



# Language Contact and Language Choice among the Marawari People of Kathmandu Valley, Nepal

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## Abstract

Marwari is one of the ethnic community of Nepal has been living in Kathmandu valley since 18<sup>th</sup> century. This research analyzes the language contact and language choice among the Marawari People living in Kathmandu Valley. The aim of this research is to understand the language choices made by the migrant settlers in their new environment, particularly for informal interactions. The study utilized the communication accommodation theory and the constructivist paradigm to analyze the data collected from 150 participants in 3 Marawari communities living in Kathmandu valley. The findings revealed that Hindi, the language of the Marawari, has been preserved and widely spoken across generations. However, the older generation of Marwari people used Newari and Nepali, while the younger generations engaged in code switching or code mixing with English, Newari, and Nepali. The setting and subject of communication also play role on choosing contact language in the process of communication.

*(Keywords: language, contact, Marawari, Nepal, Katmandu)*

**Received:** 12/09/2024

**Accepted:** 20/12/2024

**Published:** 11/02/2025

## 1. Introduction

Nepal is a country with a rich linguistic diversity, where numerous linguistic communities have coexisted since long time. National population report 2021 enumerated 124 languages as national language. Nepali languages are the most popular language in Nepal. According to the National population report of 2021, Nepali language is spoken by 44.86% of the population, while Marwari language is spoken by only 0.07% (21333 individuals). (National Population Report, 2021). The Marawari community is one of the immigrated communities of Nepal, came from Rajasthan, India. They have migrated to Nepal at different times for conducting business. They have their own language and culture, however, they highly use Hindi as contact language in Nepal while interact with other Indian community and Nepali language speakers (Majumdar,

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2005, p. 2). In the same line, Lakshmi (2024) notes, "Marwaris represent a significant and influential business community that plays a dominant role in various industries across India"(p. 212). In the same lines Lakshmi, Jha & Kumar (2019) highlights origin of Marwari as, "Marwari community refers to the immigrant traders from Marwar, Shekhawati and adjacent states of Rajasthan who have once migrated to other Indian states and abroad for trades and now have become the most successful business community in India"(p.39). Nepali speakers understand the Hindi language due to its close resemblance in terms of morphology and syntax. As a result, the Marwari community utilizes Hindi language for informal communication. Nevertheless, they encounter certain challenges in preserving their native language and establishing a contact language in unfamiliar territories. In this context, the study analyzes the use and choice of contact language practicing in Marwari community living in Kathmandu valley.

In the field of socio linguistic, study language contact is a matter of academic discussion because the issue of language contact becomes crucial in migrant society. The dominance of a certain language in particular areas compels minorities to follow the dominant language, which is a challenge for minority to preserve their language. Majority language has power to use in various domains of a society including individual and social life. In this context, it is relevant to quote Oksaar (1996) as, "Language contact phenomena has been perceived and discussed in their various applied aspects throughout the history of Europe" (p.2). Oksaar talks about the aspects of languages in the context of Europe, which is similar to the Nepal. In study area of this study there can be seen the issue of code switching of languages. Matras (2009) talks about the phenomena of code switching in the context of pidgins and creoles as, "Lists borrowing, areal language clusters, new 'contact' languages, pidgins and creoles, and code-switching as topics that receive especially extensive attention in recent publications on language contact (p.1). In the same line Holmes (2013) argued that language contract is the issue related to multilingual community and noted, "People's choice of language may differ even in the same domain. However, a number of social factors such as family, friendship, education, religion, identity, people of the same ethnicity, age play vital role on contact language selection"(p.4). Various social factors play role in the process of contact language selection. With the influence of social factors other factors like local languages also play role in contact language selection that Fishman (1964) viewed on the local influenced of the languages of immigrated people as, "Influential in the domain of language choice of the speaker "(p.6). He further noted that subject matter of discussion and interaction also manipulates to choose the contact language in the process of informal communication. He argued, "The topic being discussed, the speaker's role, and the location of the interaction all play a role in determining the language choice"(p. 6). Socio linguists like Labov, (1972) & Fasold, (1984) demonstrate the correlation between the domains of language used in multilingual communities. They categorized two domains of language and highlighted the role of the domains to choose contact language in conversion. In the same line, Fasold (1984) categorized language domains in official and unofficial spheres, while Batibo (2005) described them as high public space, middle public space, and low public space in speech communities. As like Batibo, Parasher (1968) classifies seven language domains including family, friendship, neighborhood, transactions, education, government, and employment. These domains are further broken down into subcategories or

clusters based on social variables and conversational context. Similarly, Omoniyi (1994) elaborated on four domains and thirteen situational contexts concerning the selection of contact language within the framework of social variables and speaking context. Likewise Amuzu (2010) underscored the correlation between contact variables, the significance of the subject matter in interaction, and the social status of the speakers. Furthermore Amuzu (2010) quoted the idea of Myers Scotton (1993) and notes, "Along with other scholars like, argues that language distribution is influenced by contact variables such as the status of the language"(p.45). Prestige, economic value, attitudes of speakers, and formal schooling are the major factors play significant role in choosing contact language. People coming together in a territory with different linguistic background develop contact language based on need. Shared language exists as the primary mode of communication in multilingual community. People of various linguistic communities shared the common language in public place like school, hospital, work places and public forum. In some cases, such practice compelled individual to shift from their own language to majority language, however, the keen interest of speaker, individual relationship and mode of interaction help to the speakers to maintain their own language in the live conversation. In the context of Marwari community, it is failure to choose single language for informal interaction so this study provides an opportunity to understand why an individual uses multiple languages within a single domain of interaction in the situation of live conversation.

## **2. Language Situation of Nepal and position of Marwari language**

Nepal is a country with a diverse range of languages spoken, yet only Nepali, English, and Hindi are commonly used for communication in public settings. These languages also serve as a medium of communication between different language-speaking communities. In the context of Nepal, Marwari people who are known as advance business community. Local people respect them as rich one so that local people also use their language while talking with them, however, Marwari people love to learn local languages. Old generation of Marwari, people who have lived in Kathmandu valley easily speak Nepali and Newari (*Nepal Bhasa*) language. ( Kathmandu metropolitan Report, 2020). Although, they are recognized as individuals of Terai descent.

Marwari, a caste group in India, is known for its association with the business community originating from the Marwar region. This region is situated near Jodhpur, Rajasthan. Over time, the Marwaris migrated to Bihar and Bengal regions of India, as well as the city area of Nepal. Their migration to Nepal took place in the early 19th century, but their settlement history dates back 300 years. (Marwari Sewa Samaj, Bulletin, 2018). In early age, they just temporary settled in Kathmandu and involved in business related activities. At that time, their business network extended to Tibet. Marwari are sensitive to choose contact language while establishing business activities with other language communities. They respect the local culture and language and minimize the tussle of local community. They have sound relationship with local people in Kathmandu. They had established Marwari Sewa Samaj before 67 years ago in Kathmandu. Since the time, they have been involving in various charities based activities. (Marwari Sewa Samaj Bulletin, 2018)

## **3. Methodology and Material Collection**

The study followed survey method. Both primary and secondary source of data were used for this study. Secondary source of the data were collected through library research. Books, articles, journal, national population census were used as secondary source of data. Primary data were gathered through field survey. From the universe, 150 participants were selected from 150 households within Marwari communities of Kathmandu valley. One individual from each household, specifically the oldest male and female members. Data were gathered from the oldest settlement but now they are also migrated in peripheral area of the city. A questionnaire was developed and utilized for data collection, featuring a mix of open-ended and closed questions. Participants were selected from a variety of backgrounds, considering several factors like gender and age, since informal interactions tend to occur more frequently than formal ones. Open-ended questions were used to find out the language behavior. Data collection took place in the homes of the Marwari people. Collected data were analyzed based on themes that collected from the response of the participants.

### **Study Area**

Kathmandu is the metropolitan city and capital city of Nepal located in Bagmati province, central Nepal. The valley is the oldest settlement of Nepal and holy city that is known as city of temples and shrines. It is a homeland of diverse culture and languages. In Kathmandu metropolitan city, there are roughly one hundred caste/ethnic communities residing, with approximately 90 language speakers settled in the area. However, Newari, Nepali, Hindi, and English are the languages utilized as contact languages. (Report of Kathmandu, Metropolitan City, 2023)

Map of Kathmandu Metropolitan City



Source : <https://images.search.yahoo.com/adopted> March 1 2024

In ancient time, the valley was a lake. Later water of the lake was outlet from south neck of the valley, named Chovar and the place is developed in present shape. There are various myth and legend about outlet of water from the valley. One of the famous myths is related to the Manjushree who is known as the first man of Kathmandu valley effort to outlet the water from the valley by using his magical power. He used his magical weapon named sickle (Tarawar) to dig the hill and outlet the water from the huge lake. ( Introduction of

Nepal 2020, p. 45) Since the time people from east west north and south gathered and exchanged their language and culture. Many of these ethnic groups relocated to the region for commercial purposes. Some chose to reside near the Marwari community, while the rest opted to establish their settlements within the town to conduct business. The initial group of migrants settle in core city area near to king place and actively involved in business activities like purchasing and sealing goods. Later phase they settle far from the king place and involved to sell goods to the common people and pay the tax to the government. In contemporary time, they also involve in social service, civil service and politics, however, majority of them are still engaged in business and production. Being part of the business community necessitates the ability to communicate with various linguistic communities, making it insufficient to rely on just one language. In this context, the study aims to investigate the language choices and interactions of the migrant Marwari in informal settings within the city.

### Discussion

Nepal is a linguistically diverse country where, apart from Nepali, languages like Newari, Maithali, Tharu, Hindi, Tamang, Magar, and English are used day-to-day conversation with Nepali language. Constitution of Nepal 2015 noted that all the languages spoken inside the Nepal are known as national language. Constitution of Nepal 2015 article 6 and 7 mentioned the provision as:

Article 6 Languages of the nation: All languages spoken as the mother tongues in Nepal are the languages of the nation. Article 7 Official language: (1) The Nepali language in the Devnagari script shall be the official language of Nepal. (2) A State may, by a State law, determine one or more than one languages of the nation spoken by a majority of people within the State as its official language(s), in addition to the Nepali language. (3) Other matters relating to language shall be as decided by the Government of Nepal, on recommendation of the language commission. (Constitution of Nepal, Part 1)

Constitutional provision brings certain confusion on using official in province because except Nepali language none of the languages are spoken by majority in any province. It is possible to implements some language as official language in local bodies like municipality and rural municipality, however, till date none of the local bodies use other languages as official language in its' territory apart from Nepali. National language policy highlights that Nepali as contact language and English as used as second language. But there no clear vision and policy on second language as well as contact language even language commission does not categorize contact language, second language and official languages. National population report 2021 shows the existence of following languages that are known as national languages of Nepal as;

**Table -1: Population by mother tongue According to national population census 2021**

Mother Tongue	Total	Percentage
All Mother Tongues	29164578	100
Nepali	13084457	44.86
Maithili	3222389	11.05
Bhojpuri	1820795	6.24

Tharu	1714091	5.88
Tamang	1423075	4.88
Bajjika	1133764	3.89
Avadhi	864276	2.96
Nepalbhasha(Newari)	863380	2.96
Magar Dhut	810315	2.78
Doteli	494864	1.7
Urdu	413785	1.42
Yakthung/Limbu	350436	1.2
Gurung	328074	1.12
Magahi	230117	0.79
Baitadeli	152666	0.52
Rai	144512	0.5
Achhami	141444	0.48
Bantawa	138003	0.47
Rajbanshi	130163	0.45
Sherpa	117896	0.4
Khash	117511	0.4
Bajhanghi	99631	0.34
Hindi	98399	0.34
Magar Kham	91753	0.31
Chamling	89037	0.31
Ranatharu	77766	0.27
Chepang	58392	0.2
Bajureli	56486	0.19
Santhali	53677	0.18
Danuwar	49992	0.17
Darchuleli	45649	0.16
Uranw/Urau	38873	0.13
Kulung	37912	0.13
Angika	35952	0.12
Majhi	32917	0.11
Sunuwar	32708	0.11
Thami	26805	0.09
Ganagai	26281	0.09

Thulung	24405	0.08
Bangla	23774	0.08
Ghale	23049	0.08
Sampang	21597	0.07
Marwadi	21333	0.07
Dadeldhuri	21300	0.07
Dhimal	20583	0.07
Tajpuriya	20349	0.07
Kumal	18435	0.06
Khaling	16514	0.06
Musalman	16252	0.06
Wambule	15285	0.05
Bahing/Bayung	14449	0.05
Yakkha	14241	0.05
Sanskrit	13906	0.05
Bhujel	13086	0.04
Bhote	12895	0.04
Darai	12156	0.04
Yamphu/Yamphe	10744	0.04
Nachhiring	9906	0.03
H Yolmo/Yholmo	9658	0.03
Dumi	8638	0.03
Jumli	8338	0.03
Bote	7687	0.03
Mewahang	7428	0.03
Puma	6763	0.02
Pahari	5946	0.02
Athpahariya	5580	0.02
Dungmali	5403	0.02
Jirel	5167	0.02
Tibetan	5053	0.02
Dailekhi	4989	0.02
Chum/Nubri	4284	0.01
Chhantyal	4282	0.01
Raji	4247	0.01

Thakali	4220	0.01
Meche	4203	0.01
Koyee	4152	0.01
Lohorung	3884	0.01
Kewarat	3469	0.01
Dolpali	3244	0.01
Done	3100	0.01
Mugali	2834	0.01
Jero/Jerung	2817	0.01
Karmarong	2619	0.01
Chhintang	2564	0.01
Lhopa	2348	0.01
Lapcha	2240	0.01
Munda/Mudiyari	2107	0.01
Manange	2022	0.01
Chhiling	2011	0.01
Dura	1991	0.01
Tilung	1969	0.01
Sign Language	1784	0.01
Byansi	1706	0.01
Balkura/Baram	1539	0.01
Barangunwa	1536	0.01
Sadri	1347	0
English	1323	0
Magar Kaike	1225	0
Sonaha	1182	0
Hayu/Vayu	1133	0
Kisan	1004	0
Punjabi	871	0
Dhuleli	786	0
Khamchi(Raute)	741	0
Lungkhim	702	0
Lowa	624	0
Kagate	611	0
Waling/Walung	545	0

Nar-Phu	428	0
Lhomi	413	0
Tichhurong Poike	410	0
Kurmali	397	0
Koche	332	0
Sindhi	291	0
Phangduwali	247	0
Belhare	177	0
Surel	174	0
Malpande	161	0
Khariya	132	0
Sadhani	122	0
Hariyanwi	114	0
Sam	106	0
Bankariya	86	0
Kusunda	23	0
Others	4201	0.01
Not stated	346	0

Source: National population report 2021

In above table there mentions mother tongue spoken in Nepal by various caste and ethnic population. Data shows that Marwari is also one of the languages spoken in Nepal. In total 0.7% population, speak Marwari languages. Linguistically the language community is so small but they are strong in economic power. Table shows only 23 individual speakers speak Kusunda language whereas 44.86% population of the nation speak Nepali as mother tongues and more than 98% population can speak Nepali language so that Nepali language have large number of speakers in Nepal.

Nepali language is used as contact language of Nepal because non-Nepali speakers have also knowledge of Nepali language, however, domains of language and subject matter of interaction also play role for the selection of contact language. In the context, Greenfield (1972) conducted a study on Puerto Rican individuals residing in New York. The study revealed that Spanish, considered a low language, was favored for personal and intimate matters, whereas English, a high language, was preferred for professional and educational purposes. Similarly, Parisher (1968) discovered that Indians utilized their native language along with a language other than English, which is the official language, within their family setting. Both researchers observed that individuals tend to opt for their mother tongue languages during informal interactions instead of using the official language. In some cases matter of conversation also determine the choice of selecting language for informal interaction that Mahama (2005) notes "the influence of domain, interlocutor and topic

as important in language choice" (p.45). It is clear from the brief review that language choice depends on different linguistic and social factors.

### **Domain Analysis as a Framework for language Choice**

This research applies the communication accommodation theory despite utilizing domain analysis as the framework. The theory posits that one communicator adjusts to the other in terms of language variety or a shift to a completely different language. Marwari language speakers are well educated and they have full of consciousness about the language speak other groups in the municipality. Therefore, they carefully select the appropriate language and interaction strategy for specific contexts. Thus, the study focused on the language choice of the Marwari for informal interactions with the Newari and Nepali speakers. In casual interactions, they select the language based on socio- economic context. The study aimed to explain the rationale behind choosing a particular language for this domain, with **Fishman's (1972)** concept of domain being the most relevant theoretical framework. Fishman basically talked family, friendship, religion, education and employment about domain teachers , workers , family members are explain as participant and home, school and church are mentioned as location. In choosing contact language domain, location and participants play important role that also found in the Marwari to choose language for informal interactions with the Newari and Nepali mother tongue speakers. Like these domain other factors like gender, social status of language, and economic value of language are associated with this language choice.

The factors include the topic, of interaction position of participants and their relationships setting of conversation help to select langue to interact between two. In this context, Saville-Troike (1989) highlighted that the topic often plays a crucial role in determining language choice in multilingual environments. Bilingual individuals have acquired knowledge on certain subjects in one language and others in a different language, resulting in the utilization of distinct vocabulary for discussing a topic in a specific language. Like that, Herman (1968) discusses the interconnected nature of domains, emphasizing that they are not isolated from other contexts. A language chosen for a specific domain is relevant in various contexts in time. Code switching and translanguaging play important role in this context multilingual society. Code switching and code mixing are used as means of motivation for conversation. Myers-Scotton (1993) discussed the role of social motivation in code switching and highlighted how this concept aligns with Fishman's domain concept. It encompasses language choice and encompasses the use of a single language, a combination of languages, or different variations of a language to different extents. This approach can help explain why one language is chosen over another for specific domains. Despite this added viewpoint, domain analysis continues to be the main framework for this research. The approach entails gathering verbal accounts from participants concerning their self-declared language usage during their interactions within a specific setting.

### **Synopsis of the Main Research Outcomes**

This segment provides an examination and evaluation of the data obtained from the participants of the study. The study focuses on how is the language preference for informal interactions between the Marwari and other languages speaker community in the study area.

### **Dominant Languages Spoken in the Municipality**

150 respondents were involved in this study from diverse economic background; however, they are from same linguistic community. In some cases, only males were available and questions were asked to them. As previously mentioned, the participants were from the Marwari settlements in the study area. However, due to the presence of other ethnic groups in these settlements, the first question asked was to confirm if they were Marwari or not. All participants confirmed their ethnicity. They were then asked to provide a list of languages commonly spoken in and around study area. Almost all respondents stated that there are multiple language groups and consequently, several languages spoken. After conducting a more in-depth investigation, the respondents revealed that they spoke Nepali, Newari, English, and Hindi. According to them, Southern traders predominantly speak Hindi. Migrants who have arrived in the Study area for various reasons, including trade or employment, speak all the languages listed, with the sole exception of Newari. They clarified that there are no only native speakers in Study area, but it has become a common language due to its widespread use in trade. This is true not only for Kathmandu but also for the entire Nepal. It was noted during the study that the number of languages spoken in and around the study area exceeds those identified by the respondents. Some of these languages include Nepali, Hindi, English, Newari, Maithali, Urdu, Tamang, Magar, Gurung and Thakali practice in Kathmandu. The respondents were questioned about their language preferences, and they exclusively mentioned Nepali, Hindi, and English. They clarified that other languages were not mentioned because they are spoken by a small number of people and they themselves are not fluent in those languages. Some individuals acknowledged their lack of knowledge about these languages. Evidently, the replies suggest that the additional set of languages discussed is viewed as minority languages.

The Marwari people moved specifically to engage in business, choosing to settle in the central town for easy access to commerce. Despite migrating at different times and to different regions, they share a strong mutual understanding. They converse using their own distinct dialects, which can be understood by each other. According to the gathered information, it was discovered that 90% of the participants reported speaking Marwari, whereas 85% spoke Nepali, 95% spoke Hindi, 65% spoke English, and 40% spoke different languages such as Newari. When inquired about their proficiency in other languages, educated individuals (80%) cited English, Hindi, and Nepali alongside Marwari, but acknowledged differing degrees of fluency. When probed about their limited command of Nepali, it was disclosed that their direct interaction with the local populace had been restricted. If the Marwari people needed help from the Nepali, they depended on their children and other individuals within the Nepali community. This scenario corresponds to the constructivist paradigm, in which the Marwari people have embraced the cultural practice of relying on others to meet their social interaction requirements, thereby obviating the need to acquire knowledge of Nepali. In addition, all well-educated participants mentioned that they utilized their native language as well as the local language to uphold their cultural heritage, sometimes incorporating English when communicating with family members and peers. It is intriguing to note that the individuals who were fluent in English were also proficiency in Marwari, Nepali, and Hindi. This serves as evidence that they are willing to embrace and share their cultural identity with others.

#### **Language(s) learned and used in the informal domain**

The participants were asked about the means through which they learned the languages utilize for casual conversations. The initial approach consisted of acquiring proficiency in Nepali and Marwari within the home and nearby environment, given that individuals in their community commonly used these languages. The Marwari language was predominantly spoken indoors, whereas Nepali was utilized outside the household in the surrounding area. A young participant observed that learning these languages came naturally to them, and they were not conscious of the process through which they honed their language abilities. Another approach to language acquisition was formal education. Apart from the elderly women in the research, all other participants mentioned that they acquired extra languages in an academic setting. Educated respondent also often engaged in conversations using various languages at school. Even if they lacked comprehension in a specific language, they use the language through imitation of the friends. Another participant mentioned that they polished their skills in these languages by imitating the expressions of their classmates during school, particularly during free time, while trying to grasp the meanings of unfamiliar words. After hearing the explanation, they understood it and spoke the language fluently. The research unequivocally illustrates that English is not the sole language acquired within educational institutions. Additional languages were also attained, albeit not always through formal classroom instruction. Based on the feedback received, individuals stated that this method enabled them to communicate in various languages with their acquaintances, as well as during customary and enjoyable gatherings. The participants highlighted that both social connections and professional engagements presented chances to acquire proficiency in diverse languages, such as Nepali, Hindi, and Newari, which is the prevailing local dialect in the research vicinity. The choice of the language regarded as a form of linguistic adaptation, shaped by the person being communicated with, the topic under discussion, and the situational context of the interaction.

Communication is a fundamental necessity, and on specific occasions, particular languages gained prominence, necessitating individuals to acquire them not solely for their esteemed status but for the sake of effective interaction. Age groups, education status and subject of conversation force of speakers to choose contact language such as if speakers are young and educated they choose English and in other condition they used Hindi or Nepali or Newari language.

#### **Language choice for informal interactions**

Respondents utilize various languages in their informal communication. Setting of communication and behavior of speakers directed to choose contact language in interaction between Marwari language speakers and others language speakers. In casual conversations like interaction with relatives, friends, or coworkers, as well as engagements with younger individuals in conventional environments and social events participants utilized code switching, code mixing and translanguaging . To investigate the occurrence of dominant languages in casual environments, an analysis was conducted, considering variables like gender and age. The research categorized individuals aged 60 and above as old, whereas those aged 59 and below were referred to as adults. According to the Senior Citizen Act (2006), "Individuals who have reached the age of 60 or above are referred to as senior citizens" (p.1). In accordance with this legal provision, I have classified individuals aged 60 and above as senior citizens. These age classifications were determined based

on the respondents' personal perspectives on old age. Marwari, Nepali, Hindi, and English have become the predominant languages for communicating with friends, engaging in social events, and interacting with younger generations. During the course of this study, it was observed that the participants emphasized the role of the school as a means of acquiring knowledge and practicing different languages. The languages mentioned by the participants indicate the language dynamics in informal exchanges among the Marwari settlers themselves, as well as with local residents and other migrants in the research location. The linguistic environment is perceived as a mixture of various languages. Nepali, Marwari, Hindi, Newari, and English are all vying for prominence in casual conversations. English is recognized as a secondary language, especially among the literate population. English is widely spoken in Nepal as it serves as the international language in both formal and informal settings. On the other hand, Nepali is the official language of the country. The respondents considered speaking English prestigious. Among the 150 participants, 70% of the literate individuals stated that they engage in informal conversations with locals using Marwari, Nepali, Hindi, and English. It shows that they choose, blend, or alternate between languages as required. Conversely, monolingual individuals utilize Marwari and Hindi when engaging with members of their community, and resort to Nepali when communicating with non-Marwari speakers, resulting in difficulties when conversing with Nepali speakers who do not understand Hindi, Marwari, or English. While some Nepalese individuals without formal education may have rudimentary English speaking abilities, none of the illiterate participants reported any familiarity with the English language. The study revealed two significant findings. Firstly, the use of Nepali has extended beyond its initial speakers, indicating its widespread adoption. Secondly, Marwari, a distinct language from Nepali, has emerged as the predominant language among the residents in the study area.

Furthermore, the influence of age was considered to investigate potential variations in language preference among the younger and older age groups during casual conversations. The findings revealed that the younger population primarily opts for Nepali, Hindi, English, and Marwari, with a staggering 95% of them employing all four languages. Conversely, only 10% of the older generation exclusively utilizes Hindi and Marwari.

Comparatively young respondents are **educated** than the old so that they used diverse in both private and public interaction. Expect few condition mixing diverse languages in interaction is interesting and clear. The diverse speakers they interact with belong to various ethnic backgrounds and utilize a blend of languages to communicate with Marwari speakers. They highly used Hindi, Nepali and English. The younger respondents demonstrate an ability to assimilate and integrate other languages spoken in their surroundings, particularly the predominant languages in their localities. Conversely, the older respondents have not shown the same flexibility, preferring to stick to their native languages. Age factors play important role to choose contact language in Marwari community living in Kathmandu valley. Age plays important role to choose contact language in particular situation. Both younger generation and older generation are equal enjoy educational opportunities, enabling them to engage in informal interactions with people from diverse language backgrounds. Additionally, the study highlights the crucial role of formal education in this particular

context. The educational background of the participants has affected the selection and prevalence of languages spoken by Marwari individuals residing in the research location. Educated respondents have cited English as a language utilized for casual communication. Because of their frequent interaction with Nepali and Newari speakers, they possess a strong grasp of the language. Nevertheless, the younger generation tends to favor English when engaging in public gatherings. The selection of language is contingent upon various factors, including the specific domain and social influences.

## **6. Conclusion**

The research has brought to light that, in addition to ethnic affiliation and formal contexts, language acquisition can occur through various linguistic contact factors such as close contact with other languages, richness of vocabulary and conformable in pronunciation and syntax formation. Findings of the study suggest that individuals might be motivated to acquire a new language when they find themselves in a different linguistic setting and view informal communication as crucial. The practice enables them to integrate into the linguistic community. The research identified the use of Marwari, Nepali, English, Hindi, and Newari in casual conversations among the Marwari residing in the Kathmandu valley. The Marwari and Hindi language compete with each other in casual environments, alongside Nepali. As a result, Nepali and Hindi are the main languages used by individuals, while the younger generation speakers also incorporate English. Furthermore, the study has corroborated previous research findings by demonstrating that multiple languages can be used within a single domain. It is evident that English may eventually become the dominant language, alongside other languages, due to its respected status as a national and international language.

## **7. Limitations, Implications, and Further Directions of Research**

The study was limited on the issue of language contact and language choice and analyzed the context of Marwari community of Nepal specially living in Kathmandu, capital city of the Nepal. Survey was conducted among 150 respondents who have been living in Kathmandu since last fifty years. It analyzed how is linguistic power played role to run and uplift business in certain geographical area why Marwari people are succeeded to relationship with indigenous nationalities and sustain in Nepal through using proper contact language. The paper suggested that proper use of contact language only can possible to make good relationship with neighbor in multilingual community. For further study it will select title "Role of contact language in socio economic and cultural development of the people living in multilingual society".

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