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Mina Dan

PROFESSOR SATYA RANJAN BANERJEE MEMORIAL VOLUME

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Professor Satya Ranjan Banerjee
03.08.1933 – 10.12.2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editor's Note		1
Anita Bandyopadhyay	Satya Ranjan Banerjee– A Tribute	5
Part I		
Alibha Dakshi	'Bangiya Shabdakosh' – A Magnum Opus in Lexicography	12
Niladri Sekhar Dash	Digital Dictionary: A Phoenix in Lexicographic Metamorphosis	27
Abhijit Majumdar	'Insult' As a Speech Act: The Case Study of Bangla	62
Aditi Ghosh	On Language Attitude	88
Mina Dan	Bangla Causative Verb Forms: A Generative Treatment	99
Part II (Peer reviewed)		
Aliya Halim	Exploring Bengali Muslim Identity through the Translation of <i>The Life of Abdur Rahman, Amir of Afghanistan</i>	115
Arpita Ray	Aspiration in Spontaneous Speech in Bengali	128
Basudha Das	English Islands – A Compromise Strategy in Bangla-English Speech	150
Nivedita Mitra	Asymmetries and Whole Word Morphology	173
Syeda Nadia Ali	Representation of the Marginalized in Amitav Ghosh's <i>The Hungry Tide</i>	195

Editor's Note

I begin with a somber note. Professor Satya Ranjan Banerjee passed away on December 10, 2016. He joined this department as a faculty member in 1975. Before that he was a M.A. student and after that a Ph.D. scholar in this department. Even long after his superannuation he was attached to this department as member of various committees till 2016. Thus his close association with this department continued for more than six long decades. He was a teacher to the majority of the current faculty members of the department. We know him as an energetic researcher, a disciplined scholar, a committed educationist, a witty conversationalist, and a good-hearted colleague. The present volume-- the Professor Satya Ranjan Banerjee Memorial Volume of the Bulletin of the Department of Linguistics-- is our homage to our Late Professor. His student Anita Banerjee, a faculty member at the department of Linguistics in the Sanskrit College and University writes on him in this volume.

May the departed soul rest in peace.

The rest of the journal is divided into two parts, the regular part containing five articles by faculty members and invited scholars, and the peer-reviewed part II presenting another five articles by the research fellows of the department. Let me present a brief sketch of the current volume.

In the former part the article by Alibha Dakshi, Former Professor in the department of Bengali, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, presents an enlightening account of Bangiya Shabdakosh (1933), the monumental Bangla dictionary, Haricharan Bandyopadhyay, its compiler, and his 28 years hard toil behind it.

The next article by Niladri Sekhar Dash, Associate Professor in the Linguistic Research Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata,

provides a blueprint of a digital dictionary with the lexical stock of Bangla available in corpus databases, which can serve the lexicographic, thesaural and encyclopedic functions together through an enhanced interface.

Both the above papers were presented in the seminar on *Problems and Prospects of Lexicographic Studies in Bangla* organised by our department on February 22, 2017, to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of the great lexicographer Sri Haricharan Bandyopadhyay.

In the back drop of impoliteness framework Abhijit Majumdar in his paper analyses insult as a speech act with special reference to various modes of insulting in speech current in Bangla speech community.

Aditi Ghosh in her paper elaborates on language attitude studies underscoring the manifold aspects of this domain, viz. methodology, categorisation, effect on second language learning, role in language standardisation and impact on language policies.

The paper by Mina Dan offers a detailed illustration of causative conjugation in Bangla employing the tools of the early linear generative phonology, viz. underlying forms, phonological rules and the ordering restrictions thereof.

The peer reviewed part opens with the article by Aliya Halim in which she attempts to explore how in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century emerged a Bengali Muslim identity. She analyses various discourses in the Bangla translation of a pertinent text *The Life of Abdur Rahman, Amir of Afghanistan* applying the substantivist model.

Arpita Ray in her paper presents an instrumental study of the manifestations of aspirated plosives in isolated word forms and spontaneous speech in Standard Colloquial Bengali and notes the minimal as well as extreme deviations of them from their archetypal manifestations and indicates to the cognitive implications of the fact.

Basudha Das in her paper investigates how embedded language islands occur as a unit in the frame of a matrix language in bilingual expressions. She employs the Matrix Language Frame model, 4-M model, Abstract Level Model and structural dependency relations (of Myers-Scotton) to identify English islands in Bangla expressions.

Nivedita Mitra in her paper shows that in Bangla while the process of regressive vowel harmony applies consistently to certain subclasses of words it applies with variation in others yielding word shape asymmetry in the system. She employs the tools of the substantivist approach and semiotic analysis to address the issue of asymmetry.

Syeda Nadia Ali, in the light of discourse analysis, analyses the representation of marginalized in Amitav Ghosh's novel *The Hungry Tide* with special reference to women and refugees and addresses a range of issues involved in the marginalisation of forced migrants.

We close the volume with the style sheet to be followed for submission of article to the Bulletin of the Department of Linguistics. I am thankful to Ms. Aliya Halim and Ms. Nivedita Mitra for helping me in proof reading.

To end with an optimistic note for our department, I like to add that in the last year six of our current and former students have qualified in the National Eligibility Test (NET). Among our research fellows two have obtained UGC Research Fellowships, one has obtained Swami Vivekananda Fellowship for Single Girl Child and another Moulana Azad National Fellowship for Minority Students. After obtaining the M.A. in Linguistics from our Department, many of our students are working as project fellows or doing internship or pursuing doctoral or MPhil research at various Universities and institutes including the Jadavpur University, the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata; Indian Institutes of Technology at Kharagpur, Delhi, Kanpur and Ropar; the

International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad; the Hyderabad Central University; the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad; the North East Hill University, Shillong, the Language Division and the Asiatic Society. Last year, one of our former students has joined the Google as a linguist. Two of our research scholars have been recently engaged on contract by the Oxford University Press and they are currently working on a dictionary project at Hamburg, Germany. Our students are also working in the two projects, currently running in our department, viz. *Intercultural Communication in Multilingual Urban Spaces*, funded by UGC, UPE phase II, and mother tongues Tharua, Birjia and Toto under *the Scheme for Preservation and Protection of Endangered Languages* of The Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore. Students pursuing Ph.D. in our department, regularly attend conferences and seminars and are publishing in reputed journals. We are extremely proud and happy with their success and wish them the very best in coming years.

With this sunny note, I conclude.

Sincerely,

Mina Dan

December 25, 2017