SMOKING

Lesson Thirty-Three

Objectives: This lesson is about smoking in Kiribati. You’ll learn something about local cigarettes and how they are made, and get some more practice in describing a process of doing something.

Activities: Study the narrative. Once you understand it, re-do it in the form of a process description that might have a title "To make a cigarette", along the lines of: First you take your tobacco and cut it up into little pieces...

Translation of Narrative:

Smoking

A: What are you doing?
B: Cutting up tobacco.
A: And what's that?
B: A roll of pandanus leaf cigarette wrapper.
A: And what do you do with it?
B: I'm making it for the road.
A: Can you tell me how to do it?
B: You see, I cut it up fine, and rub it in my hand to soften it. Then I cut a piece of rauara from the roll, and run a knife over it to straighten it and clean off the fibers. I put the tobacco in and roll it up. If you turn in both ends of the rauara tube with a match stick, the tobacco won't fall out and it will stay rolled up. Sometimes when I make some to carry I just lightly tie a piece of fiber around it to keep it rolled up.
TE MOKO
Reirei Tenibwi Ma Teniua

Narrative for Study:

Te Moko

A: Teraa ae ko karaoia?
B: I maeka au moko.
A: Ao teraa aanne?
B: Niirana te rauara.
A: Ao ko na iranna ngkanne?
B: N na niiria b'a au tianaki.
A: Ko konaa ni kaota nakoiu karaona?
B: Ko ataia, I maemaekia imwiina ao I bubaia inanoni baiu ni kamaraurua. Ngkanne I a korea rauarana ao I kabuubuta te biti laona ni kaetia ma ni kaitiakia raoi. I kanoaia ngkanne n te baakee ao l a niiria. Ngkana ko kam'anui tabona tao n te kainimaatiai ao e na bon aki mm'aanako baakeena ao e na bon tiku n raoi n aron niirakina anne. N tabetai ngkana l niiri tabeai b'a N na uoti ao l ti kamatoai ni kabaei nuukaia b'a a na aki b'aranako.
Additional Activities: Study the supplementary dialogue and vocabulary, and role play the parts. Now try constructing a new dialogue, based on this one and the earlier narrative.

Translation of Supplementary Dialogue:

A: Do you have a smoke?
B: Yes, see how you like the taste of this smoke.
A: What kind is that?
B: Rauara.
A: What's that?
B: Tobacco rolled in pandanus leaf.
A: Thanks, have you a light?
B: Yes, here.
A: Thank you.
B: How is it, good?
A: Yes, it tastes better than American cigarettes.

cigarette    pipe
smoke       tobacco
fire (a light) matches
lighter     pandanus leaf 'cigarette'

Outside Activities: What are the Kiribati attitudes towards smoking? Is it proper for women to smoke? Just cigarettes or pipes too? Do people seem worried about health hazards? Is there lung cancer? Do you find any differences between Kiribati smoking customs and American?

Note:

The tobacco used in making 'rauara' comes in twisted sticks from New Guinea, and is more commonly used than packaged pre-rolled cigarettes, which cost quite a bit more - up to around $1 a package. Most stores sell sticks of 'twist' and some sell rolls of rauara as well. One stick costs around 25¢. A pre-rolled rauara is sometimes sold in stores too, at about 5¢. Most people roll their own.
Additional Dialogue and Vocabulary:

A: lai am moko?
B: E eng, noora kangkangin te moko aei.
A: Teraa am moko anne?
B: Te rauara.
A: Ae teraa?
B: Te baakee ae e niraki n te rauara.
A: Ko rab'a, lai am ai?
B: E eng, aei.
A: Ko rab'a.
B: E uara e kangkang?
A: E eng, e kangkang riki nakoni mokon Amerika.

te tikareti  te baibi/te baiti
 te bubu     te baakee
 te ai       te maatiati
 te tib'aake (te raaita)  te moko te rauara