A Study of the usage ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’ in Myanmar Language

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Introduction
Myanmar language is derived from Tibeto-Chinese family of languages. Myanmar language is tone language because high and low tones determine different meanings of words. Besides Myanmar Language has sayings, proverbs and metaphors like other languages. The usage of ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’ is the metaphor of Myanmar Language.

Objectives
1. To know what is the root of the usage ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’ and in which social situation it can be used.
2. To apply for foreign students who are studying Myanmar Language

Hypothesis
Myanmar people use the usage ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’ in suitable social situation which is like a circle.

1. Background of problem
Myanmar people are used to the usage ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’ in suitable social situations. It is a metaphor of Myanmar Language.

In that,

Metaphor is a word or phrase which is used for special effect, and which does not have its usual or literal meaning.¹

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A metaphor that is extended throughout a poem or story, and may involve further related comparisons, is an extended metaphor. \(^2\)

So, the usage of ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’ is an extended metaphor of Myanmar Language.

This problem will be solved by Qualitative Research Method from the aspect of Sociolinguistics.

Sociolinguistics is a branch of Linguistics which studies all aspects of the relationship between Language and Society. \(^3\)

In Linguistics terms and Concepts,

Sociolinguistics, or the study of Language in relation to society, is a relative newcomer to the linguistic fold. It was not until the early 1960s, largely as a result of William Labov’s work in America, and Peter Trudgill’s in Britain, that it developed into a recognized branch of Linguistics. \(^4\)

Sociolinguistics is the descriptive study of the effect of any and all aspects of society, including cultural norms, expectations, and context, on the way language is used, and the effects of language use on society.

The social aspects of language were in the modern sense first studied by Indian and Japanese linguists in the 1930s, and also by Louis Gauchat in Switzerland in the early 1900s, but none received much attention in the West until much later. The first attested used of the term sociolinguistics was by Thomas Callan Hodson in the title of his 1939 article ‘Sociolinguistics in India’ published in Man in India. \(^5\)

In 1952 the late Haver C. Currie published a paper, first drafted in 1949, entitled ‘Projection of sociolinguistics: the relationship of speech to social status’. It took sometimes for the term ‘sociolinguistics’ for which Currie claims priority, to take root, but by the early 1960s the first sociolinguistics conferences were being held anthologies of articles dealing with properties of language calling for the inclusion of social factors in the analysis had started to appear. \(^6\)

According to this point, Sociolinguistics is the study of the relationship between Language and it’s society.

In sociolinguistics, it has language functions.

It has been pointed out that apart from conveying information from one person to another, language may be used to express emotions from one person to another,

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\(^{1}\) Richard, 1992, 139.
\(^{2}\) www.wiki.metaphor. com
\(^{3}\) Crystal, 2003,422.
\(^{4}\) Finch, 2000,193.
\(^{6}\) www.blackwellreference.com
language may be used to express emotions and to direct the activities of other people.¹

C- Criper and H.G. Widdowson (1975) distinguished seven factors of language functions. They are (1) referential function
(2) expressive or emotive function
(3) directive function
(4) phatic or contact function
(5) contextual function
(6) metalinguistics function
(7) poetic function.²

Thus, this paper will analyze the metaphor of ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’ from the aspects of Sociolinguistics.

1. Description of the root of the usage ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’

The usage ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’ comes from the Myanmar poem of ‘Ger Aye’. Ger aye is the name of Myanmar girl. This poem is as follows.

‘Ger Aye’

Ger Aye, because her mother beat her
Was crying in the darkness
Mister Bachelor from a hole in the wall,
   Pulled her leg,
   Hanging down
Hanging down. Wait a bit.
   It thundered in the south.
   A bun
   A bun with paper sticking to it.
   Was put on the lily salver as an offering,
   From above the shrine the little monkey
   Came running down,

¹ Criper & Widdowson, 1975,195.
² Criper & Widdowson, 1975,195-197.
This poem is an endless folk song. It starts with ‘Ger Aye’ (ကြာကြာ) and ends with ‘Ger Aye’ (ကြာကြာ) and starts with ‘Ger Aye’ and ends with ‘Ger Aye’ and so on. But it never ends and it is like a circle. There are three stanzas in this poem. The first stanza starts with ‘Ger Aye’. The first stanza ends with the syllable ‘Hanging down’ (ကျောက်) and The second stanza starts with ‘Hanging down’ (ကျောက်). The second stanza ends with ‘A bun’ (အောင်) and the third stanza starts with ‘A bun’ (အောင်). The third stanza ends with ‘Ger Aye’ (ကြာကြာ) and the first stanza starts with ‘Ger Aye’ (ကြာကြာ). So, it never ends. It shows that it is Myanmar verse linking rhythm. Besides, this poem shows Myanmar
Culture. Most of Myanmar are Buddhists. So, they offer snack or rice and curry to the image of Buddha.

Ger Aye is the name of Myanmar girl. In this poem, the characters are Ger Aye, her mother, Mister Bachelor and the little monkey. Mother made the bun with paper sticking to it. And then, she offered a bun with the Lilly salver. The little monkey came running down and ate the bun. Mother did not see the little monkey. She thought the bun was lost by Ger Aye. For this case, Ger Aye was beaten by her mother. She was crying in the darkness. Mister Bachelor pulled her leg, hanging down. At that time, it thundered in the south of sky.

Again, Mother made the bun with paper sticking to it. And then, she offered a bun with the Lilly salver. The little monkey came running down and ate the bun. Mother did not see the little monkey. She thought the bun was lost by Ger Aye. For this case, Ger Aye was beaten by her mother. She was crying in the darkness. Mister Bachelor pulled her leg, hanging down. At that time, it thundered in the south of sky. These actions happen again and again. So, this case is like a circle and is endless.

This poem is taught by teachers to 1st standard students of primary school in Myanmar. The author is an anonymous. This poem seemed to appear at the emergence of paper because of the sentence, ‘A bun with paper sticking to it’. So, it shows that it started about 18th century (Konebound Period).

2. Analysis of the usage ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’

The usage of ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’ can be used in suitable social situations.

e.g 1. Aye Aye and her younger sister Hla Hla watch a Korean movie from MRTV at their house. The movie’s plot is complex and like a circle.

Aye Aye : ‘This movie is being ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’.’

“သီးခြားခြင်း ဖျင်သော စာသီးစီးမှု့”

Hla Hla : ‘Right, Ma Ma.’

“ကျေးဇူးတင်ပါ”

In this social situation, Aye Aye and Hla Hla watch a korean movie at their house. Aye Aye said, ‘This movie is being ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’.’ She used this usage as a metaphor. This speech performs referential function. They felt disappointed in this movie. It also shows emotive function. The relationship of Aye Aye and Hla Hla is sisters. It shows contextual function. Hla Hla said 'Right, Ma Ma'. This speech makes the language channel smooth. So it shows contact function of sociolinguistics.
e.g 2. At U Chit Teashop of Yangon University. Mg Mg is talking about the history of ancient city of Tagaung to Ko Ko. But his speech is not going to aim and complex of Tagaung King’s name.

Ko Ko : ‘Mg Mg, your speech is being ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’.’

“ကြက်ကလေး ကိုယ်ထဲမှာ မိခင်မှ ပျော်ရွှင်စေသောကြက်ကလေး”

Mg Mg : Never mind. Next day I will tell you this history. Tonight I will read the history of ancient city of Tagaung’

“မိခင်မှ ပျော်ရွှင်စေသောကြက်ကလေး”

“ထောင်သည်းအင်္ဂါပေါက် မြင်ပြီး လွန်ခဲ့ပြီ”

Ko Ko : OK. See you tomorrow.

“In this social situation, Ko Ko and Mg Mg is sitting at U Chit Teashop of Yangon University. Ko Ko said, ‘Mg Mg, your speech is being ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’. He used this usage as a metaphor. This speech performs referential function. Ko Ko felt disappointed in Mg Mg’s speech. It shows emotive function. Mg Mg said 'Next day I will tell you this history. Tonight I will read the history of ancient city of Tagaung’. This speech shows directive function. The relationship of Ko Ko and Mg Mg is friends that shows contextual function. Ko Ko's speech of 'OK' makes the language channel smooth. So, it shows contact function of sociolinguistics.

e.g 3. Ma Ma and Mya Mya work for a trading company. They are accountants of their company. Today they did the account of last month income and expenditure. But the balance is not equal.

Mya Mya : ‘This case is like ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’.’

“ထောင်သည်းအင်္ဂါပေါက် မြင်ပြီး လွန်ခဲ့ပြီ”

Ma Ma : ‘Yes. We will try it.’

“သောင်းစွာ ဆောင်ရွက်မှုများ”

In this social situation, Mya Mya and Ma Ma are accountants of trading company. Mya Mya said, ‘This case is like ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’.’ She used this usage as the metaphor of Myanmar Language. This speech performs referential function. They suffered stress for their work. It shows emotive function. Ma Ma's speech of 'We will try it' shows directive function. The relationship of Mya Mya and Ma Ma are colleagues. It shows contextual function. Ma Ma's speech of 'Yes' shows contact function of sociolinguistics.

e.g 4. U Aung is a managing director of Tourism Company. His inferior officers and he are meeting in Conference Room of his company. He is angry with his inferior officers for their bad reception to tourist.
U Aung- ‘Yesterday, one of our customers complained to me because of your bad reception to tourists.

Your behavior is being **Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother**.

I always say customers are always right.

So, we must fulfill our customer’s desires.’

“ဝါစားသူယင်းကိုလည်းကျင်ပါသောကျင်းရေး တိုးတက်နေသောကြောင့် ဖိန်ဖိန်ပေးချင်သော ကျောင်းရေးသားတို့
သင်ယူသည်
သင်ယူသည်ကိုလည်းကျင်ပါသောကျင်းရေးတိုးတက်သောကြောင့် ဖိန်ဖိန်ပေးချင်သော
ဖိန်ဖိန်ပေးချင်သော ကျောင်းရေးသားတို့”

The Officers- Yes Sir.

“�ုံးယူသည်များ”

In this social situation, U Aung and his inferior officers are meeting in Conference Room of his company. U Aung said, ‘Your behavior is being **Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother**’. He used this usage as a metaphor. This speech performs referential function. U Aung is angry with the officers. It shows emotive function. U Aung's speech of 'We must fulfill our customer's desires' shows directive function. U Aung (Managing Director of Tourism Company) and the officers show contextual function. Officers' speech of 'Yes Sir' shows contact function of sociolinguistics.

**e.g 5.** U Soe and Daw Khin have one daughter and one son. Their Daughter’s name is Hnin Hnin and she is ten years old. Their Son’s name is Thiha and he is nine years old. U soe is a doctor. This morning, their father went to work and then they are quarrelling. Thus, Daw Khin scolds them.

Daw Khin- ‘Hnin Hnin and Thiha, you are quarrelling when your father went to work. you are being **Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother**.

Don’t quarrel. Don’t quarrel. I always say it.

But you don’t obey mother’s speech. Hnin Hnin, Be away from your younger brother. Thiha doesn’t play with Hnin Hnin.’

“စားသူနှင့် တိုးတက်လာ ရေးသားကျင်းရေးဖိန်ဖိန်နေသောကြောင့် ဖိန်ဖိန်ပေးချင်သော ကျောင်းရေးသားတို့
ဖိန်ဖိန်ပေးချင်သောကြောင့် ဖိန်ဖိန်ပေးချင်သော ကျောင်းရေးသားတို့
ဖိန်ဖိန်ပေးချင်သောကြောင့် ဖိန်ဖိန်ပေးချင်သော ကျောင်းရေးသားတို့”

7
Hnin Hnin - ‘Yes, Mom.’
“ကြင်နားစေ”
Thiha - ‘Yes, Mom.’
“ကြင်နားစေ”

In this social situation, U Soe is Daw Khin’s husband and Hnin Hnin and Thiha are their daughter and son. Daw Khin said, ‘you are being Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother.’ She used this usage as a metaphor. This speech performs referential function. Mother is angry with her children. It shows emotive function. Daw Khin said 'Don't quarrel. Hnin Hnin, Be away from your younger brother. Thiha doesn't play with Hnin Hnin'. This speech performs directive function. Daw Khin is mother and Hnin Hnin and Thiha are her children. It shows contextual function. Daw Khin's speech 'Don't quarrel. Don't quarrel. I always say it. But you don't obey mother's speech. Hnin Hnin, Be away from your younger brother. Thiha doesn't play with Hnin Hnin.' shows metalinguistics function. Hnin Hnin and Thiha speech's of 'Yes, Mom' shows contact function of sociolinguistics.

e.g 6. Daw Nwe Nwe and Daw Mu Mu are old friends. They are about 45 years old and they did not have contact with each other about twelve years. Today they met at City Mart in Yangon. They recognized each other and they were very happy. Then they went to Moon Bakery. They are drinking juice and talking about their life.

Daw Mu Mu - 'I'm single and what about you?'
“ငွေ့ မိမိကြက် အခြေခံမှာ ပိုမိုကြက်ကြက်စေ”

Daw Nwe Nwe - 'My husband is U Kyaw Kyaw whom you know.'
“ငွေ့ မိမိကြက် အခြေခံမှာ ပိုမိုကြက်ကြက်စေ”

Daw Mu Mu - 'Is he your first love?'
“ငွေ့ မိမိကြက် အခြေခံမှာ ပိုမိုကြက်ကြက်စေ”

Daw Nwe Nwe - 'Yes. I had second, third, fourth love. Finally, I know that my truth love is Ko Ko Kyaw. He loves only me and his mind never changes. So, we married in 2005. We have two daughters.'

“ငွေ့ မိမိကြက် အခြေခံမှာ ပိုမိုကြက်ကြက်စေ”

Daw Mu Mu - 'Oh! I see. Finally, your love is like ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’.'
“ပိုင်ဆိုင်ပွဲအတွက် စီးပွားဖြစ်သူ လူအများသား ထိစီးဖော်ပြသည်”

Daw Nwe New-'Really right, my friend.'

“ကြက်ကလေးကျော်ကျက်”

In this social situation, Daw Nwe Nwe and Daw Mu Mu are old friends and they did not have contact with each other about twelve years. They met at City Mart and they went to Moon Bakery and talking about their life. Daw Mu Mu said, ‘Finally, your love likes ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’. She used this usage as a metaphor. This speech performs referential function. They suddenly met, so they were happy. It performs emotive function. Daw Nwe Nwe and Daw Mu Mu are old friends. It shows contextual function. Daw Nwe Nwe said 'Yes', Daw Mu Mu said 'Oh! I see' and Daw Nwe Nwe said 'Really right, my friend'. These speeches perform contact function of sociolinguistics.

e.g 7. Ko Ko and Ko Toe are best friends. On Sunday, they met Teashop.

Ko Ko – ‘Are you OK in your work?’

“အများသားသေးပါတယ်”

Ko Toe – 'OK. But my boss is being ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’ when he is speaking about work.'

“စိတ်ပြေရွာဝင်မှု အင်္ဂါအဖြစ် ကြက်ကလေးကျော်ကျက် ကြည့်ရှုနိုင်သည်”

Ko Ko - 'So you are hard working.'

“စိတ်ပြေရွာဝင်မှု အင်္ဂါအဖြစ်”

Ko Toe – ‘Of course.’

“အများသားသေးပါတယ်”

In this social situation, Ko Ko and Ko Toe met at Teashop in their holiday. Ko Toe said, ‘But my boss is being ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’ when he is speaking about work.’ He used this usage as a metaphor. This speech performs referential function. Ko Toe is satisfied with his work. It shows emotive function. Ko Ko and Ko Toe are best friends. It shows contextual function. Ko Toe said 'OK' and 'Of course'. These speeches show contact function of sociolinguistics.

In the above examples, the social situations of watching TV programme, talking about the history of ancient city Tagaung, doing account in company and conversation in a family, dialogue between two old friends and conversation between two best friends, the usage ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’ can be used as a metaphor in their speech.
Therefore, the usage ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’ can be used in the circular situation of every social case.

**Average use of Language Functions in the usage ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’ of the above examples**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Usage</th>
<th>Language function</th>
<th>Times</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>The speech events of ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’</td>
<td>referential function</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>expressive or emotive function</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>directive function</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>phatic or contact function</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>contextual function</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>metalinguistics function</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16.67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to this table, The speech events of the usage ‘*Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother*’ perform 100% of referential function, emotive function, contact function, and contextual function. Besides it performs directive function (66.67%) and metalinguistics function (16.67%). Therefore, Myanmar people use the usage ‘*Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother*’ that performs mostly referential function, emotive function, contact function, and contextual function and occasionally directive function and metalinguistics function. It can be used between the same social class or upper social class to middle and lower social class.

**The same social class**
- upper social class → upper social class
- middle social class → middle social class
- lower social class → lower social class

**Upper social class to middle and lower social class.**
- upper social class → middle social class
- upper social class → lower social class
- middle social class → lower social class
Conclusion

This paper presented the study of the usage, ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’ in Myanmar Language. The root of this usage comes from Myanmar endless folk song ‘Ger Aye’ and it started in 18th century (Konebaung Period).

As a result, the metaphor of the usage, ‘Ger Aye who is beaten by her mother’ is being used in the circular situation of every social case in Myanmar.

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