

GAUTAM, BHIM LAL
Central Department of Linguistics, Tribhuvan University, Nepal

CONTACT NEPALI IN KATHMANDU VALLEY: LINGUISTIC RESULT OF MIGRATION

Nepali being the official language as well as lingua franca in Kathmandu has got a very long history and relationship with other languages mainly spoken in Kathmandu valley and other places. Contact Nepali has become the part of daily lives of all the people in Kathmandu valley these days because of the heavy migration of various people from various linguistic groups. Most ethnic people migrating into the capital city use their native language for domestic as well as religious and cultural purpose but speak Nepali for business as well as social formal activities. Kathmandu is now a multilingual city where we find people speaking at least 3 or more languages. Because of urbanization a large number of other language speaking communities like Indo-Aryan (Maithili, Bhojpuri, Tharu etc.) and Tibeto-Burman (Sherpa, Tamang, Gurung, Rai, Limbu etc.) are migrating in the capital day by day. This paper presents a brief outline of language contact situation in Kathmandu valley focusing on the possible sociolinguistic features of contact Nepali like code switching/mixing, borrowing etc. of the three communities i.e. Newar, Other TB and Madhesi speaking Nepali as language of wider communication along with their domains of Nepali language use. The data is collected informally from different sources like interview, conversation, speech and social gatherings like religious and cultural festivals.

Some examples of lexical change between Maithili & standard Nepali are.

Maithili Nepali	Standard Nepali	Meaning
Asthaniya	isthaniya	'permanent'
Garilinu	garnu	'to do'
khai linu	khanu	'to eat'
mari linu	marnu	'to die'
maari linu	maarnu	'to kill'
pai linu	paaunu	'to get/achieve'

The word *asthaniya* means permanent in Maithali Nepali but standard Nepali has another meaning i.e. temporary not permanent.

(1) *aabui bas- ma sit na- rai-ca*

Oh! Bus-L seat NEG- be-3Sg

'Oh! There is no seat available in the bus.'

na- rai-ca (Tamang Nepali)

NEG-be-3Sg

rahe- na- cha (Standard Nepali)

Be EXIST-NEG-3Sg

(2) *Sir! maathi ciya khana aai- za*

Sir upstairs tea have come-3Sg

'sir please come upstairs to have tea'

aai- za (Tamang- Nepali)

Come-3 Sg NH

aa-nu-hos (Standard Nepali)

Come-3Sg-HH