

A. Proposal for Project: A Sociolinguistic Study of the Kaike Language

Summary Sheet

- B. Project Title: A Sociolinguistic Study of the Kaike Language
- C. Name and Address of Organization: Magar Studies Center, Kathmandu, GPO Box 12451, Tel. 977-1-5532320, Email. magarstudiescenter@yahoo.com
Website. <http://www.magarstudiescenter.org>
- D. Contact Person: Dr. Govind Prasad Thapa, President, Magar Studies Center, Satdobato, Lalitpur-14, Tel. 98510-41459 (cell), Email: info@magarstudiescenter.org; dibrung@wlink.com.np
- E. Banking Information: Account holder: Magar Studies Center, Account Number: 16081/110, Bank: Nepal Bank Limited, Jaulakhel, Lalitpur, Account operated jointly by the President and Treasurer

Information on the Project Proposal

1. Duration of the Project and start date: Duration 9 months
2. Project Summary: This project aims to study Kaike, a seriously endangered language of Nepal, for its preservation and promotion. For this purpose, we will elicit details about the demography, population, domains of language use, lexical comparison with neighboring languages and ways to promote and preserve Kaike language.
3. Project Sustainability: This study helps the Kaike people themselves. It will help create awareness about their mother tongue and include it into the national mainstream through education. Such a measure will help boost up the current national agenda for social inclusion of the underprivileged through mother tongue education as envisaged in Education for All (EFA) National Programme (2004-2009).
4. Country and Locality: The Country of the study will be Nepal. The locality will be the mountainous Dolpa district of Nepal.
5. Beneficiary indigenous people: Magar (Kaike speaking) indigenous people will be the direct beneficiary of the project.
6. Amount requested : US \$ 10000.00
7. Other resources of funding: Magar Studies Center will bear non technical administrative and management costs.
8. Aim and history of the organization: Magar Studies Center is a non-profit, non-political, and a social service and research oriented organization. It is registered as Non Governmental Organization (NGO) in Kathmandu District Administration Office and Social Welfare Council, Nepal. The aim of establishing Magar Studies Center is to conduct studies on history, religion, language, culture, and other socio-economic issues of the people of Nepal. The Center aims to provide a much required forum of professionals, academicians, social workers, practitioners, politicians, and businessmen to exchange their views and experiences on these issues.

Project Problem Background

Kaike is a Tibeto-Burman language of Tamangic group spoken in Tichyurong, Dolpa district, Nepal. In this area a Tibetan dialect, called Tichyurongbaa, is dominantly spoken whereas Kaike is used only by 794 speakers (2001 census) in five settlements. This language is also sometimes known as 'Tarali Kham', though it is quite different from Kham, a Himalayan language of western Nepal. (Bradley 1997:11). It is also sometimes called 'Khamkura'. This can have a general meaning of "local non-Nepali dialect". There exists no satisfactory account of Kaike language. American anthropologist James Fisher (1971) recorded the first word list of this language, which contains about six hundred items in broad phonetic transcription and has also been incorporated in Hale's compilation (1973).

There have been made the analysis of Kaike conjunct-disjunct distinction which is very similar to Kathmandu Newar (Watters, 2006; Honda 2007), first time discovered by Hale (1980).

The latest work on Kaike is preliminary. "Basic Dictionary and Grammar of the Kaike Language" has been prepared by Regmi et al. (2006) at the Central Department of Linguistics in collaboration with the National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities. It contains a trilingual dictionary with nearly 2500 entries, each of which contains fields such as lexeme, pronunciation (using IPA symbols), pronunciation (in Devanagari), part of speech, definitions (in Nepali and English), example sentences, context, etc. Besides, it also presents a brief sketch of Kaike grammar. However, there is a need for further elaboration.

Kaike is found to be a seriously endangered language because of marginal number of its speakers, language shift, very scanty linguistic and ethnic studies, low economic and socio-economic status of the speakers, and gradual migration to urban areas and foreign countries for job or education. As it has no script, it is not used in domains such as education and mass media and is confined only to intra- and interhousehold communications among Kaike speakers.

However, Kaike has been actively used by its marginalized native speakers who have continued to be its fluent speakers and use it in their daily life. The language is also used in ritual and cultural functions. Also, the Government of Nepal has a language policy to preserve and promote minority languages. It is, therefore, high time that this language be documented with the assistance of its limited speakers before it ceased to exist.

Objectives

The goal of the SSKL is to document the Kaike language. To be specific, this study aims to achieve the following tasks:

- To collect details about the language on the basis of secondary sources
- To elicit information on the demography, domains of language use, similarities and differences with neighbouring languages, language maintenance, attitude and loyalty.
- To prepare a sociolinguistic profile of the language on the basis of the information collected in the field.
- To investigate its viability for its use as medium of instruction in basic literacy programmes for children as well as adults.

- To suggest measures for the promotion and preservation of the language.

Beneficiaries

The Kaike speaking Magars, the indigenous people, will be the direct beneficiary. The language is valuable to human civilization, in that sense the whole mankind will be benefitted.

Project Plan: Methodology

To accomplish these specific tasks, the following methods and techniques will be adopted:

To develop a questionnaire and elicit information about the demography, domains of language use, language vitality, maintenance, loyalty and shift about the Kaike language.

Project Feasibility

Magar Studies Center, which is devoted to the study of the various facets of Magar community as a whole including Kaike subgroup, will act as the host institution to conduct this study. Therefore, there will be no difficulty in obtaining the permission from Kaike organization for conducting this study. While working with the basic Kaike dictionary, we have developed close rapport with Kaike community and expect to receive full support in documenting their language. The field site is easily accessible. Besides, though language retention is extremely low among Kaiques there are still sufficient number of fluent Kaike speakers to elicit required linguistic and sociolinguistic information about the language and its speakers. The Kaike community is, above all, willing to preserve their language and even use it as medium of instruction in basic literacy programmes for children and adults under the aegis of Education for All (EFA) policy envisaged by the Government of Nepal.

Expected outcomes and significance

This study will focus on understanding Baram culture, recording the cultural meanings surrounding certain words in the dictionary. These words will be selected through the inter linearization of collected texts that illustrate various aspects of Baram culture. Thus this study will try to integrate language structure and the culture of language in its analysis and thereby preserve extremely endangered Kaike culture through its linguistic analysis. We expect the following outcomes of this study:

- i. Academically, this study will contribute to a first hand database on the Kaike language. This will help linguists and the language community analyze the system of the language vis-à-vis its related culture.
- ii. This study can be used by language activists, politicians, educators, and development planners to help the given community. Without this picture, it is difficult to see how anyone can move forward in Kaike culture and language preservation, language standardization, and sustainable development.
- iii. This host institution and other academic institutions can benefit from the findings of this study as they can incorporate the Kaike data within their curricula in teaching the language.
- iv. Most importantly, it is hoped that this study helps the Kaike people themselves. It will help create awareness about their mother tongue and include it into the national mainstream through education. Such a measure will help boost up the current national agenda for social inclusion of the underprivileged through mother tongue education as envisaged in Education for All (EFA) National Programme (2004-2009).

- v. This study may serve as a model for documenting several other seriously endangered languages of Nepal.
- vi. The use of Kaike in basic education, along with its sociolinguistic profile, will help the preservation and promotion of the language.

Action Plan and Methodology

Activity 0: Project preparation

It consists of office set-up, recruitment of research assistant and language consultants, purchase of equipment (such as computers, still cameras, tape recorders, etc.) required for carrying out the study. This activity which also includes the overall running of the study for the whole duration will be carried out by GPT, the Principal Applicant.

Activity 1: Training

Training will be imparted by YPY to RA and LCs. This will help to acquaint them with the goals, activities and techniques of the study and how to accomplish them in the field and elsewhere.

Activity 2: Selection of the field site

Training will be followed by preparing a survey questionnaire to preparing a sociolinguistic profile of the language including details about its demography, domains of use, language shift and retention, language loyalty and so on. This activity will be carried out jointly by YPY, RA and LCs.

Activity 3: Questionnaire

The research team will develop a questionnaire for eliciting information about the sociolinguistic study of the language.

Activity 7: Report writing

On the basis of the linguistic analysis of the Kaike language, the research team will focus on preparing a prefinal draft of this study.

Activity 8: Evaluation

For quality control the findings of this study will be presented at a seminar comprising participants from among linguists and Kaike native speakers.

Activity 9: Final draft

We will prepare the final draft of the study incorporating the feedback received from the seminar in both electronic and printed forms.

Activity 10: Dissemination

Finally, the findings of the study will be disseminated for its further quality control and improvement through publications in reputed journals through peer review, presentations at conferences, publication of the study in a book form, publication of a Kaike primer including its orthography, and development of a website.

Expertise

For the linguistic analyses, we have linguists who have already worked on a preliminary Kaike dictionary and grammar. All the members of the research team have gained experience in collecting data of some endangered languages spoken in Nepal.

Timeline: Duration and work plan

The project leaders and other members of the research team are listed with their abbreviations as follows:

Activity 4 Training		XX										
Activity 5 Field Visit			XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX						
Activity 6 Report Writing							XXXX	XX				
Activity 7 Evaluation								XX				
Activity 8 Final draft									XXX			
Activity 9 Dissemination										X		

Evaluation: Describe the projected results of your project and the means by which you will measure success. Please also describe here the long-term or on-going benefits of your project and/or how this project will continue to operate or provide benefits after this grant has been concluded.

1. **Budget.** Suggested length 1 page.

Provide a detailed budget in US dollars for this project. Indicate other funding sources including, if appropriate, any funds allocated from your organization's budget. Please also provide information regarding your organization's overall annual budget.

Example of budget structure:

ITEMS/activity	# OF UNITS	COST PER UNIT	Funds provided by Org.	Funds provided by UN funds	OTHER funds (from other donors)	Total costs \$US
Budget item 1 Remuneration		\$ US				
Remuneration	Team leader Number 1	200x9 months	900	900		1800
	Researcher Number. 1	500x9 months	1350	3150		4500
	Research assistant Number 1	300x 6months	300	1500		1800
	Language consultants Number 2	2x200x4 months	400	1200		1600
Budget item 2						

Research expenses						
Travel and lodging	4 persons	4 person x 300	200	1000		1200
Research equipments and materials	1 computer and printer	900		900		900
Stationeries		450	100	350		450
Budget item 3 Dissemination						
Printing and dissemination	One seminar with linguist society	1500	500	1000		1500
TOTAL			3750	10000		13750

2. Verifications.

A.Organizational Status. Please find a copy of M SC's Constitution.

B. Free, Prior and Informed Consent. Verification

Magar Studies Center, which is devoted to the study of the various facets of Magar community as a whole including Kaike subgroup, will act as the host institution to conduct this study. Therefore, there will be no need/difficulty of obtaining the permission from Kaike organization for conducting this study. While working with the basic Kaike dictionary, we have already developed close rapport with Kaike community and expect to receive full support in documenting their language.

Since this study will benefit the local community and the world, there is no need for any approval from the Kaike community for the research work.

Organization Profile

Name of the Organization: Magar Studies Center, NGO registered in Kathmandu district administration office in 2003

Mailing Address: GPO Box No. 12451, Kathmandu, Nepal

Telephone: 00977-1-5532320; **Email:** info@[magarstudiescenter.org](mailto:info@magarstudiescenter.org);

[magarstudiescenter@yahoo.com](mailto:info@magarstudiescenter.org)

Web site: www.magarstudiescenter.org

Organization details:

Magar Studies Center—A non-profit, non-political, non governmental organization; Registered with the District Administration Office of Kathmandu district vide Registration number 541/059-060 on 31 Jan 2003.ed on 13 Aug 2005) and also affiliated to the Social Welfare Council vide Registration number 14516 on 14 Feb 2003.

The General Assembly is the apex body of this Center. The Executive Committee is elected by the General Assembly for a period of three years. The Executive committee is headed by President. The other officials are Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three General Members. The Executive Committee of the Center is currently chaired by

Dr. Govind Prasad Thapa, a Ph.D. doctorate degree holder in management and a retired Additional Inspector General of Nepal Police.

The aim and objectives of the Organization:

The aim and objectives of the Magar Studies Center are to conduct research and studies in the issues of socio-economic, justice, security, human rights and good governance. The cardinal objectives of this Center are:

- Conduct research/study on the demography, history, culture, language, religion, economy, education and politics of the people of Nepal.
- Provide consultancy and advocacy services.
- Publish books, reports, journals and bulletins.
- Establish a resource center/library for research and studies.

Some past activities of the Center:

- Publications of its Research journal “SHODHMALA” (three numbers)- 2005/2006/2007
- One day seminar on “Constituent Assembly and Restructuring of State” on 22 July 2006.
- “The Study of the religion and culture of Magars in Rukum, Rolpa and Dolpa districts of Nepal”, in Marh-May, 2006.
- A Seminar on the “Impact of Conflicts on Indigenous People in Nepal”, 6 August 2005
- A workshop on the Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Challenges of Magar organizations; 3 July 2004
- A four days Training Seminar-Workshop on the Role of Enumerators and Supervisors in Research Work. This training was delivered to 65 Bachelors Degree level students of Tribhuvan University, 2004
- Publication of Kham-Nepali-English Dictionary, 2004

The sources of funding: Sources of fund are the grants, donations, and membership fees. The voluntary contributions of the members play an important role in the activities of the MSC.

The competency of the members/staffs:

The Magar Studies Center has potential and capable staffs for planning, organizing, conducting projects with utmost efficiency. The members of Magar Studies Center have wide experience of practice and research works. Many of them are professionals in various disciplines and are part-time contributors of Magar Studies Center. The Center is capable of contributing in the areas of research and studies in the issues of socio-economic, cultural, human rights, justice and democracy.

Bibliography:

Fisher, F. James. 1971. A vocabulary of the Kaike language, Kirtipur: Summer Institute of Linguistics [and] Institute of Nepal Studies, Tribhuvan University

Watters, David E. 2006. The conjunct-disjunct distinction in Kaike. *Nepalesse Linguistics* 22:300-19.

Honda, Isao.2007.The Kaike conjunct-disjunct distinction revisited.

MS Regmi, Ambika .2007. The documentation of Kaike. CDL and NFDIN

E. Corrie Maya Daurio, 2009, Exploring Perspectives on Landscape and Language among Kaike Speakers in Dolpa, Nepal, Unpublished Thesis, University of Montana, Missoula, MT