

LANGUAGE SHIFT IN KATHMANDU

**A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education
in Partial Fulfilment for the Master's Degree in Education**

**Submitted by
Bishnu Deula**

**Faculty of Education
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur
Kathmandu, Nepal
2009**

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2009**

**TU Reg. No: 6-1-1-301-96
Second Year Examination
Roll No: 280206/ 2064**

**Date of Approval of the
Thesis Proposal: 2065-04-16
Date of Submission: 2066-04-14**

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

This is to certify that **Bishnu Deula** has prepared this thesis entitled **Language Shift in Kathmandu** under my guidance and supervision.

I recommend the thesis for acceptance.

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DEDICATION

Dedicated

to

*my **parents** and **teachers** who contributed to make me what I am today.*

DECLARATION

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

Date: 2066-04-13

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Bishnu Deula

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my respected Guru, my thesis supervisor, **Dr. Govinda Raj Bhattarai**, Professor, Department of English Education, TU for his continuous guidance, supervision and invaluable suggestions. I think without his constructive feedback, encouragement and instructions from the very beginning, it would not be possible to come up with this thesis in this form. Therefore, I feel myself very lucky to have worked under his supervision.

Secondly, I owe a debt of gratitude to **Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra**, Professor and Head of the Department of English Education, for encouraging me during this research work. Likewise, I am grateful to Prof. **Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi**, Chairperson of English and Other Foreign Languages Subject Committee, for his supportive and encouraging ideas.

I would like to record in my mind a considerable sense of acknowledgement to my respected Guruma **Dr. Anjana Bhattarai**, Reader and Member of the Research Guidance Committee of the Department of English Education for her prominent co-operation, series of invaluable suggestions and instructions. I have due regard to **Mr. Vishnu Singh Rai, Dr. Bal Mukunda Bhandari, Mrs. Tapasi Bhattacharya, Dr. Anju Giri, Mr. Laxmi Bahadur Maharjan, Mr. Prem Bahadur Phyak, Mrs. Madhu Neupane, Mr. Bal Krishna Sharma, Mrs. Saraswati Dawadi, Mr. Bhesh Raj Pokhrel, Mr. Durga Pokhrel, Mrs. Hima Rawal, and Late Mr. Khadak Bahadur KC** for providing me invaluable knowledge on linguistics, language teaching, language testing, translation etc as well as for their invaluable suggestions, encouragement, assistance and co-operation.

I gratefully acknowledge my deep indebtedness to my respected Guru **Mr. Ram Chandra Parajuli** for providing me with the very basic and first knowledge on linguistics and language teaching.

I warmly thank my colleagues **Devendra Budhathoki, Dipendra Pokharel** and **Krishna Thing** for their kind co – operation and help at many stages of carrying out this research.

I am equally thankful to all the informants for their co-operation in answering the questionnaire with their invaluable opinions. Without their assistance, this work would not be completed.

I am also grateful to **Mrs. Madhavi Khanal**, the Librarian, Department of English Education for her kind co – operation from the very beginning to the end of the work.

My special thanks go to my parents for their love, blessings and financial support for this work. I am also indebted to **Mr. Prakash Chhetri** and **Miss Sita Gurung** for their inspiration, encouragement and regular support. Also I want to thank all my friends who helped me directly and indirectly for this study.

July, 2009

Bishnu Deula

ABSTRACT

The title of this research work is “**Language Shift in Kathmandu**”. The main purpose of this study was to find out the situation of language shift in Kathmandu valley and the attitudes of different groups of people towards their mother tongue, Nepali language and English language. To accomplish this study, a set of questionnaire was formulated and distributed to one hundred inhabitant of Kathmandu valley. The informants were sampled from five different strata viz. teachers, students, politicians, business persons and representative members of ethnic groups. Twenty respondents from each stratum were purposively selected. The data collected from the informants were analyzed and interpreted to find out the situation of language shift and the attitude of different groups of people towards their mother tongue, Nepali language and English language. It was found that there is a case of language shift. Language shift is occurring towards Nepali language and English language. Ethnic languages are moribund. English language is the most preferred language to speak. Most of them prefer English medium school as well. Nevertheless, they have positive attitudes towards their mother tongue, Nepali and English language i.e. positive towards multilingualism. They have felt the necessity of mother tongue education and think that English language is necessary for higher studies as well. They think that mother tongue is suitable for literacy level, Nepali for secondary level and English for tertiary level of education.

The study consists of four chapters. Chapter one introduces the study in terms of general background, review of the related literature, objectives of the study, significance of the study and definitions of the specific terms. Likewise, chapter

two deals with the methodology applied to conduct the study. It encompasses the sources of data, population of the study, sampling procedure, research tools for data collection, process of data collection and limitations of the study. Similarly, chapter three deals with the analysis and interpretation of the raw data obtained from the informants. The data were analyzed and interpreted by using simple statistical tools and presented with the help of tables, charts and diagrams. Finally, chapter four deals with the findings, recommendations and pedagogical implications of this study.

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ABBREVIATIONS

A. D.	Anno Domini
CUP	Cambridge University Press
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
Dr.	Doctor
e.g.	Exempli gratia (for example)
Eds.	Editors
EFL	English as a second Language
ELT	English Language Teaching
et al.	and others
etc.	Et cetera
Fo	Observed Frequency
i.e.	Id est (that is)
L1	First language
L2	Second language
NELTA	Nepal English Language Teachers' Association
NEP	National Education Plan
NESP	New Education System Plan
No.	Number
Nos.	Numbers
OUP	Oxford University Press
p.	page
pp.	pages
Prof.	Professor
T.U.	Tribhuvan University
TL	Target Language
UN	United Nations
UK	United Kingdom
Viz.	Videlicet (Latin), namely
Vol.	Volume