

USE OF LANGUAGES BY NEPALESE MULTILINGUAL SPEAKERS

**A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education
In Partial Fulfilment for the Master of Education in English**

**Submitted by
Mahendra Poudel**

**Faculty of Education
Tribhuvan University
Kirtipur, Kathmandu**

2011

**USE OF LANGUAGES BY NEPALESE
MULTILINGUAL SPEAKERS**

**A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education
In Partial Fulfilment for the Master of Education in English**

**Submitted by
Mahendra Poudel**

**Faculty of Education
Tribhuvan University
Kirtipur, Kathmandu
2011**

**T.U. Reg. No. : 6-1-55-114-2002
Second Year Examination
Roll No. : 280557/066**

**Date of Approval of the Thesis
Proposal : 2067-09-01
Date of Submission :2067-11-30**

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that to the best of my knowledge this thesis is original; no part of it was earlier submitted for the candidature of research degree to any university.

Date: 2067-11-29

Mahendra Poudel

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

This is to certify that **Mr. Mahendra Poudel** has prepared this thesis entitled "**Use of Languages by Nepalese Multilingual Speakers**" under my guidance and supervision.

I recommend the thesis for acceptance.

Date: 2067-11-30

Mr. Prem Bahadur Phyak
Teaching Assistant
Department of English Education
Faculty of Education
T.U., Kirtipur

RECOMMENDATION FOR EVALUATION

This thesis has been recommended for evaluation from the following Research Guidance Committee.

Signature

Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra

Professor and Head

Department of English Education

T.U., Kirtipur

Chairperson

Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi

Professor

Department of English Education

T.U., Kirtipur

Member

Mr. Prem Bahadur Phyak (Guide)

Teaching Assistant

Department of English Education

T.U. Kirtipur

Member

Date: 2067-12-01

EVALUATION AND APPROVAL

This thesis has been evaluated and approved by the following Thesis Evaluation and Approval Committee.

Signature

Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra

Professor and Head

Department of English Education

T.U., Kirtipur

Chairperson

Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi

Professor

Department of English Education

Chairperson

English and Other Foreign Languages Education

Subject Committee

T.U., Kirtipur

Member

Mr. Prem Bahadur Phyak (Guide)

Teaching Assistant

Department of English Education

T.U. Kirtipur

Member

Date: 2067-12-03

DEDICATION

Dedicated to
*my parents and teachers without whom I would not
be in the position where I am now.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to acknowledge with appreciation and gratitude to the many people for their encouragement and critical responses. Without them, I would have been incapable of writing this thesis.

At first, I am indebted and grateful to my thesis supervisor **Mr. Prem Bahadur Phyak**, Teaching Assistant, Department of English Education, Tribhuvan University who guided me throughout the study. His invaluable guidance made me complete and present this research work in this form.

I am equally indebted to **Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra**, Professor and Head, Department of English Education, Tribhuvan University, for his encouragement and cooperation while doing this research work.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to **Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi**, Professor and Chairperson of English and Other Foreign Languages Education Subject Committee, Tribhuvan University for his valuable comments and kind encouragement for me.

Similarly, my sincere thanks go to **Dr. Laxmi Bahadur Maharjan**, Reader, Department of English Education, Tribhuvan University for his invaluable suggestions and academic help. I am grateful to all Gurus and Guramas of the Department of English Education for their direct and indirect help in carrying out this research work successfully.

I am thankful to all my colleagues for sharing their experiences about the study. I would like to thank all my family members who inspired me throughout to the research work.

Finally but formost, I must express my gratitude to **Mr. Rajiv Maharjan** (Friend's Computer Service) for his computer work.

Mahendra Poudel

ABSTRACT

This study entitled 'Use of Languages by Nepalese Multilingual Speakers' aims to identify the Nepalese multilingual speakers' language use in various domains. It also analyses the attitudes of the participants towards languages they speak. To carry out this research, I selected ten multilingual speakers who could speak their mother tongues, Nepali and English equally competently. An unstructured interview was a major technique of the data collection. The responses obtained through the interview were analyzed qualitatively. The study revealed that the multilingual speakers use different languages in various domains. To analyze that phenomenon eight major domains viz. family, friendship, religion, education job, business, mass media and health were selected. The main finding of the study is that Nepali is dominantly used in almost all the domains and there no more priority is given to their mother tongues. It is recommended that equal importance should be given to all languages to preserve the multilingual identity of Nepal.

This study is divided into four chapters along with references and appendices at the end. Chapter one includes basic concepts of multilingualism and the use of languages in the light of both past experiences and the most recent research along with the review of related literature, objective of the study, significance of the study and definitions of specific terms. Chapter two concerns with methodology of the study which contains sources of data, sampling procedure, research tools, process of data collection and limitations of the study. Similarly, chapter three deals with analysis and interpretation of data. This section is divided into analysis of domains of language use and attitudes of the participants towards the languages they speak. The responses obtained from the participants are coded and interpreted qualitatively. Finally, chapter four includes findings and recommendations based on analysis and interpretation of the study.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Declaration</i>	<i>i</i>
<i>Recommendation for Acceptance</i>	<i>ii</i>
<i>Recommendation for Evaluation</i>	<i>iii</i>
<i>Evaluation and Approval</i>	<i>iv</i>
<i>Dedication</i>	<i>v</i>
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>vi</i>
<i>Abstract</i>	<i>vii</i>
<i>Table of Contents</i>	<i>viii</i>
<i>List of Tables</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>List of Symbols and Abbreviations</i>	<i>xi</i>
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1-20
1.1 General Background	1
1.1.1 Concept of Monolingualism	2
1.1.2 Bilingual Societies	3
1.1.3 Multilingualism in Nepalese Context	4
1.1.4 Language Policy in Nepal	5
1.1.5 Types of Multilingualism	7
1.1.6 What is Multilinguals' Identity?	8
1.1.7 Reasons for Choosing a Code	10
1.1.8 Use of Languages and Code Switching	10
1.1.9 Language Shift in Multilingual Contexts	12
1.1.10 Factors Affecting Language Choice	14
1.2 Review of Related Literature	17
1.3 Objectives of the Study	19
1.4 Significance of the Study	19
1.5 Definitions of the Specific Terms	20

CHAPTER TWO: METHODOLOGY	21-23
2.1 Sources of Data	21
2.1.1 Primary Sources of Data	21
2.1.2 Secondary Sources of Data	22
2.2 Sample Population of the Study	22
2.3 Sampling Procedure	22
2.4 Research Tools	22
2.5 Data Collection Procedure	22
2.6 Limitations of the Study	23
CHAPTER THREE: ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION	24-45
3.1 Analysis of Domains of Language Use	24
3.1.1 Analysis of the Family Domain	25
3.1.2 Analysis of the Friendship Domain	27
3.1.3 Analysis of the Religion Domain	29
3.1.4 Analysis of the Education Domain	30
3.1.5 Analysis of the Job Domain	32
3.1.6 Analysis of the Business Domain	34
3.1.7 Analysis of the Mass Media Domain	35
3.1.8 Analysis of the Health Domain	37
3.2 Attitudes towards Different Languages	41
3.2.1 Attitudes towards Mother Tongue	41
3.2.2 Attitudes towards Nepali	43
3.2.3 Attitudes towards English	44
3.2.4 Attitudes towards Hindi	45
CHAPTER FOUR: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	46-50
4.1 Findings	46
4.2 Recommendations	47
REFERENCES	49-51
APPENDICES	

LIST OF TABLES

	Page
Table No. 1: Domains of Language Use	16
Table No. 2 : Language Used in Different Domains	39

LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
etc.	:	et cetera
i.e.	:	that is
INGO	:	International Non-governmental Organization
PA	:	Participant A
PB	:	Participant B
PC	:	Participant C
PD	:	Participant D
PE	:	Participant E
PF	:	Participant F
PG	:	Participant G
PH	:	Participant H
PI	:	Participant I
PJ	:	Participant J
Viz.	:	Namely