

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 General Background

Language is a means of communicating ideas, emotions and thought. Language can be taken as the system of human communication. It is better not to categorize language in terms of superior and inferior however, languages play a dominant role in society. Language is socially functioning institution. Language has been studied as a dynamic phenomenon; not as a static one. Language is a property that has been being possessed by human beings since it came into existence. It became an effective tool to have communication among people. It is the sole property of human beings. There are many languages in the world. Among them some are in use but some are only saved in scriptures. The languages that have speaker are known as living languages and those with no speakers are known as dead languages. According to census report (2001) there are more than 90 languages in use in case of Nepal.

Language is also viewed as a means of social change, mobility and stratification. According to Crystal (2003, p255) "a particular variety or level of speech/writing may also be referred to as language" (e.g. dialect, register and idiolect).

Language is a means of communicating ideas, feelings by the use of conventionalized signs, sounds, gestures or marks having understood meaning. Scientific study of language is known as linguistics. Language has been studied unscientifically for centuries. Ferdinand de Saussure, the father of modern linguistics started to study language scientifically. The whole of recent history of linguistics can be described in terms of successive discoveries to view language. Language learning is the learning to communicate, in which all the aspects of communicative competence should be noted. Today, language has been playing

various roles such as storehouse of knowledge, maker of human relations, leader of human activities, instrument of our thinking, instrument of our entertainment, need for living and so on. It is the language that distinguishes human beings from all other creatures. Hence, we can say that language is possessed only by human beings and it is ubiquitous. For Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics(1994, p. 5137) language is “ the principal signaling system or instrument of communication used by humans for the transmission of information, ideas, etc... the central element which is verbal but which contains as an essential component a substantial non-verbal element e.g. information, punctuation, stress.”

Language is viewed the most developed and primary means of communication. Recharls et al. (1985) think that language is "the system of human arrangement of sounds into larger units e.g. morphemes, words, clause, sentence and utterances." Language is a symbol system based on pure arbitrary convention infinitely extendable and modifiable according to changing needs and conditions of speakers.

Language is made up of different specific features. They are phrasal verbs, proverbs and idioms. They have their own formal structures and meanings which identify their status. In other words, formal structures and meanings of them separate from one another. Proverb, one of them is supposed to have a stylistic way of significance.

A proverb, a property of language, that is a short pithy saying in general use generally held to embody a general truth. Proverb is a well known saying that is characterized with brevity, sense, piquancy and popularity. Proverbs are property of every language. In other words, proverbs are found as ornament of all the languages of the world. Proverbs give the common sense of meaning that a person intends to share. For example,

Tit for tat.

Quality speaks for itself.

Beauty is not inherited.  
One slays another pays.  
Short acquaintance brings repentance.

### 1.1.1 The English Language

The English language is one of the popular languages in the world. How the English language secured the present status is one of the major concern. It is defined as follows:

English is a [West Germanic language](#) that arose in the [Anglo-Saxon](#) kingdoms of [England](#) and spread into what was to become south-east [Scotland](#) under the influence of the [Anglian](#) medieval kingdom of [Northumbria](#). Following the economic, political, military, scientific, cultural, and colonial influence of [Great Britain](#) and the [United Kingdom](#) from the 18th century, via the [British Empire](#), and of the [United States](#) since the mid-20th century, it has been [widely dispersed](#) around the world, become the [leading language](#) of international discourse, and has acquired the status of [lingua franca](#) in many regions. It is widely learned as a [second language](#) and used as an [official language](#) of the [European Union](#) and many [commonwealth](#) countries, as well as in many world organizations. It is the [third most natively spoken](#) language in the world, after [Mandarin Chinese](#) and [Spanish](#).

(Retrieved in 28.01.2011 from

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English\\_language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_language))

The English language is often used widely throughout the world. It has become a demand of the day. Like all other languages English has all linguistic and communicative properties. It is rich in all aspects of language. Everybody loves learning English all over the world. Since English is an international language, it has created a new generation of learners and now English has become compulsory need of the learner in most of the countries. English has become an essential means to open many doors to good understanding, a good job and many other opportunities. Therefore, the people of this age are in the state of either learn English or die, due to its broad and worldwide scope.

### **1.1.2 Mass Media**

Human being is an inquisitive creature. The curious nature always gives impetus to do something more than he has at the moment. Mass media are the medium through which human being collects many information from different sources. Etymologically, the word 'mass' stands for large number of people and 'media' which is the plural form of medium, stands for mass of communication like TV, radio, newspaper, book. The term mass media therefore, refers to various means of carrying out information to a large scattered number of people at the same time.

Print media are the oldest form of mass communication. They are so named because they make use of printed symbol to communicate message to the receivers. Print media contain books and manuals; newspapers, magazines and periodicals; brochures and prospectuses; pamphlets, posters, banner, signboards, traffic signs and symbols; charts, graphs, diagrams, tables, caption writing, menus and bills. Print media are composed of words inscribed on something by some sort of ink. Print media are specially designed for reading. The reader can get benefit simply by reading sentences again and again until they grasp the conveyed message.

Newspapers are published at frequent interval and mainly devoted to the news. Newspapers play an important role in modern life. They primarily include news which is the report of an event not the event itself. There are different sections like the news, features, articles, editorial, letters and business and sports news. The purpose of the newspaper is to provide information, entertainment, and informal education and to advertise about any product to promote.

This study is mainly based on print media. The Kathmandu Post, The Himalayan Times and Republica are the daily newspapers on which data have been collected. The proverbs are the phrases of words that provide meanings that can be literal, metaphorical or satirical.

### **1.1.3 Proverb: A Brief Introduction**

Proverbs are sayings which has transcended down through generations. One can make a point of view more emphatic using a proverb. There is a huge collection of proverbs in ancient literature. One can use them as idioms or classify them as a moral of a story. Scholars have defined proverbs in their own ways:

According to Hastings (1984) while the formal definition of a proverb is difficult to frame and every authority attempts to give his own, there is general agreement as to the chief characteristics of proverbial sayings. Four qualities are necessary to constitute proverb, brevity (or, as some prefer to put it, conciseness), sense piquancy or salt (trench), and popularity (as cited in Sharma 2001, p. 4)

According to Harris and Levey (1975, p.223) a proverb is short statement of wisdom or advice that has passed into general use. More homely than

aphorisms, proverbs generally refer to common experience and are often expressed in metaphor alternation or rhymes e.g. when the cat is away, the mice will play.

According to Dent and Sons (1955, p.273)

proverb is a fragment of folk literature as the Greek phrased it, ‘a wayside saying (paroimia) is embodying a moral lesson or obvious truth.’ Though, like epigram, it is a word which defies succinct explanation, the essence of meaning may be gathered from the sum of the following definition.

According to Synesius (1955, p.274), Aristotle remarked that “A proverb is a remnant from old philosophy, preserved amid countless destruction, by reason of its brevity and fitness for use.” Cervantes speaks of proverbs as “short sentence drawn from long experience.” Lord Russel described them as one man’s wit and all men’s wisdom.” (cited in Everyman’s Encyclopedia, 1955, p.273).

A proverb, apart from being a linguistic sign with a literal interpretation, has other communicative functions. Among other things, the use of proverbs is defined on the basis of social parameters between the speaker and hearer. They are also used to justify actions that would ordinarily be socially objectionable. In this sense, proverbs have a self fulfilling power and the perspective. The sayings are either statement that provoke further thought or admonitions to behave in particular ways. According to Adhikari, (2008, p.9)

a proverb is a trite maxim; a similitude; a parable. It impresses upon us in the most forcible manner the value of intelligence and prudence and of a good education. It deals too, in that refined, discriminating, careful view of

a finer shades of human character so often overlooked by theologians, but so necessary to any true estimate of human life.

Proverbs are not fully fossilized chunks of text; rather they tend to get adjusted to the language use or mentality of the given period as well to the context in which they occur. Individual distorted versions only rarely become commonly known, in most cases, they remain at the level of individual creativity. However, the text type itself occurs in large number these days, hence research on proverbs cannot afford to ignore it. Consequently, experts do not only have collected and published traditional proverbs but also their distorted derivatives.

Since childhood, people are found to use proverbs and other sayings from family members, from teachers during schooling, from neighbors at living places or from friends around the world. This means that 'environment' is present in the concept of lifelong learning in every place of air global village; we may take advantage of the great potential of content proverbs and use them as a strategy to motivate learners, to discuss ideas, to easily communicate with partners of different cultures, to point out common linguistic structures or even to focus cultural identities. Very often we say that "proverbs are the wisdom of street" to refer to their sources. To focus on their permanence we hear "time passes away but proverbs remain." Their value may be illustrated by "a proverb is never out of season" and their beauty can be expressed by "a proverb is an ornament to language". Another quotation relates the perception of a proverb with its use by the learners of different settings of many geographical regions but they belong to similar culture/language. Sometimes word by word is enough.

#### **1.1.4 Structure of English Proverbs**

The structure of the proverbs could be observed in terms of tense, voice and sentence types. To have a study on these aspects the researcher had observed some

proverbs and concluded how the proverbs of the English language are formed. Most of the proverbs were found in-between two to eleven words. Tense of the proverbs was studied with two criteria: past and non-past and voice in terms of active and passive. Sentence type was studied on the basis of the structure of sentence of the English language i.e. simple, compound and complex.

Similarly, proverbs are found having formed with phrasal level clause level and sentential level. Although they are in the form of phrase they give full proverbial meaning. For example,

- a. Tit for tat (phrase)
- b. To make a mountain out of molehill. (clause)
- c. A friend in need is a friend indeed. (sentence)

According to Yankah (1989, p.169) “Certain stylistic features, however, appear to be common with proverbs in general, and, set them apart in discourse. This includes terseness, impersonal, hyperbole, assonance, and parallelism.”

The proverb may be a straight literal statement like in the Arabic saying “covetousness is the punishment of the rich.”

In many world languages today, there are certain common sayings people use again and again. Some common sayings are used to remind a person of a kind of wisdom and are given as advice in a situation. Such sayings in the English language are called proverbs. A proverb is often a kind of common sense that is presented as a short conceptual story. Proverbs may occasionally sound rather ridiculous, since they are usually a kind of metaphor. A metaphor basically means that a description of one situation is meant to be applied to another situation being spoken about. I present some common proverbs to better clarify.

Good things come in small packages.



This is a proverb that is often spoken to someone who has received a small gift box when they were possibly expecting a large gift box. The basic concept is that things like engagement rings and other jewelry come in a small package. They are small, but valuable. Imagine a child who is expecting a video game for his birthday, but instead receives an envelope with a thousand dollars inside. The saying can also be used for a variety of other situations. For instance, if someone is speaking about a small car that has good fuel efficiency, they could also use this common proverb to say how good it is.

The bigger, the better

This is an interesting proverb to follow the previous proverb with. When a person wants to say how much they appreciate the size of something relatively large, this proverb is appropriate to use. This phrase is really good to use when describing something like a movie screen or a computer monitor. The popularity of the concept possibly got pushed too far with cars and trucks in America at some point.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

A person may like something more than another person may like the same thing. One person may like a kind of flower more than another person likes that kind of flower. One person may like kittens, while another person likes puppies. If the person who likes puppies says that puppies are cuter than kittens, the other person can use this proverb to say that beauty may be according to personal tastes.

Better safe than sorry.

This is a common saying that is used when a person is considering whether or not to do something that may or may not be necessary. One possible situation would be when a person is considering whether or not to lock their car door when going into a store for a moment. A friend may use this proverb as a reminder that it is best to be safe, considering how easy it is. The person may occasionally also say this proverb to themselves as a reminder to play it safe. Another possible situation

would be packing luggage for a weeklong trip. A person would possibly be better safe than sorry if they packed an extra pair of socks for the journey.

Hopefully this has been a good introduction to English language proverbs that will make your English conversations more natural and understandable.

Phrases in the English language are commonly used in literature and conversation. Knowing and understanding the meaning of such common English phrases is important for a student who wants to cultivate good language skills. One type of commonly used English phrase is known as a “proverb.” A proverb is used as a reminder or as a kind of recommendation in an appropriate situation. Although it may seem that there are many English language proverbs to know, they are relatively fun to study. Here are some common proverbs of the English language which are very familiar with English readers.

Birds of a feather flock together.

This proverb is often used in situations that have little to do with birds. The concept is that birds of a certain type will fly from place to place in a group together. It is used when a person is attempting to imply that a person has similar habits or tastes as someone they associate with. It is likely most often used when a person does not seem like they would associate with a person or group being spoken about. Here is an example for better clarification: “I saw him talking to a clown. You know what they say; birds of a feather flock together.” This would imply that the person may also be a clown or act like a clown.

The early bird gets the worm.

This is one that can potentially sound really silly when an English language student first hears it. It is basically used as a recommendation to get up or arrive early every day. The bird represents the person and the worm represents a goal, since birds eat worms. Why would any person want a worm? Here is an example of it in use: “I am setting my alarm to wake up early so I can start driving before there is much traffic. You know what they say; the early bird gets the worm.”

The best defense is a good offense.

This proverb is used in situations where a person may be wondering how to prevent a situation from happening. It can be seen as a reference to a sporting event. There are many situations where the proverb is appropriate to use. For instance, “If a person wants to prevent a dirty floor, they can clean the floor regularly. The best defense is a good offense.”

Look before you leap.

Here is a good proverb for most situations involving an element of risk. It is used as advice to recommend a person proceed carefully, to prevent jumping into something new unprepared. For instance, it is generally wise to do research about a new city prior to a visit.

Actions speak louder than words.

This common proverb uses an English language technique that relates two things that are not normally similar. In this phrase the two things being related are actions and words. The proverb is basically comparing how effective actions and words are for conveying how serious a person may be. The proverb is used when one person is talking to another person about something they want to do or how they feel about something. The person they are speaking to can use the phrase as a response to recommend to the person to use actions to better show how serious they are about doing something. The phrase is best used when someone has talked about doing something many times and has not done yet done it. Here is an example:

"The politician made many promises to the people, but the people wanted to see the politician actually do something. Actions speak louder than words."

Do not count your chickens before they are hatched.

This is a proverb that actually has little to do with chickens, unless a person is actually focused on growing chickens. The phrase is basically a way of saying that it is best to wait until a process is complete, prior to counting the results of the process. If a person wants to count chickens, then it is better to count the chickens after they have hatched from the eggs. This is because some of the chicken eggs may not hatch. This phrase can be used in any situation where there is a process that gives a result. It is used to recommend to a person not to make plans that are based on something that has not happened yet. Here is an example: "The person bought a lottery

ticket and began shopping for a new airplane with the prize money they planned to win in the lottery. Their friend recommended that they go airplane shopping after winning the lottery instead, as they should not count their chickens before they are hatched.

Do not put all of your eggs in one basket.

Continuing on the egg theme, this proverb also has little to do with eggs or baskets. The basic concept this proverb is stating is that it is good to have multiple plans for a better guarantee of success. For instance, it can be wise for a person to have a primary job and also a small business to better guarantee a successful income. Here is an example: “The person was good at sports in school, but also made sure to study and make good grades. The person knew it may not be wise to put all of their eggs in one basket.

You may have noticed the word “they” used as a kind of reference for some of the proverbs. The only “they” is the other English speakers using the same proverb and also saying “You know what they say” to another person. The concept of the unnamed “they” is a common and somewhat silly habit of English language speakers. It is used to add the appearance of importance to anonymous quotations. For some fun with native English speaking friends, say “You know what they say” and follow it with a ridiculous statement unrelated to the conversation. They will likely be highly amused.

(Retrieved in 16.03.2011 from <http://www.1-language.com/articles/introduction-to-english-proverbs>)

In this way, the researcher came to know that there are many proverbs which have specific identity and their use is inevitable in certain context. The proverbs come automatically when a speaker intends to share something in different style with more stress on his saying.

### **1. 1. 5 Proverbs and the English Language**

The English language has hundreds of proverbs. When the origin of the proverb is observed in English it has been found that the English word proverb was taken from the Latin word 'proverbium'. It is also called byword in English. It is called 'proverbio' in Italian and Spanish and in Greek 'paroemian'. It is a simple and concrete saying popularly known and repeated which expresses a truth based on common sense or practical experience of humanity. In English it is said that all the good sense of word run into proverbs. In other words, proverbs are the children of daily experience and proverbs are also said the wisdom of experiences.

Proverbs are often metaphorical. A proverb that describes a basic rule of conduct may also be referred as 'maxim'. Similarly, if proverb is distinguished by particularly good phrasing, it may be named as 'aphorism'. According to Mieder (1985)

proverbs are often borrowed from similar languages and cultures, and sometimes come down to the present through more than one language.

Both, the Bible (the book of proverb) and Medieval Latin have played a considerable role in distributing proverbs across Europe although almost every culture has example of its own. (Retrived in 05.01.2011 from <http://www.proverbs.net.com>)

The study of proverbs is called paremiology and can be dated back as far as Aristotle. Peremiography, on the other hand is the collection of proverbs. Currently

it is claimed that the foremost proverb scholar in the United States is Wolfgang Mieder (a claim based on the fact that he has written or edited over books on the subject, edits the journal *Proverbial*, has written innumerable articles on proverbs, and is very widely cited by other proverb scholars). “A proverb is a short generally known sentence of folk which contains wisdom, truth, morals and traditional views in a metaphorical and memorable form and which is handed down from generation to generation.” (Retrieved in 05.01.2011 from <http://www.proverbs.net.com>)

Proverbs are found all over the world, but some are as seen to have richer store of proverbs than others like West Africa, while others have very few like North and South America (Adhikari 2008, p. 7). Proverbs are often borrowed across lines of language religion and over time. Proverbs are used by speakers for a variety of purposes e.g. to give moral lesson, to provide the lesson of social justice, to reform society, to provide behavioral knowledge, to beautify the language and so on.

Proverbs are those important assets of language that beautify the language and establish the specific style of an individual language. Speech/writing studied with proverbs are generally considered as flowery language because they are very useful means to say something and full of meaning, although an overload of it is, for that matter any nicety, may not be relished much. Lack of knowledge or understanding of proverbs in a language prevents the learner from understanding the cultural niceties or peculiarities. It helps improve the knowledge of a learner and makes learning effective. Therefore, proverb in language makes users of the language tactful and seems inevitably useful.

### **1.1.6 The Scope of Proverbs**

Proverbs in any language depict the experience, culture and the way of life of the speakers and it is natural that languages in spoken areas have proverbs which are thematically common. Since the geography of a land has an impact on the history of people occupying it, both geographical and historical facts affect the way of life

of people and their languages. Accordingly, proverbs also reflect the differences in expression while sharing a common theme. Thus, proverbs in different languages of a country indicate the commonness in the perception of life of its people and preserve the unique cultural and social features of each of speech communities. So, an understanding of the common problem in different languages enables us to understand each other better.

The use of proverbs in conversation is found very often for example *tit for tat*, *diamond cuts diamond*, *all worship the rising sun*. So, the study of proverb seems fruitful. The study of proverbs has application in a number of fields. Clearly, those who study folklore and literature are interested in proverbs but scholars from a variety of fields have found ways to profitably incorporate the study of proverbs.

### **1.1.7 Proverbs and Newspaper Articles**

Proverbs are dynamically used by the speakers of a language. It is often used to stress the saying or the topic of the conversation. It has broad scope within every language. Newspapers are the platforms on which people share their feelings, thoughts, ideas, experiences etc. In course of the sharing of the thoughts, ideas etc. they use proverbs. In such case, the researcher is interested in finding out why the people use the proverbs in newspaper articles.

The researcher tried to find the Nepali equivalents of the English proverbs during his thesis writing.

Newspaper articles here included all the articles printed on newspapers such as editorials, articles by columnist and news reports.



## 1.2 Review of Related Literature

Some researchers have carried out their studies on newspapers, magazines, journals including proverbs as well which are related to this study can be observed as follows:

Shrestha (2000) carried out a research entitled “An Analysis of Newspaper Headlines: A Descriptive Study.” He studied the headlines of newspaper from the viewpoint of their structures. He came to the conclusion that newspaper headlines have their own style of writing which differ considerably from general pattern of writing.

Sharma (2001) has compiled a dictionary 'Nepali English Proverbial Dictionary' and compared English proverbs with Nepali ones. His main objective was to find out the equivalents of English proverbs. He presented almost all the English proverbs with their literal translation and at the same time presented equivalent colloquial Nepali proverbs.

Pokhrel (2003) has conducted a research entitled ‘The Use of English in Broadcast and Print Media: A Comparative Study.’ This study tries to compare the differences and similarities between the language used in broadcast media only in terms of the news on it. He concluded that to some extent there is similarity between them.

Acharya (2006) has carried out a research on 'Language Used in Cartoon Captions in English Newspapers' to find out the physical features and classification of cartoons of English newspapers. He found that there is no fixed shape of cartoons; it can be of cylindrical shape, a boat shape.

Adhikari (2007) has carried out a research on "Language Used in The News Stories: A Descriptive Study" aiming to find out the general features of news. The

study targeted to analyze the pattern of news, the way of presentation i.e. coherence and cohesion. The study revealed that the print news have their own style of writing.

Adhikari (2008) has conducted a research on 'Analysis of Proverbial Language'. His objective was to find out how proverbs come to languages. He found that proverbs are borrowed from similar cultures and they have different structures with two to twenty-seven words.

Thus, the researches reviewed above to fulfill the study related to different fields (aspects) of language and the collection of English and Nepali proverbs show that no study has been done of proverbs in relation to newspaper articles and their Nepali equivalents. Therefore, this research will be different from the previous studies.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The study consisted of the following objectives:

- a. To list out proverbs used in newspapers and find out their Nepali equivalents.
- b. To find out the frequency and analyze cultural features of the proverbs.
- c. To suggest pedagogical implications.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The study is supposed to be beneficial to students, teachers, English language users in general, course designers, trainers, journalists etc. who are involved in teaching and learning about online communication. This study is also useful for the forthcoming research works associated with language and proverbs.

## CHAPTER TWO

### METHODOLOGY

The research adopted the following methodological procedures to carry out the research.

#### 2.1 Sources of Data

To achieve the intended goals, the researcher used only the secondary sources of data.

##### 2.1.1 Secondary Sources of Data

The researcher adopted only the secondary sources of data. The secondary sources of data for the study were three newspapers i.e. national dailies. The selected newspapers are listed below:

**Table No. 1**  
**Sources of Data**

Name of the newspaper	Types	Number	Dated
The Kathmandu Post	Daily	40	1 <sup>st</sup> March – April 10
The Himalayan Times	Daily	40	1 <sup>st</sup> March – April 10
Republica	Daily	40	1 <sup>st</sup> March – April 10

Other secondary sources were mainly the books of proverbs: Mieder (1922), Wilson (1970), Lall (1994), Sharma, (2001), Spake (2005), etc.

### **2.1.2 Sampling Procedure**

Altogether 51 proverbs were selected from the newspapers applying the judgmental sampling procedure, one of the useful non-random sampling designs.

### **2.1.3 Tools for Data collection**

Since this study is an attempt to find out the proverbs used in newspaper articles and their Nepali equivalents, the researcher only utilized the observation as a tool for collecting the required data. For this, the researcher went through the English newspapers and listed them out and prepared a checklist to find out Nepali equivalents.

### **2.1.4 Process of Data Collection**

- a. The researcher purposively selected three English newspapers.
- b. The researcher read and reread those newspapers many times.
- c. The researcher selected 17 proverbs from the three newspapers each.
- d. The proverbs that reiterated were discarded, but their frequency was counted and listed all the proverbs used in those newspapers.
- e. The collected proverbs were matched to their colloquial Nepali equivalents.

### **2.1.5 Limitations of the Study**

This research had the following limitations:

- a. The study was only about English proverbs.
- b. The study expected at least 50 proverbs collected from the selected newspapers.
- c. The analysis was limited within proverbs that are found in newspapers.
- d. Equivalents of English proverbs were matched with Nepali colloquial proverbs.
- e. Analysis and comparison between the equivalents of the two languages were not done.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

This chapter provides the analysis and interpretation of the proverbs used in newspapers. They are interpreted in terms of voice and sentence types, and frequency of the proverbs is also shown. Similarly, the cultural aspects of proverbs are also explained. Finally, the Nepali equivalents of the English proverbs are presented.

The proverbs that are found in The Himalayan Times are as follows:

1. Beauty is not just skin-deep.
2. Do not put all of your eggs in one basket.
3. Conspiracies do not do good to anyone.
4. A friend in need is a friend indeed.
5. Happiness is a journey not a destination.
6. Good friends are only a handful.
7. One who asks a question is a fool for five minutes, one who does not ask a question remains a fool forever.
8. Gold stays with you forever after it is mined.
9. One man's meat is another man's poison.
10. The miserable have no other medicine but only hope.
11. Honesty is the best policy.
12. Where there is challenge there is opportunity.
13. Art is long, life is short.
14. To make a mountain out of molehill.
15. Might is right.
16. New wine is put in old bottle.
17. You can take a horse into water but you cannot make it drink.

The proverbs that are found in Republica are as follows:

1. A stopped clock is right twice a day.
2. Charity begins at home.

3. Fortune befriends the bold.
4. A wounded deer leaps highest.
5. The perfect should not be the enemy of good.
6. It is easiest said than done.
7. You can please anyone but not everyone.
8. Action speaks louder than words.
9. Prevention is better than cure.
10. Unity is strength.
11. Die many deaths before the death.
12. Save for rainy days.
13. Miracles do not happen.
14. A book should not be judged by its cover but by its content.
15. First earn and then deserve.
16. Something is better than nothing.
17. Diamond cuts diamond.

The proverbs that are found in The Kathmandu Post are as follows:

1. Simple living high thinking.
2. Take it or leave it.
3. Everyone cheats in his own ways and he is honest who is not discovered.
4. Everyone who is born is sure to die.
5. Do or die.
6. Small things can make a large difference.
7. Health is wealth.
8. I have a good clock but in France.
9. All is well that ends well.
10. Still water runs deep.
11. Violence begets violence.
12. Truth is bitter.
13. The devil dances in the dark house.
14. Everybody born is sure to die.

15. Do as Romans do, when in Rome.

16. Every rise has fall.

17. Too much breaks the bag.

The above mentioned proverbs are the data that are taken from the preplanned sources. They are analyzed under the following three categories:

1. Structural classification
2. Frequency
3. Cultural feature

### 3.1 Structural classification

Under the structural classification the data are analyzed in terms of the voice, tense and sentence type.

#### 3.1.1 Voice

Voice is the form of verb that shows whether the subject of a sentence performs the action or is affected by it. In other words, the term 'voice' refers to the alternation in the form of verb phrases in pairs of verb phrases of sentence.

**Table No. 2**

**Use of Voice in Proverbs**

Voice	Frequency	Percentage
Active	48	94.11
Passive	3	5.89
Total	51	100

The table exhibits that out of the total proverbs passive voice is used in only 3 sentences and active in 48 proverbs. The above table makes it clear that active voice was found to have more frequency than passive voice in English proverbs. The active voice covers 94.11%, which is higher than 19. Regarding the proverbs

of passive voice used in English newspapers, they cover 5.89% which is one tenth of the whole. Examples of English passive proverbs are:

- a. It is easiest said than done.
- b. New wine is put in old bottle.

### 3.1.2 Tense

Tense is any of the form of verb that may be used to show the time of the action or state expressed by the verb. There are mainly two tenses in English; they are past and non-past. The past tense refers to an earlier time and non-past to present time. The non-past tense includes present and future tense. Here, in this study the researcher found no proverbs having future tense. Therefore, in this case non-past tense includes only present tense. Moreover there is another condition which does not convey any tense that is verbless phrase. Verbless phrases are those which do not indicate any time factor. Some of the proverbs are found timeless in terms of tense.

In the study, out of 51 proverbs there were found no proverbs were formed to represent the past tense. But most of the proverbs went under the non-past tense and some under timeless. The following table represents the status of proverbs in terms of tense.

**Table No. 3**  
**Use of Tense in Proverbs**

Tense	Frequency	Percentage
Non-past	48	94.12
Past	-	-
Timeless	3	5.88
Total	51	100

The past tense implies here that the proverbs which have the past tense. Similarly, non-past tense includes those proverbs of the present and future. The table depicts



that the proverbs used on newspapers are mostly non-past. Their percentage is 94.12 which are 19 times more than that of verbless proverbs. On the other hand, the proverbs that had the past tense were not found. So far as the verbless proverbs are also found but a few in number that is three in number or 5.55 in percent. On the basis of the result the researcher came to know that the proverbs that are of non-past are far more frequent on newspapers rather than the verbless.

- a. Miracles do not happen. (non-past)
- b. Simple living high thinking. (verbless)

### 3.1.3 Sentence Types Used in English Proverbs

The researcher studied and analyzed the language used in English proverbs to find sentence types. For the study, he observed fifty-one proverbs altogether. Regarding sentence types, all three types of sentences (simple, complex and compound) were found. Among them, simple sentences were found to have been used with the highest frequency covering 74.5 percent. Similarly, compound sentences were used with the frequency of 15.68 percent. In the same way, complex sentences covered only 9.82 percent. The following table shows the findings:

**Table No. 4**  
**Sentence Types of English Proverbs**

Sentence types	Frequency	Percentage
Simple sentence	38	74.5
Compound sentence	8	15.68
Complex sentence	5	9.82
Total	51	100

The following sentences are some examples of simple (a-b), compound (b-c) and complex (e-f) used in English national dailies.

- a. Honesty is the best policy. (THT)
- b. Diamond cuts diamond. (Republica)

- c. You can please anyone but not everyone. (Republica)
- d. I have a good clock but in France. (TKP)
- e. Where there is challenge there is opportunity. (THT)
- f. Do as Romans do, when in Rome. (TKP)

### 3.1.4 Level of Structure of English Proverbs

In the English grammar, there are different levels of formations: word level, phrasal level, sentence level. Proverbs were also found in two different levels: phrasal level and sentential level. Finding that came up from this study is as follows:

**Table No. 5**  
**Level of Structure of English Proverbs on THT**

Level	No.	Percentage
Phrase	0	0
Clause	1	5.88
Sentence	16	94.12
Total	17	100

THT is such newspaper that did not consist of any proverbs that is of phrasal level but a single proverb of clause level and all the rest of sentential level. For example,

- a. To make mountain out of mole hill. (clause)
- b. Where there is challenge, there is opportunity. (sentence)

There were not found any proverbs of phrasal level and clause level but only of sentential level on Republica. For example,

- a. Fortune befriends the bold. (sentence)

The state of proverbs on TKP was found different than that of the THT and Republica.

The proverbs were found of all level, of sentence structure; phrasal level, clause level and sentential level. They are as follows:

- a. Simple living high thinking. (phrase)
- b. Take it or leave it. (clause)
- c. Do as Romans do, when in Rome. (sentence)

**Table No. 6**  
**Level of Structure in English Proverbs on TKP**

<b>Level</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Phrase	1	5.88
Clause	4	23.52
Sentence	12	70.58
Total	17	100

### 3.2 Frequency

Frequency is the rate at which proverbs are repeated. In THT any proverbs were not reiterated.

In the case of Republica only a single proverb was occurred twice. The proverb ‘fortune befriends the bold’ is only proverb that reiterated two times.

Similarly, the proverbs that are frequent on TKP are more than that of the Republica. On TKP there are two proverbs that are frequent on TKP; they are presented on the following table.

**Table No. 7**  
**Frequency of Proverb on TKP**

<b>Proverb</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Simple living high thinking.	3 times
Everyone born is sure to die.	2 times
Everyman cheats in his own ways and	2 times

he is honest who is not discovered.	
-------------------------------------	--

By the above mentioned table the researcher came to know that there was very few chance of the reiteration of proverbs. But those proverbs that repeated time and again are very common to the English language users.

It was found that not a single proverb was used in all the three newspapers dailies during the period of data collection.

The use of different proverbs by the different newspapers indicates that there are a lot of proverbs and there is a little chance of the use of same proverb in all newspapers.

### **3.3 Place of Proverb in Newspaper Article**

News consists of different parts. Lead is the first paragraph of news which gives the most important information or main theme of the story. This part explains the answers of wh-questions in precise language. The second part of a news story is body. Body gives the all details of an action.

There are different types of articles on newspapers. News reports, business column, sports column articles by columnist etc. The proverbs are found in different articles, and columns. There are a very few proverbs that are found in lead sentences of an article. Mainly, proverbs were found in two types of articles viz. news articles and the articles by different columnists. Between the two also articles by columnists were the fertile for proverbs. The statistics that was found in the study are as follows:

**Table No. 8**  
**Place of Proverbs on the Newspapers**

<b>Newspapers</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Body</b>	<b>Total</b>
THT	2	15	17
Republica	2	15	17

TKP	1	16	17
<b>Total</b>	5	46	51

The information that the abovementioned table provided is that there are only two proverbs used in lead on THT and Republica. The matter differs relatively on TKP on which there found a single proverb in lead.

Therefore, it can be said that only 9.8 per cent proverbs are used on the lead and 90.2 percent which is ten times more is used in body part of the news.

### 3.4 English Proverbs and their Nepali Equivalentents

Proverbs are the properties of all languages of the world. They are precious assets of a language. The Nepali language is also rich in the use of proverbs. In this section the Nepali equivalentents of English proverbs are presented. English proverbs are matched with Nepali proverbs.

The proverbs of THT are presented with Nepali equivalentents.

- i. Beauty is not just skin-deep.  
*sundart ch l m hudaina*
- ii. Do not put all of your eggs in one basket.  
(not found)
- iii. Conspiracies do not do good to anyone.  
*biş bişai ho*
- iv. A friend in need is a friend indeed.  
*apatko s thi nai kh s s thi ho*
- v. Happiness is a journey not a destination.  
*khushi y tr ho gantabya hoina*
- vi. Good friends are only a handful.  
*sabai banm chandan hudaina*
- vii. One who asks a question is a fool for five minutes, one who does not ask a question remains a fool forever.  
*sabko ausadhi daibale rachyo birse cha ki murkhako*

viii. Gold stays with you forever after it is mined.

*fu vlao ta jagat valo*

ix. One man's meat is another man's prison.

*eut ko jaro nakhani arko uthdaina*

x. The miserable have no other medicine but only hope.

*dukhi ko s har s*

xi. Honesty is the best policy.

*im nd r kukurle bh t p ucha*

xii. Where there is challenge there is opportunity.

*j h chunauti ty h awasar*

xiii. Art is long, life is short.

*k m mardaia, manche marcha*

xiv. To make a mountain out of molehill.

*tilko p h d ban unu*

xv. Might is right.

*jasko sakti usko vakti*

xvi. New wine is put in old bottle.

*purano botlm nay raks*

xvii. God helps the poor.

*anāthka sahāya daiba*

Similarly, the Nepali equivalents of English proverbs found in Republica are presented below:

1. A stopped clock is right twice a day.

*sabaik din uchan*

2. Charity begins at home.

*fnai bh tma m d m dhe m tra huncha*

3. Fortune befriends the bold.

*bh gym niko bhutaikam ro*

4. A wounded deer leaps highest.

*gh ite b gh ufrancha*

5. The perfect should not be the enemy of good.

*(not found)*

6. It is easiest said than done.

*k m van a kur mitho*

7. You can please anyone but not everyone.  
*(not found)*
8. Action speaks louder than words.  
*kur bhand k m mahatwapurna huncha*
9. Prevention is better than cure.  
*rog lāgera upach r garnu vand rog lagna nadinu nai jati*
10. Unity is strength.  
*ekat nai bal ho*
11. Die many deaths before the death.  
*k lko agi sy lko duh i*
12. Save for rainy days.  
*ana kh nu tara biu jog unu.*
13. Miracles do not happen.  
*nahune kur hudaina*
14. A book should not be judged by its cover but by its content.  
*herera kehi th h hunna*
15. First earn and then deserve.  
*gh ti heri had nilnu*
16. Something is better than nothing.  
*nahunu m m bhand k no m m niko*
17. Diamond cuts diamond.  
*fal m ko s tru fal m*

The English proverbs are presented with their Nepali counterparts that were taken from TKP are as follows:

1. Simple living high thinking.  
*s d jivan uchha bichar*
2. Take it or leave it.  
*t to pid lu nilnu na okalnu*
3. Everyone cheats in his own ways and he is honest who is not discovered.  
*dh n khane muso, chot paune bhy gutto*
4. Everyone who is born is sure to die.  
*janmeko marcha*

5. Do or die.  
*ki hastin purko rajai ki capari muniko bas*
6. Small things can make a large difference.  
*s garm dhung hannu*
7. Health is wealth.  
*sw stha nai dhan ho*
8. I have a good clock but in France.  
*l sh m sun cha k n mero buchai*
9. All is well that ends well.  
*antya ramro ta sabai thok ramro.*
10. Still water runs deep.  
*napatyaune kholale bagaucha*
11. Violence begets violence.  
*k l le k l bol ucha.*
12. Truth is bitter.  
*satya tito huncha*
13. The devil dances in a dark house.  
*adhy ro ghar vutko dera*
14. Everybody born is sure to die.  
*janmeko marcha*
15. Do as Romans do, when in Rome.  
*andh ko desm akha chimlanu*
16. Every rise has fall.  
*patan sabaiko huncha.*
17. Too much breaks the bag.  
*ati navai khati hudaina*

Nepali equivalent proverbs are commonly used by the Nepali language speakers. Proverbs help to make the context clear in both of the languages.



### 3.5 Cultural features

One of the major focuses of this study is to find out the cultural features of the two languages. It is found in terms of the difference in the use of the terms. There are some proverbs which are found culturally different. They are different due to the use of different terms depending on the culture. The proverbs are culturally defined as follows:

**a. Good friends are only a handful (THT).**

*(sabai banm chandan hudaina)*

In English culture friends are the important assets of life. So, they give more priority to the friends. On the other hand, in Nepali culture chandan is said to have a best type of scent or best smelling wood in a forest. Therefore, two cultures show difference in the use of symbols and terms.

**b. One man's meat is another man's poison.**

*(eut ko jaro nakhani arko uthdaina)*

Meat is one of the important dish which maintains the calories necessary for a man is the belief of English culture. To get meat one has to kill another so they have this proverb. On the other hand, one to be powerful needs to make another powerless or s/he has to snatch the power forcibly. Therefore, Nepali language has '*autako jaro nakhani arko uthdaina*' as equivalent of this proverb.

**c. A wounded deer lips highest.**

*(gh ite b gh ufrancha)*

In the English language deer is treated as innocent animal. They believe on love and peace. On the other hand, in Nepali proverb 'ghaite bag ufrancha' tiger is treated as symbol of bravery. Nepali people believe in different bravery activities. So that tiger is used in Nepali language in place of deer.

**d. Diamond cuts diamond.**

*(fal m ko s tru fal m)*

Diamond is a precious stone. English people like the business of diamond because they are rich. In the same condition, Nepali people use iron (falam) in place of diamond because they are not as rich as English people are. Iron is necessary for them rather than diamond therefore 'falam' replaced diamond in Nepali language.

**e. I have a good clock but in France.**

*(l sh m sun cha k n mero buchai)*

Here clock in France represent that English people think clock (time) as important asset of life. Time is symbol of precious ornament for them. At the same time France is a fertile place to utilize time for English people. Similarly, in Nepali culture gold is an important asset and to earn gold Lasha is fertile place. So clock in English is used by gold (sûn) in Nepali.

**f. Do as Romans do, when in Rome.**

*(andh ko desm akha chimlanu)*

English people believe that a person should fit the situation by doing the activities that the people do where he lives. And English people have belief that Rome is the place where they learn many things. So they say *do as Romans do when in Rome*. Similarly, Nepali people also believe to fit the situation wherever one is. He/she should imitate the people to fit the situation. So Nepali has '*andhako desma akha cimlanu*'.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **FINDINGS AND RECOMENDATIONS**

#### **4.1 Findings**

In English newspapers under the study, the researcher has derived the following findings on the basis of analysis and interpretation of the data:

1. a. The proverbs that are found in The Himalayan Times are as follows:
  1. Beauty is not just skin-deep.(9 March)
  2. Don't put all of your eggs in one basket.(12 March)
  3. Conspiracies do not do good to anyone.(March 14)
  4. A friend in need is a friend indeed. (March 14)
  5. Happiness is a journey not a destination.(15march)
  6. Good friends are only a handful. (16 March)
  7. One who asks a question is a fool for five minutes, one who does not ask a question remains a fool forever.(16 March)
  8. Gold stays with you forever after it is mined.(17 March)
  9. One man's meat is another man's prison.(18 March)
  10. The miserable have no other medicine but only hope.(18 March)
  11. Honesty is the best policy. (27 March)
  12. Where there is challenge there is opportunity.(March 28)
  13. Art is long, life is short. (29 March)
  14. To make a mountain out of molehill. (6 April)
  15. Might is right. (8 April)
  16. New wine is put in old bottle.(8 April)
  17. You can take a horse into water but you can't make it drink.(10 April)
  
- b. The proverbs that are found in Republica are as follows:
  1. A stopped clock is right twice a day. (25 January)
  2. Charity begins at home. (25 January)
  3. Fortune befriends the bold. (29 January)

4. A wounded deer leaps highest. (29 January)
5. The perfect should not be the enemy of good. (30 January)
6. It is easiest said than done. (4 February)
7. You can please anyone but not everyone. (11 February)
8. Action speaks louder than words. (12 February)
9. Prevention is better than cure. (12 February)
10. Unity is strength. (3 March)
11. Die many deaths before the death. (27 March)
12. Save for rainy days. (27 March)
13. Miracles do not happen. (7 March)
14. A book should not be judged by its cover but by its content. (5 April)
15. First earn and then deserve. (March 16)
16. Something is better than nothing. (18 March)
17. Diamond cuts diamond. (30 March)

c. The proverbs that are found in The Kathmandu Post are as follows:

1. Simple living high thinking. (6 March)
2. Take it or leave it. (7 March)
3. Everyone cheats in his own ways and he is honest who is not discovered. (9 March)
4. Everyone who is born is sure to die. (7 March)
5. Do or die. (19 March)
6. Small things can make a large difference. (2 March)
7. Health is wealth. (5 March)
8. I have a good clock but in France. (15 March)
9. All is well that ends well. (8 March)
10. Still water runs deep. (9 March)
11. Violence begets violence. (14 March)
12. Truth is bitter. (16 March)
13. The devil dances in the dark house. (12 March)
14. Everybody born is sure to die. (9 March)

15. Do as Romans do, when in Rome. (19 March)
  16. Every rise has fall. (3 March)
  17. Too much breaks the bag. (8 March)
2. The language used in the English proverbs on newspapers found to have their own structure tense, voice, length, different events and different form of pattern etc.
    - a. Regarding the use of voice, mostly active voice is found. The rate of use of active voice is 94.11 percent but only 5.89 percent was found in the use of passive voice.
    - b. The frequency of the chance of repetition of a proverb is very few. Out of 50 proverbs only three were found repeated twice.
    - c. The use of non-past tense is far more frequent than that past tense. The use of non-past (present and future) tense is 94.12 percent and use of the past tense is 5.12 percent.
    - d. Regarding the sentence type, the frequency of simple sentences was high. Compound sentences were lesser and complex sentences were very few. In the study, 74.5 percent proverbs were in the form of simple sentences, 15.68 percent were compound sentences and 9.82 percent were complex sentences.
    - e. Proverbs are found mostly used on articles and a very few in news and rarely in lead.
  3. The Nepali equivalents of the English proverbs used on newspapers have been available. But in some cases the equivalents may not be found. In this case, three Nepali equivalents of English proverbs were not found.
  4. Cultural features are one of the major aspects of this study. The difference in the use of terms for similar meaning implied the change in culture. e.g. diamond cuts diamond. Here diamond of English is implied by iron in the Nepali culture. So the study found out the different use of objects for same

meaning due to the change of culture. Deer in English is indicated by tiger (i.e. *bagh*) in the Nepali language for the same pragmatic meaning.

## **4.2 Recommendations**

On the basis of the findings of the study, the following recommendations have been suggested:

### **4.2.1 To the Teachers and Students**

1. The findings in terms of voice, tense, sentence types, word class and their Nepali equivalents of this research will be great value of use to teachers and learners who are involved in teaching/learning activities and in course of general and creative writing. Words are the property of power so the English language learners and the Nepali language learners can improve their word power by getting knowledge of proverbs.

2. The study found that most of the proverbs were kept in news and articles to stress the point the writer intend to share. Proverbs make any writing creative and logical and interesting. So, if proverbs are used in the articles, essays or any kind of writing those writings become more powerful. Therefore, it can be suggested that proverbs should be used in the academic fields for educational development of student and teacher.

### **4.2.2 To the Curriculum Designers and Textbook Writers**

1. In course of preparation and development of teaching materials for general course and specially for English for specific purposes course, the curriculum designers or planners should include the language of proverbs in the textbooks of secondary and higher secondary levels, taking considerations of different aspects of language used in proverbs mainly to

make them aware of vocabularies, structures and writing styles used in proverbs. In the same way, textbooks should be designed targeting for those who want to make their profession on the writings.

2. The researcher during the period of research consulted the school and campus level curriculum. But he could not find any texts related to proverbs. So, the text related to proverbs should be added to the schools and campus level curriculum taking considerations of its importance.
3. Those texts are best which contain interesting facts and details that the readers can visualize. So, text writers should follow the explicit way to make the texts more effective and more direct to the readers of proverbs because proverbs are all about truth or proverbs always speak truth.

The research work as it was confined to its objectives, sample of the proverbs and other limitations may not be completely able to deal with the area determined by the topic. The researcher cannot claim that the present study is perfectly conclusive in itself. More research works are needed to be carried out in this area regarding different aspects of proverbs.

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Newspapers:

The HimalayanTimes

The Kathmandu Post

Republica

## APPENDIX I

The proverbs that are found in The Himalayan Times are as follows:

1. Beauty is not just skin-deep.(9 March)
2. Don't put all of your eggs in one basket.(12 March)
3. Conspiracies do not do good to anyone.(March 14)
4. A friend in need is a friend indeed. (March 14)
5. Happiness is a journey not a destination.(15march)
6. Good friends are only a handful. (16 March)
7. One who asks a question is a fool for five minutes, one who does not ask a question remains a fool forever.(16 March)
8. Gold stays with you forever after it is mined.(17 March)
9. One man's meat is another man's prison.(18 March)
10. The miserable have no other medicine but only hope.(18 March)
11. Honesty is the best policy. (27 March)
12. Where there is challenge there is opportunity.(March 28)
13. Art is long, life is short. (29 March)
14. To make a mountain out of molehill. (6 April)
15. Might is right. (8 April)
16. New wine is put in old bottle.(8 April)
17. You can take a horse into water but you can't make it drink.(10 April)

The proverbs that are found in Republica are as follows:

1. A stopped clock is right twice a day. (25 January)
2. Charity begins at home. (25 January)
3. Fortune befriends the bold. (29 January)
4. A wounded deer leaps highest. (29 January)
5. The perfect should not be the enemy of good. (30 January)
6. It is easiest said than done. (4 February)
7. You can please anyone but not everyone. (11 February)
8. Action speaks louder than words. (12 February)

9. Prevention is better than cure. (12 February)
10. Unity is strength. (3 March)
11. Die many deaths before the death. (27 March)
12. Save for rainy days. (27 March)
13. Miracles do not happen. (7 March)
14. A book should not be judged by its cover but by its content. (5 April)
15. First earn and then deserve. (March 16)
16. Something is better than nothing. (18 March)
17. Diamond cuts diamond. (30 March)

The proverbs that are found in The Kathmandu Post are as follows:

1. Simple living high thinking. (6 March)
2. Take it or leave it. (7 March)
3. Everyone cheats in his own ways and he is honest who is not discovered. (9 March)
4. Everyone who is born is sure to die. (7 March)
5. Do or die. (19 March)
6. Small things can make a large difference. (2 March)
7. Health is wealth. (5 March)
8. I have a good clock but in France. (15 March)
9. All is well that ends well. (8 March)
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17. Too much breaks the bag. (8 March)