

TENSE AND TYPES OF TENSE IN BENGALI LANGUAGE

A dissertation submitted to Assam University, Silchar in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Masters of Arts in Department of Linguistics.

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DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS

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ASSAM UNIVERSITY SILCHAR

788011, INDIA

YEAR OF SUBMISSION : 2020

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DATE:05/10/2020

CERTIFICATE

Certified that the dissertation/project entitled “ Tense and types of Tense in Bengali Language” submitted by **Roll- 042018 No- 2083100009 Registration No- 20180016660 of 2018-2019**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 University . I recommend that the dissertation may be placed before examiners for consideration of award of the degree of this university.

5.10.2020

(Asst. Professor Paramita Purkait)

Name & Signature of the Supervisor

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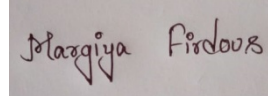
DECLARATION

I hereby **Roll- 042018 No- 2083100009 Registration No- 20180016660** hereby declare that the subject matter of the dissertation entitled '**Tense and types of Tense in Bengali Language**'. is the record of the work done 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 : Silchar, Assam University



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to thank various people for their contribution to this project. First of all I would like to express my deep 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 enthusiastic encouragement, precious suggestion and support have been the constant source of inspiration in my study.

I would like to express my very great appreciation to Dr. Ganesh Bhaskaran, Head of the department and other faculty members of the Department of Linguistics for their kind support in successfully completing my work.

My grateful thanks are also extended to my classmate and friends from other departments for their sincere support and help in preparation of my dissertation. Specially I would like to thank my friend *Shyamalima Borah, Shahnaj Jaman Laskar, Gargi Deb* and *Ankita Biswas* for their help.

I also would like to convey my thanks to the non-teaching staff of the department of linguistics in various ways to smooth completion of the study.

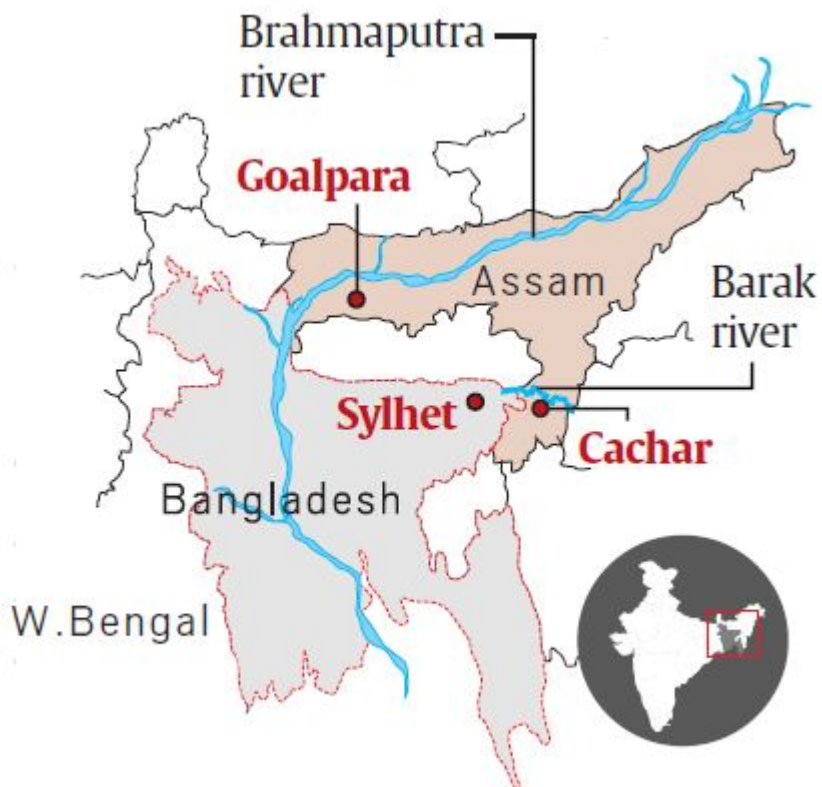
Finally I wish to thank my parents for their support and encouragement throughout my study.

ABBREVIATION

Tutt – time of utterance

FIGURE MAP

Bengali speakers are mostly found in west Bengal as well as Barak valley of Assam.



Source INTERNET

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The Bengal language originated from Indo-Arya family that also eventually produced Sanskrit and ultimately Urdu and Hindi among many others . This bubbling cloud of languages was very volatile and chaotic until the tenth or eleventh century, when something now recognised as old Bengali emerged the first version of a language that was clearly distinct from other languages in the area and related directly to what we know as Bengali today .

Old Bengali is recorded in just one source . The Charyapada or Charva songs , which are a collection of 48 prayer songs in the Buddhist tradition and are the only examples of written old Bengali surviving in the world .

Old Bengali matured into Middle Bengali by the 15th century and it remained a distinct language until the 19th century . Middle Bengali survives in written form again mainly in religious texts and is notable because it was a representation of spoken Bengali vernacular that lacked a standard vocabulary or grammar .

In early 19th century the first real efforts to codify and standardise the Bengali language made and these efforts transformed the language into what is known as New Bengali or Modern Bengali .

The language is also a derivative of Devanagari script , hence all the daughter languages of Prakrit , Sanskrit and Devnagri are the sister languages of Bengali . Maithili , Assamese and to some extent , Pali are closest script to Bengali language. However Hindi , Oriya etc language also considered as the sister languages of Bengali language .

There are some similarities and differences between the Bengali language and its sister languages . Like the sentence pattern is the same i.e. SVO for instance –

In Bengali,

/ami b^hat k^hai/ ‘ I eat rice ‘

In Assamese,

/mɔi b^hat k^hau/ ‘ I eat rice ‘

In Hindi,

/m̃e tʃaol kʰata hũ / ‘ I eat rice ‘

The differences can also be seen in some extent . Like Bengali language doesn't have sounds like s, t, h etc . But its sister language assamese has.

1.0 Geographical location

The language Bengali is spoken today by around 215 million people. Among them 196 million speakers are native. The language is spoken majority in the country of Bangladesh and in the states of West Bengal, Tripura and Assam in India. Bengali is also spoken in the state of odisha , Bihar and Jharkhand and sizable minorities of Bengali speakers reside in Indian cities like Delhi, Mumbai Varanasi and vrindavan. There are also significant Bengali speakers can be found in the Middle East, The United States and The United Kingdom.

1.1 Ethnic Identity of Bengali People

Bengalis are an India speaking ethnic or ethnic-linguistic group rather than a race who mostly live in the North Eastern parts of the Indian subcontinent or south Asia, particularly West Bengal state of India and Bangladesh as well as neighbouring state and countries such as Assam, Myanmar, Tripur, Jharkhand. Bengalis are the third largest ethnic group in the world after Non Chinese and They have four major religious subgroups Bengali Muslims, Bengali Hindus, Bengali Christians and Bengali Buddhists.

1.2. Origin of Bengali People

Bengalis also rendered as the Bengali people are an Indo-Aryan ethnic group native to the Bengal region in South Asia specifically the eastern part of the Indian subcontinent presently divided between Bangladesh and Indian states of West Bengal, Tripura, Assam's Barak Valley.

1.3. Literature

Bengali literature dates back to the 17th century at least and it may be divided into three main period- antient(650-1200), medieval (1200-1800) and modern (180 to the present).

The conquest of Bengal by the Mauryas in the third century BC led to the spread of Aryan languages in the Bengal delta. The bangla language however developed from prakrit through apabhramas and outside the direct influence of Aryan languages. The earliest extant specimens of ancient bangla are the 47 spiritual hymns now known as charyapader hymns possess both linguistic and literacy value.

The anecdotes, rhymes and sayings of dah and khana may be dated to early medieval period.

Another example of early Bangla is a collection of lyrical poems in Apabhramsa entitled prakrtapaingala.

During high medieval period, Bangla literature developed in three main areas: vaishnava literature, Mangala literature and translation literature. This period also saw the beginning of Muslim Bangla and narrative poems.

The modern period may be divided into six phases: the era of prose, era of development, the era of Rabindranath Tagore, the post Rabindranath Tagore phase, the post partition phase and the Bangla phase. The works that can be found in this period are prose, novels, poems etc.

1.4.Official status of Bengali Language

The language Bengali is the official language of Bangladesh. Also it is one of the 23rd official languages in India. It is the official language of the Indian states of West Bengal, Tripura and Barak Valley of Assam. Since 2011 Bengali is the second official language of the Indian state of Jharkhand.

1.5.Dialectical Variation

The dialectical of Bengali language are part of Eastern Indo-Aryan language group of the Indo-European language family. Although the spoken dialects of Bengali are mutually intelligible with neighbouring dialects, they sometimes lack mutual intelligibility with the standard Bengali language and sometimes would not be understood by a native speaker of Bengali language.

Bengali dialects can be classified among at least two dimension: spoken vs. literary variation and practice vs. regional variation. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee and Sukumarsen classified.

Bengali dialects in 6 classes by their phonology and pronunciation :

- i. Rarhi dialect
- ii. Bengali dialect
- iii. Varendri dialect
- iv. Manbhumi dialect
- v. Rangpuri language
- vi Sundarbani dialect

1.6. Bengali Culture :

The culture of Bengal defines the cultural heritage of the Bengali people native to eastern regions of the Indian sub continent , mainly what is today Bangladesh and the Indian states of West Bengal , Tripuara and Assam's Barak valley . The Bengali people are its dominant ethnolinguistic tribe . The region has been a historical melting point, blending indigenous traditions with cosmopolitan influences from pam- Indian subcontinental empires .

1.6.0 : Religion :

The largest religions practiced in Bengal are Islam and Hinduism . In West Bengal , Hindus are the majority with 70.50% of the population while Muslim comprise 27.01% . Whereas in Bangladesh 89.9% of its population follow Islam while 8.3% follow Hinduism .

1.6.1 : Music and Dance :

The culture of West Bengal is renowned worldwide for its richness and variety . Dance and Music are essential parts of Bengali culture which reflects the rich cultural heritage of the state . Dance and Music of West Bengal are known across the globe for their beauty and fervor .

Some of the popular dances are :-

- i. Brita Dance
- ii. Gambhira Dance
- iii. Tusu Dance
- iv. Santhal Dance
- v. Lathi Dance

Popular musics are :-

- i. Classical Bangla Music
- ii. Ranbindra Music
- iii. Baul Music



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1.6.2 : Food :

Bengali cuisine is a culinary style originating in Bengal Region in the eastern part of the Indian subcontinent , which is divided between Bangladesh and Indian states of West Bengal , Tripura and Assam's Barak valley , there is an emphasis on fish , vegetables and lentils served with the staple rice . Bengali cuisine is known for its varied use of flavours as well as its spread of its confectionaries and desserts . It has the only traditionally developed multi- course tradition from the cuisine of the Indian sub- continent that is analogous in structure to the modern service a la russe style of French cuisine , with with food served in courses rather them all at once .





source INTERNET

1.6.4 : Festivals

West Bengal is a land of festivals . There is a popular saying in Bengali / baro mafe tero porbon / it literally means thirteen festivals in twelve months. Durga Puja is the most important Hindu festival of the Bengalis , where all the people come out in the streets and celebrate this four day festival . Other festivals celebrated by Bengali peoples are Kaali Puja , Basant Panchami , Dushera , Bahi Dooj , Holi , Mahavir Jayanti , Buddha Jayanti , Saraswati Puja etc . The Bengali Muslims Celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr , Muharram , Eid-ul-Adha etc .



Source INTERNET

1.6.4 : Marriage :

The Bengali wedding are celebration of colors , 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 kati Aiburobhat , Sonkho Purana , Jol sowa , Dodhi Mangal , Birddhi puja , Gaye Holud and Tattwa , then there are many wedding rituals - Bor Jatri and Boron , Ashirbaad , Saat Paak and Subho Dristi , Mala Badal , Lajanjali , Sindoor Daan etc . There are also post wedding rituals - Basar Ghar , Bashi Biye , Biddai , Bodhu Baran , Bou Bhat etc .



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1.6.5 : Dress and Ornaments :

Bengali tradition costumes are very simple and seem calm . They represent the rich tradition of the region . The traditional dress for the women is saree and for the men is Dhoti - Panjabi . The Bengali people mostly wear traditional costumes during the festivals like durga puja etc .



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The traditional Bengali ornaments include Nath that is the nose ring , Sakha , Chur , Tairaa , Jhumko etc .



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CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Some of the researchers or linguists have already studied the tense in Bengali and some research works are still on process. Therefore, the development of Bengali language is becoming more static and popular in the recent part.

1. The Syntax and Semantics of tense and aspect in Bangla by Sayani Banarjee (2018) talks about tense, lexical aspect, grammatical aspect and temporal adverbs interact with each other to provide information about temporal structure of an event.

2. 'A Radical Approach for Bengali proper verb, tense, person tagging and Disambiguation of verbs under the frame work of natural language processing' by Apurba Paul, Abhijit Sarkar and Anupam Mondal is about natural language processing. In this paper, a new approach has been proposed for detecting and tagging verb in Bengali language along with person and tense tagging under the outline of natural language processing.

CHAPTER 3

OBJECTIVE AND METHODOLOGY

3.0 OBJECTIVES :-

The objectives of the propose work are as follows-

- to re-establish the tenses of Bengali language.
- To document the language
- find out the types of tenses in Bengali language
- to find out the uses of tenses by The Bengali speakers in their daily conversation.
- To find out the types of tenses which only used in a few situation.

3.1 METHODOLOGY :-

The data for this work will be collecting from two main sources.

These are primary and secondary:

Primarily the data will be collected from the native speakers of Bengali language. As I am also a native my own speaker of this language, my own data will be used for this proposed work. Moreover the data will also be collected from the people like my family members, my relatives, my neighbor my friends etc. finally the whole data will be cross checked with the informants of the same variety.

Some of the data will be collected from the secondary source such as – books, articles, journals, internet etc.

CHAPTER-4**TENSE IN BENGALI****4.0. GENERAL CONCEPT OF TENSE**

Tense is a basic concept of grammar. It is necessary for a language. The tense is simply the way of using a form of verb in a sentence to express the time or state of an action.

We hear and read different sentences in our routine. Each of those sentences narrates about some action with regard to the time (present, past, future) of its occurrence. In other words each of those sentences belongs to a specific tense. For expressing action of present time we use a specific structure of sentences. Similarly, for expressing actions of past and future, we may use different structure of sentences. Tense refers to these rules for making structure of sentence according to time of the action (present, past or future).

4.1. CONCEPT OF TENSE IN BENGALI

Like English or any other language, Bengali also has tenses. The tenses are important part Bengali grammar. It shows the time of action or state of being that is usually shown by the verb. The verb ending is changed in order to show the present, past or future time. Hence, a tense act as a verb, so as to indicate what happen when.

The tense guides us for making correct sentence depending on the time of action. In Bengali the affixations along with the verbs refer the time of an action or event. Such as –

/ami getʰilam/

I go

‘I went’

/ami dzatʰi /

I go

‘I am going’

/ami dʒabo/

I go

‘I will go’

The structure of each of above sentences is different. Each sentence has different form of verb. Each of the above sentences belongs to a different tense.

The tense is the way of structuring a sentence using correct verbs to give a meaningful sense with regard to time of occurrence of the action.

4.2. TYPES OF TENSES IN BENGALI

A tense is a form taken by a verb indicates the time of action. There are mainly three types of tenses in Bengali.

4.2.1. PRESENT TENSE- a tense expressing an action that is currently going on or habitually performed, or a state that currently or generally exists. For instance

/ʃe boi por̩te bʰalobʰʃe/

He book read love

‘he loves to read books’

The tense again has been divided into four sub types-

4.2.1.1. PRESENT INDEFINITE TENSE- The present indefinite tense indicates an action that is generally true or habitual. That is, it took place in the present and will take place in the future.

This tense is used to denote

- a habitual action. For example-

/ʃe skule dʒʌe/

He school go

'He goes to school'

- general truths. For instance-

/ʃurdʒo purbo dike udito hoe/

The sun east rise

'The sun rises in the east'

-a future event that is part of a fixed timetable. For instance-

/k^helata noitar ʃomoe ʃuru hoe/

The match 9o'clock start

'the match starts at 9o'clock'

4.2.1.2. PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE- The present continuous tense indicates an action that is taking place at the moment of speaking. For instance-

/ami lik^hʃ^hi/

I write

'I am writing'

4.2.1.3. PRESENT PERFECT TENSE- The present perfect tense indicates an action that has been completed sometime before the present moment, with a result that effects the present situation. For example-

/ʃe g^humie por^heʃ^he/

He sleep

'he has slept'

4.2.1.4. PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE- The present perfect continuous tense indicates an action that started in the past and is continuing at the present time. For example-

/ʃe ek g^honta d^hore g^humatʃʃ^he/

He one hour sleep

‘He has been sleeping for an hour’

4.2.2. PAST TENSE- The past tense is a tense expressing an action that has happened or a state that previously existed. For instance-

/ami kadʒti koreʃ^hi/

I the work do

‘I did the work’

4.2.2.1. SIMPLE PAST TENSE- The simple past tense indicates an action took place before the present moment that has no real connection with the present time. Such as-

/ʃe onuʃ^hane neʃeʃ^he/

She function dance

‘she danced in the function’

4.2.2.2. PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE- The past continuous tense indicates an action going on at some time in the past or an action in the past that is longer in duration than another action in the past. For instance-

/ami ʃit^hita lik^hʃilam/

I the letter write

‘I was writing the letter’

4.2.2.3. PAST PERFECT TENSE- The past perfect tense indicates an action in the past that had been completed before another time or event in the past. For example-

/ami badʒar t^heke g^hure afar purbe ʃe g^humiepoʃeʃ^he/

I market from back come before he sleep

'He had slept before I came back from the market'

4.2.2.4. PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE- The past perfect continuous tense indicates an action in the past that took place before another time or event in the past and continued during the second event or time point in the past. For instance-

/ami dʒok^hon take dekeɟ^hilam tok^hon ʃe potɟ^hilo/

I when him call he read

'he had been reading when I called him'

4.2.3 FUTURE TENSE- A tense expressing an action that has not yet happened or a state that does not yet exist. For example –

/ami kal badʒare dʒabo/

I tomorrow market go

'I will go to the market tomorrow'

4.2.3.1 SIMPLE FUTURE TENSE- Simple future tense indicates an action that will take place after the present time and that has no real connection with the present time. For Example –

/ami dʒabo/

I go

'I will go'

4.2.3.2. FUTURE CONTINUOUS TENSE- Future continuous tense indicates an action in the future that is longer in duration than another action in the future. For example –

/briʃti ʃuru hole tini dʒaben/

Rain start he go

'He will be going when it starts to rain'

4.2.3.3. FUTURE PERFECT TENSE- Future perfect tense indicates an action in the future that will have been completed before another time or event in the future. For example –

/adʒ rat egarota obd^{hi}, ami lik^{ha} jeʃ korbo/

Tonight 11:00 pm, I write finish

'by 11:00pm tonight, I will have finished writing'

4.2.3.4. FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE- Future perfect continuous tense indicates an action in the future that will have been continuing until another time or event in the future. For example –

/tini dupur du tor ʃomæ ek g^honta onuʃilon korben/

He noon 2:00 o'clock one hour exercise

'he will be exercising an hour at 2 o'clock'

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

In the previous chapter tense been discussed in terms of its general characteristics and its various uses in referencing present, past and future Time. As has been previously covered, tense is not a generic term for time in language not is it the only time element with which linguists concerned. Instead it is one of five universal attributes of Language used to convey time information.

Tense is however a very straight forward concept. It is purely a manner of expressing the contrast between two temporal references on the time line of an utterance. The primary reference for determining tense is always the time of utterance the point in time at which the utterance is actually said, heard, written, read or otherwise communicated. Except for in cases of reported or quoted speech that happens in either the past or future the time of utterance is always now (present). This makes it easy for determining the primary temporal reference because most of the time it's present and thus doesn't require for the analysis. The position of the secondary temporal reference and its relative distance from time of utterance is what actually determines tense. If the secondary reference occurs earlier than the primary reference, the tense of the utterance is past. Likewise , if it occurs after the time of utterance, the tense is future.

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