

Selected Individual Responses: Khotro GM1

Interview carried out on Sunday 11th June, 9:00 am, Khotro 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?
41

2. What is your mother-tongue?
Gurung

3. Where were you born and raised?
Born in Otargaun village (moved here 16 years ago)

4. Where were your parents born/raised?
Father born and raised in Otargaun
Mother born and raised in Otargaun

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?
Intermediate(I.A.) mostly in Nepali but one subject compulsory English

9. If you are married now, and if you have children, in what language(s) do you speak to your family?
Gurung to wife, Nepali to children even though they understand Gurung

10. What language(s) do you now use in your everyday life?
Gurung in most context and Nepali in office context

11. Are your parents living now? What are/were their mother tongues? What language(s) did you use with them?
Mother and Father both alive
Father: Otargaun Gurung
Mother: Otargaun Gurung

I spoke Gurung

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

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?
Married and have 2 children

16. What language(s) do you speak with your spouse? With your children?
Gurung with wife; Nepali with children

17. Did you receive formal education as a child? In what language(s)?
I was educated up to +2; I studied in Nepali

18. What is your occupation? What language(s) do you use in your occupation?
I am a Businessman. I use Nepali for business

Subjective Contemporary

19. In which village in Manang is Manange spoken regularly?
Everything up from Pisang (upto Khanshar)

20. In which village in Manang is Nar-Phu spoken regularly?
Nar-Phu

21. In which village in Manang is Gurung spoken regularly?
Tal to Thanchowk

22. In which village in Manang is Gyalsumdo spoken regularly?
Thonce, Bagarchhap, chame and in Koto mixes

23. In which village in Manang is Tibetan spoken regularly?
Very few in Pisang and Hande

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

25. In which village in Manang do people speak exactly like you?
Nace and Otar

26. In your opinion, in which villages is your own mother tongue spoken most purely?
Nace(Old villages of Manang)

27. In which villages in Manang do people speak just a little bit differently from you?
Tace, Tilce and Thanchowk

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

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?
Understands little bit

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?
Understands little bit

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?
Understands more than Nar-Phu

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?
Understands a little more because they use mixed language

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?
Understands a little bit

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?
Understands a little bit

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?
Understands a little bit

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?
Understands a little bit

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?

Understands more than Manange because he has friends from chame

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?

Understands more than Manange

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 Somewhat

Nar-Phu Understands but doesn't speak

Gurung Fluent

Gyalsumdo Understands but doesn't speak

Tibetan Few words

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?

He thinks teaching in the local language would help children.

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

Local languages are useful in the business in the local context.

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

It depends upon schooling. If local school allows for local language then children will learn otherwise not.

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

The home is also another important factor in promoting local language.

48. Is your mother tongue important for education?

It is very important

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.)?

He disagrees. He thinks more than language should be used for official work.

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

Yes, learning Gurung should be compulsory

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