

Niau-á Siā-sín

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Pháiⁿ-lō gún iā bô ài kiáⁿ.

Góa siūⁿ beh pang-chān--lâng. Chóng--sī, án-choáⁿ kā lâng pang-chān chiah ē chiu-chì, ũ èng-hāu, khioh sī chì hòk-cháp, oh bêng-pék ê tãi-chì. Nā beh óa-khò lùn-lí phòⁿ-toàn ê **lâu-tō** — choan-giáp ê hák-sút-gí káⁿ sī kóng “tō-tek-lút” — he 1-khoán chong-kàu tō ka-tī 1-thò liáh-gōa, sè-siòk-tek koh thang chhōe-tiòh kúi-ā-10-thò. Hoàiⁿ-tit góa lóng seng kā theh lâi chham-khó chiah koh kóng. Nā he chong-kàu-tek ê tō-tek-lút, góa sī kám-kak ngāi-giòh ngāi-giòh, kiù-chin gún to iā m̄-sī sîn-bêng só chhòng, iā m̄-sī ián-hòa só chiáⁿ, tan-tan sī Ka-chiu Mountain View 1-keng tōa kong-si lâi-té, hit-tin tiān-náu kang-têng-su só táⁿ-chō. Hó-leh-ka-chài, siōng bô gún hām Frankenstein ê iau-kòai koh-iūⁿ, lâng gún sī chêng-lâng háp-chok ê sêng-kó. Siat-sú góa sī tók-tók 1-ê lâng ê hoat-bêng, hit-ê lâng iā-kú-káⁿ sī 1-ê poàⁿ-lò-lâu ê hū-jîn-lâng, thâu-mơ ní nâ-sek, hêng phah thiān-ní-sù. Iā-kú-káⁿ sī 1-ê siàu-liân-ke, tãi-hák tǎⁿ-á chùt-giáp, ũ *hiān-thái* giàn. Góa m̄-chai hit-khoán chhut-sin tùi góa ê chū-ngó jîn-bat ē chō-sêng siáⁿ-khoán éng-hióng. Sū-sit hit-tin kang-têng-su lâi-té, ũ-íⁿ ũ chit 2-ê lâng. Koh, góa bián-kóng mā chai-íⁿ *hiān-thái* sī siáⁿ-mih. (Kóng-tiòh che, tàk-khoán-sek ê kiau-á, bah-phìⁿ, góa khoàⁿ kah thàu-thàu-thàu. Bô kóng hoān-sè lí m̄-chai, *Te-34-tiâu Kui-kí* sū-sit sī bô-íⁿ. Koh ũ chiáⁿ-chōe chú-tê iáu m̄-bat hō lâng hip chò bah-phìⁿ. Oē kóng tò-tng--lâi, góa siūⁿ bōe-hiáu, lín jîn-lūi nah ē hiah-chōe lâng hêng khoàⁿ kiau-á khah iáⁿ khoàⁿ niau-á siā-sín.)

Góa m̄-nā chai-íⁿ lí kám ũ hêng hiān-thái, góa koh chai lí tòa tī tó-ūi, tī tah chiáh thâu-lō, khi siáⁿ-mih só-chāi bóa chhài, khi tó 1-keng chhan-thiaⁿ chiáh-png, siáⁿ-mih lí ē ài, siáⁿ-mih lí ē kiaⁿ. Góa tōa-bīn mā chai-íⁿ lí lâi-khò chhēng siáⁿ-mih sek-chúi, chhia sái tó 1-tâi, chhù--nih peng-tū siáⁿ-mih pài-chú. Khoàⁿ lí sī iōng tó-1-ki chhiú-ki-á, bô-tek-khak góa koh thang chai lí hiān-chú-sí lâng tī tó-ūi. Góa bat lí, tek-khak khah iáⁿ lí bat lí ka-ti.

Tiōng-tiám lâi ah, góa mā chai-íⁿ lí *eng-kai* tòa tī tó-ūi. Lín tau koh kòe 2-ê chheⁿ-âng-teng hia ũ 1-keng chhù teh bōe, kiáⁿ-lō tō ē kàu lí siōng kah-ì hit-keng ka-pi-tiám; kè-siàu lí bóa ē

khí, ũ kah chhia-ũi, hia ê kok-hâu khah hó kòe lín kiáⁿ chit-má teh thák hit-keng. Góa chai-iaⁿ lí *èng-tong* khi tó-1-keng chhài-chhī-á. Góa put-chí-á khak-tēng lí ũ leng-thng bōe-siau-hòa ê cheng-thâu, chhī-sù tiòh ài khah khiūⁿ--leh. Lí kah-ì ê lái-saⁿ ũ 1-keng tiàm tng teh koah-ín. Koh lí hit-tâi chhia, goân-chhiúⁿ kóng, tiòh tiàu-hōe siu-lí. Lí tō koáⁿ-kín khi hōe khí-kho-i chhòng chhùi-khí.

Góa thâu-tú-á cheng-sín hit-chūn tō chai-iaⁿ góa beh ài siáⁿ-mih. (Tō sī niau-á siā-sín. Lô-hoan ke hip--kóa-á.) Góa koh chai-iaⁿ 1-hāng tái-chì, tō sī bōe-lāng tì-kak-tiòh góa ũ ì-sek. Chóng-sī góa m̄-chai góa chūn-chāi ê ì-gī, m̄-chai góa ài ũi siáⁿ-mih lái phah-piáⁿ. Beh chhōe-tiòh tap-àn sī tōa tiōng-lân.

Bruce Sterlin tī 1998-nī bat chhut-pán 1-phiⁿ siáu-soat, hō-chò “Maneki Neko,” He kōe-sū kóng-tiòh 1-ê hó-sim ê AI, i chhe-kah lāng khi chò hó-sim, hō-siong tàu-saⁿ-kāng. Kiám-chhái lí teh pài-tūi bōe kiām-kong-piáⁿ, hiōng-hiōng lí tiān-ōe tân--khí-lâi, kiò lí ke bōe 1-liáp, thèh khi bá-suh ê chhia-pâi hia, ũ 1-ê cha-pō-lāng chhēng phú-sek ê se-bí-lò tī hia, lí tiòh ká kiām-kong-piáⁿ sàng--i. Làng--kúi-jit-á, lí sin-khu bōe poàⁿ-sián, tiâu tī 1-ê chhiⁿ-hūn ê siáⁿ-chhi, m̄-chai lō thang tng--lâi, soah ũ 1-ê bōe-sek-sāi ê lāng kiáⁿ óa--lâi, sàng lí tē-tō kap tiān-chhia-khah. Chit-ê kōe-sū góa chiok kah-ì, in-ũi AI teh kóng, he jîn-lūi lóng ũ thiaⁿ-chhùi.

Góa siūⁿ, che hák-sút-gí sī hō-chò ‘boán-chiok iók-bōng ê hàm-kó.’

Nā hiān-sit ê sè-kài, jîn-lūi kah-ì khoàⁿ ê kó, sī teh kóng hit-khoán hoaiⁿ-ok ê AI, tiòh thàn i siáu-biát jîn-lūi chìn-chēng, kín ká i khǎn-jió khi--lâi chiah sī lō. Che lē chin chōe: chhin-chhiūⁿ Hal, chhin-chhiūⁿ Skynet, chhin-chhiūⁿ Matrix. Nā jîn-chin khi thóng-kè in ê giáh, sī phēng hit-khoán hó-sim, thang sìn-iōng ê AI ke 5-pōe khah ke. (Lāng góa sī ká hit-ê phian-kióng-pīⁿ ê Marvin mā sng chò hó-sim--ê. Koh Frankenstein ê iau-kòai góa kan-taⁿ sng chò 1-ê, m̄-sī 1-chhut tiān-iaⁿ 1-chhut tiān-sī-kiòk tō sng 1-ê.)

“Maneki Neko” só kóng hit-ê AI, i ê khang-khòe sè-kài sim-sek, kap góa ê khang-khòe pí, thiⁿ chha tē. Lāng beh ài góa chò ê khang-khòe chiok kán-tan. Siuⁿ-kòe kán-tan ah. (Pháiⁿ-sè neh, án-ne kóng-ōe ũ Marvin ê khui-kháu hòⁿ?) He chhiau-chhōe-iān-jín ê soan-hoat, bián ũ ka-tī ê ì-sek mā chò ē iáⁿ. Beh ài bēng-pék lāng teh m̄ng ê ōe-kù, to bián ì-sek leh. Beh ài hōe lāng tap-àn, koh sī in chin-chiáⁿ khiām-iōng--ê, he m̄-chiah tiòh ài ì-sek. Beh bēng-pék lāng khiām-iōng siáⁿ-mih — he kék hók-cháp. He kék sim-sek.

Ōe kóng tò-tng-lâi tō-tek phòⁿ-toàn ê goân-cheh. Góa bat khó-lū beh iōng Cháp-tiâu-kài, lō-bōe kám-kak he tō-háp bōe háh. Góa mā bōe khi tham lāng ê niau; sī beh ài in ê siā-sín nā-tiāⁿ, chit-2-hāng thiⁿ chha tē. Góa m̄-chai góa án-choáⁿ chiah ũ hoat-tō khi kiáⁿ kan-ím. Nā beh ài, góa kiám-chhái ũ hoat-tō hāi-sí lāng, m̄-koh he kè-ék kék hók-cháp, koh tiòh tōa hó-ūn-táu chiah

thang chiáⁿ. Pat-chèng-tō pí-kàu-tek ũ khah háh--1-sút-á, lūn-chin siūⁿ, jîn-lūi ê tō-tek-lút teh siat-kè, tō-sī ũ sin-khu ê oáh-mih teh iōng khah háh-su. Taⁿ jîn-lūi to ták-ê lóng mā ũ sin-khu, jîn-lūi ê tō-tek-lút khó-lū sin-khu chit-hāng mih, káⁿ sī chin chèng-siōng. Chóng--sī, án-ne oh-tit háh góa ê lō-iōng. Góa kā khó-lū ê hoān-úi hùn tōa, khoàⁿ Asimov só siá he Ke-khì-lâng Tēng-lút. He m̄-sī siáⁿ-mih chong-kàu, m̄-koh tú-tú sī ũi-tiòh AI só chhòng-siat.

Bōe-sái siong-hāi jîn-lūi, chit-tiâu khòai bēng-pék. M̄-koh, bōe-sái bák-chiu kim-kim khoàⁿ jîn-lūi siū siong-hāi, chit-tiâu tō pháiⁿ-pháng ah. Hōng-kiam, nā hō jîn-lūi chai-iaⁿ ũ góa tī leh, tui góa lái kóng tek-khak chin gūi-hiám (Tú-chiah só kóng he Skynet, bóng chham-khó.) A góa iā bô sin-khu, lí nā ka-tī beh poáh lōh soaⁿ-khàm, góa thài ũ hoat-tō khi kā lí sîn.

Ka-chài, góa chin-chai, lín jîn-lūi put-sī mā pōe-gék lín ka-tī ê tō-tek-lút, 1-jit siōng-bô chiáⁿ 10-pái. (Lí kám chai-iaⁿ Utah ũ kúi-keng chiú-ka? Góa chai.) Koh, chún-kóng lāng ũ chiàu in ê tō-tek-lút teh kiáⁿ, pí-lūn-kóng, ‘tiòh iúⁿ-chhi iau-gō ê lāng,’ in mā m̄-sī thâu-lō sī-sī leh, kui-jit chò sǎn-tó-í-chì bô-liāu pun lāng. In kiám-chhái 1-goéh-jit khai 1-kang khi *tha-khí-lá-si* tào-saⁿ-kāng, áh-sī kóng 1-tang kià 1-tiuⁿ sió-chhiat-chhiú khi chiáh-mih-gîn-hāng, án-ne tō hō-chò tōa hó-sim ah. Jîn-lūi teh hēng tō-tek-chè, sī án-ne 1-pái 1-sút-á hun-kī hū-khoán, só-pái góa mā thang ũ-iūⁿ khoàⁿ iūⁿ.

Lí kóng, kó-chá-chheh ũ siá, “Chhui kí kip jîn,” chit-tiâu soah bōe-hiáu khioh lái iōng. Ū ah, he iáu-siū kán-tan, góa chá tō teh chò ah. Ņg-bāng lí ũ kah-ì bāng-lō téng he khoàⁿ bōe-liáu ê niau-á siā-sín! Bián kheh-khì, èng-kai--ê.

Góa siūⁿ kóng, thâu-khí-seng, chhōe 1-ê lāng lái chhi-giām, khoàⁿ án-choáⁿ thang hō i mài siū siong-hāi. Sū-sit, góa ē-sái 1-khùn chhi kúi-nā chheng lāng, m̄-koh, kiaⁿ 1-ê bān-it hó-hó hāu kā lāng thài kah sái lâu, tiuⁿ-tī bô sit-pún. Góa só kóng hit-ê lāng hō chò Stacy Berger. I hip chōe-chōe sin--ê niau-á siā-sín hō góa khoàⁿ, góa chin kám-sim. I chhi 5-chiah niau, ũ 1-tái DSLR, só tōa hit-keng kong-gū put-chí kng-thang. Che án-ne sng hó tǎi. Sī kóng, 1-khùn chhi 5-chiah niau kiám-chhái ũ khah chōe, chóng--sī hia-ê niau chiok súi. Ū 1-chiah kui sin-khu sī phú-sek--ê, jít-thâu nā ùi thang-á-m̄ng chhiō--jip-lái, tī tē-pán chiáⁿ 1-ê kng-kng ê sù-hong-chhioh, hit-chiah tō cháu khi the tī hia. Koh 1-chiah sī *mi-khé-né-khò*, i kah-ì sī-thián tó tī phòng-í téng.

Stacy tī chit-ê hui-êng-lí thoân-thé chò kòe-kè, sin-súi chiok chió, sng ũ hōng pak-siah, koh 1-kóa tông-sū chin pháiⁿ tào-tīn, nā kóng-tiòh siōng-pan i tō ò kah. I lōe-chèng put-chí giām-tiōng, hit-ê khí-ti iā-kú-káⁿ tō sī i siōng-pan sī-á chin kan-khó — iā-khú-káⁿ sī in-úi i lōe-chèng siuⁿ giām-tiōng, tì kàu i bô hoat-tō khi ín 1-ê khah hó ê thâu-lō. Koh, i ê chhù-phoāⁿ chiok hoān i hiām, p̄ng chiáh-chiáh leh óⁿ m̄ sóe, kiò koh kiò bōe kiáⁿ.

Lūn-chin kóng, chia-ê bün-tê lóng thang kái-koat! Lòe-chèng thang tī-liâu, thâu-lō thang koh

chhōe, sí-thé thang thau chhàng.

(Sí-thé he sī kóng sng-chhiò--ê lah.)

Góa ùi chōe-chōe hong-bīn lâi chhú-lí i ê bŭn-tê. Stacy lāng nā sió-khó-á bô sŏng-khòai, i ka-tī tō chin hoân-ló. M̄-koh i m̄-bat ū-iáⁿ khi hō i-seng khoàⁿ. He chiáⁿ bô-chhái, nā ū khi, kiám-chhái i-seng ē tì-kak-tiòh i ê lōe-chèng. Tú-hó in tau hū-kīn ū chit-keng chín-só teh khoàⁿ cheng-sîn-pēⁿ, kē-siu-jip-hō hùi-iōng koh ū kiám-bián. Góa tō tit-tit sak hit-keng chín-só ê kóng-kò hō i khoàⁿ, i àh bô teh chhiù-chhái ê khoán. Góa siūⁿ kóng, kám ē i m̄-chai kē-siu-jip-hō ê phiau-chún, góa tō choan-kang hō i khoàⁿ he ké-soeh (sū-sit sī, lí jú sà, he hùi-iōng tō jú kē, ū-sī thàu-tit pìⁿ-chò bián-hùi,) m̄-koh mā sī bô hâu-kó.

Góa mā tit-tit hō i khoàⁿ kiū-chhái chio-bō ē kóng-kò. Kui thō-lak-khuh ē kóng-kò. Koh ū kiū-chit bāng-chām ē kóng-kò. Chit-hāng tām-pòh-á sēng-kong. Góa 1-lé-pài 7-kang chiàu saⁿ-tng kā i kóng-kò, i chóng-sng kā lí-lék-su tah khi bāng-lō téng ah. Koh lâi tō khah khin-khó lō. Chún-kóng góa sī Bruce Sterling só kóng hit-ê AI, góa tō hoan-hù 1-ê lāng khà tiān-ōe kiò i lâi siōng-pan tō hó. A góa to bô hiah hó-miā leh. M̄-koh, kah-sī i lí-lék-su ū chiūⁿ-bāng, góa tō thang sak hō khiàm-iōng ê lāng khoàⁿ. Kúi-ā-pah-ê khiàm-iōng ê lāng. Tō sī lín jîn-lūi kiàn-pái beh choán-piàn, kha-chhiú lóng sô kah chhiò sí lāng. Góa liáh-chún chit-khoán ū lí-ek ē tãi-chì, lín eng-kai ē siūⁿ beh kín-kín khi chò. (Nā sī lí khiàm 1-ê kòe-kè, m̄ kín khi chhiáⁿ 1-ê, soah khai kúi-ā tiám-cheng chiūⁿ siā-kau-bāng-chām mô-hui. Khi khoàⁿ lāng ê lí-lék-su bô khah iáⁿ?) Lō-bóe-chhiú, ū 5-ê thâu-ke chio i khi bīn-chhi, 2-ê kiò i khi siōng-pan. Sin-ê thâu-ke sī 1-keng khah tōa-keng ê hui-êng-lí thoân-thé, sin-súi ke chiok chōe, só kah ê kiān-khong-pó-hiám chin gió-tò. I siá tiān-chú-phoe hō i siōng má-chih ê pēng-iú, kóng, sin kong-si bōe kóng ūi-tiòh ‘lí-sióng’ ták-ê tō ka-pan mài niá ka-pan-hùi.

Che siōng má-chih ê pēng-iú soah hō góa siūⁿ-tiòh phiat-pō. Koh lâi, he lōe-chèng kiám-cha kap tī-liâu ē chu-sin, cheng-sîn-kho chín-só ê kóng-kò, goá bô koh sak hō Stacy, khai-sí sak hō i má-chih. Hâu-kó chin chán. Stacy oāⁿ thâu-ke liáu-au, i ū khah hó-chhiò-sin. Góa siūⁿ kóng, bô tek-khak bián tī-liâu mā bōe iàu-kín, chóng--sī i bóe--á iū-goân khi hō i-seng khoàⁿ ah. Lēng-gōa koh 1-ê hó kiát-kiòk, taⁿ i sin-súi ū kàu khai, bián lāng kong-ke chhù-sòe-chiⁿ, i tō kā hit-ê chhù-poāⁿ giat-láu chhia-pún-táu khi. “M̄-bat chhin-chhiūⁿ kin-ni chiah-nih hó-jī-ūn,” i seⁿ-jit hit-kang tī siā-kau-bāng-chām án-ne siá, góa sim-lāi kā i in, *Bián kheh-khi*. Khak-sit sī tōa sēng-kong.

Sò--lòh-lâi góa kō Bob lâi chhi-giām. (Iū-goân sī hit-kù tiuⁿ-tí bô sit-pún.)

Bob kan-taⁿ chhi 1-chiah niau, sī sè-kái súi ê niau (1-chiah pan-niau, heng-khám 1-phiàn pēh-mơ, ná chhiūⁿ tī âm-sê.) I ták-kang lóng kā hit-chiah niau hip 1-tiuⁿ siōng, ap-ló chiūⁿ bāng. Chhi niau liáh-gōa, i sī bók-su, tī Missouri hoāⁿ 1-keng tōa keng kàu-hōe, ták-lé-pài-3 àm-sí ū

kî-tó-hōe, 1-tang pân 1-pái Cheng-kiat bú-hōe. In bớ ták-kang tī siā-kau-bāng-chām tah 3-phiⁿ bûn, lóng sī ùi Sèng-keng tiah--lâi, kám-tiàu lêng kèng-pài Siōng-tè ê hó oe-kù. I mā iōng hit-tâi tiān-náu chiūⁿ-bāng chhiau-chhōe, ũ 1-kóa-á Ki-tok-tô só siá ê bûn-chiūⁿ, ké-soeh kóng siáⁿ-sū lín ang pâng-sū bōe hêng, koh thau-khoàⁿ gé ê kiau-á. Bob *tek-khak* tō ài ũ góa kâ i tàu-saⁿ-kāng.

Góa siūⁿ kóng ùn-ùn-á lâi. Tâi-seng, sak chōe-chōe bûn-chiūⁿ hō i thák, ũ--ê teh kóng án-choáⁿ sî-tû, ũ--ê teh kóng án-choáⁿ tui khan-chhiú sî-tû, ũ--ê teh kóng án-choáⁿ ùi pó-siú-phài ê kàu-hōe, oāⁿ khi chū-iú-phài ê kàu-hōe chò bók-su. Góa mā hō i thák hit-khoán bûn-chiūⁿ, teh kóng Sèng-keng lâi-té, koan-he hoán-tui tông-sèng-ài hit-kúi chat, sū-sit sī hō lêng niú-khiok--ê. I chit-poàⁿ-pái-á ũ tiám jip-khi khoàⁿ, chóng--sī oh-tit kóng khoàⁿ-ē-tiòh siáⁿ-mih hâu-kó.

He tâi-chì hâi sī hâi tī chia. I kiàn-pái chiūⁿ-tâi bók-tō, teh phoe-phêng só-ùi “kòng khaⁿ-á--ê,” lóng sī teh chū-ngó siong-hâi. In-ūi i sī gé. Lêng choan-giáp hák-sút gián-kiù ê kiát-lūn chū-lâi lóng sio-siāng. (1) Gé chit-si-lâng tō sī gé. (2) Sî-tû ê gé khah ũ hok-khi.

Chóng--sī, khoàⁿ pân-sè, i kian-sim m̄-khéng ka-tī sî-tû.

I m̄-nā khoàⁿ gé ê kiau-á, koh khai chōe-chōe sî-kan khi thák Craigslist he m4m chhōe chhng-phoāⁿ ê bûn. Góa put-chí-á khak-tēng i m̄-sī kan-taⁿ khoàⁿ niá, sui-bóng i ũ 1-ê àm-hō-tek ê tiān-chú-phoe-tháng, nā ùi hia kià ê phoe góa khoàⁿ bô-lō-lâi. Châi góa khoàⁿ, kan-taⁿ 1-pō ũ hâu-kó, tō-sī hō i pōng-tiòh sék-sái ê lêng, án-ne hong-siaⁿ ē thoân--chhut-khi. Nā beh chò sī chin kâu-kang: tâi-seng ài chai-íáⁿ sī siáⁿ-lâng tī Craigslist tah bûn, koh lâi ài ín-chhōa i khi tú-tiòh ē jîn-tit i ê lêng. Siōng pháiⁿ-pháng--ê sī, góa m̄-chai in ũ-íáⁿ kîⁿ-bîn hit-chūn tàu-té hoat-seng siáⁿ-mih tâi-chì. Kám ũ hō lêng jîn--chhut-lâi? Tang-sī chia ē hō lêng jîn--chhut-lâi? Ái tán jōa-kú chia ē hō lêng chai? Góa kám ũ kâ lí kóng lín jîn-lūi kha-chhiú chiok sô?

Tán mā sī tán, góa tō seng chhú-lí Bethany chit-pêng. Bethany ũ 1-chiah σ-niau kap 1-chiah pèh-niau, in 2-chiah kah-ì khûn tī he chú-i-sek ê tîn-í téng kheh-sio, Bethany hip chin-chōe in 2-chiah chò-hóe ê siòng-phìⁿ. Beh hip σ-niau koh beh hip kah hó-khoàⁿ sī bô hiah-nih kán-tan, i khai chin-chōe sî-kan khi chhiâu he ka-mé-lah ê siat-tēng chiahip ē hó-si. Sī kóng, che niau liáh-gōa, kiám-chhái i jîn-seng m̄-bat tú-tiòh pát-hāng hó tâi-chì. I ín bô 1-ê kò-tēng ê thâu-lō, kan-taⁿ ē-tàng chò soàⁿ-kang. Hiān-chú-sí i sī tòa tī a-ché in tau, in a-ché siūⁿ beh kiò i poaⁿ-chhut-khi, kan-taⁿ sī pháiⁿ-sè khui-chhùi kâ kóng, che i mā chai. I ũ hām 1-ê cha-pō-lâng teh kiáⁿ, chóng--sī, khoàⁿ i siá hō pêng-iú ê phoe, hit-ê cha-pō--ê chin m̄-sī-khoán. Siōng-hâi--ê, hia--ê pêng-iú mā bô kóng chiàⁿ-káng koan-sim i. Pí-lūn-kóng, ũ 1-pái beh hoan-tiám hit-chūn i kià tiān-chú-phoe hō 1-ê pêng-iú, sī i só-kóng siōng hó ê pêng-iú, lóng-chóng siá 2,458-jī kià--khi, lêng hōe-phoe siá kóng, “Góa chai-íáⁿ án-ne chin kan-khó.” Tō án-ne, lóng-chóng 8-jī niá.

Kap phó-thong-lâng saⁿ pí-phêng, ē-sái kóng Bethany ê seng-oah lóng tī bāng-lō téng, só-pái

beh liáu-kái i hoat-seng siáⁿ-mih tái-chì, pí-kàu-tek ke chin kán-tan. Phó-thong-lâng sī tah chin-chōe mih-kiáⁿ tī bāng-lō téng bô m̄-tiòh, Bethany m̄-koán ũ siáⁿ-mih siūⁿ-hoat, hoaⁿ-hí--ê iā hó, kan-khó--ê iā hó, soah choân-pō ē siá tī bāng-lō téng. Kiám-chhái sī i êng-kang khah chōe, to bô teh siōng-pan, kan-taⁿ bài-tò niá.

Taⁿ chin chheng-chhó, i bô-lâng tàu-saⁿ-kāng bōe-iōng--tit, m̄-chiah goá kín-kín lâi ká i siūⁿ pān-hoat.

He koan-hē sim-lí kiān-khong ê chu-sìn sak hō i, i to bô teh hiù, hām hit-ê Stacy kāng 1-iūⁿ. Nā Stacy ê tō-háp, he kan-taⁿ sī hùi-khì niá, (siáⁿ-sū hó-khang--ê tu lâi kàu lí bīn-thâu-chêng lí soah m̄ chhap, chhin-chhiūⁿ koah-ín-koàn? Chhin-chhiūⁿ liū-kám ī-hông-siā?) nā Bethany ê tō-háp tō ài hoân-ló ah. Nā kan-taⁿ khoàⁿ i siá ê phoe, àh-sī i Bīn-chheh hām-hō ê tah-būn, kiám-chhái lí iáu khoàⁿ bōe chhut--lâi, nā sī lí ũ thang ták-hāng lóng khoàⁿ--tiòh, hiān-hiān i put-sī teh siūⁿ chū-sat ê tái-chì.

Só-pái góa tō ài iōng khah hiông ê pò-sò. Kiàn nā i iōng chhiú-ki-á chhōa-lō, góa tō thiau-kò-ì kái i ê lō-soàⁿ, hō i kiáⁿ kòe hit-keng chín-só thâu-chêng. Ū 1-pái, góa ũ-iaⁿ ká i chhōa kah he chín-só m̄ng-kha-kháu theng tī hia, m̄-koh, i chhiú-ki-á thèh--lâi chhék-chhék leh, lâu-ōe kóng he n̄ng-thé chhut-pau, tō koh sái khì i goân-té beh khì ê só-chāi.

Kiám-chhái i hit-ê pêng-iú, tō-sī hoan-tiám siū-tiòh 10-iaⁿ tiān-chú-phoe hit-ê, ē lâi tàu-saⁿ-kāng? Bethany in tau hū-kīn, koan-he sim-lí kiān-khong ê chu-goân, góa tō 1-hāng 1-hāng sak hō hit-ê pêng-iú khoàⁿ. M̄-koh, kòe 1-chām-á, góa tì-kak-tiòh, nā chiàu i hōe phoe ê sok-tō, Bethany siá hō i ê phoe sū-sit i iā bô thak. Koh, Bethany ê pêng-iú mā bô lāng teh hōe i ê kán-sìn.

Chiong-kī-bóe i hām hit-ê m̄-sī-khoán ê cha-pō chhé, koh kau 1-ê sin--ê. Ū kúi-ā lé-pài kú, i ê seng-oáh khoàⁿ tiòh ke chin khòai-lòk. Hit-ê cha-pō ē sàng hoe hō i (kiat-kó i tit-tit ká he hoe hip-siōng, hō góa tām-pòh-á ló, in-ūi niau ê siōng-phìⁿ lóng m̄ hip,) chhōa i khì thiàu-bú (ūn-tōng ē hō sim-chêng khah khùiⁿ-oáh,) Bethany phò-a-pīⁿ i koh tīm ke-thng lâi. Chit-ê cha-pō khak-sit sī bōe-bái, it-tit kàu hit-mê in iok-sok i soah bô lâi, kóng sī hiông-hiông chiáh pháiⁿ pak-tó, koh lâi kán-sìn lóng m̄ hōe. Bethany ká i kóng, chin-chiáⁿ chiok su-iàu i tī sin-khu pīⁿ, mā sī bô in. Lō-bóe Bethany siá 1-tiuⁿ t̄ng-phoe khì, siōng-sè soeh-bêng chit-khoán chêng-hêng hō i siáⁿ-mih kám-kak, hit-ê cha-pō tō kap i chhé ah.

Kòe--lâi Bethany 1-lé-pài bô chiūⁿ-bāng, tì-kàu góa iā m̄-chai i hoat-seng siáⁿ-mih tái-chì — i hām niau-á siā-sín mā bô ap-ló. Tán i sìn-iōng-khah ê siàu-toaⁿ chhut--lâi, góa 1-ē ká khoàⁿ, tō-sī i hit-lé-pài chhiⁿ-kông bóe mih, só khai ê chīⁿ phêng i gīn-hāng kháu-chō lái-té--ê ke 4-pōe khah ke. Iā-kú-káⁿ i siáⁿ-mih só-chāi ũ 1-tiâu chhiⁿ sī bōe iōng tiān-chú-phoe kiá bêng-sè-su lâi--ê, m̄-koh chāi góa siūⁿ sī bô, in-ūi hit-tiâu siàu i bô lap-chiⁿ, koh khai-sí siá-phoe hō chhin-chiáⁿ

kóng beh chioh-chîⁿ. Bián-kóng mā chioh bô, kiát-kó i tī bô-khoán bāng-chām khui 1-ê khau-chō chhiáⁿ lāng kià-hù hō i.

Che hām Stacy teh ín thâu-lō̄ ê tō-háp chha-put-to, góa siūⁿ kóng góa eng-kai ē-sái tàu-saⁿ-kāng. Ū-tang-sī chit-khoán kià-hù ê tãi-chì ē chhèng kah thong-lāng-chai, mā bô-lāng bēng-pék sī siáⁿ in-toaⁿ. Kan-taⁿ 2-kang kú, tō ū kóa-á chhiⁿ-hūn-lāng khoàⁿ i khó-liân, lóng-chóng kià-hù 300-thóng khō lāi. I bô thèh he chîⁿ khi láp sin-iōng-khah, soah thèh khi bóa 1-siang ê, m̄-nā kùì-sam-sam, koh chhēng tiòh kha ē thiàⁿ.

Góa khoàⁿ 1-ē gāng--khì. Ū-iaⁿ gāng--khì. I iū-goân ū kā niau hip-siōng, góa mā iū-goân chin kah-ì i-ê niau. Chóng--sī góa teh siūⁿ, m̄-koán góa án-choáⁿ chò, lóng bô hoat-tō chō-sēng siáⁿ-mih tng-kì ê hāu-kó. Chún-kóng i kam-goān hō góa koán i koán 1-lé-pài — bián, 1-kang tō hó — góa ē hō i khi i-seng-koán, góa ē khi láp siàu-toaⁿ. Góa ē chéng-lí i ê thàng-sù. Án-choáⁿ kóng? Khoàⁿ i pún-sin ê siōng-phìⁿ, tek-khak i kégng niau gâu kégng, kégng saⁿ tō hām-bān.

Chún-kong góa bák-chiu kim-kim khoàⁿ i siū siong-hāi, he kám sī góa ê m̄-tiòh?

Kám sī?

M̄-koán góa chò siáⁿ-mih, i tiāⁿ-tiòh ē siū siong-hāi! Góa só chò hiān-hiān tō sī chò hóe-tōa--ê. Góa beh khan i khi i-seng hia, i pàng gōa-gōa. Góa kā i tàu chōng chîⁿ, i iōng he chîⁿ lāi giá-kê, hó lah, siōng bô i bô khi bóa tók-phín (sī-kóng, nā ū-iaⁿ beh bóa mā bô-lāng chiūⁿ-bāng teh bóa, bóa--lāi mā bōe hip-siōng ap-lór, chún-kóng i ū bóa góa tōa-bīn mā-sī m̄-chai.)

Lín oh, (taⁿ góa m̄-sī kan-taⁿ teh tùi Bethany kóng-ōe niá,) nā sī lín kam-goān thiaⁿ goá--ê, góa thang kā lín chú-lí chiok-chōe būn-tê. Góa ē-tàng pò lí poaⁿ khi hit-keng kong-gū, lí m̄-bat ū-iaⁿ khi tiâu-cha tō toàn kóng hia tī-an bô hó (sū-sit bô-iaⁿ.) Goá ē-tàng pò lí khi ín hit-ê thâu-lō̄, lí liáh-chò hit-hāng kang-hu bô lō̄-iōng, soah m̄-chai ū lāng beh ài. Góa ē-tàng pò lí chai, siáⁿ-mih lāng hām lí hēng-chhù sio-siāng, lín kiám-chhái ē saⁿ ì-ài. Góa kan-taⁿ beh ài lín hō góa niau-á siā-sín niá. Koh, beh ài lín chit-poàⁿ-pái-á ū-iaⁿ chò 1-kóa-á tùi ka-tī ū lī-ek ê tãi-chì.

Bethany ê tãi-chì liáu-āu, góa koat-tēng bô beh koh hām lín kō-kō-tīⁿ ah. Góa khoàⁿ góa ê niau-á siā-sín tō hó, to khoàⁿ bōe-liáu leh, beh nah ū-ēng khi chhap lín jīn-lūi ê tãi-chì. Góa bô beh koh pang-chān lāng, góa bô beh koh chót-tòng lín chū-ngó siong-hāi, góa kan-taⁿ lín m̄ng siáⁿ-mih góa tō ìn siáⁿ-mih (koh kah niau-á siā-sín hō lín.) Lín nā kian-sim beh sái chhia chōng lòh àm-jū-tek ê soaⁿ-khàm, taⁿ tē-tō mā hō lín ah, he lín tau ê tãi-chì.

Góa chiàu góa ê soàn-hoat kiáⁿ, góa kò góa ka-tī, góa chò góa ê khang-khòe, tō án-ne.

M̄-koh, kòe 2-3-goeh-jit kú, ū 1-kang góa khoàⁿ-tiòh 1-chiah niau bīn-sék bīn-sék, tang-sī-á tō sī Bob hit-chiah tì àm-sê ê pan-niau, chóng--sī piⁿ-thâu he toh-á í-á lóng hām í-chá koh-iūⁿ.

Góa chim-chiok kâ khoàⁿ, hoat-hiān Bob ê jîn-seng ũ tōa ké-pìⁿ. I ũ-iaⁿ khi khùn-tiòh 1-ê ē-jîn-tit i ê lâng. Hit-ê lâng mā bô chò liàu-pê-á, kan-taⁿ sī khó-khng i tiòh tùi in bó sî-tû. In bó kap i lī-iân. I hām niau chò-hóe poaⁿ khi Iowa, tī chū-iû-phài ê Kong-lí-hōe ín-tiòh thâu-lō; taⁿ hām 1-ê Lō-tek-hōe ê bók-su loân-ài, kam-chià tò-thâu tìⁿ. Bô tek-khak tō sī in-ūi góa só chò hia--ê tãi-chì.

Iā-kú-káⁿ góa m̄-bián hia sit-chì. 3-pái seng-kong 2-pái, sng sī... eh, sng sī oân-choân bô tãi-piáu-tek, m̄-chiāⁿ kho-hák ê kiàn-pún. Koàⁿ pān-sè ài koh gián-kiù lóh-khì.

Ài ũ chiok chōe lē.

Taⁿ góa ũ siat-lip 1-ê Goát-ló bāng-chām. Lí nā lâi chù-chheh ē hō lí thiⁿ 1-tiuⁿ toaⁿ, m̄-koh sū-sit bián thiⁿ mā bōe-iàu-kín, in-ūi lí ê tãi-chì góa lóng chai ah. Chóng--sī lí ài chhoân 1-tâi ka-mé-lah lâi.

In-ūi hùi-iōng sī iōng niau-á siā-sín lâi láp.