

Ten-Year Report of the  
SUMMER INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS  
for 1966-1976

to the

HONORABLE SURYA BAHADUR SHAKYA

Vice Chancellor, Tribhuvan University

Kathmandu, Nepal

Your Honour:

In presenting this final report covering the last ten years' work in association with Tribhuvan University, the Summer Institute of Linguistics wishes to express its gratitude to the University and to His Majesty's Government for co-operation and collaboration in many projects which were marked by substantial achievements and by a satisfying measure of success. The Summer Institute of Linguistics has found this working relationship rewarding in many ways and hopes that the good spirit that has prevailed will continue despite the fact that such projects will no longer involve active SIL participation.

It is with sadness that the expatriots of SIL leave Nepal and her people, whom they have all learned to love and respect. It is sincerely hoped that what has been achieved will stand for years to come as a grateful tribute to the spirit of collaboration and co-operation which has characterized Tribhuvan University in all of its relationships with the Summer Institute of Linguistics in Nepal.

The Institute of Nepal and Asian Studies has proved to be a congenial point of affiliation with Tribhuvan University. For the mutual stimulation that has been afforded and for the co-operation that has been enjoyed, the Summer Institute of Linguistics wishes to express its warmest appreciation.

As the Institute of Nepal and Asian Studies becomes the Center for Nepal and Asian Studies, it is the parting wish of the Summer Institute of Linguistics that the Center take the foundations of linguistic research which have been laid through the mutual efforts of INAS and SIL and move on to far greater achievements than have been possible within the past ten years and that it demonstrate, not only for linguistics but also for each of its constituent disciplines, the great value of solid research for national integration and development.

Wherever it has worked, the Summer Institute of Linguistics has taken as its main task the linguistic description of the lesser-known languages of the world and the utilization of the fruits of such study in ways that benefit the linguistic minorities as desired by the host countries concerned. Such basic linguistic work results in the publication of phonologies, grammars, and dictionaries of these languages as well as in extensive collections of recorded and transcribed speech and songs, all of which serve as valuable records of folklore, life history, and customs as expressed in the words of the native speaker.

This kind of basic description and archiving of materials from disappearing languages and dying cultures is a valuable undertaking in itself, but beyond this SIL is also concerned with the practical application of its linguistic findings in ways that can be of use to the speakers of these languages. For each language a practical alphabet is constructed in the script of the host country. Materials are prepared for use in the teaching of reading and writing. Diglot bridge materials are written to facilitate reading in the national language. The folk literature which typically exists only as oral tradition is committed to writing, providing the group with an incipient literature. These kinds of materials all contribute importantly to the sense of worth with which the linguistic minorities view themselves. This in turn greatly enhances the contribution which such groups can make to national development. Introduced to an expanding world through literacy, they become functioning parts of the nations in which they live, responsible citizens with whom the government can communicate in writing.

These are the goals which the Summer Institute of Linguistics has pursued in Nepal over the past ten years. The following summary of activities shows that substantial progress has been made in many areas but that much remains yet to be done if the languages of Nepal are to be adequately described and the speakers of these languages are to benefit from the fruits of such descriptions.

### I. LINGUISTICS

#### A. The English Language In-Service Training Program (1975)

This training program took place between June 1 and July 10, 1975 and was conducted by a teaching staff representing the English Instruction Committee, INAS, and SIL. Thirty participants were enrolled, having come from campuses as far west as Doti and as far east as Ilam. Twenty-seven of these

successfully completed the training. Each participant was given a linguistic reading packet of over a thousand pages which he was allowed to retain as source material for his own teaching. The course was enthusiastically received and at least two of the participants have already gone abroad for further study in linguistics. This program has made an important contribution in up-grading the competence of English teachers in subject matter areas related to linguistics.

#### B. Guidance for Ph.D. Study Programs in Linguistics

Dr. Hale has acted as guide for the Ph.D. study programs of Mr. Tej Ratna Kansakar of the English Instruction Committee and for Mr. Churamani Bandhu of the Nepali Instruction Committee. He has also guided the post-M.A. linguistic project of Mr. Basudev Sharma, who has served as an SIL staff member for the past 18 months. In addition to this Dr. Hale has served as external examiner for the Ph.D. dissertations of Dr. B.M. Dahal (Deccan College, Poona) and Dr. Ulrike Kolver (University of Cologne) and as an internal examiner for the Ph.D. dissertation of Dr. Y.P. Verma (Tribhuvan University).

#### C. Linguistic Seminars Abroad

From time to time it has been the privilege of the Summer Institute of Linguistics to make it possible for local scholars to attend linguistic seminars abroad. In July and August of 1973 Mr. Churamani Bandhu attended the Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute which was held on the campus of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. From mid-June to mid-August 1974, Mr. Tej Ratna Kansakar was sent to the Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute which that year was held on the campus of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. From January through April 1976, Mr. Kansakar was sponsored at a special seminar on phonetics held by the Central Institute of English Language in Bangkok. These opportunities have provided excellent stimulus for those in Ph.D. study programs in linguistics.

#### D. Post-M.A. Linguistic Training Program (1973-74)

From early June 1973 until the end of August 1974 the Institute of Nepal Studies in collaboration with the Summer Institute of Linguistics carried out a training program in linguistics which was designed to equip local scholars for actual field work in linguistic analysis. The original hope was that scholars so trained would be able to play key roles in the projected Linguistic Survey of Nepal. Of those who completed this course, Miss Indira Srestha went on for further training in linguistics at the University of Wales under

a scholarship provided by the British Council and Mr. Nirmal Man Tuladhar and Miss Geeta Chand have joined the staff of the Institute of Nepal and Asian Studies.

#### E. Teaching Assistance in University Degree Programs

Dr. Ronald L. Trail and Dr. Austin Hale have been called upon from time to time to assist in the teaching of linguistics and English grammar to M.A. students of the Department of English, Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences. The Department has a very good program in English linguistics and a number of their graduates are now abroad in Ph.D. study programs in linguistics. SIL is pleased to have been able to make at least a small contribution.

#### F. Consultation for Linguistic Projects

Members of SIL have served as linguistic consultants for a number of University projects. Dr. John Landon, Mr. Kent Gordon, and Miss Beth Morton worked as consultants for Dr. Subhadra Subba of INAS in various bilingualism projects. Mr. Sueyoshi Toba carried out a consultant project for Mrs. Shanti Mishra, Librarian of the Central University Library by constructing a cataloguer's guide for Tibeto-Burman languages in Nepal. Mr. Ross Caughley has served as consultant for Mr. Churamani Bandhu and Dr. Ballabh Mani Dahal in their study of Chepang Phonology and Chepang Culture. Mr. David Watters and Dr. Ronald Trail have served as consultants for Mr. Churamani Bandhu in his work on Nepali clause structure. Dr. Warren Glover has served as consultant to Miss Indira Srestha in her field work on Gurung. Miss Esther Strahm served as consultant to Mr. Nirmal Man Tuladhar during his field work on Jirel. Mrs. Anna Holzhausen served as consultant for Miss Geeta Chand during her field work on Kulung Rai. Mr. Burkhard Schottelndreyer served as consultant for Mr. Chaudhary Roy during his field work on Sherpa. Dr. Warren Glover and Dr. Austin Hale have served as consultants for Dr. Y.P. Verma in his project on mass media. Dr. Austin Hale has served as consultant for the M.A. thesis of Mr. Arjun Bahadur Poudel as well as for Iswaranand Sresthacharya's work on Jyāpu Vocabulary, Reduplication in Newari Verbs, and for his work on Newari Kinship. Miss Maria Hari and Dr. Hale have also provided consultant help to numerous visiting scholars.

#### G. Workshops Conducted by Leading Scholars from Abroad

Professor Kenneth L. Pike, past president of the Linguistic Society of America and Chairman of the Department of Linguistics at the University of Michigan was in Nepal from

the 9th of June to the 13th of August, 1969 to conduct a workshop on tone in languages of Nepal. The report of this workshop was published in four volumes by the Wolfenden Society on Tibeto-Burman Linguistics and appeared in 1970.

Professor Pike returned to Nepal on September 9, 1971 to conduct a workshop on clause, sentence, and discourse structures in selected languages of Nepal and India. The results of this workshop were published in eight volumes which appeared in 1973. The Pike workshops and the publications resulting from them were carried out under a contract with the Institute of International Studies. The materials in these reports will be of great value for any future linguistic research in Nepal and they provide good testimony to the many-faceted riches of Nepal's linguistic heritage.

It should be pointed out that this workshop series benefited University scholars as well. Mr. C.M. Bandhu participated as a full member of the second workshop and authored a paper entitled, Clause Patterns in Nepali. This paper appeared in its entirety in the published report. Several other University scholars attended a number of the sessions.

Professor Joseph E. Grimes, Associate Professor of Linguistics at Cornell University and an internationally known figure in computational linguistics and discourse studies came to Nepal the 15th of June, 1973 to conduct a two-month workshop on discourse structure. By the 15th of August, 23 papers had been completed for publication and the fascination of the structure of discourse had captured the imagination of all who attended the sessions.

Other noted linguists who have participated in TU-SIL sponsored seminars include Professor Jimmy G. Harris, Dr. Richard Pittman, and Mr. Lee Ballard. SIL has also participated in other seminars and convocations held by Tribhuvan University and by the Royal Nepal Academy.

#### H. Pilot Projects in Literacy

In view of the crucial importance of literacy for national integration and development, various SIL scholars have been developing and testing methods and materials which seem likely to provide an effective basis for literacy projects among the linguistic minorities of Nepal. The materials which have been developed for this purpose will be left with the Center for Nepal and Asian Studies in the hope that they will prove useful to those who seek to increase the effectiveness of literacy programs among the linguistic minorities of Nepal. Preliminary materials for the teaching of literacy (of which much

is in diglot form with Nepali and the vernacular) have been prepared for native speakers of the following languages: Bhoj-puri, Gurung, Tamang, Chepang, Kagate, Ghale, Lhomi, Darai, Danuwar Rai, Jirel, Sunwar, Chitwan Tharu, Khaling, Magar. At the suggestion of high-ranking educators in HMG, special emphasis has been given to the development of pilot projects in literacy for speakers of Chepang, Darai, and Danuwar Rai. It is sincerely hoped that these projects can be picked up and carried out to completion after SIL's term of service to Nepal draws to a close.

#### I. Library Resources in Linguistics

A collection of linguistic books and periodicals costing in excess of NRs. 100,000 has been divided up according to the interests of the scholars concerned and distributed to the Central Library of Tribhuvan University, the Documentation Center of the Center for Nepal and Asian Studies, and the linguistic collection of the English Instruction Committee, Central Campus, Kirtipur.

#### J. Computer Concordance Project for Languages of Nepal

With the assistance of Professor Joseph E. Grimes and the Computer Center of the University of Oklahoma and with funding in excess of NRs. 80,000 from the Institute of International Studies and the National Science Foundation, SIL has succeeded in producing computer concordances averaging over 1500 double quarto pages for each of the following languages: Chepang, Darai, Gurung, Jirel, Kham, Magar, Maithili, Nepali, Newari, Sherpa, Sunwar, Tamang, and Thakali. Copies of these concordances have been placed on deposit with the Center for Nepal and Asian Studies and with the Central University Library.

#### K. Bibliography

This bibliography of works produced under SIL auspices in Nepal is arranged by languages, with a listing of general linguistic works at the end. Titles in parentheses are English translations of titles of works written in the appropriate vernacular, with Nepali translation in most cases. The following comments apply on entries marked with single or double asterisk:

- \* The noun attribute portion of the vocabulary appeared in Occasional Papers of the Wolfenden Society on Tibeto-Burman Linguistics 3:2, ed. by F.K. Lehman. Urbana: Department of Linguistics, University of Illinois, 1970. The full list is included in SIL

Publications in Linguistics and Related Fields 40,  
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- \*\* Concordances were prepared on the computer at the University of Oklahoma, but are not published. A copy has been lodged with the Tribhuvan University Library.

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## II. COMMUNITY SERVICE

SIL teams living in rural communities seek to be good neighbours. They look for opportunities to serve their communities to the extent that their time, training, and resources permit. Many different kinds of opportunities have presented themselves. Various members have stimulated local handicraft and cultivated retail outlets for the sale of these articles. A few teams have done what they could to alleviate acute food shortages by arranging for rice flights to their respective villages. Still others have assisted in community projects such as bridge building, the construction of school houses, and in small scale animal husbandry projects. The following is a representative sample of community service projects that have been carried out by SIL teams in various village allocations:

### A. Chepang Projects, Maiserang Village

- New varieties of maize corn and wheat have been introduced.
- Citrus trees have been planted.
- Food supplies have been made available during times of severe shortage.

### B. Danuwar Rai Projects, Hatidhunga Village

- During a recent cattle epidemic over 250 injections were given in an effort to save the cattle.
- Through the auspices of Tribhuvan University, SIL gave over NRs 20,000 to help replace the cattle that were lost.

### C. Darai Projects, Pipaltar Village

- Help was given in building and sponsoring Buling airstrip, which in turn has been a great help to the village economy.
- Funds were contributed to help furnish the panchayat school house.

D. Ghale Gurung Projects, Barpak

- In consultation with the Kirtipur Agricultural station fruit trees such as apple, peach, pear, and plum were introduced as well as new varieties of vegetables.

E. Gurung, Ghachok Village

- Help was given for the repair of the village water supply.

F. Jirel Projects, Yarsa Village

- Certain Jirel men, who have established quite a reputation for themselves as wood carvers, have been encouraged in their craft by the SIL team which has cultivated sales outlets for these articles in Kathmandu.
- A similar marketing service has been rendered for the Jirel women, whose ornamental needle holders, decorative baskets, and protective hot pads are in steady demand in Kathmandu.
- Assistance has been given in the purchase and transport of rice for the community in times of acute shortage.

G. Kagate Projects, Phedi Village

- Some progress has been made in introducing sheep into the village economy.
- Wool from these sheep has been woven into shoulder bags which have found a ready market in Kathmandu.
- Rice has been made available during times of critical shortage.

H. Khaling Projects, Khastap Village

- Tea growing was introduced into the village economy.
- Women were taught to make bread from locally grown wheat and buckwheat.

- Women were instructed in infant hygiene and in proper nutrition.
- At the initiative of the SIL team, a Japanese doctor gave T.B. tests to more than 200 people in the area.

I. Kham Projects, Thaka Shera

- At the initiative of the SIL team a seasonal airstrip was constructed and was approved by the Department of Civil Aviation. The airstrip has proved beneficial to the local economy.
- The TU-SIL plane service provided transportation for parts needed in the construction of a suspension bridge. It also was used to bring in roofing and other supplies for the local school building.
- Assistance was given to a nearby village in securing an adequate water supply.

J. Kulung Projects, Bung Village

- New varieties of vegetables were introduced.
- Supplies and sports equipment were donated to the local school.
- Supplies of salt and flour were made available when these were difficult to obtain.

K. Magar Projects, Arakhala Village

- Rabbits, poultry, and white pigs were brought in as small scale animal husbandry projects.
- Several new varieties of vegetables were introduced to the area.
- Assistance was given in the construction of Bulung airstrip. The airstrip has been completed and has been approved by the Department of Civil Aviation and has served the local community as well as the TU-SIL project.
- Help was given in constructing an adequate water supply for the village of Arakhala.



- Roofing materials were provided for the local school in Buling at a cost of NRs 5,000.
- The team also helped build a local bridge.

L. Sherpa Projects, Phaplu

- The team tried in every way possible to bring in adequate supplies of serum from Kathmandu during a small-pox epidemic.
- At the initiative of the SIL team, Phaplu airstrip, which had fallen into disuse, was re-opened. This has been of great benefit economically to the whole area.
- At times when salt and flour were not locally obtainable the team assisted in finding other sources of supply.

M. Sunwar Projects, Sabra Village

- Clothing was provided for the village in times of extreme shortage.
- Superior varieties of seed grain for rice and corn were introduced.
- A weaving project was initiated.
- In 1972 over 500 pathi of rice and 50 packets of tea were distributed among more than 50 families living in Ramechhap District of Janakpur Zone.

III. AVIATION PROGRAM AND SERVICES

Over the past seven years four different airplanes have been maintained and operated by the TU-SIL project, no more than two of which have been in service at any given time. During this period the program has averaged more than 1,000 hours of flight time a year. The TU-SIL aircraft have flown for most of the ministries of His Majesty's Government, for members of the Royal family, as well as for USAID, UNDP, the British Gurkha project, the US Embassy, the Indian Embassy, among others within the diplomatic community.

Since 1972 SIL has maintained a special agreement with Royal Nepal Airlines Corporation. Under this agreement the TU-SIL aircraft have provided chartered services to STOL

strips as well as making scheduled flights on behalf of the airline.

The purpose of the TU-SIL flight program has always been to serve when called upon. First priority was given to project flying, and over the years the project has required about 2,500 hours of flying time. Included within this top priority were flights required by the University for taking National Development Service students to and from Kathmandu, for taking University examination papers to the various examination centers, and for maintaining contact with rural campuses. Also of the highest priority were special flights required by the Ministry of Education.

The TU-SIL aviation program has had the co-operation both of the Department of Civil Aviation and of RNAC. The University has also given gracious support to the program by providing University observers for all TU-SIL flights.

It has been the desire of SIL that the aviation program facilitate the achievement of the major objectives of the TU-SIL project, the primary goal of which has always been that of service to His Majesty's Government.

#### IV. UNIVERSITY PRESS

One of the most widely appreciated and best understood results of co-operation between Tribhuvan University and the Summer Institute of Linguistics is the fully equipped, modern offset printing facility that has been operating on the central campus near Kirtipur since the 1st of September, 1972 under the name of 'University Press.' The printing facility that SIL is handing over to the University is not only well equipped, it is also well staffed. Mr. Robert Critchfield and his wife have trained a very professional team of fourteen Nepalese tradesmen who are now able to carry on the day-to-day operation of the press in all its aspects and maintain a high standard of printing quality. At the request of UNICEF, of His Majesty's Government's Ministry of Education and of Tribhuvan University, two Bhutanese printers were also brought to University Press for advanced training in the graphic arts.

University Press has not merely achieved a show-window capability for high quality printing. It has actually been operating close to capacity for nearly four years. The primary objective has been to be of service to the University and to His Majesty's Government, and opportunities for such service have indeed been plentiful. The Press has done work for the University's Central Administration, for many of its

Institutes, for several of the Ministries of HMG, the Rastra Bank, UNDP, and for a number of foreign embassies. In addition to this the Press has had the honour of producing a number of the Coronation publications.

Included among the many publications produced by the Press are The Journal of the Tribhuvan University; The Education Quarterly; publications of the Center for Economic Development and Administration; Contributions to Nepalese Studies, and other publications of the Institute of Nepal and Asian Studies; publications of the Research Division of Tribhuvan University; publications of the Examination Section of Tribhuvan University; as well as many publications of the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, SATA, and SIL. As the demand for its services have increased, the Press has done its utmost to turn out the kind of work that would bring credit to the University and serve the University's best interests.

#### V. FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, AND SERVICES GIVEN OR GENERATED UNDER THE TU-SIL AGREEMENT

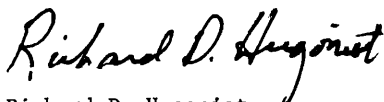
Acting as intermediary between Tribhuvan University and the Federal Republic of Germany, SIL was able to secure a grant of approximately NRs. 2,162,500 for linguistic books and journals, linguistic and administrative facilities, and the Heidelberg Press, all of which have been turned over to Tribhuvan University. Over and above this SIL is turning over to the University facilities and equipment worth approximately NRs. 2,500,000. Services provided by SIL such as special University flights, sponsorship of University scholars at seminars abroad, materials used in training programs conducted in Nepal and various community development projects have cost SIL an estimated NRs. 600,000. The cost figures for this equipment and for these facilities and services do not include the salaries of SIL members or employees. The daily operating costs of the TU-SIL project have been borne by the Summer Institute of Linguistics. Member salaries have not been paid from funds which might otherwise have been available to the project or to the University for other purposes.

CONCLUSION

The ten years that the Summer Institute of Linguistics has enjoyed in association with Tribhuvan University have been good ones. The working relationships that SIL has entered into have been mutually rewarding. Many of the goals and aspirations which were shared by Tribhuvan University and SIL at the beginning of this decade of co-operation have been realized. Some remain only as hopes or dreams, perhaps partly fulfilled. It has been the purpose of the Summer Institute of Linguistics and its members to serve His Majesty's Government and Tribhuvan University with all the tools and resources at their disposal. For the help and co-operation that Tribhuvan University and His Majesty's Government have extended in making the past ten years not only possible but rewarding and fruitful, the Summer Institute of Linguistics expresses its deepest appreciation.

SIL-Nepal will soon become a fading memory. As those of us who have been privileged to join with you in work now must join the ranks of those who watch with interest but from a distance, be assured of our honest friendship and good will. Your successes will bring us joy.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard D. Hugoniot".

Richard D. Hugoniot,  
Director.