

Selected Individual Responses: Tilce GM2

Interview carried out on Saturday 21 July, 7.15am, Tilce 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?

66

2. What is your mother-tongue?

Gurung

3. Where were you born and raised?

Tilce village

4. Where were your parents born/raised?

Father born and raised in Tilce

Mother born and raised in Lamjung District (to the south, Gurung)

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?

Studied up to Bachelors, 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?

Gurung to wife, Nepali to children

10. What language(s) do you now use in your everyday life?

Gurung and Nepali for apple farming, English in the hotel for tourists

11. Are your parents living now? What are/were their mother tongues? What language(s) did you use with them?

No

Father: Tilche 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 one of six, I am second eldest

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 with 3 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 Bachelors; I studied in English and Nepali

18. What is your occupation? What language(s) do you use in your occupation?
I am a farmer and run a hotel; My language use depends on context, either Nepali or Gurung

Subjective Contemporary

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

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

21. In which village in Manang is Gurung spoken regularly?
Lower Manang

22. In which village in Manang is Gyalsumdo spoken regularly?
Thonce, Dharapani

23. In which village in Manang is Tibetan spoken regularly?
Tibetan is also spoken alongside Gyalsumdo in Gyalsumdo communities

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

25. In which village in Manang do people speak exactly like you?
Each village has its own variation

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

27. In which villages in Manang do people speak just a little bit differently from you?
Each village has its own variation

28. If somebody wants to learn your mother tongue, which village would be the best location for them to learn?
Either Tilce, Tace, or 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 pretty well due to contact

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 pretty well due to contact

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 pretty well due to contact

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 pretty well due to contact

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 pretty well due to contact

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 pretty well due to contact

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 pretty well due to contact

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 pretty well due to contact

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 pretty well because of contact

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 pretty well because of contact

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 Somewhat

Gurung N/A

Gyalsumdo Understands but doesn't speak

Tibetan Understands but doesn't speak

Nepali Fluent

English Fluent

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?

Due to a lack of available materials, the use of Gurung would not be possible or helpful

45. If you want to get ahead financially, how useful is your mother tongue?
For older generations, Gurung is useful. For younger generations, Nepali is more useful.

46. In your opinion, will your mother tongue still have children learners in future generations (using 30 years from now as a guidepost)?
Gurung may die out because it is not used in schools

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

Literary materials (like a dictionary) should be prepared and made available

48. Is your mother tongue important for education?

It is currently 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.)?

Actually, it is important for local languages to have a place

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)?

There are many languages of and in Manang