

**Figure 2-1.** Cooking in rural Thailand. (Reprinted with permission of Wendy Schmidt.)



**Figure 2-2.** Cooking in suburban United States. (Reprinted with permission of Bette Bonder.)



others that both discourse and activity are central to cultural transmission. As Kuper (1999) notes, “Actions are artifacts, signs that are intended to convey meaning” (p. 105). However, the interconnections are recognized in different ways by different individuals, depending in part on the degree and kind of access they have had to the overall community history or to other communities.

Consider Figures 2-1 and 2-2, which show how differently a familiar activity may be enacted in another culture.

**2-10. Look first at Figure 2-1. Can you immediately tell what activity, something common to humans everywhere, is being carried out here? List the clues (objects, postures, actions) you use to identify the activity. Have you ever performed this activity in this way or in this type of**

**space? What is your immediate reaction to the idea of doing so?**

**2-11. Compare the scene in Figure 2-1 with the one in Figure 2-2. List some differences between the two scenes. List some similarities. Which scene is more like the one in which you would ordinarily prepare a meal? What might be some reactions you would expect if a person from one figure entered the scene in the other?**

Now that you have seen an example of people preparing food in a setting unlike the one with which you are most likely more familiar, you have acquired a new piece of information (or expanded your pre-existing knowledge) about the variety of food preparation settings that might be encountered in the world. Therefore, you are no longer quite the same person you