Pronoun in Bengali

A dissertation submitted to the Department of Linguistics, Assam University,Silchar

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CERTIFICATE

Certified that the dissertation project entitled 'pronoun in Bengali language' Submitted by Roll no.- 13 Registration No.- 13-150073080 Master of Arts in Linguistics. This work has been submitted previously for Master degree in linguistics in Assam University, Silchar. It is further certified that the candidate has complied with all the formalities as per the requirements of Assam Uneversity. I recommend that the dissertation may be placed before examiners for consideration of award of the degree of this university.

05.10.2020

(Asst. Professor Paromita Purkait)
Name and Signature of the supervisor
Department of Linguistics
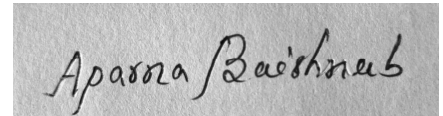**Assam University, Silchar**

DECLARATION

I bearing Roll no.- 13 Registration No.- 13-150073080 hereby declare that the subject matter of the dissertation entitled 'pronoun in Bengali language' is the record of the work done m\by me. The content of this work did not form the basis for award of any degree to me or anybody else to the best of my knowledge.

The project is being submitted to Assam University for the degree of Master of Arts in Linguistics.

Date:05/10/2020

Place: Assam University, Silchar

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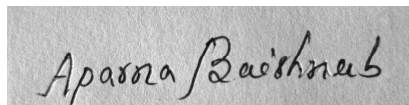
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My special thanks to the Librarian of Assam University, Silchar for allowing me to take Stock of the Library when I approached them.

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ABBREVIATIONS

A.c	=	After Christ
Arab	=	Arabic
A.N.S	=	Andaman and Nicobar Islands
A.p	=	Arunachal Pradesh
B, Beng	=	Bengali
B.V	=	Barak valley
B.d	=	Bengali diaspora
B.l	=	Bengali literature
B.R	=	Bengali Renaissance
B.L	=	Bengali language
B.N	=	Bengali nationalism
C.d	=	culturally diverse
C.c	=	Consonant clustors
Drav	=	Dravidian
E.B	=	east Bengal
IA	=	Indo Aryan
IMLD	=	International Mother Language Day
I.S	=	Indian Subcontinent
IPA	=	International Phonetic Alphabet
Mag	=	Magadhi
M.B	=	Middle Bengali
MIA	=	Middle Indo Aryan
N.	=	North, Northern
N.B	=	New Bengali
N.E.I	=	North East India

N.E.A	=	North East India
O.B	=	Old Bengali
O.I.A	=	Old Indo Aryan
Pers	=	Persian
Pkt	=	Prakit, pp= personal pronoun
S	=	South, Southern
S.E	=	South East, South Eastern
Skt	=	Sanskrit
Stand	=	Standard
S.L	=	Sanskrit Literature
S.W	=	South West
Tbh., tbhs	=	tadbhava, tadbhavas
Ts., tss	=	tatsama, tatsamas
UNESCO	=	
US	=	United state
VD	=	Varendri Dialect
W.	=	West, Western
WB	=	west Bengal

Figure Map

CHAPTER 1

1.1 Introduction

Bengali is a member of the Indic group of the Indo-Iranian or Aryan branch of the Indo-European family of languages. With its sister speech Assamese, Bengali forms the easternmost language in the IE. Linguistic area, just as the Celtic Irish and the Germanic Icelandic are the westernmost. It has been in existence as an independent and characterized language, or, rather, as a distinct dialect group, for nearly ten centuries.

Among the languages and dialects of India, Bengali is the speech of the largest number of people, 48,367,915 persons having returned it as their mother-tongue during the census of 1911. Bengali is spoken by 92 per cent of the population of the Bengal; and portions of Assam and of Bihar and Orissa linguistically form parts of Bengal. Bengali shades off into its sister-languages Oriya, Magahi and Maithili in the west, and into Assamese in the north-east.

1.2   Origin and History

Bengali (/bɛŋˈɡɔːli/), also known by its endonym **Bangla** (□□□□□ [ˈbaŋla]), is an Indo-Aryan language primarily spoken by the Bengalis in South Asia, specifically in the eastern part of the Indian subcontinent, presently divided between Bangladesh and the Indian states of West Bengal, Tripura, Assam's Barak Valley (lower Assam). It is the official and most widely spoken language of Bangladesh and second most widely spoken of the 22 scheduled languages of India, behind Hindi. With approximately 228 million native speakers and another 37 million as second language speakers, Bengali is the fifth most-spoken native language and the seventh most spoken language by total number of speakers in the world.

The official and *de facto* national language of Bangladesh is Modern Standard Bengali (Literary Bengali). It serves as the *lingua franca* of the nation, with 98% of Bangladeshis being fluent in Bengali as their first language. Within India, Bengali is the official language of the states of West Bengal, Tripura and the Barak Valley region of the state of Assam. It is the most widely spoken language in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal, and is spoken by significant populations in other states including Arunachal Pradesh, in Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Uttarakhand.[16] Bengali is also spoken by the significant global Bengali diaspora (Bangladeshi diaspora and Indian Bengalis) communities in Pakistan, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Middle East.

Bengali has developed over the course of more than 1,300 years. Bengali literature, with its millennium-old literary history, has extensively developed since the Bengali Renaissance and is one of the most prolific and diverse literary traditions in Asia. The Bengali language movement from 1948 to 1956 demanding Bengali to be an official language of Pakistan fostered Bengali nationalism in East Bengal leading to the emergence of Bangladesh in 1971. In 1999, UNESCO recognised 21 February as International Mother Language Day in recognition of the language movement. The Bengali language is the quintessential element of Bengali identity and binds together a culturally diverse region. Modern Standard Bengali is confined mostly to formal situations, existing in a diglossic relationship with vernacular Bengali varieties, which are commonly used for everyday speech in different geographic regions.

Bengali Phonology

The underline phonemic inventory of standard Bengali consists of 29 consonants and 7 vowels, as well as 7 nasalised vowels. The inventory is set out below in the International Phonetic Alphabet (upper grapheme in each box) and romanisation (lower grapheme).

Vowels			
	Front	**Central**	**Back**
Close	ই~ঈ i i		উ~ঊ u u
Close-mid	এ e e		ও o o
Open-mid	☐☐☐ ☐ ɛ ê		অ ɔ ô
Open		আ a a	

Nasalized vowels			
	Front	**Central**	**Back**
Close	□□~□□ ĩ ĩ		□□~ □□ ũ ũ
Close-mid	□□ ẽ ẽ		□□ õ õ
Open-mid	□□□□□ / □□□□□ ɛ̃		□□ ɔ̃
Open		□□ ã	

Consonants						
		Labial	**Dental/Alveolar**	**Retroflex**	**Palatoalveolar**	**Velar**	**Glottal**
Nasal		m	n			ŋ	
Plosive voiceless	unaspirated	p	t	ʈ	tʃ	k	
	aspirated	pʰ~f	tʰ	ʈʰ	tʃʰ	kʰ	
Plosive voiced	unaspirated	b	d	ɖ	dʒ	g	
	aspirated	bʰ~v	dʰ	ɖʰ	dʒʰ	gʰ	
Fricative			s		ʃ		ɦ
Approximant		(w)	l		(j)		
Rhotic			r~ɾ	ɽ~ɽʰ			

Bengali is known for its wide variety of <u>diphthongs</u>, combinations of <u>vowels</u> occurring within the same <u>syllable</u>.[67] Two of these, /oi̯/ and /ou̯/, are the only ones with representation in script, as ঐ and ঔ respectively. /e̯ i̯ o̯ u̯/ may all form the glide part of a diphthong. The total number of diphthongs is not established, with bounds at 17 and 31. An incomplete chart is given by Sarkar (1985) of the following:[68]

	e̯	i̯	o̯	u̯

a	ae̯	ai̯	ao̯	au̯
æ	æe̯		æo̯	
e		ei̯		eu̯
i		ii̯		iu̯
o	oe̯	oi̯	oo̯	ou̯
u		ui̯		

Stress

In standard Bengali, stress is predominantly initial. Bengali words are virtually all trochaic; the primary stress falls on the initial syllable of the word, while secondary stress often falls on all odd-numbered syllables thereafter, giving strings such as in □□□□□□□ **shô**-*hô*-**jo**-*gi*-**ta** "cooperation", where the **boldface** represents primary and secondary stress.

Consonant cluster

Native Bengali words do not allow initial consonant clusters;[69] the maximum syllabic structure is CVC (i.e. one vowel flanked by a consonant on each side). Many speakers of Bengali restrict their phonology to this pattern, even when using Sanskrit or English borrowings, such as □□□□□ *geram* (CV.CVC) for □□□□ *gram* (CCVC) "village" or □□□□□□ *iskul* (VC.CVC) for □□□□ *skul* (CCVC) "school".

Ancient languages of Bengal

Sanskrit was practised by Hindu priests in Bengal since the first millennium BCE. But, the local Buddhist people were speaking in some varieties of Prakrita languages. Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee coined it as "eastern variety of Magadhi Prakrita".[citation needed] During the Gupta Empire, Bengal was a hub of Sanskrit literature.[20] The Middle Indo-Aryan dialects were influential in Bengal in the first millennium when the region was a part of the Magadha Realm. These dialects were called Magadhi Prakrit spoken in current Bihar state of India. The Magdhi Prakrita eventually evolved into Ardha Magadhi and become more distinct from the languages of Bengal day by day. Ardha Magadhi began to give way to what are called Apabhraṃśa languages at the end of the first millennium. Then Bengali language evolved as a distinct language by the course of time.

Geographical distribution
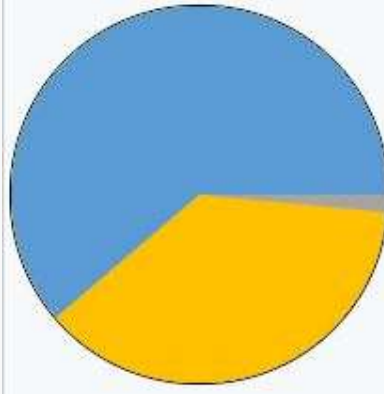
Approximate distribution of native Bengali speakers (assuming a rounded total of 261 million) worldwide.

█ Bangladesh (61.3%)

█ India (37.2%)

█ Other (1.5%)

The Bengali language is native to the region of Bengal, which comprises Indian states of West Bengal and the present-day nation of Bangladesh. Besides the native region it is also spoken by the Bengalis living in Tripura, southern Assam and the Bengali population in the Indian union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Bengali is also spoken in the neighbouring states of Odisha, Bihar, and Jharkhand, and sizeable minorities of Bengali speakers reside in Indian cities outside Bengal, including Delhi, Mumbai, Varanasi, and Vrindavan. There are also significant Bengali-speaking communities in the Middle East,[35][36][37] the United States,[38] Singapore,[39] Malaysia, Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Italy.

Official status

The 3rd article of the Constitution of Bangladesh states Bengali to be the sole official language of Bangladesh.[12] The Bengali Language Implementation Act, 1987 made it mandatory to use Bengali in all records and correspondences, laws, proceedings of court and other legal actions in all courts, government or semi-government offices, and autonomous institutions in Bangladesh.[10] It is also the *de facto* national language of the country.

In India, Bengali is one of the 23 official languages.[40] It is the official language of the Indian states of West Bengal, Tripura and in Barak Valley of Assam.[41][42] Bengali is a second official language of the Indian state of Jharkhand since September 2011. It is also a recognised secondary language in the City of Karachi in Pakistan.[43][44][45] The Department of Bengali in the University of Karachi also offers regular programs of studies at the Bachelors and at the Masters levels for Bengali Literature.[46]

The national anthems of both Bangladesh (*Amar Sonar Bangla*) and India (*Jana Gana Mana*) were written in Bengali by the Bengali Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore.[47] Additionally, the first two verses of *Vande Mataram*, a patriotic song written in Bengali by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, was adopted as the "national song" of India in both the colonial period and later in 1950 in independent India. Furthermore, it is believed by many that the national anthem of Sri Lanka (Sri Lanka Matha) was inspired by a Bengali poem written by Rabindranath Tagore,[48][49][50][51] while some even believe the anthem was originally written in Bengali and then translated into Sinhala.[52][53][54][55]

In 2009, elected representatives in both Bangladesh and West Bengal called for Bengali language to be made an official language of the United Nations.[56]

Spoken and literary varieties

Bengali exhibits <u>diglossia</u>, though some scholars have proposed triglossia or even n‑glossia or <u>heteroglossia</u> between the written and spoken forms of the language.[31] Two styles of writing have emerged, involving somewhat different vocabularies and syntax:[60][62]

1. *Shadhu-bhasha* (সাধুভাষা "uptight language") was the written language, with longer verb inflections and more of a <u>Pali</u> and <u>Sanskrit</u>-derived *Tatsama* vocabulary. Songs such as India's national anthem *Jana Gana Mana* (by <u>Rabindranath Tagore</u>) were composed in Shadhubhasha. However, use of Shadhubhasha in modern writing is uncommon, restricted to some official signs and documents in Bangladesh as well as for achieving particular literary effects.

2. *Cholito-bhasha* (চলিতভাষা "running language"), known by linguists as Standard Colloquial Bengali, is a written Bengali style exhibiting a preponderance of colloquial idiom and shortened verb forms, and is the standard for written Bengali now. This form came into vogue towards the turn of the 19th century, promoted by the writings of <u>Peary Chand Mitra</u> (*Alaler Gharer Dulal*, 1857),[63] <u>Pramatha Chaudhuri</u> (*Sabujpatra*, 1914) and in the later writings of <u>Rabindranath Tagore</u>. It is modelled on the dialect spoken in the <u>Shantipur</u> region in <u>Nadia district</u>, West Bengal. This form of Bengali is often referred to as the "Nadia standard", "Nadia dialect", "Southwestern/West-Central dialect" or "Shantipuri Bangla".[58]

Linguist <u>Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar</u> categorises the language as:

- Madhya Rādhi dialect
- Kanthi (Contai) dialect
- Kolkata dialect
- Shantipuri (Nadia) dialect
- Maldahiya (Jangipuri) dialect
- Barendri dialect
- Rangpuriya dialect
- Sylheti dialect
- Dhakaiya (Bikrampuri) dialect
- Jessor/Jessoriya dialect
- Barisal (Chandradwip) dialect
- Chattal (Chittagong) dialect

While most writing is in Standard Colloquial Bengali (SCB), spoken dialects exhibit a greater variety. People in southeastern West Bengal, including Kolkata, speak in SCB. Other dialects, with minor variations from Standard Colloquial, are used in other parts of West Bengal and western Bangladesh, such as the <u>Midnapore</u> dialect, characterised by some unique words and constructions. However, a majority in Bangladesh speak in dialects notably different from SCB. Some dialects, particularly those of the <u>Chittagong</u> region,

bear only a superficial resemblance to SCB.[64] The dialect in the Chittagong region is least widely understood by the general body of Bengalis.[64] The majority of Bengalis are able to communicate in more than one variety – often, speakers are fluent in *Cholitobhasha* (SCB) and one or more regional dialects.[32]

Even in SCB, the vocabulary may differ according to the speaker's religion: Hindus are more likely to use words derived from Sanskrit whereas Muslims are more likely to use words of Persian and Arabic origin, along with more native words respectively.[65] For example:[61]

Predominantly Hindu usage	Predominantly Muslim usage	Translation
□□□□□□□ *nômôshkar*	□□□□□□□□ □□□□□□□ *Assalamu-Alaikum*	hello
□□□□□□□□□ *nimôntrôn*	□□□□□□□ *dawat*	invitation
জল *jôl*	□□□□ *pani*	water
□□□□□ *snan*	□□□□ *gosôl*	bath
□□□□ didi	□□□ apu	sister / elder sister
□□□□ *dada*	□□□ *bhai*	brother / elder brother[66]
□□□□ *mashi*	□□□□ *khala*	maternal aunt
□□□□ *pishi*	□□□□ *fupu*	paternal aunt
□□□□ *kaka*	□□□□ chacha	paternal uncle
□□□□□□□□□ *prarthona*	□□'আ *do'a* / du'a	pray

□□□□□□ *prodip*	□□□□ *bati*	light

Vocabulary
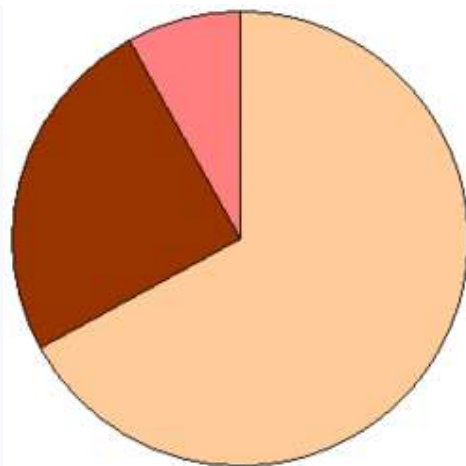
Sources of modern literary Bengali words

■ 67% native

■ 25% Sanskrit reborrowings

■ 8% indigenous and foreign loans

Main article: Bengali vocabulary

Bengali has as many as 100,000 separate words, of which 50,000 are considered Tadbhavas, 21,100 are Tatsamas and the remainder loanwords from Austroasiatic and other foreign languages.

However, these figures do not take into account the large proportion of archaic or highly technical words that are very rarely used. Furthermore, different dialects use more Persian and Arabic vocabulary especially in different areas of Bangladesh and Muslim majority areas of West Bengal. Hindus, on the other hand, use more Sanskrit vocabulary than Muslims. While standard Bengali is based on the Nadia dialect spoken in the Hindu majority states of West Bengal, about 90% of Bengalis in Bangladesh (ca. 148 million) and 27% of Bengalis in West Bengal and 10% in Assam (ca. 36 million) are Muslim and speak a more "persio-arabised" version of Bengali instead of the more Sanskrit influenced Standard Nadia dialect. The productive vocabulary used in modern literary works, in fact, is made up mostly (67%) of tadbhavas, while tatsamas comprise only 25% of the total.[81][82] Loanwords from non-Indic languages comprise the remaining 8% of the vocabulary used in modern Bengali literature.

According to Suniti Kumar Chatterji, dictionaries from the early 20th century attributed about 50% of the Bengali vocabulary to native words (i.e., naturally modified Prakrit words, corrupted forms of Aryan words, and non Indo-European languages. About 45% percent of Bengali words are unmodified Sanskrit, and the remaining words are from foreign languages.[83] Dominant in the last group was Persian,

which was also the source of some grammatical forms. More recent studies suggest that the use of native and foreign words has been increasing, mainly because of the preference of Bengali speakers for the colloquial style.[83] Because of centuries of contact with Europeans, Turkic peoples, and Persians, Bengali has absorbed numerous words from foreign languages, often totally integrating these borrowings into the core vocabulary.

The most common borrowings from foreign languages come from three different kinds of contact. After close contact with several indigenous Austroasiatic languages,[84][85][86][87] and later the Mughal invasion whose court language was Persian, numerous Chagatai, Arabic, and Persian words were absorbed into the lexicon.[33]

Later, East Asian travellers and lately European colonialism brought words from Portuguese, French, Dutch, and most significantly English during the colonial period.

1.3 Official dialects
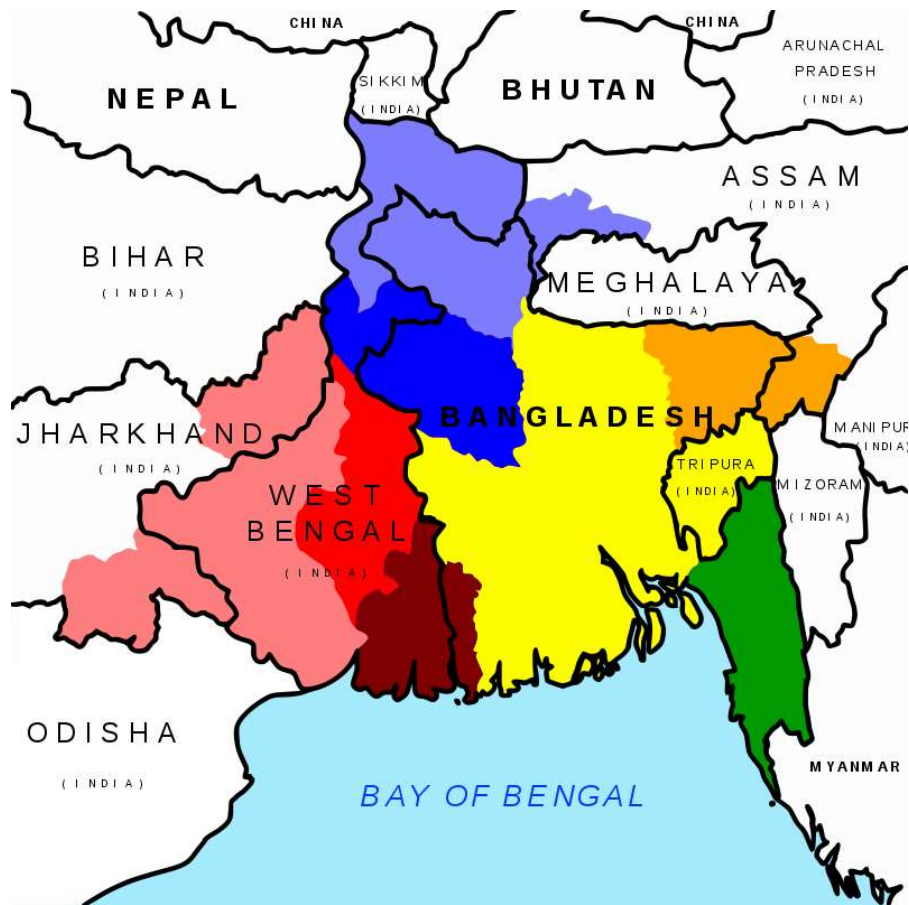
A map of Bengal (and some districts of Assam and Jharkhand) which shows the dialects of the Bengali Language.

- Bangali dialect
- Chittagonian dialect
- Manbhumi dialect
- Rangpuri dialect
- Rarhi dialect
- Sundarbani dialect
- Sylheti dialect
- Varendri dialect

Suniti Kumar Chatterji and Sukumar Sen classified Bengali Dialects in 6 classes by their phonology & pronunciation. They are:

1. **Rarhi dialect**: Rarhi is the basis of official Standard Bengali language. This dialect is spoken across much of Southern West Bengal, India. The regions where it is spoken include the whole of Presidency division (including the city of Kolkata and the Nadia district), the Southern half of Burdwan division and the district of Murshidabad.

2. **Bangali dialect**: Bangali is the most widely spoken dialect of Bengali language. It is spoken across the Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka, Mymensingh and Comilla Divisions of Bangladesh and the State of Tripura in India.

3. **Varendri dialect**: This variety is spoken in Malda division of West Bengal, India and Rajshahi division of Bangladesh (previously part of Varendra or Barind division). It is also spoken in some adjoining villages in Bihar bordering Malda, West Bengal.

4. **Manbhumi dialect**: Manbhumi is spoken in westernmost Bengali speaking regions which includes the whole of Medinipur division and the northern half of Burdwan division in West Bengal and the Bengali speaking regions of Santhal Pargana division and Kolhan division in Jharkhand state.

5. **Rangpuri dialect**: This dialect is spoken in Rangpur Division of Bangladesh and Jalpaiguri division of West Bengal, India and its nearby Bengali speaking areas in the bordering areas of Assam and Bihar.

6. **Sundarbani dialect**: Some linguists have also mentioned this.[3] Dialect of the Sundarbans region in the Satkhira District of Bangladesh and the North & South 24 Parganas districts of West Bengal don't share some common features with the neighboring Bangali & Rarhi dialects. So this dialect is classified as a unique dialect.

1.4   Culture and Tradition

The **culture of Bengal** defines the cultural heritage of the Bengali people native to eastern regions of the Indian subcontinent, mainly what is today Bangladesh and the Indian states of West Bengal, Tripura and Assam's Barak Valley, where the Bengali language is the official and primary language. Bengal has a recorded history of 1,400 years.[1] The Bengali people are its dominant ethnolinguistic tribe. The region has been a historical melting point, blending indigenous traditions with cosmopolitan influences from pan-Indian subcontinental empires. Bengal was considered to be the richest part of Islamic medieval India and during the era of the Bengal Sultanate it was described to be a world major trading nation, while during Mughal times, having triggered the proto-industrialization, its economy was worth 12% of global GDP. As a part of the Bengal Presidency, it also hosted the region's most advanced political and cultural centers during the British rule.

Bengal Traditional costumes are very simple and seem calm. They represent the rich tradition and culture of the region. Men like to wear the Dhoti and women love to wear saris. There are many varieties of designs and colours studded on the saris in Bengal.

1.5   Festivals

Durga Puja, the most happening festival of the Bengalis can be sensed with its spurt of fanfare on all the four days of the Durga Puja festival. This autumnal festival popularly known as Sharodotsav, recalls the power of female Shakti symbolized by the Goddess Durga who slays asura to reestablish peace and sanctity on earth again. Bengalis all over the world during these days of Durga Puja rejoice to their heart's content reconnecting with friends and relatives. Durga Puja is an occasion when the familiar sound of Dhak, Dhunuchi nachh,the mild fragrance of Shiuli, gives a familiar tug to every Bengali heart.

Holi is one of the most important festivals of Bengal. In Bengal it is celebrated as the Dol Festival. It is the most loved festivals of India as it represents the bright hues of the spring season. Dol Festival or utsav has bright flowers in full bloom and trees clothed in bright, fresh leaves. Also known as Holi, in the rest of India it is the festival of colours that brings people of all regions together.

1.6   Food

Bengali cuisine is a culinary style originating in <u>Bengal region</u> in the eastern part of the <u>Indian subcontinent</u>, which is divided between <u>Bangladesh</u> and the <u>Indian states</u> of <u>West Bengal</u>, <u>Tripura</u> and <u>Assam</u>'s <u>Barak Valley</u>. There is an emphasis on fish, vegetables, and lentils served with the staple rice.

Many Bengali food traditions draw from previously middle class activities, such as <u>adda</u>, or the *<u>Annaprashana</u>*.

Bengali cuisine is known for its varied use of flavours, as well as the spread of its confectioneries and desserts. It has the only traditionally developed <u>multi-course</u> tradition from the <u>cuisine of the Indian subcontinent</u> that is analogous in structure to the modern *<u>service à la russe</u>* style of <u>French cuisine</u>, with food served in <u>courses</u> rather than all at once.

1.7 Dress and Ornaments

Dress: Bengali women commonly wear the shari (sari), often distinctly designed according to local cultural customs. In urban areas, many women and men wear Western-style attire. Men also wear traditional costumes such as the kurta. lungi, a variant of the sarong, is widely worn by Bangladeshi men.

At Jorashanko (Rabindranath Tagore's home in Kolkata) different drapes of sari were improvised on so that women could step out of the andarmahal (inner house) where they were relegated. This had Tagore's sister-in-law, Jnanadanandini Devi, bringing the Parsi way of draping the sari from Mumbai to Bengal.[7] Chitra Deb, in her book Thakurbarir Andarmahal, describes the entire process of how the Parsi sari was adapted into Bengali culture.[8]

Bengal has produced several of South Asia's leading fashion designers, including Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Bibi Russell and Rina Latif.

Ornaments: The art of adornment goes back to primitive man who used, for decoration, flowers and beads, carved wood, shell, bone and stone. The material used changed in time to ivory, copper and semi-precious stones and then to silver, gold and precious stones, but our rich tribal heritage can be seen in the flower motif which is basic to Indian jewelry designs even today.Jewelry later became a means of putting by savings, like a bank today, and of providing financial security to women who sold it in times of need.

The Indian love of gold may have been a means of acquiring wealth. But the Indian love of jewelry is really a love of the beautiful and the aesthetic, of man's aspirations to reach perfection in form, design and color. Repetition, symmetry and orderly progression in design are typical of the Indian belief in order, or R'ta, in the cosmic universe.

We present this collection as a homage to the art of jewelry in India, to our ancestors who conceived these jewels, to the artist who designed them and to the skilled artisans who fashioned them, and preserved, through millennia, this priceless art, our precious heritage.

1.8 Religion and Religious Practices

South Asia

Bengal has two main religions, Hinduism and Islam, but within both faiths there is a great deal of diversity of culture, belief and practices.

Islam was brought to Bengal in the eleventh century, when Mughal empire builders from north India and central Asia sought to control the region. The early Muslims of Bengal were mainly people used to living in towns – most were soldiers, but there were also traders, craftsmen and religious leaders. They came from all over South and Central Asia and the Middle East. Islam only began to spread quickly among the local peasant and farming population from the sixteenth century onwards, when the Mughal emperor Akbar encouraged 'soldier-saints' to clear the thick forest areas to the east of the delta and use them for farming. Many of these 'pirs' or 'soldier-saints' and their converts followed forms of Islam that were only found in Bengal.

By the twentieth century, Muslims had become a majority of Bengal's population, and were a third of all South Asians. However, there was a big difference between the ashraf (elite and aristocratic Muslims, who usually spoke Persian) and the common folk or atrap Muslims, who spoke Bengali and were mainly peasants. Bengali Muslims belong overwhelmingly to the Sunni division of Islam, although there are small Shia communities, found mainly in Dhaka in Bangladesh and Murshidabad in West Bengal.

Bengali Muslims celebrate the major festivals of Islam: the Id ul-Fitr, which marks the end of the Muslim month of fasting (Ramadan) and the Id ul-Adha, or 'feast of the sacrifice', which takes place after the annual pilgrimage (hajj) to Mecca. Id ul-Adha is in honour of the story of the prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son at God's command. Even though Bengali Muslims are Sunnis, they also observe the festival of Muharram, usually associated more with the Shia division of Islam. This festival is held to remember the death of Hussain, grandson of the Prophet Mohammed and martyr of the faith.

Hindus are also divided, mainly by caste (social division), and Hinduism in Bengal also takes many forms. Shaivite Hinduism in the region is known for the strength of its Mother Goddess cults, 'Durga Puja' and 'Kali Puja'. These are among the main annual festivals and are widespread among the upper castes. Vaishnavite Hinduism, on the other hand, involving devotion to Krishna, is popular among the lower castes. Especially important is the annual festival of the Lord Shiva (gajan). The goddesses Lakshmi (of wealth and good fortune) and Saraswati (of learning and culture) also have annual ceremonies.

In addition to formal worship at Hindu temples and Muslim mosques, popular worship involving religious folk music is widespread, especially at Vaishnavite gatherings where kirtans (or collective singing of devotional songs) are popular both in the towns and villages. There are many Muslim followers of several Sufi orders. Bengali Muslims are also known for their practice of 'pirism', following Muslim saints or holy men (called 'pirs'). Popular religion in Bengal often mixes both Hindu and Muslim folk beliefs and practices. Bengal is famous for its wandering religious folk musicians (Bauls) who refuse to accept traditional differences between Hinduism and Islam in their worship and way of life.

Important folk deities worshipped by Hindus and Muslims alike include the 'goddesses of the calamities': Sitala, goddess of smallpox; Olabibi, goddess of cholera; Manasa, goddess of snakes; Bonbibi and Gazi pir, who protect against man-eating tigers; and Dariya-pir who controls the currents and crocodiles of Bengal's mighty rivers – and all have their annual festivals and devoted followers.

For members of all religious faiths, the annual New Year celebrated on the first day of the Bengali month of Baisakh, on 14 April, marks the beginning of spring and is a joyous occasion celebrated by all.

Britain

The majority of Bengalis in Britain are Muslim, with over 92% identifying themselves as Muslim in the 2001 Census (around 260,000 people). Bangladeshi Muslims account for nearly 17% of Britain's Muslim population, the second largest group after Pakistanis. In addition, 0.6% of Bangladeshis in the UK are Hindu, 0.5% Christian and 0.1 % Buddhist. In the Census, 5.8% did not state their religion and 0.4% said they did not follow any religion at all. Traditionally, Bangladeshi Muslims are Sunnis, allied to the Barelvi tradition, which emphasised the role of customs, shrines and pirs (saints) and was mixed with Hindu traditions and customs. From the 1980s onwards, however, the community has witnessed a process of Islamicisation which draws on alternative traditions stressing a 'purer' version of Islam. This shift has been of particular importance among younger British-born Bangladeshis.

Since the 1980s, there has been a growth of religious organisations within Bangladeshi communities, many with roots and funding from Muslim majority countries in the Middle East and Pakistan, as well as Bangladesh. Groups such as the YMO (Young Muslim Organisation) and the IFE (Islamic Forum of Europe) have focused on work with young people, and there has been the development of a strong Islamic identity amongst sections of the younger generation of British Bengalis.

CHAPTER 2: Review of Literature

This section is concerned with the review of literature pertaining to the study of pronouns in Bengali in general. The reviews of literature done also includes both the aspects of language study Viz. Description of pronouns in Bengali. As the present research in on the pronouns in Bengali, the available studies on Bengali pronoun have been reviewed and presented here.

There are quite a number of studies available in the form of research articles and book on Bengali grammar and description of Bengali grammatical structures undertaken and published with reference to the structure of Bengali in west Bengal, Tripura, Assam and in certain extend in country like Bangladesh.

Pronoun form part of the noun structure in a language. However, one can identify the views of pronouns of their representation in the verb structure also. Pronoun are also represented in the formation of adjectival nouns, verbal nouns, participial nouns, possessive nouns etc. So all this structures through explain as morphological constructions take part in the formation of phrase structures which directly enter into sentence structure.

So, pronoun through found to be simple word forms, when they enter into morphological forms or occur in phrases and sentences, their distribution and occurrences in different linguistic and contextual environment seem to be more complex.

The pronoun used in Bengali language in the spoken and written verities have been described applying the present day structural methodology as well as sociolinguistic approach. However not much research has been carried cut in Bengali pronoun. Hence I have collected dates and information form some of the related Bengali grammar books- "A history of Bengali grammar" by Dr. Anita Bandyopadhay, "A practical Bengali grammar for language learns" by Alibha Dakshi, "Bani Bichitra" by Pijush Dey, Bhasha-Prakash bangla Byakaran by Suniti Kumar Chattopadhyay and "The origin and development of Bengali language" by Suniti Kumar Chaterji when he describes the origin and growth of Bengali language from the historical point of view.

CHAPTER 3: OBJECT AND METHODOLOGY

Objects:

The object of this research work is to propose a new overview of Bangla pronoun. The research work for Bengali language processing is difficult because there is hardly any automated tool to facilitate research work. In this challenging situation, a new approach for Bengali pronoun has been presented hereby introducing different types of pronoun which are presented in Bengali language. Major part of this approach are- the different types of pronoun and the replacement of different pronoun in different sentences.

For achieving the knowledge about the Bengali pronoun, some bengla grammer books have been studied. The effect of each incorporated feature has been demonstrated with step by step performance analysis.

Methodology:

1.1   Primary sources:

Primary data are those data which are collected are specially for the research work. For the collection of data various types of question are made and some word list and sentenced are kept. Being a native speaker of the language there was not much difficulty in finding out the different types of pronoun. Some of the data are collected by the help of some bengali scholar's and from some of the P. G. Students from the various department and specially from bengali department.

1.2   Secondary Sources:

Secondary data are those data which are already collected and available. We can get this if our work is not done properly with the primary sources. In the present work the data are collected from the existing published material available in the market in the form of books, dictionaries, grammar.

In this research, as research methodology, used secondary sources. The data used in this dissertation where collected from the several books. As secondary sources some kind of existing published materials available in the form of books and articles etc. have been collected.

CHAPTER 4: AN OVERVIEW

The word which we use instead of a noun is called pronoun. A pronoun always replaces a noun.

Ex: - Karim is a good boy (noun)

He goes to school everyday (pronoun)

Pronoun in Bengali: – learning the Bengali pronoun is very important because its structure is used in everyday conversation. Therefore first we need to know what the role of pronouns is in the structure of the grammar in Bengali.

Bengali pronoun include personal pronouns (it refer to the person speaking, the persons speaker to, or the person or things spoken about, indefinite pronouns, relates pronouns, reciprocal or reflexive pronouns (in which the object of a very is being acted on by verb's subject.

In English, personal pronouns are – I, you, he, she, it, we, you, they and me, you, him, her, it, us, you, them.

1) Personal Pronoun:

Bengali personal pronouns are somewhat similar to English pronouns, having different words for first, second, and third person, and also for singular and plural (unlike for verbs, below). Bengali pronouns, unlike their English counterparts, do not differentiate for gender; that is, the same pronoun may be used for "he" or "she". However, Bengali has different third-person pronouns for proximity. The first are used for someone who is nearby, and the second are for those who are a little further away. The third are usually for those who are not present. In addition, each of the second- and third-person pronouns have different forms for the familiar and polite forms; the second person also has a "very familiar" form (sometimes called "despective"). It may be noted that the "very familiar" form is used when addressing particularly close friends or family as well as for addressing subordinates, or in abusive language. In the following tables, the abbreviations used are as follows: **VF**=very familiar, **F**=familiar, and **P**=polite (honor); **H**=here, **T**=there, **E**=elsewhere (proximity), and **I**=inanimate.

The **nominative** case is used for pronouns that are the subject of the sentence, such as "*I* already did that" or "Will *you* please stop making that noise?"

Personal pronouns (nominative case)				
Subject	**Proximity**	**Honor**	**Singular**	**Plural**
1			▢▢▢ (*ami*, I)	▢▢▢▢ (*amra*, we)
2		VF	▢▢▢ (*tui*, you)	▢▢▢▢ (*tora*, you)
		F	▢▢▢▢ (*tumi*, you)	▢▢▢▢▢ (*tomra*, you)
		P	▢▢▢▢ (*apni*, you)	▢▢▢▢▢▢ (*apnara*, you)
3	H	F	ꠀ (*e*, he/she)	▢▢▢ (*era*, they)
		P	▢▢▢ (*ini*, he/she)	▢▢▢▢ (*ẽra*, they)
		I	▢▢▢/▢▢▢ (*eţi/eţa*, it)	▢▢▢▢▢ (*egulo*, these)
	T	F	ꠊ (*o*, he/she)	▢▢▢ (*ora*, they)
		P	▢▢▢ (*uni*, he/she)	▢▢▢▢ (*õra*, they)
		I	▢▢▢/▢▢▢ (*oţi/oţa*, it)	▢▢▢▢▢ (*ogulo*, those)
	E	F	▢▢ (*she*, he/she)	▢▢▢▢ (*tara*, they)
		P	▢▢▢▢ (*tini*, he/she)	▢▢▢▢▢ (*tãra*, they)
		I	▢▢▢▢/▢▢▢▢ (*sheţi/sheţa*, it)	▢▢▢▢▢▢ (*shegulo*, those)

The **objective** case is used for pronouns serving as the direct or indirect objects, such as "I told ***him*** to wash the dishes" or "The teacher gave ***me*** the homework assignment". The inanimate pronouns remain the same in the objective case.

Personal pronouns (objective case)				
Subject	**Proximity**	**Honor**	**Singular**	**Plural**
1			(*amake*, me)	(*amaderke*, us)
2		VF	(*toke*, you)	(*toderke*, you)
		F	(*tomake*, you)	(*tomaderke*, you)
		P	(*apnake*, you)	(*apnaderke*, you)
3	H	F	(*eke*, him/her)	(*ederke*, them)
		P	(*ĕke*, him/her)	(*ĕderke*, them)
		I	(*eţi/eţa,* it)	(*egulo*, these)
	T	F	(*oke*, him/her)	(*oderke*, them)
		P	(*õke*, him/her)	(*õderke*, them)
		I	(*oţi/oţa,* it)	(*ogulo,* those)
	E	F	(*take*, him/her)	(*taderke*, them)
		P	(*tãke*, him/her)	(*tãderke*, them)
		I	(*sheţi/sheţa*, it)	(*shegulo,* those)

The **possessive case** is used to show possession, such as "Where is *your* coat?" or "Let's go to *our* house". In addition, sentences such as "*I have* a book" (আমার আমার বই আছে) or "*I need* money" (আমার টাকা দরকার) also use the possessive (the literal translation of the Bengali versions of these sentences would be "There is *my* book" and "There is *my* need for money" respectively).

Personal pronouns (possessive case)				
Subject	**Proximity**	**Honor**	**Singular**	**Plural**
	1		আমার (*amar*, my)	আমাদের (*amader*, our)
		VF	তোর (*tor*, your)	তোদের (*toder*, your)
	2	F	তোমার (*tomar*, your)	তোমাদের (*tomader*, your)
		P	আপনার (*apnar*, your)	আপনাদের (*apnader*, your)
3	H	F	এর (*er*, his/her)	এদের (*eder*, their)
		P	এঁর (*ẽr*, his/her)	এঁদের (*ẽder*, their)
		I	এটির/এটার (*eṭir/eṭar*, its)	এগুলোর (*egulor*, of these)
	T	F	ওর (*or*, his/her)	ওদের (*oder*, their)
		P	ওঁর (*õr*, his/her)	ওঁদের (*õder*, their)
		I	ওটির/ওটার (*oṭir/oṭar*, its)	ওগুলোর (*ogulor*, of those)
	E	F	তার (*tar*, his/her)	তাদের (*tader*, their)
		P	তাঁর (*tãr*, his/her)	তাঁদের (*tãder*, their)

		I	িশর/িশর (sheţir/sheţar, its)	িশলর (shegulor, of those)

2) **Possessive pronouns: -**

A possessive form is a word or grammatical construction used to indicate a relationship of possession in broad sense.

Example of possessive pronouns in Bengali-

l

ler

ader

der

For Example: 'Ei putulti tahar'
- Here 'tahar' is a possessive pronoun.

3) **Reflexive pronoun: -**

In general linguistics, a reflexive pronoun, sometime simply called reflexive, is an anaphoric pronoun that must be co-referential with another nominal within the same clause.

Example of reflexive pronoun in Bengali–
Aponi, Nije, Soyong etc.

Ex-   Sima nije onkoti korechilo
Sima has done the sum by herself.

4) **Demonstrative pronoun: -**

Demonstratives are words, such as this and that used to indicate which entities are being referred to and to distinguish those entities from others.

Demonstrative in Bengali are- a, aha, ini, oi, uni etc

5) **Interrogative pronoun: -**

An interrogative word or question word is a function word used to ask a question, such as in English- what, which, when, where, who, whom, whose, why, whether and how. They are sometimes called w h words.

In Bengali interrogative words are- ke, ki, kahara, kunta, kokhon, kuthai, kahar, keno etc.

For Example: 1. Tumar naam ki?
(What is your name?)
2. Tumi kuthai bash koro?
(Where do you live?)
3. oi bhodro mahila ti ke?
(Who is that old lady?)

6) Reciprocal pronoun: -

A Reciprocal pronoun refers the relationship between two or more persons or things each other and one another are reciprocal pronouns.

In Bengali the reciprocal pronouns are-

Apne - Apni, Amra – Amra, Nije - Nije

For Example: Nije – Nijei kajti kora bhalo

7) Indefinite and negative pronouns:

Bengali has no negative pronouns (such as *no one, nothing, none*). These are typically represented by adding the negative particle না (*na*) to <u>indefinite pronouns</u>, which are themselves derived from their corresponding question words. Common indefinite pronouns are listed below.

Question word	Indefinite pronoun	Indefinite negative pronoun
কে (*ke*, who)	কেউ (*keu*, someone)	কেউ না (*keu na*, no one)
কার (*kar*, whose)	কারো (*karo*, someone's)	কারো না (*karo na*, no one's)
কাকে (*kake*, to whom)	কাউকে (*kauke*, to someone)	কাউকে না (*kauke na*, to someone)
কোন (*kon*, which)	কোনো (*kono*, any)	কোনো না (*kono na*, none)
কি (*ki*, what)	কিছু (*kichu*,	কিছু না (*kichu na*, nothing)

some/something)	

8) Relative pronouns

The relative pronoun □□ (*je*) and its different variants, as shown below, are commonly employed in complex sentences. The relative pronouns for animate objects change for number and honor, but those for inanimate objects stay the same.

Animate relative pronouns			
	Nominative (*who*)	Genitive (*whose*)	Objective (*to whom*)
Singular (VF/F)	□□	□□□	□□□□
Singular (P)	□□□□	□□□□	□□□□□□
Plural (VF/F)	□□□□	□□□□□	□□□□□
Plural (P)	□□□□□	□□□□□□	□□□□□□

Inanimate relative pronouns		
Nominative/Objective (*which*)	Genitive (*of which*)	Locative (*in which*)
□□	□□□	□□□□

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION

The work presents the study of pronoun in bengali language, on the basis of detail analysis of pronoun in bengali language.

In the previews analysis, I have shown the grammar of bengali on pronoun and what are the different types of pronoun in bengali language in details along with example.

Bengali is an indo aryran language. The younger generation of speakers uses bengali in different formal and informal domains of language use, bengali has personal pronoun which distinguish first, second and third person (both in singular and plural form) bengali pronouns, unlike there English counterparts, do not differentiate for gender, that is the same pronoun may be used for 'He' or 'she'. However, bengali has different third persons pronoun for proximity. Bengali has no negatir. Pronoun (such as no one, nothing, none). These are typically represented by adding the negative particle □□ (na) to infinite pronoun. Furthermore, we have discussed all different types of pronouns which are present in bengali language to propose a new overview of bengali pronoun.

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