

**A Sociolinguistic Study of the Sherpa Language**

**A thesis**

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**By**

**Kishor Sherpa**

**Roll No: 281861**

**T. U. Regd. No. 9-2-29-826-2001**

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## **LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

This is to certify that **Mr. Kishor Sherpa** has completed the thesis on the topic **A Sociolinguistic Study of the Sherpa language** under my guidance and supervision. I recommend this thesis for evaluation.

-----

**Dubi Nanda Dhakal, Ph.D**

**Reader**

Central Department of Linguistics

Tribhuvan University

Kathmandu, Nepal

**Date: 2071/03/16**

## LETTER OF APPROVAL

This thesis entitled **A Sociolinguistic Study of the Sherpa language**, a thesis submitted by **Mr. Kishor Sherpa** to the Central Department of Linguistics, Tribhuvan University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's degree in Linguistics. We hereby certify that the research committee of the faculty has found this good scope with quality and has therefore accepted it for the degree.

-----

**Dubi Nanda Dhakal, Ph.D.**

Thesis Supervisor

-----

**Prof. Nirmal M. Tuladhar**

External Examiner

-----

**Prof. Dr. Dan Raj Regmi**

Head of the Department

Central Department of Linguistics

Tribhuvan University

Date: 2071.03.16

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## **ABSTRACT**

This thesis is an attempt to present a sociolinguistic study of the Sherpa language. The study was conducted in Solukhumbu, Sindhupalchowk, Taplejung, Dolakha, Okhaldunga, Ramechhap, Khotang and Dolakha districts of Nepal. These regions are the major Sherpa settlements which lie of north-east parts of Nepal. The goal of this study is to assess the sociolinguistic situation among the Sherpa speech varieties of Nepal. The tools utilized in this study were sociolinguistic questionnaires and the 210 wordlist used by Linguistic Survey of Nepal. The study is organized into 8 chapters. The first chapter has included introduction of the study, origins of Sherpa, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, review of literature, significance, research methodology, tools, source, limitations and organization of this studies. Geographical locations of Sherpa, demography, the Sherpa language, tonality, genetic classification of languages, kinship terms of Sherpa, education, Sherpa rites and rituals are included in chapter two. Chapter three includes lexical variation of Sherpa, phonological similarities and differences and comparison of lexical variant with Taplejung variety. Chapter four contains domains of language use. Finally, chapter five includes mother tongue proficiency and bi/multilingualism of the Sherpa, similarly chapter six contains language vitality, maintenance, and attitudes towards Sherpa and other languages. Chapter seven includes language resources of Sherpa, chapter eight has contains findings, summaries and recommendation of this study.

The Sherpa is one of the minor languages in Nepal. This language is spoken mainly in the east-northern districts Nepal such as Ilam, Panchthar, Taplejung, Tehrathum, Sangkhuwasabha, Bhojpur, Khotang, Okhaldungha, Solukhumbu, Ramechhap, Dolakha, Rasuwa, Udayapur, Sindhupalchok and Kathmandu too. A few Sherpas are monolingual but most of them are bilingual or multilingual as they speak more than one or two languages. They are bi/multilingual mostly in their respective ethnic, the Nepali and English languages. The Sherpa is used compulsorily in their ritual ceremonies and domains like in household activities. The Sherpa language is not used in educational institutions and official purposes yet. The most of the Sherpa speakers often code mix and switch to different languages in different situations, mostly Nepali and English languages. The Sherpas have positive attitude and high loyalty towards their language. But there is a gradual possibility of language loss or endangerment of this language in Nepal because this language is not well maintained and transmitted to the younger generation.

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## APPREVIATIONS

CBS	Central Beureau of Statistics
CDR	Central Development Region
SAN	Sherpa Association of Nepal
LinSuN	Linguistic Survey of Nepal
L.	Literate
Il.	Illiterate
Okhal.	Okhaldunga
Rame.	Ramechhap
Sindhu.	Sindhupalchowk
Taple.	Taplejung