

丟 丟 銅 仔

Diu Diu Dang Ah

[diu diu daŋ a]

(Onomatopoeic dripping sounds)

Old Train Song

鳴

wu

[wu]

(train whistle sound)

嘿 呀 嗤 呵 呵

hei ya chi ho ho

[hei ja tʃ(i) ho ho]

(onomatopoeic sounds)

火 車 緊 行。

Hue chia gin gia.

[hue tʃia gin gia(ŋ)]

Train faster to go.

The train goes faster and faster.

火 車 行 到 伊 都 阿 末 伊 都 丟 唉 啲 磅 空 內，

Hue chia gia gao i do a mo i do diu a yo bon kang lai,

[hwe tʃia gia(ŋ) gau i do a mo i do diu a jo bon kaŋ lai]

Train to go to (onomatopoeic sounds . . . ) tunnel inside,

The train races swiftly, entering the tunnel,

磅 空 的 水 都 丟 丟 銅 仔 伊 都

bon kang e dsui do diu diu dang ah i do

[bon kaŋ ε dzui do diu diu daŋ a i do]

tunnel of water all (onomatopoeic sounds . . . )

inside the tunnel, water droplets fall on the train and make the sound ‘diu diu dang’;

阿 末 伊 都 丟 仔 伊 都 滴 落 來。

a mo i do diu ah i do di lo lai.

[a mo i do diu a i do di lo lai]

(onomatopoeic sounds . . . ) droplets to fall to come.

as the train moves on, the sound of its whistles mixes with the ‘diu diu dang’ tune.

啦 啦， 嘿！ 嘿！

la la, hei! hei!

[la la hei hei]

(onomatopoeic sounds)

Note:

- Taiwanese diphthongs should be very connected and invite a natural, nasalized sound, while monophthongs, especially for vocables, can be separately articulated
- The 'n' and 'ng' endings are not fully intoned, but slightly stopped
- The word 'gia' ends in a stopped/silent 'ng' [ŋ] sound, so the [a] final should be nasalized; transliterations sometimes include the 'ng' at the end, but the effect is the same regardless of transliteration style
- The diphthongs with 'ia' (like 'chia' and 'gia') and 'iu' ('diu') should clearly articulate the [i] vowel before gliding to the [a] and [u] finals – maintaining a nasalized tone throughout