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## Recent and Ongoing Research

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## RECENT AND ONGOING RESEARCH

Research on Himalayan Languages at the University of Oregon  
Scott DeLancey  
University of Oregon

For several years I and my students have been engaged in documentation and analysis of Tibeto-Burman languages, particularly of the Himalayan region. Support from the National Science Foundation has allowed us both to employ linguistic consultants in Oregon and to conduct some research in the field. In Oregon we have worked intensively on the syntax and semantics of Lhasa Tibetan, Kathmandu Newari, and Sunwar, with the help of local Tibetan residents and students from Nepal. With NSF support we were able to bring to Eugene a speaker of Sunwar, Mr. Tangkaraj Sunuwar of Okhaldunga, who is currently enrolled as an undergraduate at the University, and Mr. Daya Ratna Shakya, from Kathmandu, currently a graduate student in linguistics at Oregon.

Carol Genetti and David Hargreaves have recently returned from Kathmandu, where Genetti has been studying the conservative Dolakha and Kathmandu syntax, and Hargreaves has been collecting conversational and narrative texts in Kathmandu Newari. Hargreaves is writing his dissertation on the syntax and semantics of the conjunct/disjunct system in Newari. Currently two other graduate students are in the field: Anju Saxena is studying Kinnauri in Shimla, and Lalnungthangi Chhangte is writing a grammar of Nisi (Dafla) in Arunachal Pradesh.

Recent publications and theses from the University of Oregon dealing with Himalayan languages include (ICSTLL = International Conference on Sino-Tibetan Languages and Linguistics):

- Delancey, Scott: 1989. Verb agreement in Proto-Tibeto-Burman. *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 52.315-333.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1989. The historical status of the conjunct/disjunct distinction. 22nd ICSTLL.
- \_\_\_\_\_. to appear. Semantic categorization in Tibetan honorific nouns. *Proc. of the conference on Honorifics, Portland State University*, (John Haviland and Alan Kim, eds.).
- Genetti, Carol. 1988. A syntactic correlate of topicality in Newari narrative. *Clause combining in grammar and discourse*, ed. by S.A. Thompson and J. Haiman, pp. 29-48. Philadelphia: Benjamins.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1988. Notes on the structure of the Sunwari transitive verb. *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area* 11.2:62-92.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1989. A contrastive study of the Dolakhali and Kathmandu Newari dialects. *Cahiers de Linguistique, Asie Orientale* 27.2:161-91.
- Hargreaves, David. 1989. The morphosyntax of relative clauses in Classical and Kathmandu Newari. 22nd ICSTLL
- Kim, Myunghee. 1989. Nominalization, relativization and complementation in Shigatse Tibetan. MA thesis, University of Oregon.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1989b. Topic continuity in Shigatse Tibetan narratives. *Proceedings of the Fourth Pacific Linguistics Conference*, pp. 295-314.
- Opp-Beckman, Leslie. 1989a. Ideophones in a Tibeto-Burman perspective: Some evidence from Sunwari. *PLC* 4:361-73.
- Saxena, Anju. 1989. "Ergative" case patterns in Bodic languages. *Proc. of the Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistic Society*.
- Thompson, Chad. to appear. On the topicality of direct objects in Chepang discourse. *Studies in Language*.

**Research at the Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies  
Tribhuvan University  
Kirtipur, Kathmandu**

**Ethnic Group Behaviors and National Integration in Nepal: A socio-cultural Dimension**

Investigator: Ganesh Man Gurung

Objectives:

- a. to study the socio-historical situation in which the national integration process has been taking place especially after the unification campaign initiated by Prithvi Narayan Shah;
- b. to examine the present ethnic non-formal organizations, the socio-economic characteristics of the leaders and members of the organizations;
- c. to understand the symbolic values of the members of the organi;
- d. to investigate the members' socio-economic wants and grievances;
- e. to estimate the annual income and expenditure of the organizations.

**The National Referendum and Party Politics in Nepal: Roles, Issues and Strategies**

Investigator: Bharat R. Sharma

Objectives:

- a. to explore the roles, strategies and objectives of the party politics and group behavior after 1979;
- b. to assess the Nepalese political parties in the historical and the present context;
- c. to investigate their organizational strength, weakness, systems of recruitment, number of followers, ideological clarity and commitments;
- d. to study people's response to party's calls and their level of commitment;
- e. to examine the ethnic, regional, personal and economic backgrounds of the party recruits;
- f. to analyze the long term strategies and immediate operational methods of the political parties in the context of the Nepalese politics.

**Religious Aspects of National Integration in Nepal**

Investigator: Dron P. Rajaure

Objectives:

- a. to examine how two traditions of Hinduism and Buddhism have undergone modifications;
- b. to study how the tradition of Nepalese shamanism is influencing the value system contributing to the process of national integration.

**External Dimension in National Integration of Nepal**

Investigator: Ananta Raj Poudyal

Objectives:

An external dimension in the national integration will be attempted to study by examining the following components as well:

- a. study of ethno-cultural linkages;
- b. study of socio-economic linkages;
- c. study of national security and interest linkages, and
- d. study of politico-ideological linkages.

## **Red Star Over the Hindu Kush: The Afghan Insurgency and Its Implications for South Asia**

Investigator: Anand Aditya

Objectives:

- a. to explore patterns of interaction between the three groups of actors in the Afghan conflict--the regime in power, the Resistance, and the Soviet Union;
- b. to trace the nature and development of the conflict into crisis state focusing on the patterns of political violence;
- c. to identify the modalities of the UN-sponsored negotiations and explore alternatives for a viable mode of conflict resolution appraising comparable case histories from other part of the world; and
- d. to examine the possible implications of the withdrawal of the Soviet forces for the world in general and South Asia in particular.

## **Awaken Nepal**

Investigator: Ghan Mani Nepal

Objective:

to study the cultural, literary and educational contributions made by Prithivi Narayan Shah and Udayananda during the four decades of the 19th Century Nepal.

## **Nepal's Relations With Bhutan**

Investigator: Sushila Manandhar

Objectives:

- a. to collect published and unpublished materials;
- b. to prepare and analytical report based on primary and secondary sources;
- c. to assess the events on inter-related activities between the two countries.

## **Nepali Emigrants in India: A Study on Political Dimension**

Investigator: Koshal Raj Regmi

Objectives:

- a. to study the Nepali immigrants' demography and its impacts on Indian politics vis-a-vis the effect it exerts in the relation between Nepal and India;
- b. to measure political potentiality resulted by changes in the size of the Nepali community in India and its intensity of influencing domestic and international policies of the government of India;
- c. to assess the socio-economic condition of "Nepalies in India" in general and analyze their economic base as a political catalyst.

## **The Process of Secularization in Nepal: A Case Study of Brahmins and Chhettris of the Kathmandu Valley.**

Investigators: Arun Joshi and Suddhindra Sharma

Objectives:

- a. to study the influence of secularization and beliefs in the context of their historical unifying role in national institutions;
- b. to verify whether the acquisition of modern education accelerates the process of secularization;
- c. to generate up-to-date information on the possible relations between education and secularization.

### **The Impact of the Nepali culture and literature on the Neighboring Countries of Nepal**

Investigator: Dilli Raj Sharma

Objective:

to study the impact of Nepali culture and literature on the Nepali immigrants in North-eastern and northern regions of India.

### **Indo-Pakistan Relations: Retrospect and Prospect**

Investigator: Pramod Kuman Kanth

Objective:

- a. to examine the factors underlying the setting of Indo-Pak relations since independence until the end of the 60s;
- b. to study the nature of change and continuity in the Indo-Pak relations in view of the developments in the 70s and 80s;
- c. to develop a perspective on the likely future orientation of Indo-Pak relations.

### **Studies in the Role of South Asian National Press: Case of the Press in India**

Investigators: Subhadra Subba and S.B. Thakur

Objective:

This study attempts to examine the role and function of the Indian Press in relation to the news coverage of its neighboring countries and to find out the factors influencing the reportage policy.

### **Indian Migrants in Nepal: Impacts, Issues and Policies**

Investigators: Dilli Ram Dahal and Chaitanya Mishra

Objectives:

This study attempts to analyze the available census data and other historical documents to note the number and distribution of Indian migrants living in Nepal.

It also assesses the social, economic and political impacts of Indian migration in Nepal over the past 30 years and examines issues of the Indo-Nepal migration years ahead on the basis of regional and global developments.

### **India's Aspiration in South Asia: A study of its Relation With Sri Lanka**

Investigator: Gehendra Lal Malla

Objectives:

- a. to analyze the historical trend of India's policy and behavior towards its smaller neighbors of South Asia since its independence;
- b. to explain the pattern of interactions between India and Sri Lanka in the light of their foreign policy and the various policies have adopted so far;
- c. to examine the likely implications of their bilateral relationship in the region in foreseeable future.

### **The Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement: Implications for the Region**

Investigator: Krishna Prasad Khanal

Objective:

to analyze the possible implications of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement in the context of the role and behavior of India vis-a-vis other South Asian states.

## **Development Strategies for the Remote Areas of Nepal**

Investigators: Vidya Bir Singh Kansaker, Bishnu Bhandari, Bal Krishna Suwal and Ganesh Man Gurung

Objectives:

The following are the objectives of this study:

- a. to assess the current development strategies and measures adopted for developing the remote areas;
- b. to measure the degree of remoteness of the districts of the remote areas;
- c. to suggest development strategies for different remote areas on the basis of potential local resources;
- d. to suggest short- and long term development strategies for developing remote areas.

## **Ongoing Affiliated Research Projects at CNAS**

### **Sibling Caretaking and Risk Factors for Diarrheal Disease in Young Children in Nepal**

Principal Investigator: Robert Black, M.D. The Johns Hopkins University

Project Coordinator: Dilli Ram Dahal, CNAS

Objective:

This study examines the relationship between sibling caretaking and risk factors for diarrheal disease in children under the age of four in the Katunje village.

### **Development of the State and Market Hegemony in Three Communities in West Central Nepal**

Investigator: Stephen L. Kesell University of Wisconsin-Madison

Objective:

This study proposes to analyze and compare the form taken expanding market and state relations in three villages in west-central Nepal.

### **Variation in Rnying ma pa and Gsar ma pa Bskang gso Rituals and their Music**

Investigator: Alice M. Egyed University of Washington, Seattle

Objective:

This study attempts to carry out comparative research on Bskang gso ritual in the Rnying ma pa and two Gsar ma pa orders to understand the development of music and its place in ritual performance within the two major Tantric systems by clarifying the similarities and difference between their traditions.

### **The Sacred Ecology of Expedition Sherpa**

Investigator: Robert B. Morrison Athabasca University, Canada

Objective:

This study examines the relationship between the sherpa traditional ecological knowledge and behavior on mountaineering expeditions.

### **The Process of Defining a National Identity in Nepal in the Post-revolution Period: 1950-1980**

Investigator: Martin Hoftun Waoham College, Oxford

Objective:

This study attempts a historical study of the formation and contents of this new National Identity in Nepal.

**Working Women and Family Structure in Nepal**

Investigator: Nandia S. Mercier

Objective:

This study investigates the relationship between the professional activities of women and the family structure in urban areas.