

CBI Burmese Lesson Proposal

A Lesson Based on a Video Report of the Yangon Night Market

For Fall 2017

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Lesson Plan

Target level: Late beginning or early intermediate

Language objective

- By the end of the lesson, students will add the following words to their food-related vocabulary.
 - မြန်မာရိုးရာအစားအစာ (Traditional Burmese food)
 - မုန့်စိမ်းပေါင်း (Spongy rice cake)
 - မုန့်ကျွဲသည်း (Dark sticky rice cake)
 - ကျောက်ကျော (Jelly)
 - ကြက်သားကောက်ညှင်းထုပ် (Chicken-stuffed sticky rice cake)
 - ဝက်သားကောက်ညှင်းထုပ် (Pork-stuffed sticky rice cake)
 - တရုတ်အစားအစာ (Chinese food)
 - ရှမ်းခေါက်ဆွဲ (Shan noodle)
 - ဆီကျက် (Yunnan-style noodle with minced meat)
 - ပလာတာ (Paratha)
 - ဒိန်ချဉ် (Yogurt drink)
 - ဝင်ဆွဲ (to eat, *slang*, literally to jump in and snatch)
 - ဝါးတီး (to eat, *slang*, literally to chew and beat up)
 - စပ်စု (to be nosey)
 - ဝက်သားတုတ်ထိုး (roast pork on stick)

- Students will know how to use the slang words *Win Swe* and *Wah Tee* to talk about eating.
- Students will know how to use the following structures to talk about objects that exist in a certain place.
 - ... တွေကတော့ ... အများဆုံးတွေ့ရတယ်။ (Along ..., the most commonly available items are ...)
 - ... စတဲ့... တွေလည်းရှိတယ်။ (There are ... such as ...)

Content objective

- Students will be able to talk about Burmese street food culture in basic terms.

Background

In late 2016, by the order of Yangon Regional Minister U Phyo Min Thein, several independent outdoor markets scattered across the city were relocated to a designated area around Strand Road, near Yangon Harbor. The move was expected to address the traffic congestions and unregulated commerce that stemmed from these markets. (*Myanmar Times* report on the launch of the new market: <http://www.mmmtimes.com/index.php/national-news/yangon/23863-yangon-s-new-night-market-open-for-business.html>)

In the video report below, Yangon resident Moe Moe Lay visited the now consolidated night market and offered a first-person account of the sights, sounds, and smell along Strand Road.

https://youtu.be/h_yAOiyayQ

Transcript of the video in English translation

Greetings!

Welcome to the Chow Down program!

Today, for our chow down, we came out to the night market. The market is lively, like a festival. Audience, come along for a visit, OK?

Oh, the mood along Harbor Road is, like—each shop in its own place, row after row. My guess is, there must be more than a hundred shops. Oh, so many others are coming here to chow down, just like me!

The fruit stands here seem even more numerous than what used to be in Chinatown. The market begins at Mawtin Harbor Road; it stretches all the way to Pansoedan Harbor Road.

The food includes traditional Burmese street food, like Moke Sein Baung [spongy cakes topped with shredded coconut], Moke Kywe Thae [dark jelly], Kyauk Kyaw [colored jelly], and more.

Chinese food items like sticky rice packages with chicken and pork, then pork and chicken stew, Shan noodle, and Laphet [tealeaf salad] shops—those are the most common here.

By the way, there's a shop that sells Indian food too. The start of Latha Road is full of people dining out.

The one shop that sells seafood exclusively is, "Good Evening." They even have rock shrimps here.

Also here are Paratha shops and yogurt shops. These fritters stuffed with meat are very famous. I join the others and chow down here.

Shopkeeper's voice: *Papaya here!*

Let's get a bit nosy and talk to the vendors.

Vendor's voice: *Business is good! Why? This side – well, over there [at the old spot] it was crowded. On this side, it's more relaxed, easy to walk, no cars. You can go in and eat at any shop.*

Diner's voice: *I came from the office. Lots of food here! I saw it on Facebook. I came out here because I want to take a stroll. It's all gathered here in a single spot. So I can find and eat whatever I want to eat in one shot. I saw roast pork on skewer, Burmese sweets—everything. I used to eat lots of skewered pork and Shan noodle. So many types of fruits too.*

Because this is right after work, office workers stop here on the way home too, as this young lady says.

Diner's voice: *This is my first time. The price is a bit higher than before. Not as easy to find things as before, so many shops are here, so we had to look for stuff. I like them all. I usually find what I want here. I used to eat at this shop even before [they relocated here].*

Well, I've taken a stroll, ate, and gotten nosy a bit too. As you can see, the shops that used to be scattered around Chinatown are all assembled here now. The night market along Harbor Road is quite lively. Thanks for watching, audience! Farewell!

End.

Pre-lesson activities

Activate students' existing knowledge on the topic

- Show printed posters, flyers, and still shots from TV shows like *Bizarre Foods* (Travel Channel, hosted by Andrew Zimmern) and *Parts Unknown* (CNN, hosted by Anthony Bourdain), where the host often visit local night markets and sample regional delicacies.
- Ask students what kind of shows these are.
- Ask if they have ever visited some of the places featured in the shows.
- Ask if they've ever ate or tried some of the food featured in these shows.

Identify the purpose

- Tell them today's lesson will introduce them to the names of some popular Burmese street food, and give them some basic sentence patterns to talk about food.

Invoke students' anticipation

Watch the video *without* narration for the first two minutes uninterrupted, then ask students:

- What type of food did they see?
- Are these the type of food and snacks they expected to find in Southeast Asian night markets?
- What food items would they like to try?

Watch the video *without* narration for another two minutes uninterrupted, then ask students:

- What time of day do they think it is?
- What type of people do the patrons look like (housewives, students, office workers)?
- Do they look like they approve of the new location of the market?

Main activity

SKIMMING

Play the video again with narration, then ask them the following:

- What type of food did they see?
- Are these the type of food and snacks they expected to find in Southeast Asian night markets?
- What food items would they like to try?
- What time of day do they think it is?
- What type of people do the patrons look like (housewives, students, office workers)?
- Do they look like they approve of the new location of the market?

SCANNING

Play the video again, but this time:

- Pause the video at 0:19 to ask what the narrator compares the night market to. (**Answer:** It's like a festival.)
- Pause the video at 0:38 to ask the narrator's estimate of the number of shops. (**Answer:** More than 100)
- Pause the video at 0:58 to ask students the snack items the narrator has just called out. (**Answer:** Spongy rice cake, dark sticky rice cake, and jelly)
- Pause the video at 1:43 to ask students the name of the shop the narrator has just identified. (**Answer:** Good Evening)
- Pause the video at 1:50 to ask students what shops the narrator has just passed. (**Answer:** Paratha and yogurt drink shops)
- Pause the video at 2:04 to ask students how the narrator talks about eating. (**Answer:** *Win swe, and wah tee*, slang words for eating)
- Pause the video at 2:26 to ask what the narrator says she's about to do. (**Answer:** Get nosey, get inquisitive)
- Pause the video at 3:17 to ask students what food the diner says she ate. (**Answer:** roast pork on stick.)

Language exercise

- Replay the video again. Ask the students to pay attention to the printed vocabulary list this time. Ask them to raise their hand whenever they think they hear or see one of the following words or food items. If they correctly identify an item, cross it off the list.
 - မြန်မာရိုးရာအစားအစာ (Traditional Burmese food)

- မုန့်စိမ်းပေါင်း (Spongy rice cake)
- မုန့်ကျွဲသည်း (Dark sticky rice cake)
- ကျောက်ကျော (Jelly)
- ကြက်သားကောက်ညှင်းထုပ် (Chicken-stuffed sticky rice cake)
- ဝက်သားကောက်ညှင်းထုပ် (Pork-stuffed sticky rice cake)
- တရုတ်အစားအစာ (Chinese food)
- ရှမ်းခေါက်ဆွဲ (Shan noodle)
- ဆီကျက် (Yunnan-style noodle with minced meat)
- ပလာတာ (Paratha)
- ဒိန်ချဉ် (Yogurt drink)
- ဝင်ဆွဲ (to eat, slang, literally to jump in and snatch)
- ဝါးတီး (to eat, slang, literally to chew and beat up)
- စပ်စု (to be nosey)
- ဝက်သားတုတ်ထိုး (roast pork on stick)

- Replay clip to observe the narrator's use of the following sentences:
 - ... တွေကတော့ ဈေးတန်းတစ်လျှောက် အများဆုံးတွေ့ရတယ်။ (Along the night market, the most commonly available items are ...)
 - ... စတဲ့ မုန့်တွေလည်းရှိတယ်။ (There are snacks such as ...)
 - ... ပွဲဈေးတန်းလိုပဲ။ (... is like a festival!)
 - ... ဆိုင်ခန်းပေါင်း ရာကျော်လောက်ရှိမယ်။ (... the total number of shops must be more than a hundred.)
 - ဆိုင်နာမည်ကတော့ ... တဲ့။ (The name of the shop is ...)

Ask the students to fill the blanks in the following sentences:

- _____ တွေကတော့ ဈေးတန်းတစ်လျှောက် အများဆုံးတွေ့ရတယ်။
(Along the night market, the most commonly available items are _____.)
- _____ စတဲ့ မုန့်တွေလည်းရှိတယ်။ (There are snacks such as _____.)
- ဈေးက _____ လိုပဲ။ (The market is like a _____.)
- ဆိုင်ခန်းပေါင်း _____ လောက်ရှိမယ်။ (The total number of shops must be about _____.)

○ ဆိုင်နာမည်ကတော့ _____ တဲ့။ (The name of the shop is _____)

- Ask students to talk about the most common items found in their neighborhood farmers' market or cafeteria. To answer, they may use: ... တွေကတော့ farmers' market/cafeteria တစ်လျှောက် အများဆုံးတွေ့ရတယ်။ (Along the farmers' market/cafeteria, the most commonly found items are ...)
- Ask students to identify the names of some restaurants and cafes nearby. To answer, they may use: ဆိုင်နာမည်ကတော့ ... တဲ့။ (The name of the shop is ...)
- Ask students to guess the total number of cafes, bookshops, florists, or ice cream shops. To answer, they may use: ဆိုင်ခန်းပေါင်း လောက်ရှိမယ်။ (The total number of shops must be about ____.)

Post-lesson activities

- Visit a local farmers' market or food truck parking place with students
- Record a similar video report with the students' own Burmese narration
- Discuss pros and cons of street food culture