

The Struggle for a Multilingual Future: Viewing an Original Transcript can Elucidate the Transcription process

Transcription as Ethnography

Linguistic anthropologists understand transcription and translation as an ethnographic process (see Briggs, 1984; Schieffelin, 2005; Urban, 1996). My analysis of the conversations in my book was not just based on those conversations themselves, but my research assistants' and colleagues' interpretations of them. My two Up-country Tamil Hindu research assistants, Uma and Kausalya, worked with me on all of my recorded data. I would sit down and listen to the recordings with them. When one of us found a part of the recording interesting, we would transcribe it together. When we were finished we would translate and begin to analyze the interaction.

Transcript of “Kandy as Our Place from Chapter 4 (pgs. 90-92).

I have included the original transcript, which I created with Uma in Kandy, Sri Lanka in 2008. We transcribed it in Tamil in Tamil script. You can see that the Tamil is transliterated in Tamil script and the English is in Roman. Uma also used Roman script to clarify the pronunciation of some Tamil sounds. The transcript included in the book is different from what appears here because I later rechecked it for accuracy with L. Ramamoorthy and Sasikumar Balasundaram. The tattered condition of the manuscript shows how much work it takes to produce a final version of a transcript.

49
47
5

100
interupted)

Ch a vixu pinnathu divedho
 a divedho divedho divedho? pop up...
 amb divedho ...

Sh divedho divedho divedho divedho, Train divedho Bomb
 divedho divedho divedho divedho divedho divedho divedho
 divedho divedho divedho divedho
 divedho divedho divedho divedho divedho divedho divedho
 If they want to fill Janitiya divedho divedho
 Kill.

Ma divedho Kandy divedho divedho divedho
 because if bomb
 divedho divedho divedho divedho divedho divedho
 divedho divedho divedho divedho

Ma Hello, Hello divedho divedho Kandy, birth
 place Kandy

Sh Birth place Kandy divedho divedho divedho

Ma divedho divedho Birth place Kandy divedho
 Kandy divedho divedho divedho, Dada Kandy, MAMA, n
 divedho, n divedho Kandy divedho n divedho
 Kandy divedho divedho

Ma Hello divedho divedho divedho divedho
 divedho divedho u can't tell like
 that. Te You are divedho.

Sh divedho divedho divedho divedho
 Ma divedho divedho divedho divedho
 divedho divedho divedho divedho

2

Ch. 4 fight

DATE:

NO:

Ch Eff 2, 3 years break. It has been there since then
Boticuloa 2000

MA Divu 5 years ago. I like for 5 years

SH For Boticuloa 2000. Kandy official
Kandy's wife. She says anything happens in family
I will kill Mah. 19

MA Divu. Official. Son Shukriya. Dad Dada -
Place. Official. Official. Official. Official.

Mysse ur dad's place is here. Let u see

SH Dada Place. Official. Official. Official. Official.

MA Divu. Official. 2 time. Mamma Place. Official. Official.
Official. Dada, Mamma. Official. Official. Official. Official.

SH wife. Official. Official. Official. Official.

MA Some. Official. Official. Official. Official. Official. Official.
Official. Official. Official. Official.

SH equal. Official. Official. Official. Official. Official. Official.
Official. Official. Official. Official. Official. Official.

MA For Official. Official. Official. Official. Official. Official.
Official. Official. Official. Official. Official. Official.

SH For Official. Official. Official. Official. Official. Official.
Official. Official. Official. Official. Official. Official.

MA For Official. Official. Official. Official. Official. Official.
Official. Official. Official. Official. Official. Official.

These girls say if anybody from Puttalam...
Puttalam, Mah. Official. Official. Official. Official.