

Ethnologue: Languages of Nepal

Twenty-sixth edition data

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List of Abbreviations

A	Agent in constituent word order
<i>alt.</i>	alternate name for
<i>alt. dial.</i>	alternate dialect name for
AOV	Agent-Object-Verb
C	Consonant in canonical syllable patterns
<i>Class</i>	Language classification
CSICH	Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)
<i>dial.</i>	primary dialect name for
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
ILOCITP	ILO Convention on Indigenous and Tribal People no. 169 (1989)
IMB	International Mission Board
km	kilometer(s)
L1 / L2	first language / second (or other additional) language
<i>Lg Dev</i>	Language development
<i>Lg Use</i>	Language use
m	meter(s)
NDFN	Nepali Federation of the Deaf
P	Patient in constituent word order
PARADISEC	Pacific And Regional Archive for Digital Sources In Endangered Cultures
<i>pej.</i>	pejorative
pl.	plural
S	Subject in constituent word order
sg.	singular
SIL	SIL International
SOV	Subject-Object-Verb
SVO	Subject-Verb-Object
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UBS	United Bible Societies
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
V	Vowel in canonical syllable patterns
VDC	Village Development Committee

How to Use This Digest

This *Ethnologue* country digest provides an extract of the information about the language situation in Nepal that is published in the 26th edition of *Ethnologue: Languages of the World* (see <http://www.ethnologue.com>), including some ways of presenting the information that are not available in the online version. The digest begins with a “Country Overview” (page 6) and “Statistical Summaries” (page 8) of languages and number of speakers by language size, by language status, and by language family.

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) provides detailed information on the 123 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Nepal. This includes languages that are indigenous to the country, languages that have developed well-established multigenerational speaker communities after immigrating in the past, and languages that have a significant presence in the country but are not established (that is, not being transmitted to the next generation within the country). A complete language entry has the following form and content:

Primary language name [ISO 639-3 code] (Alternate names). Autonym. *Users*: Country user population. Population stability comment. Population remarks. Monolingual population. Ethnic population. *Location*: Location. *Status*: EGIDS level. Special cases. Language function in country. *Class*: Linguistic classification. Macrolanguage membership. *Dialects*: Dialect names. Intelligibility and dialect relations. Lexical similarity. *Type*: Linguistic typology information. *Lg Use*: Remarks on use of the language. Domains of use. User age range. Language attitudes. Bilingualism remarks. Use as second language. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rates. Literacy remarks. Use in education. Publications and use in media. Revitalization efforts. Language development agencies. *DLS*: Digital support. *Writing*: Scripts used. *Other*: Non-indigenous. General remarks. Religion. Macrolanguage member languages. *Map*: Map page. *Worldwide*: Total population in all countries. Other countries where used.

See <http://www.ethnologue.com/methodology/#languagePages> for a full description of these information elements. If the autonym contains the “?” character, this indicates a complex non-Roman character that the PDF-creating software we are using is not able to render. We regret the inconvenience.

The “Language Maps” (page 62) show the locations of the listed languages. If the location of a language is given on a map, the *Map* element of the language entry indicates the page number of the map. If the language is identified on a map by name, but that name differs from the primary name in the language entry, the name on the map is given in parentheses. If the language is represented on the map by an index number, rather than by its name, the index number is given following the page number (with a colon as separator).

Many ways of finding languages are provided. “Languages by Population” (page 67) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 77) lists the languages by their level of development or endangerment as measured on EGIDS, the

Expanded Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). “Languages by Province” (page 96) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Nepal and the languages located within each. “Languages by Indigenous Nationality” (page 99) lists the officially recognized indigenous nationalities and the languages associated with each. “Languages by Family” (page 102) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 107) gives an alphabetical listing of all the three-letter codes from ISO 639-3 that are used in this digest to uniquely identify languages. “Language Name Index” (page 109) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 740 unique names are associated with the 123 languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 126). The published sources are cited using standard in-text citations enclosed in parentheses, consisting of the author’s or editor’s surname followed by the year of publication. Unpublished sources including personal communications and unpublished reports are also acknowledged when specific statements or facts are attributed to them. They are identified using in-text citations enclosed in parentheses in which the year of the communication is given first, followed by the source’s first initial and surname. In such a case, there is no corresponding entry in the bibliography.

This digest is designed for use in both digital and print formats. The cross-references are thus rendered as page numbers that are hyperlinks. When using the document in printed form, simply turn to the referenced page by number. When using it in digital form, click on the blue text to jump to the cross-referenced location.

If you believe any of the information about a language in this digest is in error or if you are able to supply missing information, please send your proposed change to the editor using one of the means given below. Provide as much information as possible about the source of your information. Full bibliographic details of published sources are especially helpful.

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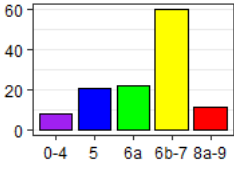
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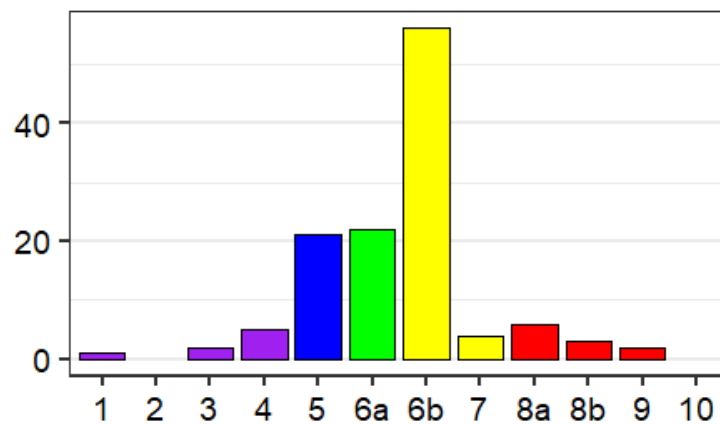
Country Overview

Name of country	Nepal
Population	30,226,000 (2022 UNDESA)
Principal language	Nepali
Literacy rate	68% (2018 UNESCO)
Deaf population	300,000
International conventions	CSICH (2010), ICCPR (1991), ILOCITP (2007), UNCRPD (2010), UNDRIP (2007)
General references	Bista 1967, Bista 1973, Bista 1996, Burling 2003, Campbell and King 2011, Ebert 1994, Hale 1982, Hansson 1991, Hugoniot 1970, Matisoff et al 1996, Thurgood and LaPolla 2003, Toba 1976, Toba 1983, Toba 1991, Toba et al 2002, Toba et al 2005, Van Driem 2001, Van Driem 2007
Recognized nationalities	The government of Nepal officially recognizes 59 indigenous nationalities, or ‘Adibasi Janajatis’ as they are called in Nepali. They are enumerated in the 2002 legislation that created the National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities, Act 20, Section 2a. Furthermore, the Interim Constitution of 2007 states in Article 5 that all languages spoken as mother tongues in Nepal are considered national languages.
Language counts	<p>The number of established languages listed for Nepal is 122. All are living languages. Of these, 109 are indigenous and 13 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 8 are institutional, 21 are developing, 22 are vigorous, 60 are in trouble, and 11 are dying. Also listed is 1 macrolanguage.</p> 

See the next page for an explanation of the summary categories for language vitality used in the above counts and graph.

Language Status Profile

The following histogram gives a graphic profile of the established languages in Nepal with respect to their status of language development versus language endangerment. This includes all of the languages appearing in the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) that report an EGIDS level after *Status*; macrolanguages and unestablished languages are not included in the profile. The horizontal axis plots the estimated level of development or endangerment as measured on the EGIDS scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The height of each bar indicates the number of languages that are estimated to be at the given level. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 77) in order to see the specific languages for each level.



The color coding of the bars in the histogram above matches the color scheme used in the summary profile graph on the preceding page. In this scheme, the EGIDS levels are grouped as follows:

- Purple = Institutional (EGIDS 0–4) — The language has been developed to the point that it is used and sustained by institutions beyond the home and community.
- Blue = Developing (EGIDS 5) — The language is in vigorous use, with literature in a standardized form being used by some though this is not yet widespread or sustainable.
- Green = Vigorous (EGIDS 6a) — The language is in vigorous use among all generations and remains unstandardized.
- Yellow = In trouble (EGIDS 6b–7) — Intergenerational transmission is in the process of being broken, but the child-bearing generation can still use the language so it is possible that revitalization efforts could restore transmission of the language in the home.
- Red = Dying (EGIDS 8a–9) — The only fluent users (if any) are older than child-bearing age, so it is too late to restore natural intergenerational transmission through the home; a mechanism outside the home would need to be developed.
- Black = Extinct (EGIDS 10) — The language is no longer used and no one retains a sense of ethnic identity associated with the language.

Statistical Summaries

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) provides a detailed listing of all the languages of Nepal. This section steps back from the detail to offer a summary view of the language situation in the country. Specifically, it offers three numerical tabulations of the living established languages of Nepal and their users: by language size, by language status, and by language family.

Summary by language size

Table 1 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Nepal by number of L1 speakers. The *Population range* column categorizes the sizes of the languages by order of magnitude (in terms of the number of digits in the population of first-language speakers). Consult “Languages by Population” (page 67) for a listing of the specific languages in each range category.

The *Count* column gives the number of living established languages within the specified population range. The *Percent* column gives the share of the count for that population range as a percentage of the total number of languages given at the bottom of the Count column. The *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sum of the percentage of languages going from top to bottom in the column.

The *Total* column gives the total L1 population of all the languages in the given range category. The second *Percent* column gives the percentage of the total country population as estimated at the bottom of the Total column. Note that if the table has a row for Unknown, representing languages for which the *Ethnologue* does not have a population estimate, the calculation of population percentage is not able to take those languages into account. The final *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sums of the population percentages going from top to bottom in the column.

Table 1: Distribution of languages by number of first-language speakers

Population range	Living languages			Number of speakers		
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative
10,000,000 to 99,999,999	1	0.8	0.8%	12,100,000	45.91633	45.91633%
1,000,000 to 9,999,999	3	2.5	3.3%	5,850,000	22.19922	68.11555%
100,000 to 999,999	18	14.8	18.0%	7,295,000	27.68262	95.79817%
10,000 to 99,999	34	27.9	45.9%	914,700	3.47105	99.26921%
1,000 to 9,999	44	36.1	82.0%	185,800	0.70506	99.97428%
100 to 999	14	11.5	93.4%	6,730	0.02554	99.99981%
10 to 99	2	1.6	95.1%	40	0.00015	99.99997%
1 to 9	2	1.6	96.7%	9	0.00003	100.00000%
0	2	1.6	98.4%		0.00000	100.00000%

Population range	Living languages			Number of speakers		
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative
Unknown	2	1.6	100.0%			
<i>Totals</i>	122	100.0		26,352,279	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Nepal by their status in terms of language development or language endangerment. The *EGIDS* column categorizes the languages by their level on the EGIDS scale. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 77) for a listing of the specific languages that have been assigned to each level. Note that the EGIDS level reported here is for the status of the language in Nepal. Languages that are also used in other countries may be assigned to a different EGIDS level in those countries.

The next six columns are as in Table 1. In addition, the *Mean* column gives the average L1 population of all the languages with the given EGIDS level and the *Median* column gives the median L1 population for the languages at that level, that is, half of the languages at that level have a higher population and half have a lower population. If there are any languages with an unknown population, these are ignored in the calculation of the mean and the median.

Table 2: Distribution of languages by vitality status

EGIDS	Living languages			Number of speakers			Mean	Median
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative		
1	1	0.8	0.8%	12,100,000	45.9163	45.9163%	12,100,000	12,100,000
3	2	1.6	2.5%	82,050	0.3114	46.2277%	41,025	41,025
4	5	4.1	6.6%	4,111,030	15.6003	61.8280%	822,206	847,000
5	21	17.2	23.8%	7,441,080	28.2370	90.0649%	354,337	49,900
6a	22	18.0	41.8%	281,110	1.0667	91.1317%	12,778	3,980
6b	56	45.9	87.7%	2,314,348	8.7823	99.9140%	41,328	9,210
7	4	3.3	91.0%	4,010	0.0152	99.9292%	1,002	245
8a	6	4.9	95.9%	18,530	0.0703	99.9995%	3,088	2,550
8b	3	2.5	98.4%	121	0.0005	100.0000%	40	20
9	2	1.6	100.0%		0.0000	100.0000%		
<i>Totals</i>	122	100.0		26,352,279	100.0000			

Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) name 6 different top-level groups. Table 3 summarizes the distribution of living established languages and their L1 populations within these families. The columns are as for table 2, with the exception that *Cumulative* is excluded since there is no inherent ordering of the families.

Table 3: Distribution of languages by language family

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers			
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
Austro-Asiatic	3	2.5	57,920	0.2	19,307	7,780
Dravidian	1	0.8	33,700	0.1	33,700	33,700
Indo-European	31	25.4	21,553,380	81.8	695,270	42,900
Language isolate	1	0.8	1	0.0	1	1
Sign language	4	3.3	20,028	0.1	5,007	20
Sino-Tibetan	82	67.2	4,687,250	17.8	57,162	4,810
<i>Totals</i>	122	100.0	26,352,279	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

Angika [anp] (Anga, Angikar, Chhika-Chhiki). *Users*: 20,330 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 18,600 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 1,730 (2011 census). *Location*: Kosi province: Morang district, Dhanpalthan, Jahada, Katahari, Rangeli, Ratuwamai, and Sunwarshi municipalities. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Eastern, Unclassified. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; content q-word in situ; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; passives and voice; nontonal. *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Maithili [mai]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Videos. Texts. Bible portions: 2011. *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Hindu, Muslim. *Map*: 66:96. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 745,330 (as L1: 743,600; as L2: 1,730). Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: India.

Athpariya [aph] (Arthare, Athaphre, Athapre, Athpahariya, Athpare, Athpre, Sanango Ring). *Users*: 5,530 (2011 census), decreasing. *Location*: Kosi province: Dhankuta district, Dhankuta municipality. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Eastern. *Dialects*: None known. Athpare and Belhariya [byw] are very similar, but not mutually intelligible (Bickel 1996). *Type*: SOV; postpositions; genitives, adjectives, numerals before noun heads; polar questions marked with a suffix attached to the verb sentence final; noun head final; no noun classes or genders; content q-word in situ; content questions can have the same word order as assertive sentences, or the question word occurs directly before the verb; up to 2 prefixes, up to 9 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; affixes indicate case of noun phrase; verbal affixation marks person, number, object—obligatory; split ergative; comparatives with Nepali, Bhandari; both tense and aspect; no passives or voice; CV, CVC, CVCC; 24 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; nontonal. *Lg Use*: Home, religion; mixed use: Friends. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Also use Nepali [npi], with some youth using it as an L1. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 2%. Taught in 5 mother-tongue multilingual education schools since 2008. Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Devanagari script, used since 2011. *Other*: Traditional religion, Buddhist, Hindu. *Map*: 66:93.

Avadhi [awa] (Abadhi, Abadi, Abohi, Ambodhi, Dehati, Deshi, Gawnaru, Koseli). *Users*: 547,400 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 502,000 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. L2 users: 45,400 (2011 census). *Location*: Lumbini province: Banke district, Duduwa, Janki, Khajura, Kohalpur, and Napalgunj municipalities; Bardiya district: Badhaiyatal and Gulariya municipalities; Dang district: Lamahi, Gadhawa, and Rajpur municipalities; Kapilvastu district: widespread; Rupandehi district: Gaidahawa and Lumbini municipalities. *Status*: 4 (Educational). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Kushwadiya. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Eastern, East Central. *Dialects*: Chhatisgadhi, Baiswari. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; 2 genders; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person, number and genders of

subject and object; no ergativity; tense and aspect; passives and voice; 30 consonant and 8 vowel phonemes; nontonal. *Lg Use*: Strongly vital, vigorous. Home, friends. Mixed use: Religion, work, education. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Nepali [npi]. Used as L2 by Bhojpuri [bho]. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in primary schools. Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2000–2005. Agency: Awadhi Cultural Development Council. *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, Muslim, Sikh. *Map*: 63. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 4,397,400 (as L1: 4,352,000; as L2: 45,400). Also indigenous in: India (Awadhi).

Bahing [bhj] (Baying, Bayung, Ikke lo, Kiranti-Bayung, Pai lo, Radu lo, Rai). *Users*: 15,250, all users. L1 users: 11,700 (2011 census). L2 users: 3,550 (2011 census). *Location*: Kosi province: Khotang district, Halesi Tuwachung municipality; Okhaldhunga district, Chisankhugadhi, Manebhanjyang, Molung, Siddhicharan, and Sunkoshi municipalities; Solukhumbu district: Nechasalyan municipality. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Western. *Dialects*: Rumdali, Nechali, Tolacha, Moblocha, Hangu. 85% or above intelligibility among all dialects. Rumdali is best understood among all Bahing dialects (Lee et al 2005). Related to Sunwar [suz]. Lexical similarity: 83%–95% with dialects, 48% with Sunwar [suz] (Lee et al 2005). *Type*: SOV. *Lg Use*: Reportedly still used often by younger generation. Shift to Nepali [npi] relatively low (Winter and Hansson 1991); High vitality (Lee et al 2005). Home, friends, religion, work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use Nepali [npi] (Lee et al 2005). Used as L2 by Bantawa [bap], Nepali [npi], Thulung [tdh], Wambule [wme]. *Lg Dev*: Bahing orthography introduced through community-based development efforts. Two books published (2009). Bahing orthography being promoted for use by the whole Bahing community. Literature. Periodicals. Radio. NT: 2016. Agency: Bahing Kirat Mulukhim. *DLS*: Emerging (0.04). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian, Hindu. *Map*: 66:62.

Bajjika [vjk] (Vajjika, Western Maithili). *Users*: 793,000 in Nepal (2011 census). *Location*: Janakpur province: Rautahat and Sarlahi districts. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Eastern, Bihari. *Lg Use*: Home, friends. Used by all. Also use Bhojpuri [bho]. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Maithili [mai]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. *Writing*: Devanagari script. Kaithi script, used until the turn of the 20th century. *Other*: Hindu. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 12,293,000. Also indigenous in: India.

Bantawa [bap] (An Yüing, Bantaba, Bantawa Dum, Bantawa Rai, Bantawa Yong, Bantawa Yüing, Bontawa, Kirawa Yüing). *Users*: 161,500 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 133,000 in Nepal (2011 census). L2 users: 28,500 (2011 census). 6,000 monolinguals. *Location*: Kosi province: Bhojpur, Dhankuta, Ilam, Jhapa, Khotang, Morang, Panchthar, Sunsari, and Udayapur districts. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. Some varieties are used as traditional lingua franca among Rai minorities in eastern Nepal, Sikkim, India, and Bhutan, and as L1 among Rai of other origin. (Bradley 1996). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Eastern. *Dialects*: Dhankuta

(Eastern Bantawa), Dilpali (Northern Bantawa), Hatuwali (Southern Bantawa), Amchoke (Western Bantawa). Dialects are reportedly mutually inherently intelligible. Rungchenbung and Yangma are subvarieties of Dilpali. Eastern dialect is most divergent. Lexical similarity: Bantawa dialects and closely related languages form a continuum. Differences are primarily in meaning shifts and usage. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun heads initial; no noun classes or genders; content q-word in situ; genitives, adjectives, numerals before noun heads; polar questions marked only with rising intonation; content questions same word order as assertive sentences or question word directly before the verb; up to 2 prefixes, 10 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by word order; affixes indicate case of noun phrases; verbal affixation mark person, number, object—obligatory; tense and aspect; no passives or voice; split ergative; comparatives use Nepali word, *bhanda*; 25 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes; numbers above 3 are borrowed from Nepali [npi]; CV, CVC, CVCC; nontonal. *Lg Use*: Some shift to Nepali [npi] evident, especially among northern dialect speakers (2003 SIL). Home, religion; mixed use: Friends, work. Some of all ages. Positive attitudes. Most also use Nepali [npi]. Also use Bahing [bhj]. Also use Hindi [hin], especially among ex-soldiers. Used as L2 by Chhiling [cur], Chhintang [ctn], Dungmali [raa], Puma [pum]. *Lg Dev*: Nepali literacy rapidly increasing. Taught in some primary schools. Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2020. *DLS*: Emerging (0.09). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Homeland is Eastern hills but many migrated to the Tarai. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 66:67. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 195,100 (as L1: 166,600; as L2: 28,500). Also indigenous in: India. Unestablished in: Bhutan.

Baram [brd] (Balkura, Baraamu, Baramo, Baramu, Brahmū). *Users*: 215, all users. L1 users: 160 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 55 (2011 census). *Location*: Gandaki province: Gorkha district, Sulikot municipality, Takhu village. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Baramou. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Central Himalayan, Thangmi-Baraamu. *Dialects*: Dandagaun, Mailung. Related to Thangmi [thf] (Grierson and Konow 1903–1928). *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; 2 noun classes (animate and inanimate); genitives, adjectives, numerals before noun heads; content q-word in situ; maximum number of prefixes 3, 1 suffix; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; affixes indicate case of noun phrase; verb affixation does not mark person or number—obligatory; ergative; both tense and aspect; no passives or voice; causatives, comparatives; simple syllable patterns: V, CV, VC, CVC; nontonal; 21 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Home, religion; mixed use: Friends, work. Older adults only. Positive attitudes. Shifted to Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: Low. Literacy rate in L2: 49% in Nepali [npi]. Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Agencies: National Foundation for the Development of Indigenous Nationalities; Nepal Baram Association. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Devanagari script, recently developed. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian, Hindu. *Map*: 65:39.

Belhariya [byw] (Athpagari, Athpahariya, Athpare, Athpariya, Belhare). *Users*: 612, all users. L1 users: 600 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 12 (2011 census). *Location*: Kosi province: Dhankuta district, Dhankuta municipality, Belhara village and in the hills west of Dhankuta

bazaar. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Eastern. *Dialects*: None known. Different from Athpariya [aph], although also called and closely related to it (Winter and Hansson 1991). Not intelligible with Athpariya although Athpariya speakers claim full intelligibility (Bickel 1996:21). *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; no genders; content q-word in situ; up to 3 prefixes, up to 10 suffixes, and several clitics; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person and number; ergativity; passives and voice; nontonal; 22 consonant and 8 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Many parents only use Nepali [npi] with their children, citing advantages for economic and social success. Religion; mixed use: Home, friends, work. Some young people, all adults. Adults and elderly. Some use among children and adolescents. Negative attitudes. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: About 5 speakers are literate in their mother tongue. Dictionary. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Devanagari script, recently developed. *Other*: Athpare refers to the ethnic group made up of Belhare and Athpariya which have close cultural ties, but who recognize their linguistic differences. They clarify by calling the Dhankuta people Noupagari and the Belhare people Athpagari (Bickel 1996). Traditional religion, Hindu. *Map*: 66:69.

Bengali [ben] (Bangala, Bangla-Bhasa). *Users*: 23,980 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 21,100 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. L2 users: 2,880 (2011 census). *Location*: Major cities. *Status*: 5 (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Eastern, Bengali-Assamese. *Dialects*: Barik, Bhatiari, Chirmar, Kachari-Bengali, Lohari-Malpaharia, Musselmani, Rajshahi, Samaria, Saraki, Siripuria. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head both initial and final; 3 genders: male, female, neuter; content q-word initial and final; clause constituents indicated by case-marking (5 cases) and word order; verb affixes mark person, number; definite article affix; tense; passives and voice; causatives; comparatives; non-tonal; 35 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; stress on first syllable. *Lg Use*: Vigorous use if both parents are of Bengali origin. Home, friends; mixed use: Religion, work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Used as L2 by Maithili [mai], Meche [brx], Rajbanshi [rjs]. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1832–2016. *Writing*: Bengali (Bangla) script, primary usage. Braille script. Newa script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Classified as a cultural group (2001 census). Hindu, Christian, Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 272,828,760 (as L1: 233,808,880; as L2: 39,019,880). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Bangladesh, India. Also established in: Singapore. Unestablished in: Australia, Belgium, Bhutan, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Bhojpuri [bho] (Bajpuri, Bhojapuri, Bhozपुरi). *Users*: 1,740,000 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 1,580,000 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. L2 users: 160,000 (2011 census). *Location*: Janakpur province: Bara, Parsa, and Rautahat districts; Lumbini province: West Nawalparasi and Rupandehi districts. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Eastern, Bihari. *Dialects*: Bhojpuri Tharu, Purbi Boli, Bangar Boli,

Banarsi Boli, Kashika, Mallika, Sheikh Boli. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine for animate nouns); content q-word in situ; clause constituents indicated by both case-marking (3 cases) and word order; verbal affixation marks person, number and genders of subject and object; no ergativity; tense and aspect; non-tonal; 34 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes, about 4 diphthongs; stress on penultimate syllable. *Lg Use*: Home, friends, work; mixed use: Religion, education. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Awadhi [awa]. Also use Hindi [hin]. Literate in Hindi. Also use Maithili [mai]. Also use Nepali [npi]. Literate in Nepali. Used as L2 by Bajjika [vjk], Bote [bmj], Central Tharu [the], Eastern Tamang [taj], Kurux [kru], Maithili [mai]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 50%–75% in Nepali [npi], Hindi [hin]. Taught as subject in primary schools. Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1998–2006. *Writing*: Devanagari script. Kaithi script. *Other*: Hindu, Muslim. *Map*: 63. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 52,463,000 (as L1: 52,303,000; as L2: 160,000). Also indigenous in: India. Also established in: Mauritius. Unestablished in: South Africa.

Bhujel [byh] (Bujal, Bujhel, Bujheli, Bujhyal, Pukhgyal Ngur, Western Chepang, “Gharti” pej.). *Users*: 5,190, all users. L1 users: 3,600 (Regmi 2007), decreasing. L2 users: 1,590 (2011 census). No monolinguals. Ethnic population: 7,200 (Regmi 2007). *Location*: Bagmati province: Chitwan district, Ichchhyakamana municipality; Gandaki province: East Nawalparasi district, Gaidakot municipality; Tanahun district, Anbukhaireni, Bandipur, and Devghat municipalities. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Bhujel. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Central Himalayan, Chepang-Bhujel. *Dialects*: Kulmun, Arthumpka, Andimul, Baniyatar, Beltar, Dhodeni, Chanaute. More than 80% intelligibility among all the dialects. Pronominal affix differences hinder intelligibility with Chepang [cdm]. Lexical similarity: Between 34% (2011 D. Regmi) and 98% (2004 R. Caughley) with Chepang [cdm]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; genitives, adjectives, numerals, before noun heads; relatives before or without noun heads; noun head final; content q-word in situ; question word final; no noun classes or genders; 1 prefix, up to 5 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; consistently ergative; anti-dative marking; affixes indicate case of noun phrase; verb affixation marks person, number and direct relations; no passives or voice; causatives; comparatives; CV to CCCVCCC with certain restrictions; non-tonal; 31 consonant and 16 vowel (including 6 diphthongs) phonemes. *Lg Use*: Home; mixed use: Work, education. Older adults only. Positive attitudes. Shifted to Nepali [npi] (Van Driem 2007). Used as L2 by Sunwar [suz]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 15% in Nepali [npi]. Grammar. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Devanagari script, recently developed. *Other*: Similar culturally to Magar and Gurung living near the Bhujel. Gharti is a sub-caste name associated with former slavery. Bhujels reject the name, but outsiders often use it. Separated from Chepang [cdm] language area by Trisuli river. Hindu, Buddhist, Christian. *Map*: 65:44.

Bote [bmj] (Bot, Bote-Majhi, Pakhe-Bote, Pani-Bote). *Users*: 9,150, all users. L1 users: 8,770 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 380 (2011 census). No monolinguals (2002 UNESCO). *Location*: Gandaki province: East Nawalparasi district, Chitwan National Park, Devchuli,

Gaidakot, Kawasoti, and Madhyabindu municipalities; Bagmati province: Chitwan district, Chitwan National Park, Bharatpur and Madi municipalities. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Bote. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Eastern, Unclassified. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; final noun head; no noun classes or genders; content q-word in situ; 1 prefix, up to 2 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person and number; ergativity; both tense and aspect; passives and voice; nontonal; 29 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Use is mostly local. Rapid shift to Nepali [npi] (Van Driem 2007). *Mixed use*: Home, friends, religion, work. Some young people, all adults. Elderly. Some use among children, adolescents, younger and older adults. Positive attitudes, with growing language activism. Also use Bhojpuri [bho]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: None. Generally, literacy programs are conducted in Nepali [npi]. *Newspapers*. *DLS*: Emerging (0.04). *Writing*: Devanagari script, recently developed. *Other*: 2 groups of Bote: Pani (water) Bote and Pakhe (land) Bote. *Hindu*. *Map*: 65:46.

Byangsi [bee] (Byangkho Lwo, Byanshi, Byansi, Byasi, Rang Lo, Sauka, Shauka). *Users*: 550 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 480 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 70 (2011 census). No monolinguals (2002 UNESCO). *Location*: Sudur Pashchimanchal province: Darchula district, Byas municipality. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Byasi. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, West Himalayish, Almora. *Dialects*: Byansi, Rang, Sauka, Yerjungkhu Boli, Pang Sungkhu Boli. Intelligibility between Byangsi [bee] and Dhuleli (spoken in 5 villages in Kanda VDC of Bajhang district) needs to be investigated. Dhuleli most likely related, but possibly a separate language. *Lg Use*: Home, friends. Some young people, all adults. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Kumaoni [kfy]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 26% in Nepali [npi]. *Grammar*. *Writing*: Devanagari script, recently developed. *Map*: 64:1. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,380 (as L1: 3,310; as L2: 70). Also indigenous in: India.

Chamling [rab] (Camling, Chamlinge Rai, Rodong). *Users*: 83,200 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 76,800 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 6,400 (2011 census). Very few monolinguals. *Location*: Kosi province: Bhojpur, Ilam, Jhapa, Khotang, Morang, Panchthar, Sankhuwasabha, Sunsari, and Udayapur districts. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Eastern. *Dialects*: Balamtali, Ratanchhali, Halesi. Ratanchhali and Halesi dialects are similar to each other but Balamtali is very different. Reportedly most similar to Bantawa [bap] and Puma [pum] linguistically. Many speak a variety mixed with Nepali [npi]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; no noun classes or genders; content q-word in situ; up to 2 prefixes, up to 7 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person and number; split and inverse ergativity; mixed tense-aspect; no passives or voice; nontonal; 28 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Home, religion; mixed use: friends, work. Some young people, all adults. Used as L2 by Puma [pum]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Periodicals. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2015. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Devanagari script, recently developed. *Other*: Many ethnic subgroups, but

linguistically homogeneous. Traditional religion, Hindu. *Maps*: 66:64, 66:64. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 83,200 (as L1: 76,800; as L2: 6,400). Also established in: India.

Chantyal [chx] (Chantel, Chhantel, Chhantyal, Khamkura). *Users*: 4,020, all users. L1 users: 3,730 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 290 (2011 census). No monolinguals (Noonan 1996). Ethnic population: 9,000 (2011 census). *Location*: Gandaki province: Myagdi district, Raghuganga rural municipality, Caura Khani, Dwari, Ghyas Kharka, Kuine Khani, Malampahar, Malkabang, Mangale Khani, Patle Kharka, and Thara Khani. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Chhantyal. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, West Bodish, Gurung-Tamang, Gurungic. *Dialects*: None known. Related to Gurung [gvr], Manangba [nmm], Tamang [tdg], and Thakali [ths] (Noonan 1996). *Type*: SOV; head noun final; dual number; agglutinative language; case-marking clitics (over 20 cases); tense, aspect and mood in verbal morphology; 40 consonants and 12 vowels (6 oral and 6 nasal); non-tonal; stress on first syllable; evidentiality. *Lg Use*: Home, villages (Noonan 1996). Not used for singing. Some young people, all adults. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Texts. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Devanagari script, recently developed. *Other*: Some believe Chantyal will be replaced soon. Outsiders often regard it as Magar, but they claim a Thakuri origin (de Sales 1993). Much lexical borrowing from Nepali. Sometimes called Khamkura as are Kham languages, which can have a general meaning of local non-Nepali dialect. (Watters 2002). Traditional religion, Buddhist. *Map*: 65:19.

Chepeng [cdm] (Chyo'bang, Cyo'bang, Praja Bhasa, Tsepang). *Users*: 49,640, all users. L1 users: 48,500 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 1,140 (2011 census). No monolinguals. *Location*: Bagmati province: Chitwan district, widespread; Dhading district, Benighat Rorang municipality; Gorkha district: Gandaki and Sahid Lakhan municipalities; Makawanpur district: Bhimphedi, Hetauda, Kailash, Makawanpurgadhi, Manahari, and Raksirang municipalities. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Chepeng. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Central Himalayan, Chepeng-Bhujel. *Dialects*: Eastern Chepeng, Western Chepeng, Bankariya. Bhujel [byh] has difficult intelligibility with Chepeng due to different pronominal suffix morphology. Dialects of Chepeng differ in verb forms. Reportedly similar in morphology to Kirati languages. Lexical similarity: 98% with Bhujel [byh] (2004 R. Caughley, based on 100-item word list). *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; no noun classes or genders; relatives before or without noun heads; content q-word in situ; no prefixes, up to 8 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; affixes indicate case of noun phrase; verbal affixation marks person and number; ergative; tense and aspect; voice; causatives; comparatives; CV to CCCVCCC with certain restrictions; 18 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes; nontonal (not phonemic, but phonetic pitch). Whistle speech. *Lg Use*: Home; mixed use: Friends, religion, work. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Also use Nepali [npi], especially men for common topics and political affairs, women for greetings and trade, and young people among themselves; often learned in school. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%–5%. Literacy rate in L2: 40% men, 15% women in Nepali [npi]; 14% ethnic group (1991 census). Difficulties in

reading Chepang: long words, consonant clusters. Written Chepang has lower prestige than Nepali. Motivation high for Nepali. Literature. Newspapers. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1993. *DLS*: Emerging (0.04). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 65:43.

Chhiling [cur] (Chhilling, Chholung, Chhulung, Chhûlung Rûng, Chiling, Chulung, Chûlung). *Users*: 2,250, all users. L1 users: 2,050 (2011 census), decreasing. L1 speakers dwindling (Van Driem 2007). L2 users: 200 (2011 census). *Location*: Kosi province: Dhankuta district, Khalsa Chhintang Shahidbuni municipality. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Eastern. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; verbal affixation marks person and number; tense; nontonal. *Lg Use*: Home; mixed use: Friends, religion, work. Some young people, all adults. Also use Bantawa [bap]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Traditional religion. *Map*: 66:68 (as Chhulung).

Chhintang [ctn] (Chhintange, Chintang, Chintang Rûng, Teli). *Users*: 4,720, all users. L1 users: 3,710 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 1,010 (2011 census). No monolinguals. Ethnic population: 5,000. *Location*: Kosi province: Dhankuta district, Khalsa Chhintang Shahidbuni municipality. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Eastern. *Dialects*: Mulgaun, Sambhugaon. Probably not intelligible with Bantawa [bap], but sometimes considered a dialect of it due to reportedly ethnic similarities. Only a few lexical items and grammatical markers are different between the two dialects. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; no noun classes or genders; content q-word in situ; up to 4 prefixes (in free order), up to 7 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person and number; ergativity; both tense and aspect; no passives or voice; nontonal; 29 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Home, religion, work; mixed use: Friends. Some young people, all adults. Neutral attitudes. Most also use Nepali [nep]. Most also use Bantawa [bap]. *Lg Dev*: Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Devanagari script, recently developed. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 66:70.

Chukwa [cuw] (Chukuwa, Cukwa Ring, Pohing, Pohing Kha). *Users*: 100 (2011 SIL), decreasing. Only 5 fluent speakers (2011). *Location*: Kosi province: Bhojpur district, Salpasilichho municipality, Jimigau village. *Status*: 8b (Nearly extinct). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Eastern. *Dialects*: None known. A noticeable number of shared nouns with Northern Lohorung [lbr] (2011 J. Eppele). *Type*: SOV; postpositions; verbal affixation marks person and number; tense; nontonal. *Lg Use*: Religion; mixed use: Home. Elderly only. Many shifted to English [eng]. Many shifted to Nepali [npi]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Linguistically between Kulung-Nachering-Sangpang and Meohang-Saam (Hansson 1991), but there is no supporting data. The Chukwa claim a close linguistic and ethnic affiliation with Saam [raq]; they say that their language is very different from Kulung [kle], although Van Driem (2001) lists Chukwa as a subgroup of Kulung. Traditional religion, Hindu. *Map*: 66:82.

Danuwar [dhw] (Danuwari, Danwar, Denwar, Dhanuwar, Dhanvar, Dhanwar, Donwar, Kacarya Danuwar). *Users*: 48,650, all users. L1 users: 45,800 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 2,850 (2011 census). No monolinguals (Toba et al 2005). *Location*: Bagmati province: Kavrepalanchok, Lalitpur, Sindhuli, and Sindhupalchowk districts; Janakpur province: Bara, Rautahat, Dhanusa, Mahottari, Sarlahi, and Siraha districts; Kosi province: Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, and Udayapur districts. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Danuwar. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Unclassified. *Dialects*: Kochariya (Bara, Rautahat, Sarlahi), Done Danuwar (Kavre, Sindhupalchowk), Dukuchhap Danuwar (Lalitpur), Dolbar Danuwar (Terai). Kochariya do not identify ethnically with Danuwar. Kochariya dialect is possibly a separate language. Danuwar Kochariya in Rautahat and elsewhere is probably distinct from Danuwar [dhw]. Done Danuwar and Sindhuli/Dolbar Danuwar reportedly low intelligibility, but identify as speaking the same language. Lexical similarity: below 60% with Dewas Rai [dwz]. *Dialects*: Done Danuwar 54% with Dolbar Danuwar, 58% with Kochariya; Kochariya 76% with Dolbar Danuwar; Done Danuwar 65% with Nepali [npi]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; 2 noun classes or genders; content q-word in situ; 1 prefix, up to 4 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person, number and gender of subject; ergativity; both tense and aspect; no passives and voice; nontonal; 29 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Rapidly assimilating to Nepali [npi] (Van Driem 2007). Home, religion; mixed use: Friends, work. Some young people, all adults. Neutral attitudes. Also use Eastern Tamang [taj], especially at work and with friends in Kabhre district. Also use Nepali [npi], especially at work and with friends in Kabhre district. *Lg Dev*: Although some people are writing in Danuwari, no data is available on L1 literacy. Radio. Dictionary. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Hindu, traditional religion. *Maps*: 66:48, 65:48.

Darai [dry]. *Users*: 12,050, all users. L1 users: 11,700 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 350 (2011 census). Very few monolinguals. *Location*: Bagmati province: Chitwan district, Bharatpur, Khairahani, Ratnanagar, and Rapti municipalities; Gandaki province: East Nawalparasi district, Bungdikali and Bulingtar municipalities; Tanahun district, Byas, Ghiring, and Rhishing municipalities. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Darai. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Unclassified. *Dialects*: Chitwan, Tanahun. Lexical similarity: 85%–90% with Bote [bmj]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; 2 noun classes or genders; 1 prefix, up to 4 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks for person and number; nominal-based split ergativity; both tense and aspect; passives and voice; nontonal; 29 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes; head-marking of noun in genitive construction. *Lg Use*: Rapidly assimilating to Nepali [npi] (Van Driem 2007). Home; mixed use: Friends, religion, work. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Most also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *DLS*: Emerging (0.04). *Writing*: Devanagari script, used since 2014. *Other*: Darai do not have social subdivisions found in most other Nepali groups. They do not organize communities into social, religious, economic, or political organizations (Bista 1996). Hindu. *Maps*: 65:42, 65:42.

Dewas Rai [dwz] (Danuwar Rai, Rai Danuwar). *Users*: 10,300, all users. L1 users: 10,000 (2017 SIL). L2 users: 300 (2018 SIL). No monolinguals (2018 SIL). Ethnic population: 30,000 (2018 SIL). *Location*: Bagmati province: Makwanpur district, Bagmati municipality; Sindhuli district, Hariharpurgadhi municipality; Janakpur province: Bara district, Nijagadh municipality; Rautahat district, Chandrapur and Gujara municipalities; Sarlahi district, Bagmati municipality. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Unclassified. *Dialects*: Reported distinct dialect in Bagmati municipality of Makwanpur district. Lexical similarity: below 60% with Danuwar [dhw]. *Lg Use*: Use decreasing among children in some areas (2017 SIL). Home, friends; Mixed use: work, religion, community. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Most also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 15% in Nepali [npi]. Dictionary. Bible portions: 1976. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Previously defined as a dialect of Danuwar [dhw]. Some disagreement within the community on language and ethnic group name. Hindu, Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 65:50.

Dhimal [dhi] (Dhemal). *Users*: 20,430 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 19,300 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 1,130 (2011 census). *Location*: Kosi province: Jhapa district, Arjunthara, Buddhashanti, Damak, and Kamal municipalities; Morang district, Belbari, Kanepokhari, Miklajung, Patahrishanishchare, Sundarharaicha, and Uralabari municipalities. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Dhimal. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Sal, Dhimalish. *Dialects*: Eastern Dhimal, Western Dhimal. 75%–80% intelligibility between eastern and western dialect speakers. Lexical similarity: 80%–82% with dialects. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; no noun classes or genders; content q-word in situ; genitives, demonstratives, relatives before noun heads; 1 prefix, up to 3 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person; non-ergative; tense and aspect; passives and voice; nontonal; 31 consonant and 16 vowel phonemes (includes 5 basic vowels, 5 long vowels and 5 nasalized vowels); honorificity is marked for first person when speaking with in-laws. *Lg Use*: Home, friends, religion; mixed use: Work. Some young people, all adults. Adolescents and older. Some use among children. Positive attitudes. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Nepali [npi]. Also use Rajbanshi [rjs]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 39% (1991 census). Literature. Periodicals. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2017. Agency: Dhimal Ethnic Development Centre. *DLS*: Emerging (0.11). *Writing*: Devanagari script, used since 1999. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian, Hindu. *Map*: 66:94. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 20,880 (as L1: 19,750; as L2: 1,130). Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Also established in: India.

Dolpo [dre] (Dolkha, Dolpa Tibetan, Dolpali, Dolpike, Phoke Dolpa). *Users*: 8,000 (2010 K. Kopp). Ethnic population: 8,000 (2010 K. Kopp). *Location*: Karnali province: Dolpa district, Chharka Tangsong municipality: west of Kag village along the Barbung river valley; Dolpo Buddha municipality, north of Lang village along the Tarap river valley, and along the Panzang river valley; Shey Phoksundo municipality, along the Suli Gag river valley, in the Phoksundo lake area, and along the Nangong river valley. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Dolpo. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman,

Bodish, Central Bodish, Central, gTsang. *Dialects*: None known. Phoksumdo Lake, Barbung River, and Charka areas are slightly different, but intelligibility is good. The central valleys of Nankong and Dho Tarap are well understood by other varieties. Lexical similarity: 78% with Lhowa [loy], 69% with Lhomi [lhm], 68% with Lhasa Tibetan [bod], Walungge [ola], and Kyerung (Kyirong) [kgy], 67% with Nubri [kte], 66% with Helambu Sherpa [scp], 62% with Jirel [jul] and Sherpa [xsr] (2010 K. Kopp). *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head initial; no noun classes or genders; content q-word in situ; 1 prefix, up to 3 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; conjunct or disjunct verbal agree with subject with evidential marking in the verbal auxiliary; gender is marked explicitly in the noun phrase; ergativity; tense and aspect (aspect marked overtly as a verbal suffix); no passives or voice; 36 consonant and 7 vowel phonemes; tonal. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, friends, religion, work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Central Tibetan [bod]. Also use Lhowa [loy]. Also use Nepali [npi]. Used as L2 by Kaike [kzq]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: Below 10%. Literacy materials have been produced and are being tested. Non-formal classes are being planned (2010). Literature. Dictionary. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Tibetan script. *Other*: Buddhist. *Maps*: 64:6, 65:6.

Dotyali [dty] (Dotali, Doteli). *Users*: 788,000 in Nepal (2011 census). *Location*: Sudur Pashchimanchal province: Bajhang, Dadeldhura, Darchula, Doti, Kailali, and Kanchanpur districts. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Nepali. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Eastern, Eastern Pahari. A member of macrolanguage Nepali [nep]. *Dialects*: Bajhangi, Baitadeli (Baitadi), Darchuli (Darjula), Dotyali. Reportedly similar to Nepali [npi]. Lexical similarity: 70%–72% with Nepali [npi], 53%–61% with Kumaoni [kfy], 75%–87% between Dotyali varieties (2014 S. Eichentopf). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2017. *DLS*: Ascending (0.24). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Map*: 63. *Worldwide*: Also established in: India.

Dumi [dus] (Dumī Rāī, Dumi Bo’o, Dumi Bra, Hopupo Bra, Lsi Rai, Ro’do Bo’, Sotmali). *Users*: 3,520, all users. L1 users: 2,500 (Rai 2017), decreasing. L2 users: 1,020 (2011 census). No monolinguals. Ethnic population: 7,640 (2011 census). *Location*: Kosi province: Khotang district, Aiselukharka and Kepilasagadhi rural municipalities, and Rupakot Majhuwagadhi municipality along the Rawa river. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Western. *Dialects*: Kharbari (Jalapa), Lamdija (Baksila), Makpa (Makhipa). Reportedly most similar to Khaling [klr] and Koi [kkt]. Makpa dialect is markedly divergent. *Type*: SVO; postpositions; noun head final; no noun classes or genders; content q-word in situ; 1 prefix, unknown number of suffixes; verbal affixation marks person and number; ergativity; nontonal; 26 consonant and 14 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Pressure to shift to Nepali [npi] in education and communication with outsiders is strong. Few parents teach Dumi to their children or encourage their children to use their language. Home, religion. Mixed use: Friends, work. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Most also use Nepali [npi], and neighboring local languages. *Lg Dev*: Periodicals. Dictionary. Grammar.

DLS: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Efforts have been made by some to preserve the language by creating written materials. Traditional religion, Christian, Hindu.
Map: 66:77.

Dungmali [raa] (Arthare, Arthare-Khesang, Dungmali Puk, Dungmali Pûk, Dungmali-Bantawa, Khesange). *Users*: 6,470, all users. L1 users: 6,260 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 210 (2011 census). 150 monolinguals. Ethnic population: 10,000. *Location*: Kosi province: Bhojpur district, Arun and Pauwadungma municipalities. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Eastern. *Dialect*: Khesang (Khesange). 82% cognate with Bantawa [bap] but morphology and phonology differ (Winter and Hansson 1991). Lexical similarity: 80% with Bantawa [bap], 65% with Puma [pum]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; content q-word in situ; 1 prefix; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person and gender; split ergativity; tense; no passives or voice; tonal; 18 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Home, religion. Mixed use: Friends, work. Some young people, all adults. Also use Bantawa [bap]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Dictionary. Agency: Dungmali Rai Language Culture Preservation Forum. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Local names which may not be dialects: Chhinamkhang, Chhichhangchha, Hangbang, Khandung, Pungwai, Roktulung, Tuncha, Waitpang. Traditional religion. *Map*: 66:73.

Dura [drq]. *Users*: No known L1 speakers (Schorer 2016). Last speaker survived into the 2000s. *Location*: Gandaki province: Lamjung district, scattered. *Status*: 9 (Dormant). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Dura. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, West Bodish. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; no noun classes or genders; content q-word in situ; 1 prefix, up to 3 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; ergativity; tense (2) and aspect; no passives or voice; nontonal; 37 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Shifted to Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Tandrange may be a dialect of Dura. Hindu, Buddhist.

English [eng]. Autonym: English. *Users*: 8,402,030 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 2,030 in Nepal (2011 census). L2 users: 8,400,000 (2020). *Location*: Major cities. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, English. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives after noun heads; articles, adjectives, numerals before noun heads; question word initial; word order distinguishes subject, object, indirect objects, given and new information, topic and comment; active and passive; causative; comparative; consonant and vowel clusters; 24 consonants, 13 vowels, 8 diphthongs; non-tonal; free stress; phrasal verbs. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Chukwa [cuw], Gurung [gvr], Hyolmo [scp], Maithili [mai], Mugom-Karmarong [muk], Newar [new], Nyeshangte [nmm], Sherpa [xsr], Southern Ghale [ghe]. *Lg Dev*: Taught in primary and secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1382–2002. *Writing*: Braille script. Deseret Alphabet, developed in 1854 with limited usage until 1877. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. Shavian (Shaw) script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Second most widespread language in Nepal in popularity, education, and use. Spoken at all socio-economic levels, by both literate and non-literate. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320

(as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Ireland, United Kingdom. Also established in 167 other countries and unestablished in 16 more.

Ghale, Northern [ghh] (Lila, Ril-Lila). *Users*: 4,440 (2011 census). 400 monolinguals. *Location*: Gandaki province: Gorkha district, Dharche rural municipality, Jagat, Korla Besi, Nyak, Philim, and Uiya villages. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, West Bodish, Ghale. *Dialects*: Khorla, Uiya, Jagat, Philim, Nyak. Nyak is most diverse dialect. Philim has 94% intelligibility of Uiya. 75%–79% intelligibility of Barpak in Southern Ghale [ghe]. Dialect chain runs north and south. Lexical similarity: 73%–89% among dialects, 65%–81% with Southern Ghale [ghe], 45%–61% with Kuke [ght], 29%–37% with Western Tamang [tdg], 21%–27% with Nubri [kte], 22%–25% with Tsum [ttz], 19%–23% with Kyerung (Kyirong) [kgy], 19%–21% with Tibetan [bod]. *Lg Use*: Home, friends, religion, work. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Also use Nepali [npi], but speakers in Philim, Lho, and Bihi have no more than basic bilingual proficiency. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Buddhist, Christian, Hindu. *Map*: 65:31.

Ghale, Southern [ghe] (Galle Gurung, Lila, Lila Ke, Ril-Lila). *Users*: 18,000 (2016 SIL). *Location*: Gandaki province: Gorkha district, Dharche and Sulikot municipalities. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, West Bodish, Ghale. *Dialects*: Barpak, Kyaura, Laprak. Some intelligibility between Northern [ghh] and Southern Ghale. Dialect subgroup. Glover (1974:8–12) identifies a Ghale branch under Bodish intermediate between Tibetan and Gurung branches. Lexical similarity: 75%–78% among dialects, 65%–81% with Northern Ghale, 39%–49% with Kuke [ght], 27%–30% with Gurung [gvr], 31% with Western Tamang [tdg], 20% with Nubri [kte] and Tsum [ttz], 18% with Tibetan [bod]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head both initial and final; no noun classes or genders; content q-word in situ; up to 2 prefixes, 1 suffix; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; no verbal affixation; no passives or voice; tonal; 18 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, religion; mixed use: Friends, work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: NT: 1992. *DLS*: Emerging (0.04). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Hindu, Christian. *Map*: 65:32.

Ghandruk Sign Language [gds]. *Users*: 20 (2011 SIL). *Location*: Gandaki province: Kaski district, Annapurna municipality, Ghandruk village. *Status*: 8b (Nearly extinct). *Class*: Sign language, Shared sign language. *Dialects*: Similar to Kathmandu and Pokhara dialects of Nepalese Sign Language [nsp]. *Lg Use*: All domains. *DLS*: Still. *Map*: 65:24.

Gurung [gvr] (Daduwa, Tamu Kyi, Western Gurung). *Users*: 348,800 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 326,000 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. L2 users: 22,800 (2011 census). 12,000 monolinguals. *Location*: Gandaki province: Gorkha, Kaski, Lamjung, Manang, Parbat, Syangja, and Tanahun districts. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Gurung. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, West Bodish, Gurung-Tamang, Gurungic. *Dialect*: Central dialect of Gurung. Related to

Thakali [ths]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; genitives, adjectives, relative clauses precede noun heads; numerals after noun heads; noun head final; no noun classes or genders; content q-word in situ; rising intonation marks bipolar questions; one negative prefix on verbs; up to 2 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; case of noun phrases is indicated by postpositions; no subject or object referencing in verbs; split ergative system according to tense; causatives; benefactives; aspect; no passives or voice; 24 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; CV, CCV, CCCV; tonal: voice quality or register is part of the tone system. *Lg Use*: Children and young people use Gurung less frequently than those who are older. Passed down only a little from generation to generation (2002 UNESCO). Gurung children are learning Nepali before they enter school and formal education is conducted in Nepali (2015 SIL). Home; mixed use: Friends, religion, work, education. Some young people, all adults. The language is decreasingly being passed on to children, and Nepali usage among even very young children is increasing (2015 SIL). Positive attitudes. All also use Nepali [npi]. Also use English [eng], especially by high school graduates. Also use Lhomi [lhm]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 30%. Literacy rate in L2: 30%. Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1982. *DLS*: Emerging (0.09). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Buddhist, Christian, Hindu. *Maps*: 65:25, 65:25. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 396,800 (as L1: 374,000; as L2: 22,800). Also established in: India. Unestablished in: Bhutan.

Gyalsumdo [gyo]. *Users*: 200 (Hildebrandt and Perry 2011). *Location*: Gandaki province: Manang district, Chame municipality, Chame village; Nashong municipality, Bagarchhap, Dharapani, Tal, Thonce, and Tilce villages. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, Central Bodish, Central, gTsang. *Dialects*: None known. Related to Kyirong [kgy] and Nubri [kte]. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Nepali [npi]. *DLS*: Still. *Other*: Buddhist. *Map*: 65:26.

Hindi [hin] (Dakhini, Hindi-Urdu, Hindustani). *Users*: 1,307,600 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 77,600 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. L2 users: 1,230,000 (2011 census). *Location*: Scattered throughout the Tarai (lowlands) and in major cities. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Western Hindi, Hindustani. *Dialect*: Khariboli. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; content q-word in situ; gender (masculine/feminine); no articles; clause constituents partially indicated by case-marking (direct, oblique), postpositions, and word order; verbal affixation marks person, number, gender, and honorificity of subject; split ergativity; both tense and aspect; passives and voice; causatives; non-tonal; 30 consonants, 10 vowels, 2 diphthongs; stress linked to syllable weight. *Lg Use*: Home, friends, religion, education; mixed use: Work. Used by all. Used as L2 by Angika [anp], Avadhi [awa], Bajjika [vjk], Bantawa [bap], Bhojpuri [bho], Byangsi [bee], Central Tharu [the], Dangaura Tharu [thl], Dhimal [dhi], Humla [hut], Hyolmo [scp], Jumli [jml], Kathariya Tharu [tkl], Maithili [mai], Marwari [rwr], Mugom-Karmarong [muk], Newar [new], Rajbanshi [rjs], Raji [rji], Rana Tharu [thr], Raute [rau], Southern Ghale [ghe]. *Lg Dev*: Also taught at higher levels of education. Taught as subject in some primary and secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1835–2000. *Writing*: Braille script. Devanagari script,

primary usage. Latin script, recent informal usage, especially online on social media. Mahajani script, no longer in use, historic usage. Newa script, no longer in use, historic usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 609,454,770 (as L1: 344,650,870; as L2: 264,803,900). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: India. Also established in: Kuwait, Singapore, South Africa. Unestablished in: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Kenya, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Sint Maarten, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen.

Humla [hut] (Bhote, Humla Tibetan, Humli Lama, Kham, Phoke, “Humla Bhotia” *pej.*). *Users*: 5,000 (2014 SIL). 36% of the Limi dialect are monolingual. Ethnic population: 5,000 (2014 SIL). *Location*: Karnali province: Humla district, Namkha and Simkot municipalities; Sudur Pashchimanchal province. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, Central Bodish, Central, gTsang. *Dialects*: Limi, Upper Humla (Satthapale, Yultsodunba), Eastern Humla (Barathapale, Nyinba), Lower Humla (Tugchulungba, Yakpa). Speakers perceive all dialects to be mutual intelligible. However, intelligibility may be limited between varieties which are geographically distant from one another (2021 SIL). Lexical similarity: 82% between Limi and Lower Humla varieties, 79% between Limi and Upper Humla varieties, 78%–85% between Upper Humla and Lower Humla varieties, 76%–82% between Lower Humla and Eastern Humla, 74%–77% between Limi and Eastern Humla varieties, 73%–77% between Upper Humla and Eastern Humla (2021 SIL). *Type*: SOV; postposition; noun head initial; noun classes or genders; content q-word in situ; 1 prefix, up to 3 suffixes; case-marking and word order; verbal affixation marks person (conjunct vs. disjunct distinction); tense and aspect; no passives or voice; 35 consonants (Limi variety) and 7 vowel phonemes; tonal. *Lg Use*: Home, friends, religion, work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. A few also use Central Tibetan [bod]. A few also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Nepali [npi], mostly for trade. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 10%–15% Tibetan [bod]. Some schools using English [eng] medium, some Tibetan [bod] instruction. Texts. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: The Humli Khyampa are a traditionally nomadic group whose members sometimes pass through Humla. They are now becoming more semi-nomadic. They are buying land and building houses in districts south of Humla in western Nepal (2014 D. Greninger). The linguistic relationship between Humli Khyampa and Humla [hut] and Tibetan [bod] is unknown (2021 SIL). Buddhist. *Map*: 64:2.

HyoImo [scp] (Helambu Sherpa, Hyolmo Tam, Yholmo, Yohlmo, Yolmo). *Users*: 10,680, all users. L1 users: 10,200 (2011 census). L2 users: 480 (2011 census). Very few monolinguals. *Location*: Bagmati province: Nuwakot district, Dupcheshwar municipality and Langtang National Park; Rasuwa district, Gosaikunda municipality; Sindhupalchok district, Helambu and Panchpokhari Thangpal municipalities; Gandaki province: Lamjung district, Besishahar municipality. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality:

Hyolmo. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, Central Bodish, Central, gTsang. *Dialects*: Eastern Helambu Sherpa, Western Helambu Sherpa, Langtang (LangDang Yohlmo), Lamjung Yohlmo. Melamchi river divides dialects. Understand other dialects even for abstract and complex subjects, including possibly Tarke Ghyang, Kahng-Kharka, Pahndang, but not Syuba [syw]. Langtang shares some features with Kyirong [kyg] that are not present in Hyolmo (2022 R. Kvicaloa). Lexical similarity: 66% with Dolpo [dre] and Walungge [ola]; 65% with Lhasa Tibetan [bod], Jirel [jul], and Kyerung (Kyirong) [kyg]; 63% with Lhowa [loy] and Sherpa [xsr]; 61% with Nubri [kte]; 60% with Lhomi [lhm]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; head noun initial; genitives, relatives before noun heads; articles, adjectives, numerals mostly after noun heads; no noun classes or genders; content q-word is usually the second word in the clause; maximum number of prefixes 1; maximum number of suffixes 4; clause constituents indicated primarily by case-marking, but word order distinguishes subject, object, indirect object some, but normally marked by postpositions; case of noun phrase indicated by postposition; split ergativity; rich system of tense and aspect; no passives or voice; causatives; comparatives; CV, CVC, CVV, CCV, CCVV, CVVC; tonal (4 tones); 36 consonant and 10 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Home; mixed use: Friends, religion, work. Some young people, all adults. Also use Central Tibetan [bod]. Also use English [eng]. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Nepali [npi], viewing it as useful. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 15%–25%. Literacy motivation not high, except in English [eng]. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2000. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: They go to northern India as laborers or resettle in Kathmandu or in India. Buddhist, Christian, traditional religion. *Maps*: 65:36, 65:36.

Jerung [jee] (Jero, Jero Mala, Jerum, Jerunge, Jherung, Zero, Zero Mala, Zerum). *Users*: 5,380, all users. L1 users: 1,760 (2011 census). L2 users: 3,620 (2011 census). *Location*: Kosi province: Okhaldhunga district, Manebhanjyang and Sunkoshi municipalities. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Western. *Dialects*: Madhavpur, Balkhu-Sisneri, Ratnawati (Sindhuli). Reportedly most similar to Wambule [wme]. Alternate dialect analysis: Northern dialect spoken in Okhaldhunga District, Southern dialect in Sindhuli District. (2004 J. Opgenort). *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; 2 genders (non-productive); content q-word can appear anywhere in the phrase, often in initial position; 1 prefix, up to 4 suffixes (word-internal) and 4 phrasal affixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person and number; ergativity; aspect; no passives or voice; nontonal; 31 consonant and 11 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Home, friends, religion; mixed use: Work, education. Some young people, all adults. Also use Nepali [npi]. Used as L2 by Wambule [wme]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Periodicals. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: 'Chaurasia' is the name for the linguistic unit combining Jerung and Wambule [wme]. Traditional religion, Hindu. *Map*: 66:61.

Jhankot Sign Language [jhs]. *Location*: Karnali province: Dolpa district, Jagadulla municipality, Jhankot village. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Sign language, Shared sign language. *Lg Use*: Reportedly used by deaf and hearing alike throughout the village. *DLS*: Still. *Other*: Existence

attested only by a single source (Taylor 1997). *Map*: 64:5.

Jirel [jul] (Jiri, Jirial, Ziral). *Users*: 4,970, all users. L1 users: 4,830 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 140 (2011 census). Ethnic population: 5,770 (2011 census). *Location*: Bagmati province: Dolakha district, Baiteshwor, Gaurishankar, and Jiri municipalities. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Jirel. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, Central Bodish, Central, gTsang. *Dialects*: Accent differences, but not real dialects. Some comprehension of Lhasa Tibetan [bod] and some Tibetan dialects. Lexical similarity: 67% with Sherpa [xsr], 65% with Helambu Sherpa [scp], 62% with Dolpo [dre] and Lhowa [loy], 60% with Kyerung (Kyirong) [kgy], 57% with Nubri [kte], Lhomi [lhm], and Walungge [ola], 54% with Lhasa Tibetan [bod]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; genitives, demonstratives, adjectives before noun heads; numerals after noun heads; relatives before and without noun heads; content q-word in situ; polar question word final; maximum number of prefixes 1, maximum number of suffixes 4; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; affixes indicate case of noun phrases; ergative; causatives; no passives or voice; CV, CVC, V, VC; tonal. *Lg Use*: Home, friends. Some young people, all adults. Also use Eastern Tamang [taj]. Also use Nepali [npi]. Also use Sherpa [xsr]. Also use Sunwar [suz]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 25%–30% adults, 60% younger people (1991 census). People literate in Nepali [npi] can read Jirel. Literature. Dictionary. Texts. NT: 1992. *DLS*: Emerging (0.04). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Buddhist, Christian. *Map*: 66:55.

Jumla Sign Language [jus]. *Users*: 8 (2005 International Nepal Fellowship). 8 monolinguals. *Location*: Karnali province: Jumla district, Chandannath municipality, Jumla village. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Sign language, Shared sign language. *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 45%–49% with Nepalese Sign Language [nsp]. *DLS*: Still. *Other*: Deaf children in the Nepalese Sign Language school in Jumla come from 1 or 2 days walk away and do not know Jumla Sign Language. *Map*: 64:4.

Jumli [jml] (Central Nepali, Jumla, Jumleli, Khas Kura, Sijali, Singja, Sinjali). *Users*: 40,000 (2001 SIL). *Location*: Karnali province: Humla, Jumla, Kalikot, and Mugu districts; Sudur Pashchimanchal province: Achham, Bajhang, and Bajura districts. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Nepali. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Eastern, Eastern Pahari. *Dialects*: Chaudhabis, Sinja, Asi, Paanchsai. 73%–89% intelligible with standard Nepali [npi]. Not sufficient to understand complex and abstract discourse. Lexical similarity: 73%–80% with standard Nepali [npi] (Bandhu 1971). *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; 2 genders; content q-word in situ; 1 prefix, up to 5 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person and number; ergativity; aspect; passives and voice; nontonal; 31 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Home, friends, religion, work. Used by all. Mixed attitudes. Some embarrassed by their own speech when speaking to standard Nepali [npi] speakers. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. Dictionary. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu. *Map*: 63.

- Kaike** [kzq] (Magar Kaike, Tarali Kham). *Users*: 2,000 (2011 A. Regmi), decreasing. No monolinguals. Ethnic population: 2,000 (2011 A. Regmi). *Location*: Karnali province: Dolpa district, Kaike municipality, Belawa, Shahartara, Tarakot, and Tupatara villages. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, West Bodish. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; no noun classes or genders; content q-word in situ; 1 prefix, up to 2 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; consistently ergative; no passives or voice; semi-tonal; 29 consonant and 10 vowel phonemes; complex conjunct-disjunct system, and nominalization. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, friends, religion, work; mixed use: Education. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Central Tibetan [bod], especially for trade and commerce with the Dolpo. Also use Dolpo [dre]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Kaike is sometimes known as Tarali Kham, though it is quite different from Kham, a Himalayan language of western Nepal. (Bradley 1997:11). Buddhist, Hindu. *Map*: 65:18.
- Kewat** [kyv] (Kayort). *Users*: 22,000 (2002). *Location*: Kosi province: Morang district. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Eastern, Bengali-Assamese. *Dialects*: None known. Ostensibly related to Bengali [ben]. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: No known published or survey-based attestation for this as a separate language variety.
- Khaling** [klr] (Kaling, Khael Baat, Khael Bra, Khael Braa, Khaling Kura, Khalinge Rai). *Users*: 15,670 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 14,500 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 1,170 (2011 census). No monolinguals. Ethnic population: 20,000. *Location*: Kosi province: Khotang district, Rupakot Majhuwagadhi municipality, Buipa and Kharmi; Ilam district, Ilam municipality, Sumbek; Majjogmai municipality, Pyang; Sandakpur municipality, Mai Pokhari; Sankhuwasabha district, Bhotkhola municipality, Tungkhaling; Solukhumbu district, Dudhkoshi municipality, Basa, Kanku, and Waku; Solududhakunda municipality, Phuleli; Kumbupasanglahmu municipality, Buksa and Jubing; Sotang municipality, widespread. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Western. *Dialects*: Northern Khaling, Southern Khaling. Reportedly most similar to Dumi [dus] and Koi [kkt]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; adjectives, numerals, relatives before noun heads; content q-word initial; no noun classes or genders; 1 prefix, up to 2 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; affixes indicate case of noun phrase; verbal affixation marks person and number of subject—obligatory; ergative; causatives; comparatives; passives and voice; CV, V, CCCV; nontonal; 23 consonant and 9 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Home, religion; mixed use: Friends, work. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Most also use Nepali [npi], but older women are less bilingual and may comprehend it minimally. Also use Kulung [kle] (Jacques et al 2012). Also use Lhomi [lhm]. Also use Nachiring [ncd] (Jacques et al 2012). Also use Sherpa [xsr] (Jacques et al 2012). Also use Thulung [tdh] (Jacques et al 2012). *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 20% in Nepali [npi]. Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Texts. Bible: 2011. Agency: Khaling Uplifting Society. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian, Hindu. *Map*: 66:79. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries:

18,040 (as L1: 16,870; as L2: 1,170). Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Also established in: India. Unestablished in: Austria.

Kham, Eastern Parbate [kif] (Eastern Parbate, Kham, Kham-Magar, Khamkura, Magar Kham, Nisel, Nishel Kham, Nisi, Nisi Kham). *Users*: 5,000 (2011 SIL), decreasing. No adult monolinguals. Ethnic population: 90,000 (2011 SIL). *Location*: Gandaki province: Baglung district, Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve, Dhorpatan municipality, Diza, Kang, Kuku, Masbang, Musuri, and Sukurdung; Nisikhola municipality, Bhalkot, Budhathok, and Nisi. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Central Himalayan, Kham-Magar, Kham. *Dialects*: Bhujel Kham, Nishel Kham. Partially intelligible with Western Parbate [kjl] dialects. Lexical similarity: 79% between dialects, 71% with Western Parbate [kjl], 55% with Gamal [kgj], 44% with Sheshi [kip]. *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. Young adults and older. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: Below 5%. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Traditional religion, Hindu. *Maps*: 64:8, 65:8.

Kham, Gamal [kgj] (Gamale, Gamale Kham, Kham, Kham-Magar, Khamkura, Magar Kham). *Users*: 10,000, all users. L1 users: 7,000 (2011 SIL), increasing. L2 users: 3,000 (2011 Name change). Ethnic population: 90,000 (2011 SIL). *Location*: Lumbini province: Rolpa district, Sunchhahari municipality, Chabang, Dangadhara, Gam, Ghusbang, Guwakhologau, Huiching, Jhyalgung, Kuipadhara, Maulabang, Sheram, and Tamali. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Central Himalayan, Kham-Magar, Kham. *Dialects*: Tamali, Ghusbanggi. Only 30% intelligibility with Western Parbate [kjl] due to radical differences in verbal morphology. Lexical similarity: 71% with Western Parbate (most similar) [kjl], 55% with Eastern Parbate [kif] and Sheshi [kip], 45% with Bhujel [kif]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person and gender; passives and voice; tonal. *Lg Use*: Vigorous in the villages. Home, friends, work; mixed use: Religion. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Nepali [npi], especially the younger generation. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 5%–15%. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Maps*: 64:9, 65:9.

Kham, Sheshi [kip] (Kham, Kham-Magar, Khamkura, Magar Kham, “Sheshi” *pej.*). *Users*: 15,000 (2011 SIL), decreasing. Ethnic population: 90,000 (2011 SIL). *Location*: Lumbini province: Rolpa district, Duikhola municipality, Dangdung; Madi municipality, Bhabang, Korcabang; Rolpa municipality, Ghapa, Hwama, Jangkot, Kotgaon (Tapnang), and Rimsek. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Central Himalayan, Kham-Magar, Kham. *Dialects*: Tapnanggi, Jangkoti. 30% intelligibility levels with Gamal Kham [kgj], and even less with Western Parbate [kjl]. Lexical similarity: 55% with Gamal Kham [kgj] (most similar), 51% with Western Parbate [kjl], 46% with Eastern Parbate [kif]. *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. All also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: Below 5%. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Hindu. *Map*: 64:10.

Kham, Western Parbate [kjl] (Kham, Kham-Magar, Khamkura, Magar Kham, Takale, Takale Kham, Western Parbate). *Users*: 69,000, all users. L1 users: 44,000 (2003 SIL), increasing. L2 users: 25,000 (2011). Ethnic population: 90,000 (2011 SIL). *Location*: Lumbini province: East Rukum district, Putha Uttarganga municipality, Maikot and Takasera; Bhume municipality, Lukum and Mahat; Rolpa district, Thawang municipality, Thabang. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Central Himalayan, Kham-Magar, Kham. *Dialects*: Takale, Maikoti, Mahatle, Lukumel, Wale, Thabangi. Reportedly greatest similarities between Eastern [kif] and Western Parbate [kjl]. Parbate, Sheshi, and Gamal groups are all inherently unintelligible. Position of Mahatale and Miruli within the Kham linguistic group is undecided. Lexical similarity: 71% with Gamal Kham [kgj] and Eastern Parbate [kif]; 58% with Bhujel Kham, 51% with Sheshi [kip]. 25% with Magar and Gurung [gvr], slightly below 25% with the Tibetan group, 15% with the Rai and Limbu groups. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun heads final; no noun classes or genders; maximum number for nouns: 1 prefix, 8 suffixes; for verbs: 5 prefixes, 7 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; case marked on NPs by affixes; verbal affixation marks person and number of subject and object—obligatory; split ergative; passives and voice; causatives; applicatives; tonal. *Lg Use*: Vigorous in the villages in Rukum. Home, friends, religion, work. Used by all. Also use Nepali [npi], only when outside their homeland; young men are most proficient, older adult women least proficient in it, and most can discuss common topics in the language. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: Some. Literacy rate in L2: Some. Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1985–2016. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Different from the Khams of eastern Tibet as spoken by the Khampa. Previously migrated in summer to the foot of glaciers on west end of Dhaulagiri massif, and in winter to Rolpa District southern hills. Traditional religion, Buddhist. *Maps*: 64:7, 65:7.

Kharia [khr] (Khadiya, Khariya, Khaṛiyā). Autonym: Khaṛiyā. *Users*: 256 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 240 in Nepal (2011 census). L2 users: 16 (2011 census). *Location*: Kosi province: Jhapa district, Mechenagar municipality; Morang district, Katahari municipality. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Austro-Asiatic, Munda, South Munda, Kharia-Juang. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1992. *Writing*: Devanagari script. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 298,256 (as L1: 298,240; as L2: 16). Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: India.

Kisan [sck] (Sadri). *Users*: 1,225 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 1,180 in Nepal (2011 census). L2 users: 45 (2011 census). *Location*: Kosi province: Jhapa district, major cities. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Kisan. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Eastern, Bihari. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Kurux [kru]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Periodicals. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1931–2016. *Writing*: Bengali (Bangla) script. Devanagari script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 12,131,225 (as L1: 5,131,180; as L2: 7,000,045). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: India (Sadri).

Koyee [kkt] (Kohi, Koi, Koi Ba’ā, Koyi, Koyi Rai, Koyu). *Users*: 1,470, all users. L1 users: 1,270

(2011 census). L2 users: 200 (2011 census). *Location*: Kosi province: Khotang district, Kepilasagadhi municipality along the Ruwa river, Sungdel. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Western. *Dialects*: Sungdel, Behere. Reportedly most similar to Dumi [dus] and Khaling [klr]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; case-marking (7 cases); ergativity. *Lg Use*: Home, friends, religion; mixed use: Work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Periodicals. Grammar. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Another group, called Koi, live scattered in other language areas and speak only Nepali [npi]. Traditional religion, Hindu. *Map*: 66:76.

Kuke [ght] (Bhotte, Kutang, Kutang Ghale). *Users*: 900 (2011 census). *Location*: Gandaki province: Gorkha district, Chum Nubri rural municipality, Chhak, Kwak, Namrung, and Prok villages. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, West Bodish, Ghale. *Dialects*: Bihi, Chak, Rana. Varieties spoken in Chhak and Kwak villages are reportedly similar to each other and different from all other villages. Lexical similarity: 62%–76% among dialects, 39%–49% with Southern Ghale [ghe], 45%–61% with Northern Ghale [ghh], 18% with Gurung [gvr], 16%–23% with Tamang varieties, 13%–31% with Nubri [kte], 23%–27% with Tsum [ttz], 22%–27% with Kyerung (Kyirong) [kgy], 19%–24% with Tibetan [bod]. *Type*: SOV. *Lg Use*: Some Tibetan religious books translated into Kuke by priests. Home, friends; mixed use: Work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use Nubri [kte]. Also use Central Tibetan [bod]. Also use Nepali [npi], to communicate with Northern and Southern Ghale speakers, but with minimal proficiency in Bihi village. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 5%. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Referred to as thieves' language, a mixture of nearby languages. Buddhist, Hindu. *Map*: 65:29.

Kulung [kle] (Jindā, Kholung, Khulung, Khulunge Rai, Kulu Ring, Kulunge, Kulungo). *Users*: 34,590 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 33,200 in Nepal (2011 census). L2 users: 1,390 (2011 census). *Location*: Kosi province: Bhojpur district, Salpasilichho municipality; Sankhuwasabha district, Silichong municipality; Solukhumbu district, along the Hungu river, Mahakulung and Sotang municipalities. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Eastern. *Dialect*: Sotto Ring. 100% intelligibility between Kulung and Sotto Ring; only a few words pronounced differently. Related to Sampang [rav] and Nachering [ncd]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; no noun classes or genders; content q-word initial; 1 prefix, up to 3 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person and number; ergativity; tense; no passives or voice; nontonal; 22 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Home, friends, religion. Some young people, all adults. Also use Nepali [npi], which almost all can understand at a basic level. Used as L2 by Eastern Mewahang [emg], Khaling [klr], Nepali [npi], Western Mewahang [raf]. *Lg Dev*: High motivation for literacy. Literature. Periodicals. Grammar. NT: 2016. *DLS*: Emerging (0.04). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Exogamous clan marriage. The high number of Kulung reflect the tendency of smaller groups to consider themselves Kulung, but are not Kulung by origin. The Kulung possibly absorb smaller groups. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*:

66:80. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 34,590 (as L1: 33,200; as L2: 1,390). Also indigenous in: India.

Kumal [kra] (Kumali, Kumbale, Kumhale, Kumhali, Kumkale). *Users*: 13,610, all users. L1 users: 12,200 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 1,410 (2011 census). No monolinguals. *Location*: Bagmati province: Dhading district, Jwalamukhi and Nilakantha municipalities; Gandaki province: Gorkha district, Gorkha and Palungtar municipalities; East Nawalparasi district, Binayee Tribeni, Hupsekot, and Madhyabindu municipalities; Tanahun district, Bhanu municipality; Lumbini province: Arghakhanchi district, Chhatradev and Panini municipalities; Gulmi district, Chatrakot municipality; Palpa district, Rainadevi Chhahara, Ribdikot, and Tansen municipalities. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Kumal. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Unclassified. *Dialects*: Palpa, Arghakhanchi, Gorkha, Nawalparasi. All four dialects are mutually intelligible, with Arghakhanchi being the most different. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; 2 noun classes or genders; content q-word in situ; 1 prefix, up to 3 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person and number; ergativity; both tense and aspect; passives and voice; nontonal; 29 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Religion; mixed use: Home, friends, work. Some of all ages. Positive attitudes, though not always reflected in their language choices. All also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Periodicals. Videos. Dictionary. Agencies: Nepal Kumal Society; Kumal National Liberation Front. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Hindu. *Maps*: 65:40, 65:40.

Kurux [kru] (Kurukh, Kurukha, Nepali Kurux, Oraon, Orau, Uranw, Uraon, Urau, Uraw, “Dhagar” *pej.*, “Dhangar” *pej.*, “Jangad” *pej.*, “Janghard” *pej.*, “Jhangad” *pej.*, “Jhangar” *pej.*, “Jhanger” *pej.*). *Users*: 34,390 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 33,700 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 690 (2011 census). No monolinguals (2002 UNESCO). Ethnic population: 37,400 (2011 census). *Location*: Kosi province: Jhapa district, scattered; Morang district, Belbari, Biratnagar, Budhiganga, Gramthan, Kanepokhari, Katahari, Rangeli, and Sundaraicha municipalities; Sunsari district, Barah, Barju, Bhokraha, Duhabi, Dwanganj, Gadhi, Harinagara, Inarwa, and Ramdhuni municipalities; Janakpur province: Bara district, Jitpur Simara municipality; Parsa district, Birganj, Parsagadhi, Paterwasugauli, and Sakuwa Prasauni municipalities; Siraha district, Arnama, Golbazar, and Naraha municipalities. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Dravidian, Northern. *Dialects*: None known. Variety spoken in Jharkhand, India 86% intelligible with Kurux in Nepal (Shackelford 2020). *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; 2 noun classes (human, non-human); content q-word initial; 1 prefix, up to 6 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person, number and genders of subject and object; ergativity; tense and aspect; passives and voice; nontonal; 29 consonant and 10 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Number of speakers is decreasing due to urbanization and overall population decrease (Shackelford 2020). Home, religion. Mixed use: Friends, work, education. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Bhojpuri [bho] (Shackelford 2020). Also use Maithili [mai] (Shackelford 2020). Also use Mid-Eastern Tharu [thq] (Shackelford 2020). Also use Nepali [npi] (Shackelford 2020). Also use Sadri [sck] (Shackelford 2020). *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 80% in Nepali [npi]. Literature.

Newspapers. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2000. *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: The majority of Kurux in Nepal moved to Nepal about 150 years ago, mostly to work in indigo fields across the border in Bihar state, India. A small number came about 2 generations ago, now living in Jhapa (Van Driem 2001). All names are used interchangeably for language and ethnic names. Hindu. *Maps*: 66:51, 65:51. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,084,390 (as L1: 2,083,700; as L2: 690). Also indigenous in: Bangladesh, India. Also established in: Bhutan.

Kusunda [kgg] (Kusanda). *Users*: 1 (2022 E. McDougall). Ethnic population: 270 (2011 census). *Location*: Gandaki and Lumbini provinces: scattered. *Status*: 8b (Nearly extinct). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Kusunda. *Class*: Language isolate. *Dialects*: Rolpa-Dang, Gorkha, Tanahun. The Kusunda speakers of Rolpa, Dang and possibly Arghakhanchi districts of Midwestern Nepal belong to the same family. For this reason, their historical dialects (created by generation and geographical separation) are mutually intelligible. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; 1 prefix, up to 2 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person and number; verb pronominalization with subject agreement; 31 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Elderly only. Positive attitudes. Shifted to Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Traditional religion.

Kyirong [kgy] (Gyirong, Kyerung, Kyirong kai, Kyirong-nga, Kyirung). *Users*: 500 in Nepal (2013 M. Hedlin). *Location*: Bagmati province: Rasuwa district, Gosaikunda municipality, Bongswadi, Bridhim, Khangim, Khangjim, Lingling, Setang, Shaphrubesi, and Thangmpuchet villages; along Chu-Lang Ho river. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, Central Bodish, Central, gTsang. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; content q-word placed directly before copula and main verb; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; ergativity: Split S system; 26 consonant and 24 vowel phonemes; tonal. *Lg Use*: Used by all. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. Texts. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Buddhist, traditional religion. *Map*: 65:35. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 600. Also indigenous in: China (Kyerung).

Lapcha [lep] (Lepcha, Nünpa, Rongke, Rongpa, Róng, Róngkup, “Lapche” pej.). *Users*: 7,730 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 7,500 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 230 (2011 census). No monolinguals. *Location*: Kosi province: Ilam district, east along the Indian border. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Lepcha. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Central Tibeto-Burman, Lepcha. *Dialects*: Ilammu, Tamsangmu, Rengjongmu. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; dual number; definite article; 32 consonants and 8 vowels. *Lg Use*: Many youth speak Nepali [npi] as L1 and do not speak Lepcha. Older adults only. Shifted to Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1989. *Writing*: Lepcha (Róng) script. Tibetan script. *Other*: Linguistic position within Tibeto-Burman still under discussion. Buddhist, Christian. *Map*: 66:99. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 57,930 (as L1: 57,700; as L2: 230). Global EGIDS level: 6b (Threatened). Also indigenous in: Bhutan (Lepcha), India (Lepcha).

Lhomi [lhm] (Lhoket, Lhomi dzyükki keccyok, Lhomiki keccyok, “Bho Te bhasha” *pej.*, “Kar Bhote” *pej.*, “Kath Bhote” *pej.*). *Users*: 7,000 in Nepal (2014 SIL), increasing. Ethnic population: 15,000. *Location*: Kosi province: Sankhuwasabha district, Bhotkhola municipality, Chepuwa, Chyamtang, Gumba, Hatiya, Hungung, Namase, Rukuma, Shiprung, Simbung, and Syaksila villages, along the Arun river. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Lhomi (Shingsawa). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, Central Bodish, Central, gTsang. *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 69% with Dolpo [dre], 68% with Lhowa [loy], 66% with Walungge [ola], 65% with Lhasa Tibetan [bod] and Kyerung (Kyirong) [kgy], 64% with Nubri [kte], 60% with Helambu Sherpa [scp], 58% with Sherpa [xsr], 57% with Jirel [jul]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head initial; masculine and feminine (limited class); content q-word precedes the main verb; 1 prefix, up to 3 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; split ergativity; aspect; no passives or voice; tonal (tense-lax); 23 consonant and 8 vowel phonemes; evidentiality is a salient feature of Lhomi syntax. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, friends, religion; mixed use: Work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Central Tibetan [bod]. Also use Nepali [npi], especially educated people (fluently), women (increasingly), and 90% of men for trade. Used as L2 by Eastern Tamang [taj], Gurung [gvr], Khaling [klr], Naaba [nao]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 25%. Literacy rate in L2: 30%. Bilingual literacy campaign should impact adult (and women’s) literacy rate in Lhomi and Nepali [npi]. Literature. Newspapers. Videos. Grammar. NT: 1995. Agency: Nepal Lhomi Society. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Buddhist, Christian. *Map*: 66:88. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 9,320. Also indigenous in: China, India.

Lhowa [loy] (Glo Skad, Lhopa, Lo Montang, Loba, Loke, Loket, Lopa, Lowa, Loyu, Mustangi). *Users*: 7,500 (2011). 5,000 Upper Mustang and 2,500 Baragaunle. *Location*: Gandaki province: Mustang district, upper Kali Gandaki river valley; Bahargaun Mukti Khsetra, Dalome, and Lo Manthang municipalities. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Bahargaunle, Lhopa. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, Central Bodish, Central, gTsang. *Dialects*: Bahargaunle (Bahargaun, “Bhoti Gurung” *pej.*), Upper Mustang (Loke). High intelligibility between dialects reported. Lexical similarity: 79%–88% between dialects, 59%–71% with Dolpo [dre], 54%–57% with Lhasa Tibetan [bod], 58%–67% with Mugom-Karmarong [muk]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head initial; 5 noun classes and 3 genders; content q-word in situ; at least 2 suffixes; no passives or voice; tonal; 44 consonant and 8 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Some youth totally educated outside language area and may not be able to speak Lhowa. Tibetan [bod] is used in religious domain. Home, friends. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Central Tibetan [bod]. Also use Nepali [npi]. Used as L2 by Dolpo [dre], Seke [skj]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 41% for whole district, includes Thakalis, Nepalis. (males 57%, females 28%). Non-formal education. Dictionary. Grammar. *DLS*: Emerging (0.09). *Writing*: Devanagari script. Tibetan script. *Other*: Distinct from Lhoba in China and India, a Mirish language. Lo inhabitants are called Lopa or Lowa. Their capital is Manthang, called Mustang by outsiders. Manthang has 200 houses, many monasteries. Buddhist, traditional religion. *Map*: 65:21.

Limbu [lif] (Yakthung Pan, Yakthungpan). *Users:* 366,200 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 344,000 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. L2 users: 22,200 (2011 census). Relatively few monolinguals. Ethnic population: 387,000 (2011 census). *Location:* Kosi province: east of the Arun river, north of the Mahendra Highway; Dhankuta, Ilam, Jhapa, Morang, Panchthar, Sankhuwasabha, Taplejung, and Terhathum districts. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Limbu. *Class:* Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Eastern. *Dialects:* Panchthare, Phedape, Taplejung (Tamor Khola), Chaubise, Chhathare (Chhathar), Yanggrokke (Yanggruppe). Yanggrokke, Chaubise and Charkhole are minor variants of the Panthare dialect; Phedappe and Tamorkhole are similar. Chattare is less well understood by other dialect speakers. The dialect spoken in Sikkim, India, is same as Panthare. Intelligibility among all varieties 84% and higher. *Type:* SOV; postpositions; genitives, articles, adjectives, numerals before noun heads; noun head final; content question word in situ; bipolar question word final; maximum of 3 prefixes, 6 suffixes; affixes indicate case of noun phrases; verb affixes mark subjects, objects, indirect objects—obligatory; verbal affixation marks person and number; split ergativity; reflexes conjugated intransitively can be used as a kind of passive; passives and voice; antipassives; causatives; comparatives; 16 consonant and 13 vowel phonemes; V, CV, CVC, CCV, CCVC; nontonal. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Limbu is not replaced in any domain, though children now speak more Nepali than Limbu (UNESCO 2002). A main group in eastern Nepal. Home, religion; mixed use: friends, work, education. Some young people, all adults, especially older adults and elderly. Some use among children, adolescents, and young adults. Positive attitudes. Panthare dialect is dominant in size, prestige, and language development. People prefer their own dialect, but are not negative toward others. Many also use Nepali [npi], especially among youth and educated. Some also use Yakkha [ybh], especially women due to intermarriage. *Lg Dev:* Many adult speakers completed 5 years of school, and have good proficiency in Nepali [npi]. Motivation for development is high among all. Literacy programs in progress to teach Sirijonga script (Salminen 2007). Taught as subject in primary schools. Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2009. *DLS:* Ascending (0.29). *Writing:* Devanagari script, primary usage. Limbu (Kiranti, Sirijonga) script, dating from early 18th century. *Other:* Priestly high language, known by some older people and priests, is called Mundumban. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map:* 66:90. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 429,400 (as L1: 407,200; as L2: 22,200). Global EGIDS level: 4 (Educational). Also indigenous in: India. Unestablished in: Bhutan.

Lohorung [lbr] (Loarung·Khanawa, Loharung Khanawa, Lohorong, Lohorong Kha, Lohorong Khap, Lohorong Kha, Lohorong Khap, Lohrung, Lohrung Khap, Lohrung-Khanawa, Lorung, Lorung Kha, Lorung Khap, Northern Lorung, Yakkhaba Khap, Yakkhaba Lorung). *Users:* 3,980, all users. L1 users: 3,720 (2011 census). L2 users: 260 (2011 census). *Location:* Kosi province: Sankhuwasabha district, Chichila municipality; Khandbari municipality, Angala, Bardeu, Gairiaula, Higuwa, Khorande, Malta, Pangma, and Sitalpati; Sabhapokhari municipality, Dhupu. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class:* Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti,

Eastern. *Dialect*: Biksit (Bikshi). 44% intelligibility of Yamphu [ybi]. A Kirat Rai group. Lexical similarity: 88%–99% between dialects, 64%–67% with Yamphu [ybi], 65%–68% with Southern Yamphu [lrr]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; verbal affixation marks person and number; tense; nontonal. *Lg Use*: Lohorung is an endangered language, picking up Nepali [npi] influences (2002 T. P. Neupane). Home, religion; mixed use: Friends, work. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Most also use Nepali [npi], at least to some degree. Used as L2 by Eastern Mewahang [emg], Western Mewahang [raf]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Dictionary. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Devanagari script, used since 2011. *Other*: Hansson claims that the Biksit dialect is spoken in Dhupu VDC (Hansson 1991). Traditional religion, Christian, Hindu. *Map*: 66:84.

Magahi [mag]. *Users*: 46,400 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 35,600 in Nepal (2011 census). L2 users: 10,800 (2011 census). *Location*: Janakpur province: Dhanusha, Mahottari, Saptari, Sarlahi, and Siraha districts; Kosi province: Jhapa, Morang, and Sunsari districts. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Eastern, Bihari. *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. NT: 1826–2016. *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 20,746,400 (as L1: 20,735,600; as L2: 10,800). Indigenous in: India.

Magar, Eastern [mgp] (Magar, Magari, Mangar). *Users*: 462,000 in Nepal (2001 census), decreasing. 789,000 all Magar in Nepal (2011 census). The identification of Magars is complicated by the fact that a number of other ethnic groups (Chantyal, Kham, Kaike, Kusunda, Raute, Raji) have claimed to be Magars to outsiders. Isolated enclaves of monolinguals are found in Nawalparasi and southern Tanahu districts. *Location*: Bagmati province: Ramechhap district, Likhu and Ramechhap municipalities; Sindhuli district, eastern municipalities; Kosi province: Khotang district, Halesi Tuwachung and Lamidanda municipalities; Okhaldhunga district, Champadevi, Chisankhugadhi, Likhu, Manebhanjyang, Siddhicharan, and Sunkoshi municipalities; Udayapur, northwestern municipalities. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Magar. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Central Himalayan, Kham-Magar, Magar. *Dialects*: Gorkha, Nawalparasi, Tanahu. Also long-extant migrant communities scattered throughout the Eastern Development Region speak a different variety from those west of Kathmandu. Reports of intelligibility between these varieties vary. *Lg Use*: Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 25%–50%. Literature. Dictionary. Texts. NT: 1991. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Brahmi script. Devanagari script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu. *Maps*: 66:58, 66:58. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 541,200. Also established in: India. Unestablished in: Bhutan.

Magar, Western [mrd] (Magar, Magari, Mangar, Mangari, Syangja Magar). *Users*: 308,000 (2001 census), decreasing. 789,000 all Magar in Nepal (2011 census). Census statistics likely include non-ethnic Magars and many that do not speak Magar. *Location*: Gandaki province: East Nawalparasi district, northern hills; Syangja district, southern municipalities; Tanahun district, southern municipalities; Lumbini province: Palpa district, widespread. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Magar. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan,

Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Central Himalayan, Kham-Magar, Magar. *Dialects*: Palpa, Syangja. Some differences between dialects, yet reportedly high intelligibility. *Type*: SOV; postpositions, but mostly case clitics; noun head final; alienable and inalienable noun classes; content q-word in situ; up to 3 prefixes, up to 7 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person and number; ergativity; tense and aspect; passives; nontonal; 33 to 37 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Mixed use: Home, friends, work. Some young people, all adults. Elderly. Some use among children, adolescents, young and older adults. Mixed attitudes. Rhetoric is positive but language conservation is generally not implemented. Most also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu. *Maps*: 65:41, 65:41.

Maithili [mai] (Bihari, Dehati, Deshi, Maitili, Maitli, Methli, Thenthi, Tirhutia). *Users*: 3,285,000 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 3,090,000 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. L2 users: 195,000 (2011 census). *Location*: Janakpur province: widespread; Kosi province: Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, and Udayapur districts. *Status*: 5 (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Eastern, Bihari. *Dialects*: Bantar, Barei, Barmeli, Kawar, Kyabrat, Makrana, Tati, Dehati, Thenthi, Musahar, Kisan. Dialect variation by caste (Brahmin vs. non-Brahmin) more than by geographic area. Functional intelligibility among all dialects. Lexical similarity: 82–86% between Brahmin varieties in Morang, Saptari, Dhanusa and Sarlahi; 76–83% between non-Brahmin varieties in Morang, Saptari, Dhanusa and Sarlahi; 82–84% between Brahmin and non-Brahmin varieties in the same location. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; 11 noun classes or genders; content q-word in situ; genitives, articles, numerals before noun heads, adjectives before and after noun heads; 1 prefix, up to 5 suffixes; clause constituents partially indicated by case-marking (6 cases) and postpositions; verbal affixation marks person, number, gender, and honorificity of subject; nominative-accusative; object marked by position; person, gender, animate distinguished, obligatory for subject; transitives; both tense and aspect; passives and voice; causatives; comparatives; V, VC, VCC, CV, CVC, CVV, CCV, CVCC, CCVCC; non-tonal; 26 consonant and 16 vowel phonemes; stress on penultimate syllable. *Lg Use*: Spoken by a wide variety of castes. Long literary tradition. A Maithili Academy in Patna, India. Maithili taught at L. N. Mithila University in Darbhanga, Patna University, India, and at Janakpur campus of Tribhuvan University, Nepal. Home, friends. Used by all. Most also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Bengali [ben]. Also use Bhojपुरi [bho]. Also use English [eng]. Also use Nepali [npi]. Used as L2 by Angika [anp], Bajjika [vjk], Bhojपुरi [bho], Eastern Tamang [taj], Kurux [kru], Mid-Eastern Tharu [thq], Rajbanshi [rjs], Santhali [sat]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 20%. Literacy rate in L2: 25%–50%. Educated read Hindi [hin], Nepali [npi], or English [eng]. If they can read Hindi or Nepali, they can read Maithili. Mother-tongue multilingual education and adult literacy programs have been carried out in Maithili communities throughout the Rajbanshi area. Taught as subject in primary schools. Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2010. *Writing*: Devanagari script, primary usage. Kaithi

script, used until the turn of the 20th century. Newa script, no longer in use, historic usage. Tirhuta script, used until the turn of the 20th century. *Other:* Written variety considered standard. Hindi [hin] and its speakers considered close, culturally similar; Nepali [npi] accepted. Hindu, Christian. *Map:* 63. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 21,785,000 (as L1: 21,590,000; as L2: 195,000). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Also indigenous in: India.

Majhi [mjz] (Manjhi). *Users:* 25,720 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 24,400 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 1,320 (2011 census). Ethnic population: 83,200 (2011 census). *Location:* Bagmati province: Kavrepalanchok, Ramechhap, Sindhuli, and Sindhupalchowk districts; Janakpur province: Bara, Dhanusa, Rautahat, and Sarlahi districts; Kosi province: Jhapa, Khotang, Morang, Okhaldhunga, Sunsari, and Udayapur districts. Scattered along waterways in all these locations. *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Majhi. *Class:* Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Eastern, Bihari. *Dialects:* Sitkha, Rajgaun, Manthali. *Type:* SOV; postpositions; noun head final; no noun classes or genders; content q-word in situ; 1 prefix, up to 2 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person and number; split ergativity based on nominal hierarchy (the first and second person pronouns do not code ergativity but the third person pronouns do); passives and voice; nontonal; 29 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use:* Being replaced by Nepali [npi] (UNESCO). Religion. All also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev:* Radio. *DLS:* Emerging (0.06). *Writing:* Devanagari script. *Other:* Distinct from Majhi in Punjabi group or Bote [bmj]. Majhi, Bote, and Kushar all are used by hill peoples. Hindu, Christian. *Maps:* 66:49, 66:49, 65:49. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 25,720 (as L1: 24,400; as L2: 1,320). Also established in: India.

Marwari [rwr] (Marwadi, Rajsthani). *Users:* 26,410 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 25,400 in Nepal (2011 census). L2 users: 1,010 (2011 census). *Location:* Kosi province: Jhapa, Morang, and Sunsari districts; Janakpur province: Parsa district; Kathmandu and other urban areas. *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Class:* Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Rajsthani, Marwari. *Type:* SOV; postpositions; noun head final; content q-word in situ; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; both tense and aspect; 38 consonant and 10 vowel phonemes; nontonal. *Lg Use:* Home, friends; mixed use: Religion, work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev:* Literacy rate in L2: 88%. Literature. Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1820–1821. *Writing:* Devanagari script. *Other:* Non-indigenous. Hindu. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 7,856,410 (as L1: 7,855,400; as L2: 1,010). Indigenous in: India.

Meche [brx] (Bara, Bodi, Bodo, Boro, Boroni, Mache, Mech, Mechi, Meci). *Users:* 4,380 in Nepal (2011 census). No monolinguals. *Location:* Kosi province: Jhapa district. *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Meche (Bodo). *Class:* Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Sal, Boro-Garo, Boro-Tiwa, Boro. *Lg Use:* Also use Bengali [ben]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Periodicals. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1981. *Writing:* Bengali (Bangla) script. Devanagari script. Latin script. *Other:* Non-indigenous. Traditional religion. *Map:* 66:98. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries:

1,474,380. Global EGIDS level: 4 (Educational). Indigenous in: India (Boro).

Mewahang, Eastern [emg] (Eastern Meohang, Mewahang, Newahang, Newahang Jimi, Newang, Newange Rai). *Users*: 1,570 (2011 census), decreasing. Almost no monolinguals. *Location*: Kosi province: Sankhuwasabha district, Makalu and Silichong municipalities, along Arun river. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Eastern. *Dialects*: Sunsari, Dibum (Dibung), Mulgaon-Wangtang. Structurally different from Western Mewahang [raf]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; verbal affixation marks person and number; tense and aspect. *Lg Use*: Home, religion; mixed use: Friends, work. Some young people, all adults. Also use Kulung [kle]. Also use Lohorung [lbr]. Also use Nepali [npi], with some youth shifting. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Dictionary. Texts. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: The language is regarded as a dialect of Western Mewahang [raf]. Traditional religion, Hindu. *Map*: 66:83.

Mewahang, Western [raf] (Mewahang, Newahang, Newahang Jimi, Newang, Newange Rai, Western Meohang). *Users*: 3,160, all users. L1 users: 2,930 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 230 (2011 census). Few monolinguals. *Location*: Kosi province: Bhojpur district, Salpasilichho municipality; Sankhuwasabha district, Silichong municipality, Bala, Sisuwa, Tamku, and Yamdang. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Eastern. *Dialects*: Bala (Balali), Bumdemba. Structurally different from Eastern Mewahang [emg]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; 24 consonant and 14 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: The language is nearly extinct in the village of Tamku, the largest settlement in the area, where many ex-Gurkha pensioners live. Home; mixed use: Friends, religion, work. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Also use Kulung [kle]. Also use Lohorung [lbr]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Dictionary. Texts. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Hindu. *Map*: 66:81.

Mugali [lmh] (Lambicchhong, Lambicchong, Lambichhong, Lambichong, Lambitshong, Mugali-Ring, Muga Yakkha). *Users*: 1,500 (2010 I. Rai), decreasing. Very few monolinguals. *Location*: Kosi province: Dhankuta district, Pakhribas municipality, along Muga river. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Eastern. *Dialect*: Phangdhuwali (Phangduwali Mugali). Reportedly similar to Chhulung [cur], Belhariya [byw], and Chhintang [ctn]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; no gender; verbal affixation marks person and number; split ergativity; tense; no passives or voice; nontonal; 23 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Older adults only. Shifted to Nepali [npi]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Traditional religion. *Map*: 66:71.

Mugom-Karmarong [muk] (Mugom, Mugu Tibetan, Mugum). *Users*: 7,000 in Nepal (2011) census. 1,630 monolinguals (2002 UNESCO). Ethnic population: 7,000 (2011). *Location*: Karnali province: Mugu district, Mugum Karmarong municipality; Jumla district, Jumla. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Mugali. *Class*: Sino-

Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, Central Bodish, Central, gTsang. *Dialects*: Mugom (Moe-ket, Mugali, Mugomba, Mumbai-kat), Karmarong (Kamarongki, Kar-ket, Karani, Karmai-kat). Intelligibility 89%–93% between dialect speakers (possibly higher). Definitely sufficient to understand complex and abstract discourse. Reportedly similar to Humla [hut], Dolpo [dre], and Lhowa [loy]. Lexical similarity: more than 85% between dialects, 75% with Tibetan [bod]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; content q-word in situ; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; ergativity; no passives or voice; tonal. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, friends; mixed use: Religion, work, education. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Some also use English [eng], especially children. Some also use Hindi [hin], especially men. Also use Central Tibetan [bod]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: Up to 22% in Nepali [npi]; men 30%, women 5%. Mugu District ranks very low in literacy among Nepal districts, especially among children and women. Strong affinity felt towards Tibetan [bod] and its writing system because of high lexical similarity. Literature. Newspapers. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Tibetan script. *Other*: Karanis want recognition as a separate ethnic group. Mugalis may not accept materials written in Karani, and vice versa. Mugom value Nepali and English as a way to higher education. Mugalis see themselves a bit higher than Karanis, and are more influential as they travel and trade more. Buddhist. *Map*: 64:3. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 7,500. Also established in: India (Mugom).

Mundari [unr] (Horo, Mandari, Mondari, Munari, Munda, Santhali, Satar). *Users*: 7,780 in Nepal (2006 IMB). *Location*: Kosi province: south Morang and south Sunsari districts. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Austro-Asiatic, Munda, North Munda, Kherwari, Mundari. *Dialects*: Hasada, Latar, Naguri, Kera, Santhai, Satar. *Lg Use*: Home; mixed use: Friends, religion, work, education. Used by all. Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev*: Used as subject of instruction in basic education. Literature. Periodicals. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1910–2002. *Writing*: Bengali (Bangla) script. Devanagari script, used in India. Latin script. Nag Mundari script. Oriya (Odia) script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Hindu, Christian. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,170,280. Indigenous in: India. Also established in: Bangladesh.

Musasa [smm] (Musahar, Rishaidep). *Location*: Janakpur province: Dhanusa, Mahottari, Saptari, Sindhuli, and Siraha districts; Kosi province: Morang and Sunsari districts. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Eastern, Bihari. *Dialect*: Bantar. Reportedly similar to Mid-Eastern Tharu [thq]. *Lg Use*: Also use Nepali [npi], with high proficiency. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Dalit caste. It has been suggested but not documented that they may speak a sociolect of the larger language groups they live among: Maithili [mai], Bhojpuri [bho], Avadhi [awa], and Mid-Eastern Tharu [thq]. Not listed in the 2001 Nepal census. Hindu.

Naaba [nao] (Naapa, Naapaa, Naba, Nawa Sherpa). *Users*: 770 in Nepal (2006 IMB). *Location*: Kosi province: Sankhuwasabha district, Bhotkhola municipality, Chumsur, Dangkok, Kimathanka, Pharang, and Pibu (Ridak) villages. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Sherpa. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, Central Bodish, Unclassified. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; ergativity; no passives or voice; tonal. *Lg Use*: Used

by all. Also use Lhomi [lhm], especially inhabitants of Pharang and Dangok. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: The Lhomi [lhm] consider the Naaba people a distinct group. The Naaba have learned Lhomi as a language of wider communication, but are more culturally and linguistically similar to Sherpa [xsr] and Walungge [ola] than to Lhomi. Buddhist. *Map*: 66:87. *Worldwide*: Also indigenous in: China.

Nachiring [ncd] (Bangdale, Bangdel Tûm, Bangdile, Mathsereng, Nacchhering, Nacering Ra, Nachering, Nachering Tûm, Nasring, Nasru Bhra). *Users*: 10,730, all users. L1 users: 10,000 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 730 (2011 census). *Location*: Kosi province: Khotang district, Aiselukharka municipality, along Lidim river, Aiselukharka, Badel, Bakachol, Bangdel, Hume, Para, Rakha, and Sumtel villages; Solukhumbu district, Sotang municipality. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Eastern. *Dialects*: Parali, Bangdele (Achero, Hachero, Hangkula), Rakhali, Sotange. High comprehension of Kulung among northern Nachering and Sampang among southern Nachering. *Type*: SOV. *Lg Use*: Degree of Nepalization is very high. Language retention among the younger generation appears to be limited to Bakachol, Rakha, and Bangdel VDCs (Hansson 1991:73; 2011 J. Rai). Religion; mixed use: Home. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Most also use Nepali [npi]. Used as L2 by Khaling [klr]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Different from Sampang, although sometimes called Sangpang or Sampang. Traditional religion, Christian, Hindu. *Map*: 66:78 (as Nachering).

Nar Phu [npa] (Nar-Phu). *Users*: 800 (2021 J. Grimes). 200 in Phu village, 400 in Nar village, 200 in diaspora. *Location*: Gandaki province: Manang district, Narphu municipality, Nar and Phu villages. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, West Bodish, Gurung-Tamang, Gurungic. *Dialects*: Nar (Lower Nar, Nar-Mä), Phu (Nar-Tö, Upper Nar). In a dialect continuum with Nyeshangte [nmm] and possibly intelligible with it. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head initial; no noun classes or gender; content q-word in situ; 1 prefix, up to 2 suffixes; clause constituents primarily indicated by case-marking; tense and aspect; no passives or voice; tonal; 25 consonants, 8 simple vowels and 5 diphthongs. *Lg Use*: If work is locally oriented, then Nar-Phu used; Tibetan [bod] is the liturgical language, but one can hear Nar-Phu in certain contexts during religious festivals. Used by all. Many also use Central Tibetan [bod], especially men. *Lg Dev*: Many men are literate in Classical Tibetan. Dictionary. Texts. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: See themselves as separate from Manangba and Gurung. Used as a secret language to confound Manangis and Gurungs who might otherwise understand their conversation (2002 M. Noonan). Buddhist. *Map*: 65:27.

Nepalese Sign Language [nsp] (Nepali Sign Language, NpSL). *Users*: 20,000 (2014 NFDH). Approximately 20,000 deaf signers, less than 0.1% of total population; estimated 300,000 total deaf (2014 NDFN). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Sign language, Deaf community sign language. *Dialects*: Kathmandu, Pokhara. Developed from local and introduced signs. Related to other sign languages in south Asia; see comments on Indian Sign Language [ins] in India. *Lg Use*: Has been used on the floor of the national legislature by a

deaf member. All domains. Used by all. Some also use Nepali [npi], passively by those who have become literate, especially in urban areas. *Lg Dev*: Taught in primary and secondary schools. Periodicals. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Agencies: The Nepali Federation of the Deaf (NFDH); National Federation of the Deaf Nepal (NDFN). *DLS*: Emerging (0.02). *Other*: First deaf school in 1967. Although oralist, NpSL appears to have developed there, then spread through the country as other schools were established (Hurlbut 2012). Approximately 20 NSL interpreters, most working under the NDFN or its member organizations. Hindu, Buddhist.

Nepali [npi] (Eastern Pahadi, Gorkhali, Gurkhali, Khaskura, Nepalese, Parbate). *Users*: 20,780,000 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 12,100,000 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. 143,000 Achhami, 67,600 Bajhangi, 10,700 Bajureli, 490 Dadeldhuri, 3,100 Dailekhi, 5,930 Darchuleli, and 11,800,000 Nepali (2011 census). L2 users: 8,680,000 (2011 census). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (1990, Interim Constitution, 2063, Article 5(2)). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Eastern, Eastern Pahari. A member of macrolanguage Nepali [nep]. *Dialects*: Bajureli (Bajura, Bajurali), Soradi, Acchami, Darchuleli (Darchulali, Darjula), Humli, Bheri, Dailekhi, Gandakeli, Purbeli, Dadeldhuri, Baitadeli, Bajhangi. Reportedly similar to Dotyali [dty]. Dialects listed may be quite distinct from standard Nepali. Intelligibility is also low among Baitadeli, Bajhangi, Bajurali (Bajura), Humli, and Acchami. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; 11 noun classes or genders; no articles; content q-word in situ; 1 prefix, up to 5 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking (4 cases); verbal affixation marks person, number and gender of subject; split ergativity; both tense and aspect; passives and voice; causatives; non-tonal; 29 consonant and 11 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use Thulung [tdh], especially lower caste speakers in Mukli VDC. A few also use Kulung [kle], especially families from the tailor caste (Damai) and blacksmith caste (Kami) in Chheskam. Also use Bahing [bhj]. *Lg Dev*: Taught in all primary and secondary schools. Taught in tertiary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1914–2004. *DLS*: Vital (0.82). *Writing*: Braille script. Devanagari script, primary usage. *Other*: Hindu, Buddhist. *Map*: 63. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 25,587,570 (as L1: 16,903,270; as L2: 8,684,300). Also indigenous in: Bhutan, India. Unestablished in: Australia, Bahrain, Brunei, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Spain, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Nepali [nep]. A macrolanguage. Population total all languages (L1 only): 17,691,270. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Chhintang [ctn], Phangduwali [phw]. *DLS*: . *Other*: Includes: Dotyali [dty], Nepali [npi]. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 17,691,270.

Newar [new] (Newa Bhaye, Newaah Bhaae, Newaah Bhaaye, Newah, Newal Bhaye, “Newari” pej.). *Users*: 879,600 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 847,000 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 32,600 (2011 census). Many women are monolingual. Ethnic population: 1,250,000. *Location*: Bagmati province: Kathmandu valley; scattered throughout Gandaki, Janakpur, Kosi, and Lumbini provinces. *Status*: 4 (Educational). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Newar. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman,

Himalayan, Central Himalayan, Newar. *Dialects*: Dolkhali (Dolakha), Totali, Citlang, Kathmandu-Patan-Kirtipur, Bhaktapur, Baglung, Gopali, Balami, Pyang Gaon (Gamal). Kirtipur and Lalitpur are reportedly similar to Kathmandu. Some vocabulary differences between Hindus and Buddhists. Bhaktapur people mostly understand Kathmandu despite some lexical differences. Balami and Citlang reported to not understand Kathmandu Newar. The Eastern Newar dialects, including at least Dolakha and Tauthali are not fully intelligible to the speakers of Kathmandu Valley where the language has a simple conjunct-disjunct agreement. Other dialects are also mutually unintelligible with Kathmandu Valley, including Pyangaun and perhaps other varieties as well. Dolakha variety has complex person-number verb agreement with residue reflex in the Pahari [phj] dialect of Badikhel. Lexical similarity: 50%–60% with Pahari [phj]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; genitives, adjectives, demonstratives before noun heads; noun heads final; 4 noun classes: animate, inanimate, common, honored; content q-word in situ; relatives before and without noun heads; in polar questions there is a particle sentence finally; 1 prefix, up to 3 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person and number (in Dolakha and Badikhel dialects); affixes or clitics indicate case of noun phrases; ergative; causatives; comparatives; tense and aspect; no passives or voice; V, VC, CV, CVC, CCV, CCVC; nontonal; 28 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Language shift greater among Hindus than Buddhists. Home, religion; mixed use: Friends, work, education. Used by all. Also use Central Tibetan [bod]. Also use English [eng]. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 60% (1991 census). Literacy rate in L2: 60% (1991 census). Youth more literate than older; men more than women. Taught as subject in primary schools. Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1986–2015. Agencies: Nepal Bhasa Academy; Newar National Forum. *DLS*: Ascending (0.29). *Writing*: Devanagari script, primary usage. Newa script, in common use during the Malla period and earlier, recent efforts to revive usage. Ranjana (Lantsa, Wartu) script, no longer in use. *Other*: One of the principal languages of Nepal; historically an official language of the Newar Malla Kings of the three cities of Kathmandu Valley. Kathmandu is the prestige dialect with most published materials. English [eng] highly valued; mixed feelings about Hindi [hin]; Tibetan [bod] does not have high prestige. People learn whichever language will help them economically: Nepali [npi], English [eng], Hindi [hin], and others. Hindu, Buddhist, traditional religion. *Map*: 65:47. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 893,600 (as L1: 861,000; as L2: 32,600). Also indigenous in: India.

Nubri [kte] (Bhote, Bhotia, Kutang, Kutang Bhotia, Larkye). *Users*: 2,000 (2001 census). 500 monolinguals. *Location*: Gandaki province: Gorkha district, upper Budhi Gandaki river, from Namrung to Prok and Samdo. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Larke. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, Central Bodish, Central, gTsang. *Dialects*: Sama, Lho, Namrung, Prok. Only moderately intelligible of Kyirong Tibetan [kgy] (74%). The most distinct variety reportedly spoken in Samdo village. Sama is somewhat divergent. Tsum [ttz] reportedly not intelligible with Nubri. The language spoken in the Kutang area is not intelligible with Nubri, although most who live

in this area reportedly can speak and understand Nubri. Lexical similarity: 78%–93% among dialects. Prok is more distinct. 71%–78% with Tsum [ttz]; 66%–74% with Kyirong Tibetan [kgy]; 67% with Dolpo [dre]; 65% with Lhowa [loy]; 59%–64% with Lhasa Tibetan [bod]; 64% with Olangchung Gola [ola] (Walungge) and Lhomi [lhm]; 61% with Helambu Sherpa [scp]; 57% with Jirel [jul]; 55% with Sherpa [xsr]; 21%–27% with Northern Ghale [ghh]; 20%–23% with Southern Ghale [ghe]; 14%–31% with Kuke [ght]; 14% with Eastern Gorkha Tamang [tge], Gurung [gvr], and Banspur Tamang. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; content q-words in situ. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Most domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Central Tibetan [bod]. Speakers have minimal proficiency in Tibetan. Also use Nepali [npi]. Minimal proficiency in Nepali, which is used with outsiders. Used as L2 by Kuke [ght]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: Below 10%. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Nubri marry within their community and from the Kutang community. People trade in Gorkha District and also with Tibet. Ethnic identity is closely affiliated between the Nubri and the Kuke [ght]. Buddhist. *Map*: 65:28.

Nyeshangte [nmm] (Manang, Manang Ke, Manangba, Manange, Manangi, Nyangmi, Nyangmi ke, Nyeshang, Nyeshangte Ke, Nyisang, Nyishang, Nyishangba, “Manangbhot” *pej.*). *Users*: 12,000 (2021), decreasing. Ethnic population: 15,000 (2021). *Location*: Gandaki province: Manang district, Neshyang municipality, Braka, Ghyaru, Humde, Khangsar, Manang, Ngawal, Pisang, and Tengki villages. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, West Bodish, Gurung-Tamang, Gurungic. *Dialects*: Western Nyeshangte (Prakaa), Eastern Nyeshangte. Very high intelligibility of Eastern Nyeshangte (spoken in Manang village) by Western Nyeshangte-speaking residents of Pisang village. Lexical similarity: 94% or greater with all varieties of Manangba. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head both initial and final; no noun classes or genders; content q-word initial; 1 prefix, up to 2 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person (not strictly person, but aligns with evidentiality); ergativity; aspect; no passives or voice; tonal; 30 consonant and 6 (plus nasalized) vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Fairly strong vitality. Some community involvement in language and culture preservation activities both in home area and in Kathmandu. Mixed use: Home, friends, work. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Also use Central Tibetan [bod], especially in religious domains. Also use English [eng], especially in local government schools. Also use Nepali [npi], especially for business and in local government schools. *Lg Dev*: TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Devanagari script. Tibetan script. *Other*: Language has Tibetan influence. Most speakers have the surname Gurung or Ghale, but they do not claim to be a part of these distinct ethnolinguistic groups. Buddhist. *Map*: 65:23.

Pahari [phj] (Pahara, Pahi, Pahibhāe, Pihi, Pihi bhya). *Users*: 3,500 (2011 census). Ethnic population: 13,600 (2011 census). *Location*: Bagmati province: Kathmandu, Kavrepalanchok, Lalitpur (60% of Pahari speakers), Makwanpur, Ramechhap, Sindhuli, and Sindhupalchok districts; Janakpur province: Rautahat district; Kosi province: Sunsari district; Sudur Pashchimanchal province: Kanchanpur district. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Central Himalayan, Newar. *Dialects*:

None known. Reportedly very low inherent intelligibility of Newar [new] by Pahari speakers (Smith 2022). Lexical similarity: 50%–60% with Newar [new]. *Lg Use*: Home, community. Adults only. Children no longer speak it. All shifting to Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. Agency: Nepal Pahari Bikash Sangh (Nepal Pahari Development Association). *DLS*: . *Writing*: Unwritten.

Phangduwali [phw] (Phangduwali, Phangduwali Poti). *Users*: 290 (2011 census). *Location*: Kosi province: Dhankuta district, Pakhribas municipality, Muga river headwaters. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Eastern. *Dialects*: None known. The language spoken by the Phangduwali people is well-understood by Mugali [lmh] people and vice versa except for a few lexical items and accents. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; 23 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Nepali [nep]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Van Driem (2001) claims that the Phangduwali are actually Yakkha [ybh], whereas I. P. Rai (forthcoming) suggests these two languages are distinct. Both assert that Phangduwali and Mugali [lmh] are the same language. Traditional religion. *Map*: 66:72.

Puma [pum] (Puma Kala, Puma La, Puma Pima). *Users*: 7,010, all users. L1 users: 6,690 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 320 (2011 census). *Location*: Kosi province: Khotang district, Barahapokhari and Jantedhunga municipalities; Udayapur, north Chaudandigadhi municipality, along Sunkoshi river. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Eastern. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; content q-word in situ; clause constituents indicated by both case-marking and word order; verbal affixation marks person and number; ergativity; tense and aspect; no passive or voice, but antipassive is a remarkable feature; nontonal. *Lg Use*: Home, religion, work; mixed use: Friends. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes, especially among younger generation. Also use Bantawa [bap]. Also use Chamling [rab]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Periodicals. Videos. Dictionary. Texts. Agency: Kirat Puma Rai Tupkhabangkhal. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian, Hindu. *Map*: 66:66.

Rajbanshi [rjs] (Desi Bhasa, Gangai, Koch, Koche, Rajbangsi, Rajbansi, Tajpuria). *Users*: 168,300, all users. L1 users: 147,000 (2011 census), increasing. 2,080 Koche, 122,000 Rajbanshi, 18,800 Tajpuriya, 3,610 Gangai. L2 users: 21,300 (2011 census). *Location*: Kosi province: south Jhapa, and south Morang districts. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rajbanshi (Koch). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Eastern, Bengali-Assamese. *Dialects*: Western Rajbanshi, Eastern Rajbanshi, Central Rajbanshi. Intelligibility is fairly high throughout the area (2001 J. Eppele and J. Grimes). Lexical similarity: 77%–95% with all varieties in Nepal (2001 J. Eppele and J. Grimes). *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; 2 noun classes or genders; content q-word in situ; 1 prefix, up to 4 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by both case-marking and word order; verbal affixation marks person and number; non-ergative; tense and aspect; passives and voice (no morphological passive, but 2 analytical passives); nontonal; 32 consonant and 6–7 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, friends, religion, work; mixed

use: Education. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Bengali [ben]. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Maithili [mai]. Also use Nepali [npi]. Used as L2 by Dhimal [dhi]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 38% (1991 census). Mother-tongue multilingual education and adult literacy programs have been carried out in villages throughout the Rajbanshi area. Taught as subject in primary schools. Literature. Newspapers. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2009. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Hindu, Christian, Muslim, traditional religion. *Map*: 66:97.

Raji [rji] (Ban Raji, Janggali, Phaen Bhaasaa, Phaen Boli, Rajibar, Rawati, Rjya). *Users*: 3,814, all users. L1 users: 3,760 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 54 (2011 census). *Location*: Karnali province: Surkhet district, Barahtal, Chaukune, and Panchipuri municipalities; Sudur Pashchimanchal province: Kailali district, Mohanyal municipality. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rajhi. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Central Himalayan, Raute-Raji. *Dialects*: Barh Bandale, Naukule, Purbiya. Reportedly similar to Rawat [jnl]. Speakers of Barh Bandale and Purbiya have difficulty in understanding the Naukule variety. Lexical similarity: From 84% and 86% between the three varieties; 55% with Raute [rau]. *Lg Use*: In one village in Kailali District, Khailad VDC, speakers under 6 years of age and over 60 years old are monolingual. Religion; mixed use: Home, friends, work. Some young people, all adults. Negative attitudes. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 22% (1991 census). Literacy in Nepali [npi] is increasing since parents have started sending their children to school. Literature. Dictionary. Texts. Agency: Raji Shalma Samaj. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: The Raji were a nomadic group, but now settled. Sharma (1990) identifies Raji in India (perhaps Bodo Gadaba [gbj]) as a Munda language with borrowings from Tibeto-Burman and Indo-Aryan. Barh Bandale dialect is the most prestigious. May be the same as Rawat [jnl] in India. Traditional religion, Buddhist. *Map*: 64:13.

Raute [rau] (Boto boli, Khamchi, Ra'te, Raji, Rajwar, Rautya, Rautye). *Users*: 501, all users. L1 users: 460 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 41 (2011 census). All nomadic Raute are monolingual. *Location*: Sudur Pashchimanchal province: Dadeldhura district, Parashuram municipality. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Raute. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Central Himalayan, Raute-Raji. *Dialects*: None known. There are reportedly many similarities with Raji [rji], but the relationship of Raute with and intelligibility between Rawat [jnl] and Raji [rji] needs further investigation. Lexical similarity: 80% with Rawat [jnl], 60% with Chepang [cdm], 25% with Kham. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; no noun classes or gender; content q-word in situ; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person and number; ergativity; both tense and aspect; nontonal; 35 consonant and 7 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Home, friends, religion, work. Some young people, all adults. Used mostly by younger children, older adults, and elderly. Some use among adolescents and young adults. Some also use Hindi [hin], especially youth. Some also use Nepali [npi], especially settled Raute, youth. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Texts. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: The name may be of Tibeto-Burman origin, from ra- meaning human plus a person marker, -to or -te. Other scholars

suggest it derives from the Sanskrit Indo-Aryan word *raut* from Sanskrit, *raja*putra, prince. Rautes deem their language sacred and are linguistically conservative toward adopting non-Raute words or grammatical features. Only the headman communicates with outsiders. Traditional religion. *Map*: 64:16.

Saam [raq] (Lingkhim, Saam Rai, Saama Kha, Sam, Samakha). *Users*: 530 (2011 census). 130 Lingkhim, 400 Saam (2011 census). *Location*: Kosi province: Bhojpur district, Salpasilichho and Shadananda municipalities, Dangmaya, Dobhane, Khartangma, and Okharbote villages along Irkhuwa river. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Eastern. *Dialects*: Bungla, Sambya, Lingkhim (Lingkhim Kulung, Lingkhim Rai, Linkhim). *Lg Use*: Older adults only. Shifted to Nepali [npi]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Almost no study or documentation has been done on the languages spoken in northern Bhojpur district. Another group called Saam may be Kulung [kle]. Hindu, traditional religion. *Map*: 66:75.

Sampang [rav] (Sampang Gun, Sampang Gung, Sampang Kha, Sampange Rai, Sangpang, Sangpang Gun, Sangpang Gîn, Sangpang Kha). *Users*: 20,300, all users. L1 users: 18,300 (2011 census), decreasing. Phali dialect spoken by a few elderly speakers. L2 users: 2,000 (2011 census). No monolinguals. *Location*: Kosi province: Bhojpur district, Shadananda municipality, Dingla bazaar; Khotang district, along Tap river, Baspani, Khartamcha, Patheka, and Phedi villages. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Eastern. *Dialects*: Phali, Khotang. Mutual intelligibility between the Khartamcha variety and the Patheka variety of the Khotang dialect is high. Mutual intelligibility between the Khotang and Phali Sampang dialect is difficult to estimate but appears to be low. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; noun classes or gender; content q-word in situ; 1 prefix, up to 6 suffixes; word-order clause constituents; verbal affixation marks person and number; split ergativity; tense and aspect; passives and voice; nontonal; 28 consonant and 20 vowel phonemes; distinctive pitch-accent, nasal vowel phonemes and syllabic nasals; a prominent role is played in the grammar by an imperfective nominalizing suffix; in nominal morphology, the ergative structure is breaking down through the introduction of the Nepali [npi] oblique case marker. *Lg Use*: Mixed use: Home, friends, religion, work. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Also use Nepali [npi], with some shifting, especially men, educated, and younger people. Valued as a language of education. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 80%. Literature. Dictionary. NT: 2008. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian, Hindu. *Map*: 66:74.

Sanskrit [san] (Deva Bhasha, Deva vani, Sanskrit bhasha). *Users*: 3,000 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: No known L1 speakers in Nepal. L2 users: 3,000 (2011 census). No ethnic community. *Status*: 9 (Second language only). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan. *Type*: SOV; both prepositions and postpositions; noun head final; 3 genders; content q-word in situ; up to 3 prefixes, up to 5 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person, number and genders of subject and object; dual number; non-ergative;

tense and aspect; passives and voice; comparatives; non-tonal; 34 consonant, 8 vowels, 2 diphthongs. *Lg Use*: Religion, education; mixed use: Home, friends, work. Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev*: Mahayana Buddhist schools use Sanskrit. Taught non-formally in Mahayana Buddhist schools. Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1822. *Writing*: Devanagari script. Grantha script. Kawi script. Myanmar (Burmese) script. Newa script. Sharada script. Siddham script, no longer in use. Sinhala script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Hindu, Buddhist. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,027,800 (as L1: 24,800; as L2: 5,003,000). Global EGIDS level: 4 (Educational). Indigenous in: India.

Santhali [sat] (Har, Har Rar, Hor, Saini, Sandal, Sangtal, Santal, Santali, Santhal, Satar, Sentali, Sonthal). Autonym: Har Rar. *Users*: 50,880 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 49,900 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. L2 users: 980 (2011 census). Very few monolinguals. *Location*: Kosi province: Jhapa and Morang districts. *Status*: 5 (Dispersed). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Satar (Santhal). *Class*: Austro-Asiatic, Munda, North Munda, Kherwari, Santali. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; no noun classes or genders; content q-word in situ; 1 prefix, up to 3 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person and number; non-ergative; both tense and aspect; passives and voice; nontonal; 33 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Migration, seasonal labor, illiteracy, lack of educational facilities are all threats to vitality. UNESCO). Home, friends, religion, work; mixed use: Education. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use Nepali [npi]. Also use Maithili [mai]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: Very low. Taught as subject in primary schools. Literature. Periodicals. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1914–2005. *Writing*: Bengali (Bangla) script. Devanagari script, used in Nepal. Latin script, used in Bangladesh. Ol Chiki (Ol Cemet', Ol, Santali) script. Oriya (Odia) script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian, Hindu. *Map*: 66:95. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 7,621,180 (as L1: 7,620,200; as L2: 980). Global EGIDS level: 4 (Educational). Also indigenous in: Bangladesh, India. Unestablished in: Bhutan.

Seke [skj]. *Users*: 700 (2002 SIL). *Location*: Gandaki province: Mustang district, Baharagaun Muktihssetra municipality, Chuksang, Gyakar, Tangbe, Tetang, and Tsaille villages; diaspora communities in Jomsom and Pokhara. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Tangbe. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, West Bodish, Gurung-Tamang, Gurungic. *Dialects*: Tangbe, Tetang, Chuksang. Reportedly similarities with Thakali [ths] and Manangba [nmm]. Very different from Lhowa [loy]. Tangbe dialect speakers do not understand the Chuksang dialect very well, but the Chuksang understand Tangbe. Reportedly understand Gurung [gvr] but Gurung do not understand Seke. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use Lhowa [loy]. Also use Nepali [npi], with the Gurung people. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Seke villages are surrounded by Baharagaunle (Lhowa) [loy] speaking villages. Buddhist. *Map*: 65:22.

Sherpa [xsr] (Serwa, Sharpa, Sherwi tamnye, Xiaerba, “Sharpa Bhotia” pej.). *Users*: 153,180 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 145,000 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 8,180 (2011 census). A few elderly monolinguals in remote villages (UNESCO). *Location*: Bagmati province: Sindhupalchok district, Barhabise and Bhotekoshi municipalities; Dolakha district,

Ghaurishankar and Jiri municipalities; Kosi province: Okaldunga district, Khijidemba, Likhu, Molung, and Siddhicharan municipalities; Ramechhap district, Gokulganga and Umakunda municipalities; Sankhuwasabha district, Makalu municipality; Solukumbu district, Dudhkoshi, Kumbupasanglahmu, Likhupike, Nechasalyan, and Solududhakunda municipalities. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Sherpa. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, Central Bodish, Central, gTsang. *Dialects*: East Sherpa (Dolakha, Ramechhap), West Sherpa, Central Sherpa (Solu, South Sherpa), North Sherpa (Khumbu). 95% comprehension of Solu dialect by Western and Khumbu. Lexical similarity: 90% between Solu and Khumbu dialects; 67% with Jirel [jul]; 65% with Helambu Sherpa [scp]; 62% with Lhowa [loy] and Dolpo [dre]; 58% with Lhomi [lhm] and Lhasa Tibetan [bod]; 57% with Kyerung (Kyirong) [kgy]; 55% with Nubri [kte] and Walungge [ola]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head initial; no noun classes or genders; content q-word in situ; 1 prefix, up to 3 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person; split ergativity; tense and aspect; no passive forms; tonal; 31 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes (also 6 diphthongs). *Lg Use*: In villages vigorous but not in urban areas where there is some shift towards Nepali [npi]. Mixed use: Home, friends, religion, work, education. Some young people, all adults. Older adults and elderly. Some use among children, adolescents, and young adults. Positive attitudes. In schools children are teased if they use Sherpa. In Kathmandu parents use Nepali [npi] with school-age children. Also use Central Tibetan [bod]. Also use English [eng]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Korean [kor]. Also use Nepali [npi]. Also use Standard German [deu]. Used as L2 by Jirel [jul], Khaling [klr], Tibetan [bod]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 8%–9%. The Mountain Institute and the Curriculum Development Centre have published some primary education materials. Lack of language development is source of embarrassment for some. Literature. Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. Texts. NT: 2014. *DLS*: Ascending (0.18). *Writing*: Devanagari script. Tibetan script. *Other*: Tourism and increased wealth have given Sherpas the financial means to send their children to Kathmandu and abroad for education contributing to language shift. Buddhist, Christian. *Maps*: 66:53, 66:53. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 170,180 (as L1: 162,000; as L2: 8,180). Also indigenous in: China, India.

Sonha [soi] (Sonaha, Sonahaa, Sunah, Sunha). *Users*: 20,000 (2020 UBS), decreasing. No monolinguals. *Location*: Lumbini province: Bardiya district, Geruwa and Rajapur municipalities; Sudur Pashchimanchal province: Kanchanpur district, Bhimdatta. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Unclassified. *Dialects*: None known. Reportedly similar to Avadhi [awa]. Lexical similarity: 69% with Rana Tharu [thr], 73% with Kathariya Tharu [tkt], 72% with Dangaura Tharu [thl]. Sonha and Kathoriya [tkt] form a lexical bridge with Rana and Dangaura varieties of Tharu. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; content q-word in situ; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks number; split ergativity; passives and voice; nontonal. *Lg Use*: Home; mixed use: Friends, religion, work. Some young people, all adults. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: ‘Sonha’ is an occupational caste (gold panners). Hindu, Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 64:12.

Sunwar [suz] (Bhujuar, Kiranti-Kõits, Kiranti-Kõits Lo, Kirati-Koits, Koic, Kõits Lo, Mukhiya, Pirthwar, Sunuwar, Sunwari). *Users*: 39,760, all users. L1 users: 38,200 (2011 census). 37,900 Sunwar, 290 Surel (2011 census). L2 users: 1,560 (2011 census). Very few monolinguals. *Location*: Bagmati province: Dolakha district, Jiri and Tamakoshi municipalities; Ramechhap district, Gokulganga, Likhu, and Umakunda municipalities; Kosi province: Okhaldhunga district, Khijidemba municipality. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Surel, Sunuwar. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Western. *Dialect*: Surel. Lexical similarity: more than 80% with Surel dialect. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; genitives after noun heads; relatives before noun heads; noun heads both initial and final; 5 noun classes; content q-word initial and in situ; up to 2 prefixes and 3 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by split-case marking; verbal affixation marks person and number; causatives; comparatives; passives and voice; CV, CVC CVV, CCV, CCVC, V, VC; tonal; 24 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes; nasal contrastive pairs. *Lg Use*: Mixed use: Home, friends, religion, work. Some young people, all adults. Adolescents and older. Some use among children. Language is passed down to children only in village areas (Toba et al 2002). Positive attitudes. Also use Bhujel [byh]. Also use Eastern Tamang [taj]. Also use Nepali [npi], especially young people for trade and official purposes, but with low proficiency. Used as L2 by Jirel [jul]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 20% (2010 L. Rapacha). Literacy rate in L2: Males 15% in villages, 20% in Kathmandu. Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2011. Agency: Kõits Bu. *DLS*: Emerging (0.11). *Writing*: Devanagari script. Sunuwar script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian, Daoist, Hindu. *Map*: 66:56.

Syuba [syw] (Kagate, Shuba, Shuuba, Shuva, Shuwa, Shyuuba, Syuba Tam, Syuuba, Yholmo, Yholmoli, Yholmu, “Kagate Bhoté” pej.). *Users*: 1,500 (2012 SIL). Very few monolinguals. *Location*: Bagmati province: Ramechhap district, Gokulganga and Lukhu municipalities. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Sherpa. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, Central Bodish, Central, gTsang. *Dialects*: Differs from Helambu Sherpa [scp] by less use of the honorific system in verbs, which makes intelligibility more of a problem for the Syuba. It could be considered a dialect of Helambu Sherpa. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; genitives, adjectives, relatives before noun heads; numerals after noun heads; noun head initial; no noun classes or genders; content q-word early in the clause; 1 prefix, up to 4 suffixes; subject, object, indirect object, case of noun phrase indicated by postpositions; clause constituents indicated by both case-marking and word order; split ergativity; rich tense and aspect system; no passives or voice; impersonal voice; causatives; comparatives; CV, CVC, CVV, CCV, CCVV, CVVC; 26 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; tonal (4 tones). *Lg Use*: Home, friends; mixed use: Religion, work. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Some also use Nepali [npi], at home. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: Few. Literates in Nepali [npi] have very little trouble reading Syuba in Devanagari script. Dictionary. Texts. Bible portions: 1977. *DLS*: Emerging (0.04). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Buddhist, Christian, Muslim, traditional religion. *Map*: 66:57.

Tamang, Eastern [taj] (Ishang, Murmi, Sei, Tamang, “Bhotia” pej.). *Users*: 1,213,500 in Nepal,

all users. L1 users: 1,180,000 in Nepal (2001 census), increasing. Southwestern Tamang: 109,000 (1991 census). Population for all Tamang varieties: 1,350,000 (2011 census). L2 users: 33,500 (2011 census). In some remote communities, particularly women, children and elderly people are monolingual. *Location*: Widespread across Bagmati and Kosi provinces. *Status*: 4 (Educational). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Tamang. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, West Bodish, Gurung-Tamang, Tamang. *Dialects*: Outer-Eastern Tamang (Sailung Tamang), Central-Eastern Tamang (Temal Tamang), Southwestern Tamang (Kath-Bhotiya, Lama Bhote, Murmi, Rongba, Sain, Tamang Gyoi, Tamang Gyot, Tamang Lengmo, Tamang Tam). Central-Eastern most widely understood among all tested to date: 85% by both Trisuli and Rasuwa Western Tamang [tdg], 93%–98% by Outer-Eastern, 87% by Southwestern Tamang. Comprehension of Outer-Eastern 58% by Western Rasuwa Tamang [tdg], 64%–75% by Western Trisuli Tamang [tdg], 67%–54% by Southwestern Tamang, 88%–93% by Central-Eastern Tamang [taj], and 90%–98% among its own varieties. Southwestern Tamang may be a bridge between Eastern and Western Tamang (Varenkamp 1996). Lexical similarity: 88%–99% with Outer Eastern varieties; 89%–100% with Central Eastern; 79%–93% with Outer Eastern and Central Eastern, 77%–82% with Southwestern Tamang, 86%–93% with Southwestern and Central-Eastern, 74%–80% with Eastern and Western Trisuli Tamang [tdg], 69%–81% with Western Rasuwa Tamang [tdg], 63%–77% with Eastern Gorkha Tamang [tge] (Varenkamp 1996). *Type*: SOV; postpositions, genitives after nouns; noun head final; no noun classes or genders; content q-word in situ; 1 prefix, up to 3 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; ergative; aspect and tense; no passives or voice; 34 consonant and 16 vowel phonemes; CV, CVC, CCV, V, CCVC; tonal; vowel phonemes include 5 basic, 5 long, 6 diphthongs; aspiration and length are phonemic. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, friends, religion; mixed use: Work, education. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Bhojpuri [bho]. Also use Central Tibetan [bod], in religious contexts. Also use Lhomi [lhm]. Also use Maithili [mai]. Also use Nepali [npi], especially those who have been to school or traveled and in official contexts. Women, older adults, and children have limited proficiency. Used as L2 by Danuwar [dhw], Jirel [jul], Sunwar [suz]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%–10%. Literacy rate in L2: 25%–75%. Some non-formal and formal literacy materials, textbooks and classes. Taught as subject in primary schools. Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2011. Agencies: Tamang Language and Literature Council; Nepal Tamung Association; Tamang Dajang. *DLS*: Ascending (0.18). *Writing*: Devanagari script, primary usage. Tibetan script, Tamhig style. *Other*: Traditional religion, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu. *Maps*: 66:37, 66:37, 65:37, 65:37. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,233,700 (as L1: 1,200,200; as L2: 33,500). Also established in: India.

Tamang, Eastern Gorkha [tge]. *Users*: 3,980 (2000). Population for all Tamang varieties: 1,350,000 (2011 census). *Location*: Gandaki province: north Gorkha district, Aarughat and Dharche municipalities, eastern slopes of the Budhi Gandaki river. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Tamang. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, West Bodish, Gurung-Tamang, Tamang. *Dialects*: Kasigaon,

Kerounja. Lexical similarity: 89% with dialects, 77%–79% with Western (Trisuli) Tamang [tdg], 72%–73% with Western (Rasuwa) Tamang [tdg], 63%–73% with Eastern Tamang [taj] dialects (Varenkamp 1996), 50% with Gurung [gvr], 31%–37% with Northern [ghh] and Southern Ghale [ghe], 18%–23% with Kuke [ght], 14%–16% with Nubri [kte], Tsum [ttz], and Kyerung (Kyirong) [kgy], 12%–14% with Tibetan [bod] (1992 J. Webster). *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: Below 10%. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Refer to themselves as Gurung, but recognize their language is different. Traditional religion, Buddhist, Hindu. *Map*: 65:33.

Tamang, Western [tdg] (Murmi, Sain, Tamang Gyot, Tamang Tam). *Users*: 356,500, all users. L1 users: 323,000 (2000), increasing. Population for all Tamang varieties: 1,350,000 (2011 census). L2 users: 33,500 (2011 census). Mostly monolingual below school age or over 60 years of age. *Location*: Bagmati province: Dhading district, Gangajamuna, Kaniyabash, Netrawati, Nilkantha, and Rubi Valley municipalities, along Aku river; Nuwakot district, east of Trishuli river; Rasuwa district, widespread. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Tamang. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, West Bodish, Gurung-Tamang, Tamang. *Dialects*: Southern dialect of Western Tamang (Nuwakot, Trisuli), Northeastern dialect of Western Tamang (Rasuwa), Northwestern dialect of Western Tamang (Dhading). Preliminary results showed 86% intelligibility of Rasuwa dialect, 81%–88% of Central-Eastern [taj], 78%–88% of Outer-Eastern [taj], 86% of Southwestern [taj]; 80% of Rasuwa with Trisuli, up to 70% of Outer-Eastern [taj]. Lexical similarity: 94% between Trisuli dialect and northwestern dialect (Dhading), 82%–83% with Rasuwa, 80% with Southwestern Tamang [taj], 77%–79% with Eastern Gorkha Tamang [tge], 82%–83% between Rasuwa and northwestern dialect (Dhading), 78% with Southwestern [taj], 72% with Eastern Gorkha [tge], 69%–81% between Western varieties and Eastern Tamang varieties. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head both initial and final; genitives after nouns, relatives before nouns; no noun classes or genders; content q-word initial; up to 2 prefixes, up to 11 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by word order; ergativity; no passives or voice; 24 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; CV, CVC, CCV, V, CCVC, CVCCC; tonal. *Lg Use*: Home, friends, religion; mixed use: Work, education. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Central Tibetan [bod], in religious contexts in the northwestern dialect. Also use Nepali [npi], especially younger people, as it is the medium of instruction in schools. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 25%–75%. Taught as subject in primary schools. Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Texts. NT: 1990–2003. Agency: Nepal Tamang Ghedung. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Devanagari script, primary usage. Tibetan script. *Other*: Murmi is the ethnonym used by the Lepcha and Kirati communities and Sain by the Newar. Traditional religion, Buddhist, Christian. *Map*: 65:34.

Thakali [ths] (Barhagaule, Panchgaunle, Tapaang, Thaksya). *Users*: 6,000, all users. L1 users: 5,240 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 760 (2011 census). *Location*: Gandaki province: Mustang district, Gharapjhong and Thasang municipalities, Bhurjungkot, Dampu, Ghansa, Khanti, Kobang, Kunjo, Larjung, Lete, Nakung, Naurikot, Taglung, Tithi, and Tukuiche

villages. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Thakali, Chhairotan, Marphali Thakali, Tieengaulle Thakali. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, West Bodish, Gurung-Tamang, Gurungic. *Dialects*: Tukuche (Tamhang Thakali, Thaksaatsaye, Thaksatsae), Marpha (Puntan Thakali), Syang (Yhulkasom). Thakali dialects have 91%–97% inherent intelligibility. Tukuche dialect most easily understood by others. Lexical similarity: 41%–46% with Gurung [gvr], 46%–51% with Tamang languages (1994 J. Webster). Thakali dialects in 4 villages have 75%–86% lexical similarity. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head both initial and final; no noun classes or genders; content q-word final; verbal affixation marks number; tense; no passives or voice; tonal; 27 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Religion; mixed use: Home, Community. Older adults only. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in primary schools. Literature. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Marpha dialect is in an endogamous village. People of Marpha, Syang, Thini, Chhairo, and Chimang villages are sometimes collectively known as Panchgaunle (5 villages), the name used for both the ethnic group and language. Thakali villages have become quite ethnically mixed, and in some cases Thakali have become the minority. Buddhist, Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 65:20.

Thangmi [thf] (Thami, Thangmi Kham, Thangmi Wakhe, Thani). *Users*: 23,580 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 23,200 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 380 (2011 census). 100 monolinguals (2002 UNESCO). Ethnic population: 35,000 (Turin 2007). 28,700 (2011 census). *Location*: Bagmati province: Dolakha district, Bhimeshwor, Bigu, and Kalinchok municipalities; Sindhupalchok district, Barhabise and Tripurasundari municipalities, east of Bote Koshi river. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Thami. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Central Himalayan, Thangmi-Baraamu. *Dialects*: Eastern Thangmi (Dolakha), Western Thangmi (Sindhupalchok). Related to Baram [brd] (Grierson and Konow 1903–1928). Some cognates with Dolakha dialect of Newar [new]. Dolakha and Sindhupalchok dialects are not mutually intelligible. Differ in phonology, nominal and verbal morphology and lexicon. *Type*: SOV; both prepositions and postpositions; noun head both initial and final; gender, only some animate nouns; content q-word in situ; up to 3 prefixes, up to 4 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person; no ergativity; tense; passives and voice; nontonal; 33 consonant and 13 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Ethnic Thangmi outside Dolakha and Sindhupalchok no longer speak Thangmi. Religion; mixed use: Home, friends. Some young people, all adults. Mixed attitudes. Negative attitudes, but changing to more neutral and positive. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: Below 10%. Taught as subject in primary schools. Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2019. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu. *Map*: 66:54. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 24,380 (as L1: 24,000; as L2: 380). Also established in: China, India.

Tharu, Central [the] (Chhetriya Tharu, Chitawan Tharu, Chitoniya Tharu, Chitwan Tharu, Chitwania Tharu, Madhya Chhetriya Tharu, Madhya Ksetriya Tharu). *Users*: 285,000 in Nepal

(2001 census), increasing. Population for all Tharu varieties: 1,530,000 (2011 census). *Location*: Bagmati province: Chitwan district; Gandaki province: East Nawalparasi district; Janakpur province: Bara and Parsa districts, northern municipalities; Lumbini province: West Nawalparasi, northern municipalities. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Tharu. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Tharu, Eastern Tharu. *Dialects*: Laulpuriya (Laulpuriya Tharu, Nawalparasi, Nawalpuriya Tharu), Chitwan (Chitoniya Tharu, Chitwan Tharu, Chitwania Tharu, Chitwaniya). *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; 2 genders; content q-word in situ; up to 3 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person and number; tense and aspect; passive construction; nontonal; 34 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes (5 of the vowels can be nasalized). *Lg Use*: Vigorous within the language community. Home, friends, religion; mixed use: Work, education. Used by all. Mixed attitudes, from neutral to negative. Also use Bhojpuri [bho]. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in primary schools. Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. Videos. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 1977. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Traditional religion. *Map*: 65:45. *Worldwide*: Also indigenous in: India (Chitwania Tharu).

Tharu, Dangaura [thl] (Dangaha, Dangali, Dangauli, Dangora, Dangura, Tharu). *Users*: 500,000 in Nepal (2003), increasing. Population for all Tharu varieties: 1,530,000 (2011 census). 28,500 monolinguals. *Location*: Lumbini province: Banke, Bardiya, Dang, and Kapilvastu districts; Sudur Pashchimanchal province: Kailali and Kanchanpur districts. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Tharu. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Tharu, Eastern Tharu. *Dialect*: Dangaha (Dang). 68%–91% intelligibility of Rana Tharu [thr], 95% to 97% of Kathoriya [tkl]. Some intelligibility difficulty with speakers from India. Possibly Eastern Hindi Group. Lexical similarity: 85% with Deukhuri, 83% with Malhoriya, 72%–74% with Sonha [soi], 63%–72% with Rana Tharu [thr], 76% with Desauriya, 61%–67% with Central Tharu [the], 70% with Kathariya Tharu [tkl], 58%–65% with Hindi [hin], 46%–52% with Mid-Eastern Tharu [thq]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head initial; genitives after noun heads; adjectives, numerals before noun heads; content q-word in situ; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person, number, and sometimes gender; tense-aspect; passives and voice; nontonal; 34 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes, with nasal variations. *Lg Use*: High vitality but increasing Nepali [npi] loanwords. Home, friends, religion. Used by all. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Nepali [npi], especially educated people, men, and young people, and to a lesser extent women and older people. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: All Tharu as an ethnic group 28% (1991 census). Literature. Periodicals. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2018. *DLS*: Emerging (0.11). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian, Hindu. *Maps*: 64:11, 65:11. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 674,000. Also indigenous in: India.

Tharu, Kathariya [tkl] (Kathariya, Kathoriya Tharu, Tharu). *Users*: 106,000 in Nepal (2006). Population for all Tharu varieties: 1,530,000 (2011 census). *Location*: Sudur Pashchimanchal province: Kailali district, Bardagoriya, Bhajani, Ghodaghodi, Joshipur, and Kailari municipalities. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Tharu.

Class: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Tharu. *Dialects:* Speech differences between Nepal and India dialects. Lexical similarity: 70%–76% with Dangaura Tharu [thl] and Rana Tharu [thr], 66% with Hindi [hin], 66%–69% with Buksa [tkb], 63% with Central Tharu [the], 51%–59% with Mid-Eastern Tharu [thq]. *Type:* SOV; postpositions; noun head final (unmarked). *Lg Use:* Some shifting to Hindi [hin]. Used by all. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev:* Literacy rate in L2: All Tharu as an ethnic group 28% (1991 census). Texts. *DLS:* Still. *Writing:* Devanagari script. *Other:* Hindu, Christian. *Map:* 64:14. *Worldwide:* Also indigenous in: India.

Tharu, Mid-Eastern [thq] (Kochila Tharu, Madhya-Purbiya Tharu). *Users:* 258,000 in Nepal (2003), increasing. Population for all Tharu varieties: 1,530,000 (2011 census). Mostly illiterate older women are monolingual. *Location:* Janakpur province: Mahattari district, Bhangaha municipality; Saptari district, northern municipalities; Sarlahi district, Haripur, Ishworpur, and Lalbandi municipalities; Siraha district, Lahan; Kosi province: Morang district, Belhari, Budhiganga, and Biratnagar municipalities; Sunsari district; Udayapur district, Belaka, Chaudandigadhi, and Triyuga municipalities. *Status:* 5 (Developing). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Tharu, Dhanuk. *Class:* Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Tharu, Eastern Tharu. *Dialects:* Saptari (Saptariya Tharu), Morang, Udayapur, Sunsari, Siraha, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Dhanusa, Rautahat, Bara, Parsa. Each district has a different variety. Dialect names refer to districts. Lexical similarity: 51%–59% with Kathariya Tharu, 46%–52% with Dangaura Tharu. *Type:* SOV; postpositions; noun head final; no gender; content q-word in situ; 1 prefix, up to 3 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person; tense and aspect; passives (syntactic, not morphological); nontonal; 32 consonant and 8 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Home, friends, religion; mixed use: Work, education, religion. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Maithili [mai]. Also use Nepali [npi]. Used as L2 by Kurux [kru]. *Lg Dev:* Mother-tongue multilingual education introduced in one school. Literacy increasing. Taught as subject in primary schools. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Texts. *DLS:* Emerging (0.06). *Writing:* Devanagari script. *Other:* Tharu from each district usually take the district name as a more specific name or identity. Other Tharu in Siraha, Udayapur, and Saptari districts who call themselves Kochila but speak Sapatariya Tharu. Traditional religion, Christian. *Maps:* 66:52, 65:52. *Worldwide:* Also established in: India (Kochila Tharu).

Tharu, Rana [thr] (Tharu, Tharuwa). *Users:* 336,000 in Nepal (2006), increasing. Population for all Tharu varieties: 1,530,000 (2011 census). *Location:* Sudur Pashchimanchal province: Kanchanpur district, southern municipalities; Kailali district, Danghadi. *Status:* 5 (Developing). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rana Tharu. *Class:* Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Tharu. *Dialects:* 96%–99% intelligibility among dialects, 90% of Kathariya [tkt], 51%–88% reported of Dangaura [thl]. Differences with dialects in India. Reportedly similar to Awadhi (Avadhi) [awa]. Lexical similarity: 83%–97% among dialects, 73%–79% with Buksa [tkb], 74%–79% with Kathariya [tkt], 70%–73% with Sonha [soi], 63%–71% with Dangaura [thl], 56%–60% with Central Tharu [the], 68%–72% with Hindi [hin]. *Type:* SOV; postpositions; noun head final; 2 genders; content q-word in situ; 1

prefix, up to 2 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person and number; ergativity; tense (4 tenses: past, present, imminent future, irrealis future); passives and voice; nontonal; 28 consonant and 11 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, friends, religion; mixed use: Work, education. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Mother-tongue multilingual education up to grade three in Kanchanpur. Taught as subject in primary schools. Literature. Periodicals. Radio. Videos. Texts. NT: 2017. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Hindu, Christian. *Map*: 64:15. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 486,000. Also indigenous in: India.

Thulung [tdh] (Tholong Lo, Thulu Luwa, Thululoa, Thulung Jemu, Thulung La, Thulunge Rai, Toaku Lwa). *Users*: 22,300 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 20,700 in Nepal (2011 census). Thulung communities also in Bhojpur and Sankhuwasabha districts, scattered in Udayapur, Morang, Panchthar, and Ilam districts. Migrants may not speak Thulung as L1. L2 users: 1,600 (2011 census). A few elderly monolinguals. *Location*: Kosi province: Khotang district, Aineselukhark municipality; Okhaldhunga district, Chisankhugadhi municipality; Solukhumbu district, Dudhkaushika, Dudhkoshi, Nechasalyan, and Solududhakunda municipalities. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Western. *Dialects*: Northern Thulung (Deusa Lwa), Southern Thulung (Necha Lwa), Central Thulung (Mukli Lwa), Eastern Thulung (Jubu Lwa, Lokhim Lwa). Many cognates with Khaling [klr]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; content q-word in situ; no prefixes, up to 4 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person and number; ergativity; tense; passives and voice, but rare; tonal; 29 consonant and 16 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Language retention high compared to other Rai languages (Winter and Hansson 1991). Home, friends, religion. Used by all. Neutral attitudes. Also use Bahing [bhj]. Also use Nepali [npi], especially men, who tend to speak it with greater proficiency than women. Used as L2 by Khaling [klr], Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Texts. NT: 2017. *Agencies*: Thulung Language Development Center; Thulung Sama. *DLS*: Emerging (0.09). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Interest in development among cultural associations (Thulung Rai Society). Traditional religion, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu. *Maps*: 66:63, 66:63. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 22,300 (as L1: 20,700; as L2: 1,600). Also established in: India.

Tibetan [bod] (Bhotia, Bod Skad, Central Tibetan, Literary Tibetan, Phoke, Poke, Zang Wen). *Users*: 5,140 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 4,450 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. L2 users: 690 (2011 census). *Location*: Bagmati province: mainly Kathmandu and Pokhara; small refugee communities in the mountain belt (e.g. Solukhumbu, Rasuwa, Manang and Mustang). *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). Spoken as a trade language among Bodish groups in Nepal. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, Central Bodish, Central. *Dialects*: Utsang, Diaspora Tibetan. *Type*: SOV; noun head initial; definite and indefinite articles; ergativity; comparatives; 28 consonant and 16 vowel phonemes; tonal (4 tones); 2 levels of honorifics. *Lg Use*: Home, religion; mixed use: Friends, work, education. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Nepali [npi]. Also use Sherpa [xsr], especially

speakers who move into Khumbu. Used as L2 by Dolpo [dre], Eastern Tamang [taj], Humla [hut], Hyolmo [scp], Kaike [kzq], Kuke [ght], Lhomi [lhm], Lhowa [loy], Mugom-Karmarong [muk], Nar Phu [npa], Newar [new], Nubri [kte], Nyeshangte [nmm], Sherpa [xsr], Tsum [ttz], Western Tamang [tdg]. *Lg Dev*: The written and spoken languages are in a diglossic relationship. There is no literacy based on the spoken variety. Taught in primary and secondary schools, but only in Buddhist schools. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1948. *Writing*: Marchen script. Phags-pa script. Tibetan script, Uchen and Umed styles. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Buddhist, Christian. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,195,230 (as L1: 1,193,380; as L2: 1,850). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: China (Central Tibetan), India. Unestablished in: Australia (Central Tibetan), Canada (Central Tibetan), China–Taiwan, Switzerland, United States.

Tichurong [tcn] (Ticherong). *Users*: 2,420 (2000). *Location*: Karnali province: Dolpa district, Kaike municipality, north of Thuli Bheri river. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, Central Bodish, Central, gTsang. *Dialects*: None known. Reportedly similar to Dolpo [dre]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final. *Lg Use*: Used by all. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Culturally distinct from Dolpo. Buddhist. *Map*: 65:17.

Tilung [tij] (Tiling, Tilling, Tilung Blama). *Users*: 20 (2015 SIL), decreasing. *Location*: Kosi province: Khotang district, Halesi Tuwachung municipality, along Sunkosi river. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Western. *Dialects*: Choskule, Dorunkecha. Choskule and Dorunkecha dialects may be related languages. *Type*: SOV; postpositions. *Lg Use*: Mixed use: Religion. Adults only, but mostly elderly. Shifting to Nepali [npi]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Devanagari script, used since 2014. *Other*: Geographically isolated community. Traditional religion, Hindu. *Map*: 66:65.

Tsum [ttz] (Tumba, Tsumge, Tsumke). *Users*: 4,790 (2000). *Location*: Gandaki province: north Gorkha district, Nubri Chum municipality, Chekampar (Chokong) village. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Siyar. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, Central Bodish, Central, gTsang. *Dialects*: None known. 71%–78% intelligibility of Nubri [kte], 66% of Kyerung (Kyirong) [kgy]; 60%–66% of Lhasa Tibetan [bod]; 22%–25% of Northern Ghale [ghh], 14%–22% of Southern Ghale [ghe], 23%–27% of Kuke [ght]; 6% of Eastern Gorkha Tamang [tge], 14% of Gurung [gvr], 15% of Banspur Tamang. Divided into upper region, Yarba, and lower region, Ushug. *Type*: SOV. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, friends. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Some also use Nepali [npi], as language of education and with those who do not understand Tsum. Also use Central Tibetan [bod], in religious domain. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 10% or less. Taught as subject in a few primary schools. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Buddhist. *Map*: 65:30.

Urdu [urd]. *Users*: 737,800 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 692,000 in Nepal (2011 census). L2 users: 45,800 (2011 census). *Location*: Janakpur province: scattered; Kosi province: Jhapa,

Morang, and Sunsari districts, southern municipalities; Lumbini province: Banke and Kapilvastu districts, southern municipalities. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Western Hindi, Hindustani. *Type*: SOV; postposition; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine); no articles; direct and oblique cases; verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; passives; tense and aspect; causatives; 35 consonants, 21 vowels; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1843–1998. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Braille script. Devanagari script, used in India (Ahmad 2011). *Other*: Non-indigenous. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 231,717,940 (as L1: 70,555,140; as L2: 161,162,800). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: India, Pakistan. Also established in: Bangladesh (Bihari), Fiji, Guyana, Mauritius, South Africa. Unestablished in: Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Walungge [ola] (Halung, Halungge, Olangchung Gola, Waling, Walongchung Gola, Walung, Walungchung Gola, Walunggi Keccya). *Users*: 3,500 in Nepal (2019 SIL), decreasing. Mostly in original area. High language loss among those who have left the language area. Ethnic population: 4,000 (2019 SIL). *Location*: Kosi province: Sankhuwasabha district, Makalu municipality, Pawakhola village; Taplejung district, Mikwakhola municipality, Simbuk, and Papung villages; Phaktanglung municipality, Ghunsa, Lungthung, and Olangchung Gola villages; Sirijangha municipality, Yamphudin village. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Walung, Thudam, Topkegola. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Bodish, Central Bodish, Unclassified. *Dialects*: Walungge, Dhokpya (Topke Gola), Thudam. Reportedly similar to Tibetan dialect in Tingay District of Tibet. Lexical similarity: 71% with Lhasa Tibetan [bod], 68% with Dolpo [dre], Lhowa [loy], and Kyirung (Kyirong) [kgy], 66% with Lhomi [lhm] and Helambu Sherpa [scp], 64% with Nubri [kte], 57% with Jirel [jul], 55% with Sherpa [xsr]. Tokpe Gola (Dhokpya), Walungge, and Thudam all have lexical similarities above 60% with a range from 75%–85%. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; content q-word in situ; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; ergativity; no passives or voice; tonal (Thudam dialect). *Lg Use*: Many school age children are shifting to Nepali [npi] when they are educated outside their homeland. There is widespread growing bilingualism, but it may not be a stable Diglossia (2019 SIL). Home, Community, and Religion. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 43%–72% in Nepali [npi]. Taught as subject in primary schools, in one school for teaching the Tibetan writing system starting from Class 1. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Tibetan script. *Other*: Cut off from the Lhomi, with more links to Tibet. Some intermarriage with Lhomi and Tibetan. The people call themselves Sherpa. They do not have a specific language name which groups all varieties of the language together and distinguishes the language from other Tibetan languages. The word ‘Walungge’ comes from a name of one of the main villages in the language area. The Thudam are tenant farmers for the Walungge and Lhomi [lhm]. Buddhist. *Map*: 66:89. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 4,500. Also

established in: China, India.

Wambule [wme] (Ambule, Caurasia, Chaurasia, Chaurasya, Chourase, Chourasia, Ombule, Radu Yor, Tsaurya, Umbule, Vambucauras Raduyor, Vambule, Vambule Radu Yor, Vambule Yor). *Users*: 14,370, all users. L1 users: 13,500 (2011 census). L2 users: 870 (2011 census). A few elderly monolinguals. *Location*: Bagmati province: Sindhuli district, Phikkal municipality; Kosi province: Khotang district, Halesi Tuwachung municipality; Okhaldunga district, Manebhanjyang municipality. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Western. *Dialects*: Bonu, Wamdyal, Udaipure, Hilepane, Jhappali. Dialects appear adequately mutually inherently intelligible. Jerung [jee] and Wambule are mutually intelligible (Opgenort 2004). Lexical similarity: 93% with Jerung [jee] (Opgenort 2005). *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; no noun classes or genders; content q-word in situ; 1 prefix, up to 4 (word-internal) suffixes and 4 phrasal affixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking (and verbal marking for agent and patient); verbal affixation marks person and number; ergativity, but an expression of volitionality causes the intransitive subject to have ergative marking; both tense and aspect; no passives or voice; nontonal; 33 consonant and 9 vowel phonemes; ingressive laterals. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, friends, religion; mixed use: Work, education. Used by all. Also use Bahing [bhj]. Also use Jerung [jee]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in primary schools. Literature. Periodicals. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2019. Agency: Wambule Rai Society of Nepal. *DLS*: Emerging (0.04). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian, Hindu. *Map*: 66:60.

Wayu [vay] (Bayu, Hayu, Vayu, Wayo). *Users*: 1,565, all users. L1 users: 1,520 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 45 (2011 census). No monolinguals. *Location*: Bagmati province: Ramechhap district, Ramechhap municipality, Mudajor and Sukajor villages; Sindhuli district, Golanjor municipality, Manedihi village, along Sunkoshi river. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Hayu. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Western. *Dialects*: Sindhuli, Marin Khola. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; no noun classes or genders; content q-word in situ; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person and number; ergativity; tense; no passives or voice; nontonal; 27 consonant and 8 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Ethnic Wayu live on the hills on both sides of the Sun Kosi River but the language is only spoken in the villages listed. In 1995 many children in Mudajor were not learning Wayu but the language was alive and well in Manedihi (2002 UNESCO). A growing interest in language preservation. Religion; mixed use: Home, friends. Some young people, all adults. Negative attitudes. Many feel the language is an obstacle to progress, but a minority would like to keep speaking it. All also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. Texts. *DLS*: Emerging (0.02). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Other*: Strong Nepali [npi] influences in phonology, lexicon, and grammar (Matisoff 1991). Traditional religion, Hindu. *Map*: 66:59.

Yakkha [ybh] (Dewansala, Jimi Bhasa, Yakha, Yakkha Ceya, Yakkhaba, Yakkhaba Cea, Yakkhaba Sala, Yakthomba). *Users*: 21,090 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 19,600 in Nepal (2011 census),

decreasing. L2 users: 1,490 (2011 census). Very few monolinguals. *Location*: Kosi province: Dhankuta district, Mahalaxmi municipality; Sankhuwasabha district, Chainpur, Dharmadevi, Madi, and Panchakhapan municipalities. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Yakkha. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Eastern. *Dialects*: Northern Yakkha (Sankhuwasabha), Southern Yakkha (Dhankuta), Eastern Yakkha (Ilam, Panchthar). Dialects have minimal diversity. Lexical similarity: with Athpariya [aph], Limbu [lif], and Yamphu [ybi]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; no noun classes or genders; content q-word in situ; 1 prefix, up to 10 suffixes (depending on analysis); clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks person and number; ergativity; tense and aspect; passives and voice; nontonal; 22 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes. *Lg Use*: Home, friends, religion; mixed use: Work, education. Some young people, all adults. Children and elderly. Some use among adolescents, young and older adults (Toba et al 2005). Also use Nepali [npi]. Used as L2 by Limbu [lif]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 10% in Nepali [npi]. There are attempts to teach Yakkha at school, and textbooks are published up to grade 3, but not widely used. Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Agency: Kirant Yakkha Chumma. *DLS*: Emerging (0.09). *Writing*: Devanagari script, used since 2011. *Other*: Considered by many a distinct group of Kirati not fitting neatly into either Rai or Limbu groups (Bista 1996:39); in terms of mythology and people's own judgment, they seem closer to Limbu than to Rai groups. Traditional religion, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu. *Map*: 66:91. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 21,900 (as L1: 20,410; as L2: 1,490). Also indigenous in: India.

Yakkha, Chhathare [luu] (Lumba-Yakkha, Yakkhaba Cea). *Users*: 1,200 (2000). *Location*: Kosi province: Dhankuta district, Mahalaxmi municipality, Chattahara village. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Eastern. *Dialects*: They understand Yakkha [ybh], but Yakkha speakers have difficulty in understanding them. No perceived dialect differences within the six villages. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; verbal affixation marks person and number; both tense and aspect, nontonal. *Lg Use*: Language retained among some youth (Hansson 1991). Home. Some young people, all adults. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: The north part (village of Marek) is most vital and populous area. The Chhathare villages to the south and west no longer speak the language, some loss in the east. Traditional religion, Christian, Hindu. *Map*: 66:92.

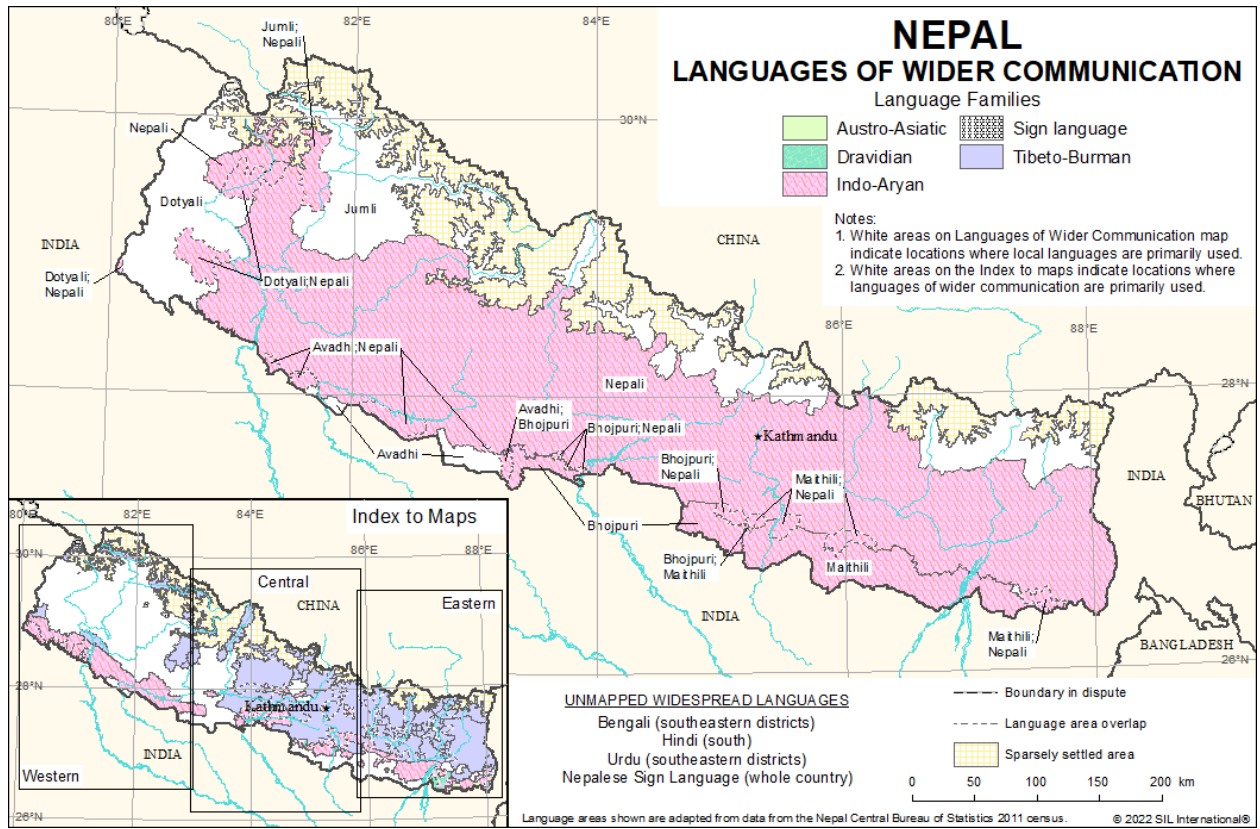
Yamphu [ybi] (Yakkhaba Khap, Yamphu Kha, Yamphu Rai, Yangphu, "Yamphe" pej.). *Users*: 9,540, all users. L1 users: 9,210 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 330 (2011 census). *Location*: Kosi province: Sankhuwasabha district, Makalu municipality, Ala, Hedangna, Karmarang, Num, Mangsimma, Peppuwa, Seduwa, Tungkhaling, Uling, Uwa, and Walung villages. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Eastern. *Dialects*: Hedangna Yamphu, Seduwa Yamphu. The Yamphu Rai are most closely related to Lohorung [lbr] and Mewahang. 61% intelligibility of Lohorung [lbr]. Lexical similarity: 84%–90% between dialects, 74%–84% with Southern Yamphu [lrr], 64%–67% with Lohorung [lbr]. *Lg*

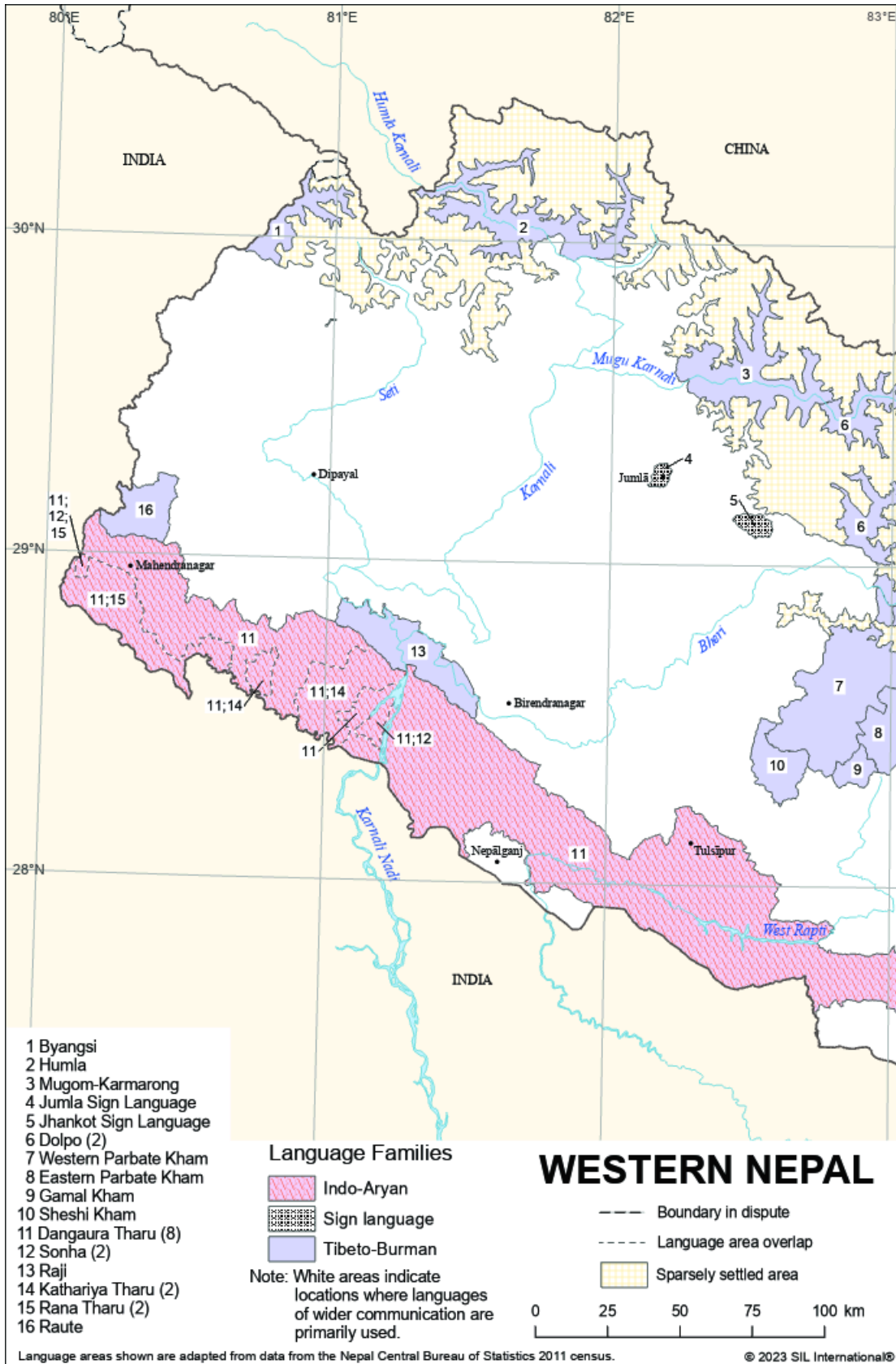
Use: Language passed on to children but being steadily replaced by Nepali [npi] (Toba et al 2005). Religion. Some young people, all adults. Also use Nepali [npi], bilingually. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 2015–2017. *DLS:* Emerging (0.06). *Writing:* Devanagari script, used since 2011. *Other:* Traditional religion, Christian, Hindu. *Map:* 66:86.

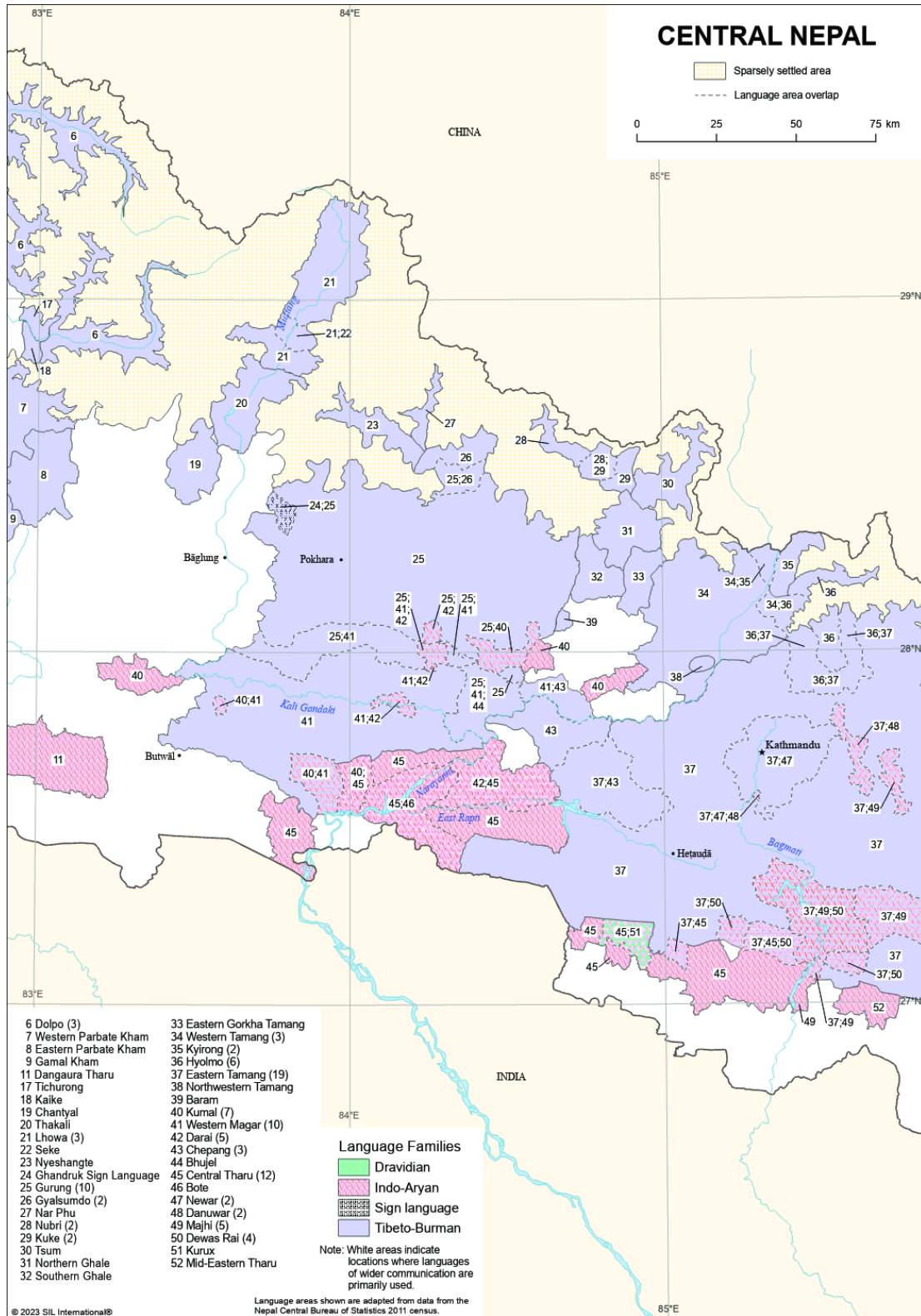
Yamphu, Southern [lrr] (South Lorung, Southern Lohorung, Southern Lorung, Yamphu, “Yamphé” pej.). *Users:* 2,500 (2011 SIL), decreasing. *Location:* Kosi province: Dhankuta district, Chaubise municipality, Bodhe, Mounabudhuk, and Rajarani villages; Sangurigadhi municipality, Bhedetar village; Sankhuwasabha district, Chichila municipality, Devitar and Matsya Pokhari villages. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Class:* Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Kiranti, Eastern. *Dialects:* None known. 61% intelligibility of Lohorung [lbr], 43%–58% (depending on site) intelligibility of Yamphu [ybi]. A Rai group, most closely related to Yamphu [ybi], but distinct in grammar and phonology (Hansson 1991). Lexical similarity: 84%–89% between Southern Yamphu varieties, 74%–83% with Yamphu [ybi], 65%–68% with Lohorung [lbr]. *Type:* SOV; postpositions; verbal affixation marks person and number; tense; nontonal. *Lg Use:* Home, religion, work; mixed use: Friends. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. *DLS:* Still. *Writing:* Unwritten. *Other:* Speakers of the language identify themselves ethnically as ‘Yamphu’. Hansson (1991) described this group as two separate languages, “Yamphu” and “Southern Lorung” (cf. Ethnologue, 16th edition and earlier). Traditional religion, Christian, Hindu. *Map:* 66:85.

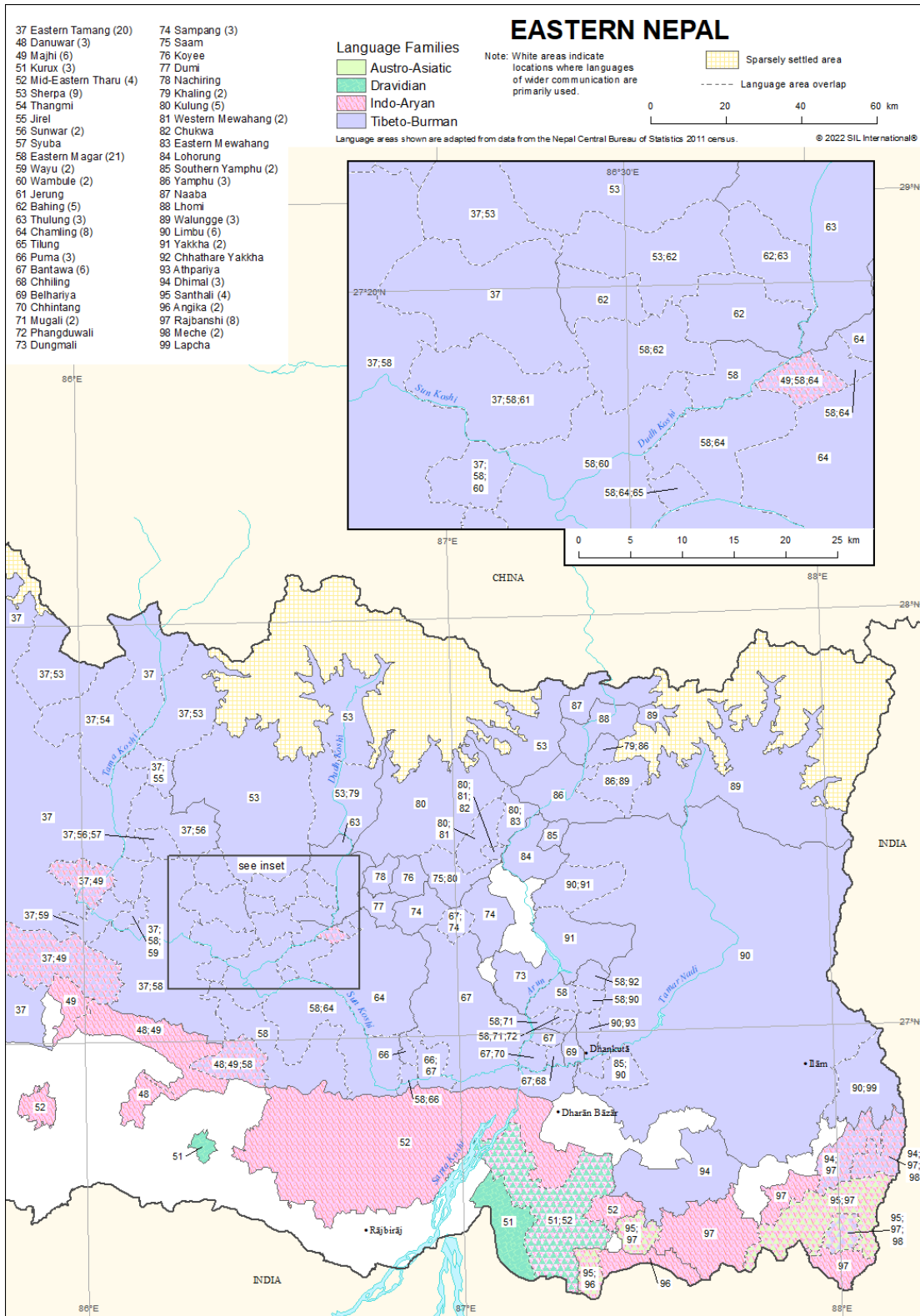
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Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Nepal are listed in order of their population of first-language speakers within the country, from highest to lowest. The entries report just the population and status elements.

10,000,000 to 99,999,999

Nepali [npi] *Users:* 12,100,000 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. 143,000 Achhami, 67,600 Bajhangi, 10,700 Bajureli, 490 Dadeldhuri, 3,100 Dailekhi, 5,930 Darchuleli, and 11,800,000 Nepali (2011 census). 20,780,000 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 8,680,000 (2011 census). *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (1990, Interim Constitution, 2063, Article 5(2)). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 25,587,570 (as L1: 16,903,270; as L2: 8,684,300).

1,000,000 to 9,999,999

Maithili [mai] *Users:* 3,090,000 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. 3,285,000 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 195,000 (2011 census). *Status:* 5 (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 21,785,000 (as L1: 21,590,000; as L2: 195,000).

Bhojpuri [bho] *Users:* 1,580,000 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. 1,740,000 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 160,000 (2011 census). *Status:* 4 (Educational). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 52,463,000 (as L1: 52,303,000; as L2: 160,000).

Tamang, Eastern [taj] *Users:* 1,180,000 in Nepal (2001 census), increasing. Southwestern Tamang: 109,000 (1991 census). Population for all Tamang varieties: 1,350,000 (2011 census). 1,213,500 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 33,500 (2011 census). In some remote communities, particularly women, children and elderly people are monolingual. *Status:* 4 (Educational). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Tamang. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,233,700 (as L1: 1,200,200; as L2: 33,500).

100,000 to 999,999

Newar [new] *Users:* 847,000 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. 879,600 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 32,600 (2011 census). Many women are monolingual. Ethnic population: 1,250,000. *Status:* 4 (Educational). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Newar. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 893,600 (as L1: 861,000; as L2: 32,600).

Bajjika [vjk] *Users:* 793,000 in Nepal (2011 census). *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 12,293,000.

Dotyali [dty] *Users:* 788,000 in Nepal (2011 census). *Status:* 5 (Developing). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Nepali.

Urdu [[urd](#)] *Users:* 692,000 in Nepal (2011 census). 737,800 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 45,800 (2011 census). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 231,717,940 (as L1: 70,555,140; as L2: 161,162,800).

Avadhi [[awa](#)] *Users:* 502,000 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. 547,400 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 45,400 (2011 census). *Status:* 4 (Educational). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Kushwadiya. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 4,397,400 (as L1: 4,352,000; as L2: 45,400).

Tharu, Dangaura [[thl](#)] *Users:* 500,000 in Nepal (2003), increasing. Population for all Tharu varieties: 1,530,000 (2011 census). 28,500 monolinguals. *Status:* 5 (Developing). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Tharu. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 674,000.

Magar, Eastern [[mgp](#)] *Users:* 462,000 in Nepal (2001 census), decreasing. 789,000 all Magar in Nepal (2011 census). The identification of Magars is complicated by the fact that a number of other ethnic groups (Chantyal, Kham, Kaike, Kusunda, Raute, Raji) have claimed to be Magars to outsiders. Isolated enclaves of monolinguals are found in Nawalparasi and southern Tanahu districts. *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Magar. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 541,200.

Limbu [[lif](#)] *Users:* 344,000 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. 366,200 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 22,200 (2011 census). Relatively few monolinguals. Ethnic population: 387,000 (2011 census). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Limbu. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 429,400 (as L1: 407,200; as L2: 22,200).

Tharu, Rana [[thr](#)] *Users:* 336,000 in Nepal (2006), increasing. Population for all Tharu varieties: 1,530,000 (2011 census). *Status:* 5 (Developing). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rana Tharu. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 486,000.

Gurung [[gvr](#)] *Users:* 326,000 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. 348,800 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 22,800 (2011 census). 12,000 monolinguals. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Gurung. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 396,800 (as L1: 374,000; as L2: 22,800).

Tamang, Western [[tdg](#)] *Users:* 323,000 (2000), increasing. Population for all Tamang varieties: 1,350,000 (2011 census). 356,500, all users. L2 users: 33,500 (2011 census). Mostly monolingual below school age or over 60 years of age. *Status:* 5 (Developing). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Tamang.

Magar, Western [[mrd](#)] *Users:* 308,000 (2001 census), decreasing. 789,000 all Magar in Nepal (2011 census). Census statistics likely include non-ethnic Magars and many that do not speak Magar. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Magar.

Tharu, Central [[the](#)] *Users:* 285,000 in Nepal (2001 census), increasing. Population for all Tharu varieties: 1,530,000 (2011 census). *Status:* 5 (Developing). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Tharu.

Tharu, Mid-Eastern [[thq](#)] *Users:* 258,000 in Nepal (2003), increasing. Population for all Tharu

varieties: 1,530,000 (2011 census). Mostly illiterate older women are monolingual. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Tharu, Dhanuk.

Rajbanshi [[rjs](#)] *Users*: 147,000 (2011 census), increasing. 2,080 Koche, 122,000 Rajbanshi, 18,800 Tajpuriya, 3,610 Gangai. 168,300, all users. L2 users: 21,300 (2011 census). *Status*: 5 (Developing). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rajbanshi (Koch).

Sherpa [[xsr](#)] *Users*: 145,000 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. 153,180 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 8,180 (2011 census). A few elderly monolinguals in remote villages (UNESCO). *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Sherpa. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 170,180 (as L1: 162,000; as L2: 8,180).

Bantawa [[bap](#)] *Users*: 133,000 in Nepal (2011 census). 161,500 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 28,500 (2011 census). 6,000 monolinguals. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 195,100 (as L1: 166,600; as L2: 28,500).

Tharu, Kathariya [[tkt](#)] *Users*: 106,000 in Nepal (2006). Population for all Tharu varieties: 1,530,000 (2011 census). *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Tharu.

10,000 to 99,999

Hindi [[hin](#)] *Users*: 77,600 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. 1,307,600 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 1,230,000 (2011 census). *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 609,454,770 (as L1: 344,650,870; as L2: 264,803,900).

Chamling [[rab](#)] *Users*: 76,800 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. 83,200 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 6,400 (2011 census). Very few monolinguals. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 83,200 (as L1: 76,800; as L2: 6,400).

Santhali [[sat](#)] *Users*: 49,900 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. 50,880 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 980 (2011 census). Very few monolinguals. *Status*: 5 (Dispersed). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Satar (Santhal). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 7,621,180 (as L1: 7,620,200; as L2: 980).

Chepang [[cdm](#)] *Users*: 48,500 (2011 census), decreasing. 49,640, all users. L2 users: 1,140 (2011 census). No monolinguals. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Chepang.

Danuwar [[dhw](#)] *Users*: 45,800 (2011 census), decreasing. 48,650, all users. L2 users: 2,850 (2011 census). No monolinguals (Toba et al 2005). *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Danuwar.

Kham, Western Parbate [[kjl](#)] *Users*: 44,000 (2003 SIL), increasing. 69,000, all users. L2 users: 25,000 (2011). Ethnic population: 90,000 (2011 SIL). *Status*: 5 (Developing).

Jumli [jml] *Users:* 40,000 (2001 SIL). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Nepali.

Sunwar [suz] *Users:* 38,200 (2011 census). 37,900 Sunwar, 290 Surel (2011 census). 39,760, all users. L2 users: 1,560 (2011 census). Very few monolinguals. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Surel, Sunuwar.

Magahi [mag] *Users:* 35,600 in Nepal (2011 census). 46,400 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 10,800 (2011 census). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 20,746,400 (as L1: 20,735,600; as L2: 10,800).

Kurux [kru] *Users:* 33,700 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. 34,390 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 690 (2011 census). No monolinguals (2002 UNESCO). Ethnic population: 37,400 (2011 census). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,084,390 (as L1: 2,083,700; as L2: 690).

Kulung [kle] *Users:* 33,200 in Nepal (2011 census). 34,590 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 1,390 (2011 census). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 34,590 (as L1: 33,200; as L2: 1,390).

Marwari [rwr] *Users:* 25,400 in Nepal (2011 census). 26,410 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 1,010 (2011 census). *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 7,856,410 (as L1: 7,855,400; as L2: 1,010).

Majhi [mjz] *Users:* 24,400 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. 25,720 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 1,320 (2011 census). Ethnic population: 83,200 (2011 census). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Majhi. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 25,720 (as L1: 24,400; as L2: 1,320).

Thangmi [thf] *Users:* 23,200 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. 23,580 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 380 (2011 census). 100 monolinguals (2002 UNESCO). Ethnic population: 35,000 (Turin 2007). 28,700 (2011 census). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Thami. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 24,380 (as L1: 24,000; as L2: 380).

Kewat [kyv] *Users:* 22,000 (2002). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened).

Bengali [ben] *Users:* 21,100 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. 23,980 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 2,880 (2011 census). *Status:* 5 (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 272,828,760 (as L1: 233,808,880; as L2: 39,019,880).

Thulung [tdh] *Users:* 20,700 in Nepal (2011 census). Thulung communities also in Bhojpur and Sankhuwasabha districts, scattered in Udayapur, Morang, Panchthar, and Ilam districts. Migrants may not speak Thulung as L1. 22,300 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 1,600 (2011 census). A few elderly monolinguals. *Status:* 5 (Developing). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 22,300 (as L1: 20,700; as L2: 1,600).

Nepalese Sign Language [[nsp](#)] *Users:* 20,000 (2014 NFDH). Approximately 20,000 deaf signers, less than 0.1% of total population; estimated 300,000 total deaf (2014 NDFN). *Status:* 5 (Developing).

Sonha [[soi](#)] *Users:* 20,000 (2020 UBS), decreasing. No monolinguals. *Status:* 6b (Threatened).

Yakkha [[ybh](#)] *Users:* 19,600 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. 21,090 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 1,490 (2011 census). Very few monolinguals. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Yakkha. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 21,900 (as L1: 20,410; as L2: 1,490).

Dhimal [[dhi](#)] *Users:* 19,300 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. 20,430 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 1,130 (2011 census). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Dhimal. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 20,880 (as L1: 19,750; as L2: 1,130).

Angika [[anp](#)] *Users:* 18,600 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. 20,330 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 1,730 (2011 census). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 745,330 (as L1: 743,600; as L2: 1,730).

Sampang [[rav](#)] *Users:* 18,300 (2011 census), decreasing. Phali dialect spoken by a few elderly speakers. 20,300, all users. L2 users: 2,000 (2011 census). No monolinguals. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai.

Ghale, Southern [[ghe](#)] *Users:* 18,000 (2016 SIL). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Kham, Sheshi [[kip](#)] *Users:* 15,000 (2011 SIL), decreasing. Ethnic population: 90,000 (2011 SIL). *Status:* 6b (Threatened).

Khaling [[klr](#)] *Users:* 14,500 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. 15,670 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 1,170 (2011 census). No monolinguals. Ethnic population: 20,000. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 18,040 (as L1: 16,870; as L2: 1,170).

Wambule [[wme](#)] *Users:* 13,500 (2011 census). 14,370, all users. L2 users: 870 (2011 census). A few elderly monolinguals. *Status:* 5 (Developing). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai.

Kumal [[kra](#)] *Users:* 12,200 (2011 census), decreasing. 13,610, all users. L2 users: 1,410 (2011 census). No monolinguals. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Kumal.

Nyeshangte [[nmm](#)] *Users:* 12,000 (2021), decreasing. Ethnic population: 15,000 (2021). *Status:* 6b (Threatened).

Bahing [[bhj](#)] *Users:* 11,700 (2011 census). 15,250, all users. L2 users: 3,550 (2011 census). *Status:* 5 (Developing). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai.

Darai [[dry](#)] *Users:* 11,700 (2011 census), decreasing. 12,050, all users. L2 users: 350 (2011 census). Very few monolinguals. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous

nationality: Darai.

H Yolmo [[scp](#)] *Users*: 10,200 (2011 census). 10,680, all users. L2 users: 480 (2011 census). Very few monolinguals. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Hyolmo.

Dewas Rai [[dwz](#)] *Users*: 10,000 (2017 SIL). 10,300, all users. L2 users: 300 (2018 SIL). No monolinguals (2018 SIL). Ethnic population: 30,000 (2018 SIL). *Status*: 6b (Threatened).

Nachiring [[ncd](#)] *Users*: 10,000 (2011 census), decreasing. 10,730, all users. L2 users: 730 (2011 census). *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai.

1,000 to 9,999

Yamphu [[ybi](#)] *Users*: 9,210 (2011 census), decreasing. 9,540, all users. L2 users: 330 (2011 census). *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai.

Bote [[bmj](#)] *Users*: 8,770 (2011 census), decreasing. 9,150, all users. L2 users: 380 (2011 census). No monolinguals (2002 UNESCO). *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Bote.

Dolpo [[dre](#)] *Users*: 8,000 (2010 K. Kopp). Ethnic population: 8,000 (2010 K. Kopp). *Status*: 5 (Developing). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Dolpo.

Mundari [[unr](#)] *Users*: 7,780 in Nepal (2006 IMB). *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,170,280.

Lapcha [[lep](#)] *Users*: 7,500 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. 7,730 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 230 (2011 census). No monolinguals. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Lepcha. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 57,930 (as L1: 57,700; as L2: 230).

Lhowa [[loy](#)] *Users*: 7,500 (2011). 5,000 Upper Mustang and 2,500 Baragaunle. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Bahragaunle, Lhopa.

Kham, Gamal [[kgj](#)] *Users*: 7,000 (2011 SIL), increasing. 10,000, all users. L2 users: 3,000 (2011 Name change). Ethnic population: 90,000 (2011 SIL). *Status*: 6a (Vigorous).

Lhomi [[lhm](#)] *Users*: 7,000 in Nepal (2014 SIL), increasing. Ethnic population: 15,000. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Lhomi (Shingsawa). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 9,320.

Mugom-Karmarong [[muk](#)] *Users*: 7,000 in Nepal (2011). census. 1,630 monolinguals (2002 UNESCO). Ethnic population: 7,000 (2011). *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Mugali. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 7,500.

Puma [[pum](#)] *Users*: 6,690 (2011 census), decreasing. 7,010, all users. L2 users: 320 (2011 census). *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai.

Dungmali [[raa](#)] *Users*: 6,260 (2011 census), decreasing. 6,470, all users. L2 users: 210 (2011

census). 150 monolinguals. Ethnic population: 10,000. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai.

Athpariya [aph] *Users*: 5,530 (2011 census), decreasing. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai.

Thakali [ths] *Users*: 5,240 (2011 census), decreasing. 6,000, all users. L2 users: 760 (2011 census). *Status*: 8a (Moribund). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Thakali, Chhairotan, Marphali Thakali, Tiengaule Thakali.

Humla [hut] *Users*: 5,000 (2014 SIL). 36% of the Limi dialect are monolingual. Ethnic population: 5,000 (2014 SIL). *Status*: 6a (Vigorous).

Kham, Eastern Parbate [kif] *Users*: 5,000 (2011 SIL), decreasing. No adult monolinguals. Ethnic population: 90,000 (2011 SIL). *Status*: 6b (Threatened).

Jirel [jul] *Users*: 4,830 (2011 census), decreasing. 4,970, all users. L2 users: 140 (2011 census). Ethnic population: 5,770 (2011 census). *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Jirel.

Tsum [ttz] *Users*: 4,790 (2000). *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Siyar.

Tibetan [bod] *Users*: 4,450 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. 5,140 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 690 (2011 census). *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,195,230 (as L1: 1,193,380; as L2: 1,850).

Ghale, Northern [ghh] *Users*: 4,440 (2011 census). 400 monolinguals. *Status*: 6b (Threatened).

Meche [brx] *Users*: 4,380 in Nepal (2011 census). No monolinguals. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Meche (Bodo). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,474,380.

Tamang, Eastern Gorkha [tge] *Users*: 3,980 (2000). Population for all Tamang varieties: 1,350,000 (2011 census). *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Tamang.

Raji [rji] *Users*: 3,760 (2011 census), decreasing. 3,814, all users. L2 users: 54 (2011 census). *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rajhi.

Chantyal [chx] *Users*: 3,730 (2011 census), decreasing. 4,020, all users. L2 users: 290 (2011 census). No monolinguals (Noonan 1996). Ethnic population: 9,000 (2011 census). *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Chhantyal.

Lohorung [lbr] *Users*: 3,720 (2011 census). 3,980, all users. L2 users: 260 (2011 census). *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai.

Chhintang [ctn] *Users*: 3,710 (2011 census), decreasing. 4,720, all users. L2 users: 1,010 (2011 census). No monolinguals. Ethnic population: 5,000. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai.

Bhujel [byh] *Users:* 3,600 (Regmi 2007), decreasing. 5,190, all users. L2 users: 1,590 (2011 census). No monolinguals. Ethnic population: 7,200 (Regmi 2007). *Status:* 8a (Moribund). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Bhujel.

Pahari [phj] *Users:* 3,500 (2011 census). Ethnic population: 13,600 (2011 census). *Status:* 7 (Shifting).

Walungge [ola] *Users:* 3,500 in Nepal (2019 SIL), decreasing. Mostly in original area. High language loss among those who have left the language area. Ethnic population: 4,000 (2019 SIL). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Walung, Thudam, Topkegola. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 4,500.

Mewahang, Western [raf] *Users:* 2,930 (2011 census), decreasing. 3,160, all users. L2 users: 230 (2011 census). Few monolinguals. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai.

Dumi [dus] *Users:* 2,500 (Rai 2017), decreasing. 3,520, all users. L2 users: 1,020 (2011 census). No monolinguals. Ethnic population: 7,640 (2011 census). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai.

Yamphu, Southern [lrr] *Users:* 2,500 (2011 SIL), decreasing. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai.

Tichurong [tcn] *Users:* 2,420 (2000). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Chhiling [cur] *Users:* 2,050 (2011 census), decreasing. L1 speakers dwindling (Van Driem 2007). 2,250, all users. L2 users: 200 (2011 census). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai.

English [eng] *Users:* 2,030 in Nepal (2011 census). 8,402,030 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 8,400,000 (2020). *Status:* 4 (Educational). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

Kaike [kzq] *Users:* 2,000 (2011 A. Regmi), decreasing. No monolinguals. Ethnic population: 2,000 (2011 A. Regmi). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Nubri [kte] *Users:* 2,000 (2001 census). 500 monolinguals. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Larke.

Jerung [jee] *Users:* 1,760 (2011 census). 5,380, all users. L2 users: 3,620 (2011 census). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai.

Mewahang, Eastern [emg] *Users:* 1,570 (2011 census), decreasing. Almost no monolinguals. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai.

Wayu [vay] *Users:* 1,520 (2011 census), decreasing. 1,565, all users. L2 users: 45 (2011 census). No monolinguals. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Hayu.

Mugali [lmh] *Users:* 1,500 (2010 I. Rai), decreasing. Very few monolinguals. *Status:* 8a

(Moribund). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai.

Syuba [syw] *Users:* 1,500 (2012 SIL). Very few monolinguals. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Sherpa.

Koyee [kkt] *Users:* 1,270 (2011 census). 1,470, all users. L2 users: 200 (2011 census). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai.

Yakkha, Chhathare [luu] *Users:* 1,200 (2000). *Status:* 6b (Threatened).

Kisan [sck] *Users:* 1,180 in Nepal (2011 census). 1,225 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 45 (2011 census). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Kisan.
Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 12,131,225 (as L1: 5,131,180; as L2: 7,000,045).

100 to 999

Kuke [ght] *Users:* 900 (2011 census). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Nar Phu [npa] *Users:* 800 (2021 J. Grimes). 200 in Phu village, 400 in Nar village, 200 in diaspora. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Naaba [nao] *Users:* 770 in Nepal (2006 IMB). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Sherpa.

Seke [skj] *Users:* 700 (2002 SIL). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Tangbe.

Belhariya [byw] *Users:* 600 (2011 census), decreasing. 612, all users. L2 users: 12 (2011 census). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai.

Saam [raq] *Users:* 530 (2011 census). 130 Lingkhim, 400 Saam (2011 census). *Status:* 8a (Moribund). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai.

Kyirong [kgy] *Users:* 500 in Nepal (2013 M. Hedlin). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 600.

Byangsi [bee] *Users:* 480 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. 550 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 70 (2011 census). No monolinguals (2002 UNESCO). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Byasi. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,380 (as L1: 3,310; as L2: 70).

Raute [rau] *Users:* 460 (2011 census), decreasing. 501, all users. L2 users: 41 (2011 census). All nomadic Raute are monolingual. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Raute.

Phangduwali [phw] *Users:* 290 (2011 census). *Status:* 7 (Shifting). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai.

Kharia [khr] *Users:* 240 in Nepal (2011 census). 256 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 16 (2011 census). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 298,256 (as L1: 298,240; as L2: 16).

Gyalsumdo [[gyo](#)] *Users:* 200 (Hildebrandt and Perry 2011). *Status:* 7 (Shifting).

Baram [[brd](#)] *Users:* 160 (2011 census), decreasing. 215, all users. L2 users: 55 (2011 census). *Status:* 8a (Moribund). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Baramou.

Chukwa [[cuw](#)] *Users:* 100 (2011 SIL), decreasing. Only 5 fluent speakers (2011). *Status:* 8b (Nearly extinct). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai.

10 to 99

Ghandruk Sign Language [[gds](#)] *Users:* 20 (2011 SIL). *Status:* 8b (Nearly extinct).

Tilung [[tij](#)] *Users:* 20 (2015 SIL), decreasing. *Status:* 7 (Shifting). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai.

1 to 9

Jumla Sign Language [[jus](#)] *Users:* 8 (2005 International Nepal Fellowship). 8 monolinguals. *Status:* 6b* (Threatened).

Kusunda [[kkg](#)] *Users:* 1 (2022 E. McDougall). Ethnic population: 270 (2011 census). *Status:* 8b (Nearly extinct). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Kusunda.

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Dura [[drq](#)] *Users:* No known L1 speakers (Schorer 2016). Last speaker survived into the 2000s. *Status:* 9 (Dormant). Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Dura.

Sanskrit [[san](#)] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Nepal. 3,000 in Nepal, all users. L2 users: 3,000 (2011 census). Ethnic population: No ethnic community. *Status:* 9 (Second language only). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,027,800 (as L1: 24,800; as L2: 5,003,000).

Unknown

Jhankot Sign Language [[jhs](#)] *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous).

Musasa [[smm](#)] *Status:* 6b* (Threatened).

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Nepal are listed in order of their status within the country as represented by their level on the EGIDs scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The language entries are reduced to just the information elements that are relevant to assessing the EGIDS level: population, status, language use, language development, and writing.

1 (National)

Nepali [npi] *Users:* 20,780,000 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 12,100,000 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. 143,000 Achhami, 67,600 Bajhangi, 10,700 Bajureli, 490 Dadeldhuri, 3,100 Dailekhi, 5,930 Darchuleli, and 11,800,000 Nepali (2011 census). L2 users: 8,680,000 (2011 census). *Status:* Statutory national language (1990, Interim Constitution, 2063, Article 5(2)). *Lg Use:* All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use Thulung [tdh], especially lower caste speakers in Mukli VDC. A few also use Kulung [kle], especially families from the tailor caste (Damai) and blacksmith caste (Kami) in Chheskam. Also use Bahing [bhj]. *Lg Dev:* Fully developed. Bible: 1914–2004. *Writing:* Braille script. Devanagari script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 25,587,570 (as L1: 16,903,270; as L2: 8,684,300).

3 (Wider communication)

Hindi [hin] *Users:* 1,307,600 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 77,600 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. L2 users: 1,230,000 (2011 census). *Lg Use:* Home, friends, religion, education; mixed use: Work. Used by all. Used as L2 by Angika [anp], Avadhi [awa], Bajjika [vjk], Bantawa [bap], Bhojpuri [bho], Byangsi [bee], Central Tharu [the], Dangaura Tharu [thl], Dhimal [dhi], Humla [hut], Hyolmo [scp], Jumli [jml], Kathariya Tharu [tkt], Maithili [mai], Marwari [rwr], Mugom-Karmarong [muk], Newar [new], Rajbanshi [rjs], Raji [rji], Rana Tharu [thr], Raute [rau], Southern Ghale [ghe]. *Writing:* Braille script. Devanagari script, primary usage. Latin script, recent informal usage, especially online on social media. Mahajani script, no longer in use, historic usage. Newa script, no longer in use, historic usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 609,454,770 (as L1: 344,650,870; as L2: 264,803,900).

Tibetan [bod] *Users:* 5,140 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 4,450 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. L2 users: 690 (2011 census). *Status:* Spoken as a trade language among Bodish groups in Nepal. *Lg Use:* Home, religion; mixed use: Friends, work, education. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Nepali [npi]. Also use Sherpa [xsr], especially speakers who move into Khumbu. Used as L2 by Dolpo [dre], Eastern Tamang [taj], Humla [hut], Hyolmo [scp], Kaike [kzq], Kuke [ght], Lhomi [lhm], Lhowa [loy], Mugom-Karmarong [muk], Nar Phu [npa], Newar [new], Nubri [kte], Nyeshangte [nmm], Sherpa [xsr], Tsum [ttz], Western Tamang [tdg]. *Writing:* Marchen script. Phags-pa script. Tibetan script, Uchen and Umed styles. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,195,230 (as L1: 1,193,380; as L2: 1,850).

4 (Educational)

Avadhi [awa] *Users:* 547,400 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 502,000 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. L2 users: 45,400 (2011 census). *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Kushwadiya. *Lg Use:* Strongly vital, vigorous. Home, friends. Mixed use: Religion, work, education. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Nepali [npi]. Used as L2 by Bhojpuri [bho]. *Writing:* Devanagari script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 4,397,400 (as L1: 4,352,000; as L2: 45,400).

Bhojpuri [bho] *Users:* 1,740,000 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 1,580,000 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. L2 users: 160,000 (2011 census). *Lg Use:* Home, friends, work; mixed use: Religion, education. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Awadhi [awa]. Also use Hindi [hin]. Literate in Hindi. Also use Maithili [mai]. Also use Nepali [npi]. Literate in Nepali. Used as L2 by Bajjika [vjk], Bote [bmj], Central Tharu [the], Eastern Tamang [taj], Kurux [kru], Maithili [mai]. *Writing:* Devanagari script. Kaithi script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 52,463,000 (as L1: 52,303,000; as L2: 160,000).

English [eng] *Users:* 8,402,030 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 2,030 in Nepal (2011 census). L2 users: 8,400,000 (2020). *Lg Use:* Used as L2 by Chukwa [cuw], Gurung [gvr], Hyolmo [scp], Maithili [mai], Mugom-Karmarong [muk], Newar [new], Nyeshangte [nmm], Sherpa [xsr], Southern Ghale [ghe]. *Writing:* Braille script. Deseret Alphabet, developed in 1854 with limited usage until 1877. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. Shavian (Shaw) script, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

Newar [new] *Users:* 879,600 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 847,000 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 32,600 (2011 census). Many women are monolingual. Ethnic population: 1,250,000. *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Newar. *Lg Use:* Language shift greater among Hindus than Buddhists. Home, religion; mixed use: Friends, work, education. Used by all. Also use Central Tibetan [bod]. Also use English [eng]. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1986–2015. *Writing:* Devanagari script, primary usage. Newa script, in common use during the Malla period and earlier, recent efforts to revive usage. Ranjana (Lantsa, Warty) script, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 893,600 (as L1: 861,000; as L2: 32,600).

Tamang, Eastern [taj] *Users:* 1,213,500 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 1,180,000 in Nepal (2001 census), increasing. Southwestern Tamang: 109,000 (1991 census). Population for all Tamang varieties: 1,350,000 (2011 census). L2 users: 33,500 (2011 census). In some remote communities, particularly women, children and elderly people are monolingual. *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Tamang. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Home, friends, religion; mixed use: Work, education. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Bhojpuri [bho]. Also use Central Tibetan [bod], in religious contexts. Also use Lhomi [lhm]. Also use Maithili [mai]. Also use Nepali [npi], especially those who have been to school or traveled and in

official contexts. Women, older adults, and children have limited proficiency. Used as L2 by Danuwar [dhw], Jirel [jul], Sunwar [suz]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2011. *Writing*: Devanagari script, primary usage. Tibetan script, Tamhig style. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,233,700 (as L1: 1,200,200; as L2: 33,500).

5 (Developing)

Bahing [bhj] *Users*: 15,250, all users. L1 users: 11,700 (2011 census). L2 users: 3,550 (2011 census). *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use*: Reportedly still used often by younger generation. Shift to Nepali [npi] relatively low (Winter and Hansson 1991); High vitality (Lee et al 2005). Home, friends, religion, work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use Nepali [npi] (Lee et al 2005). Used as L2 by Bantawa [bap], Nepali [npi], Thulung [tdh], Wambule [wme]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Periodicals. Radio. NT: 2016. *Writing*: Devanagari script.

Bajjika [vjk] *Users*: 793,000 in Nepal (2011 census). *Lg Use*: Home, friends. Used by all. Also use Bhojpuri [bho]. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Maithili [mai]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Writing*: Devanagari script. Kaithi script, used until the turn of the 20th century. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 12,293,000.

Dolpo [dre] *Users*: 8,000 (2010 K. Kopp). Ethnic population: 8,000 (2010 K. Kopp). *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Dolpo. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, friends, religion, work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Central Tibetan [bod]. Also use Lhowa [loy]. Also use Nepali [npi]. Used as L2 by Kaike [kzq]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Dictionary. *Writing*: Tibetan script.

Dotyali [dty] *Users*: 788,000 in Nepal (2011 census). *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Nepali. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2017. *Writing*: Devanagari script.

Kham, Western Parbate [kjl] *Users*: 69,000, all users. L1 users: 44,000 (2003 SIL), increasing. L2 users: 25,000 (2011). Ethnic population: 90,000 (2011 SIL). *Lg Use*: Vigorous in the villages in Rukum. Home, friends, religion, work. Used by all. Also use Nepali [npi], only when outside their homeland; young men are most proficient, older adult women least proficient in it, and most can discuss common topics in the language. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1985–2016. *Writing*: Devanagari script.

Lhomi [lhm] *Users*: 7,000 in Nepal (2014 SIL), increasing. Ethnic population: 15,000. *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Lhomi (Shingsawa). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, friends, religion; mixed use: Work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Central Tibetan [bod]. Also use Nepali [npi], especially educated people (fluently), women (increasingly), and 90% of men for trade. Used as L2 by Eastern Tamang [taj], Gurung [gvr], Khaling [klr], Naaba [nao]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Videos. Grammar. NT: 1995. *Writing*: Devanagari

script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 9,320.

Marwari [[rwr](#)] *Users*: 26,410 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 25,400 in Nepal (2011 census). L2 users: 1,010 (2011 census). *Lg Use*: Home, friends; mixed use: Religion, work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Hindi [[hin](#)]. Also use Nepali [[npi](#)]. *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 7,856,410 (as L1: 7,855,400; as L2: 1,010).

Mundari [[unr](#)] *Users*: 7,780 in Nepal (2006 IMB). *Lg Use*: Home; mixed use: Friends, religion, work, education. Used by all. Positive attitudes. *Writing*: Bengali (Bangla) script. Devanagari script, used in India. Latin script. Nag Mundari script. Oriya (Odia) script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,170,280.

Nepalese Sign Language [[nsp](#)] *Users*: 20,000 (2014 NFDH). Approximately 20,000 deaf signers, less than 0.1% of total population; estimated 300,000 total deaf (2014 NDFN). *Lg Use*: Has been used on the floor of the national legislature by a deaf member. All domains. Used by all. Some also use Nepali [[npi](#)], passively by those who have become literate, especially in urban areas. *Lg Dev*: Periodicals. TV. Videos. Dictionary.

Rajbanshi [[rjs](#)] *Users*: 168,300, all users. L1 users: 147,000 (2011 census), increasing. 2,080 Koche, 122,000 Rajbanshi, 18,800 Tajpuriya, 3,610 Gangai. L2 users: 21,300 (2011 census). *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rajbanshi (Koch). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, friends, religion, work; mixed use: Education. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Bengali [[ben](#)]. Also use Hindi [[hin](#)]. Also use Maithili [[mai](#)]. Also use Nepali [[npi](#)]. Used as L2 by Dhimal [[dhi](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2009. *Writing*: Devanagari script.

Tamang, Western [[tdg](#)] *Users*: 356,500, all users. L1 users: 323,000 (2000), increasing. Population for all Tamang varieties: 1,350,000 (2011 census). L2 users: 33,500 (2011 census). Mostly monolingual below school age or over 60 years of age. *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Tamang. *Lg Use*: Home, friends, religion; mixed use: Work, education. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Central Tibetan [[bod](#)], in religious contexts in the northwestern dialect. Also use Nepali [[npi](#)], especially younger people, as it is the medium of instruction in schools. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Texts. NT: 1990–2003. *Writing*: Devanagari script, primary usage. Tibetan script.

Tharu, Central [[the](#)] *Users*: 285,000 in Nepal (2001 census), increasing. Population for all Tharu varieties: 1,530,000 (2011 census). *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Tharu. *Lg Use*: Vigorous within the language community. Home, friends, religion; mixed use: Work, education. Used by all. Mixed attitudes, from neutral to negative. Also use Bhojपुरी [[bho](#)]. Also use Hindi [[hin](#)]. Also use Nepali [[npi](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. Videos. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 1977. *Writing*: Devanagari script.

Tharu, Dangaura [[thl](#)] *Users*: 500,000 in Nepal (2003), increasing. Population for all Tharu varieties: 1,530,000 (2011 census). 28,500 monolinguals. *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Tharu. *Lg Use*: High vitality but increasing Nepali [[npi](#)] loanwords. Home, friends, religion. Used by all. Also use Hindi [[hin](#)]. Also use Nepali [[npi](#)], especially

educated people, men, and young people, and to a lesser extent women and older people. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Periodicals. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2018. *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 674,000.

Tharu, Mid-Eastern [thq] *Users*: 258,000 in Nepal (2003), increasing. Population for all Tharu varieties: 1,530,000 (2011 census). Mostly illiterate older women are monolingual. *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Tharu, Dhanuk. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, friends, religion; mixed use: Work, education, religion. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Maithili [mai]. Also use Nepali [npi]. Used as L2 by Kurux [kru]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Texts. *Writing*: Devanagari script.

Tharu, Rana [thr] *Users*: 336,000 in Nepal (2006), increasing. Population for all Tharu varieties: 1,530,000 (2011 census). *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rana Tharu. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, friends, religion; mixed use: Work, education. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Periodicals. Radio. Videos. Texts. NT: 2017. *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 486,000.

Thulung [tdh] *Users*: 22,300 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 20,700 in Nepal (2011 census). Thulung communities also in Bhojpur and Sankhuwasabha districts, scattered in Udayapur, Morang, Panchthar, and Ilam districts. Migrants may not speak Thulung as L1. L2 users: 1,600 (2011 census). A few elderly monolinguals. *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use*: Language retention high compared to other Rai languages (Winter and Hansson 1991). Home, friends, religion. Used by all. Neutral attitudes. Also use Bahing [bhj]. Also use Nepali [npi], especially men, who tend to speak it with greater proficiency than women. Used as L2 by Khaling [klr], Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Texts. NT: 2017. *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 22,300 (as L1: 20,700; as L2: 1,600).

Wambule [wme] *Users*: 14,370, all users. L1 users: 13,500 (2011 census). L2 users: 870 (2011 census). A few elderly monolinguals. *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, friends, religion; mixed use: Work, education. Used by all. Also use Bahing [bhj]. Also use Jerung [jee]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Periodicals. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2019. *Writing*: Devanagari script.

5 (Dispersed)

Bengali [ben] *Users*: 23,980 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 21,100 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. L2 users: 2,880 (2011 census). *Lg Use*: Vigorous use if both parents are of Bengali origin. Home, friends; mixed use: Religion, work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Used as L2 by Maithili [mai], Meche [brx], Rajbanshi [rjs]. *Writing*: Bengali (Bangla) script, primary usage. Braille script. Newa script, no longer in use. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 272,828,760 (as L1: 233,808,880; as L2: 39,019,880).

Maithili [mai] *Users*: 3,285,000 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 3,090,000 in Nepal (2011 census),

increasing. L2 users: 195,000 (2011 census). *Lg Use*: Spoken by a wide variety of castes. Long literary tradition. A Maithili Academy in Patna, India. Maithili taught at L. N. Mithila University in Darbhanga, Patna University, India, and at Janakpur campus of Tribhuvan University, Nepal. Home, friends. Used by all. Most also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Bengali [ben]. Also use Bhojpuri [bho]. Also use English [eng]. Also use Nepali [npi]. Used as L2 by Angika [anp], Bajjika [vjk], Bhojpuri [bho], Eastern Tamang [taj], Kurux [kru], Mid-Eastern Tharu [thq], Rajbanshi [rjs], Santhali [sat]. *Writing*: Devanagari script, primary usage. Kaithi script, used until the turn of the 20th century. Newa script, no longer in use, historic usage. Tirhuta script, used until the turn of the 20th century. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 21,785,000 (as L1: 21,590,000; as L2: 195,000).

Santhali [sat] *Users*: 50,880 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 49,900 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. L2 users: 980 (2011 census). Very few monolinguals. *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Satar (Santhal). *Lg Use*: Migration, seasonal labor, illiteracy, lack of educational facilities are all threats to vitality. UNESCO). Home, friends, religion, work; mixed use: Education. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use Nepali [npi]. Also use Maithili [mai]. *Writing*: Bengali (Bangla) script. Devanagari script, used in Nepal. Latin script, used in Bangladesh. Ol Chiki (Ol Cemet', Ol, Santali) script. Oriya (Odia) script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 7,621,180 (as L1: 7,620,200; as L2: 980).

Urdu [urd] *Users*: 737,800 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 692,000 in Nepal (2011 census). L2 users: 45,800 (2011 census). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Braille script. Devanagari script, used in India (Ahmad 2011). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 231,717,940 (as L1: 70,555,140; as L2: 161,162,800).

6a (Vigorous)

Ghale, Southern [ghe] *Users*: 18,000 (2016 SIL). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, religion; mixed use: Friends, work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: NT: 1992. *Writing*: Devanagari script.

Humla [hut] *Users*: 5,000 (2014 SIL). 36% of the Limi dialect are monolingual. Ethnic population: 5,000 (2014 SIL). *Lg Use*: Home, friends, religion, work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. A few also use Central Tibetan [bod]. A few also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Nepali [npi], mostly for trade. *Lg Dev*: Texts. *Writing*: Unwritten.

Jhankot Sign Language [jhs] *Lg Use*: Reportedly used by deaf and hearing alike throughout the village.

Jumli [jml] *Users*: 40,000 (2001 SIL). *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Nepali. *Lg Use*: Home, friends, religion, work. Used by all. Mixed attitudes. Some embarrassed by their own speech when speaking to standard Nepali [npi] speakers. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. Dictionary. *Writing*: Devanagari script.

Kaike [kzq] *Users*: 2,000 (2011 A. Regmi), decreasing. No monolinguals. Ethnic population:

2,000 (2011 A. Regmi). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, friends, religion, work; mixed use: Education. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Central Tibetan [bod], especially for trade and commerce with the Dolpo. Also use Dolpo [dre]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *Writing*: Unwritten.

Kham, Gamal [kgj] *Users*: 10,000, all users. L1 users: 7,000 (2011 SIL), increasing. L2 users: 3,000 (2011 Name change). Ethnic population: 90,000 (2011 SIL). *Lg Use*: Vigorous in the villages. Home, friends, work; mixed use: Religion. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Nepali [npi], especially the younger generation. *Writing*: Devanagari script.

Kisan [sck] *Users*: 1,225 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 1,180 in Nepal (2011 census). L2 users: 45 (2011 census). *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Kisan. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Kurux [kru]. *Writing*: Bengali (Bangla) script. Devanagari script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 12,131,225 (as L1: 5,131,180; as L2: 7,000,045).

Koyee [kkt] *Users*: 1,470, all users. L1 users: 1,270 (2011 census). L2 users: 200 (2011 census). *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use*: Home, friends, religion; mixed use: Work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Periodicals. Grammar. *Writing*: Devanagari script.

Kuke [ght] *Users*: 900 (2011 census). *Lg Use*: Some Tibetan religious books translated into Kuke by priests. Home, friends; mixed use: Work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use Nubri [kte]. Also use Central Tibetan [bod]. Also use Nepali [npi], to communicate with Northern and Southern Ghale speakers, but with minimal proficiency in Bihi village. *Writing*: Unwritten.

Kurux [kru] *Users*: 34,390 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 33,700 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 690 (2011 census). No monolinguals (2002 UNESCO). Ethnic population: 37,400 (2011 census). *Lg Use*: Number of speakers is decreasing due to urbanization and overall population decrease (Shackelford 2020). Home, religion. Mixed use: Friends, work, education. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Bhojpuri [bho] (Shackelford 2020). Also use Maithili [mai] (Shackelford 2020). Also use Mid-Eastern Tharu [thq] (Shackelford 2020). Also use Nepali [npi] (Shackelford 2020). Also use Sadri [sck] (Shackelford 2020). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,084,390 (as L1: 2,083,700; as L2: 690).

Kyirong [kgy] *Users*: 500 in Nepal (2013 M. Hedlin). *Lg Use*: Used by all. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 600.

Lhowa [loy] *Users*: 7,500 (2011). 5,000 Upper Mustang and 2,500 Baragaunle. *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Bahragaunle, Lhopa. *Lg Use*: Some youth totally educated outside language area and may not be able to speak Lhowa. Tibetan [bod] is used in religious domain. Home, friends. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Central Tibetan [bod]. Also use Nepali [npi]. Used as L2 by Dolpo [dre], Seke [skj]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing*: Devanagari script. Tibetan script.

Magahi [mag] *Users*: 46,400 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 35,600 in Nepal (2011 census). L2

users: 10,800 (2011 census). *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 20,746,400 (as L1: 20,735,600; as L2: 10,800).

Mugom-Karmarong [muk] *Users*: 7,000 in Nepal (2011). census. 1,630 monolinguals (2002 UNESCO). Ethnic population: 7,000 (2011). *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Mugali. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, friends; mixed use: Religion, work, education. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Some also use English [eng], especially children. Some also use Hindi [hin], especially men. Also use Central Tibetan [bod]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. *Writing*: Tibetan script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 7,500.

Naaba [nao] *Users*: 770 in Nepal (2006 IMB). *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Sherpa. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use Lhomi [lhm], especially inhabitants of Pharang and Dangok. *Writing*: Unwritten.

Nar Phu [npa] *Users*: 800 (2021 J. Grimes). 200 in Phu village, 400 in Nar village, 200 in diaspora. *Lg Use*: If work is locally oriented, then Nar-Phu used; Tibetan [bod] is the liturgical language, but one can hear Nar-Phu in certain contexts during religious festivals. Used by all. Many also use Central Tibetan [bod], especially men. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Texts. *Writing*: Unwritten.

Nubri [kte] *Users*: 2,000 (2001 census). 500 monolinguals. *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Larke. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Most domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Central Tibetan [bod]. Speakers have minimal proficiency in Tibetan. Also use Nepali [npi]. Minimal proficiency in Nepali, which is used with outsiders. Used as L2 by Kuke [ght]. *Writing*: Unwritten.

Seke [skj] *Users*: 700 (2002 SIL). *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Tangbe. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use Lhowa [loy]. Also use Nepali [npi], with the Gurung people. *Writing*: Unwritten.

Tamang, Eastern Gorkha [tge] *Users*: 3,980 (2000). Population for all Tamang varieties: 1,350,000 (2011 census). *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Tamang. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Writing*: Unwritten.

Tharu, Kathariya [tkk] *Users*: 106,000 in Nepal (2006). Population for all Tharu varieties: 1,530,000 (2011 census). *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Tharu. *Lg Use*: Some shifting to Hindi [hin]. Used by all. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Texts. *Writing*: Devanagari script.

Tichurong [tcn] *Users*: 2,420 (2000). *Lg Use*: Used by all. *Writing*: Unwritten.

Tsum [ttz] *Users*: 4,790 (2000). *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Siyar. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, friends. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Some also use Nepali [npi], as language of education and with those who do not understand Tsum. Also use Central Tibetan [bod], in religious domain. *Writing*: Unwritten.

6b (Threatened)

Angika [anp] *Users:* 20,330 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 18,600 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 1,730 (2011 census). *Lg Use:* Some young people, all adults. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Maithili [mai]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Writing:* Devanagari script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 745,330 (as L1: 743,600; as L2: 1,730).

Athpariya [aph] *Users:* 5,530 (2011 census), decreasing. *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use:* Home, religion; mixed use: Friends. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Also use Nepali [npi], with some youth using it as an L1. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing:* Devanagari script, used since 2011.

Bantawa [bap] *Users:* 161,500 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 133,000 in Nepal (2011 census). L2 users: 28,500 (2011 census). 6,000 monolinguals. *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. Some varieties are used as traditional lingua franca among Rai minorities in eastern Nepal, Sikkim, India, and Bhutan, and as L1 among Rai of other origin. (Bradley 1996). *Lg Use:* Some shift to Nepali [npi] evident, especially among northern dialect speakers (2003 SIL). Home, religion; mixed use: Friends, work. Some of all ages. Positive attitudes. Most also use Nepali [npi]. Also use Bahing [bhj]. Also use Hindi [hin], especially among ex-soldiers. Used as L2 by Chhiling [cur], Chhintang [ctn], Dungmali [raa], Puma [pum]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2020. *Writing:* Devanagari script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 195,100 (as L1: 166,600; as L2: 28,500).

Belhariya [byw] *Users:* 612, all users. L1 users: 600 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 12 (2011 census). *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use:* Many parents only use Nepali [npi] with their children, citing advantages for economic and social success. Religion; mixed use: Home, friends, work. Some young people, all adults. Adults and elderly. Some use among children and adolescents. Negative attitudes. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. *Writing:* Devanagari script, recently developed.

Bote [bmj] *Users:* 9,150, all users. L1 users: 8,770 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 380 (2011 census). No monolinguals (2002 UNESCO). *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Bote. *Lg Use:* Use is mostly local. Rapid shift to Nepali [npi] (Van Driem 2007). Mixed use: Home, friends, religion, work. Some young people, all adults. Elderly. Some use among children, adolescents, younger and older adults. Positive attitudes, with growing language activism. Also use Bhojpur [bho]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev:* Newspapers. *Writing:* Devanagari script, recently developed.

Byangsi [bee] *Users:* 550 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 480 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 70 (2011 census). No monolinguals (2002 UNESCO). *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Byasi. *Lg Use:* Home, friends. Some young people, all adults. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Kumaoni [kfy]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Writing:* Devanagari script, recently developed. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,380 (as L1:

3,310; as L2: 70).

- Chamling** [rab] *Users:* 83,200 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 76,800 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 6,400 (2011 census). Very few monolinguals. *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use:* Home, religion; mixed use: friends, work. Some young people, all adults. Used as L2 by Puma [pum]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Periodicals. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2015. *Writing:* Devanagari script, recently developed. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 83,200 (as L1: 76,800; as L2: 6,400).
- Chantyal** [chx] *Users:* 4,020, all users. L1 users: 3,730 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 290 (2011 census). No monolinguals (Noonan 1996). Ethnic population: 9,000 (2011 census). *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Chhantyal. *Lg Use:* Home, villages (Noonan 1996). Not used for singing. Some young people, all adults. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Texts. *Writing:* Devanagari script, recently developed.
- Chepang** [cdm] *Users:* 49,640, all users. L1 users: 48,500 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 1,140 (2011 census). No monolinguals. *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Chepang. *Lg Use:* Home; mixed use: Friends, religion, work. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Also use Nepali [npi], especially men for common topics and political affairs, women for greetings and trade, and young people among themselves; often learned in school. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Newspapers. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1993. *Writing:* Devanagari script.
- Chhiling** [cur] *Users:* 2,250, all users. L1 users: 2,050 (2011 census), decreasing. L1 speakers dwindling (Van Driem 2007). L2 users: 200 (2011 census). *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use:* Home; mixed use: Friends, religion, work. Some young people, all adults. Also use Bantawa [bap]. *Writing:* Unwritten.
- Chhintang** [ctn] *Users:* 4,720, all users. L1 users: 3,710 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 1,010 (2011 census). No monolinguals. Ethnic population: 5,000. *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use:* Home, religion, work; mixed use: Friends. Some young people, all adults. Neutral attitudes. Most also use Nepali [nep]. Most also use Bantawa [bap]. *Lg Dev:* Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing:* Devanagari script, recently developed.
- Danuwar** [dhw] *Users:* 48,650, all users. L1 users: 45,800 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 2,850 (2011 census). No monolinguals (Toba et al 2005). *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Danuwar. *Lg Use:* Rapidly assimilating to Nepali [npi] (Van Driem 2007). Home, religion; mixed use: Friends, work. Some young people, all adults. Neutral attitudes. Also use Eastern Tamang [taj], especially at work and with friends in Kabhre district. Also use Nepali [npi], especially at work and with friends in Kabhre district. *Lg Dev:* Radio. Dictionary. *Writing:* Devanagari script.
- Darai** [dry] *Users:* 12,050, all users. L1 users: 11,700 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 350 (2011 census). Very few monolinguals. *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Darai. *Lg Use:* Rapidly assimilating to Nepali [npi] (Van Driem 2007). Home; mixed use:

Friends, religion, work. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Most also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing*: Devanagari script, used since 2014.

Dewas Rai [dwz] *Users*: 10,300, all users. L1 users: 10,000 (2017 SIL). L2 users: 300 (2018 SIL). No monolinguals (2018 SIL). Ethnic population: 30,000 (2018 SIL). *Lg Use*: Use decreasing among children in some areas (2017 SIL). Home, friends; Mixed use: work, religion, community. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Most also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Bible portions: 1976. *Writing*: Devanagari script.

Dhimal [dhi] *Users*: 20,430 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 19,300 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 1,130 (2011 census). *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Dhimal. *Lg Use*: Home, friends, religion; mixed use: Work. Some young people, all adults. Adolescents and older. Some use among children. Positive attitudes. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Nepali [npi]. Also use Rajbanshi [rjs]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Periodicals. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2017. *Writing*: Devanagari script, used since 1999. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 20,880 (as L1: 19,750; as L2: 1,130).

Dumi [dus] *Users*: 3,520, all users. L1 users: 2,500 (Rai 2017), decreasing. L2 users: 1,020 (2011 census). No monolinguals. Ethnic population: 7,640 (2011 census). *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use*: Pressure to shift to Nepali [npi] in education and communication with outsiders is strong. Few parents teach Dumi to their children or encourage their children to use their language. Home, religion. Mixed use: Friends, work. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Most also use Nepali [npi], and neighboring local languages. *Lg Dev*: Periodicals. Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing*: Devanagari script.

Dungmali [raa] *Users*: 6,470, all users. L1 users: 6,260 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 210 (2011 census). 150 monolinguals. Ethnic population: 10,000. *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use*: Home, religion. Mixed use: Friends, work. Some young people, all adults. Also use Bantawa [bap]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Dictionary. *Writing*: Devanagari script.

Ghale, Northern [ghh] *Users*: 4,440 (2011 census). 400 monolinguals. *Lg Use*: Home, friends, religion, work. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Also use Nepali [npi], but speakers in Philim, Lho, and Bihi have no more than basic bilingual proficiency. *Writing*: Unwritten.

Gurung [gvr] *Users*: 348,800 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 326,000 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. L2 users: 22,800 (2011 census). 12,000 monolinguals. *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Gurung. *Lg Use*: Children and young people use Gurung less frequently than those who are older. Passed down only a little from generation to generation (2002 UNESCO). Gurung children are learning Nepali before they enter school and formal education is conducted in Nepali (2015 SIL). Home; mixed use: Friends, religion, work, education. Some young people, all adults. The language is decreasingly being passed on to children, and Nepali usage among even very young children is increasing (2015 SIL).

Positive attitudes. All also use Nepali [npi]. Also use English [eng], especially by high school graduates. Also use Lhomi [lhm]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1982. *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 396,800 (as L1: 374,000; as L2: 22,800).

- HyoImo** [scp] *Users*: 10,680, all users. L1 users: 10,200 (2011 census). L2 users: 480 (2011 census). Very few monolinguals. *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Hyolmo. *Lg Use*: Home; mixed use: Friends, religion, work. Some young people, all adults. Also use Central Tibetan [bod]. Also use English [eng]. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Nepali [npi], viewing it as useful. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2000. *Writing*: Devanagari script.
- Jerung** [jee] *Users*: 5,380, all users. L1 users: 1,760 (2011 census). L2 users: 3,620 (2011 census). *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use*: Home, friends, religion; mixed use: Work, education. Some young people, all adults. Also use Nepali [npi]. Used as L2 by Wambule [wme]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Periodicals. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing*: Devanagari script.
- Jirel** [jul] *Users*: 4,970, all users. L1 users: 4,830 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 140 (2011 census). Ethnic population: 5,770 (2011 census). *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Jirel. *Lg Use*: Home, friends. Some young people, all adults. Also use Eastern Tamang [taj]. Also use Nepali [npi]. Also use Sherpa [xsr]. Also use Sunwar [suz]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Dictionary. Texts. NT: 1992. *Writing*: Devanagari script.
- Jumla Sign Language** [jus] *Users*: 8 (2005 International Nepal Fellowship). 8 monolinguals.
- Kewat** [kyv] *Users*: 22,000 (2002). *Writing*: Unwritten.
- Khaling** [klr] *Users*: 15,670 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 14,500 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 1,170 (2011 census). No monolinguals. Ethnic population: 20,000. *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use*: Home, religion; mixed use: Friends, work. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Most also use Nepali [npi], but older women are less bilingual and may comprehend it minimally. Also use Kulung [kle] (Jacques et al 2012). Also use Lhomi [lhm]. Also use Nachiring [ncd] (Jacques et al 2012). Also use Sherpa [xsr] (Jacques et al 2012). Also use Thulung [tdh] (Jacques et al 2012). *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Texts. Bible: 2011. *Writing*: Devanagari script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 18,040 (as L1: 16,870; as L2: 1,170).
- Kham, Eastern Parbate** [kif] *Users*: 5,000 (2011 SIL), decreasing. No adult monolinguals. Ethnic population: 90,000 (2011 SIL). *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. Young adults and older. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Writing*: Unwritten.
- Kham, Sheshi** [kip] *Users*: 15,000 (2011 SIL), decreasing. Ethnic population: 90,000 (2011 SIL). *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. All also use Nepali [npi]. *Writing*: Devanagari script.
- Kharia** [khr] *Users*: 256 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 240 in Nepal (2011 census). L2 users: 16 (2011 census). *Writing*: Devanagari script. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries:

298,256 (as L1: 298,240; as L2: 16).

Kulung [kle] *Users:* 34,590 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 33,200 in Nepal (2011 census). L2 users: 1,390 (2011 census). *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use:* Home, friends, religion. Some young people, all adults. Also use Nepali [npi], which almost all can understand at a basic level. Used as L2 by Eastern Mewahang [emg], Khaling [klr], Nepali [npi], Western Mewahang [raf]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Periodicals. Grammar. NT: 2016. *Writing:* Devanagari script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 34,590 (as L1: 33,200; as L2: 1,390).

Kumal [kra] *Users:* 13,610, all users. L1 users: 12,200 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 1,410 (2011 census). No monolinguals. *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Kumal. *Lg Use:* Religion; mixed use: Home, friends, work. Some of all ages. Positive attitudes, though not always reflected in their language choices. All also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev:* Newspapers. Periodicals. Videos. Dictionary. *Writing:* Devanagari script.

Limbu [lif] *Users:* 366,200 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 344,000 in Nepal (2011 census), increasing. L2 users: 22,200 (2011 census). Relatively few monolinguals. Ethnic population: 387,000 (2011 census). *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Limbu. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Limbu is not replaced in any domain, though children now speak more Nepali than Limbu (UNESCO 2002). A main group in eastern Nepal. Home, religion; mixed use: friends, work, education. Some young people, all adults, especially older adults and elderly. Some use among children, adolescents, and young adults. Positive attitudes. Panthare dialect is dominant in size, prestige, and language development. People prefer their own dialect, but are not negative toward others. Many also use Nepali [npi], especially among youth and educated. Some also use Yakkha [ybh], especially women due to intermarriage. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2009. *Writing:* Devanagari script, primary usage. Limbu (Kiranti, Sirijonga) script, dating from early 18th century. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 429,400 (as L1: 407,200; as L2: 22,200).

Lohorung [lbr] *Users:* 3,980, all users. L1 users: 3,720 (2011 census). L2 users: 260 (2011 census). *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use:* Lohorung is an endangered language, picking up Nepali [npi] influences (2002 T. P. Neupane). Home, religion; mixed use: Friends, work. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Most also use Nepali [npi], at least to some degree. Used as L2 by Eastern Mewahang [emg], Western Mewahang [raf]. *Lg Dev:* Radio. Dictionary. *Writing:* Devanagari script, used since 2011.

Magar, Eastern [mgp] *Users:* 462,000 in Nepal (2001 census), decreasing. 789,000 all Magar in Nepal (2011 census). The identification of Magars is complicated by the fact that a number of other ethnic groups (Chantyal, Kham, Kaike, Kusunda, Raute, Raji) have claimed to be Magars to outsiders. Isolated enclaves of monolinguals are found in Nawalparasi and southern Tanahu districts. *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Magar. *Lg Use:* Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Dictionary. Texts. NT: 1991. *Writing:* Brahmi script. Devanagari script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 541,200.

Magar, Western [mrd] *Users:* 308,000 (2001 census), decreasing. 789,000 all Magar in Nepal (2011 census). Census statistics likely include non-ethnic Magars and many that do not speak Magar. *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Magar. *Lg Use:* Mixed use: Home, friends, work. Some young people, all adults. Elderly. Some use among children, adolescents, young and older adults. Mixed attitudes. Rhetoric is positive but language conservation is generally not implemented. Most also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing:* Devanagari script.

Majhi [mjz] *Users:* 25,720 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 24,400 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 1,320 (2011 census). Ethnic population: 83,200 (2011 census). *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Majhi. *Lg Use:* Being replaced by Nepali [npi] (UNESCO). Religion. All also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev:* Radio. *Writing:* Devanagari script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 25,720 (as L1: 24,400; as L2: 1,320).

Meche [brx] *Users:* 4,380 in Nepal (2011 census). No monolinguals. *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Meche (Bodo). *Lg Use:* Also use Bengali [ben]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Writing:* Bengali (Bangla) script. Devanagari script. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,474,380.

Mewahang, Eastern [emg] *Users:* 1,570 (2011 census), decreasing. Almost no monolinguals. *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use:* Home, religion; mixed use: Friends, work. Some young people, all adults. Also use Kulung [kle]. Also use Lohorong [lbr]. Also use Nepali [npi], with some youth shifting. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Dictionary. Texts. *Writing:* Devanagari script.

Mewahang, Western [raf] *Users:* 3,160, all users. L1 users: 2,930 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 230 (2011 census). Few monolinguals. *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use:* The language is nearly extinct in the village of Tamku, the largest settlement in the area, where many ex-Gurkha pensioners live. Home; mixed use: Friends, religion, work. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Also use Kulung [kle]. Also use Lohorong [lbr]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Dictionary. Texts. *Writing:* Devanagari script.

Musasa [smm] *Lg Use:* Also use Nepali [npi], with high proficiency. *Writing:* Unwritten.

Nachiring [ncd] *Users:* 10,730, all users. L1 users: 10,000 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 730 (2011 census). *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use:* Degree of Nepalization is very high. Language retention among the younger generation appears to be limited to Bakachol, Rakha, and Bangdel VDCs (Hansson 1991:73; 2011 J. Rai). Religion; mixed use: Home. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Most also use Nepali [npi]. Used as L2 by Khaling [klr]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. *Writing:* Devanagari script.

Nyeshangte [nmm] *Users:* 12,000 (2021), decreasing. Ethnic population: 15,000 (2021). *Lg Use:* Fairly strong vitality. Some community involvement in language and culture preservation activities both in home area and in Kathmandu. Mixed use: Home, friends, work. Some young

people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Also use Central Tibetan [bod], especially in religious domains. Also use English [eng], especially in local government schools. Also use Nepali [npi], especially for business and in local government schools. *Lg Dev*: TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing*: Devanagari script. Tibetan script.

Puma [pum] *Users*: 7,010, all users. L1 users: 6,690 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 320 (2011 census). *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use*: Home, religion, work; mixed use: Friends. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes, especially among younger generation. Also use Bantawa [bap]. Also use Chamling [rab]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Periodicals. Videos. Dictionary. Texts. *Writing*: Devanagari script.

Raji [rji] *Users*: 3,814, all users. L1 users: 3,760 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 54 (2011 census). *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rajhi. *Lg Use*: In one village in Kailali District, Khailad VDC, speakers under 6 years of age and over 60 years old are monolingual. Religion; mixed use: Home, friends, work. Some young people, all adults. Negative attitudes. Also use Hindi [hin]. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Dictionary. Texts. *Writing*: Devanagari script.

Raute [rau] *Users*: 501, all users. L1 users: 460 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 41 (2011 census). All nomadic Raute are monolingual. *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Raute. *Lg Use*: Home, friends, religion, work. Some young people, all adults. Used mostly by younger children, older adults, and elderly. Some use among adolescents and young adults. Some also use Hindi [hin], especially youth. Some also use Nepali [npi], especially settled Raute, youth. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Texts. *Writing*: Unwritten.

Sampang [rav] *Users*: 20,300, all users. L1 users: 18,300 (2011 census), decreasing. Phali dialect spoken by a few elderly speakers. L2 users: 2,000 (2011 census). No monolinguals. *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use*: Mixed use: Home, friends, religion, work. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Also use Nepali [npi], with some shifting, especially men, educated, and younger people. Valued as a language of education. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Dictionary. NT: 2008. *Writing*: Devanagari script.

Sherpa [xsr] *Users*: 153,180 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 145,000 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 8,180 (2011 census). A few elderly monolinguals in remote villages (UNESCO). *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Sherpa. *Lg Use*: In villages vigorous but not in urban areas where there is some shift towards Nepali [npi]. Mixed use: Home, friends, religion, work, education. Some young people, all adults. Older adults and elderly. Some use among children, adolescents, and young adults. Positive attitudes. In schools children are teased if they use Sherpa. In Kathmandu parents use Nepali [npi] with school-age children. Also use Central Tibetan [bod]. Also use English [eng]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Korean [kor]. Also use Nepali [npi]. Also use Standard German [deu]. Used as L2 by Jirel [jul], Khaling [klr], Tibetan [bod]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. Texts. NT: 2014. *Writing*: Devanagari script. Tibetan script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 170,180 (as L1: 162,000; as L2: 8,180).

Sonha [soi] *Users:* 20,000 (2020 UBS), decreasing. No monolinguals. *Lg Use:* Home; mixed use: Friends, religion, work. Some young people, all adults. *Writing:* Unwritten.

Sunwar [suz] *Users:* 39,760, all users. L1 users: 38,200 (2011 census). 37,900 Sunwar, 290 Surel (2011 census). L2 users: 1,560 (2011 census). Very few monolinguals. *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Surel, Sunuwar. *Lg Use:* Mixed use: Home, friends, religion, work. Some young people, all adults. Adolescents and older. Some use among children. Language is passed down to children only in village areas (Toba et al 2002). Positive attitudes. Also use Bhujel [byh]. Also use Eastern Tamang [taj]. Also use Nepali [npi], especially young people for trade and official purposes, but with low proficiency. Used as L2 by Jirel [jul]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2011. *Writing:* Devanagari script. Sunuwar script.

Syuba [syw] *Users:* 1,500 (2012 SIL). Very few monolinguals. *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Sherpa. *Lg Use:* Home, friends; mixed use: Religion, work. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Some also use Nepali [npi], at home. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Texts. Bible portions: 1977. *Writing:* Devanagari script.

Thangmi [thf] *Users:* 23,580 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 23,200 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 380 (2011 census). 100 monolinguals (2002 UNESCO). Ethnic population: 35,000 (Turin 2007). 28,700 (2011 census). *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Thami. *Lg Use:* Ethnic Thangmi outside Dolakha and Sindhupalchok no longer speak Thangmi. Religion; mixed use: Home, friends. Some young people, all adults. Mixed attitudes. Negative attitudes, but changing to more neutral and positive. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2019. *Writing:* Devanagari script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 24,380 (as L1: 24,000; as L2: 380).

Walungge [ola] *Users:* 3,500 in Nepal (2019 SIL), decreasing. Mostly in original area. High language loss among those who have left the language area. Ethnic population: 4,000 (2019 SIL). *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Walung, Thudam, Topkegola. *Lg Use:* Many school age children are shifting to Nepali [npi] when they are educated outside their homeland. There is widespread growing bilingualism, but it may not be a stable Diglossia (2019 SIL). Home, Community, and Religion. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Also use Nepali [npi]. *Writing:* Tibetan script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 4,500.

Wayu [vay] *Users:* 1,565, all users. L1 users: 1,520 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 45 (2011 census). No monolinguals. *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Hayu. *Lg Use:* Ethnic Wayu live on the hills on both sides of the Sun Kosi River but the language is only spoken in the villages listed. In 1995 many children in Mudajor were not learning Wayu but the language was alive and well in Manedihi (2002 UNESCO). A growing interest in language preservation. Religion; mixed use: Home, friends. Some young people, all adults. Negative attitudes. Many feel the language is an obstacle to progress, but a minority would like to keep speaking it. All also use Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. Texts. *Writing:* Devanagari script.

Yakkha [ybh] *Users:* 21,090 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 19,600 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 1,490 (2011 census). Very few monolinguals. *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Yakkha. *Lg Use:* Home, friends, religion; mixed use: Work, education. Some young people, all adults. Children and elderly. Some use among adolescents, young and older adults (Toba et al 2005). Also use Nepali [npi]. Used as L2 by Limbu [lif]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing:* Devanagari script, used since 2011. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 21,900 (as L1: 20,410; as L2: 1,490).

Yakkha, Chhathare [luu] *Users:* 1,200 (2000). *Lg Use:* Language retained among some youth (Hansson 1991). Home. Some young people, all adults. *Writing:* Unwritten.

Yamphu [ybi] *Users:* 9,540, all users. L1 users: 9,210 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 330 (2011 census). *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use:* Language passed on to children but being steadily replaced by Nepali [npi] (Toba et al 2005). Religion. Some young people, all adults. Also use Nepali [npi], bilingually. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 2015–2017. *Writing:* Devanagari script, used since 2011.

Yamphu, Southern [lrr] *Users:* 2,500 (2011 SIL), decreasing. *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use:* Home, religion, work; mixed use: Friends. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. *Writing:* Unwritten.

7 (Shifting)

Gyalsumdo [gyo] *Users:* 200 (Hildebrandt and Perry 2011). *Lg Use:* Shifting to Nepali [npi].

Pahari [phj] *Users:* 3,500 (2011 census). Ethnic population: 13,600 (2011 census). *Lg Use:* Home, community. Adults only. Children no longer speak it. All shifting to Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. *Writing:* Unwritten.

Phangduwali [phw] *Users:* 290 (2011 census). *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use:* Shifting to Nepali [nep]. *Writing:* Unwritten.

Tilung [tij] *Users:* 20 (2015 SIL), decreasing. *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use:* Mixed use: Religion. Adults only, but mostly elderly. Shifting to Nepali [npi]. *Writing:* Devanagari script, used since 2014.

8a (Moribund)

Baram [brd] *Users:* 215, all users. L1 users: 160 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 55 (2011 census). *Status:* Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Baramou. *Lg Use:* Home, religion; mixed use: Friends, work. Older adults only. Positive attitudes. Shifted to Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev:* Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing:* Devanagari script, recently developed.

Bhujel [byh] *Users:* 5,190, all users. L1 users: 3,600 (Regmi 2007), decreasing. L2 users: 1,590 (2011 census). No monolinguals. Ethnic population: 7,200 (Regmi 2007). *Status:* Language of

recognized indigenous nationality: Bhujel. *Lg Use*: Home; mixed use: Work, education. Older adults only. Positive attitudes. Shifted to Nepali [npi] (Van Driem 2007). Used as L2 by Sunwar [suz]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *Writing*: Devanagari script, recently developed.

Lapcha [lep] *Users*: 7,730 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: 7,500 in Nepal (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 230 (2011 census). No monolinguals. *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Lepcha. *Lg Use*: Many youth speak Nepali [npi] as L1 and do not speak Lepcha. Older adults only. Shifted to Nepali [npi]. *Writing*: Lepcha (Róng) script. Tibetan script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 57,930 (as L1: 57,700; as L2: 230).

Mugali [lmh] *Users*: 1,500 (2010 I. Rai), decreasing. Very few monolinguals. *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use*: Older adults only. Shifted to Nepali [npi]. *Writing*: Unwritten.

Saam [raq] *Users*: 530 (2011 census). 130 Lingkhim, 400 Saam (2011 census). *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use*: Older adults only. Shifted to Nepali [npi]. *Writing*: Unwritten.

Thakali [ths] *Users*: 6,000, all users. L1 users: 5,240 (2011 census), decreasing. L2 users: 760 (2011 census). *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Thakali, Chhairotan, Marphali Thakali, Tieंगाule Thakali. *Lg Use*: Religion; mixed use: Home, Community. Older adults only. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing*: Devanagari script.

8b (Nearly extinct)

Chukwa [cuw] *Users*: 100 (2011 SIL), decreasing. Only 5 fluent speakers (2011). *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Rai. *Lg Use*: Religion; mixed use: Home. Elderly only. Many shifted to English [eng]. Many shifted to Nepali [npi]. *Writing*: Unwritten.

Ghandruk Sign Language [gds] *Users*: 20 (2011 SIL). *Lg Use*: All domains.

Kusunda [kgg] *Users*: 1 (2022 E. McDougall). Ethnic population: 270 (2011 census). *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Kusunda. *Lg Use*: Elderly only. Positive attitudes. Shifted to Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing*: Unwritten.

9 (Dormant)

Dura [drq] *Users*: No known L1 speakers (Schorer 2016). Last speaker survived into the 2000s. *Status*: Language of recognized indigenous nationality: Dura. *Lg Use*: Shifted to Nepali [npi]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. *Writing*: Unwritten.

9 (Second language only)

Sanskrit [san] *Users*: 3,000 in Nepal, all users. L1 users: No known L1 speakers in Nepal. L2 users: 3,000 (2011 census). Ethnic population: No ethnic community. *Lg Use*: Religion,

education; mixed use: Home, friends, work. Positive attitudes. *Writing*: Devanagari script. Grantha script. Kawi script. Myanmar (Burmese) script. Newa script. Sharada script. Siddham script, no longer in use. Sinhala script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,027,800 (as L1: 24,800; as L2: 5,003,000).

Languages by Province

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the top-level administrative subdivisions within Nepal. Under the name of each province is a list of the language communities that are located within its area.

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 Kuke [ght], 31
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 Lhowa [loy], 34
 Magar, Western [mrd], 36
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 Nubri [kte], 43
 Nyeshangte [nmm], 44
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 Tamang, Eastern Gorkha [tge], 51
 Thakali [ths], 52
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 Tharu, Central [the], 53
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Saam [raq], 47

Sampang [rav], 47

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Languages by Indigenous Nationality

The government of Nepal officially recognizes 59 indigenous nationalities, or ‘Adibasi Janajatis’ as they are called in Nepali. They are enumerated in the 2002 legislation that created the National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities, Act 20, Section 2a. Furthermore, the Interim Constitution of 2007 states in Article 5 that all languages spoken as mother tongues in Nepal are considered national languages. This index gives an alphabetical listing of the indigenous nationalities that are recognized by the government of Nepal. Under each is listed the languages that are associated with that indigenous nationality.

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Languages by Family

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the linguistic classifications used for the established languages of Nepal. The entries in this index represent the full path in the linguistic family tree from the highest level grouping down to the lowest. All the languages listed in the same entry are members of the same lowest-level subgroup. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language.

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Austro-Asiatic, Munda, North Munda, Kherwari, Santali

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Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Rajasthani, Marwari

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Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Unclassified

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Maithili [mai], [37](#)

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Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Tharu, Eastern Tharu

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Gurung [gvr], 23

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**Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Central Himalayan,
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**Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Central Himalayan,
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This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 123 three-letter codes that are used in this work to uniquely identify languages. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language. All codes listed are part of the ISO 639-3 standard; see <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/>.

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