

Selected Individual Responses: Thanchowk GM1

Interview carried out on Saturday 11th June, 9:00 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?
59
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 Thanchowk
Mother born and raised in Thanchowk.
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?
No
9. If you are married now, and if you have children, in what language(s) do you speak to your family?
Gurung to wife, Gurung to children
10. What language(s) do you now use in your everyday life?
Only Gurung for farming
11. Are your parents living now? What are/were their mother tongues? What language(s) did you use with them?
Mother and Father passed away
Father: Thanchowk Gurung
Mother: Thanchowk 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 eight. I am in the middle.

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 5 children(3 daughters and 2 sons)

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

17. Did you receive formal education as a child? In what language(s)?
No

18. What is your occupation? What language(s) do you use in your occupation?
I am a Farmer ; I use Gurung language for farming

Subjective Contemporary

19. In which village in Manang is Manange spoken regularly?
Pisang

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

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

22. In which village in Manang is Gyalsumdo spoken regularly?
Chame

23. In which village in Manang is Tibetan spoken regularly?
Tibetan are scattered

24. In which village in Manang is Nepali spoken regularly?
Chame(headquarters of district)

25. In which village in Manang do people speak exactly like you?
Gelanju, upper part of Bagarchhap and Timang

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?
Just one or two words

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?
Just one or two 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?
Understands completely

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 completely

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 completely

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 completely

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 completely

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 completely

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 completely

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 completely

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 Very well

Nar-Phu Understands little but doesn't speak

Gurung Fluent

Gyalsumdo Very well

Tibetan Very well

Nepali Fluent

English Doesn't understand and speak

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's better to use Nepali

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

Useful in local business context

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

He predicts mixed situation of Nepali and Gurung

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

As long as in family context Gurung is used he thinks it will be helpful

48. Is your mother tongue important for education?

It is not 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.)?

All language should have place for official use

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

Yes, learning Gurung should be optional

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