

## Yakkha

Yakkha language is spoken by about 20 000 speakers in Nepal and Northeast India. It belongs to the Sino-Tibetian language family.

Below is a selection of words in the Yakkha language with their translations. The words are separated into syllables, ' at the beginning of a syllable means that the word has its (primary) stress on this syllable.

|                         |                                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>a.yo.'tey.ma</i>     | sister-in-law                      |
| <i>chim.'duy.na</i>     | I asked him.                       |
| <i>cik.ci.'gey.ba</i>   | Bilaune tree                       |
| <i>'cok.ce.ru</i>       | cardamom                           |
| <i>'Com.luy</i>         | Mount Everest                      |
| <i>'day.gak.ci</i>      | sticks                             |
| <i>'kam.ni.bak</i>      | friend                             |
| <i>kho.'ri?may</i>      | buckwheat                          |
| <i>'ki.tab.ci</i>       | books                              |
| <i>'ko.ko.mek.ci</i>    | butterflies                        |
| <i>'ko.lem</i>          | smooth                             |
| <i>'ku.cu.ma.ci</i>     | dogs                               |
| <i>luk.ta.'khyay.na</i> | I ran away.                        |
| <i>'luy.khwak</i>       | stone                              |
| <i>'men.dhwak.ci</i>    | goats                              |
| <i>nam.tha.'luy.ma</i>  | Namthalungma                       |
| <i>ndum.men.'cun.na</i> | They (dual) do not understand him. |
| <i>pham.'mey.na</i>     | He/she helps me.                   |
| <i>'sam.ba.khi</i>      | potato                             |
| <i>'sam.ba.khi.ci</i>   | potatoes                           |
| <i>'ta.ya.na</i>        | He came.                           |
| <i>tum.me?'nen.na</i>   | I understand you.                  |
| <i>'tun.di.wa.gha</i>   | He/they understand you (pl).       |
| <i>wa.'riy.ba.ci</i>    | tomatoes                           |

**Task 1:** Here are two nouns in their singular and plural forms. Mark the stress.

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| <i>kho.rek</i>        | bowl      |
| <i>kho.rek.ci</i>     | bowls     |
| <i>op.chyay.me</i>    | firefly   |
| <i>op.chyay.me.ci</i> | fireflies |

**Task 2:** Here are more words in the Yakkha language. Mark the stress.

|                           |                                  |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>ca.ram</i>             | yard                             |
| <i>ci.sa.bhya</i>         | It cooled down                   |
| <i>cu?.lum.phi.ci</i>     | steles, pillars, sticks          |
| <i>kam.ni.bak.ci</i>      | friends                          |
| <i>ko.ko.mek</i>          | butterfly                        |
| <i>luk.ta.khya.na</i>     | He ran away.                     |
| <i>ndum.men.cu.yan.na</i> | We (dual) do not understand him. |
| <i>nep.nep.na</i>         | short one                        |
| <i>o.sen.khwak</i>        | bone                             |
| <i>ol.lo.bak</i>          | fast                             |
| <i>tum.me.cu.na</i>       | They (dual) understand him.      |
| <i>wa.bik.ci</i>          | cucumbers                        |
| <i>wa.riy.ba</i>          | tomato                           |
| <i>yok.yo.rok</i>         | beyond, a bit further            |

**Task 3:** The Yakkha term for marble stone is '*ko.len.luy*'. The stress marking should be different than the rule(s) you have discovered so far would suggest. How would you explain this exception?

**Note:** *t, d, ɺ, ch, ph, th, kh, bh, dh, gh, y, y, w* are consonants.