

Selected Individual Responses: Thanchowk GF1

Interview carried out on Saturday 16th June, 11:40 am, Thanchowk Village, Manang, Nepal
Audio recording with Marantz PMD660 and Audio-Technica omnidirectional stereo hand-held microphone

General and Personal Information

1. What is your age?
17
2. What is your mother-tongue?
Gurung
3. Where were you born and raised?
Thanchowk village
4. Where were your parents born/raised?
Father born and raised in Tilce
Mother born and raised in Lamjung District.
5. What language(s) did you use with your parents when you were a child?
Gurung
6. If you had siblings, what language(s) did you use with them when you were growing up?
Gurung
7. What language(s) did you use with friends/peers when you were growing up?
Gurung
8. Did you attend school as a child? If so, in what language(s) did you study?
I am studying in grade 11, in Nepali and English
9. If you are married now, and if you have children, in what language(s) do you speak to your family?
Unmarried
10. What language(s) do you now use in your everyday life?
Nepali in school and while working in agriculture I use Gurung
11. Are your parents living now? What are/were their mother tongues? What language(s) did you use with them?
Father is alive and Mother passed away
Father: Thanchowk Gurung
Mother: Lamjung Gurung

I spoke Gurung

12. Do you have siblings? If so, are you the eldest, the youngest, or in the middle?
I am the second last of five.

13. As a child, what language(s) did you speak with your siblings?
Gurung

14. As a child, what language(s) did you speak with your friends?
Gurung

15. And now? Are you married and do you have children?
Unmarried

16. What language(s) do you speak with your spouse? With your children?
Not married

17. Did you receive formal education as a child? In what language(s)?
I am studying in grade 11; I am studying in Nepali and English

18. What is your occupation? What language(s) do you use in your occupation?
I am a Student and a Farmer; I use Nepali language when I am in school and Gurung language in Agriculture

Subjective Contemporary

19. In which village in Manang is Manange spoken regularly?
Don't know

20. In which village in Manang is Nar-Phu spoken regularly?
Don't know

21. In which village in Manang is Gurung spoken regularly?
Otargau, Thace, Tilce, Nache, Tal

22. In which village in Manang is Gyalsumdo spoken regularly?
Don't know

23. In which village in Manang is Tibetan spoken regularly?
Don't Know

24. In which village in Manang is Nepali spoken regularly?
Chame

25. In which village in Manang do people speak exactly like you?
Timang and Tal is exactly like my language

26. In your opinion, in which villages is your own mother tongue spoken most purely?
Thanchowk

27. In which villages in Manang do people speak just a little bit differently from you?
Thace, Tilce, Nache, Otargau

28. If somebody wants to learn your mother tongue, which village would be the best location for them to learn?
Thanchowk

29. If you meet someone from Nar village for the first time and s/he speaks his/her own mother tongue, how well do you understand him/her?
Few words (only 5%)

30. If you meet someone from Phu village for the first time and s/he speaks his/her own mother tongue, how well do you understand him/her?
Few words

31. If you meet someone from Manang village for the first time and s/he speaks his/her own mother tongue, how well do you understand him/her?
Few words

32. If you meet someone from Braga village for the first time and s/he speaks his/her own mother tongue, how well do you understand him/her?
Just few words

33. If you meet someone from Ngawal village for the first time and s/he speaks his/her own mother tongue, how well do you understand him/her?
It's difficult to understand

34. If you meet someone from Ghyaru village for the first time and s/he speaks his/her own mother tongue, how well do you understand him/her?
It's difficult to understand

35. If you meet someone from Khangsar village for the first time and s/he speaks his/her own mother tongue, how well do you understand him/her?
It's difficult to understand

36. If you meet someone from Pisang village for the first time and s/he speaks his/her own mother tongue, how well do you understand him/her?
It's difficult to understand

37. If you meet someone from Chame village for the first time and s/he speaks his/her own mother tongue, how well do you understand him/her?

Few words (only 10%)

38. If you meet someone from Tal village for the first time and s/he speaks his/her own mother tongue, how well do you understand him/her?

Understands completely

39. If you meet someone from Nace village for the first time and s/he speaks his/her own mother tongue, how well do you understand him/her?

Understands completely

40. If you meet someone from Otargaun village for the first time and s/he speaks his/her own mother tongue, how well do you understand him/her?

Understands completely

41. If you meet someone from Thonce village for the first time and s/he speaks his/her own mother tongue, how well do you understand him/her?

Completely understands Gurung language but only 10% Gyalsumdo language

42. If you meet someone from Thace village for the first time and s/he speaks his/her own mother tongue, how well do you understand him/her?

Understands completely

43. In addition to your own mother tongue, which of these local and national/international languages can you speak and how well?

Manange Understands but doesn't speak

Nar-Phu Understands but doesn't speak

Gurung Fluent

Gyalsumdo Understands but doesn't speak

Tibetan Understands but doesn't speak

Nepali Fluent

English Somewhat

Other

44. Currently in almost all Manang schools, the language of instruction is Nepali (with some English). Would the use of your mother tongue in local schools be helpful or hurtful/a hindrance to children?

It can be hurtful because at earlier stage it is helpful but becomes difficult to understand Nepali later

45. If you want to get ahead financially, how useful is your mother tongue?

Not helpful unless everyone is local

46. In your opinion, will your mother tongue still have children learners in future generations (using 30 years from now as a guidepost)?

It will continue. They will be speaking little bit in future

47. What can, or should, people do to keep your mother tongue spoken for future generations?

Don't know

48. Is your mother tongue important for education?

It is not helpful

49. Is your mother tongue important for cultural traditions, celebrations, expressions?

It is very important

50. Should Nepal have only one language (Nepali) for official use (in banks, government offices, the media, etc.)?

It is not needed

51. Should children be able to decide for themselves which language they want to learn and use at home?

Disagrees with learning Gurung should be optional

52. How many languages do you think are spoken in Manang District (excluding Nepali)?