

Selected Individual Responses: Thonce GM1

Interview carried out on 21th July, 4:30 pm, Thonce 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?
48

2. What is your mother-tongue?
Gurung

3. Where were you born and raised?
Thonce village

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

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 and Gylsumdo

8. Did you attend school as a child? If so, in what language(s) did you study?
+2, 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?
Nepali to wife, Nepali to children

10. What language(s) do you now use in your everyday life?
Nepali for teaching but sometimes in Gurung and Lama with the Gurung and Lama kids and Nepali for farming

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

Mother: Tilce 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 six. I am the fifth.

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 and Gylsumdo

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?
Nepali 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 and English

18. What is your occupation? What language(s) do you use in your occupation?
I am a Teacher and Farmer; I use Nepali language when I am teaching but sometimes I use Gurung and Lama with the kids and Nepali language in Agriculture

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?
Thanchowk, Dharapani, Tilce, Thace

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

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

24. In which village in Manang is Nepali spoken regularly?
In all the villages

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

No differences all are same

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

27. In which villages in Manang do people speak just a little bit differently from you?
No differences

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

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(50%).

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(50%).

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 Understands but doesn't speak

Nar-Phu Understands but doesn't speak

Gurung Fluent

Gyalsumdo Fluent

Tibetan Very well

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?

Yes it will be helpful but because of classroom situation it will be complex because there are two local language

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

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 not continue because children don't want to learn their mother tongue these days

47. What can, or should, people do to keep your mother tongue spoken for future generations?
Local effort should be done for teaching mother tongue

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.)?
It is needed

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)?