

**Tribhuvan University**  
**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**Courses of Study**  
**for**  
**Linguistics (Bachelor's level)**



2019(2076 VS)

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## Introduction

The Linguistics courses for 4-year BA level are designed to introduce the students with the fundamental concepts and methodologies of linguistics and enable them to apply their knowledge of linguistics in various practical fields.

As four years BA programme is the foundation for specialization in higher education, courses in linguistics are offered as one of the major subjects at the BA level. Under this programme eight papers are offered, viz. seven major, and one elective. Students can select one of the optional papers of code No.426 as the sixth paper. The paper with the code No. 410 is elective. All the papers are presented in the following table:

Year	Paper	Code	Course Title	Full marks
<b>MAJOR</b>				
I	I	Ling. 421	Introduction to Linguistics	100
	II	Ling. 422	Languages of Nepal	100
II	III	Ling. 423	Sociolinguistics and Psycholinguistics	100
	IV	Ling. 424	Phonetics and Phonology	100
III	V	Ling. 425	Morphosyntax	100
IV	VI	Ling. 426	[Any one]	100
		Ling. 426-I	Dictionary making	100
		Ling. 426-II	Translation Studies	100
	VII	Ling. 427	Research Methodology	100
<b>ELECTIVE</b>				
		Ling. 410	Language and Linguistics	100

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**Subject: Linguistics**

**Course Title: Introduction to linguistics**

**Paper I: Ling. 421**

Total teaching hours: 150

Teaching hours per week: 6

Evaluation: External Exam (70%), and internal assessment (30%)

Full Marks: 100

Pass Marks: 35

**1. Course Description:**

This course is designed to provide preliminary knowledge on the structure and uses of language by introducing fundamental concepts of language and linguistics. This paper on general linguistics will consist of five units with basic orientations in phonology and writing systems, morphology and syntax, semantics and discourse, and history of language.

**2. Objectives:**

After the completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- a. understand the origin of human language, and sound patterns,
- b. analyze various aspects of word formation, morphology and syntax,
- c. analyze the various aspects of semantics, pragmatics and discourse,
- d. describe the language, brain and language acquisition,
- e. understand the language change, language variation and culture.

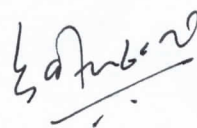
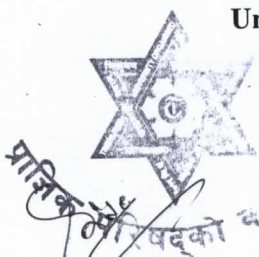

**3. Course Content:**

**Unit I: Origin and sounds of language (30 lectures)**

1. The origins of language
  - a. The divine source,
  - b. The natural sound source,
  - c. The social interaction source,
  - d. The physical adaptation source,
  - e. The tool-making source,
  - f. The genetic source
2. Human language
  - a. Properties of human language: displacement, arbitrariness, productivity, cultural transmission and duality.
3. The sounds of language
  - a. Voiced and voiceless sounds
    - Place of articulation (bilabials, labiodentals, dentals, alveolars, palatals, velars, glottals)
    - Manner of articulation (stops, fricatives, affricates, nasals, liquids, glides, glottal stops and flaps)
  - b. Vowels
4. The sound patterns of language
  - a. Phonemes
  - b. Phones and allophones
  - c. Minimal pairs and sets
  - d. Phonotactics
  - e. Syllables and consonant clusters
  - f. Coarticulation effects (assimilation, elision, normal speech)

**Unit II: Word, morphology and Syntax (30 lectures)**

5. Word formation
  - a. Etymology
  - b. Coinage
  - c. Borrowing
  - d. Compounding





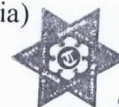
- e. Blending
- f. Clipping
- g. Backformation
- h. Conversion
- i. Acronyms
- j. Derivation (prefixes, suffixes and infixes)
- k. Multiple processes
- 6. Morphology
  - a. Morphemes (free and bound morphemes, lexical and functional morphemes, derivational and inflectional morphemes)
  - b. Morphological description
  - c. Morphs and allomorphs
- 7. Grammar
  - a. Traditional grammar (the parts of speech, agreement, grammatical gender)
  - b. The prescriptive approach
  - c. The descriptive approach (structural analysis, constituent analysis)
- 8. Syntax
  - a. Deep and surface structure
  - b. Structural ambiguity
  - c. Recursion
  - d. Tree diagrams
  - e. Symbols used in syntactic analysis
  - f. Lexical rules
  - g. Movement rules

### **Unit III: Semantics, pragmatics and Discourse (30 lectures)**

- 9. Semantics
  - a. Meaning
  - b. Semantic features
  - c. Semantic roles (agent, theme, instrument, experiencer, location, source and goal)
  - d. Lexical relations (synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, prototypes, homophones, homonyms, polysemy, word play and metonymy)
  - e. Collocation
- 10. Pragmatics
  - a. Context
  - b. Reference (inference, anaphora, presupposition)
  - c. Speech acts (direct and indirect)
  - d. Politeness
- 11. Discourses analysis
  - a. Interpreting discourse (cohesion, coherence and speech events)
  - b. Conversation analysis
  - c. The co-operative principle (Hedges and implicatures)
  - d. Background knowledge

### **Unit IV: Language, brain and language acquisition (30 lectures)**

- 12. Language and the brain
  - a. Neurolinguistics
  - b. Language areas in the brain (Broca's area, Wernicke's area, the motor cortex and the arcuate fasciculus, the localization view)
  - c. Tongue tips and slips (the tip of the tongue phenomenon, slips of tongue, slips of the ear)
  - d. Aphasia (Broca's aphasia, Wernicke's aphasia, conduction aphasia)
  - e. Dichotic listening
  - f. The critical period
- 13. First language acquisition
  - a. Acquisition



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- b. The acquisition schedule (cooing and babbling, the one-word stage, the two-word stage, telegraphic speech)
- c. The acquisition process
- d. Developing morphology
- e. Developing syntax
- f. Developing semantics
- 14. Second language acquisition/learning
  - a. Second language learning (acquisition and learning, acquisition barriers, affective factors)
  - b. Focus on method (the grammar-translation method, the audiolingual method, communicative approaches)
  - c. Focus on the learner (transfer, interlanguage, motivation, input and output)
  - d. Communicative competence
- 15. Gestures and sign languages
  - a. Gestures
  - b. Types of sign languages
  - c. Oralism
  - d. The structure of signs (shape and orientation, location and movement, primes, faces and finger-spelling)
  - e. The meaning of signs
  - f. Representing signs
- 16. Writing
  - a. Pictograms and ideograms
  - b. Logograms
  - c. Syllabic writing
  - d. Alphabetic writing

**Unit V: Language change, language variation and culture (30 lectures)**

- 17. Language history and change
  - a. Family trees (family connections, cognates)
  - b. Comparative reconstruction (sound reconstruction, word reconstruction)
  - c. Sound changes, syntactic changes and semantic changes
  - d. Diachronic and syntactic variation
- 18. Language and regional variation
  - a. The standard language
  - b. Accent and dialect
  - c. Dialectology (regional dialects, isoglosses and dialect boundaries, the dialect continuum)
  - d. Bilingualism diglossia
  - e. Language planning
  - f. Pidgins and creoles
- 19. Language and social variation
  - a. Sociolinguistics (social dialects, education and occupation, social markers)
  - b. Speech style and style-shifting (prestige, speech accommodation, register and jargon, and slang)
- 20. Language and culture
  - a. Culture
  - b. Categories (kinship terms and time concepts)
  - c. Linguistic relativity (the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis)
  - d. Cognitive categories: classifiers
  - e. Social categories: address terms
  - f. Gender (gendered words, gendered speech, gendered interaction)



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### Basic textbooks:

Bandhu, C.M. (2073 BS) *Bhasha Vijnan*, Kathmandu: SajhaPrakasan.  
Yule, George (2010) *The Study of Language*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

### Reference Books

Acemajian, Andrian et.al. (1995) *Linguistics: An Introduction to language and communication*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Prentice-Hall Inc.  
Lyons, John (1968) *Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press  
Lyons, John (1997) *Language and Linguistics*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press  
O'grady, William and John Archibald, eds. (2016) *Contemporary linguistic analysis*. Pearson: Toronto  
Syal, Publisher and D.V. Jindal (1998) *An Introduction to Linguistics*, New Delhi: Prentice-Hall of India Pvt. Ltd.  
Widdowson, W.H. (1996) *Linguistics*, Oxford: Oxford University Press

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**Course Title: Languages of Nepal**

**Paper II: Ling. 422**

Total teaching hours: 150

Teaching hours per week: 6

Evaluation: External Exam (70%), and internal assessment (30%)

Full Marks: 100

Pass Marks: 35

### 1. Course Description

This paper is designed to provide basic knowledge on the languages and linguistic situation of Nepal and use of languages in Nepal in various social contexts.

### 2. Objectives

At the end of the course, the students will be able to

- (a) describe the distribution of the languages in different ecological belts and provinces of Nepal,
- (b) classify the languages of Nepal in terms of language families,
- (c) describe the use of Nepalese languages in education, administration and media as well as in various social settings,
- (d) explain the process of development of Nepali as a lingua franca, national language and the official language, and
- (e) make an analysis of the language endangerment and language documentation in Nepal.

### 3. Course Content

#### Unit I: Linguistic demography of Nepal (30 lectures)

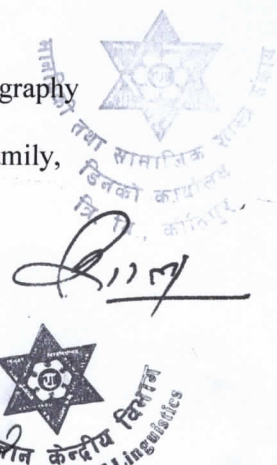
- 1.1 Mother tongues and second languages in the recent census
- 1.2 Geographical distribution (mountainous, hilly, Terai region)
- 1.3 Province-wise distribution of languages
- 1.4 Caste-ethnic group composition and languages
- 1.5 Family-wise regional (mountain, hill, Terai) and provincial distribution of Nepalese languages

#### Unit II: Language families and Nepalese languages (35 lectures)

- 2.1 Sino-Tibetan (Tibeto-Burman) language and Sino-Tibetan languages of Nepal
  - 2.1.1 Genetic classification (Bradley 1997); internal genetic grouping of TB languages
  - 2.1.2 Sinospheric and Indospheric TB languages
  - 2.1.3 Introduction to Sino-Tibetan languages, genetic relationship with ST language family, demography, and resources
- 2.2 Indo-European languages
  - 2.2.1 Genetic classification
  - 2.2.2 Introduction to Indo-European languages of Nepal (population and distribution, resources, use in education, media, and administration)
- 2.3 Austro-Asiatic language (AA) family and AA languages of Nepal (demography and resources)
- 2.4 Introduction to Uralic: Genetic relationship with Dravidian language family, demography, and resources
- 2.5 Introduction to Kusundic: A language isolate
- 2.6 Nepali sign language: Development, and resources

#### Unit III: Language endangerment and language documentation (30 lectures)

- 3.1 Assessing language endangerment (UNESCO)
- 3.2 Language endangerment in Nepal
- 3.3 Progress in efforts at promotion and standardization (case studies)



- 3.4 Language documentation in Nepal
- 3.5 Introduction to linguistic survey and sociolinguistic surveys of Nepalese languages

#### **Unit IV: Language planning and policies in Nepal (30 lectures)**

- 4.1 Background of the language planning and policy in Nepal
- 4.2 Current language planning situation in Nepal
- 4.3 The constitutional provisions on languages (preservation of mother tongues, languages in education, language in administration)
- 4.4 Development of Nepali as a lingua franca, national language and the official language

#### **Unit V: The language situation in Nepal (25 lectures)**

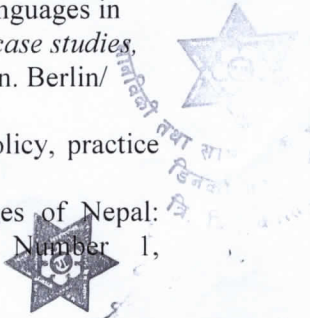
- 5.1 Writing systems and languages of Nepal
- 5.2 Literate tradition, literature, and literacy
- 5.3 The classical languages (Sanskrit, Pali, Classical Newari, and Classical Tibetan): Introduction and function
- 5.4 Language and bio-cultural context (language in relation to ecology, media, law, education etc.)
- 5.5 Bilingualism and multilingualism in Nepal
- 5.7 Ethnic identity and languages

#### **Basic textbooks:**

(To be developed)

#### **Recommending reading**

- Bradley, David. 1997. Tibeto-Burman languages and classification. In: *Papers in Southeast Asian linguistics No. 14: Tibeto-Burman languages of the Himalayas*. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics.
- Dhakal, Dubi Nanda. 2019. Language Documentation in Nepal. *Mother Languages*. Volume 3, No.1.
- Eagle, Sonia. 2008a. The language situation in Nepal. In: *Language planning and policy*. Asia Vol.1. (Japan, Nepal, and Taiwan, and Chinese Characters). (edited by) Robert B. Kaplan, and Richard B. Baldauf Jr. Bristol/Buffalo/Toronto: Multilingual Matters (170-226).
- Eagle, Sonia. 2008b. The language situation in Nepal: An update. In: *Language planning and policy*. Asia Vol.1. (Japan, Nepal, and Taiwan, and Chinese Characters). (eds) Robert B. Kaplan, and Richard B. Baldauf Jr. Bristol/Buffalo/Toronto: Multilingual Matters (226-236).
- Eppele, John W., M. Paul Lewis, Dan Raj Regmi, Yogendra P. Yadava. 2012. *Ethnologue: Languages of Nepal*. Kathmandu: Linguistic Survey of Nepal and SIL International.
- Hale, Austin. 1982. *Research on Tibeto-Burman Languages*, Trends in Linguistics, State of Art Report -14. Berlin/Boston: Mouton Publishers.
- Hanson, Gerd. 1991. *The Rais of Eastern Nepal: Ethnic and linguistic groupings*. Kathmandu: CNAS/LAN.
- Hock, Hans Henrich and Elena Bashir (eds.). 2016. *The languages and linguistics of South Asia: A comprehensive guide*. Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter Mouton.
- Noonan, Michael. 2008. The rise of ethnic consciousness and politicization of languages in western Nepal. In: *Lesser-known languages of south Asia: Status, policies, case studies, and application of information technology*. (eds) Anju Saxena and Lars Borin. Berlin/New York: Mouton de Gruyter, 161-174.
- Regmi, Dan Raj. 2017. "Convalescing the endangered languages in Nepal: policy, practice and challenges." *Gipan* Vol.3.1, January, 2017.
- Regmi, Dan Raj. 2018. Preserving and promoting the endangered languages of Nepal: Policy, practice and challenges. *Mother Language*, Vol. 2, Number 1, International Mother Language Institute (IMLI), Dhaka, Bangladesh.





- Toba, Sueyoshi. 1991. *A bibliography of Nepalese languages*. Kathmandu: Central Department of Linguistics.
- Tournadre, Nicolas. 2014. The Tibetic language and their classification. In: Nathan Hills and Thomas Owen-Smith (eds.), *Trans-Himalayan linguistics* (pp. 105-130). Berlin: DeGruyter.
- Turin, Mark. 2007. *The linguistic diversity and preseervation of endangered languages: A case study from Nepal*. Kathmandu: ICIMOD.
- Yadava, Yogendra P. 2003. Language. *Population Monograph of Nepal*. Vol 1. Kathmandu: CBS, 137-171.
- Yadava, Yogendra P. 2014. Language use in Nepal. *Population Monograph*. Volume II. Kathmandu: CBS. 51-72.
- Yadava, Yogendra P., and P. L. Bajracharya. 2006. *The Indigeneous Languages of Nepal (ILN): Situation, Policy Planning and Coordination*. Lalitpur: National Foundation for Development of Indigeneous Nationalities.
- अधिकारी, हेमाङ्गराज. २०६२ वि.सं. सामाजिक र प्रायोगिक भाषाविज्ञान (ते.सं.). काठमाडौं: रत्न पुस्तक भण्डार।
- गिरी, जीवेन्द्र देव. २०६३ वि.सं. भाषाविज्ञान, भाषा र भाषिका. काठमाडौं: एकता बुक्स।
- नेपाल र एशियाली अनुसन्धान केन्द्र र सामाजिक समावेशीकरण अनुसन्धान कोष. २०६५ वि.सं. राज्य पुनःसंरचनाको सन्दर्भमा नेपालको वर्तमान भाषिक स्थिति र समावेशी भाषानीति. काठमाडौं: नेपाल र एशियाली अनुसन्धान केन्द्र।
- बन्धु, चूडामणि. २०७३ वि.सं. भाषाविज्ञान: सिद्धान्त र प्रयोग. ललितपुर: साझा प्रकाशन।
- बन्धु, चूडामणि (सम्पा.). २०७४ वि.सं. नेपालमा प्रचलित प्रमुख लिपिहरू: स्थिति, समस्या र सम्भावना। काठमाडौं: अक्षर सदन।
- रापचा, लाल-श्याँकारेलु, वाग-आयाग्यामी यालुङ्छा, अमर तुम्याहाङ. २०६५ वि.सं. इन्डो-नेपाल किराँती भाषाहरू: विगत, समकालीन परिवेश र भोलिका चुनौतीहरू. काठमाडौं: किराँतविज्ञान अध्ययन संस्थान।
- रेग्मी, दानराज. २०१७. नेपालका भाषाहरूको स्थिति र भाषिक सर्वेक्षण: समीक्षात्मक टिप्पणी. Gipan Vol.3.2. 228-260.
- शर्मा, शिलु. २०६१ वि.सं. नेपाली साङ्केतिक भाषाको उत्पत्ति, विकास र स्वरूप. काठमाडौं: रूपक मेमोरियल फाउन्डेसन।



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