

### *Narration: Reported to Reporting Speech*

**David said, “I am very hungry.”**

**David said that he was very hungry.**

If we consider the two sentences, we might notice that both of them convey the same meaning, but there is a difference if we look closely.

In the first sentence, I am conveying the activities of David in his own words without changing it; it is called **direct speech** or **reported speech**. In the second sentence, I am using my own words to convey the activities of the speaker to the audience. This we can say **indirect speech** or **reported speech**.

There are some major rules to change these speeches from direct to indirect. We need to consider the **tense, pronoun, words** that describe time, place, distance, types of sentences etc. let us follow the following rules.

- **Pronoun**

In an indirect speech the pronoun changes according to the speaker whether she/he is referring himself/herself or a third

person. We can make this clear if we learn this with some examples.

Direct: Rohan said, "I cannot with you"

Indirect: Rohan said that he could not be with me

Direct: they said, "We will be partying tonight"

Indirect: they said that they would be partying that night.

Direct: I told Raju, "you should stay"

Indirect: I told Raju that he should stay.

- **Types of sentences;**

(a) *Reporting interrogative sentences:*

- If there is yes-no question in the direct speech, then the reported speech will start with whether/if and the reported clause form will be (Sub+verb).

**Example:**

Direct: Raju said, "Are you from Nepal"?

Indirect: Raju asked if I was from Nepal.

Direct: Rahul asked, "Do you want to sit here"?

Indirect: Rahul asked whether I wanted to sit here.

- In **indirect speech questions** starting with **who, whom, how, where** and **what** the wh-word would be the subject or the object of the **reported clause**:

**Example;**

Direct: Aman said, “Who will come with me”?

Indirect: Aman asked who would go with him.

Direct: I said the man, “Where is the hotel?”

Indirect: I asked the man where the hotel was.

Direct: mother said, “How is the bird?”

Indirect: Mother asked how the bird was.

**By, Arshad Khan**

**Dept, of English**

**J N College Madhubani**