Beyond Borders

Chang, Wen-Chin

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Selected people’s names and place names, as well as verse passages, proverbs, and other sayings are included below.

**Chinese Words**

*ai* 愛  love

*baba* 粑粑  rice cakes, made especially for the Moon Festival in the eighth month of the lunar calendar and Chinese New Year

*babasi* 粑粑絲  Yunnanese cooked noodles

*baitiandi* 拜天地  to worship Heaven and Earth

*baiyi shi zhui zhe hanren shi cheng zhe* 百夷是貶著漢人是撐著  Baiyi women, they would have abandoned their children; but we Han women have to endure the condition.

*baozi* 包子  steamed stuffed bun

*beibei* 伯伯  senior uncle

*bianjiaoshi* 邊角石  small sliced pieces of jade stones, “leftovers” from larger pieces that have been used for making bangles or other larger ornaments

*biaohui* 標會  loan-bidding association
bie nian le 别念了   Stop reciting.
bielai zheli nao 別來這裡闖   Do not create disturbances here.
buke paotouloumian 不可抛頭露面   confined to domestic life and restricted from the public sphere
buyecheng 不夜城   bustling town where the lights are never turned off even during the night
changkoushui 場口稅   tax at (jade) mines
Changqingshan 長青山   (place name)
changzi 腸子   sausage
Chiang Ching-kuo 蔣經國   (personal name)
Chiang Kai-shek 蔣介石   (personal name)
chuang 足   to explore the world
chunlian 春聯   New Year’s couplets
dachi dahe 大吃大喝   spending much money on food and drink
dadie 大爹   senior uncle
dage 大哥   senior brother
daguotou or maguotou 大鍋頭/馬鍋頭   big-pot head / pot head of a mule caravan
dajie 大姊   elder sister
Dajie huijia lei wangwang / Choumei kulian su dieniang / Younyu mojia heshunxiang / Shinian shougua banyueshuang
   Eldest sister came home, tears in her eyes. / Sullenly she related her stories to her parents. / Do not marry your daughter to a man of Heshun. / During a period of ten years, the couple is together for half a month.
dalu gongzuochu 大陸工作處   the Intelligence Mainland Operation Bureau
dama 大媽   senior aunt
dan 挑   The act of carrying water by placing a carrying pole on the shoulders with one bucket hung on each end is called danshui (擔水), and one dan of water refers to two buckets of water.
dangguande 當官的   officials
dao waimian quchuang 到外面去闖   to explore the world
dapiao bian 大票變   demonetization of the Burmese kyat
daqingshu 大青樹   banyan tree
dashen 大嬸   junior aunt
Dashuitang 大水塘   (place name)
datianxia 打天下   to explore the world
ding tian li di 頂天立地   with feet planted on the ground and head supporting the sky
Dongmiu guanyinsi 洞幽觀音寺   a Chinese temple in Amarapura, eight miles south of Mandalay
douchi 豆豉   fermented soybeans
doufu 豆腐 soybean curd
Du Wenxiu 杜文秀 (personal name)
Duan Xiwen 段希文 (personal name)
duizhan 堆栈 places for storage
duli diertuan tuanzhang 獨立第二團團長 the commanding officer of the Second Independent Regiment
erfang 耳房 the side room
erjiangdao 二漿刀 the second incision
erjie 二姊 the second elder sister
erxiaojie 二小姐 the second young lady
fangsheng ma 放生馬 released horse/mule
feicui 翡翠 high-quality jadeite
fengshui 風水 geomancy
Fuguo xuechi shouchuang zhongzhen jiaoyu / xingbang tuqiang peiyang aiguo wenhua 恢復血脈首創忠貞教育，興邦圖強培養愛國文化 Recover the motherland and wipe out national shame through the teaching and transmission of loyalty; regain and develop the nation with the cultivation of patriotic culture.
fujun rumian 夫君如面 a formal address to one’s husband at the beginning of a letter
fuqin daren 父親大人 a formal address to one’s father at the beginning of a letter
fushifei 副食費 fees for non-staple food
gai/jie 街 marketplace
gaoxiao 高校 middle school
Gengma 歌馬 (place name)
gonglu 公路 public roads
gongpan 公盤 public auction
gou weidao 夠味道 exciting (used figuratively)
guang dongzi 逃洞子 to roam the jade mines for purchase of jade stones
guanxi 關係 connections
gugu 姑姑 aunt; sister of one’s father
guiqiao 歸僑 returned overseas Chinese
guiren 貴人 important person
Gui Wang 桂王 Prince Gui
guo 鍋 pot
guogan minzu wenhua 恢復民族文化會 Ethnic Kokang Cultural Association
guoganren 果敢人 Kokangs
hanchao huizi 汉朝回子 Muslims of the Han Empire
hanjiao 漢教 Han religion; believers of Han religion
hanzu huijiao 漢族回教 Muslims of Han nationality
he 和 peace
Heshun 和順  (place name)
hongqi baiqi 紅旗白旗  red flags versus white flags
hua yanbao 割煙包  to incise poppy pods
huama 滑馬  horse with no harness
hui 会  rotating credit
huijiao 回教  Islam; believers of Islam
huiqian 會錢  money for participating in a loan-bidding association
huitou 會頭  organizer of a loan-bidding association
hunsang huizhuhui 婚喪互助會  Association of Mutual Help for Weddings and Funerals
huotou 戶頭  headman
huotui 火腿  ham
ji wang kai lai 繼往開來  to carry on the heritage so as to pave the way for future generations
Jiao yisheng wodeer / Xiting genyou / Feirongyi / Fuyangni / Shi qi ba jiu / Zong qu-yuan / yizhike / Sinian sanqiu  一聲我的兒，細聽根由；非容易，扶養你，十七八九；縱去遠，亦只可，四年三秋 I call my son once again, / Listen to my words carefully. / It is hard to raise you; / Aged only seventeen, eighteen, or nineteen, / You are setting off on a long journey. / See you again perhaps in three or four years
jiaohua 敎化  to civilize the barbarous people
jiatou ma 架頭馬  a mule with no proper saddle
Jieyang 襄陽  (place name)
Jin Yong 金庸  a popular Chinese martial-arts fiction writer based in Hong Kong
Jinduoyan tudici 金多壎土地祠  a Chinese temple in Mandalay
jinjina 金雞納  cinchona
juntun 軍屯  military settlement
kai sao 開燒  to cook outdoors
kaibazi 開壎子  to open the valley
Kanchai mokan putaoteng / Yangnyu mojia ganmaren / Sanshi wanshang zuoxifu / Chuyi zaoshang tichumen 砍柴砍谷葡萄藤，養女莫嫁趕馬人；三十晚上做媳婦，初一早上提出門 Do not cut grape vines for firewood. / Do not marry off your daughter to a muleteer. / Bride [of a muleteer] on the 30th eve, / her husband leaves at dawn of the first [the next day].
kaojiu 烤酒  distillery
keyi duo bukeyi shao 可以多不可以少  It has to be more and not less.
kongduo/kongtuo 空駄  mules that carried kitchenware and food
kuajing minjian 跨境民間  transnational popular realm
Kuomintang or KMT 國民黨  the Chinese Nationalist Party
lantouche 藍頭車  bull-nosed Hino trucks from Japan
laoda 老大 big brother
laodun 老盾 old silver coins
laomian 老缅 old Burmans
laoshi 老师 teacher
laoxiang 老鄉 countrymen, preferably from one’s home village
laoye 老爺 an old-fashioned way of addressing one’s father
laoyinyuan 老銀元 old silver Chinese coins
leine zashilei 累呢紮實累 very tired
Li Wenhuan 李文煥 (personal name)
lian Zhang 連長 company commander
Luo Xinghan 萧星漢 (personal name)
Ma Linyu 马麟玉 (personal name)
mabang wenhua 马幫文化 mule caravan culture
maliao dai 马料袋 feedbag
malibaren 麻栗巴人 people of Maliba (Kokangs)
Meng Gen 孟艮 (place name)
miandian tongbao 緬甸同胞 compatriots from Burma
minggong buhe 命宮不合 incompatible destinies
minghuo 明貨 jade stones that have been cut through
minjian 民間 popular realm
mintun 民屯 civilian settlement
Mu Bang 木邦 (place name)
nande kuade kuai nyude zhang budehao 男的垮的快女的漲不得好 Men may go bankrupt quickly, but women are only able to obtain petty profits.
Nanjing Yingtianfu 南京應天府 (place name)
neibing 內病 internal illness; sexual urge (used figuratively)
nianqing zhiqigao 年輕志氣高 young and ambitious
nibuzuo yao efan 你不做要餓飯 If you don’t take risks, you starve.
nyuer bi erzi gujia 女兒比兒子顧家 Daughters look after the household better than sons.
Panlong 撥轉 (place name)
Panglong 邦隆 (place name)
Pannong 斑弄 (place name)
pan xiong 攀胸 horse collar
pao mabang 跑馬幫 to engage in the mule caravan trade
pao shengyi 跑生意 to conduct (transnational) trade (by vehicle)
ping 平 harmony
pu er cha 普洱茶 Pu-er tea
Qiao Da  a college that offers preparatory courses to Chinese overseas students before they are assigned to universities in Taiwan

qingzhen  Islamic concept, literally “purity and truth”

Qiong Yao  a popular romance novelist based in Taiwan

qiong zou yifang ji zou chang  (窮走夷方急走閩)  When one was in need of money, one joined the caravan trade and traveled to places inhabited by “barbarians” (other ethnic groups), or hoped to get lucky in the jade and other mineral mines in Burma.

qiuqian  to seek divine guidance by drawing lots

quzhang  division chief

rang ta daowaimian chuang yi chuang  讓他到外面闖一闖   Let him go and explore the outside world.

ren  benevolence

rensiluo  already dead

Ruili  瑞麗  (place name)

sangai / sanjie  three rotating markets

sanmin zhuyi  三民主義  the Three Principles of the People, created by Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the national father of the Republic of China

Sanzijing  三字經  an ancient Chinese text, used in children’s education

shan shen  山神  mountain gods

Shangliuhu  上六戶  (place name)

shangtun  商屯  merchant settlement

shenghuo xiguan  生活習慣  lifestyles

shengji  生基  grave

shuiyantong  水煙筒  water pipe

side qiongbude  死得窮不得  You may die but you cannot be poor.

silomian  死老緬  damn old Burman

sipolian de zheng  撕破臉的爭  to fight for one’s domain without considering appearances

siwei bade  四維八德  four ethical principles and eight cardinal virtues
Taiwan laijiang  a prize from Taiwan
tangge  paternal cousin
Tengchong  (place name)
ting xiaoxi  to listen to news
tong jiamen  member of the same genealogy
tou  to steal
toujiangdao  the first incision
tudong  underground cave
tugong  local Communists
tusi  native official
wode gushi sanbenshu ye xiebuwan  Even three books would not be enough to record my story.
wode gushi santian sanye ye shuo buwan  Three days and three nights would not exhaust my story.
wodeyisheng dou aihu renmin chile henduoku women shi buaiqian ai mingyi  My whole life. I have suffered a great deal. I do not aim for money but for name.
women shi tong guokou  We are from the same pot.
wuxia xiaoshuo  Chinese martial arts fiction
wuziqiang  five-bullet gun
xia jiangbianpo  to walk downwards to a river
xiang women miandianren daoqian  to apologize to us Burmese
Xianluo [Huaqiao] Ribao  a Chinese newspaper company in Bangkok
xiao  filial piety
xidoufen  gruel cooked from ground garden peas
xihuan jiu qu toulai  to steal a girl for marriage
xin  trust
Xishi xianwen  an ancient Chinese text, used in children’s education
yan tade sichu  to stuff into a mistress’s vagina
yancai  pickled vegetable
Yangmeicun  (place name)
yao zhuanqian jiuyou fengxian pafengxian jiu zhuanbuliaoqian  If you are afraid of risks, you can’t make profits.
yaqiang tiruo  to suppress the bully and assist the weak
yi  justice
yi sao lu  a journey that requires cooking one meal
yiba  a small unit of a mule caravan
yiben zhengjing  serious manner
yibian zou yibian tanlu  to ask for information while walking
yidanbang/yixiaobang 一单幫/一小幫  a small mule caravan
yige chufang rongbuxia liangge nyuren 一个廚房容不下兩個女人  A kitchen does not accommodate two women.
yiren zhaizi 夷人寨子  village of barbarous people
yishan burong erhu 一山不容二虎  A mountain cannot accommodate two tigers.
youtiao 油條  deep-fried breadstick
yuqi jie 玉器街  jade market
zhangqi 疫氣  pestilential vapors in forests that cause illnesses
zhao poniang 找婆娘  to look for mistresses
Zhenkang 鎮康  (place name)
zhenzhi 針織  machine knitting
zhenzhu 真主  the True Lord
zheshi sheme 這是什麼  What is this?
zhqi 志氣  ambition
zhong 忠  loyalty
zhong di 種地  farming
zhong yuanzi 種園子  cultivating gardens
zhonghua wenhua 中華文化  Chinese culture
zhuan gai/jie 轉街  rotating market
zidibing 子弟兵  younger dependent troops
zitie 字帖  copybooks for practicing Chinese calligraphy
zongjuede gegeburu 總覺得格格不入  do not fit together well
zongzi 粽子  glutinous rice dumplings prepared especially for the Duanwu Festival during the fifth month of the lunar calendar
zuixiyimin 罪徒移民  exiles
zuo huishui 做匯水  to conduct business that involves transferring money (of different currencies)

Burmese Words
byo ပြ  happy
daba khawlei ပြ  What is this?
danpauk ပြ  Indian biriyani
dikaung ကြက်  kid
hmatpontin ကြက်  identification card
hmaungkho ဖောင်  black market
kapya နောင်  mixed blood
lanma ပြ  main road
longyi လောင်  a sarong-like skirt commonly worn by both men and women in Burma
lukyi ပြ  big men; officials
monhinkha  rice vermicelli in fish soup

Mo-yle-chomeh / Me-Melayino-sonethikwehsa-meh When rain comes, we take a shower in the rain. / When mama comes, we drink milk from her. / When daddy comes, we eat the coconut he cuts for us.

saikka  trishaw

tayoke soe  damned Chinese