



Dr. Susie Kanshouwa
**Traditional and modern
multilingualism in Northeast India**

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Traditional and modern multilingualism in Northeast India

Northeast India is one of most ethnolinguistically diverse regions in the world with over 200 languages from four different language families. Most people can speak either two or more languages. Multilingualism arose as a result of trade and cultural exchange between different communities in the past, and even led to the emergence of pidgins and creoles. However, at present many local languages are becoming endangered and facing threat of extinction due to globalization and urbanization. This talk will give a sociohistorical account of the languages of Northeast India. It will highlight the causes and factors of language shift and endangerment and talk about the need for (language) documentation, description and revitalization.

Susie Kanshouwa is a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Linguistics, University of Bern. She is from Manipur, a small state in Northeast India and belongs to the Maring tribe. Her research focuses on language documentation, description and socio-historical linguistics of the minority/ lesser known/ endangered languages of the region. Currently, she is investigating the language relationships in the Indo-Myanmar border with specific reference to Maring and other South-Central groups of Sino-Tibetan/ Trans-Himalayan languages.

