

# Linguistic situation in Bangladesh

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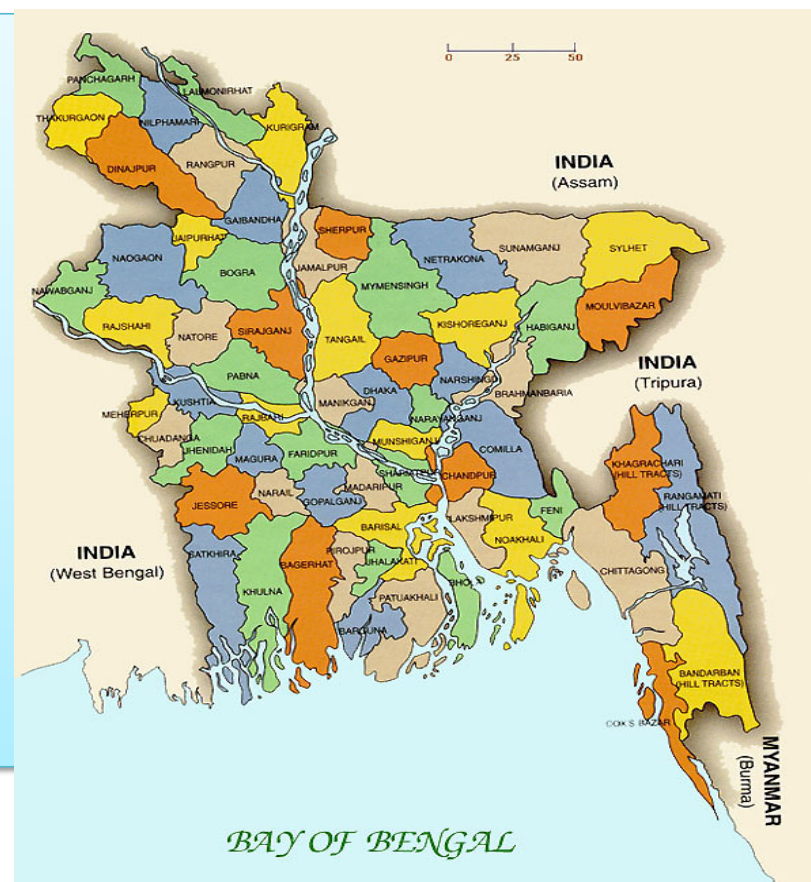
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# Introduction

- The linguistic situation of Bangladesh is not homogenous.
- Bangla is the major language of Bangladesh
  - Official & National language is Bengali/Bangla
  - 92% used Bengali as a Mother tongue
- Also more than 45 indigenous languages
- 4 different language family .



## Language family & Languages

1. **Austro-Asiatic** : Santal, Munda & Khasi
2. **Sino-Tibetan** : Marma, Garo, Chak, Khumi, Pangkowa etc.
3. **Dravidian**: Krukux
4. **Indo-Aryan**. Bengali, Chakma Sadri etc.

## Bangla language: The state language.

- Bangla : member of Indo-Aryan language family .
- More than 280 million people speak in Bangla all over the world.
- 1500 Years history & own scripts, literary resources .
- Rabindronath Tagore got Nobel (1913) from Bengali language & Literature(First Asian Nobel laureate)



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশের সংবিধান

# Worldwide Recognition of Bangla Language.

- UNESCO has declared the Bengali Language Martyr Day 21<sup>st</sup> of February as international mother language day in 17<sup>th</sup> November 1999.
- The language ranked 7<sup>th</sup> considered its speaker. It is the official language of the Indian states of West Bengal, Tripura and Assam
- Bangla is a second official language of Jharkhand(INDIA) since September 2011
- Bangla is also a recognized secondary language of Karachi (Pakistan).



# Indigenous languages of bangladesh

- Total 30 languages exist.
- Origin from 4 distinct language families .
- Some language has scripts.  
Medium of education of these language speaker is bangla.
- Small indigenous languages are dominated by major languages.
- No language preservation and policies.
- Some languages are endangered for less speaker and practice.

ক	খ	গ	ঘ	ঙ
ka [ka]	kha [kʰa]	ga [ga]	gha [ga]	ṅa [ŋa]
চ	ছ	জ	ঝ	ঞ
ca [sa]	cha [sʰa]	ja [za]	jha [za]	ña [ña]
ট	ঠ	ড	ঢ	ণ
ṭa [ta]	ṭha [tʰa]	ḍa [da]	ḍha [da]	ṇa [na]
ত	থ	দ	ধ	ন
ta [ta]	tha [tʰa]	da [da]	dha [da]	na [na]
প	ফ	ব	ভ	ম
pa [pa]	pha [pʰa]	ba [ba]	bha [ba]	ma [ma]
য	র	ল	ৱ	শ
ya [ya]	ra [ya]	la [la]	wa [wa]	sa [θa]
হ	ঈ	ঐ		
ha [ha]	īa [la]	a [a]		

## Language situation in Bangladesh

- Official language of Bangladesh is Standard Bengali (Literary Bengali).
- The percentage of Bangla speaker in whole country is 98%.
- Bangla is the lingua franca of minor community of Bangladesh.
- English, do not have any official status
- The indigenous people of northern and southeastern Bangladesh speak a variety of native languages, notably Chakma and Shantali.
- Urdu is commonly spoken among Muslim migrants from India and Pakistan.

# Language planning and Policy in Bangladesh

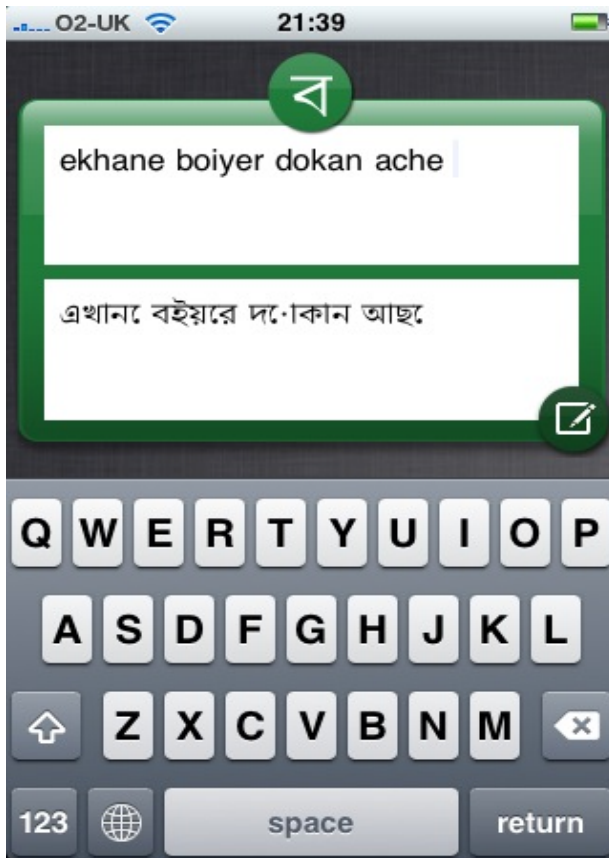
The language planning which Bangladesh has experienced in different occasions is discussed in three different sections as below:

- **Language planning in pre-Pakistan period ---**
  - English was imposed as official language ignoring all other regional language including Bangla
- **Language planning in Pakistan period----**
  - the great language movement happened in 1952. Bengali language along with urdu got state language status in 1956 constitution of Pakisthan.
- **Language Planning in Bangladesh Period-----**in 1972 constitution of Bangladesh has acknowledged Bangla language as state language( Article 3 Part 1 )..





Transliteration Bangla to roman  
Roman to Bangla and wrong spelling: some pictures



# Language organizations

- Bangladesh has 2 language organization  
Which promote language of Bangladesh-

1. Bangla academy

(established 1955 after language movement in 1952)

2. International mother language institute

( established in 2001)



# Language Planning in Bangladesh and Limitations

- No definite language planning in Bangladesh.
- Few Ethnic/indigenous languages are endangered.
- Transliteration in Roman.
- No measure for wrong spelling.
- No initiatives Language maintains and preservation
- Last 43 Years no national policy of language
- language Mixing with standard form.
- Language dominance.
- No measure of corpus planning has been undertaken

উদযেৰ পথে শুনিকার কান্দী  
ভয় নাই ওর ভয় নাই  
নিঃশেষে প্রান যে করিবে দান  
ক্ষয় নাই তার ক্ষয় নাই  
রবীন্দ্রনাথ ঠাকুর

বাংলা একাডেমী

প্রমিত বাংলা  
বানানের নিয়ম



বাংলা একাডেমী

## Socio-Linguistic Status

### **The socio-linguistic situation of Bangladesh—**

- Distribution of regional varieties of Bangla,
- Distribution of indigenous languages
- Trend of foreign language use in different social settings
- Bangla use as Lingua-franka .
- Social class affects in language.
- Violation with standard form.
- English (word/ etc.) in use as fashion/prestige issue.
- Bilingual situation and some time multi lingual

# Socio-Economical classification of language



## Bangla in mass media

- Wrong pronunciation.
- Foreign language mix up with Bangla
- Dialect mix up with standard form
- Wrong spelling.
- Influence of English & Hindi



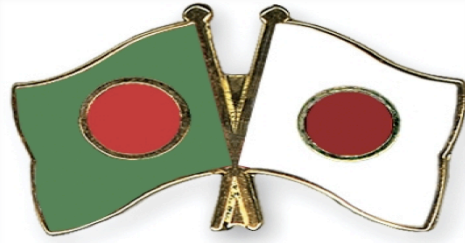
Various language medium of schooling (Bangla, English, Arabic, Indigenous language )



## Way to go /REMARKS

- Fix up/ to develop a language policy.
- Prohibit mixing up language.
- Measures for minor languages.
- Need Linguistic survey & Language documentations.
- Start up mother tongue based education for IP.
- Proper policy for use of language in Mass media
- Introduce more language based organization
- Promote Spelling rule and phonetic classes in education.
- More research on Bangla and other language of Bangladesh





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