

PREFACE

In course of releasing the LSI-Sikkim (Part.I) Volume, it was planned to present a detailed description along with a comprehensive and comparative study of Nepali, to be surveyed in the three states of Sikkim, West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh.

With this background the survey of Nepali language/mother tongue in the state of Sikkim was initiated by Dr.Kakali Mukherjee, Senior Research Officer (Language), ORGI, Language Division, Kolkata, in the year 2010. The survey was carried out by Dr.R.Nakkeerar, Research Officer (Language), ORGI, Language Division, Kolkata during March – April, 2010 in Gangtok, the state Capital of Sikkim. Of course, under the supervision of Dr. B.P.Mahapatra, Ex-Deputy Registrar General, (Language), the Survey of languages under LSI-West Bengal was taken up since 1995. Following his superannuation the same was taken up by Sri.S.S.Bhattacharya, Ex-Senior Research Officer (L) while the survey in Nepali in West Bengal (Darjeeling Dist.) was conducted by Dr.S.P.Srivastava, Ex-Research Officer (L) of the Division. The Nepali in Himachal Pradesh state has been surveyed by Dr.S.Ganesh Baskaran, Ex-Research Officer (L) under the initiation and supervision of Sri.S.S.Bahttacharya. As a result, three Nepali reports have been prepared by three different Research Officers(L) of this Division which were later modified and finalized along with the preparation of a comparison among the three varieties of Nepali by Dr.Kakali Mukherjee as Coordinator of the Volume, being assisted in computer by Ms.Aparajita Sen, Investigator (L) of this Division.

Thus, the present volume LSI-Sikkim (Part.II) has been presented in **six** Chapters where Chapter One provides the introductory information on Nepali language. The linguistic description of Nepali as spoken in Sikkim is the subject matter of Chapter Two. Chapter Three reveals the comparative study of three variations of Nepali spoken in Sikkim, West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh. While the comparative lexicon of Nepali in Sikkim, West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh is presented in Chapter Four the Chapter Five contains the appended portion of Nepali spoken in West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh respectively. The full fledged reports of Nepali in West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh would be available as and when these two Volumes would be finalized and released. Chapter six of this volume concludes with the status of Nepali in India as well as in Sikkim as a language surrounded by the languages of other language families.

Since the history of Sikkim and its people, their linguistic composition, ethnicity along with the maps showing the linguistic distribution of the State have already been presented in LSI-Sikkim - Part. I Volume those information have not been repeated in the present volume. However, the sociolinguistic setting of Nepali in Sikkim has been presented in detail in the report of Nepali in Sikkim in Chapter Two of the Volume. The present form of the Volume has been arrived at by the valuable suggestions and comments from Prof.D.P.Pattanayak, Founder Director of CIIL, Mysore who took maximum pain and effort for the final shape of the Volume along with contributing the **Foreword** of the Volume.

The volume has been finalized under the constant direction and encouragement of Dr.C.Chandramauli (IAS), the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India.

The inspiration received from Shri R.C.Sethi, Additional Registrar General and Dr.(Smt.) Preeti Srivastava, Joint Registrar General, deserve due acknowledgement.

The volume has been finalized by the regular monitoring and encouragement by Shri P.K.Banerjee, Deputy Registrar General, ORGI. His interest in the work is duly acknowledged.

Collection of data of Nepali spoken in the State of Sikkim could not be completed without the cooperation and help from Directorate of Census Operations, Sikkim, especially, Shri M.K.Darjee, Deputy Director and other officials of the Directorate. The volume also acknowledges the cooperation received from Directorate of Census Operations, West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh in survey of Nepali in these two states respectively.

The efforts and cooperation of the officials of the State Secretariat and Sikkim Legislative Assembly are duly acknowledged in the volume.

The informants, without whose dedication and deliberation of copious data the volume could not be compiled, are acknowledged in this volume with sincere gratitude.

The cooperation and understanding received from the Members of the Staff of Language Division during the survey, writing of reports and finalizing the volume including the preparation of CRC are acknowledged. The creative contribution of Shri Pradip Kumar Sen, Lower Division Clerk of the Division is acknowledged in designing the Cover Page of the Volume with colour scheme.

Last but not least, warm thanks are due to the Contributors of the Volume who painstakingly finalized the Volume and collected the data during field-investigations with restricted facilities and braving the inclement weather of the region.

I hope, this volume will serve the needs of different sector of populace in existing socio-educational-linguistic scenario of the country.

New Delhi

DR. C. CHANDRAMOULI, IAS

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**REGISTRAR GENERAL &
CENSUS COMMISSIONER, INDIA**