

Obsolete Bengali Notation Systems of twentieth Century

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Abstract

The review of the history of Indian Notation system shows that people have been experimenting with musical notation for ages. In primitive ages people carved something like notation on stone(eg:Kudumiyamalai- first notation carved on stone). after that we find vedic notes, gandharva notes etc. Gradually,with the development of human civilization, notation systems are also developed. But no one satisfied by any particular notation system. So, some notations became obsolete notation. Here we discuss about the obsolete bengali notation systems of twentieth century.

KeyWords : Obsolete notation, Pratik Swaralipi, Notation made by Roman Syllable, Dr. Bimal Roy, Nimai Chand Badal, Dr. Pradip Kr. Ghosh.

Introduction:

In development of advanced notation system, the role of bengal is very respectfully remembered by the music lovers. In this context some mentionable names are - Kshetra Mohan Goswami, Krishnadhan Banerjee, Dwijendranath Tagore, Jyotindranath Tagore, Sarala Devi, Prativa Devi, Brajendra Kishor Roy-Choudhury, Suresh Chandra Chakraborty, Satya Kinkar Banerjee, Dr. Bimal Roy, Nimai Chand Badal, Nikhil Ghosh, Dr. pradip Kumar Ghosh etc.

Among them some notation maker of twentieth century are - Dr. Bimal Roy, Nimai Chand Badal, Dr. Pradip Kumar Ghosh etc. Their contribution in development of Indian notation system is undeniable. To develop the notation system and to innovate a notation system from one to another, the notation makers face many problems and they think a lot about it.


Let's discuss about the obsolete notation systems of twentieth century of bengal one by one.

Dr. Bimal Roy :

First of all we discuss about the notation system created by great musicologist and also a notation maker of bengal, Dr. Bimal Roy. In 1953AD, Dr. Bimal Roy published the notation system made by him in music magazine(Patrika) of Hathras, 'Sangit' Patrika. The name of his notation system is 'Pratiki Swaralipi'. Features of this notation system are following -

Pratik Swaralipi

(i) Naad- Danda : Here naad means sound. The sign of naad-danda is 'l'. Basically, it is the sign of division.


(ii) Pancha-Saptak (Five- Octave) : The sign of pancha-saptak is 


Pancha-Saptaks are -


(a) Oti-madra-saptak (too lower octave) : 

(b) Madra-saptak (lower octave) : 

(c) Madhya-saptak (Middle octave) : 


(d) Tar-saptak (Top-octave) : 


(e) Oti-taro-saptak (too upper octave) : 


(iii) Swar-rekha (Tone line) : The sign of Swar-rekha is : 


(iv) Sign of tone (Swar-Chinha) : S (स)  r (र)  R (ऋ)  g (ग)  G (ग)  m (म)  M (म)  P  d (द)  D (ध)  n (न)  N (न) 


(v) Sign of rythm (Taal-Chinha) :


(a) sign of 1 matra : 


(b) sign of 2 matra : 


(c) sign of 3 matra : 


(d) sign of 4 matra : 

(e) sign of 1/2 matra : 

(f) sign of 1/3 matra : 

(g) sign of 1/4 matra : 

(h) sign of 1 and 1/2 matra : 

(vi) Sign of Alankar : below the note : 

(vii) The place of Prabal and Aansh sign is above the tone.

(viii) The process of writing letter : Romanised Script.

Prof. Nimai Chand Badal :

Another notation writer of twentieth century was Prof. Nimai Chand Badal. He published his notation system through roman syllables in his book 'Sangit-Nayak'(vol-1) in 1970AD. The features of this notation is as following -

(i) Seven Placed Note (Suddha Swar Saptak) : s r g m p d n

(ii) Displaced Note (Komal Swar) : R G D N

(iii) Sharp Note (Tibra swar) : m


(iv) Lower Octave : A dot below the note indicates lower octave.

(v) Middle Octave : The notes without any signs indicates middle octave.

(vi) Top Octave : A dot above the note indicates top octave.

(vii) Sign of meend : r, m

(viii) Sign of motion is same as international signs.

(ix) Sign of one matra : 

(x) Signs of Rythm :

(a) Som (first beat of rythm) : '+'

(b) Khali (means empty- where there is no beat) : 'o'

Dr. Pradip Kumar Ghosh :

Dr. Pradip Kumar Ghosh is also an inventor of a musical notation system of twentieth century of Bengal . He invented a notation system in 1999 AD. The notation system made by him is as following -

1. Seven Placed Note (Seven Suddha Swar) : S R G M P D N

2. Five Displaced Note (Five komal and tibra [flat or chromatic] swar) : r g m d n

3. Note of 1 tone : r [•] g [•] m [•] d [•] n [•] etc. (a dot above the note)

4. Note of 2 tones : r ^{••} g ^{••} m ^{••} d ^{••} n ^{••} etc. (2 dots above the note)

5. Note of 3 tones : r ^{•••} g ^{•••} m ^{•••} d ^{•••} n ^{•••} etc. (3 dots above the note)

6. Lower Octave : Verticle line below the note indicates lower octave.

7. Middle Octave : The notes without any signs indicates middle octave.

8. Top Octave : Verticle line above the note indicates top octave.

9. Two notes in One Matra : Sr..... etc.

10. 3 notes in One Matra : Srg..... etc.

11. 4 notes in One Matra : Srgm..... etc.

12. 1 note in two Matras : $\overline{S}, \overline{r}$etc. (verticle line above the tone.)

13. 1 note in three Matras : S _ _ , r _ _ etc.

14. 1 note in four Matras : S _ _ _ , r _ _ _ etc.

15. 1 note in 7 Matras : S _ _ \frown _ _ etc.

16. Division sign of Taal (vibhaga) : I

17. Meend : $\overline{\quad}$

18. Aansh : $\overline{\quad}$
• • • •

19 Gamak : w = d n

20. Continuation of note : same as Aansh = $\overline{\quad}$ = 3 Matra(Pa)
P

21. Continuation of note after crossing the division of taal or vibhaga : $\overline{\quad}$


22. Punarabritti (Repeatation) : { }


23. Different note at the time of repeatation : []

24. Omitted notes at the time of repeatation : ()

25. Prabalya (intensity) : '<' = P <

26. Dourbalya (Debility) : '>' = g >

27. Kampan (vibration) :  (Fast)

28. Andolan (Slow measure vibration) : 

29. Repeated Vibration (Medium motion) : 

Conclusion :

Above mentioned all three notation makers try their best to develop and make a new scientific notation system for Indian music to help the music lovers. Though the notations made by them are obsolete type of notation system. But their contribution in development of notation system of Indian music is undeniable.

In spite of too much hard work made by the notation makers, the main problems of notation system could not be solved completely till now. So, the notation makers of our nation need to think in a scientific way for making a simple, scientific notation system which is understandable for all.

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