

Selected Individual Responses: Nar_M3_2013

Interview carried out on 10 June, 10:45 am Nar VDC ward no 6, Manang, Nepal
Audio recording with Marantz PMD660 and Audio-Technica omnidirectional stereo hand-held microphone

General and Personal Information

1. What is your name?
Tan Tshiring Lama.
2. What is your age?
71
3. What is your mother-tongue?
Nar
4. From what clan are you?
Karji lama – clan, Lama – caste.
5. What languages do you speak now in your regularly daily life?
More Nar, little Manange and Tibetan.
6. Where were you born and how long did you live there?
Nar VDC.
7. Do you live in Kathmandu all year through?
Goes to Kathmandu in winter. He lives there for a month or a half.
8. Does your whole immediate family live in Kathmandu?
His daughter is in Kathmandu.
9. How frequently do you return to your village?
In one month/half months.
10. How long do you stay in village?
Lives in Koto throughout the year.
11. How often do you travel outside of your village?
He rarely goes.
12. Where do you typically go to, or for what purpose?
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13. Which months do you travel in, usually?
He goes to Kathmandu in winter.

14. Are your parents living now?
Not living.
15. Where are your parents from? Are their mother-tongue languages the same as yours? If not, what are their mother-tongue languages?
Both from Nar.
16. Do you have siblings? Are you the eldest, or the youngest, or are you in the middle?
4 siblings. He is the third eldest.
17. When you were a child, what languages did you speak with your siblings?
Nar
18. When you were a child, what languages did you speak with your friends?
Nar.
19. Are you married, and do you have children?
Married. 3 sons, 2 daughters.
20. What languages do you speak with your spouse? With your children?
Nar while speaking with wife. Some Nepali with children.
21. Did you receive formal education as a child? In what language? Did you use any other language(s) at school?
No formal education.
22. How many years (what levels) of formal education did you receive, and where?
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23. What is your current occupation? What language(s) do you use at work?
Are these different than the languages you use at home/with family/in domestic environments?
Agriculture. Nar if the couples go to field. Nepali with labors from other places.

Subjective Contemporary

24. In which village in Manang is Manange spoken regularly?
Ngawal, Bhocho (Braga), Manang, Tanki, Humre (upper Manang).
25. In which village in Manang is Nar-Phu spoken regularly?
Nar in Nar and Phu in Phu.
26. In which village in Manang is Gurung spoken regularly?
Thanchowk (Lower Manang).

27. In which village in Manang is Gyalsumdo spoken regularly?
Chame, Bagarchhap, Thonce.

28. In which village in Manang is Tibetan spoken regularly?
Only when Tibetans come.

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

30. In which village in Manang do people speak exactly like you?
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31. In your opinion, in which villages is your own mother tongue spoken most purely?
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32. In which village in Manang do people speak just a little bit differently from you?
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33. If somebody wants to learn your mother tongue, which village would be the best location for them to learn?
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34. 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?
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35. 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?
Understands well.

36. 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?
Understands all.

37. 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?
Understands all.

38. 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?
Understands all.

39. 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?
Understands all.

40. 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?
Understands all.

41. 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?
Understands all.

42. 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?
He understands Gyalsumdo but they don't understand Nar.

43. 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 all.

44. 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 all.

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

46. 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 all.

47. 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?
He understands Gyalsumdo but they don't understand Nar.

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

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

Fluently: Phu

Very well: Manange, Gurung, Gyalsumdo

Somewhat: Tibetan

Not at all: English

50. In addition to your mother tongue, which language do you speak with other people who also speak your mother tongue?

Only Nar. He also uses Nepali with Nar children of his relative.

51. Currently in almost all Manang schools, teaching languages is Nepali. Would the use of (Manang, Nar-Phu, Gurung, Gyalsumdo) in your local school help or hurt children?

It would be good.

52. Should local languages be an optional or compulsory subject?

Compulsory, if there are materials.

53. If you want to get ahead financially, how useful is language (Manange, Nar-Phu, Gurung, Gyalsumdo, Tibetan, Nepali, English)

Not at all.

54. In your opinion, these local languages (Manange, Gurung, Nar-Phu, Gyalsumdo, Tibetan, Nepali, English) will still have children learners?

If the children are away, they will not learn.

55. What can, or should, people do to keep (Manange, Nar-Phu, Gurung, Gyalsumdo) spoken?

The children should be encouraged to learn their ancestral language.

56. (Manange, Gurung, Nar-Phu, Gyalsumdo, Tibetan, Nepali, English) is important for education

Strongly agree.

57. (Manange, Gurung, Nar-Phu, Gyalsumdo, Tibetan, Nepali, English) is important for your culture

Strongly agree.

58. Should Nepal have only one language for formal use?

He says it will be fine if Nar is used in formal use.

59. Should children in your community be made (to force) to learn local language?

Strongly agree.

60. Children should be able to decide which language they want to learn

Strongly disagree.

61. How do you feel about these questions?

Good.

62. In your opinion, is there only one language throughout all of Manang District, or are there several languages in Manang?

They are different.