

# **DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SPOKEN MYANMAR AND WRITTEN MYANMAR IN SOME USAGE**

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## **Abstract**

This paper present some usage of Myanmar that is different between spoken Myanmar and written Myanmar. This problem is focussed by Hayes and Flower's theory of three interrelated process involved in writing. Myanmar people speak so fast but when they write, they are fond of using very formal usage.

## **Introduction**

Myanmar derived from Tibeto-Chinese family of languages. The significance of the Myanmar language is its use of tones because high and low tones determine different meaning of words. To foreign students, who are studying the Myanmar language at the basic level, the differences between spoken and written Myanmar are difficult. If they understand these differences, they will find it easier to learn the Myanmar language.

## 1. The relationship between spoken Myanmar and written Myanmar

There are differences between the production of spoken and that of written language. To the native speaker, it is evident that errors and pauses are found to occur in the spoken language, but they are not found in written language.

Writing is a symbolic way of representing speech and as such it is secondary to speech.

### 1.1 Hypothesis

Myanmar people speak so fast but when they write, they are fond of using very formal usage.

### 1.2 Prediction

An important theory which looks at the writing process is that of Hayes and Flower(1986). They identified three interrelated processes involved in writing.

- (1) **The planning process** – involves the production and arrangement of ideas in a way that will achieve the writer's goal.
- (2) **The sentence generation process** - converts the plan into the written word.
- (3) **The revision process** – involves evaluating what has been written. This could involve single words, or the whole structure.

These processes indicate the general order involved in writing, although there can be recapping to an earlier stage at any point.<sup>1</sup>

According to this theory, in written Myanmar, we use the systematic usage which is more formal than spoken Myanmar.

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<sup>1</sup> Davies, 1999, 685.

## 2. Making data analysis

Language is as ancient as mankind. Writing is a modern invention. When the differences between spoken and written Myanmar are observed, it is found that there are two parts of usage. They are

- (1) Noun marking particles and Verb marking particles
- (2) Adjectival particles

### 2.1 Noun marking particles and Verb marking particles

Noun marking particles and Verb marking particles are the particles which is the bound form unit of the Noun and the Verb. Some usage of Noun marking particles are |gə'| (က) and |-gə|(ကို) in spoken Myanmar and |hma'| (မှ), |-ði| (သည်), |-dwɪ| (တွင်), |hnaiʔ| (၌), |ðo'| (သို့) in written Myanmar. Some usage of verb marking particles are |-dɛ| (တယ်) and |-mɛ| (မယ်) in spoken Myanmar and |-ði| (သည်), |-mji| (မည်) in written Myanmar. In that, |-dɛ| (တယ်) and |-ði| (သည်) show present and past tense and |-mɛ| (မယ်) and |-mji| (မည်) show future tense.

#### Spoken Myanmar

N.M.P- က |gə'|

N.M.P- က |gə'|

N.M.P- က |gə'|

N.M.P- က |gə'|

N.M.P- ကို |-gə|

V.M.P- တယ် |-dɛ|

V.M.P- မယ် |-mɛ|

#### Written Myanmar

သည် |-ði|

မှ |hma'|

တွင် |-dwɪ|

၌ |hnaiʔ|

သို့ |ðo'|

သည် |-ði|

မည် |-mji|

e.g,

**Spoken Myanmar**

**Written Myanmar**

၁။ အေးအေးက လှတယ်။

အေးအေးသည် လှသည်။

Aye Aye is beautiful.

၂။ သူရန်ကုန်က လာတယ်။

သူရန်ကုန်မှ လာသည်။

He comes from Yangon.

၃။ သူ မနက်က ဘောလုံး ကစားတယ်။

သူမနက်တွင်ဘောလုံးကစားသည်။

He plays football in the morning.

၄။ ဈေးက စာအုပ်ဝယ်မယ်။

ဈေးတွင် စာအုပ်ဝယ်မည်။

I will buy a book at the market.

၅။ စာသင်ခန်းက စောင့်ပါ။

စာသင်ခန်း၌ စောင့်ပါ။

Wait in the classroom.

၆။ မေမေ(က) ပြည်ကို သွားတယ်။

မေမေသည်ပြည်သို့သွားသည်။

Mother went to Pyay.

၇။ မေမေ(က) ပြည်ကို သွားမယ်။

မေမေသည် ပြည်သို့သွားမည်။

Mother will go to Pyay.

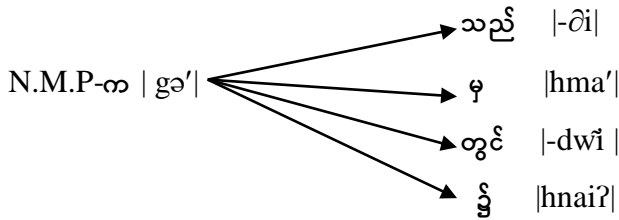
၈။ ကျွန်တော်ကျောင်းကို လမ်းလျှောက်သွားမယ်။ ကျွန်တော်ကျောင်းသို့ လမ်းလျှောက်သွားမည်။

I go to school on foot.

In Myanmar, sometimes, noun marking particle the |gə'| ( က ) is omitted in spoken language. In English, its spoken and written language are the same. In spoken Myanmar, |gə'| ( က ) have three different meaning. First |gə'| ( က ) shows subject, second |gə'| ( က ) shows departure and third |gə'| ( က ) shows time and place.

**Spoken Myanmar**

**Written Myanmar**



In that, တွင် |-dwĩ| represents wide time and place and နှင့် |hnai?| represents narrow or specific time and place.

**Spoken Myanmar**

**Written Myanmar**

ဈေးက စာအုပ်ဝယ်မယ်။

ဈေးတွင် စာအုပ်ဝယ်မည်။

I will buy a book at the market.

စာသင်ခန်းက စောင့်ပါ။

စာသင်ခန်း၌ စောင့်ပါ။

Wait in the classroom.

သူမနက် ၈ နာရီက စာဖတ်တယ်။

သူမနက် ၈ နာရီ၌ စာဖတ်သည်။

He reads at 8:00 a.m.

သူ မနက်က ဘောလုံး ကစားတယ်။

သူမနက်တွင်ဘောလုံးကစားသည်။

He plays football in the morning.

### 2.2 Adjectival particle

Adjectival particle is the bound form unit of the adjective. Some usage of adjectival particle is | dε' | ( တဲ့ ) in spoken Myanmar and | ၀ိ ၀ | ( သော ), | ၀ိ' | ( သည့် ) in written Myanmar.

#### Spoken Myanmar

တဲ့ | dε' |

#### Written Myanmar

သော | ၀ိ ၀ |

သည့် | ၀ိ' |

e.g,

#### Spoken Myanmar

မောင်မောင်က လိမ္မာတဲ့ ကျောင်းသားဖြစ်တယ်။

#### Written Myanmar

မောင်မောင်သည် လိမ္မာသော ကျောင်းသား ဖြစ်သည်။

မောင်မောင်သည် လိမ္မာသည့် ကျောင်းသားဖြစ်သည်။

Mg Mg is a well-behaved student.

#### Spoken Myanmar

မိုးမိုးက လှတဲ့ မိန်းကလေးဖြစ်တယ်။

#### Written Myanmar

မိုးမိုးက လှသော မိန်းကလေးဖြစ်သည်။

မိုးမိုးက လှသည့် မိန်းကလေးဖြစ်သည်။

Moe Moe is a beautiful girl.

In the above examples, spoken Myanmar and written Myanmar are not the same in some usage. Spoken Myanmar is more faster than writing. So, some examples of the particle usage in spoken Myanmar က |gə'| ကို |gə|, တယ် |-dɛ|, မယ် |-mɛ|, တဲ့ |dɛ'| change to သည် |-ði|, မှ |hma'|, တွင် |-dwɪ|, နှို |hnai?|, သို့ |ðo'|, သည် |-ði|, မည် |-mji|, သော |ðə|, သည် |ði'| in written Myanmar.

### Conclusion

In spoken Myanmar, noun marking particle က |gə'| changes to သည် |-ði|, မှ |hma'|, တွင် |-dwɪ|, နှို |hnai?| in written Myanmar. Similarly, ကို |gə|, တယ် |-dɛ|, မယ် |-mɛ|, တဲ့ |dɛ'| change to သို့ |ðo'|, သည် |-ði|, မည် |-mji|, သော |ðə|, သည် |ði'| in written Myanmar.

When foreign students at basic level do the exercise, that is, “Change spoken Myanmar to written Myanmar or Change written Myanmar to spoken Myanmar”, they are not familiar with to Myanmar Language and it is difficult for them. If they will know the differences between spoken Myanmar and written Myanmar, it is very easy to learn Myanmar Language.

As a result, Myanmar people speak so fast but when they write, they are fond of very formal usage.

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