314. tail /phĩmwé/
- 304-13. deer /tamĩ/ 315. beak /nouṭí/
- 304-14. monkey /myau/ 316. wing /ʔataũ/
- 304-15. rabbit /yõu/ 317. feather /ɲimwé/
- 304-16. mouse /cwǐ/ 317-1. fin /ɲáshúdǎu/
- 304-17. elephant /shĩ/ 317-2. scale /ʔacékhu/
- 304-18. camel /kalaʔou/ 318. nest /ɲitai/
- 304-19. bat /línõ/ 319. fly /pyǎ fiè/
- 304-20. whale /wèlǎná/ 320. swim /yè kú fiè/
- 304-21. crab /kaná/ 320-1. call (as animal) /ʔò fiè/
- 304-22. shrimp /bazũ/ 320-2. lay eggs /ʔũ fiè/
305. shellfish /khayũ/ 320-3. breed, rear /mwé fiè/
- 305-1. eagle /líyõu/ 321. round /wái fiè/
- 305-2. crane /jójà/ 322. sharp /thì fiè/ (as a knife),
- 305-3. swallow /byǎlwá/ /chũ fiè/ (as a needle)
- 305-4. goose /bé/ 323. dull /tõu fiè/
- 305-5. dove, pigeon /jó/, /khò/ 323-1. flat /ɲi fiè/
- 305-6. crow /cígǎ/ 324. hole /ʔapau/
- 305-7. sparrow /sǎnè/ 325. straight /tǎ fiè/
- 305-8. butterfly /leipyà/ 325-1. line /mýjǎu/
306. ant /póywi/ 325-2. trace /ʔayà/
- 306-1. spider /píkhalu/ 325-3. corner /dǎu/
- 306-2. bee /pyá/ 325-4. thing /pyisi/, /tǐikhà/
307. mosquito /chĩ/ 326. big /cí fiè/
308. fly /yìgǎu/ 327. small /ɲè fiè/
- 308-a. cockroach /póhǎ/ 328. long /cè fiè/
309. flea /tǎ/ 329. short /tò fiè/
310. louse /tǎ/ 330. thick /thù fiè/
311. snake /mwè/ 331. thin /pá fiè/
- 311-1. reptiles /ʔèimyǎu/ 332. color /ʔayǎu/
- (house lizard), /phu/ 333. red /nì fiè/
- (monitor lizard), 334. blue /pyà fiè/
- /phuǎkhǎu/ (chameleon), 335. yellow /wà fiè/
336. green /séi fiè/
337. white /phyũ fiè/
338. black /mé fiè/
- 338-1. paint /tɔu fiè/
- 338-2. dye /ʔayǎu shó fiè/
339. sound /ʔatǎ/
340. smell /ʔanǎ/
- 340-1. rude /yǎi fiè/
- 340-2. kind /tǎbó kǎu fiè/
- 340-3. compassionate /tǎná fiè/
- 340-4. brave /yé fiè/
- 340-5. coward /ma yé fiǎ/
- 340-6. honest /yó fiè/
- 340-7. sly /ʔaci yõu fiè/
- 340-8. lazy /pyí fiè/
341. strong /ʔá cí fiè/, /ʔá kǎu fiè/
342. weak /ʔá né fiè/
343. right /mǎ fiè/
- 343-a. false /ywi fiè/
344. good /kǎu fiè/
345. bad /shó fiè/
- 345-1. easy /lwè fiè/
- 345-2. difficult /khi fiè/
- 345-3. dangerous /ʔǎdayè cí fiè/
- 345-4. tight /cǎ fiè/
- 345-5. loose /chǎu fiè/
346. smooth /chó fiè/
- 346-1. rough /cǎ fiè/
347. old /hǎu fiè/
348. new /tǐ fiè/
349. beautiful /lǎ fiè/
- 349-1. ugly /yõu shó fiè/
350. clean /tǎcǐ fiè/
351. dirty /ɲipǎ fiè/
352. hard /mǎ fiè/
353. soft /pyǎ fiè/
- 353-1. place /nèyà/
354. front /cè/
355. back /nau/
- 355-1. beside /nabé/

356. between /jǎ/  
 356-1. center /ʔalè/  
 357. upside /ʔathj/  
 358. downside /ʔau/  
 359. inside /ʔathé/  
 360. outside /ʔapyì/  
 361. right /nàphi/  
 362. left /bèphi/  
 363. tip /ʔasú/  
 363-1. circumference /papalè/  
 364. near /ní fiè/  
 365. far /wé fiè/  
 366. high /myí fiè/  
 367. low /něi fiè/  
 368. deep /ni fiè/  
 369. shallow /tèi fiè/  
 370. wide /cè fiè/  
 371. narrow /cí fiè/  
 372. together /túdú/  
 373. full /pyè fiè/  
 374. empty /háuláu/  
 375. direction /ʔayamyinà/  
 375-1. east /ʔačè/  
 375-2. west /ʔanau/  
 375-3. south /tǎu/  
 375-4. north /myǎu/  
 375-5. dawn /cjtù/  
 376. morning /mólí/, /sózónǎ/  
 377. daytime /něnǎ/  
 378. evening /nǎnèǎ/, /nèʔéǎ/  
 379. night /nǎǎ/  
 379-a. dusk /tǎishà/  
 380. early /sǎ fiè/  
 381. late /nǎu cǎ fiè/  
 382. now /khǎ bǎ/  
 382-1. immediately /chichí/  
 383. before /ʔayì/  
 384. afterwards /nǎu/  
 385. always /ʔamyébǎ/  
 386. often /dadádǎ/  
 386-a. frequently /pácépácé/ /khanjkhǎ/, 8 /çjkhǎ/, 9 /kókhǎ/, 10 /shèkhǎ/  
 386-1. sometimes /khàlèkhà/, /shèkhàtakhà/  
 387. today /dènǎ/, /dèkhanǎ/  
 388. yesterday /hǎu manǎ fiǎ/  
 389. tomorrow /mólítǎi/  
 390. everyday /yitǎi/  
 391. day /ně/  
 391-1. week /ʔapa/  
 391-2. month /lǎ/  
 392. year /ni/  
 392-1. age /ʔatj/  
 392-2. hot season /nwèkàlǎ/  
 392-3. rainy season /mókàlǎ/  
 392-4. cool season /shǎukàlǎ/  
 393. count /yè fiè/  
 394. one /tj/  
 395. two /né/  
 396. three /tǎu/  
 397. four /lé/  
 398. five /ǎǎ/  
 399. six /chǎu/  
 400. seven /khanj/  
 401. eight /çj/  
 402. nine /kó/  
 403. ten /tashè/  
 403-1. eleven /shǎtj/  
 403-2. twelve /shǎné/  
 404. twenty /něshè/  
 404-1. twenty-one /něshètj/  
 405. one hundred /tayǎ/  
 405-1. one hundred one /tayǎ fiǎ tj/  
 405-11. one thousand /tathǎu/  
 405-14. ten thousand /taǎǎu/  
 406. time /ʔakhà/  
 406-1. numeral classifiers for objects (one thing to ten things): 1 /takhǎ/, 2 /někhǎ/, 3 /tǎukhǎ/, 4 /lékhǎ/, 5 /ǎǎkhǎ/, 6 /chǎukhǎ/, 7 /khanjkhǎ/, 8 /çjkhǎ/, 9 /kógǎu/, 10 /shègǎu/  
 406-2. numeral classifiers for animals (one to ten animals): 1 /dagǎu/, 2 /nékǎu/, 3 /tǎugǎu/, 4 /légǎu/, 5 /ǎǎgǎu/, 6 /chǎukǎu/, 7 /khanjkǎu/, 8 /çjkǎu/, 9 /kógǎu/, 10 /shègǎu/  
 406-3. each one /takhǎ chí/  
 406-4. first /pǎthamǎ/  
 406-5. second /dǎtǎyǎ/  
 406-6. third /tǎdiyǎ/  
 406-7. last /nǎushǎu/, /nǎupeiché/  
 406-8. alone /tayǎuthé/, /dagǎudé/  
 407. all /ʔǎlǎu/  
 407-1. everyone /lùdǎi/, /yǎutǎi/  
 408. half /tawj/  
 408-2. one fourth /lébòudabòu/  
 408-3. both things /někhǎlǎu/  
 408-4. weigh /chǎi fiè/  
 409. heavy /lé fiè/  
 410. light /pǎ fiè/  
 411. much /dabòu bǎ/  
 412. few /né fiè/  
 412-1. increase /myǎ là fiè/  
 412-2. decrease /né là fiè/  
 413. I /ǎǎ/  
 414. we /dǎ/  
 415. thou /nǎ/, /mǎ/  
 416. ye /nǎlǎ/, /mǎlǎ/  
 417. he, she /tǎ/  
 418. they /tǎlǎ/  
 419. oneself /kò/  
 419-1. by oneself /kòzàkò/  
 420. this one /dè/, /dèhǎ/,

- /dèzà/, /dɔ̀sà/  
 421. that one /həuhà/, /həusà/  
 421-2. this+N ‘/dè/+N’ Note:  
 There is no counterpart  
 for Standard Burmese  
 demonstrative /ʔédi/. In  
 contexts where Standard  
 Burmese uses /ʔédi/,  
 Myeik uses /dè/.  
 421-3. that+N ‘/həu/+N’  
 421-5. like this /dèmyó/  
 421-6. like that /həumyó/  
 422. here /dè mà/  
 423. there /həu mà/  
 423-2. to here /dè fiò/  
 423-3. to there /həu fiò/  
 424. who /phè tù/  
 425. what /bɔ̀sà/  
 426. which /phè hà/  
 427. how /phè myó/  
 428. where /phè mà/  
 428-1. to where /phè fiò/  
 428-2. why /bɔ̀sà phȳi fī/  
 429. when /phèkhà fī/,  
 /phèkhàdóu fī/ (past),  
 /phèkhà/ (future)  
 430. how many pieces  
 /phèmyá khǔ/  
 430-1. how much /phaləu/,  
 /phèləu/  
 430-2. something /takhǔkhǔ/  
 431. some /tachǒ/  
 431-1. very /tawǎ/  
 431-1a. a little /dɪ̄nè/, /dadɪ̄nè/  
 431-2. best /ʔa kǎu shǒu/  
 431-3. not good *at all*  
 /(da)dǐ lé ma kǎu fī/  
 432. again /nəukhà/  
 433. It is *still* there. /cǐ tɛ̀ fiè/  
 433-a. It will be *still* there.  
 /cǐ mèn nèn mèn/  
 434. It is *no longer* there. /ma  
 cǐ bi/  
 434-1. each other /chíchílélé/  
 435. *if* it is so /dè myó shò fià/  
 436. to /fiò/  
 437. *till* now /khǔ thǐ/  
 438. from /fī/  
 439, 440. in, at /mà/  
 441. with (someone) /fī/  
 442. and /fī/  
 443. Mother’s shop /mèmè  
 shǎi/  
 444. also /fié bǐ/  
 445. (better) *than* this /dè thǐ/  
 446. with (something) /fī/  
 446-1. *Only* he went. /tù bǐ  
 tó fiè/  
 446-2. She *is* Merguian. /tù  
 bēitù bǐ/  
 447. not ‘/ma/+V+/fī’  
 447-1. Don’t go. /ma tó fī/  
 447-2. *Is it* good? /kǎu là/  
 447-3. He said *that* it was  
 there. (quotation) /cǐ fiè  
 shò pyó fiè/  
 448. I didn’t go, *because* it  
 was rainy. /mó ywà fī ma  
 tǔ fī/  
 449. *Although* it was rainy,  
 I went. /mó ywà fié bǐ tǔ  
 fiè/  
 450. I *ordered* him to go. /tǔ  
 fiò tǔ khǎi fiè/, /tǔ fiò tǔ fiò  
 sè fī fiè/  
 451. I *was hit*. (passive) /ȳai  
 khǎ thǐ fiè/  
 452. I *want* to eat. /sá chǐ fiè/  
 453. exist /cǐ fiè/  
 454. capable /tǎ fiè/  
 454-1. I have a car. /ŋǎ mà  
 ká cǐ fiè/  
 455. same /túdù bǐ/ (regard-  
 ing color or shape), /cǐcǐ  
 bǐ/ (regarding size)  
 455-1. alike /tù fiè/  
 456. *another* house /tachá ʔèi/  
 457. *for* children /tǎnè fiò/  
 457-1. *as much as* this /dè ləu/  
 457-2. Do *as* the teacher  
 does. /shayà myó ləu/  
 457-3. I *must* go. /tǔ yá mèn/  
 457-4. yes /ʔí/, /həukǐ/

### Abbreviations

1, 2, 3: first, second, and third person

EMP: emphasis

NC: numeral classifier

NMZ: nominalizer

PL: plural

REAL: realis modality

SB: Standard Burmese

SG: singular

SFP: sentence final particle

VSM: verb sentence marker

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