

# **GENDER IN BENGALI LANGUAGE**

**A Dissertation**

**Submitted to Assam University , Silchar in a partial fulfillment of the requirements of  
the requirements of the Master Degree in Linguistics.**

**Under the Guidance of –**

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### CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the term paper and titled “**GENDER IN BENGALI LANGUAGE**” submitted to the Assam University, Silchar in the partial fulfillment of requirements for the degree of Master of Arts (M.A) in linguistics is a bonafide work by **Roll-042018No-2083100005Registration no- 20180016657** under my supervision. The term paper in part or in full has not been submitted for any other degree or diploma in this University or in any other University.

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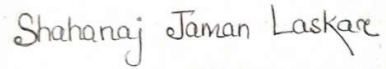
## DECLARATION

ii

I bearing **Roll- 042018, No- 2083100005, Registration no- 20180016657**, student of 4<sup>th</sup> semester, Department of Linguistics do hereby solemnly declare that I have duly worked on my dissertation paper entitled “ Gender in Bengali Language” under the guidance of Dr. Paramita Purkait, Assistant Professor, Linguistics, Assam University, Silchar. I have not submitted this work to any other university or institution for any exam or for any other degree. 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.

Date:05/10/2020

Place:Assam University, Silchar



Signature of candidate

Shahanaj Jaman Laskar

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

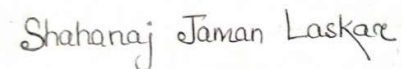
At the very outset I express my deepest gratitude to Dr. Paramita Purkait, Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics, who has inspired me to take up and accomplish the study under her guidance. Her precious suggestions and support have been the constant source of inspiration in my study.

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I convey my heartiest thanks to my classmates for their sincere support and help in preparation of my dissertation.

I also convey thanks to my parents for their unfailing support and encouragement without which it would not have been possible to complete this study.

Finally, I would like to convey my thanks to the non teaching staff of the Department of Linguistics in various way to smooth completion of the study.



Date :- 05/10/2020

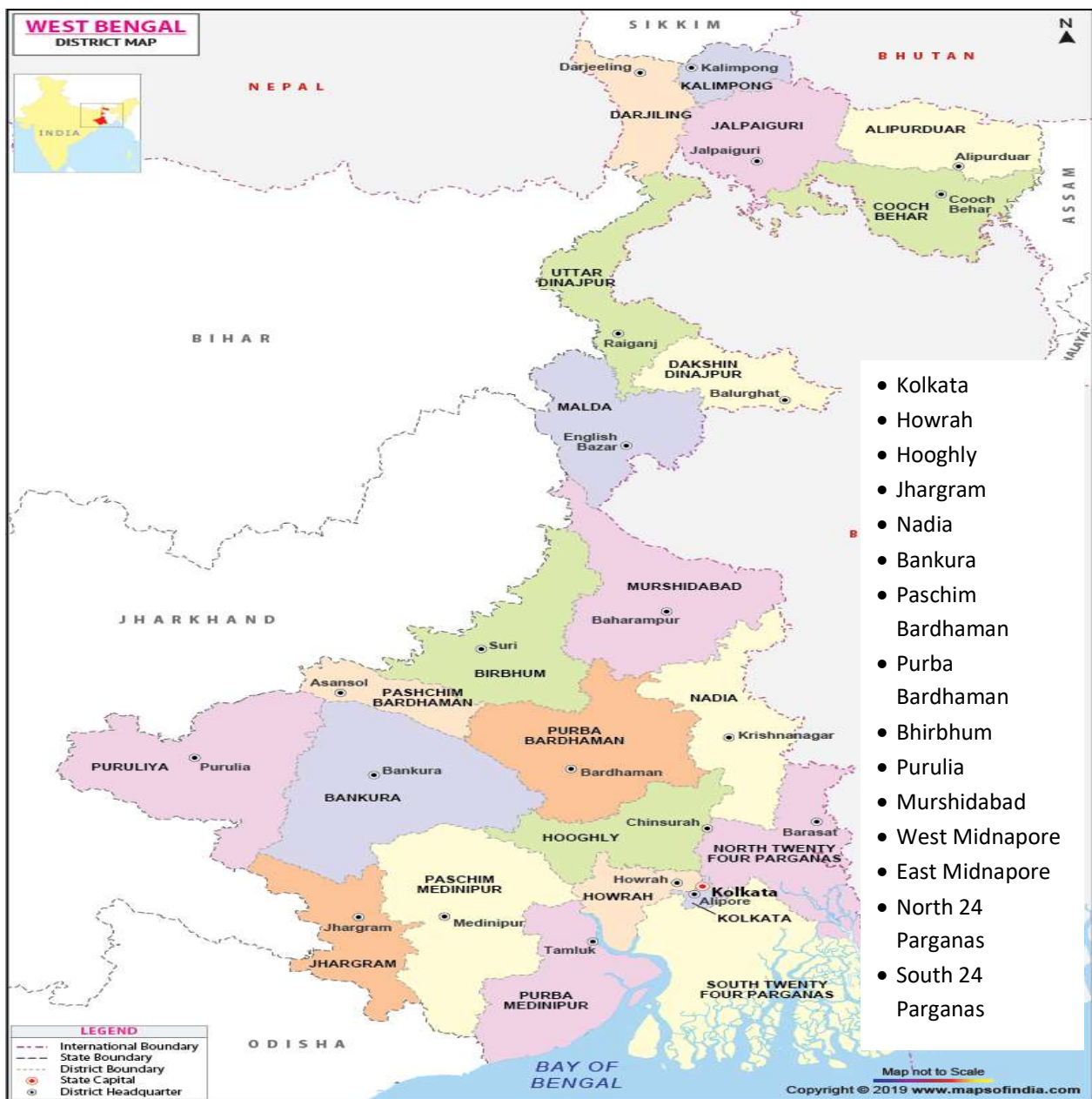
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Shahanaj Jaman Laskar

## MAP

The following map represent West Bengal and name of the districts in the side is shown where standard Bengali is spoken .



## Map ; West Bengal

### Conventional Symbol and Suprasegmental

- / – or, alternatively
- / / – slanting bars indicate phonemic brackets
- = – indicate equal sign
- ; – indicating a pause, typically between two clauses
- : – precedes an explanation or an enumeration
- “ – quotation mark
- ‘ – to show possession
- – leads to, means
- ' – indicate slash

## **ABBREVIATION**

B.C – Before Christ

Vs – Versus

Obj – Objectives

Viz – Namely, which as, as follows

CE – Common Era

Fig – Figure

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## **Chapter – 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Bengali, also known by its endonym Bangla , 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 states of West Bengal , Tripura , Assam’s Barak Valley .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. In 2015 , 160 million speakers were reported for Bangladesh , and the 2011 Indian census counted another 100 million.

The official and de facto national language of Bangladesh is modern standard Bengali. It serves the Lingua Franca of the nation , with 98% of Bangladeshis being fluent in Bengali ( including dialects ) as their first language. Within India , Bengali is the official language of the states of West Bengal, Tripura, and the Barak valley in the state of Assam. It

.is also spoken in the different parts the Brahmaputra valley of Assam. It is also the most widely spoken language in the Andaman and Nicobar islands in the Bay of Bengal, and is also spoken by significant minorities in other states including Jharkhand , Bihar, Mizoram, Delhi, Meghalaya, and Orissa. With approximately 228 million native speakers and other 37 million as second language speakers, Bengali is the fifth most native language and the seventh most spoken language by total number of speakers in the world.

Bengali belongs to the easternmost branch, called Aryan or Indo- Iranian, of the Indo-European family of languages. Its direct ancestor is a form of Prakrit or Middle Indo-Aryan which had descended from Sanskrit or Old Indo-Aryan. Sanskrit was spoken as well as the literary language of Aryandom until circa 500 B.C., after which it reminded for nearly two thousand years the dominant literary language as well as the Linga Franca among the cultured and the erudite throughout the subcontinent. The Bengali language is also related to the other language i.e. Assamese, Hindi, Oriya, etc. They are called the sister language of Bengali the Sanskrit is called the parent language. More than half of the Bengali vocabulary to native words are corrupted forms of Sanskrit words.

Bengali literature, with its millennium old history and folk heritage, has extensively developed since the Bengali renaissance and is one of the most prominent and diverse literary tradition in Asia. In 1999, UNESCO recognized 21 February as International Mother Language Day in recognitions of the language movement in East Bengal (now Bangladesh). Language is an important element of Bengali identity and binds together culturally diverse region.

### **1.1 Ethnic identity of Bengali people** 1

Bangalis also rendered as the Bengali people, Bangalis , and Bangaless, are an Indo-Aryan ethnic group native to the Bengal region in South Asia, presently divided between Bangladesh and the Indian states of West Bengal, Tripura, Assam's Barak valley, who speak Bengali, from Indo- Aryan language family. Bangalis are the third largest ethnic group in the world, after Han Chinese and Arabs. Apart from Bangladesh and the Indian states of West Bengal, Tripura, and Assam's Barak valley, Bengali majority populations also reside in India's union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands as well as Bangladesh's Chittagong Hill tracts, with significant populations in Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Uttarakhand.

### **1.2 Origin of Bengali people**

The Bengali people are the main ethnic group in the region of Bengal in Asia. They speak Bengali, a language of the eastern branch of the Indo-Aryan languages. The origin of the

word Bangla = Bengal is unknown, but it is believed to be derived from the Dravidian speaking tribe bang that settled in the area around the year 1000 BC. Kingdoms of Pundra and Vanga were formed in Bengal and were first described in the Atharvaveda around 1000 BC as well as in Hindu epic Mahabharata.

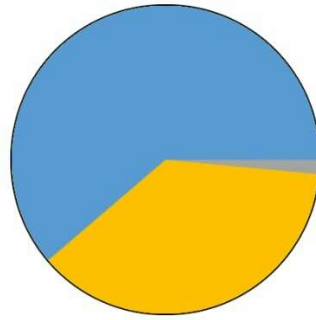
### **1.3 Literature**

Bengali literature denotes the body of writings in the Bengali language. The evolution of Bengali Literature started in the later half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Bankim Chandra Chatterjee was one of the renowned novelist who wrote the first romantic Bengali novel in 1865. The national song Vandematram was taken from his political novel Anandamath. The first Bengali novel of social realism is Peary Chand Mitra's Alaler Gharer Dulal (1858). The 19<sup>th</sup> century also witnessed some great dramatists like Girishchandra Ghosh, Amritlal Bose and D L Ray, the great prose writers like Debendranath Tagore and Ishvarchandra Vidyasagar and poets like Biharilal Chakravartis, Saradamangal and Sadhar Asan who had refinement in their lyrics.

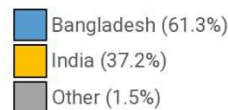
Rabindranath Tagore who was very much talented as a poet, novelist, short-story writer, dramatist, essayist and literary critic was also very much impressed by the refined way of writing. He gave an uplifting to the Bengali literature and also takes credit of being the first Indian to receive a Nobel Prize for his poem Gitanjali.

### **1.4 Geographical distribution**

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 neighboring 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, the United States, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, Canada, the united Kingdom, and Italy.



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



**Fig . 1.1**

### **1.5 Official status of Bengali language**

Bengali is national and official language of Bangladesh, and one of the 23 official languages in India. It is the official language of the Indian states of West Bengal, Tripura and in Barak Valley of Assam. Bengali is the second official language of the Indian state of Jharkhand since September 2011. It is also the recognized secondary language in the city of Karachi in Pakistan. 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. In 2009, elected representatives in both Bangladesh and West Bengal called for Bengali language to be made an official language of the United Nations. The 3<sup>rd</sup> article of the constitution of Bangladesh states that Bengali to be the sole official language of Bangladesh. The Bengali Language Implementation act, 1987 made it mandatory to use Bengali in all records and correspondences, laws, proceedings of court, government and semi-government offices and autonomous institutions in Bangladesh. It is also the de facto national language of the country.

### **1.6 Writing style and grammar**

The Bengali script is a diverse of the East Indian Nagari script which was followed in most part of Bangladesh and Eastern India. It had not much influence of the alphabetic script like it originated from the modified Brahmic script around 1000 CE which was more like the Assamese script, the Oriya script and Mithilakshar. In the grammar part of the Bengali language, the nouns are not assigned gender as well as the verbs does not change in

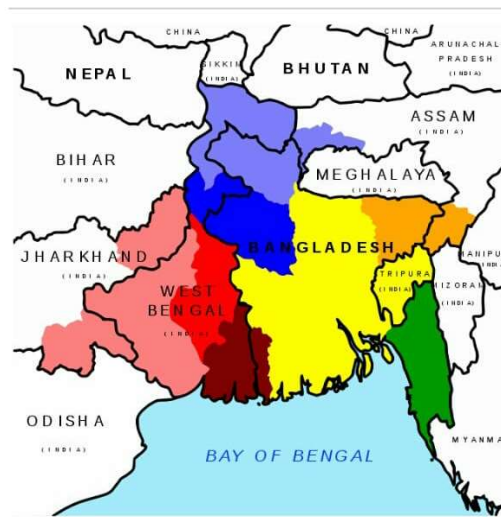
### **1.7Dialectical variations**

The dialects of the Bengali language are part of the Eastern Indo-Aryan language family widely spoken in the Bengal region of South Asia. Although the spoken dialects of Bengali are mutually intelligible with neighboring dialects, they sometimes lack mutual intelligibility with the Standard Bengali language and sometimes would not be understood by a native speaker of Standard Bengali. Bengali dialects can be thus classified along at least two dimensions: Spoken vs Literary variations, and Prestige vs Regional variations.

Suniti Kumar Chatterjee and Sukumar Sen classified Bengali dialects in 6 classes by their phonology and 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.
2. Bengali Dialect :- Bengali is the most widely spoken dialect of Bengali language. It is spoken in the Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka, Mymensing 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.
4. Manbhumi Dialect :- Manbhumi is spoken in westernmost Bengali speaking regions which includes the Medinipur division and the half of Burdwan division in West Bengal and Santhal Pargana division and Kolhan division of Jharkhand state.
5. Ranpuri Dialect :- This dialect is spoken in Rangpur division of Bangladesh and Jalpaiguri division of West Bengal, India and its nearby Bengali speaking areas of Assam and Bihar.
6. Sundarbani Dialect :- This dialect is spoken in Sundarbans region in the Satkhira district of Bangladesh and the North & South 24 Parganas districts of West Bengal.

In Bangladesh Sylheti, Chittagonian, and Chakma are some of the many languages that are often considered as dialects of Bengali.



A map of Bengal (and some districts of Assam and Jharkhand) which shows the dialects of the Bengali Language. <sup>[citation needed]</sup>

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

**Fig : 1.2**

## **1.8 Bengali culture**

The culture of Bengal defines the cultural heritage of the Bengali people native to eastern regions of the Indian subcontinent, mainly in Bangladesh and the Indian states of West Bengal, Tripura, and Assam's Barak valley, where the Bengali language is official and primary language. Bengal has recorded history of 1400 years. The Bengali people are its dominant ethno linguistic tribe. Bengal was the richest part of Medieval India and hosted the subcontinent's most advanced political and cultural centers during the British Raj.

### **1.8.1 Religion**

The largest religions practiced in Bengal are Islam and Hinduism. According to 2014, US Department of State estimates, 89.9% of the population of Bangladesh follow Islam while 8.3 % follow Hinduism. In West Bengal, Hindus are the majority with 70.54% of the population while Muslims comprise 27.01%. Other religious groups include Buddhists and Christians.

### **1.8.2 Language**

Bengali or Bangla is the language native to the region of Bengal, which comprises present day Bangladesh and the Indian states of West Bengal, Tripura and Southern Assam. It is written using the Bengali script. With about 250 million native and about 300 million total speakers worldwide. Bengali is one of the most spoken languages, ranked seventh in the world. The national Anthem of Bangladesh and National Anthem of India and the National song of India were first composed in Bengali language.

Generally, the Bengali people are further sub- groups predominantly based on language but also other aspects of culture:

- Bangals:- These are Bangladeshis (excluding Chittagong and Sylhet Divisions) as well as those whose ancestors originate from Eastern Bengal. They have a distinct accent to Ghotis and are known as Bangals in West Bengal and Abadis in Sylhet. Their dialect is known as Bengali.
- Ghotis:- These are natives of West Bengal. They are also unofficially known as Bengolis in the East due to their pronunciation of the word.
- Sylhetis:- Known for there Sylheti language and culture. It is also considered to be a separate ethnic group. They are indigenous to the Sylhet region.
- Chittagonians:- They speak in the Chittagonian language. They may also be considered as Abadis by Sylhetis.

### **1.8.3 Music and Dance**

The Baul traditional is a unique heritage of Bengali folk music, which has also been influenced by regional music traditions. Other folk music forms include Kabigaan, Gombhira, Bhawaiya, Kirtans, and Gajan festival music. Folk music in West Bengal is often accompanied by the ektara. West Bengal also has a heritage in North Indian classical music. The state is recognized for its appreciation of rabindrasangeet and Indian classical music. Nazrul Geeti is another classical music of Bengal, which is written and composed by poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. Popular music genres include adhunik songs. Since the early 1990s, new genres have emerged, including one comprising alternative folk - rock Bengali bands. Another new style, jibonmukhi gaan , is based on realism. Recently, western influences have given rise to quality rock brands, particularly in urban centers like Kolkata, Chandrabindoo, Cactus, etc. are most popular bands in West Bengal but these bands are follow the traditional folk of Bengal.

Bengali dance forms draw from folk traditions, especially those of the tribal groups, as well as the broader Indian dance traditions. Chau dance of Purulia is a rare form of mask dance. Gaudiya Nritya is classical Bengali school of Indian dance, originating in Gaur,

West Bengal. Various forms of Indian classical dances are patronized, as are dances set on the songs of Tagore and Nazrul.



Fig : 1.3



Fig : 1.4



Fig : 1.5

#### 1.8.4 Food

Bengali food that originated and evolved in the region of Bengal situated in the eastern subcontinent of India is rich and varied in its platter starting from snacks to main courses to sweets. In the Bengali food habits rice and fish playing a dominant role. Probably this is why a Bengali is often typified as a 'Maache-Bhaate-Bangali' where Maach means fish and bhaat means boiled rice in Bengali. Generally a Bengali meal starts with a 'Shukto' (a bitter preparation) followed by 'Shak' (leafy vegetables), fish/ mutton/ chicken/ egg curry, chutney( sweet-sour saucy item) and ends with sweet dish like curd and other traditional sweets like sandesh or rosogolla.



Fig : 1.6



Fig : 1.7



**Fig : 1.8**



**Fig : 1.9**

### **1.8.5 Festivals and Celebrations**

Bengalis celebrate the major holidays of Hindu faiths and Muslims. For Muslims, these include Eid, Muharram, etc. Although Bengali Hindus observe Holi, Diwali, Kali Puja, Saraswati Puja and other important religious festivals, Durga Puja is the biggest and most important for them. Dedicated to Goddess Durga, who is a manifestation of Shakti, the festivities lasts for five days. The idols are decorated with flowers and carried through the streets in processions. The procession makes its way to the river or other body of water, where the image of Durga is immersed in the water.



**Fig : 1. 10**



**Fig : 1.11**



### **1.8.6Marriage**

A Bengali wedding is often referred to as 'Biye' is quite a visual treat. The Bengali wedding are celebrations of color, camaraderie, and beauty. The rituals and their executions are subtly different among the two main sub-cultures in Bengal, the Bangals and the Dhotis. In Bengali wedding ceremony, pre-wedding rituals are Paka Katha or Pati Potro, Aiburobhat, Sonkho Purano, Jol Sowa, Dodhi Mangal, Birddhi Puja, Gaye Holud and Tattwa. Aaaaaaafter that, there are many wedding rituals – Bor Jatri and Boron, Ashirbaad, Saat paak and Subho Dristri, Mala Badal, Kanya Sampradan, Hom, Saptapadi, Lajanjali, Sindoor Daan. Then the post- wedding rituals in Bengali are – Basar Ghar, Bashi Biye, Bidaai, Bodhu Baran, Kaal Ratri, Bou Bhaat, Reception, Phul Sojja, Satyanarayan Pujo.



**Fig : 1.13**



**Fig : 1.14**

### **1.8.7 Dress and Ornaments**

Bengali traditional costumes are very simple and seem calm. They represented the rich tradition and culture of the region. Men like to wear the Dhoti and women love to wear saris. The people of Bengal wear the traditional and representative costumes. During the festival period like Durga puja, the devotees wearing traditional clothing. And the Bengali traditional attire and gold jewellery , which are used by bride in wedding- Nath, Paati Haar, Jhumko, Tikli, Tairaa, Chik, Baala and Kaan Baala, Chur and Ratanchur,



**Fig : 1.15**



**Fig : 1.16**



**Fig : 1.17**



**Fig : 1.18**

## Chapter –2

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Some of Researchers or Linguistics have already studies the gender in Bengali language and some research work is still in process. Therefore, the development of Bengali language is becoming more static and popular in the recent past.

**“The Origin and Development of the Bengali language”** by **S.K. Chatterji** described that Bengali belongs to the Indo-Aryan family of languages that evolved from

Sanskrit. It has been highly influenced by the vocabulary and syntactic structure of Persian as well. There are more than 100 different dialects of Bengali being spoken in parts of West Bengal, Tripura and Bangladesh.

**“Linguistic Relativity and Grammatical Gender: A study of Bangla-Hindi and Hindi-English Bilinguals”** by **Soumyadeep Mukherjee** state that every language of the world employs the concept of gender with the language system. Some of them are semantic in nature, some are grammatical. In case of the language having semantic gender, the gender is expressed only through the meaning of the words as being male, female or neutral.

**“Morphology and Syntax: A Comparative study between English and Bangla’** by **Haspelmath (2002)** states that morphology is both the oldest and one of the youngest sub-disciplines of grammar. It is the oldest in a sense that the first linguists were primarily morphologists.

## **Chapter-3**

### **OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Objectives:**

The obj. of the purpose work are as follows –

1. To find out the types of gender and how it is converted from masculine into feminine and from feminine into masculine in Bengali language.
2. To establish and to develop the gender in Bengali language.

#### **3.2 Methodology**

The data will be collecting from the two main source known as primary and secondary. Primarily as I am the native speaker of Bengali language, my own data will be used for proposed work. Further, the text data will be collected from the informants age groups. Finally, the data will be cross checked with other informants of the same variety. As secondary sources, some of the datas are collected from the books, journals, articles, etc. As a native speaker most of the data are also self-generated and have been collected from the utterances of speech sounds in a natural form of conversation and on the group discussion.

## Chapter – 4

### CONCEPT OF GENDER

Gender is defined as a classification of a noun or pronoun as feminine or masculine. It is also defined as the socially constructed roles and behaviors that a society typically associates with male and females. “Grammatical gender is a morpho syntactic feature found in various languages whereby nouns are assigned to classes called genders.” (Corbett, 2006). According to H.S.Bhattacharjee, “there are some signs in nouns from which we can guess the male, female, both male and female in nature. These signs are called the genders.” (An Approach to Modern English Grammar, 2018, pg-26).

Examples-

1. /meye/ \_\_\_ 'girl'
2. /tʃele/ \_\_\_ 'boy'
3. /ma/ \_\_\_ 'mother'
4. /baba/ \_\_\_ 'father'

### 4.1 GENDER IN BENGALI LANGUAGE

In general, gender is used to distinguish between male and female. Gender is based on sex. In standard Bengali language there doesn't have gender specific pronouns, but it does have gender like –

5. /ɔbhineta/ – 'actor'
6. /ɔbhinetʃi/ – 'actress'
7. /baba/ – 'father'
8. /ma/ – 'mother'

In Bengali language, verbs don't change based on the gender of the person, like it does in Hindi. Some of the adjectives do change based on gender.

Example –

9. /budd<sup>h</sup>imoti//budd<sup>h</sup>iman/ – 'intelligent'

10./fundor//fundori/ – ' good looking / beautiful '

In standard Bengali language , there are words for nouns with specific genders

(Similarly to English) . These words only include nouns and adjectives.

Example –

11./puruf/– ' male '

12./mohila/– ' female '

13./f'ele /– ' boy'

14./meye/– ' girl '

#### **4.2 TYPES OF GENDER**

The gender is a system of noun classification. In Bengali language, gender is natural. And in common , gender classification includes masculine and feminine categories. Gender is mainly based on two types –

I. Masculine Gender

II. Feminine Gender

##### **4.2.1 Masculine Gender**

The noun or pronoun which indicates that a living being is masculine is called masculine gender. Masculine nouns belongs to the masculine gender.

Example –

15./baba/ – ' father '

16./f'ele/– ' son'

17./f'ing<sup>h</sup>o/– ' lion '

##### **4.2.2 Feminine Gender**

The noun or pronoun which indicates that a living being is feminine is called feminine gender.

Feminine nouns belongs to the feminine gender .

Example –

18./ma/– ' mother '

19./meye/– ' daughter '

20./f'ing<sup>h</sup>i/– ' lioness '

### 4.3 RULES TO CHANGE GENDER

In Bengali language, there are some rules to convert gender i.e. masculine gender into feminine and feminine into masculine gender. These are –

I. Some masculine noun are changed into feminine gender by using a completely different word.

Example –

- 21. /baba/ – ' father ' /ma/ – ' mother '
- 22. /bai/ – ' brother ' /bon/ – ' sister '
- 23. /j<sup>h</sup>ele/ – ' boy ' /meye/ – ' girl '

II. Some masculine gender are changed into feminine gender by suffixing the feminine morpheme. These are –

a) Some masculine gender is change into feminine gender by adding /i/ at its end.

Example –

- 24. /mama/ – ' maternal uncle ' /mami/ – ' maternal aunt '
- 25. /jet<sup>h</sup>a / – ' uncle ' /jet<sup>h</sup>i / – ' aunt '
- 26. /fala/ – ' brother-in-law ' /fali/ – ' sister-in-law '
- 27. /kaka/ – ' uncle ' /kaki/ – ' aunt '

b) Some masculine gender is changed into feminine gender by adding /ni/ at its end.

Example –

- 28. /gœla/ – ' milkman ' /gœlani/ – ' milkmaid '
- 29. /b<sup>h</sup>ikari/ – ' beggar man ' /b<sup>h</sup>ikarini/ – ' beggar woman '
- 30. /d<sup>h</sup>opa/ – ' washerman ' /d<sup>h</sup>opani/ – ' washerwoman '
- 31. /kamar/ – ' potter ' /kamarni/ – ' wife of potter '

c) Some masculine gender changed into feminine gender by using /ani/ at its end .

Example –

- 32. /t<sup>h</sup>akur/ – ' priest ' /t<sup>h</sup>akurani/ – ' wife of priest '
- 33. /coud<sup>h</sup>uri/ – ' male of Chaudhury family ' /coud<sup>h</sup>urani/ – ' wife of  
Chaudhury family '
- 34. /cakor/ – ' servant ' /cakrani/ – ' maid servant '

d) Some masculine gender is changed into feminine gender by adding /ini/, at its end .

Example –

35. /gowala/ – 'milk man '      /gowalini/ – 'milk woman '

36. /bag<sup>h</sup>/ – 'tiger '      /bag<sup>h</sup>ini / – 'tigress '

37. /nati/ – 'grandson '      /natini/ – 'granddaughter '

III. Masculine and feminine contrast may be achieved by using a pre-nominal modifiers to the nominal head in changing masculine into feminine gender.

Example –

38. /puruṣ manuṣ/ – 'man '      /meye manuṣ/ – 'woman '

39. /putra ṣṭan/ – 'male child '      /kṛṇṇa ṣṭan/ – 'female child '

40. /puruṣ protinidhi/ – 'male representative'      /mohila protinidhi/ – 'female representative '

IV. There are some nouns for which there is no masculine counterpart.

Example –

41. /bid<sup>h</sup>oba/ – 'a widow '

42. /ruposi/ – 'a beautiful woman'

43. /ṁṅgona/ – 'a woman '

Again , there are some nouns which are masculine but has no feminine counterpart.

Example –

44. /ṣṭb<sup>h</sup>apoti/ – 'president '

45. /bipotnik/ – 'widower '

46. /bromb<sup>h</sup>oputro/ – 'Brahmaputra '

47. /himalaḃe/ – 'Himalaya '

## CHAPTER – 5

### CONCLUSION

Gender in grammar means a class usually masculine and feminine, into which nouns or pronouns are placed in some languages, distinguished by a particular inflection. Gender in Bengali language is an integral part in Bengali grammar. In Bengali, gender is natural and there is no special declension for feminine and masculine. Natural gender is that which refers to the sex of real world entities.

The gender system of French, German and Latin are grammatical. But gender in Bengali is natural and not grammatical. Gender in Bangla exhibit two term contrast masculine and feminine unlike English which apart from these two has another two gender. Both Sanskrit and German languages have realized three genders – masculine, feminine and neuter. Again in Hindi and French have only masculine and feminine like Bengali.

Thus, gender opposition in Bengali is signaled by inflection or periphrastic realization of the noun roots may be inflected for the category of gender by the suffixation of the feminine morpheme. The distinction between masculine and feminine may be reflected morphologically.

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