## Editorial note

We are happy to bring out this volume of **Gipan**, a research journal of Central Department of Linguistics, Tribhuvan University. We have adopted double-blind peer review policy from this issue onward. The papers included in this volume were reviewed by experts in the related fields, and subsequently revised by the authors.

We hope the articles included in this volume will make academic contribution in exploring the emerging issues in linguistics in this area. The Himalayan range houses scores of languages, big and small, safe and endangered belonging to a number of language families across the political boundaries in general and Nepalese Linguistics in particular. Except for two papers related to archeology, and language planning, the papers included in this issue are about Tibeto-Burman, and Indo-Aryan languages spoken in Nepal. Interestingly, this volume will, therefore, contribute to the study of Indo-Aryan and Tibeto-Burman languages of Nepal.

Based on the fresh data obtained from fieldwork from different ecological and geographical areas of Nepal, the papers included in this are mainly descriptive and typologically informed. The articles included in this volume cover a wide range of topics beginning from linguistic archeology, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, lexical variations, phonetics and phonology, morphosyntax, and typology. The papers in this volume are related to different languages, and different areas of linguistics. It is, however, not easy to make a watertight distinction among different fields of linguistics in some cases. Most of the papers deal with the descriptive-typological phenomenon of individual languages whereas others take the typological and psycholinguistic perspectives in analyzing the other cases.

Like in previous volumes, this volume presents the linguistic diversity of Nepal in selecting the languages taken for study. **Maheshwor Joshi** argues that Himalaya witnessed the earliest human activities in Asia, and that these early hominins were equipped with the neural mechanisms that implicated speech production which has a deep evolutionary history. In another paper, **Mark Donohue** examines the classification of the languages of Nepal by taking into consideration their morphosyntactic features and applying computational methods.

Broadly, three papers are related to sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics, including honorificity. **Bhim Narayan Regmi** takes the national census data of 2068 BS and discusses a number of issues in association with the possibility of using other languages than Nepali in administration. **Julian Vasseur** shows the mixed use of Nepali and English among Nepali mother tongue speakers who are educated through English-medium boarding schools. **Lekhnath Sharma Pathak** explores the psycholinguistic processes of honorification manipulation in Nepali language. He shows that significant influencers in choice of honorifics are fluctuation in state of mind and proximality.

Four papers deal with phonetics, and phonology of the languages of Nepal, viz. Nepali, Chamling, Thami and Thakali. **Rajesh Khatiwada** argues that "retroflex" as a phonetic and phonological category "does exist" in Nepali based on two different palatographic and linguographic studies. In his article on phonetic analysis of Chamling vowels **Bhabendra Rai** concludes that fundamental frequency (F0) values vary in terms of gender, age, different contexts or conditioning environments. **Mark Turin** outlined four aspects central to Thangmi morphophonology: the remnants of what may be a defunct liquid-nasal alternation, a brief overview of assimilation, a robust review of intervocalic approximants and finally a brief note on syncope. **Dan Raj Regmi and Ambika Regmi** present some properties of basic sounds and syllable structure in Thakali and compare them with the phonological properties of Bodish as well as with the West-Bodish languages spoken in Nepal.  Thakali exhibits a rich inventory of 33 segmental consonant phonemes, and 6 vowels, and Thakali also presents contrasts involving voice onset time and murmur in consonants.

Two papers are about different aspects of syntax of two Tibeto-Burman languages of Nepal, viz. Puma and Nubri in a general sense. **Narayan P. Sharma** in his analysis of Puma verbal agreement system overviews the historical status of conjugations observed in Puma with regard to the Proto-Kiranti verbal agreement system, and shows that some suffixes are cognate with the Proto-Kiranti reflexes. In another paper, **Dubi Nanda Dhakal** presents the nominal morphology and noun phrase structures of Nubri, a Tibetan language spoken in the northern Gorkha. He generalizes that the constituents that take part in the noun phrase structure and their positions are similar to some "Sinospheric" Tibeto-Burman languages spoken in the same region.

**Tara Mani Rai** applies lexicostatistical method and shows that there are not much lexical variations across the villages where Hayu is spoken. The Hayu varieties spoken in five different points are mutually intelligible to each other. The lexicostatistical data show that there is not much lexical variations across the villages where Hayu is spoken.

**Roop Shree Ratna Bajracharya, Santosh Regmi, Bal Krishna Bal, Balaram Prasain** demonstrate the development of natural sounding Text-to-Speech (TTS) system for Nepali using the Festival system by generating natural sounding screen reader that can be useful for visually impaired and blind community.

We thank the authors and peer reviewers who helped us in bringing this journal into fruition.