

PREFACE

My intention is to provide Myanmar teachers and learners of English with a handy book which they may refer to if and when they wish to know certain essentials concerning language in general, and language teaching and learning in particular.

I claim no originality. The information I have given here is drawn largely from my thirty-year ELT experience in the country — teaching 'Language Teaching and Testing' at the postgraduate level at the Yangon University of Education, as well as at the University of Yangon; writing English language textbooks and teacher's guides for primary, secondary and high schools in the country; writing and broadcasting radio and TV lessons; and last but not least, conducting nation-wide orientation as well as upgrading courses for English language teachers under the Department of Basic Education.

Needless to say, the postgraduate studies I did at the University of Lancaster, England, UK, also had much to contribute to meet the needs of this undertaking.

I do hope the book serves the purpose I intend.

U Thi-Ha

INTRODUCTION

This is not a handbook. It's a book for reference to understand certain essentials concerning language in general and language teaching and learning in particular. The book is for learners and teachers of English as a language in our country.

I have done my best to be as non-technical as possible. The information I provide is largely in the form of brief explanations and exemplifications, supplemented with simple diagrams. Where deemed appropriate, I have given Myanmar equivalents of certain English terms and expressions in order to help the reader understand better.

The teaching methods and techniques given are only suggestions. The choice is yours.

I hold myself alone responsible for any shortcoming in this book.

U Thi-Ha

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U THI-HA'S PROFILE

U Thi-Ha, third child and second son of Saw Richard Ba Te (deceased, 1943) and Daw Jubilee Shwe Pwint (deceased, 1933), was born in Mandalay and brought up in Mawlamyine by his maternal grandaunt Daw I, under whose care he stayed till he matriculated in 1950.

Deprived of financial means to attend college, he struck out on his own to Yangon to fend for himself. His working career began as a Lower Division Clerk — the second lowest position in the official hierarchy of a government department.

Thirteen years and countless jobs later, he had worked his way through college as an external candidate and earned his Bachelor's degree, taking English Language and Composition, English Literature, Political Science, and Western History. He began his university service as Tutor in English in 1963 at the Institute of Medicine II, Yangon.

In 1971, he won a scholarship and was sent to the University of Lancaster, England, UK, where he studied and earned his Master's in Applied Linguistics for English Language Teaching in 1972.

Throughout his university service U Thi-Ha held a dual role: teaching the postgraduate English specialization students either at the Yangon Institute of Education or the University of Yangon as well as simultaneously heading the executive arm of the English Language Curriculum and Textbook Committee of the Department of Basic Education.

In this second capacity, U Thi-Ha planned English language syllabuses, wrote English language textbooks, manuals for EL teachers in schools, and producing as well as broadcasting radio and TV lessons for students in Primary and Secondary schools in the country. He also designed and conducted several nationwide refresher and upgrading courses for English language teachers of all levels in schools under the Department of Basic Education.

His post-retirement appointments were: 1992, Technical Advisor, Department of Myanmar Language Commission, Yangon; 1993, Technical Advisor, Department of English, Yangon Institute of Education; 1997, Emeritus Professor, Department of Myanmar, University of Yangon; 1998, Technical Advisor, Department of English, University of Yangon; 1999, Emeritus Professor, Department of English, University of Yangon; 2005 to 2008, Advisor in English Language Studies, National Defence College, Yangon.

He is currently a member of the Executive Committee of the Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science, a position he has held since 2000.