

The Prosodic analysis on Min Thu Wun's Pyinma Ngout To (ပျဉ်းမငုတ်တို) poem of Higher Education first year Syllabus

Dr. Mon Mon Aung

INTRODUCTION & AIM

- ❖ This paper will explore the Min Thu Wun's **Pyinma Ngout To** (ပျဉ်းမငုတ်တို) poem of Higher Education first year Syllabus in Myanmar aspects of the prosodic analysis.
- ❖ Prosody in linguistics refers to the study of all the elements speech as rhythmic patterns of language.
- ❖ Aim -to show that "Pyinma Ngout To" is not just a poem about a tree, it is a **political metaphor for a survivor**.



METHOD

- ❖ A **qualitative research design**, Combination of **prosodic and descriptive methods**
- ❖ **John Rupert Firth** commonly known as **J. R. Firth** (June 17, 1890 – December 14, 1960) is the pioneer of prosodic studies.
- ❖ **Prosodic Morphology Constraint Interaction and Satisfaction** (1993, 2001) by John J. McCarthy and Alan Prince.
- ❖ Dr. Mon Mon Aung presented and published '**Sociolinguistic Study of Min Thu Wun's 'Thabyay Nyo' Poem: Present Perspectives in Myanmar**' at the 4th International Conference on BURMA/MYANMAR STUDIES (2-4 AUGUST 2024), Chiangmai University, Thailand.
- ❖ It is a critical gap in bridging these established Western prosodic frameworks with the specific poetic traditions and linguistic nuances of Myanmar literature. This paper will fill this needs.
- ❖ Min Thu Wun's wrote, "**Pyinma Ngout To**". on January 11, 1949.
- ❖ At that time, Myanmar faced the crisis.
- ❖ A **Pyinma dry tree**, when the young children came to the end of winter and the spring, sprouted young shoots, like that, then our country will also sprout one day.
- ❖ **In Higher education**, necessitating a critical re-evaluation of core literary texts within the university curriculum.
- ❖ As part of this transition, the poem "**Pyinma Ngout To**" (ပျဉ်းမငုတ်တို) has been designated as a foundational text for **First-Year Myanmar** students.
- ❖ After 1988 revolution, Min Thu Wun's poems are blocked by the Military Government. That is why he was a National League for Democracy (NLD) Member of Parliament in 1990 election.
- ❖ During National League for Democracy Government (2016-2020), they repaired the curriculum, Min Thu Wun's poems added to Basic and Higher Education Curriculum.
- ❖ After that, 2021- 2026, there are two governments in Myanmar which are Military Government and National Unity Government.
- ❖ In this situation, some students and teachers have been in the liberated area since 2021 and they are going to do Federal Democracy Education System.
- ❖ In that, the Higher Education Students felt depression due to the air strike by Military coup. This poem made them to encourage in the crisis of Myanmar.
- ❖ It will be focused on the feature of Prosody concerning with Myanmar Language.

- (1) Pitch
- (2) Length
- (3) tempo/ speech rate
- (4) loudness/Intensity
- (5) pause
- (6) Stress
- (7) Rhythm

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

- ❖ The prosodic analysis of the poem "Pyinma Ngout To" (ပျဉ်းမငုတ်တို), an excerpt of the Higher Education first-year syllabus.
- ❖ This poem is traditional 'Lay-Lone-Zat' (four-syllable)
- ❖ Corpus of "Pyinma Ngout To" (*Lagerstroemia speciosa*, or Queen's Crape-myrtle),

	Myanmar	Phonetics	English
Poem Title	ပျဉ်းမငုတ်တို	/pi:in: ma ɲou? to /	Pyinma Ngout To
First Stanza	ဖုတ်တိုတွင် လင်းတိုတွင် ပျဉ်းမငုတ်တို သက်ကြီးအိသည် ကုန်းမတက်တွင်တစ်ပင်တည်း။	/phu. thi? Ju? twa / /hne? lin: da θo. / /pi:in: ma ɲou? to / /θe? tsa: θi / /koun: hite? dwin da bin di: / (23 words)	Knod, gnarled, and scarred, like a vulture's form, The old Pyinma stump, aged and weathered, Stands alone on the hill.
Second Stanza	ခွတ်အကွေး သစ်ခေါင်းဆွေးလည်း အဖေးတက်လာ အင်းအမာသို့ ကျယ်စွာဟက်ပက်ခြင်းပျက်။	/gwa zoun a kwe: / / θi? khaun: shwe: le: / / a phe: te? la / /ai: ə ma θo. / /tse əwa hau/ pe? tcha ein pje? / (23 words)	In the crook of its bend, the rotting hollows, Are like crusted scabs over deep-seated wounds; A wide-gaping ruin, a broken home for termites.
Third Stanza	စစ်သားခမောက် ပိန်ခြောက်ခြောက်လည်း စစ်ရောက်ခန်း လက်ပြည့်နန်း။	/ si? θa: kha mau / / /pein tcha / /tcha / le: / / si? jau? sa khan: le? pja nho: / (15 words)	On the slope of the mound, amidst the cracked earth, A soldier's helmet—dented, thin, and parched— Points a silent finger to where the battle once raged.
Fourth Stanza	ထိုပင်ငုတ်တို ပျဉ်းမအိသည် စစ်ကလေးကြို ခြားအလှည့်ဖြစ် ခင်းထစ်လည်းခဲ နေလှလည်းထိုက် လေပြင်းခိုက်လျက် မငုတ်ခေါင်း နေသစ်လောင်းသော် ရွက်ဟောင်းညာကြွ ရွက်သစ်ဝေ၍ လေပြည့်ထဲတွင် ငယ်ရွယ်ဆင်သည် အသင်ယောကျ်ားကောင်းတကာ။	/hto pin ɲou? to / / pi:in: ma θi / / si / ko: le: toun / /tcha oun le: phji / /da: hti? le: khan / /ne hlan le: tei? / /le bin: khe: hie / / ma nei / u: goun / /nwe ti / laun: do: / / jwe? hau: hja tse / / jwe? θi? we / /le hie: de: dwin / hje ɲou? shin θi / / a. bin: jau? tsa: kaun: da ka: / (59 words)	That very stump, that aged Pyinma tree, Has faced the war, being the house of the termites, Endured the blade's hack, and braved the sun's hot. Though struck by the violent winds, Its head does not droop. And as the New Summer is poured upon it, The old leaves wither and fall, replaced by a flush of green; Adorned in its youthful beauty within the breeze— What a fine, noble man you are!

Sr. No	Prosodic Analysis	Words / tone of Poem	Output
1.	Pitch	Total -120 words	Link with each word by pitch
2.	Length	32 Creaky tone 47 level tones 24 high tones 9 low tones. 6 -half sound 1 low falling tone 1 high falling tone	Creaky Tone is showed the feeling of difficult life. Low falling tone is showed the pity life of Pyinma tree. High falling tone is showed to motivated and resilience of Pyinma tree.
3.	tempo/ speech rate	/a Tin jau? tsa: kaun: da ka:/ What a fine, noble man you are! / si? ko le: toun / /tcha oun le: phji / /da: hti? le: khan / /ne hlan le: tei? /	high tempo & high falling tone 4-2 rhymes and parallel structure made high tempo.
4.	loudness/Intensity	/a Tin jau? tsa: kaun: da ka:/ What a fine, noble man you are!	To encourage Myanmar People
5.	pause	/phu. thi? ju? twa / after reciting one word , one pause	When reciting all creaky Tone
6.	Stress	32 creaky tone, 24 high tone 9 low tone,	When reciting Glottal stop, high and low tone, the stress can be seen.
7.	Rhythm	44 Rhythm Tone	4-3-2 rhymes 4-3 rhymes 4-2 rhymes

- ❖ Myanmar language is a member of the Tibeto-Burman language family, is classified as a tonal language.
- ❖ According to the prosodic analysis, Min Thu Wun wrote **Pyinma Ngout To** poem since 1949 and this poem is the Classical "4-3-2" Linkage (Rhyme Scheme).
- ❖ **The glottal stop (Creaky Tone)** is short length. It described about the crisis in Myanmar at that time and reflects on the current state (2021 – 2026) of the nation.
- ❖ / le: / (High tone) stands third place and this is a parallel structure. It made more emphasized to the resilience of the Pyinma Ngout To" (ပျဉ်းမငုတ်တို) like the IDP camps and the Liberated area living Myanmar People.
- ❖ **3 Simile**
❖ /hje? lin: da θo. /, /ai: ə ma θo. /
/ ə θin jau? tsa: kaun: da ka: /

Recommendation

- ❖ Building on the prosodic framework utilized in this study which examines the acoustic and rhythmic properties of speech such as intonation, stress, and rhythm,
- ❖ It is recommended that future pedagogical approaches in Higher Education incorporate this linguistic analysis to deepen students' engagement with literary texts.

Conclusion & References

- ❖ Through the examination of the poem "Pyinma Ngout To," this study successfully bridged the gap between prosodic analysis and the expressive power of Myanmar literature.
- ❖ Thus, the prosodic analysis of this poem helps First-Year Higher Education students resilient of "**Pyinma Ngout To**" and solve political issues.
- ❖ Aung, Mon Mon. Dr. (2024). **Sociolinguistic Study of Min Thu Wun's 'Thabyay Nyo' Poem: Present Perspectives in Myanmar**" 4th International Conference on BURMA/MYANMAR STUDIES (2-4 AUGUST 2024), Chiangmai University.
- ❖ Booij, G. (1996). "Cliticization as prosodic integration: The case of Dutch", *Linguistic Review*, 13, pp. 219-242.
- ❖ [https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/J. R. Firth#:~:text=](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/J._R._Firth#:~:text=)