

茉莉花
Mo Li Hua
[mɔ li hua]
Jasmine Flower
Jasmine Flower

1.
好 一 朵 茉 莉 花, 好 一 朵 茉 莉 花,
Hao yit duo mo li hua, hao yit duo mo li hua,
[hau ji(t) duɔ mɔ li hua hau ji(t) duɔ mɔ li hua]
Good a Jasmine flower, good a Jasmine flower,
Jasmine flower, such a beautiful flower,

滿 園 花 開 香 也 香 不 過 它。
mun yun hua kie xiang ye xiang but go ta.
[mɔn jɔn hua kɛi ɛiŋ jɛ ɛiŋ bu(t) go ta]
to fill garden flower to bloom scent so fragrant not more than it.
her sweet scent covers all others in the garden.

我 有 心 採 一 朵 戴, 又 怕 看 花 的 人 兒 罵。
Ngo you xin cie yit duo die, you pa ken hua di jen er ma.
[ŋɔ jɔu ɛIn tsei ji(t) duɔ dei, jɔu pa kon hua di rən ər ma]
I to have in mind to pick one to wear, yet to fear to watch flowers of person to curse.
I want to pluck her for myself, but I'm afraid of the garden's keeper.

2.
好 一 朵 茉 莉 花, 好 一 朵 茉 莉 花,
Hao yit duo mo li hua, hao yit duo mo li hua,
[hau ji(t) duɔ mɔ li hua hau ji(t) duɔ mɔ li hua]
Good a Jasmine flower, good a Jasmine flower,
Jasmine flower, such a beautiful flower,

茉 莉 花 開 雪 也 白 不 過 它。
mo li hua kie xue ye bat but go ta.
[mɔ li hua kɛi ɛyɛ jɛ ba(t) bu(t) go ta]
Jasmine flower to bloom snow so white not more than it.
she is as white as snow when she is blooming.

我 有 心 採 一 朵 戴, 又 怕 旁 人 笑 話。
Ngo you xin cie yit duo die, you pa pang jen xiu wa.
[ŋɔ jɔu ɛIn tsei ji(t) duɔ dei, jɔu pa paŋ rən ɛiou wa]
I to have in mind to pick one to wear, yet to fear other people to mock.
I want to pluck her for myself, but I'm afraid of gossip all around.

3.

好 一 朵 茉 莉 花, 好 一 朵 茉 莉 花,
Hao yit duo mo li hua, hao yit duo mo li hua,
[hau ji(t) duo mo li hua hau ji(t) duo mo li hua]
Good a Jasmine flower, good a Jasmine flower,
Jasmine flower, such a beautiful flower,

滿 園 花 開 比 也 比 不 過 它。
mun yun hua kie bi ye bi but go ta.
[mʊn jʊn hua kei bi jɛ bi bʊ(t) go ta]
to fill garden flower to bloom contrast so comparable not more than it.
her looks can eclipse all others in the garden.

我 有 心 採 一 朵 戴, 又 怕 來 年 不 發 芽。
Ngo you xin cie yit duo die, you pa lie nin but fa ya.
[ŋɔ jəu ɛIn tsei ji(t) duo dei jəu pa lei nIn bʊ(t) fa ja]
I to have in mind to pick one to wear, yet to fear next year not to bud.
I want to pluck her for myself, but I'm afraid that she won't bud next year.

Note:

- The Jiangsu dialect used for this song is somewhat different from Mandarin
- The 't' final consonants on words such as 'yit' and 'but' are stopped – that is, the tip of the tongue moves to the roof of the mouth, just behind the upper front teeth, but it stops there without releasing air outwards; the stopped consonant is reflected in the [(t)] of the IPA
- The [i] vowel on 'jit' [ji(t)] is formed between the close [i] and open [ɪ] vowels, as [i/ɪ]
- The [ʊ] vowel of [mʊn jʊn] should be in a lower position, between [ʊ] and [ə]
- The [a] vowel of the [ai] diphthong on [tsai], [dai], and [kai] can be placed slightly back toward [æ i]
- The middle of the tongue can be slightly raised on the [ts] consonant of [tsei] so that it is between [ts] and [tʃ]
- The final of 'lie' may be pronounced between [lei] and [lai]