House Building in Nepal (DN-15)

descriptive

A. House Building in Nepal (DN-15)

Durga was very impressed when he watched some houses being built at Kirtipur in Kathmandu, Nepal.[1] He describes the process in some detail in this text.

A.1 Free Translation of Text

1. This is about house building in Kirtipur (in Kathmandu).

2. When building a house, people will first dig up the soil to a certain depth. And there they will thoroughly mix together gravel and cement. And later they will lay the bricks and sandy cement together. They will put scaffolding of iron in place down below first.

3. And when it's really high, they will make a hod for taking the bricks and cement up.

4. When one storey is finished they will put up iron poles otherwise wooden planks and from below they will place the boards carefully in the holes. And from one side they covered with blue metal.

*5. And later they raised (the building) a little bit more (and) they made something like an **akʰəna** on one side. And at middle height they made two storeys. And they lifted and put in place the roof beam and they put in place the rafters fairly far apart and they nailed on the roof cross-pieces fairly far apart. And up above they covered it with beautifully made boards. Above that they roofed with tiles.*

6. On one side there is a house. On one storey up above is something like a threshing floor. And just a little distance (from there) they built a waist high dog kennel.

7. And on the top floor they made two rooms, one small and the other big. They will sleep in the big one and they have placed the baggage in the small one.

8. And below are three rooms. In one room they will do work (an office) and in one room they will prepare food and where there is a small porch like place is the place for people to sit.

9. People will call that house a two storey house.

10. Also for the windows, for the screens, (they made) beautiful wood, they hammered in shaped sticks and they have added the screens.

11. On two sides there are stairs.

12. It is high in the middle. On one side is a stair.

13. They built the Kirtipur houses like this.

14. The time of raising the walls, they built very small on two sides and they made it very high in the middle. One side they raised just a little high. Where they will sleep, they made that room medium height. And they made stairs on one side.

15. They roofed with tiles after having covered with boards.

16. In the room where they will sit they have made a fireplace for warming themselves. And in winter the fire will warm (them).

17. The Kirtipur houses are just like that.

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[1]Text typed by Durga Ram Kasyap, 1972. Researcher: Fran Woods.

A.2 House Building in Nepal Interlinear

DN-15:1

कीर्तीपूर	चो	घर	मोनातो	चो	गोट	आए।
kirtipur	tʃo	gʰər	monato	tʃo	goʈ	ae
PN	PRT	N	N	PRT	N	EQ
Kirtipur	=POSS	house	make-NOM	=POSS	speech	is.3S

This is about house building in Kirtipur (in Kathmandu).

DN-15:2.1

घर	मोनातोर	होलेने	लोग मन	आगे	भूईं	ने	ईतलो	गड़ेआ
gʰər	monator	holene	log mən	age	bʰuĩ	ne	itlo	gəɽea
N	V	V	N	ADV	N	POSTP	ADV	ADJ
house	make-CONJ.INC	become-CNSUF=TEMP	people	before	land	=LOC	this much	deep

खोड़ूआत।
kʰoɽuat
V
dig-3P.F2

When building a house, people will first dig up the soil to a certain depth.

DN-15:2.2

आऊर	हूता	गीटी	सीरमीन्ट	सँगे	खूब	मीलाऊआत।
aur	huta	giʈi	sirminʈ	sə̃ge	kʰub	milauat
CONJ	ADV	N	N	POSTP	ADV	V
and	there	blue metal	cement	with-EMP	much	mix-CAUS-3P.F2

And there they will thoroughly mix together gravel and cement.

DN-15:2.3

आऊर	पासे	ईटा	आऊर	बारू	सीरमीन्ट	सँगे	जमाऊआत।
aur	pase	iʈa	aur	baru	sirminʈ	sə̃ge	dʒəmauat
CONJ	ADV	N	CONJ	N	N	POSTP	V
and	later	brick	and	sand	cement	with-EMP	lay in place-CAUS-3P.F2

And later they will lay the bricks and sandy cement together.

DN-15:2.4

डेरी	मन	काजे	लोहो	चो	ईदलाह्हान	मन	के	आगे	खाले	ले
ḍeri	mən	kadʒe	loho	tʃo	idlahan	mən	ke	age	kʰale	le
N	PRT	POSTP	N	PRT	ADJ	PRT	CASE	ADV	ADV	MKR
scaffolding	=PL	for	iron	=POSS	this size	=PL	GOL	before	below=LOC	=SRC

जमाते नेऊआत।
dʒəmate neuat
V
lay in place-CAUS-CONJ.INC-take-3P.F2

They will put scaffolding of iron in place down below first.

DN-15:3

आऊर	खूब	डेंग	होले	ऊपरे	चेगतो	काजे	ईटा	सीरमीन्ट	के	जकती
aur	kʰub	ḍẽg	hole	upre	tʃegto	kadʒe	iʈa	sirminʈ	ke	dʒəkti
CONJ	ADV	N	V	POSTP	ADV	POSTP	N	N	CASE	N
and	much	high	become-CNSUF	above=LOC	climb-ADVR	for	brick	cement	GOL	brick hod

असन	असन	मोनाऊआत।
əsən	əsən	monauat
ADV	ADV	V
like this	like this	make-3P.F2

And when it's really high, they will make a hod for taking the bricks and cement up.

DN-15:4.1

एक	पाऊज	होली आले	हूता	लोहो	चो	छेड़	नाहले	रूक	चो
ek	paudʒ	holi ale	huta	loho	tʃo	tʃʰeɽ	nahle	ruk	tʃo
NUM	N	V	ADV	N	PRT	N	ADV	N	PRT
one	storey of a house	become-3S.NM.PC-when	there	iron	=POSS	pole	otherwise	tree	=POSS

दूलूम	मन	देऊआत	आऊर	खाले	ले	काना	काना	ने	फारा	मन	के	अछ्या
dulum	mən	deuat	aur	kʰale	le	kana	kana	ne	pʰara	mən	ke	ətʃʰa
N	PRT	BITRANS	CONJ	ADV	MKR	N	N	POSTP	N	PRT	CASE	ADV
branch	=PL	give-3P.F2	and	below=LOC	=SRC	hole	hole	=LOC	board	=PL	GOL	good

जमाऊआत।
dʒəmauat
V
lay in place-CAUS-3P.F2

When one storey is finished they will put up iron poles otherwise wooden planks and from below they will place the boards carefully in the holes.[2]

DN-15:4.2

आऊर	गोटोक	रेट	ले	बारू	गीटी	के	फाटला।
aur	goʈok	reʈ	le	baru	giʈi	ke	pʰaʈla
CONJ	NUM	N	MKR	N	N	CASE	V
and	one	side	=SRC	sand	blue metal	GOL	cover up-3P.PTC

And from one side they covered with blue metal.

DN-15:5.1

आऊर	पासे	ऊपरे	खीडीक	आऊर	ऊठाला	गोटोक	पाट	आखना	माहा
aur	pase	upre	kʰĩɖik	aur	uʈʰala	goʈok	paʈ	akʰəna	maha
CONJ	ADV	POSTP	ADJ	ADJ	V	NUM	ADV	N	ADV
and	later	above=LOC	a little	more	rise-CAUS-3P.PTC	one	side	(uncertain meaning)	like

मोनाला।
monala
V
make-3P.PTC

*And later they raised (the building) a little bit more (and) they made something like an **akʰəna** on one side.*[3]

DN-15:5.2

आऊर	मोंजी	डेंग	दूई	पाऊज	मोनाला।
aur	mõdʒi	ɖẽg	dui	paudʒ	monala
CONJ	ADJ	N	NUM	N	V
and	middle	high	two	storey of a house	make-3P.PTC

And at middle height they made two storeys.

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[2]This I think is for more scaffolding.

[3]No idea akʰəna what is.

DN-15:5.3

आऊर	पाटी	टेंगरला		आऊर	काँडा	लापी	लापी	टेंगरला
aur	paʈi	ʈẽgərla		aur	kãɖa	lapi	lapi	ʈẽgərla
CONJ	N	V		CONJ	N	ADV	ADV	V
and	roof beam	lift and put in place-3P.PTC		and	rafter	far	far	lift and put in place-3P.PTC

आऊर	लापी	लापी	बोता	ठेचला।
aur	lapi	lapi	bota	tʰetʃla
CONJ	ADV	ADV	N	TR
and	far	far	roof cross-pieces	hammer-3P.PTC

And they lifted and put in place the roof beam and they put in place the rafters fairly far apart and they nailed on the roof cross-pieces fairly far apart.

DN-15:5.4

आऊर	ऊपरे	अछा	सूँदर	फारा	मोनान		फाटला।
aur	upre	ətʃʰa	sũdər	pʰara	monan		pʰaʈla
CONJ	POSTP	ADV	ADJ	N	V		V
and	above=LOC	good	beautiful	board	make-CONJ.COMP		cover up-3P.PTC

And up above they covered it with beautifully made boards.

DN-15:5.5

हूनचो	ऊपरे	खपरा	छाँऊँला।
huntʃo	upre	kʰəpra	tʃʰãũla
POSSPRON	POSTP	N	V
she=POSS	above=LOC	roof tile	roof-3P.PTC

Above that they roofed with tiles.

DN-15:6.1

गोटोक	पाट	घर	आसे।
goʈok	paʈ	gʰər	ase
NUM	ADV	N	ST
one	side	house	is.3S

On one side there is a house.

DN-15:6.2

एके	पाऊज	ऊपरे	कोटार	माहा	आसे।
eke	paudʒ	upre	koʈar	maha	ase
PPRON	N	POSTP	N	ADV	ST
IT-GOL	storey of a house	above=LOC	threshing floor	like	is.3S

On one storey up above is something like a threshing floor.

DN-15:6.3

आऊर	खींडीक	धूर	कूकूर	मन	चो	रोतो	काजे	कराँडक	डेंग	भीती
aur	kʰĩɖik	dʰur	kukur	mən	tʃo	roto	kadʒe	kərãɖək	ɖẽg	bʰiti
CONJ	ADJ	N	N	PRT	PRT	ST	POSTP	N	N	N
and	a little	distance	dog(M)	=PL	=POSS	be-CONJ.INC	for	waist deep	high	wall

ऊठाला।
uʈʰala
V
rise-CAUS-3P.PTC

And just a little distance (from there) they built a waist high dog kennel.

DN-15:7.1

आऊर	ऊपर	पाऊज	ने	दूई	बाकरा	मोनाला	गोटोक	नानी	आए	आऊर	गोटोक
aur	upər	paudʒ	ne	dui	bakra	monala	goʈok	nani	ae	aur	goʈok
CONJ	POSTP	N	POSTP	NUM	N	V	NUM	ADJ	EQ	CONJ	NUM
and	above	storey of a house	=LOC	two	room	make-3P.PTC	one	small	is.3S	and	one

बोड़े	आए।
boɽe	ae
ADJ	EQ
big	is.3S

And on the top floor they made two rooms, one small and the other big.

DN-15:7.2

बोड़े	थाने	सोऊआत	आऊर	नानी	थाने	समान	मन	के	सँगालासे।
boɽe	tʰane	souat	aur	nani	tʰane	səman	mən	ke	sə̃galase
ADJ	N	V	CONJ	ADJ	N	N	PRT	CASE	V
big	place=LOC	sleep-3P.F2	and	small	place=LOC	baggage	=PL	GOL	put away-3P.PC

They will sleep in the big one and they have placed the baggage in the small one.

DN-15:8.1

आऊर	खाले	तीन	खोली	असन	आसे।
aur	kʰale	tin	kʰoli	əsən	ase
CONJ	ADV	NUM	N	ADV	ST
and	below=LOC	three	room	like this	is.3S

And below are three rooms.

DN-15:8.2

गोटोक	खोली	ने	काम	करूआत	आऊर	गोटोक	थाने	राँदूआत	आऊर	गोटोक
goʈok	kʰoli	ne	kam	kəruat	aur	goʈok	tʰane	rãduat	aur	goʈok
NUM	N	POSTP	N	V	CONJ	NUM	N	V	CONJ	NUM
one	room	=LOC	work	do-3P.F2	and	one	place=LOC	prepare food-3P.F2	and	one

पोरछी	असन	आए	जे	हूता	कोनी	लोग मन	चो	बोसतो	काजे	आए।
portʃʰi	əsən	ae	dʒe	huta	koni	log mən	tʃo	bosto	kadʒe	ae
N	ADV	EQ	REL	ADV	PRON	N	PRT	ADJ	POSTP	EQ
porch	like this	is.3S	just as	there	any	people	=POSS	sit-ADJR	for	is.3S

In one room they will do work (an office) and in one room they will prepare food and where there is a small porch like place is the place for people to sit.

DN-15:9

हून	घर	के	लोग मन	दूई	पाऊज	घर	बोलूआत।
hun	gʰər	ke	log mən	dui	paudʒ	gʰər	boluat
DEM	N	CASE	N	NUM	N	N	V
that	house	GOL	people	two	storey of a house	house	say-3P.F2

People will call that house a two storey house.

DN-15:10

खीड़की	मन	काजे	बोले	पड़दा	मन	काजे	अछा	सूँदर	बीती	फारा	मन	के	भीती
kʰiɽki	mən	kadʒe	bole	pəɽda	mən	kadʒe	ətʃʰa	sũdər	biti	pʰara	mən	ke	bʰiti
N	PRT	POSTP	ADV	N	PRT	POSTP	ADV	ADJ	CLSS	N	PRT	CASE	N
window	=PL	for	also	screen	=PL	for	good	beautiful	thing	board	=PL	GOL	wall

ने	खूटी	ठेचलासे	आऊर	पड़दा	मन	लगालासे।
ne	kʰuʈi	tʰetʃlase	aur	pəɽda	mən	ləgalase
POSTP	N	TR	CONJ	N	PRT	V
=LOC	shaped stick	hammer-3P.PC	and	screen	=PL	add to-3P.PC

Also for the windows, for the screens, (they made) beautiful wood, they hammered in shaped sticks and they

have added the screens.[4]

DN-15:11

दूई पाट	ऊतरना	आसे।
dui paʈ	utərna	ase
N	N	ST
both sides	stair	is.3s

On two sides there are stairs.

DN-15:12.1

मोंजी गता	डेंग	आसे।
mõdʒi gəta	ɖẽg	ase
N	N	ST
in the middle	high	is.3s

It is high in the middle.

DN-15:12.2

गोटोक	पाट	ऊतरना	आए।
goʈok	paʈ	utərna	ae
NUM	ADV	N	EQ
one	side	stair	is.3s

On one side is a stair.

DN-15:13

कीर्तीपूर	चो	घर	मन	असनी	तो	मोनाला।
kirtipur	tʃo	gʰər	mən	əsni	to	monala
PN	PRT	N	PRT	ADV	CONJ	V
Kirtipur	=POSS	house	=PL	like this-EMP	thus	make-3P.PTC

They built the Kirtipur houses like this.

DN-15:14.1

भीती	ऊठातो	बेरा	दूई पाट	नानी	नानी	मोनाला	आऊर	मोंजी	बोड़े	डेंग
bʰiti	utʰato	bera	dui paʈ	nani	nani	monala	aur	mõdʒi	boɽe	ɖẽg
N	V	N	N	ADJ	ADJ	V	CONJ	ADJ	ADJ	N
wall	rise-CAUS-ADJR	time	both sides	small	small	make-3P.PTC	and	middle	big	high

मोनाला।
monala
V
make-3P.PTC

The time of raising the walls, they built very small on two sides and they made it very high in the middle

DN-15:14.2

गोटोक	पाट	खीनीक	डेंग	ऊठाला।
goʈok	paʈ	kʰinik	ɖẽg	utʰala
NUM	ADV	ADV	N	V
one	side	a little	high	rise-CAUS-3P.PTC

One side they raised just a little high.

DN-15:14.3

आपून	मन	सोऊआत	जे	हून	बाकरा	बाटे	मोंजी	डेंग	मोनाला।
apun	mən	souat	dʒe	hun	bakra	baʈe	mõdʒi	ɖẽg	monala
PRON	PRT	V	REL	DEM	N	N	ADJ	N	V
one's self	=PL	sleep-3P.F2	just as	that	room	way=LOC	middle	high	make-3P.PTC

Where they will sleep, they made that room medium height.

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[4]*Free translation needs work.*

DN-15:14.4

आऊर	गोटोक	पाट	ऊतरना	मोनाला।
aur	goʈok	paʈ	utərna	monala
CONJ	NUM	ADV	N	V
and	one	side	stair	make-3P.PTC

And they made stairs on one side.

DN-15:15

फारा	फाटून		बाती	खपरा	छाँऊँला।
pʰara	pʰaʈun		bati	kʰəpra	tʃʰãũla
N	V		N	N	V
board	cover up-CONJ.COMP		after	roof tile	roof-3P.PTC

They roofed with tiles after having covered with boards.

DN-15:16.1

गोटोक	बाकरा	ने	बोसूआत	जे	हूता	आईग	छेकतो	काजे	खोलका	माहा
goʈok	bakra	ne	bosuat	dʒe	huta	aig	tʃʰekto	kadʒe	kʰolka	maha
NUM	N	POSTP	V	REL	ADV	N	ADJ	POSTP	N	ADV
one	room	=LOC	sit-3P.F2	just as	there	fire	warm S.t.-ADJR	for	fireplace type	like

मोनालासे।
monalase
V
make-3P.PC

In the room where they will sit they have made a fireplace for warming themselves.

DN-15:16.2

आऊर	हूता	सीत	बेरा	आईग	छेकूआत।
aur	huta	sit	bera	aig	tʃʰekuat
CONJ	ADV	ADJ	N	N	V
and	there	cold	time	fire	warm S.t.-3P.F2

And in winter the fire will warm (them).

DN-15:17

ऊसनी	तो	कीर्तीपूर	चो	घर	मन	आसे।
usni	to	kirtipur	tʃo	gʰər	mən	ase
ADV	CONJ	PN	PRT	N	PRT	ST
like that-EMP	thus	Kirtipur	=POSS	house	=PL	is.3S

The Kirtipur houses are just like that.

Abbreviations

3S	=	third person, plural
3P	=	third person, singular
ADJ	=	adjective
ADJR	=	adjectiviser
ADV	=	adverb(ial)
ADVR	=	adverbaliser
BITRANS	=	bitransitive
CASE	=	case marker
CAUS	=	causative
CLSS	=	classifier
CNSUF	=	conditional/temporal suffix
COMP	=	complete
CONJ	=	conjunctive

DEM	=	demonstrative
EMP	=	emphatic marker
EQ	=	equative
F2	=	future 2
GOL	=	goal marker
INC	=	incomplete
IT	=	intransitive
LOC	=	locative
M	=	human male
MKR	=	marker
N	=	noun
NM	=	non human-male
NOM	=	nominaliser
NUM	=	cardinal number
PC	=	present complete
PL	=	pluraliser
PN	=	proper noun
POSS	=	possessive particle
POSSPRON	=	possessive pronoun
POSTP	=	post position
PPRON	=	personal pronoun
PRON	=	pronoun
PRT	=	particle
PTC	=	past complete
REL	=	relative marker
S	=	singular
SRC	=	source
ST	=	stative
TEMP	=	temporal particle
TR	=	transitive
V	=	verb