

Nepali transcript:

यहाँ अंतरवार्ताकर्ता ठमेलको एक Money Exchange संचालकसँग कुरा गर्दैछन्।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: दाइ¹, हजुर²को शुभ नाम?

राम: मेरो नाम राम।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: राम?

राम: हजुर³।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर² अनि यता यो Money Exchange खोल्नुभएको कति भयो?

राम: मैले यो भरखर नयाँ हो। एक वर्ष जति हुन लाग्यो।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: एक वर्ष भयो?

राम: हजुर³।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अब एक वर्षमा कस्तो भइराखेको छ त?

¹ 'दाइ/Dai' directly translates to 'older brother.' In Nepal, people address each other as brother and sister when interacting with strangers to respect the age difference. The female equivalent would be 'दिदी/Didi' for older sister. For younger brother and sister, 'भाइ/Bhai' and 'बहिनी/Bahini' are used. It is similar to using 'Sir' or 'Ma'am' in western countries.

² Here, 'हजुर/hajur' is a term that essentially means 'you' but in a formal way. Nepali language has degrees of respect in it and the term 'हजुर/hajur' decrees the highest degree of respect. It is used to address the interviewee, as the interviewer is younger than the interviewee. In other cases, 'हजुर/hajur' is also used to imply that you are listening to what a speaker is saying especially if you're talking to an older person, to ask a speaker to repeat something they just said in a formal way or as a positive response to someone's question, acknowledging that a speaker is right.

³ In this context, 'हजुर/hajur' is used as a positive response to the speaker's question.

राम: ठीकै छ, नयाँ अनुभव भयो। अनि direct राष्ट्रिय बैङ्कसँग link अलिकति बढी हुने भएर..

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि धेरै जस्तो अब कता...कुन देशको currency change गर्न आउँछन् त?

राम: यो कस्तो हुन्छ भने यो street मा यो गल्लीमा, बस्ने मान्छेहरू हुन्छन् नि, प्राय चाहिँ यो होटल Excelsior मा बढी volunteerहरू बस्ने हुँदा। ब्रिटिस, अमेरिकन, फ्रेन्च, जर्मनी, प्राय जसो सबै countryबाट हुन्छ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अब हुन त तपाइ एक वर्ष मात्रै भयो हैन्, तर यो वर्ष नेपाल Tourism year हो हैन्। त्यसले कुनै तरिकामा अब...

राम: त्यस्तो खै नेपाल, 'Visit Nepal', को जति हाम्ले⁴ अपेक्षा भएको थियो, त्यही अनुसार चाहिँ हाम्ले देखेका छैनै यहाँ ठमेल⁵ टुरिस्टमा ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर⁶।

English translation:

Here the interviewer is speaking with the manager of a Money Exchange firm.

Interviewer: *Dai*⁷, what is your *shubha*⁸ name?

⁴ The speaker does not say the full word 'हामीले/hami-le', but rather only pronounces half of it as 'हाम्ले/hamle'. It's like shortening 'want to' to 'wanna' in English. Some words are often shortened like this in colloquial Nepali. In formal Nepali writing, this would be considered an error.

⁵ 'ठमेल/Thamel' is a popular tourist hotspot in Kathmandu Valley that offers many hotels, restaurants, bars, night clubs and massage parlors targeting tourists.

⁶ 'हजुर/hajur', in this context, is used to acknowledge what the interviewee is saying in a respectful way.

⁷ 'दाइ/Dai' directly translates to 'older brother.' In Nepal, people address each other as brother and sister when interacting with strangers to respect the age difference. The female equivalent would be 'दिदी/Didi' for older sister. For younger brother and sister, 'भाइ/Bhai' and 'बहिनी/Bahini' are used. It is similar to using 'Sir' or 'Ma'am' in Western countries.

⁸ The direct translation of 'shubha' is 'auspicious' or 'good'; when people formally ask each other's name they say this as a sign of respect. It may also be related to the fact that name choosing ceremonies are very auspicious occasions in Nepal.

Ram: My name is Ram.

Interviewer: Ram?

Ram: Yes⁹.

Interviewer: So how long has it been since you opened this Money Exchange here?

Ram: Just recently. It's new. It's been about one year.

Interviewer: It's been a year?

Ram: Yes.

Interviewer: So what has it been like in this one year?

Ram: It's okay. It's been a new experience. And I have a little more direct link with the National Bank now...

Interviewer: And from where... which country do people mostly come to change currency?

Ram: What it is like is that people living in this street [come]. Usually they are mostly volunteers staying in hotel Excelsior. British, American, French, German, they usually [come] from all [different] countries.

Interviewer: Like you said, it's only been a year [since you opened], but this year is Nepal Tourism Year. Has that in any way... [affected you]?

Ram: That I'm not sure. We have not seen as much [increase in] tourists as we had expected from 'Visit Nepal', in Thamel¹⁰.

Interviewer: *Hajur*¹¹.

⁹ In this context, 'हजुर /hajur' is used as a positive response to the speaker's question.

¹⁰ 'ठमेल/Thamel' is a popular tourist hotspot in Kathmandu valley that offers many hotels, restaurants, bars, night clubs and massage parlors targeting tourists.

¹¹ 'हजुर /hajur', in this context, is used to acknowledge what the interviewee is saying in a respectful way.

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.

© 2013 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated