

# Welcome to the New Issue of Gipan: Interdisciplinary Approach to Research and Innovation

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## ABSTRACT

*This editorial review of Gipan Volume 6 (1) introduces the smooth shift from previous disciplinary focus on Gipan to more multidisciplinary one, in which papers belonging to issues in linguistics and applied linguistics (including language teaching) have been incorporated. The primary purpose of bringing in the interdisciplinary focus is to bring the cross-cutting issues across disciplines into broader discourse. This review starts with a brief background information relating to the journal, highlights the themes as they emerge in the issue, summarizes the papers included and concludes with a call for action in support of the new multidisciplinary initiative. Acknowledging the contribution from the individuals and institutions involved in bringing the journal in this form, the review ends with a call on the established scholars and practitioner researchers to cross over disciplinary boundaries and create an international platform for intellectual exchange which will ultimately lead towards a positive social transformation.*

**Keywords:** Gipan, Linguistic aspects, Interdisciplinary, visual linguistics

## The Context

Nepal is a multilingual country with more than 124 languages (NSO, 2022). Several initiatives such as promotion, documentation and revitalization of languages have been taken by governmental and non-governmental agencies to preserve this linguistic diversity. Such initiatives have not only been the concerns of the government agencies, but also of the ethnic and linguistic communities, as there is an increased awareness on the value of languages and cultures for maintenance and promotion of identity. In line with this concern, the Constitution of Nepal (2015) has guaranteed the right of every linguistic community to preserve, promote and get education in their native languages. However, due to not having the native languages into public domain in practice, there is an increasing public attention towards instituting the languages in education and public governance, thereby promoting multilingual education and adoption of trilingual or multilingual policy in public service (Poudel & Costley, 2023). We expect that this journal will provide researchers

with a platform for advocacy of the issues of public interest as well as national and international needs to support towards establishing a just society.

## Introduction

The first volume of *Gipan* journal was published in 1999 with the guidance and leadership of Professor **Chudamani Bandhu**, the founding head of Central Department of Linguistics, Tribhuvan University. It was named Gipan which means ‘language’ in Kusunda. This initiative was taken to support minority and endangered languages of Nepal. Although this was a novel publication initiative then and was expected to be published on an annual basis, it could not happen due to several reasons. While this journal was simply a departmental level publication that published papers related to linguistics, in this volume we have changed the focus from a transformative perspective towards making it an interdisciplinary one so that the issues in linguistics can be collectively discussed in relation to issues of other disciplines, ultimately

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establishing this journal as a multidisciplinary publication platform. This is how *Gipan* has expanded its scope as per the changing national and international context. The new editorial board and the advisory board of *Gipan* and the papers accepted for publication show that the journal is no longer limited to Nepal and the issues related to core linguistics. The journal has adopted a blind peer-reviewed process to enhance the quality of publication, bringing in scholars from Nepal and abroad for a collective effort to enhance its quality and scope. More importantly, *Gipan* aims to lead in multidisciplinary research, known for its excellence and innovative methodologies.

### Thematic Outline

The papers featured in this issue encompass a diverse range of scholarly topics, including phonetics, phonology, morphology, socio-phonetics, cognitive linguistics, visual linguistics, curriculum and textbook analysis, and language policy and politics. The paper entitled ‘Analysis of China’s English Curriculum Standards for Compulsory Education from the Perspectives of Self-regulated Learning’ authored by nine scholars from China analyzes the *English Curriculum Standards for Compulsory Education (2022 Edition)* developed and implemented by the Ministry of Education in China where they have used Self-regulated Learning as a perspective in analyzing the curriculum standard and identified several elements of Self-regulated Learning emphasized in the document. Another paper entitled ‘Cognitive Control Performance as Measured by Clustering and Switching in Nepali -English Bilingual Verbal Fluency Task’ by **Lekhnath Sharma Pathak** and his colleagues discuss cognitive control measured through semantic and phonetic verbal fluency task using the neuropsychological tool in order to measure linguistic and cognitive processing. The paper by *Harimaya Sharma* entitled ‘How Government Specific Language Favored Policies Shape Language Hierarchy in Multilingual Context: A Look Back at Nepal’s History’ explores the role of government specific language favored policies in shaping language hierarchy

in multilingual contexts. It brings out Nepal’s history of language policy and politics illustrating governments’ activities and behavior towards Nepali and Newar language as representative cases. Another paper by **Dilu Ram Parajuli** entitled ‘Language Analysis of Science and Technology Textbook in Nepal: A Semiotic Perspective’ analyzes the semiotic aspects of grade 10 science and technology subject textbook implemented in Nepal by exploring figures, pictures, symbols, graphs and other signs used in the textbook. This paper elaborates multiple modes of representation of information, scientific influences, and the use of visual materials to enhance scientific literacy. In another paper entitled ‘Lohwa Phonology: A Typological Perspective’, **Dan Raj Regmi & Ambika Regmi** explain various aspects of Lohwa sounds based on the data they have collected in Upper Mustang. **Himan Rai** in his article entitled ‘Role of Collaborative Learning for Developing Speaking Skills of Secondary Level Students’ explores how collaborative learning activities can help develop English speaking skill of secondary level students. **Dubinanda Dhakal** in the paper entitled ‘Serial Verb Constructions in Three Tibetan Languages’ presents a description of the serial verb construction (SVC) in Gyalsumdo, Nubri and Tsum, spoken in Gorkha and Manang districts of Nepal focusing on the construction of verbal system. **Krishna Prasad Chalise**’s paper entitled ‘Sociophonetic study of Nepali spoken by the Magar community in Baglung’ describes the various features connected with phonetics and sociolinguistics from the Magar people where the community gave up their ancestral language several generations before and have been speaking Nepali as their mother tongue. This paper reports the changing trends in various aspects of language shift and loss of minority languages (Gautam, 2021, 2022). Taramani Rai in the paper entitled ‘Spatial deixis and demonstratives in the Kirati languages’ outlines various spatial deixis (deictic) embedded in the Kirati languages namely Bantawa, Bayung, Chamling, Dumi, Dungmali, Koyee, Khaling, Kulung, Limbu, Lohorung, Nachhiring, Puma, Sampang, Thulung, Wambule and Yamphu within

the comparative and cross-linguistic context. Finally, Pallabi Chattopadhyay in the article entitled ‘Speech Act Theory in Visual Narratives: An Analysis of Communication through Sequential Art’ focuses on how speech act theory plays a role in visual linguistics through the analysis of a few selected visual narratives with the help of a content analysis methodology. This paper focuses on qualitative research by analysing the data through speech act theory with the help of visual narratives.

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