

Nepal Samvat 1142 Pohela 24
(January 26, 2022)

Mr. Season Shrestha
President
World Newah Organization, Inc.,
733 Register Ave, Baltimore MD, 212121920
USA

cc to: WNO Executive Members, General Members and to whom it may concern
with Nepalbhasa and its original script, the Nepal-lipi's revitalization

Re: A kind request to help save Nepalbhasa from endangerment by correcting
the error in the Google Translate - Nepalbhasa project

Dear Mr. Shrestha, Jwajalapa (Greetings)!

I am Suwarn Vajracharya, a member of Nepal Study Center, Japan, and an admin of its Nepalbhasa revitalization project - the Nepal Lipi Online (www.nepal-lipi.com). I have also been a founder member and vice president of your esteemed organization, WNO. As a responsible member of Nepami community, and an advocate for revitalizing Nepalbhasa, the original language of Nepal in its original script Nepal-lipi, I am, personally and on behalf of the Nepami and their friends abroad who work to revitalize Nepalbhasa in its original script - Nepal-lipi, writing to draw your kind consideration to the abovementioned request for the following reasons.

First, I am pleased to extend you and your team our heartiest gratitude for initiating the Google Translate - Nepalbhasa project as it is undoubtedly going to support the revitalization of Nepalbhasa in some worthy way. In fact, our Nepal-lipi team was planning to approach the Google for the purpose. We are glad that your team has preceded it before us because whoever launches it, the target is the same - revitalization of Nepal's original language Nepalbhasa in its original script - Nepal-lipi. However, the task your team has launched has a

grave error of using Indian Devanagari script to enter Nepalbhasa words into Google translation instead of using Nepalbhasa's own original Nepal-lipi. This will adversely affect the revitalization efforts on Nepalbhasa. May I kindly remind you that I have communicated with you about this matter through messenger earlier asking you as to what the basis of using Devanagari script for entering Nepalbhasa in the Google was? I have yet to receive a formal reply from you.

Mr. Shrestha, please be informed that Devanagari script is not our script but Indian. We had to borrow it in the past because the past Governments of the Rana and Panchayat rule had banned the use of Nepalbhasa even among its speakers and in those circumstances, we had no chance to develop Nepal-lipi for printing Nepalbhasa books but to borrow Indian Devanagari script for the same purpose then.

However, the situation has changed now as the Government of Nepal has duly recognized Nepalbhasa and given directions to its agencies to use it as Nepalbhasa since 1995. Needless to explain that this became possible thanks to struggles many of our Nepami leaders dedicated their lives for saving Nepami identity by saving Nepalbhasa, the mother tongue and the common bond of the Nepami people. It is a well-known fact that how our leaders faced police brutality, imprisoning and property confiscations for their efforts to revive their mother tongue Nepalbhasa in their own land. After 90 long years of suppression, and life-threatening agitation against it, the Government of Nepal finally recognized Nepalbhasa and directed the government agencies to use the language as correctly as Nepalbhasa in September 1995.

Inspired by these Nepami leadership, several informed younger Nepami and their benefactors have individually and collectively come up with some great ideas to revive and reinstate Nepal-lipi back to its place with Nepalbhasa. Some advocated by voicing the need of its reinstatement. Others developed Nepal-lipi fonts, approached Unicode to get Nepal-lipi encoded. Today, although it is still in the process of development, two Nepal-lipi fonts (Noto sans Newa and

Nepal-lipi Unicode) have been tested usable not only on any computers, tablets, mobile phones but also in the printing press. Therefore, we no longer need to continue borrowing Indian Devanagari script nor depend on it to write Nepalbhasa words on Google or anywhere else.

I am also pleased to inform you that the test we have made by entering Nepalbhasa words in Nepal-lipi font in the Google Translate works well. It is now left to the will of those who would like to use Nepal-lipi font on the computer or not. As the system is new, it sure can take some time to learn, practice and use as if any new work needs some training in advance. In addition to www.nepal-lipi.com, the world's first website and its free services run by Nepal Study Center, Japan (NSCJ) since September 2009, there are several other websites providing needful guidance for learning Nepal-lipi and its use on any computers, tablets, and mobile devices.

Further, a notion that “as not many viewers can read Nepal-lipi on computer, Indian Devanagari script was chosen for their convenience.” This is an unfounded misunderstanding. On the contrary, please be informed that Google provides transcription to every language it provides translation services for. Anyone accessing the Google Translate can read any foreign languages and their scripts without even knowing their original script because Google also provides transcription to the translation so the viewers can read any unknown words of any scripts. According to Sam Iqram (Project Manager, Google Translate) Google can now even transcribe a speech in a foreign language it translates not only online but even offline. And according to Google translate software engineer Isaac Caswell, Google Translate services “enable everyone, everywhere to understand the world and express themselves across languages.” Therefore, the notion of inability of reading Nepal-lipi hence chosen Indian Devanagari script proves incorrect and unfounded. It only discloses the hidden fear and ignorance of some interested party about the new technology which sure can help promote Nepal-lipi among today's youth and save it for tomorrow's children who will take over to further enhance the use of Nepal-lipi.

Therefore, it is our duty to use it, never to act to lose it. If we use our language in our own script, it will revive as our language in our script. If we give up our own Nepal-lipi script and use foreign Devanagari script, we will be giving up our own right by ourselves. Then we will have no right to claim for any right related to our identity. So, giving up Nepal-lipi for Devanagari lipi will be a self-suicidal for sure. It will be shame on us who fail to protect the rights earned for us by our elders. Then we should question ourselves whether we really deserve to call ourselves Nepami and become proud of our Nepalbhasa and culture.

Mr. Shrestha, I trust that the present WNO leadership led by you, and your executive committee will carefully consider to solve the error based on some misunderstanding and lack of knowledge of Nepal-lipi, its value and the need of revitalization of it, and as a world organization of Nepami people you will support to reinstate Nepalbhasa in the previous prestigious position in Nepal and to promote it abroad. If there is a will there is a way. If needed, we are ready to lend our guidance and support for teaching Nepal-lipi and how to use it on computer including off course for entering Nepalbhasa data to Google Translate Nepalbhasa or any other system.

It will greatly be beneficial to Nepami community in Nepal and abroad as a whole if we work together to use Nepal-lipi font for entering Nepalbhasa words in Google translate task together rather than taking willful decision to give up our own script over Indian Devanagari script to write Nepalbhasa. It will not only be a mockery if we continue to use of Indian script over Nepal's own Nepal-lipi but will also be a hindrance to the aspirations and plans for revitalization of Nepal's own script. I believe that you are aware that Nepabhasa has already been declared as a "definitely endangered language" (UNESCO: 2003). The result will be the further endangerment of our own Nepalbhasa. I personally do not believe that the WNO founded for Nepami's unity and their identity bonded by Nepalbhasa should hinder its own progress. But it is up to you and your team to save Nepal's own Nepal-lipi or not only for today but also for tomorrow's children rather than siding with those who support for Indian Devanagari script against our own Nepal-lipi for a petty gains or self-satisfaction. Let's not forget

our elders dedicated their worthy lives for saving Nepalbhasa with its own script,
never for a language with foreign script

May I also remind you, gentleman that there are many errors in the present task
of translating English words, phrases, and expressions into Nepalbhasa in the
Google. They sure need to be corrected by learned translators not by just
enthusiastic friends volunteering for name and fame.

Finally, I humbly request you Mr. Shrestha as a responsible person and a WNO
President to find a possibility of opportunity for the like-minded people to work
together to revitalize Nepalbhasa in Nepal and promote it abroad. May I hope
that you will rectify this grave error in the Google Translate – Nepalbhasa your
team has initiated before you leave your office after a successful completion of
two full terms in the office of WNO president? I shall thank you in advance for
contributing to resolve a grave error related to Nepalbhasa and its original script
the Nepal-lipi. I am sure this is going to be one of many worthy contributions
you have made while in office. However, failure of rectification of the error will
push Nepalbhasa further to endangerment because the very use of foreign
Devanagari script for Nepalbhasa will loot the opportunity of Nepal-lipi to every
chance of revitalization. Therefore, this is a kind request to save Nepalbhasa
from endangerment.

Thank you!

With kind regards,



Suwarn Vajracharya, Ph.D.

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