

Nepali transcript:

यहाँ सञ्जय आफनो गाउँमा मनाइने चाडहरूको बयान गरिरहेका छन। सञ्जय नेपालको दक्षिणी भाग, तराइको रौताहट जिल्ला¹बाट भरखरै काठमाण्डू आएको हो। उसको गाउँमा नेपाली भन्दा गाँउकै भाषा बोलिन्छ। त्यसैले उसको बोली र उच्चारण काठमाडौँमा बस्ने सनिताको भन्दा अलि फरक छ। प्राय गाँउघरमा बोलिने नेपालीको लय फरक हुन्छ र बोलिचालिमा धेरै निपात²हरू थपिन्छ। यहाँ प्रयोग गरिएका 'त, अँ, त्यो, चाहिँ, होइन, अनि' निपातका उद्धारण हुन। तराइको भाषामा हुने हिन्दीको प्रभाव पनि सञ्जयको बोलिमा देख्नन सकिन्छ।

सनिता: अनि तिमीहरू के के चाडहरू मनाउँछ नि?

सञ्जय: हामी होली मनाउँछ, तिहार होइन, अनि एउटा के हुन्छ भने कार्तिक³मा छठ पर्व हुन्छ।

सनिता: ए। होलीको बारेमा केही भनिदेउ न।

सञ्जय: होली⁴मा? होलीको बारेमा के भन्ने?

सनिता: होलीमा के के गर्छ तिमीहरूले?

सञ्जय: हाम्रो उता? रमाइलो मान्छ, मासु-सासु⁵ खान्छ। कुनै चाहिँ रक्सी खान्छ, कुनै कुनै। तर हामीहरू रक्सी खाँदैन।

¹ Districts or *Jilla* (जिल्ला) in Nepal is equivalent to administrative counties in the USA. Rautahat (रौतहट) is one of the 75 districts in Nepal.

² *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* are everywhere. One can often guess people's origins based on the *Nipat* they use and the accents they have.

³ Kartik (कार्तिक) is a month in the Nepali calendar.

⁴ Holi (होली) is the festival of colors celebrated in Nepal and India in February. The festival may be celebrated from 1-2 days depending on the location. People play with colors and splash each other with water balloons, water guns or simply buckets of water. According to legends, Holi is celebrated to mark the victory of good over evil when the demon Holika was burnt to death. But it is also celebrated to mark the start of the Spring season.

सनिता: रक्सी खाँदैन?

सञ्जय: अहिलेसम्म खाएको छैन।

सनिता: अनि पानी-सानी खेल्ने?

सञ्जय: अँ। रडग-सडग मज्जाले उ गछ।

सनिता: कु गछ?

सञ्जय: हाम्रो नातामा भाउजु पछि नि?

सनिता: के रे?

सञ्जय: भाउजु..

सनिता: भाउजु?

सञ्जय: अँ। त्यसलाइ रडग हाल्छ। त्यति हो।

सनिता: पानी-सानी लगाउने अनि balloon खेल्छ?

सञ्जय: अँ।

सनिता: तिमीहरूको गाउँमा होली किन मनाउँछ?

सञ्जय: हामीहरूको त नियम नै हो।

सनिता: के को लागि मनाउँछ थाहा छैन?

सञ्जय: रमाइलोको लागि।

⁵*Masu-sasu* (मासु-सासु) is an example of rhyming word combinations often used in colloquial Nepali, especially outside of the capital. Rhyming words are often attached to ends of words to indicate not just one thing but other things that fall under the same category. *Masu-sasu* (मासु-सासु) indicates meat and other festival foods like meat. *Pani-shani* (पानी-सानी), *Rung-sung* (रडग-सडग) are other examples of such forms used later in the conversation. While some word combinations like these are commonly used, people often come up with new ones to suit the conversation.

सनिता: रमाइलोको लागि मात्र? एसो केही होलिका⁶लाइ मारेको खुशीमा मनाउँछ भन्छ नि होली हामीले।

सञ्जय: खासै मलाइ त्यस्तो थाहा छैन होइन। त्यो रमाइलो चाहिँ रमाइलोको लागि मनाउँछ। जस्तै पर्वहरूको लागि होइन...जस्तै पर्वमा सबैजना... जस्तै पर्व किन गर्छ? उ मान्छ, के भने...के भन्छ नि तिनीहरू...दुवा कि के माग्छ...उ सालै-साल जीउनको लागि के भन्छ नि तिनीहरू...त्यही कारणले पर्व गर्छ सबै मान्छेहरू।

सनिता: भगवानलाइ माग्नुलाइ?

सञ्जय: अँ। भगवानलाइ उ गर्न। त्यो छठ पर्व आएपछि त्यो एक महिना जति मासु-सासु नखाने..

सनिता: छठ पर्वमा?

सञ्जय: अँ।

सनिता: अनि के के गर्छ त छठ पर्वमा?

सञ्जय: त्यही छठको दुइ दिन त मात्रै, एउटा बेलका र बिहान।

सनिता: के गर्छ?

सञ्जय: त्यो ठेकुवा हुन्छ नि ठेकुवा?

सनिता: थाहा छैन।

सञ्जय: अस्ती मैले ल्याएको थियो नि?

सनिता: कस्तो हुन्छ?

सञ्जय: कालो हुन्छ, गोलो..

सनिता: ए खानेकुरा?

⁶ Holika (होलिका) is a demon in one of the holy books for Hindus who tried to kill Prahlad, a kid who was highly devoted to Lord Krishna.

सञ्जयः अँ।

सनिताः कस्तो..के को बनाउँछ?

सञ्जयः त्यो मैदाको, चिनीको होइन, त्यो घ्यूमा निकाल्ने। त्यो आगोबाट निकाल्छ। अनि छठमा त्यो अर्को फलफूल हुन्छ नि, त्यही हालेर उ गछ।

सनिताः त्यो फलफूलले के गछ?

सञ्जयः छठ हुन्छ नि, छठपर्व..पूजा, त्यही जान्छ।

सनिताः पूजामा?

सञ्जयः अँ।

सनिताः अनि छठ चाहिँ किन मनाउँछ?

सञ्जयः छठ हाम्रै पर्व हो। जस्तै मुसलमानहरूको इद भयो होइन? रमजान भयो। त्यस्तै हामीहरूको पनि। तिनीहरूको पनि बेला-बेलामा आउँछ हामीहरूको पनि बेला-बेलामा आउँछ।

सनिताः अनि केटीहरूले मात्र गछ छठ?

सञ्जयः केटी, हाम्रो केटी घरको मान्छे एकजनाले गछ होइन। त्यसको बुढा-बुढी कहाँ, छोरा-छोरी कहाँ कहाँ छ, सबै त्यो दिन आउँछ।

सनिताः ए उसलाइ भेट्न?

सञ्जयः अँ। त्यो हामीहरूको पर्व हो। सबैभन्दा खास चाहिँ एक सालमा त्यही एउटा पर्व आउँछ होइन। त्यो बरु होलीमा अरु कसै मान्छे जाँदैन तर सबै मान्छे छठमा आउँछ।

सनिताः रौताहाटमा छठ चाहिँ सबैभन्दा ठूलो पर्व हो?

सञ्जयः अँ। सबैभन्दा ठूलो पर्व त्यही हो। खासै दिवाली⁷मा कोहि पनि जाँदैन, छठमा जसरी भएपनि पुग्नुपर्छ। यस्तो छ।

English translation:

Here, Sanjay is talking about festivals celebrated in his village. Sanjay has recently come to Kathmandu from his district Rautahat⁸, which lies in the Terai Region of Nepal. In his hometown, people use their local language more commonly than Nepali. Hence his speaking and accent is different from that of the interviewer, Sanita. Generally, Nepali language spoken in rural areas has a different tone; a lot of *Nipat*⁹ are used in conversations. The *Ta* (त), *Aan* (अँ), *Tyo* (त्यो), *Chahi* (चाहिँ), *Haina* (होइन), *Ani* (अनि) used here are examples of *Nipat*. One can also see the influence of Hindi language that can be seen in language in the Terai in Sanjay's speaking.

Sanita: So what festivals do you all celebrate?

Sanjay: We celebrate Holi, Tihar and in Kartik¹⁰, there is Chaath Parva.

Sanita: Oh. Tell us something about Holi.

Sanjay: Holi¹¹? What about Holi?

Sanita: What do you all do in Holi?

Sanjay: Back home? We celebrate, eat meat and other festive food¹². Some [people] drink alcohol, only some. We don't drink.

⁷ Diwali (दिवाली) is the biggest festival celebrated all over Nepal. It is more commonly referred to as Dashain (दशैं), especially in the Hilly Region of Nepal.

⁸ Districts or *Jilla* (जिल्ला) in Nepal is equivalent to administrative counties in the USA. Rautahat (रौतहट) is one of the 75 districts in Nepal.

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¹¹ Holi (होली) is the festival of colors celebrated in Nepal and India in February. The festival may be celebrated from 1-2 days depending on the location. People play with colors and splash each other with water balloons, water guns or simply buckets of water. According to legends, Holi is celebrated to mark the victory of good over evil when the demon Holika was burnt to death. But it is also celebrated to mark the start of the Spring season.

Sanita: You don't drink alcohol?

Sanjay: I haven't tried it yet.

Sanita: And don't you play with water?

Sanjay: Yes, we use colors to do fun stuff.

Sanita: What stuff?

Sanjay: You know sister-in-law?

Sanita: Sorry?

Sanjay: Sister-in-law.

Sanita: Sister-in-law?

Sanjay: Yes, we put color on her. That's fun.

Sanita: Do you play with water and water balloons?

Sanjay: Yes.

Sanita: Why do they celebrate Holi at your village?

Sanjay: It's like our rule.

Sanita: Don't you know what it is celebrated for?

Sanjay: For fun.

Sanita: For fun only? Some say Holi is celebrated to mark the death of Holika¹³.

¹²*Masu-sasu* (मासु-सासु) is an example of rhyming word combinations often used in colloquial Nepali, especially outside of the capital. Rhyming words are often attached to ends of words to indicate not just one thing but other things that fall under the same category. *Masu-sasu* (मासु-सासु) indicates meat and other festival foods like meat. *Pani-shani* (पानी-सानी), *Rung-sung* (रङ्ग-सङ्ग) are other examples of such forms used later in the conversation. While some word combinations like these are commonly used, people often come up with new ones to suit the conversation.

¹³ Holika (होलिका) is a demon in one of the holy books for Hindus who tried to kill Prahlad, a kid who was highly devoted to Lord Krishna.

Sanjay: I don't know much about that. [I just know] we celebrate it so we can have fun. Like in other festivals... like in festivals everyone [gathers]... like why we celebrate festivals in general. Like people... how do you say it... they keep saying it... praying to ask for blessings... something like asking for a long life... something like that... that is why all people celebrate festivals.

Sanita: To ask blessing from God?

Sanjay: Yes. Like to impress god. When Chaath comes, for one month people don't eat meat.

Sanita: In Chaath Parva?

Sanjay: Yes.

Sanita: What else do you do on Chaath Parva?

Sanjay: Only two of the days in Chaath [are important], one night and the following morning.

Sanita: What do you do?

Sanjay: Do you know *Thekuwa*?

Sanita: I don't know.

Sanjay: I brought it some time ago.

Sanita: How is it?

Sanjay: It's black and circular.

Sanita: Ah the food item?

Sanjay: Yes.

Sanita: How... What is it made of?

Sanjay: All purpose flour, sugar, and it's deep fried in Ghee. They also have other fruits in Chaath that they serve.

Sanita: What do they do with the fruits?

Sanjay: In Chaath during the worshipping ritual, they use [the fruits] as offerings.

Sanita: During the ritual?

Sanjay: Yes.

Sanita: And why is Chaath celebrated?

Sanjay: Chaath is our festival. Like Muslims have Eid, and Ramadan. It's like that for us. They have their festivals once in a while and we have our festival once in a while.

Sanita: And only women participate in Chaath?

Sanjay: Women... [It's like] one woman from the family participates [in the main ritual]. So her husband and children, no matter where they are, come that day.

Sanita: To visit her?

Sanjay: Yes. This is our festival. Like in the entire year, this is *the* festival. No one goes home for Holi but for Chaath everyone comes back.

Sanita: So Chaath is the biggest festival in Rautahat?

Sanjay: Yes. This is the biggest festival. No one goes home even for Diwali¹⁴! But everyone does in Chaath. That's how it is.

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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¹⁴ *Diwali* (दिवाली) is the biggest festival celebrated all over Nepal. It is more commonly referred to as Dashain (दशैं), especially in the Hilly Region of Nepal.