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## Threatened by lack of interest in reading, writing

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«In conversation: Dr Karma Phuntsho (left) and Kunzang Thinley

**Dzongkha Literature** Although spoken Dzongkha might be picking up, skills in writing and reading, an author said, were degenerating, meaning Dzongkha literature was at risk.

This was what Kunzang Thinley, an author of more than 60 Dzongkha books, had to say about the national language yesterday, in his conversation with Dr Karma Phuntsho on “My Own Language” at Tarayana hall.

“This simply means a language without literature,” he said.

Kunzang Thinley, who worked as teacher in his earlier career, explained that his students, who were once the best Dzongkha literate, had lost their skills along the way.

While Bhutan is much into cultural preservation and conservation of it, the national language, Dzongkha was never in the mainstream language in the central Bhutanese system.

It was, he said, overshadowed by the English language, since most of the high level bureaucrats lacked knowledge of Dzongkha literature.

Dr Karma Phuntsho said literature, in the Indo-Bhutanese perspective, could be classified into spelling and rhetorics, which was an amazing human achievement.

“But if we go a little further and deeper, there is another more fundamental human creation, the literary creation,” he said. “And that is the development in language itself.”

Language, according to Dr Karma, is a literary creation and a human product, which is a wonderful human art, but not something made by a god.

“When we look at the building blocks of languages so far, it is an amazing and very astonishing process of literary creation,” he said. “How we construct and conceptualise words.”

He also said the language situation in Bhutan was not fully charted.

While a more reliable source, a Dutch linguist had counted 19 different languages in Bhutan, he believes there are about 23 different spoken languages in Bhutan, of which 16 are totally local, different from any other languages.

By **Samten Yeshi**

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### One Comment to “Threatened by lack of interest in reading, writing”

1. [pals](#) | [May 24th, 2012 at 12:38:33 BT](#) |

This is the room where DDC must do their work rather doing by names, why not DDC call upon meeting with the Cabinet and make compulsory medium Language for all official correspondence in(Dzongkha) for all the offices, since now a days most of the gups too write in English. such system will lead to dying of our country's sovereign and ethics. Therefore, DDC, must look into the matters very seriously. No offices in all the twenty dzongkhags and ministry's do correspond in dzongkhag except the dzongkha focal persons, that too with least interest since to finish up the annual dzongkha budgets to their big pockets. why?DDC being a full autonomous body don't prosper in dzongkhag developments?. Issue one executive order from the LYONCHEN'S table so to give life to our dead dzongkha literature. Dasho, Sherub and the medias, its my prime request give life to dzongkha if bhutan wants to be independence without losing once values.

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- [Firefighters contained the fire below Changzamtog school](#)
- [A clip from "Education: a journey through time" which was launched at the Sherig Century celebration](#)

## Survey

**The Pedestrian Day initiative is:**

- Good  
 Inconvenient  
 Impractical  
 Forced  
 Can be improved  
 Don't know  
 Don't care

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by guest

## Nu per units of Foreign Currency

as of June 23,24&25, 2012

	Buy	Sell
USD	56.35	58.20
Pound	88.05	90.50
Euro	70.70	72.65

Yen(100)	70.20	72.20
HK \$	7.25	7.45
AUS \$	56.50	58.05
Sing \$	44.10	45.35

Courtesy BNB

## [The burning question: What started the blaze?](#)



Initial inquiries seem to rule out the usual short-circuit suspect «His Majesty examines the sacred artifacts

that were salvaged The air reeked of charred wood, as thick black smoke continued to loom above the ruins of the traditional Wangduephodrang dzong. Almost 18 hours after the fire engulfed it, the embers of the timber that once made up the ancient fortress were still burning around [\[Read more\]](#)

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