

Nepali transcript:

यहाँ सञ्जय आफ्नो गाउँमा टी.भी. र फिल्मको बयान गरिरहेका छन्। सञ्जय नेपालको दक्षिणी भाग, तराइबाट भरखरै काठमाण्डू आएको हो। उसको गाउँमा नेपाली भन्दा गाँउकै भाषा बोलिन्छ। त्यसैले उसको बोली र उच्चारण काठमाण्डूमा बस्ने सनिताको भन्दा अलि फरक छ। प्राय गाँउघरमा बोलिने नेपालीको लय फरक हुन्छ र बोलिचालिमा धेरै निपात। हरू थपिन्छ। यहाँ प्रयोग गरिएका 'त, अँ, तब, चाहिँ, होइन' निपातका उद्धारन हुन। तराइको भाषामा हिन्दीको प्रभाव पनि सञ्जयको बोलिमा देख्न सकिन्छ।

सञ्जय: अस्ती² मेरो बाउले India बाट टी.भी. ल्यायो।

सनिता: टी.भी.?

सञ्जय: अँ! १४ इन्चीको।

सनिता: हो? तिम्रो गाउँमा कतिको मान्छेहरूको धरमा टी.भी. हुन्छ?

सञ्जय: अँ, कुनै कुनै घरमा हुन्छ, धेरैको हुँदैन। म³।

सनिता: अनि फिल्म हेर्छै?

सञ्जय: अँ, हेर्छु।

सनिता: कुन? अ...नेपाली कि हिन्दी?

¹ *Nipat* (निपात) are space filler words that appear frequently in Nepali. They tend to take on different meanings or no meaning at all based on the context and tone of voice when they are used. Especially in Nepali language spoken outside of the capital, *Nipat* (निपात) are everywhere. One can often guess people's origins based on the निपात they use and the accents they have.

² Literally, *Asti* (अस्ती) means day before yesterday. In general conversations it is used to mean 'a few days ago' or 'just recently'.

³ 'म' is commonly used instead of the verbal yes ('अँ' or 'हो'), just to affirm what has been previously said. 'म..' and 'अ..' are used here to differentiate the affirmative 'म' and 'अँ' from the space filler 'um' or 'ah' pauses people have in conversations.

सञ्जयः हिन्दी। म।

सनिताः तिम्रो favorite चाहिँ के हो?

सञ्जयः हाम्रो तब, favorite चाहिँ भोजपुरी⁴ छ।

सनिताः ए, रमाइलो लाग्छ?

सञ्जयः अँ रमाइलो छ।

सनिताः कस्तो...

सञ्जयः जस्तै नेपालीहरू⁵ नेपाली फिल्म रोजाइछ होइन, हाम्रो उता पनि त्यस्तै।...भोजपुरी हेर्छ।

सनिताः नेपाली फिल्म हेर्दैन? भोजपुरी फिल्म त India बाट बनेर आउँछ?

सञ्जयः अँ, India⁶ बाट। पटनातिर, बिहारको।

सनिताः कस्तो हुन्छ नि भोजपुरी फिल्महरू?

सञ्जयः रमाइलो हुन्छ।

सनिताः तन्नै गीतहरू हुन्छ?

⁴ Bhojpuri (भोजपुरी) is the language of the Bhojpuri (भोजपुरी) people who are originally from the district of Bhojpur (भोजपुर). It is one of the popular languages spoken in the southern Terai region of Nepal. Districts, referred to as *Jilla* (जिल्ला) in Nepali, are administrative regions similar to counties in the US. Nepal is divided into 75 such counties and Bhojpur (भोजपुर) is one of them. The use of languages originating from these districts is not limited to the district itself. They have spread out to other parts of the country due to people migrating and adopting different languages for trade purposes or dominating cultural groups influencing language use.

⁵ People often use Nepali ('नेपाली') to refer to people in the cities or the Hilly Region. Villagers refer to themselves based on their own village, district or tribe. Sanjay here is from the district of Bhojpur (भोजपुर) and would be referred to as 'Bhojpuri (भोजपुरी)'. His native language is also called 'Bhojpuri (भोजपुरी)' which is usually how languages get their names.

⁶ The Nepali word for 'India' is *Bharat* (भारत) but in most parts of Nepal people use the English word in informal conversations. On the news, 'भारत' is used by programs presenting in Nepali language.

सञ्जयः गीतहरू हुन्छ..अँ..तन्नै

सनिताः तिमिलाइ आउँछ कि एउटा गीत?

सञ्जयः अँ

सनिताः गाउ त एउटा गीत..गाइदुयै त।

सञ्जयः (लजाउँदै) आउँदैन। छैन⁷।

सनिताः गाउ त गाउ

सञ्जयः (हाँस्टै) छैन।

सनिताः आउँदैन र?

सञ्जयः आउँदैन त्यति आउँदैन।

सनिताः तिम्रो Favorite हिरो को छ?

सञ्जयः (हाँस्टै, लजाउँदै)

सनिताः भोजपुरी हिरोहरू छैन कोही पनि मनपर्ने एकदम?

सञ्जयः भोजपुरीमा?

सनिताः अँ।

सञ्जयः छैन त्यति छैन।

सनिताः मनपर्ने फिल्म होला?

⁷ *Chaina* (छैन) is generally used to express negative feedback to questions that ask whether an action or state has been achieved. Here it is translated as 'there isn't/aren't any' but it could also mean '[an action] hasn't been done'. However, the speaker here uses it to express his reluctance to sing. Such usage of *Chaina* (छैन) can be seen among Nepali speakers who have a different native language and are from outside the capital.

सञ्जयः (टाउको हल्लाउँदै) धेरै भोजपुरी हेर्दैन।

सनिताः तिमिले कतिवटा फिल्म हेरेको छ त?

सञ्जयः ए कति कति!

सनिताः धेरै भोजपुरी हेर्दैन रे, फेरि कति कति हेरेछ रे?

सञ्जयः होइन। हिन्दी मात्र हेरेको।

सनिताः अनि कहाँ घरमा टी.भी छैन त, कसरी हेर्ने त?

सञ्जयः हँ, भख्खर त ल्यायो। यहीं अस्ती आएर हेरिरहेथ्यो। उता पनि हेरिरहेछ काठमाण्डौमा।

सनिताः अनि पहिला गाउँमा हुँदा चाहिँ कसरी हेर्थ्यो?

सञ्जयः ए..गाउँमा अरूहरूको घरमा जान्थ्यो, हेर्न। मेरो घरमा टी.भी नहुँदा नि अरूहरूको घरमा जान्थ्यो हेर्न होइन।

सनिताः ए..सबैजना सँगै बसेर..

सञ्जयः अँ। अहिले मेरै घरमा भयो।

सनिताः अब त अरूहरू आँउछ होला नि।

सञ्जयः अँ.. अरूहरू आँउछ। अब छठ⁸मा गएपछि एउटा डिभिडि किनेर लाने...त्यही गर्ने। त्यहाँ तीन चार हजार लाग्छ.. त्यही घरमा लाने। डिसको⁹ लाइन लिनलाइ भन्दैछ होइन।

सनिताः अ..यहाँ यो डिस टी.भी.च्यानल वाला?

सञ्जयः अँ। त्यसमा धेरै पैसा खर्च हुँदैछ। तीन चार हजार¹⁰ लाग्छ। त्यसमा मोबाइल जस्तो रिचाज कार्ड लाग्छ। पैसा हालेपछि त्यहाँ उ आँउछ होइन, पिकचर आँउछ। पैसा सक्केपछि फेरि पिकचर गयो..

⁸ Chaat (छठ) is one of the biggest festivals in the Terai region.

⁹ Dish TV is a satellite TV package based in India that is popular in Nepal.

सनिता: जान्छ।

सञ्जय: अँ।जान्छ।

सनिता: महिना पिच्छे राख्नुपर्छ?

सञ्जय: अ..महिनामा पाँच सय राख्नुपर्छ, यहाँको आठ सय भइहाल्यो होइन¹¹। आठ सयको कसेट किन्यो, सी.डी.¹² किन्यो भन्यो कति आउँछ, कति आउँछ....होइन।

सनिता: म। डिस टी.भी नलिएर..

सञ्जय: अँ। म..

सनिता: डिस टी.भी लियो भने उता इन्डियाको हुन्छ होइन।

सञ्जय: अँ।

English translation:

Here, Sanjay is talking about watching TV and films. Sanjay has recently come to Kathmandu from the southern part called Terai in Nepal. In his village, another local language is spoken more frequently than Nepali. That is why Sanjay's speech and accent is a bit different from that of Sanita, who comes from Kathmandu. Usually spoken Nepali in the villages has a different tone and people use a lot of *Nipat* (निपात)¹³ in conversations. In the dialogue here *ta* (त), *aan* (अँ), *taba* (तब), *chahee* (चाहिँ), *haina* (होइन) are some examples of *Nipat*. The influence of Hindi language on the Nepali language in the Terai can be seen in Sanjay's speaking.

¹⁰ The speaker is mentioning the price in terms of Nepali Rupees (NRs), the currency in Nepal. \$1 is equivalent to NRs 86.15 (as of 19th Oct 2012 on Google).

¹¹ Here the speaker is referring to the NRs 800 he receives as his monthly salary in Kathmandu.

¹² Here 'Cassettes, CD (किन्यो, सी.डी)' is used to refer to VHS and DVD. In Nepal, people don't distinguish cassettes and CDs from VHS and DVD when referring to videos or audios.

¹³ *Nipat* (निपात) are space filler words that appear frequently in Nepali. They tend to take on different meanings or no meaning at all based on the context and tone of voice when they are used. Especially in Nepali language spoken outside of the capital, *Nipat* (निपात) are everywhere. One can often guess people's origins based on the निपात they use and the accents they have.

Sanjay: Just recently¹⁴ my father brought a TV from India.

Sanita: TV?

Sanjay: Yes! A fourteen-inch one.

Sanita: Really? In your village, how [many] people have TV in their homes?

Sanjay: Mmh¹⁵ ... Some homes have it, not a lot of people do. Yeah.

Sanita: And you watch films?

Sanjay: Yes, I watch [them].

Sanita: Which [films]? Ah... Nepali or Hindi?

Sanjay: Hindi. Yeah.

Sanita: What is your favorite movie?

Sanjay: Our favorites are the Bhojpuri¹⁶ [ones].

Sanita: Oh. Is it entertaining?

Sanjay: Yes, it is entertaining.

Sanita: How?

¹⁴ Literally, *Asti* (अस्ती) means day before yesterday. In general conversations it is used to mean 'a few days ago' or 'just recently'.

¹⁵ The speaker uses the word *mmh* (म) here. *mmh* (म) is commonly used instead of the verbal 'yes' (*aan* (आँ) or *ho* (हो)), just to affirm what has been previously said. The affirmative *mmh* (म) and *aah* (आँ) used here are translated as 'yes'. There is also the *mm..* (म..) and *ah..* (अ..) which are space fillers pauses people use in conversations and are translated as such.

¹⁶ Bhojpuri (भोजपुरी) is the language of the Bhojpuri (भोजपुरी) people who are originally from the district of Bhojpur (भोजपुर). It is one of the popular languages spoken in the southern Terai region of Nepal. Districts, referred to as *Jilla* (जिल्ला) in Nepali, are administrative regions similar to counties in the US. Nepal is divided into 75 such counties and Bhojpur (भोजपुर) is one of them. The use of languages originating from these districts is not limited to the district itself. They have spread out to other parts of the country due to people migrating and adopting different languages for trade purposes or dominating cultural groups influencing language use.

Sanjay: Just like Nepalis¹⁷ here like Nepali films no, we are like that there. We watch Bhojpuri [films].

Sanita: Don't you watch Nepali movies? The Bhojpuri movies, they come from India right?

Sanjay: Yes, they come from India. Near Patna. From Bihar.

Sanita: So what are Bhojpuri films like?

Sanjay: They are entertaining.

Sanita: They have a lot of songs?

Sanjay: There are songs, yes a lot.

Sanita: Do you know a song?

Sanjay: Yeah.

Sanita: Then sing us a song, sing please!

Sanjay: I don't know. There aren't any¹⁸.

Sanita: Sing, sing!

Sanjay: (*laughing*) There isn't.

Sanita: Don't you know really?

Sanjay: I don't know, not much.

Sanita: Who is your favorite hero?

Sanjay: (*laughs*)

¹⁷ People often use Nepali (‘नेपाली’) to refer to people in the cities or the Hilly Region. Villagers refer to themselves based on their own village, district or tribe. Sanjay here is from the district of Bhojpur (भोजपुर) and would be referred to as ‘Bhojpuri (भोजपुरी)’. His native language is also called ‘Bhojpuri (भोजपुरी)’ which is usually how languages get their names.

¹⁸ *Chaina* (छैन) is generally used to express negative feedback to questions that ask whether an action or state has been achieved. Here it is translated as ‘there isn't/aren't any’ but it could also mean ‘[an action] hasn't been done’. However, the speaker here uses it to express his reluctance to sing. Such usage of *Chaina* (छैन) can be seen among Nepali speakers who have a different native language and are from outside the capital.

Sanita: You don't have any super favorite Bhojpuri heroes?

Sanjay: Bhojpuri?

Sanita: Yes.

Sanjay: There isn't, not much.

Sanita: There must be a movie that is your favorite.

Sanjay: (*shaking his head*) I don't watch a lot of Bhojpuri movies.

Sanita: Then how many films have you watched so far?

Sanjay: Oh many, many.

Sanita: You say you don't watch Bhojpuri movies and then again you say you watch many, many?

Sanjay: No, no. I have only watched Indian [movies].

Sanita: So you said there is no TV at home usually, so how did you watch [them]?

Sanjay: Hm. We just got it [TV]. [Otherwise] I have been watching mostly after I came here. I have been watching here in Kathmandu.

Sanita: When you were in your village how did you watch them?

Sanjay: Oh, in the village people go to other people's houses. When there was not TV in my house I would also go to others' houses to watch [TV].

Sanita: Oh, so you watch together with everybody.

Sanjay: Yes, but now my house also has it.

Sanita: Then other people must come to your house.

Sanjay: Yes, others come. This time when I go home for Chaat¹⁹ I'll buy a DVD... that's to be done for sure. There it [the cost of a DVD] is three to four thousand [Nepali

¹⁹ Chaat (छाट) is one of the biggest festivals in the Terai region

rupees, NRs²⁰]. So I will take that [DVD]. They are talking about getting a Dish²¹ line [for the TV].

Sanita: Ah, the Dish TV thing here that has all the channels?

Sanjay: Yes, people [back home] are spending a lot of money on it. It takes about three to four thousand. It takes a Recharge Card like the one for a [prepaid] cell phone plan. Then once you put the money [on the card], it comes... the TV display comes. After the money is finished, the display goes away.

Sanita: Gone...

Sanjay: Yup, gone.

Sanita: So you top the card up every month?

Sanjay: Yes. We need to put about [NRs] 500 [on the card] per month. From here there is [NRs] 800, yes²²? If you buy Cassettes and CDs²³ with that, you could get a lot of them, right?

Sanita: Yeah. Without getting the Dish TV...

Sanjay: Yes. Mm.

Sanita: If you get Dish TV, it's from India right?

Sanjay: Yes.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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²⁰ The currency in Nepal is called the Nepali Rupees (NRs). \$1 is equivalent to NRs 86.15 (as of 19th Oct 2012 on Google).

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