

Malay Transcript:

Chan: Kebanyakan suri rumah tangga dan kaum wanita, mereka lebih suka pergi membeli-belah di pasar raya, tapi¹ saya masih dalam golongan yang lama. Saya lebih suka pergi membeli-belah di pasar biasa atau pasar basah, sebab di sana, saya ada peluang untuk memilih.

Contohnya, katalah² saya nak³ pergi beli daging⁴ untuk masakan. Bila saya masuk gerai yang jual daging, saya ada peluang untuk memilih. Saya boleh ambil satu ketul daging itu, saya boleh picit, saya boleh tekan, dan kalau saya puas hati, baru saya beritahu penjual: “Saya nak daging yang potongan ini,” berapa saya nak, dan dia pun bagi saya layanan yang khas, sebab kalau daging itu saya nak dipotong nipis-nipis, dia akan potong untuk saya.

Satu lagi, kalau saya beli ayam, kalau saya pergi pasar raya untuk beli ayam, ayam itu dibungkus. Saya beli, saya tak⁵ ada pilihan. Saya pilih, tapi tak boleh tengok dengan jelas. Kalau saya beli ayam di pasar biasa, ayam itu diletak banyak-banyak di atas meja, saya boleh pilih, dan kalau saya hanya nak beli bahagian paha sahaja, saya boleh minta: “Tolong potong, saya nak empat keping paha; saya nak kulitnya dibuang; saya nak peha itu dipotong kecil,” dan permintaan saya ini akan dilayan.

Beli ikan pun sama. Ikan itu banyak jenis, letak sahaja di gerai. Saya boleh pilih, dan penjual ikan itu akan tolong saya bersihkan ikan itu, dan itu sebabnya saya lebih suka beli makanan di pasar biasa.

English Translation:

Chan: Most housewives and women, they would prefer to shop at supermarkets, but I am still of the older [age] group [of housewives]. I prefer shopping at the regular market or the wet market⁶, because over there, I have the opportunity to choose [my food].

For example, let’s say I want to go buy beef for cooking. When I go into a stall that sells beef, I get the chance to choose. I can pick up a piece of beef, I can pinch it, I can press it,

¹ *tapi* – abbreviation for the word *tetapi*; Malay abbreviations are commonly used in everyday or informal speech, and also in text messages or online chats, but are considered incorrect or improper when used in official contexts, such as newspaper articles, when making public speeches or at school

² *-lah* – *-lah* is a Malaysian suffix tacked on to the end of a word for verbal emphasis, but it doesn’t actually mean anything

³ *nak* – abbreviation for the word *hendak*

⁴ *Daging* is the general term for meat but usually refers to red meat or beef when the word is used alone

⁵ *tak* – abbreviation for the word *tidak*

⁶ A wet market refers to a type of market in Malaysia that sells unprocessed foods, for example fresh fruits and vegetables and raw meat

and if I am satisfied, only then will I tell the butcher: “I want this piece of the beef,” how much [of it] I want, and he⁷ also gives me special [customer] service, because if I want the beef to be cut in thin slices, he will cut it for me.

Also, if I buy chicken, the chicken [meat] will be packaged if I go to the supermarket to buy it. [When] I buy it, I don’t have a choice [in selecting the meat]. I [can] choose [from the packages of chicken], but I cannot see [the meat inside] clearly. If I buy chicken from a regular market, lots of chicken [meat] will be placed on the [stall] table; I’ll get to choose [what I want], and if I only want to buy the [chicken] thighs, I can ask [the butcher]: “Please cut [this for me]; I want four pieces of the chicken thigh, and I want the skin removed; I want the chicken thigh to be cut into small [pieces],” and my request will be fulfilled.

It’s the same with buying fish. There will be many types of fish laid out in the stall. I can choose [the fish I want], and the fishmonger will help clean the fish for me; and for that reason, I prefer to buy food from a regular market.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

© 2012 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated

⁷ *Dia* is a second-person pronoun that is gender neutral. Here, “he” is used just for translation purposes and refers to the seller