

*Nepalese Linguistics*, a journal of Linguistic Society of Nepal, has recorded a remarkable history of publication. The first volume of this journal was brought out in 1980. Since then, except for a few years, it has been uninterruptedly published by Linguistic society of Nepal. We all know that Nepal records the linguistic diversity consisting of 124 mother tongues belonging to four major language families, viz., Indo-Aryan, Tibeto-Burman, Austro-Asiatic and Dravidian and one language isolate. However, more than 56% of the mother tongues are facing different levels of language endangerment. Nearly the same fate is being experienced by many languages spoken in South Asia. In Nepal, the languages spoken mainly by the minority speech communities are gradually shifting to the dominant languages. This has been a matter of great concern. The death of a language is considered as an irreparable loss of the cultural values and life-crucial knowledge embodied in the language. Some papers in this volume are directly or indirectly concerned with this situation. Maintaining linguistic ecology is crucial for the promotion of humanity in the world. For this, both the speech communities and concerned governmental and non-governmental organizations should take immediate steps for preserving and revitalizing endangered and seriously endangered languages of Nepal and South Asia. More and more researches have to be conducted especially in the minority languages of Nepal and South Asia and their findings have to be formally and systematically disseminated. We believe that *Nepalese Linguistics*, a peer-reviewed journal of linguistics, would serve up for this purpose.

This is the thirty-eighth volume of the journal. It contains seventeen research papers contributed by young and experienced linguists from home and abroad. These papers may be broadly linked with some major sub-disciplines of linguistics. They include morphology and morphosyntax, sociolinguistics, language typology, language documentation, pragmatics, applied linguistics, language history and lexical semantics.

There are six papers dealing with the different aspects of morphology and morphosyntax of six different languages, viz., Chepang, Nepali, Dumi, Lhowa, Urdu and Ghale. Ross C. Caughley in his paper entitled *The function of -teʔ in Chepang* looks at the distribution and function of *-teʔ* and discusses scope and origin of *-teʔ* in Chepang. In the paper entitled *The syntactic profile of Nepali ergativity* Luke Lindemann argues that marking of ergative case in Nepali is syntactically shallow and suggests that such marking can be best described by employing dependent case theories like Legate's typology of inherent case and Marantz's case generalization. Netra Mani Rai in his paper entitled *Adverbial clauses in Dumi* notes that the subordinate adverbial clauses are arked by two devices, viz., bound morphemes and non-finite verb forms. Ambika Regmi and Dan Raj Regmi in their paper entitled *Tense, aspect, modality and evidentiality in Lhowa* analyzes tense-aspect in terms of distinction between perfective and imperfective aspects and show how egophoricity, modality and evidentiality are expressed in Lhowa. In their paper entitled *Subject case marking in Urdu unergative and unaccusative compound verbs* MJ Warsi and Noman Tahir explain different conditions for subject case marking in Urdu unergative and unaccusative compound verbs. Shigeki Yoshida in his paper entitled *Causal/noncausal verb pairs in Barpak Ghale* investigates five coding strategies, viz., anticausative, causative, labile, equipollent, and suppletive for causal/noncausal verb pairs in Barpak Ghale.

This volume accommodates four papers dealing with sociolinguistic situations of the languages of Nepal. Krishna Prasad Chalise in his paper entitled *Language data in National Population and Housing Census of Nepal 2021: A critical analysis*, notes that due to some technical failings and undue mother tongue advocacy unreliable mother tongue and second language data have been garnered in 2021 census of Nepal.

Bhim Lal Gautam and Sharada Sapkota in their paper entitled *Shifting identity in Kurmali: A preliminary observation* have discussed the basic patterns, reasons, and effects of language shift in the Kurmi community. Tara Mani Rai in his paper entitled *Unraveling the relationship among the Kirati languages* shows different degrees of lexical and phonetic similarity among the Kirati languages based on lexical comparisons of Swadesh 100-word list and notes that such similarity is linked with geographical distribution and historicity. Dan Raj Regmi in his paper entitled *Ancestral languages of Nepal in the 2021 census* shows that 124 ancestral languages belonging to different language families demonstrate pitiable language maintenance even in major languages. Despite the fact that this census has highly respected language identity it could not mitigate trend of recording unreliable numbers of mother tongue speakers. It results in delaying the execution of official language policy in the provinces of Nepal.

In this volume, a single paper has been contributed to the field of language typology. Mark Donohue and Siva Kalyan in their paper *The typological position of the languages of Nepal: Morphosyntax* have clearly examined the typological position of the languages of Nepal among the languages of the world in terms of a broad sample of morphosyntactic features.

Toby Anderson and Jonathan P Evans in their paper entitled *Toto orthography development* argue that orthography designed with the involvement of the community easily becomes compatible to the phonology. Moreover, such orthography straightforwardly gets social approval for use.

Gopal Prasad Pandey in his paper entitled *Pragmatic dimensions of language teaching: Theoretical insights and classroom practices* integrates pragmatics into English language teaching focusing on how teachers conceptualize and implement pragmatic instruction within curriculum. Raj Kishor Singh in his paper entitled *Irony as a mechanism for critiquing pragmatic theories* explores the role of irony as a powerful mechanism for critiquing key pragmatic theories like Austin's Speech Act Theory, Grice's Cooperative Principle, Leech's Politeness Principle, and Wilson and Sperber's Relevance Theory. Puja Kumari Gupta & Tikaram Poudel in their paper entitled *Challenges faced by women in learning English language: a PRISMA study* provide a review of the scientific research concentrating on the challenges of women learning English by following the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA) framework.

Gopal Thakur in his paper entitled *The primitive traces of the Bhojpuri language* argues that the primitive traces of Bhojpuri are attested in Apabransha and Avahattha literature from Siddhas till Vidyapati. Biman Debbarma in his paper entitled *Classification of antonyms in Kokborok* classifies antonyms semantically and morphologically and demonstrates their distinctive meanings in Kokborok.

Finally, this volume could not have come out without the cooperation of a number of individuals. We would like to express our gratitude to all the paper contributors, reviewers, all the members of the advisory board and the members of executive committee of Linguistic Society of Nepal for helping the editorial board to bring out the journal duly in time.

Editorial board