

Nepali transcript:

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: दिदी तपाइको नाम?

चीनी: चीनी।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि तपाइको यो पसल खुलाउनु भएको कति भयो?

चीनी: यो मैले खोल्न त धेरै वर्ष भयो।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: धेरै वर्ष भयो? अनि धेरै...कत्तिको बिक्री हुन्छ?

चीनी: अब अहिले काल बेला समय यस्तो छ है?

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर।

चीनी: के हुन्छ नानु? छैन!

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: छैन धेरै?

चीनी: अलि अलि चिया-स्या¹ खान त पुग्छ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि घर कसरी सम्हाल्नु हुन्छ त?

चीनी: अब घर अब जत्रो हाम्रो उत्रै खर्च। अब के गर्नु?

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर।

चीनी: दुख गरेर अलिअलि हुन्छ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि तपाईं यहि भक्तपुरको हो?

¹ When trying to express many things that are similar, Nepalis have a habit of rhyming that word with a 's' sound in front. In this case, the interviewee said 'चिया-स्या / chi-ya-si-ya' as a way to describe tea and other similar things. For example if you wanted to say there were a lot of musical instruments such as drums, you would probably say 'drums-srums'. The second word usually isn't actually a word.

चीनी: वहाँ.. यो मैले यो डेढा लिएको हो। घर चाहिं त्यो दुध...के रे त्यो minibus park छ नि?

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर।

चीनी: त्यहाँ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि त्यहाँ देखि यहाँ सम्म दिनदिनै कति time लाग्छ आउनको लागि?

चीनी: लाग्दैन! अब त्यो parkबाट यहाँ आउन कति लाग्छ होला²? तपाइलाई भए १०-१५ मिनेट, मलाई भए आदा घण्टा।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: आदा घण्टा?

चीनी: अब हिँड्न सकिदैन।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर। तपाई कति वर्ष हुनु भयो?

चीनी: १ साल³ को।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: ए...

चीनी: अब कति वर्ष जान्दिन...

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर...

चीनी: अब १ सालको कति वर्ष भन्ने होइन?

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हुन्छ दी! धन्यवाद!

चीनी: हस्। धन्यवाद।

² Here, the speaker does not pronounce the full phrase 'लाग्छ होला/ lag-cha ho-la' but rather pronounces it as 'lag-la' shortening the phrase into one word. This is often done in the spoken language while speaking quickly. However, using this in written language would be considered wrong.

³ This is a reference to 2001 Bikram Sambat, the official calendar of Nepal, which would be around 1945 in the Gregorian calendar. For example, when we refer to a year as 92, we automatically understand it as being 1992, the same is true for the Nepali calendar. She is saying that she was born in 2001 B.S. (1995). As of 2011 (when this interview was filmed), she would be 66 years old.

English translation:

Interviewer: *Didi*⁴, your name?

Cheeni: Cheeni.

Interviewer: And how long has it been since you opened the shop?

Cheeni: It's been many years since I opened this shop.

Interviewer: Many years? And, so do you sell a lot?

Cheeni: Well... in this *Kal*⁵, the time is like this [bad], right?

Interviewer: *Hajur*⁶.

Cheeni: What to do, *Nanu*⁷? No!

Interviewer: Not a lot?

Cheeni: Well, it's just enough to eat or drink tea and other stuff.

Interviewer: So how do you run your house then?

Cheeni: Well, however big our house is, our spending is that much. What to do?

Interviewer: *Hajur*.

Cheeni: Well... going through hardships I make a little [money].

⁴ 'दिदी /*Didi*' directly translates to 'older sister.' In Nepal, people address each other as brother and sister when interacting with strangers to respect the age difference. The male equivalent would be 'दाइ/*Dai*' for older brother. For younger brother and sister, 'भाइ/*Bhai*' and 'बहिनी/*Bahini*' are used. It is similar to using 'Sir' or 'Ma'am' in Western countries.

⁵ By saying '*Kal/काल*', the speaker is referring to 'Kali Yuga,' the "Age of Downfall", the fourth stage of world development as known in Hindu Scriptures, which we are currently in. The different stages represent the corruption of the world, and this final stage is the climax stage where the world is said to finally meet its judgement day at the end. The speaker is basically saying, since we are living in such a corrupted and bad age, she isn't making much money.

Wikipedia contributors, "Kali Yuga," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Kali_Yuga&oldid=547047502 (accessed April 9, 2013).

⁶ In this context, *Hajur*, is a sign of respect to the elder and shows that you are listening and following whatever she is saying by saying 'yes'. In other cases, it can also be used as a word to show respect to elders while talking to them or it can also be used to ask an older person to repeat something they said. In all cases, it is used formally.

⁷ '*Nanu*' is a term of endearment used to address girls. Because the interviewer is a lot younger than the interviewee, the interviewee uses this term to address her.

Interviewer: And are you from Bhaktapur?

Cheeni: Well... This is a rented shop. My house is... what do you call it... you know the minibus park?

Interviewer: *Hajur*.

Cheeni: There.

Interviewer: So, from there to here, daily, how long do you take to come here?

Cheeni: Not much! Now, how much time do you think it takes to come from that park till here? For you it may be ten or fifteen minutes, for me maybe half-hour.

Interviewer: Half-hour?

Cheeni: Well, I can't walk.

Interviewer: *Hajur*. How old are you?

Cheeni: [I was born in] '01⁸ year.

Interviewer: *Ae*⁹.

Cheeni: I'm not sure how old I am...

Interviewer: *Hajur*.

Cheeni: Now, from '01 year, how many years should I say, *hoina*¹⁰?

Interviewer: Okay, Di! Thank you!

Cheeni: *Hus*¹¹. Thank you.

⁸ This is a reference to 2001 Bikram Sambat, the official calendar of Nepal, which would be around 1945 in the Gregorian calendar. For example, when we refer to a year as '92, we automatically understand it as being 1992, the same is true for the Nepali calendar. She is saying that she was born in 2001 B.S. (1945). As of 2011 (when this interview was filmed), she would be 66 years old.

⁹ 'Ae' is like an interjection. It can be used in ways similar to that of the word 'Oh' in English. In this context, 'Ae' is used to express surprise and interest at learning about something you did not know before. It can also be used to directly address someone, especially if you're trying to get their attention from afar, or it can also be used to acknowledge someone's statement.

¹⁰ The direct translation of *hoina* is no; in this context, it is used as a filler word. It may also be used to confirm a statement in the same way that the word 'Right?' is used to confirm something in English.

¹¹ 'Hus' is a colloquial way of saying 'okay'.

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