

Working as a Maid

Nepali transcript:

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: तपाईंको नाम के हो?

मीना दिदी: मीना।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि तपाईं कति वर्ष?

मीना दिदी: तीस वर्ष भयो होला।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि अहिले के गरिराख्नु भएको?

मीना दिदी: म खाना पाकाइराखेको।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: के खाना पाकाइराखेको?

मीना दिदी: मासु र भात।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: तपाईंलाई खान कि ...

मीना दिदी: मलाई।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: तपाईं दिन दिनै यति साढे दुई बजे खाना खानुहुन्छ हो? दिउँसोको ?

मीना दिदी: कहिले साढे दुई बजे, कहिले तीन बजे।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि दिनभरि भान्छामा काम गर्नुहुन्छ कि अरु कामहरु पनि गर्नुहुन्छ ?

मीना दिदी: अर्को अलि अलि गर्छु।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अरु के काम गर्नुहुन्छ?

मीना दिदी: अर्को यसै कोठा-सोठा सफा गर्ने।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि अरु?

मीना दिदी: अनि अरु त्यहि लुगा धुने।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: लुगा नि धुनुहुन्छ। अनि तपाईं यहीं काठमाडौं सहरको हो कि गाउँको?

मीना दिदी: यहीं काम गर्छु।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: तपाईं कहाँ...तपाईंको आमा बाबु चाहिँ कहाँ बस्नु हुन्छ?

मीना दिदी: घरमै।¹

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: तपाईंको घर कहाँ हो?

मीना दिदी: मेरो घर- गतौदी।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: कति टाढा छ यहाँबाट ?

मीना दिदी: एक घण्टा जति लाग्छ होला।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि घर धेरै जानुहुन्छ कि कहिले कहीं मात्र जानु हुन्छ?

मीना दिदी: कहिले कहिँ, छ-सात महिनामा।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: छ-सात महिनामा एकचोटि! तपाईं यहाँ काम गर्दा धेरै जसो के के खाना बनाउनुहुन्छ ?

मीना दिदी: खोइ! त्यहि साधारणमै।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: साधारण के? अब भात..

मीना दिदी: दाल, भात, तरकारी..त्यहि हो।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: दाल, भात, तरकारी, मासु...मासु कहिले कहिँ मात्र बनाउँछ।

मीना दिदी: कहिले कहिँ मासु अनि अचार बनाउँछ। अनि अचार बनाउँछ।

¹ घरमै literally means “in the house” but here she is referring to her village. People usually refer to their place of origin as their “घर”.

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: पिरा खाना बनाउनुहुन्छ कि?

मीना दिदी: पिरा बनाउँदैन।

English translation:

Interviewer: What is your name?

Meena: Meena.

Interviewer: How old are you?

Meena: It must be thirty years.

Interviewer: What are you doing?

Meena: I am preparing food.

Interviewer: What food are you preparing?

Meena: Meat and rice.

Interviewer: Is this for you to eat, or...?

Meena: It's for me.

Interviewer: Do you have lunch around thirty past two in the afternoon every day?

Meena: Sometimes at thirty past two, sometimes at three.

Interviewer: And do you work in the kitchen the whole day or do you do other chores?

Meena: I do little bit of other things too.

Interviewer: What other tasks do you do?

Meena: Just cleaning rooms.

Interviewer: And what else?

Meena: And washing clothes.

Interviewer: So you also wash clothes. And are you from Kathmandu city or a village somewhere else?

Meena: I work here [in Kathmandu].

Interviewer: Where do your mother and father live?

Meena: They live in the house [in village].

Interviewer: Where is your house?

Meena: My house is in Gataudi.

Interviewer: How far is it [to] there from here?

Meena: It might take one hour.

Interviewer: So you go home often or only sometimes?

Meena: Only sometimes, once in every six to seven months.

Interviewer: Once in six to seven months! What do you cook mostly when you work here [in the kitchen]?

Meena: I don't know! (*laughs*) Just the usual.

Interviewer: What do you mean by the usual? Rice...

Meena: *Daal*², rice, curry... things like that.

Interviewer: *Daal*, rice, curry, meat... meat is made only sometimes.

Meena: Sometimes, I make meat and pickle too.

Interviewer: Do you prepare spicy food?

Meena: No, I don't make spicy food.

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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² '*Daal*' refers to lentil soup. It is a very common Nepali dish eaten with rice everyday.