

Comparing Kathmandu and Delhi

Nepali transcript:

सोनाम – साथै भन्नु पर्यो भने बाटोहरूमा गाडीहरू भयो, ट्रकहरू पनि, त्यसको संख्या पनि धेरै बढी सकेछ। पहिला चाहिँ नि मैले बुजेको अनुसार चाहिँ नि १५-२० वर्ष अगाडी चाहिँ नि ५०-६० हजार जती गाडी नै थियो, motorcycle र सबै गरेर। अब अहिले चाहिँ नि ४-५ लाख भइ सक्यो होला। त्यर्तो चाहिँ नि।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता – अनी तपाईं चाहिँ यहाँ अब काठमाडौंमा यहाँ २०-२५ वर्ष बस्नु भयो होइन?
अनी अरु शहरहरूमा जसते दिल्लीमा बस्नु भएको छ तपाईंले?

सोनाम – दिल्लीमा अब time, पटक-पटकमा जान्थ्यो। एक पटक म चाहिँ नि एक वर्ष जती नै बसेको थियो। त्यहाँ एक वर्ष बस्ताखेरी दिल्लीको शहर पनि राम्रो चाहिँ देख्न पायो। अनी बिच-बिचमा चाहिँ कहिले चाहिँ जाने बेलामा चाहिँ नि एक हप्ता, दुइ हप्ता बस्ने, कहिले- कहिले महिना दिन बसेर फर्केर आउने, दिल्लीमा।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता – छुट्टीको लागी?

सोनाम – छुट्टीको लागी पनि होइन। खासगरी यहाँ भेटघाट हुने। मेरो यहाँ साथीहरू छ। कहिले कामको समबन्धी भयो कहिले परिवारहरू पनि उता बसीरहेको हुन्छ, वहाँलाई भेट्नको लागी।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता – हजुर अनी तपाइलाई दिल्ली कस्तो लाग्छ? जस्तै कि अब काठमाडौं भन्दा ठूलो शहर त भयो होइन। तर तपाइको विचारमा दिल्ली राम्रो छ कि दिल्लीको यो कुरा मन परेन एकचोटी भन्नु न।

सोनाम – अब यो नयी दिल्ली भन्छ नी...उनीहरूले चाहिँ अब New Delhi भन्छ...नयी दिल्ली भन्छ। त्यहाँ चाहिँ के छ भने काठमाडौं को तुलनामा चाहिँ दिल्ली चाहिँ, नयी दिल्ली चाहिँ धेरै ठूलो छ। अब त्यसमा दस गुना ठूलो हो कि, अनदाजी चाहिँ त्यस्तो होला। अनी, तर कुरा चाहिँ के छ भने त्यहाँ निर चाही हरेक ठाउँ चाहिँ नि धेरै फराकिलो छ। यो अब कहिलेकाहि चाहिँ आफु cinema हेर्नु जानु

पर्यो भने त्यहाँ पुग्नुलाई चाहिँ नि लगभग चाहिँ नि आधी घण्टा, ४५ minute जती लाग्ने एउटा ठाउँबाट अर्को ठाउँ [जान] किनभने फराकिलो चाहिँ भइराख्छ। अब हामी काठमाडौँमा भए भने यहाँ cinema हेर्नु पर्यो भने अर्को ठाउँमा जानु पर्यो भने २० minuteमा पुग्छ, [कि]५ minuteमा पुग्छ। भन्दाखेरी [दिल्लीमा] कोही साथीभाइ भेट्नु जानु पर्यो भने एउटा ठाउँबाट अर्को ठाउँ जाँदाखेरी धेरै फराकिलो। अर्को एउटा कुरा के छ भने मौसमको चाहिँ कुरा गर्नु पर्यो भने दिल्लीमा चाहिँ जाडो महिनामा चाहिँ अलि जाडै छ भन्नु पर्यो, तर गर्मी महिनामा चाहिँ यति गर्मी छ कि मान्छे चाहिँ बस्नै नसक्ने। अब भन्नु पर्यो भने ४५ degree centigrade पुग्दो रहेछ। भन्दाखेरी ४५ degree centigrade पुग्दाखेरी त मान्छेहरू चाहिँ काम गर्ने कहाँ-कहाँ के पनि गर्न नमिल्ने।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता – असाध्यै अष्टयारो?

सोनाम – हो। अब हाम्रो यहाँ त्यो तुलनामा हेर्नु पर्यो भने हाम्रो काठमाडौँ चाहिँ नि त्यती फरक छैन। जाडो महिनामा चाहिँ अलि जाडै छ गर्मी महिनामा चाहिँ नि ठिकै छ। भन्नु पर्यो भने लगभग ३० degree centigrade सम्म होला। त्यो बाहेक चाहिँ त्यती सारो छैन। भन्दाखेरी मौसमको अनुसार हेर्नु पर्यो भने काठमाडौँ चाहिँ धेरै राम्रो।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता – अनी रोजगार र धेरै जस्तै facilitiesहरू दिल्लीमा अलि राम्रो होला, अलि ठूलो शहर भएर?

सोनाम – हो। अब मैले बुजेको अनुसार त त्यहाँको officeहरू हाम्रो यहाँ काठमाडौँ भन्दा भने धेरै ठूलो officeहरू होला। कामको सम्बन्धी पनि अब त्यहाँको संख्या, जनसंख्या पनि काठमाडौँ भन्दा बडि नै धेरै बडि होला।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता – अनी त्यहाँको विकास कस्तो छ?

सोनाम – होला अब। त्यहाँ पनि मैले यसरी हेर्दाखेरी २०-२५ वर्षको समयको अविधी हेर्दाखेरी उनीहरूको पनि उन्नति त धेरै भइसकेछ। अनी त्यसमा चाहिँ नि के छ भने अब भन्नु पर्यो भने अहिले चाहिँ नि Metro भनीराखेकोछ¹। त्यहाँ निर चाहिँ

¹ The interviewee does not pronounce the full phrase 'भनीराखेकोछ' /bha-ni-ra-khe-ko-cha' but rather pronounces it as 'bhai-ra-cha'. This is done often while speaking quickly so that the suffix 'राखेकोछ/ ra-

railको गाडि चाहिँ के भन्नु पर्यो भने undergroundको त्यहाँ मुनी जाने चाहिँ system पनि अहिले चाहिँ बनाएछ। अब घरहरू अहिले चाहिँ नयाँ-नयाँ चाहिँ नि सानो-सानो शहर दिल्लीको नजिकै, नोड्डा भन्छ, गुरगाउँ भन्छ। तिनीहरू चाहिँ धेरै फैलि सकेछ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता – हजुर। अनी त्यो सानो-सानो शहरमा फैलिन कारण के होला? केके बनाएछ उनीहरूले त्यहाँ?

सोनाम – अब भन्नु पर्यो भने अब शहर भित्र नै बस्नु पर्यो भने धेरै महँगी भयो जग्गाको महँगो भएर। अब अनी त्यसले गर्दाखेरी नयाँ-नयाँ company सुरु गर्दा बाहिर चाहिँ नि ठूलो-ठूलो भव्य buildingहरू, घरहरू चाहिँ बनेछ। २०, ३०, ४० तल्ला घरको त्यस्तो चाहिँ नि बनाएर अनी धेरै आइदिएकोछ²।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता – अनी तपाइ गएको छ³ त्यहाँ?

सोनाम – गइ सकेछु।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता – अनी तपाइलाई कस्तो लाग्यो? त्यहाँ बस्न मन लाग्यो कि त्यस्तो मन लागेन?

सोनाम – त्यहाँ चाहिँ नि मलाई के लाग्छ भने एक महिनाको लागी बस्न बस्यो भने राम्रो बरु जाडो महिनामा जाने, गर्मी महिना त जान चाहिँ अलिकति गाह्रो होला। तर त्यहाँ पुरै बस्न चाहिँ नि अलिकति अप्ठ्यारो छ।

English translation:

Sonam: In addition, the amount of cars and trucks on roads have increased a lot. According to what I understand, earlier 15-20 years ago, there were 50-60 thousand vehicles, motorcyces and everything else. Now it must've become 4-5 Lakhs.⁴ That much.

khe-ko-cha' is shortened. It is similar to shortening 'want to' to 'wanna' in English. In formal Nepali writing, however, spelling it the way the speaker pronounces it would be wrong.

² The interviewee shortens the word 'आइदिएकोछ' / aa-i-di-ye-ko-cha' to 'aa-i-de-cha'. See footnote 1.

³ The interviewer shortens the phrase 'गएको छ/ga-ye-ko cha' to 'ga-ye-cha'. Even though 'ga-ye-cha' is right in certain grammar contexts, it cannot be used here. See footnote 1.

⁴ 1 Lakh = 100,000

Interviewer: Well you have lived in Kathmandu for 20-25 year right? So have you lived in other cities such as Delhi?

Sonam: I used to go to Delhi every now and then. Once I lived there for a year. When I lived in Delhi for one year, I was able to see the city properly. In between, I stay there for one-two weeks, sometimes I stay in Delhi for a month and then return.

Interviewer: For holidays?

Sonam: Not for the holidays. Actually, there are get-togethers and meetings here. I have friends here. Sometimes for work-related matters, other times to meet my family who also live there.

Interviewer: Yes, and what do you think of Delhi? For instance, it is a larger city than Kathmandu, right? But, in your opinion, do you think Delhi is pleasant, or tell us, what don't you like about it?

Sonam: Now this is called *Nayi Dil-li*⁵ ... people say New Delhi... they say *Nayi Dil-li*. There, in comparison to Kathmandu, Delhi or New Delhi is much bigger. It may be ten times bigger; that is probably the estimated amount. The thing is, there every place is really far away. If you have to go to the movies, to get from one place to another it will take approximately 30-45 minutes because things are so far away. Now, if we were in Kathmandu and had to go to the movies, to get to another place it would take twenty minutes, [or even] five minutes. Basically, if you have to meet any friends [in Delhi], the distance between once place to another will be very long. Additionally, if you have to talk about the weather, then I would have to say that in the winter, Delhi is pretty cold; but the summer it is so hot that people can't even stay there. I would have to say that it reaches forty-five degrees centigrade. When it reaches forty-five degrees centigrade, not only is working out of the question, but also you are unable to do anything else.

Interviewer: Extremely uncomfortable?

Sonam: Yes. Now, if we compare here to there [Delhi], then our Kathmandu doesn't have as much difference [between summer and winter]. The winter is a little cold and the summer is pretty okay. I would have to say, [it goes] up to approximately thirty degrees centigrade. As a result, according to the weather, Kathmandu [is a] very nice [place].

Interviewer: So, employment and many facilities are probably better in Delhi since it is a bigger city?

Sonam: Yes. From what I understand, the offices there must be bigger than the ones in our Kathmandu. In relation to work, the figures there—the population there must also be a lot greater than Kathmandu.

⁵ Hindi way of saying "New Delhi."

Interviewer: And how is the development there?

Sonam: Probably... When you look at the [past] 20-25 year time period, they have experienced a lot of progress. With regards to that comes what they call the Metro.⁶ They are building an underground train system. Now, new houses... new small cities near Delhi called Noida and Gurgaon. They have grown a lot.

Interviewer: Yes. So what do you think is the reason for the growth of these small cities? What kind of things have they built there?

Sonam: I would have to say [that the reason is], living in the city is expensive—the land is expensive. Because of this, new companies start by constructing building outside [the city]. Many twenty-, thirty-, forty-story buildings are being and have been constructed.

Interviewer: So, have you gone there?

Sonam: I have gone there.

Interviewer: And what did you think? Did you feel like living there or not?

Sonam: I feel that there, you can stay for a month, it will be good if you go in the winter. To get there in the summer would probably be a little difficult. But to stay there all the time would be a little uncomfortable.

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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⁶ A new subway system in Delhi.