



Bengali: A Linguistic Manual

By

Lacey Kubicek

Rachel Marks

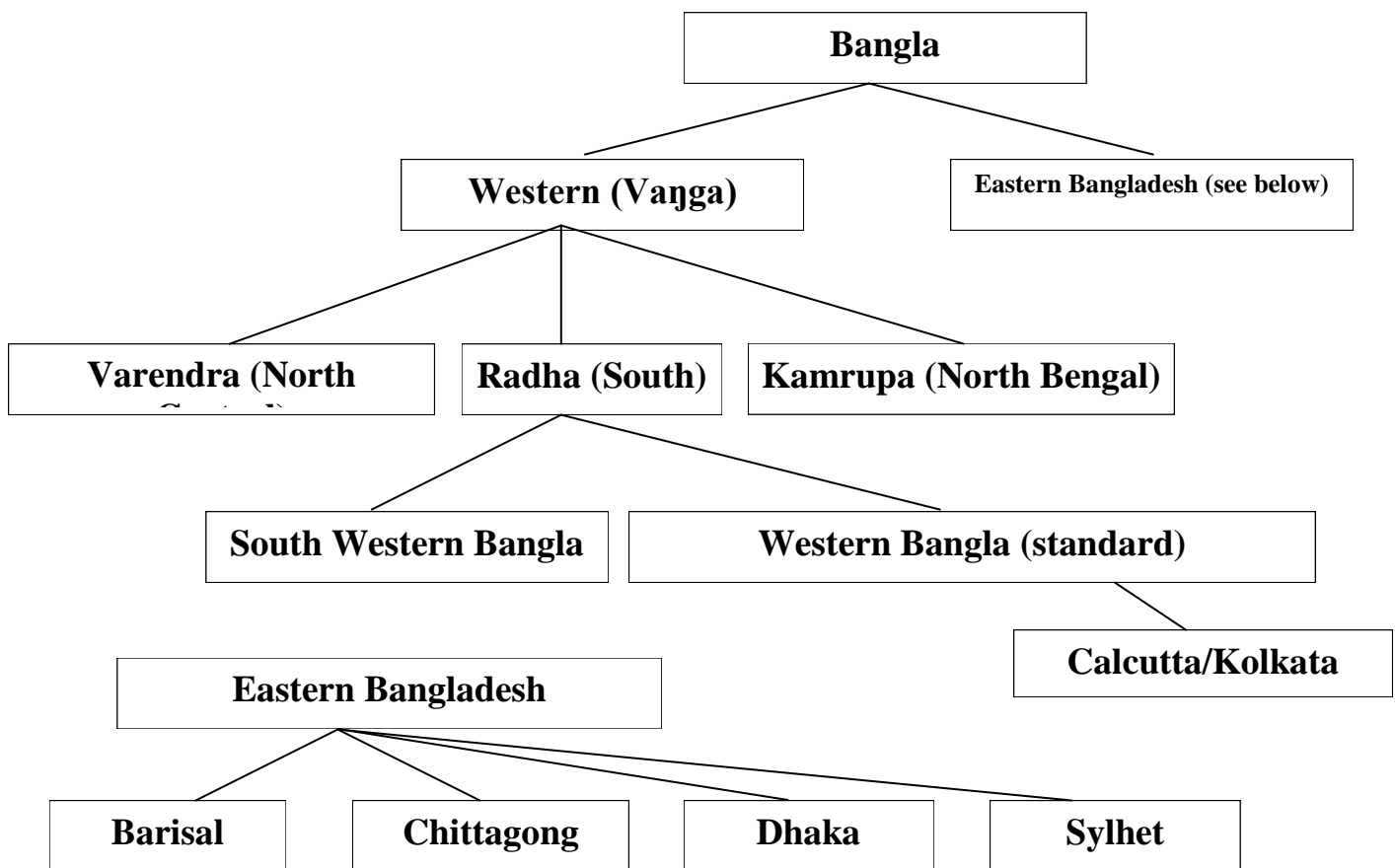
Lauren Maxwell

Cindy Schiurring

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Dialects of Bengali



The dialects represented in the flow chart are merely a sample of the potential dialects in India and Bangladesh.

The degree of intelligibility among the dialects depends on the proximity of the neighboring dialects (i.e. neighboring regional dialects are more easily perceived than two dialects from geographically distant areas of the country).

Bengali Demographics, Population within US, and Geographical Distribution of the Language

More and more immigrants from India and Bangladesh are coming to the United States every year. According to the 2000 Census, there are 847,562 immigrants from India and Bangladesh currently living within the US; this statistic includes individuals who speak Bengali.

There are five major living languages in the world divided by region: the Pacific, Americas, Africa, Europe, and Asia. Bengali, under this model, is considered an Asian language. Asian languages make up 33% of the world's languages. See Figure 1 below for all language distributions.

Language populations within the United States of America (US) are evolving and changing everyday. In 1990, the United States Census Bureau found that 38,101 individuals within the US spoke Bengali. In 2008, the Joshua project found that 155,000 people within the US speak Bengali out of approximately 303,824,646 people. Out of 50 various languages within the US, Bengali is ranked as the forty-fourth most common language spoken. Only 12,684 of those Bengali-speaking individuals speak English "less than very well," while 25,417 speak English "very well."

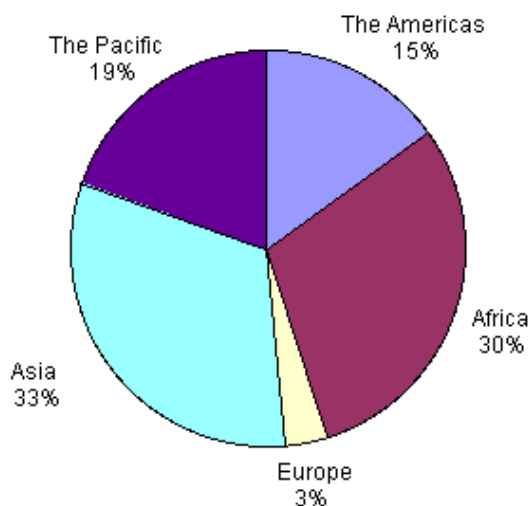


Figure 1: Five Living Languages of the World

For more information see the following resources:

- <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=101254&rog3=US>
- <http://www.census.gov/>
- http://www.ethnologue.com/14/ethno_docs/distribution.asp

Linguistic Community, Religion & Food Habits, Social Aspects & Health Factors

Linguistic Community

Bengali speakers are a heterogeneous group comprised of an ethnically diverse people united by a linguistic heritage. Bengali is the fifth most widely spoken language in the world, after Mandarin Chinese, English, Spanish, and Hindustani (Hindi-Urdu). Bengali is a native language of an area in south Asia known as Bengal. It is the official language of Bangladesh, a country bordered by India on all sides and the Bay of Bengal, the Indian state of West Bengal, and a co-official language of the state of Tripura.



Native speakers of Bengali are primarily from Bangladesh and West Bengal. Bengali is the second most common language in India, and 98% of Bangladeshi people speak Bengali.

The overwhelming majority of the 80,221,171 people of West Bengal are Bengalis. Kolkata is a sprawling metropolitan city with a population of 4,580,544, and a suburban total population of 13,216,546. 55% of these residents are Bengalis.

Immigration trends have led to large populations of Bengali speakers outside of the subcontinent in Arab countries such as UAE, Oman, and Yemen as well as the United States (see demographics section).

The Bengali language is an Indo-Aryan language native to the region of eastern South Asia, specifically the eastern Indian subcontinent. It is connected to language families including Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Eastern Groups, and Bengali-Assamese, and it evolved from Magadhi, Prakrit, Pali, and Sanskrit languages.

The linguistic heritage of Bengali became an important political issue in the early 1950s when the state of Bangladesh was known as East Pakistan. Students who wanted Bengali recognized as an official language of the Pakistani state were fired upon by the police. This day has been commemorated and honored by UNESCO and is referred to as Language Movement Day or Language Revolution Day. Therefore,

a Bengali-speaking person from Bangladesh may consider preservation of his or her native language an extraordinarily important component of his or her cultural identity.

Religion



Two major religions dominate the region of Bengal: Islam and Hinduism. In Bangladesh, approximately 88% of the population follow Islam and approximately 9% follow Hinduism. However, in West Bengal (which includes the capital city of Kolkata), Hindus are the majority and approximately 73% of the population practices Hindu, while 25% of the population

practices Islam. Bengali-speaking individuals comprise a large percentage (11%) of the international Muslim population.

Food preferences may therefore be related to religion than ethnic language identification. Islamic practices do not allow for the consumption of pork, while Hindu does not allow the consumption of beef. Bangladeshi cooking often includes extensive use of vegetables, rice, dal (or dahl, split beans prepared as a thick stew), and fish. In Bangladeshi homes, meals are often eaten without utensils, predominately with the right hand.



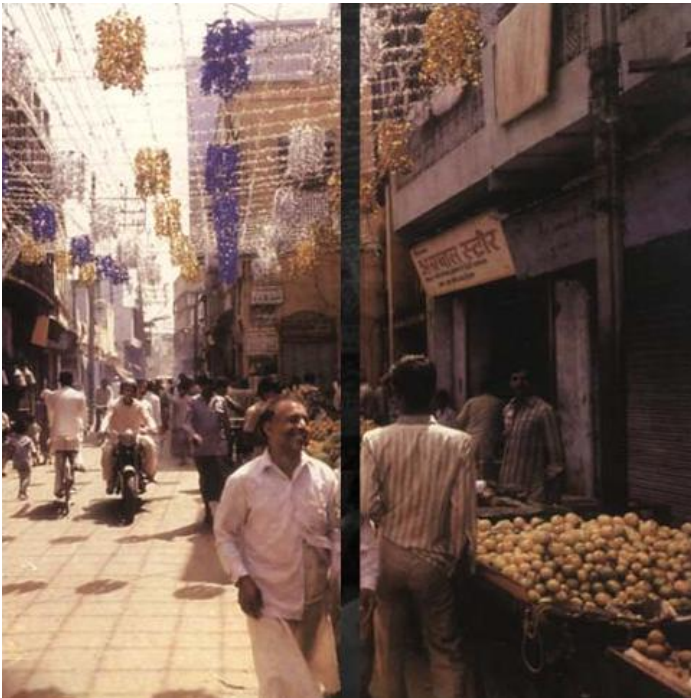
Social Aspects & Health Factors

Social status has historically been an integral component of Hindu/Indian culture, epitomized by the caste system. Today the caste system has been officially abolished due to discriminatory practices resulting from its strict stratification of social rank, but it remains a strong informal influence on social arrangements (such as marriage) or in rural areas. Knowledge of the Caste system may aid in rapport building with a Bengali-speaking client from West Bengal or another region of India, especially when one discusses family background. Generally speaking, the castes were divided into five groups:

- Brahmin: teachers, scholars, and priests
- Kshatriya: kings and warriors

- Vaishya: traders
- Shudra: agriculturists, service providers, some skilled craftsmen
- Dalits: outside the system, performed undesirable jobs, heavily discriminated against.

A major issue affiliated with the Bengal region is immigration. Millions of Bangladeshi people have immigrated, both legally and illegally, to West Bengal in India and other countries around the world, especially the Middle East. Because many immigrants are undocumented in their country of residence, a person speaking Bengali may not openly reveal his or her country of origin. Furthermore, a large percentage of undocumented and documented workers continue to send money back to Bangladesh, meaning that economic constraints may be a confounding variable for a person residing in a different country.



Immigration is widespread and prevalent because Bangladesh is an extremely poor (approximately 45% of the population is below the poverty line), overpopulated country. It is vulnerable to natural disasters, especially annual floods, and many people who leave the country have been exposed to environmental risk factors. Water-borne diseases are prevalent in surface water (diarrhea, hepatitis A & E, typhoid

fever); water pollution is considerable due to the use of pesticides in farmland; ground water is contaminated by naturally occurring arsenic; water shortages may occur intermittently. Vectorborne diseases such as dengue fever and malaria are health risks in some locations.

Life expectancy is low in Bangladesh; for males it is estimated to be 64 years and for women it is 63 years. HIV/AIDS is not of epidemic proportions in the population. India is also overpopulated but fares better overall in terms of infant mortality, life expectancy, number of

people below the poverty rate (approximately 25%), and unemployment (about 7%); West Bengal is also subject to natural disasters and environmental risk factors, including bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A and E, typhoid fever, chikungunya, dengue fever, Japanese encephalitis, and malaria.

West Bengal is an economic, academic, and cultural center of India. State-run schools provide instruction through junior college; Primary and secondary schools instruct in both English and Bengali. West Bengal has 18 universities, including the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology. Kolkata is home to nine universities, including the first Western medical school in Asia.

Differences between Bengali-speaking residents of West Bengal and Bangladesh may persist through the immigration process in the US, depending on the circumstances surrounding a person's arrival in the States.

For more information see the following resources:

Linguistic Community/Social Aspects:

 Bengali

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bengali_language
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bengali_people

 Caste System

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_caste_system#Varna_and_jati .28Class and caste.29

 Food Habits:

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bengali_cuisine
- <http://www.virtualbangladesh.com/recipes/index.html>

Bangladesh:

 CIA – The World Factbook

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bg.html>

West Bengal:

 CIA – The World Factbook

- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/in.html>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Bengal

Bengali Phonology

Phonemes

29 consonants and 14 vowels

(See Bengali Script for vowel and consonant letter names and pronunciations)

Consonants								
		<u>Labial</u>	<u>Dental</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Apico-Postalveolar</u>	<u>Lamino-Postalveolar</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Nasal</u>		m		n			ŋ	
<u>Plosive</u>	voiceless	p p ^{h1}	t t ^h		t t ^h	tʃ tʃ ^h	k k ^h	
	voiced	b b ^h	d d ^h		d d ^h	dʒ dʒ ^h	g g ^h	
<u>Fricative</u>		f		s z		ʃ		h
<u>Liquid</u>				l, r	ɽ			

- Consonants carry an “inherent” vowel sound unless another vowel sound is added.
- Native Bengali words do not allow consonant clusters.
- Sanskrit and other foreign language words borrowed into Bengali contain consonant clusters.
- Final consonant clusters in Bengali are rare.
- Sanskrit d is pronounced ɽ intervocalically.
- Sanskrit v is pronounced /b/; the same Bengali letter is used for b and v.
- Conjunct consonants are often pronounced as double single consonants.
- The three sibilants ś, s, and ṣ are normally pronounced /ʃ/ in Standard Bengali.
- Multiple variations of [n] are present.
- Semi-vowels cannot occur at the beginning of a Bengali word.

Diphthongs		
IPA	Transliteration	Example
/ij/	ii	nii "I take"
/iw/	iu	biubhól "upset"
/ej/	ei	nei "there is not"
/eẽ/	ee	khee "having eaten"
/ew/	eu	ḍheu "wave"
/eõ/	eo	kheona "do not eat"
/æẽ/	êe	nêe "she takes"
/æõ/	êo	nêo "you take"
/aj/	ai	pai "I find"
/aẽ/	ae	pae "she finds"
/aw/	au	pau "sliced bread"
/aõ/	ao	pao "you find"
/ɔẽ/	ôe	nôe "she is not"
/ɔõ/	ôo	nôo "you are not"
/oj/	oi	noi "I am not"
/oẽ/	oe	dhoe "she washes"
/oõ/	oo	dhoo "you wash"
/ow/	ou	nouka "boat"
/uj/	ui	dhui "I wash"

- Bengali also includes pseudo diphthongs with two consecutive vowels that cross over the syllable boundaries
- 25 vowel combinations exist

Vowels			
	Front	Central	Back
High	i		u
High-mid	e		o
Low-mid	æ		“aw”
Low		a	

- The “inherent” vowel is pronounced “aw” or /o/ rather than the schwa.
- Vowels can be nasalized: distinguishes “polite” third person pronouns from “familiar” third person pronouns.

Syllable Structure

- Native Bengali’s maximum syllable structure is CVC.
- Speakers may continue to segment borrowed words into this form.
- Clusters from borrowed words expand the word structure.

Phonological Rules

Refer to following chart:

	Back	Front
Close	u, ũ	i, ĩ
Half-Close	o, Ȯ	e, ě
Half-Open	"aw," nasalized "aw"	æ, nasalized æ
Open	a, ă	

- Vowel length is not phonologically significant.
- No phonologically nasalized vowel occurs before or after a nasal consonant

Vowel Lowering

- Applies to a monosyllabic verb stem whose nuclear vowel is /i, u, e/ and lowers it to /e, o, æ/

Vowel Raising

- In non root-initial position:
 - æ→e
 - aw→o

Regressive Vowel Harmony (RVH)

- Raises a low/mid vowel by one if the following vowel is high with matching roundness.

Progressive Vowel Harmony (PVH)

- turns /a/ into /o/ in a verb stem if the first preceding vowel is high
- Non-verbal cases: a→e

Regressive Assimilation

- Takes place of stop voicing, /r/ assimilation, either across word boundaries or within a single word.

Resources:

1. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bengali_language
2. Bhattacharya, T. (2001). Bangla. In J. Gary & C. Rubino (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of World's Languages, Past and Present* (pp. 65-72), New York: W.W. Wilson.

Bengali Orthography

Writing Styles

1. Shadhubhasha: formal
2. Choltibhasha: standard colloquial

Languages associated with script

3. Bengali
4. Assamese

Brief Description

The Bengali script was originally used to write Sanskrit. The vernacular languages of Bengali and Assamese are based on Sanskrit. In comparison to other Indian scripts (i.e. Devanagari), Bengali script is less blocky and has more sinuous shaping.

The Bengali script contains 500 character sets and combinations. The Bengali script is in the process of standardization. Assamese and Bengali variations exist in the formalized script.

Vowels

The script has 11 symbols to represent the 7 main vowel sounds. Many of the symbols are redundant because they reflect the "length" of the vowel in speech (i.e. long/short); during vernacular Bengali, the vowel lengths are uniform.

Consonants

The names of consonants pertain to the phoneme plus the inherit vowel Ô.

Conjuncts

Up to four consecutive consonants occur in a word (i.e. Juktakkhor). The first consonant will be either "raised" or placed to the left of the other consonants. The other consonants can be abbreviated or in a compressed form. On occasion, exceptional forms that bear little to no resemblance of the base letter is implemented.

Fused Forms

When a stroke used to write the first consonant is used as a stroke for the next consonant

Approximate Forms

The intervals between the consonants is diminished to indicate conjunct

Compressed Forms

Consonants are compressed and simplified when they are the initial consonant in a construct

Abbreviated Forms

The consonants are abbreviated in a way that they lose their basic shape

Variant Forms

Specific forms of consonants that are consistently used within constructs.

Vowels

Letter	Name of letter	Vowel sign with [ক]	Name of vowel sign	<u>Transliteration</u>	<u>IPA</u>
অ	shôro ô (shôre ô)	ক (none)	(none)	kô and ko	/kɔ/ and /ko/
আ	shôro a (shôre a)	কা	akar	ka	/ka/
ই	rhôshsho i (rôshsho i)	কি	rhôshsho ikar (roshshikar)	ki	/ki/
ঈ	dirgho i	কী	dirgho ikar (dirghikar)	ki	/ki/
উ	rhôshsho u (rôshsho u)	কু	rhôshsho ukar (roshshukar)	ku	/ku/
ঊ	dirgho u	কূ	dirgho ukar (dirghukar)	ku	/ku/
ঋ	ri	কৃ	rikar/rifôla	kri	/kri/
এ	e	কে	ekar	kê and ke	/kæ/ and /ke/
ঐ	oi	কৈ	oikar	koi	/koj/

ও	o	কো	okar	ko	/ko/
ঔ	ou	কৌ	oukar	kou	/kow/

Other modifier symbols

Symbol with [kɔ] (ক)	Name	Function	Transliteration	IPA
ক্	hôshonto	Suppresses the inherent vowel	k	/k/
কৎ	khôndô tô	Final unaspirated dental [t̪] (ত)	kôt	/kɔt̪/
কং	ônushshôr	Final velar nasal	kôŋ	/kɔŋ/
কঃ	bishôrgo	Final voiceless breath	kôh	/kɔh/
কাঁ	chôndrobindu	Vowel nasalization	kôñ	/kɔ̃/

Consonants

Letter	Name of Letter	Transliteration	IPA
ক	kô	k	/k/
খ	khô	kh	/k ^h /
গ	gô	g	/g/
ঘ	ghô	gh	/g ^h /
ঙ	ungô, umô	ŋ	/ŋ/
চ	chô	ch	/tʃ/
ছ	chhô	chh	/tʃ ^h /
জ	borgio jô (burgijjô)	j	/dʒ/
ঝ	jhô	jh	/dʒ ^h /
ঞ	ingô, niô	n	/n/

ଟ	ṭô	ṭ	/ṭ/
ଠ	ṭhō	ṭh	/ṭʰ/
ଡ	ḍô	ḍ	/ḍ/
ଢ	ḍhō	ḍh	/ḍʰ/
ନ	murdhonno nô (moddhennô)	n	/n/
ତ	tô	t	/t̪/
ଥ	thô	th	/t̪ʰ/
ଦ	dô	d	/d̪/
ଧ	dhô	dh	/d̪ʰ/
ନ	donto nô (dontennô)	n	/n/
ପ	pô	p	/p/

ফ	fô	f	/f/
ব	bô	b	/b/
ভ	bhô	bh	/b ^h /
ম	mô	m	/m/
য	ôntostho jô (ontostejô)	j	/dʒ/
র	bôe shunno rô	r	/r/
ল	lô	l	/l/
শ	talobbo shô (taleboshshô)	sh and s	/ʃ/ / /s/
ষ	murdhonno shô (muddhennoshshô) (peṭ kaṭa shô)	sh	/ʃ/
স	donto shô (donteshshô)	sh and s	/ʃ/ / /s/
হ	hô	h	/h/

য	ôntostho ô (ontosteô)	e and -	/e/ /-
ড়	đôe shunno ڑô	ڑ	/ɽ/
ঢ়	đhôte shunno ڑô	ঢ়	/ɽ/

Resources:

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bengali_script

Digits

Bengali has ten digits that correspond to Arabic numerals. The numeral characters do not contain horizontal strokes. Bengali script utilizes the same comma system as the English numeral system for values above 1,000.

Digits										
Arabic numerals	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bengali numerals	০	১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬	৭	৮	৯
Bengali names	shunno	êk	dui	tin	char	pāch	chhôte	shat	aṭ	nôe
	শূন্য	এক	দুই	তিনি	চার	পাঁচ	ছয়	সাত	আট	নয়

Bengali Morphology

Noun Morphology

Nouns inflect the following cases:

1. Nominative
2. Accusative-Dative (objective)
3. Genitive
 - The genitive suffix is *-er* when the noun ends in a consonant
4. Locative
 - The locative suffixes:
 - e: when the noun ends in a consonant
 - e or -te: when the noun ends in a non-high vowel

Non-human nouns/Non-honorific human nouns

5. Receive the following forms after the enclitic counting expression (pluralizer *gulo*):
 6. Nominative (zero)
 7. Objective (-ke)
 8. Genitive -(e)r
 9. Locative -(t)e
- Example: tak-gulo-te "on the shelves"

Human plural markers

Condition: when the noun is not quantified and has obligatory personal pronouns

1. Nominative (-ra)
2. Objective/Genitive (-der)

Classifiers

The relation of a word that designates quantity to the noun it reflects is mediated by the classifier. A quantified noun is never contains a plural ending.

1. General classifier
2. Piece-classifier

Definiteness/Specificity

1. Numeral/Quantifier-Classifier

Determiners

Bengali does not utilize case and/or number agreement. There is not grammatical distinction of gender. Adjectives and demonstratives do not agree with the head noun.

Pronouns

Personal pronouns communicate formality. Pronouns (despite person type) can be singular or plural in the nominative, Genitive, and Accusative-Dative categories.

1. First Person
 - a. Singular
 - b. Plural
2. Second Person
 - a. Formal

- i. Singular/Plural
 - b. Neutral
 - i. Singular/Plural
 - c. Intimate
 - i. Singular/Plural
- 3. Third Person
 - a. Pronoun is based on the properties of the expressions used:
 - i. Formal (sing/pl)/Neural (sing/pl)
 - 1. Correlative
 - a. Pertains to absent subjects
 - 2. Distal
 - a. Pertains to objects/persons outside the 1st person perspective (“yours” sphere)
 - b. Pronouns taking third person verbs
 - i. Unnamed system (sing/pl; formal/neural)
 - 1. Refers to an “emphatic this-function”:
 - a. pertains to objects/persons closest to the first person speaker (“my” sphere)

Verb Morphology

Finite verbs agree with the nominative subject regarding person and formality.

Negative

Negation follows the root word.

Passive

Bangla does not have an inflectional passive.

Causatives

Types:

- 1. Morphological
 - a. Affix –a to the root
 - b. Suffix –ano

Bangla has no double causative morphology, but two single morphological causatives can syntactically function as double causatives.
- 2. Periphrastic
 - a. Formed with a verbal noun and verb

Inflection

- 1. Present Simple
- 2. Present Progressive
- 3. Present Perfect
- 4. Imperfect Present
- 5. Past Simple
- 6. Past Progressive

7. Past Perfect
8. Past Habitual
9. Future Simple
10. Imperfect Future

Derivation

Nominals

1. -i
 - a. Masculine → feminine nouns
 - b. Names and nouns → adjectives and inhabitants
 - c. Nominalizes adjectives
2. -amo/ami
 - a. Abstract nouns or character/profession from nouns (i.e. thief; thievery)

Compounding

Compounds are the result of:

1. Adding a verb root or auxiliary to a noun in accusative or locative
2. Unaffected verbal conjunctive or a participle

A method to form a new verb is to create a composite verb by adding “light” verb (i.e. “to do” + action; example: to magnify)

Resources:

1. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bengali_language
2. Bhattacharya, T. (2001). Bangla. In J. Gary & C. Rubino (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of World's Languages, Past and Present* (pp. 65-72), New York: W.W. Wilson.

Bengali Semantics

Vocabulary

- 75,000 words in typical Bangla dictionary
 - 67%-totshom (direct re-borrowings from Sanskrit)
 - 28%-todbhob (native bangle vocabulary)
 - 8%-bideshi (foreign vocabulary)/deshi (indigenous Austroasiatic)
- Bideshi borrowings
 - Arise from three eras of contacts
 - Proximity of neighbors: Hindi, Assamese, Chinese, Burmese, and several indigenous Austroasiatic languages of Bengal
 - Invasions from Persia and Middle East: Turkish, Arabic, Persian
 - European colonialism: Portuguese, French, Dutch, English

Resource:

1. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bengali_language

Bengali Syntax

Word Order

Bengali is a head-initial and head-final language which follows the Subject Object Verb word order. Bengali uses postpositions (versus prepositions in English). Determiners follow the noun. Numerals, adjectives, and possessors precede the noun.

Major Constituents:

Adjunct + Subject + Predicate Adjunct + Indirect Object + Direct Object + (Dependents of the complement verb) Complement Verb + Finite Main Verb + Negative.

Maximal Noun Phrase:

Possessive + Demonstrative + Numeral/Quantifier + Classifier + Adjective + Noun.

Question Words

Wh- Questions

Wh-questions are typically used in the first or second position of the phrase.

Wh- (English) = K- (Bengali)

When: k“aw”khon

Where: kothay

Which: kon

What: ki

Who-Nom (sing./pl/): kel kara

Who-Accusative: kake

Whose: kar

Yes/No Questions

Yes/no questions do not require any change in word order. The low tone of the final syllable of the utterance is replaced with a falling tone.

Nouns

Case Marking of Major Constituents

1. Nominative
2. Objective (Accusative-Dative)
3. Genitive (Possessive)
4. Locative

Animacy

Impacts the marking pattern for each noun being inflected

Number

Nouns are inflected as singular or plural.

Relative Clauses

Relative clauses are formed with the relative pronoun and a co-relative pronoun both at the initial and final positions of their clauses.

Verbs

Classes

1. Finite
 - a. Fully inflected for person, tense, aspect (simple, perfect, progressive), and honor (intimate, familiar, and formal); not for number
2. Non-finite
 - a. No inflection for person or tense

Copula

The copula “be” is typically missing in the present tense.

Gender

The verbs do not change form to reflect gender of the nouns.

Mood

Conditional, imperative, and other inflections for mood can replace the tense and aspect suffixes.

Other

Negation

Postverbal=finite

Preverbal=non-finites

Resources:

1. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bengali_language
2. Bhattacharya, T. (2001). Bangla. In J. Gary & C. Rubino (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of World's Languages, Past and Present* (pp. 65-72), New York: W.W. Wilson.

Bengali Pragmatics

The researchers determined that there was a lack of sufficient resources regarding the pragmatic attributes of Bengali.

Bengali Prosody

Stress

Stress Pattern

Bengali stress is generally trochaic (strong-weak). The secondary stress is placed on odd-numbered syllables with each subsequent (odd) syllable receiving weaker stress. Words borrowed from Sanskrit may not follow this stress pattern.

Prefixes

Prefixes shift the stress pattern to the left which places the primary stress on the prefix. The novel placement of stress does not alter the meaning of the word.

Intonation

Intonation does not have a significant role at the word level. However, intonation is significant at the sentence level:

Declarative Sentences:

Most words/phrases in Bengali contain alternating rising and falling tones; the last word of the sentence holds a low tone to mark the end of the sentence.

Wh- Questions, Yes/No Questions, Focused Sentences

The rising tone pattern (see *declarative sentences*) occurs until the focused word (i.e. Wh-word) in which the following words in the sentence carry the low tone. For yes/no questions, the rising tone is more exaggerated compared to declarative sentences and the final syllable of the sentence contains a high falling tone instead of a flat low tone.

Speech-Language Pathologist Resources

Websites:

Understanding the Bengali Language

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bengali_language

Bengali Basic Phrases/Survival Phrases

<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/language/bangla-phrases.html>

http://www.virtualbangladesh.com/bd_bangla.html

http://www.virtualbangladesh.com/bd_phrases.html

Languages of the World

- Information about the structure of the language, dialects, the Bengali writing system, and a list of other online resources. This is a great site for understanding the influence the Bengali language will have on English pronunciation.

<http://www.nvtc.gov/lotw/months/february/bengali.html>

UCLA Language Profile of Bengali

- Linguistic Affiliation
- Language Variation
- Orthography
- Linguistic Sketch
- Role in Society
- History
- Other Resources

<http://lmp.ucla.edu/Profile.aspx?LangID=84&menu=004>

Bengali Music & Song

<http://www.calcuttaweb.com/gaan/music.shtml>

<http://www.angelfire.com/tx/rezaul/music.htm>

<http://www.banglamusic.com/music/category.php?catid=4>

<http://www.banglamusic.com/music/index.php?action=top&show=10&type=Songs>

Videos

Coke-a-cola ad

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=xuVRCcEEoLA>

Bengali Dance

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=YgZ7zuztS1M>

News Report

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=RY3x8oVuUy0&feature=related>

Books:

Boyle, M., Coelho, Carl A. (2001). Aphasia Testing. In Ruscello, Dennis M. (Ed.). Tests and Measurements in Speech-Language Pathology (pp. 119-162). Woburn, MA: Butterworth-Heinemann.

Goldstein, B. (2000). Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Resource Guide for Speech-Language Pathologists. San Diego, CA: Delmar Learning

No standardized tests are currently available

SLPs

SLPs who speak Bengali are not currently listed on asha.org

Corporate SLPs specializing in accent modification in Texas:

http://serv01.siteground154.com/~corspan/index.php?option=com_cb_search&Itemid=73