

Attitudes towards English, Bengali & Surjapuri Language Learning: The case in Islampur (transferred area surjapur), Uttar Dinajpur, Westbengal, India.

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Abstract : Islampur was ceded from Bihar(Purnea District) and merged the West Dinajpur in the year 1956.After that Islampur Subdivision disclosed its identity, and tagged with West Dinajpur District. Later on the administrative bifurcation of West Dinajpur District on 1st April 1992 this Subdivision was got merged with Uttar Dinajpur District.

KEYWORDS: Attitude, English ,Bengali, Surjapuri.

1.0 INTRODUCTION.

1.1BACKGROUND AND RATIONAL OF THE STUDY.

Bengali is the most spoken language in West Bengal . With about 250 million native and about 300 million total speakers worldwide. It is the 7th most spoken language in the world by total number of native speakers and the 11th most spoken language by total number of speakers. The importance of this language to the South Asia can be noted by the fact that the National Anthem of Bangladesh, National Anthem of India ,National Anthem of Sri Lanka and the National song of India were all first composed in the Bengali language.

In West Bengal Bengali is the official language. The basic from of Bengali has been taught in West Bengal. The school in West Bengal will continue to teach Bengali as a compulsory language. It occupies a substantial position in the Educational field of India. Bengali such a language which has a wider communicative value. But here the researcher saw completely different side of Bengali language.

Bengali language is originated in the Indo-European language family. The Bengali language movement (Bhasha-Andolon) was a movement in 1951-1952 in what was then East Pakistan (today Bangladesh) that heavily linked Bengali identity with the Bengali language. On 21 February 1952 protesting student and activists sacrificed their lives at the Dhaka University Campus for the right to read, write and speak in their mother language of Bengali. In 1999,UNESCO declared February 21 as International Mother language Day in recognition of the people who sacrificed their lives for their right to use the Bengali language.

Surjapuri is one of the eastern India language mainly spoken in Bihar(Kishanganj, Katihar, Purnia, Araria district),North Bengal(Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Silliguri),eastern Nepal and north western Bangladesh. It has significant Similarities with both Hindi and Bengali language.

The use of English language is as per the requirement of being a part of globalization and there is nothing wrong in it. English is one such language that is understood by people from different castes and states, and therefore deserves to be the official language of India. English is perceived as a useful language to know mostly because of job opportunities and for education. People favor a particular language when they find that the language is a tool to achieve high status, economic advantage, basic security and survival and matters related to self-orientation. Integrative attitude, on the other hand, concerns someone's attachment with a particular speech community. People show such attitude in order to be identified as a member of the desired community. Hogan-Brun & Ramoniene (2005) found that the state's inclusive language and citizenship policies in Lithuania have led to the consolidation of society which has positively affected attitudes amongst the minority communities to learn the state language and to integrate. However, instrumental and integrative orientation to language attitudes are not necessarily opposite and alternatives, rather complementary to each other. A person may be motivated in different strengths by both orientations (Baker, 1992).

2.0 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEMS.

Uttar Dinajpur is the lowest ranking district in the state in achieving literacy rate and highest ranking state in dropout. The greatest challenge in achieving RTE in the district is to reduce its 34.75% dropout rate in primary education(Cohort Study, 2005) as well as enroll 13,477 out of school eligible children in the age group between 6 to 9years (HHS2010) and 16,140 out of school children in the age group between 10 to 14 years (HHS, 2010) . The major objective of this paper is to shed some light on the issues of a specific case study on the district of Uttar Dinajpur. There are some general perceptions regarding the causes of dropout while policy prescription requires some area specific target doctrine. The socio-economic factors often remain a non-quantifiable entity and exercise of econometrics fails to capture the impact of those invisible issues. But unless those problems remains identified the target of

RTE would remain a delusion. English and the chances of success in foreign language policy and medium of instruction policy implementation depend to a large extent on the favorable attitudes towards English language. But an extensive literature survey suggests that the attitude towards English of the relevance to discover the attitudes of the target population towards English, Bengali, & Surjapuri language. I intend within my limited scope of analysis to provide some insight in those issues.

3.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY.

1. The findings of different attitude studies state that attitudes vary from favorably to unfavorably or vice-versa in language learning and acquisition, choice and use of language in different domains and thus, surveys of attitudes provide social indicators of changing beliefs about language and the chances of success in language policy implementation.
2. This study investigates the attitudes towards mother-tongue instruction.
3. Our choices of language mark our identity as individuals and make us part of our communities and the world we live in
4. Our language reflect our culture and lifestyle, it makes us known as the outback/laidback people. Attitude has been studied from various perspectives with reference to a number of languages in a variety of settings such as attitude towards mother tongue; attitude towards a second or foreign language; attitude towards national language; attitude towards varieties of languages; attitude towards language in education policy; relationship between attitudes and motivation; the relationship between attitudes and learning strategies.

4.0 REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE.

In the case of the study in India different angle of measurement has been done in this particular field. Attitudes towards English & Punjabi language learning in Faisalabad (e.g. Aatika, Rabia, 2011); attitude towards a second or foreign language (e.g. Lai, 2005); A Study of the Attitude of the Bengali Medium student Towards language (e.g. Sur, Shyamasree, 2013); High school students Attitude towards learning English language (e.g. Gajalakshmi, 2013); Students' Attitudes towards English: The Case of Life Science School of Khulna University (e.g. Abdullah al Mamun 2012); Attitude towards mother tongue (e.g. Tuwakham, 2005); Attitude towards different languages (e.g. Balcazar, 2003);

In the above Research finding collected information and gather that was a source of knowledge to improved researcher path. Attitude towards the language and motivation in the context of social and economic condition in Uttar Dinajpur district is very common. Our attitudes are shaped or reshaped in a society and in society each and every language has its own status and due to change of status attitudes change (Mian, 1998). In the particular district researcher observed various kind of local language. Mother language influences their motivation towards various kind of aspect in life.

5.0 OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF THE STUDY.

Integrative Orientation-An integrative orientation simply means the learner is pursuing a second language for social or cultural purposes, and within that purpose a learner could be driven by a high level of motivation or a low level.

Language Attitude- Language Attitude are opinions, ideas and prejudices that speakers have with respect to a language.

6.0 METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY.

The study is qualitative types collective case study method of research. In this type of Research Design very useful to collect data by through a questionnaires survey. The questionnaire survey method was preferred because (i) this method is suitable for easy to measurable without bias. (ii) the pupils behavioral aspect in such findings is not varied the whole population. (iii) In the scope of time to conduct an experimental research is not possible other than questionnaires. (iv) This type of study estimated too low cost. This is the factor that influences to conduct questionnaires survey to stapes forward. 1.2 million people are possess in this total population in Uttar Dinajpur district. But in the vast population researcher collect only 100 sample from random sampling method. Data collection from various kind of discipline like Gender, Cast, Religion, Classes, Inhabitant, Age group etc. In the gathered data computed in simple calculator and SPSS ver 16 also tabulated in a data sheet.

7.0 ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA.

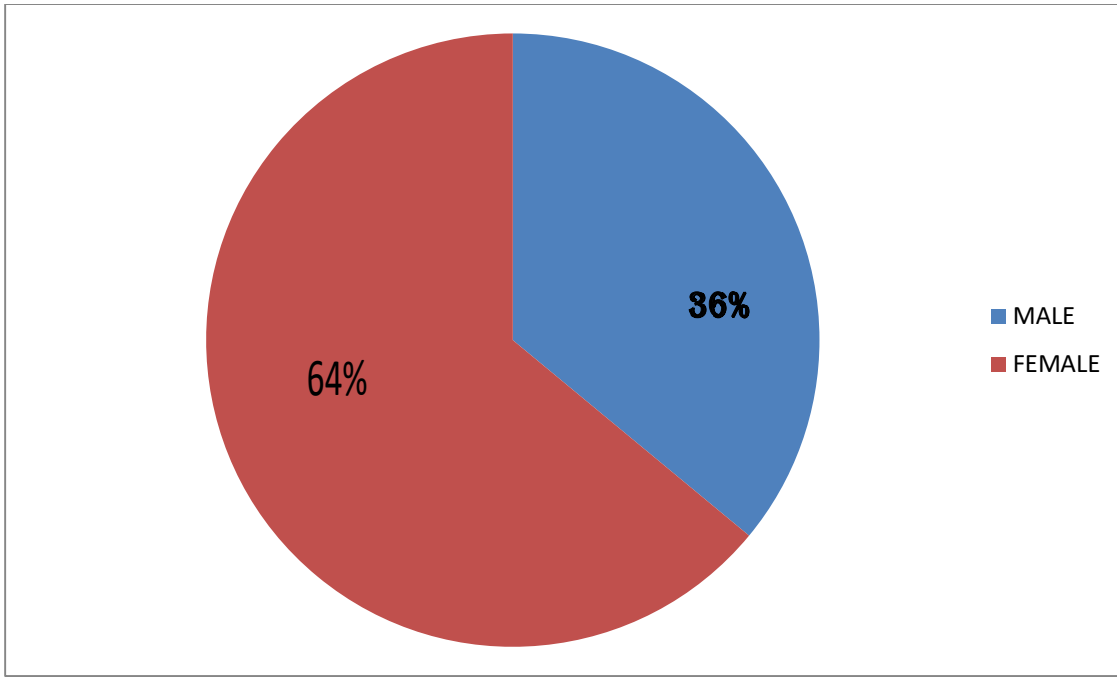


Figure. 1. Distribution of respondents on the basis of gender.

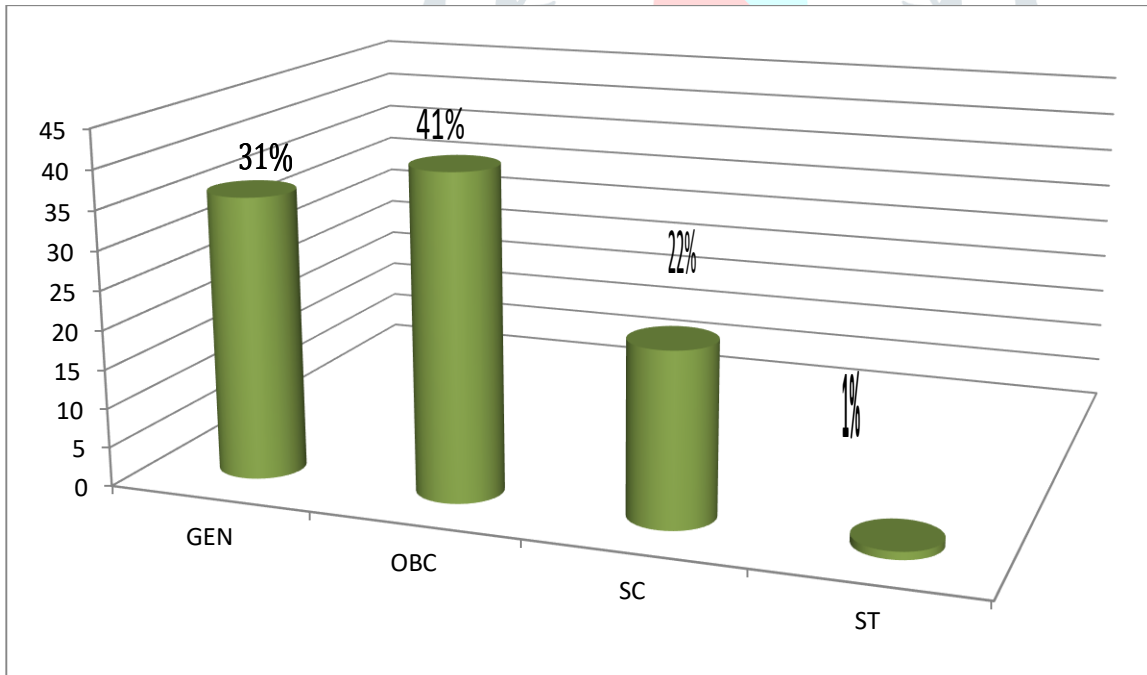


Figure. 2. Distribution of respondents on the basis of cast.

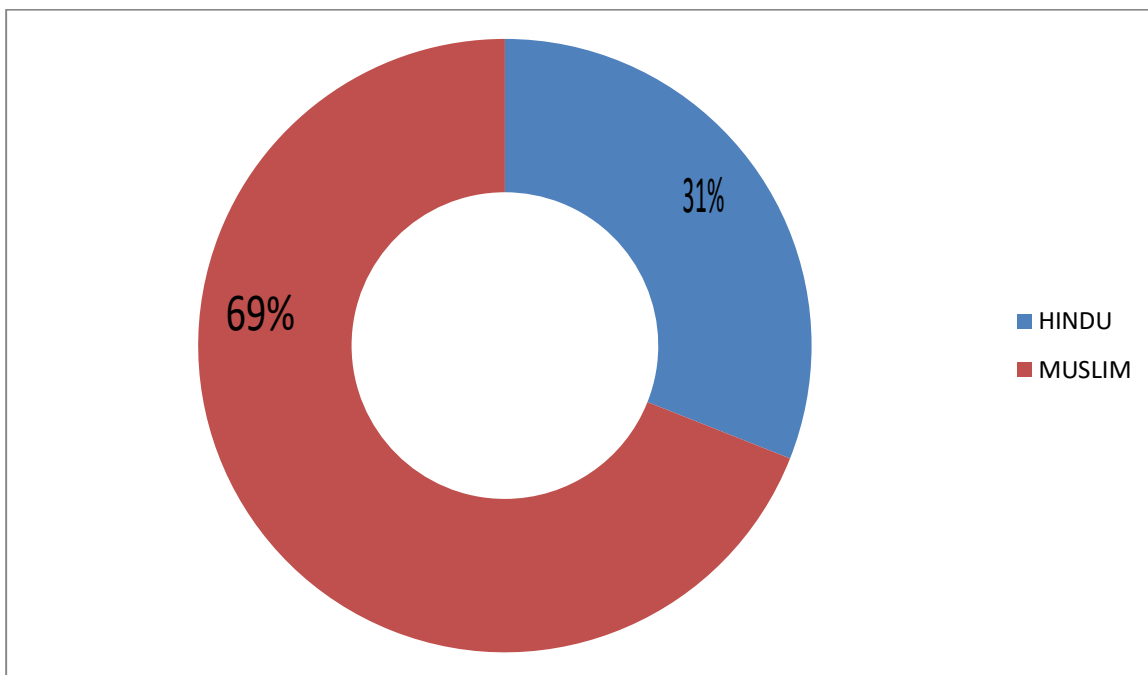


Figure. 3. Distribution of respondents on the basis of Religion.

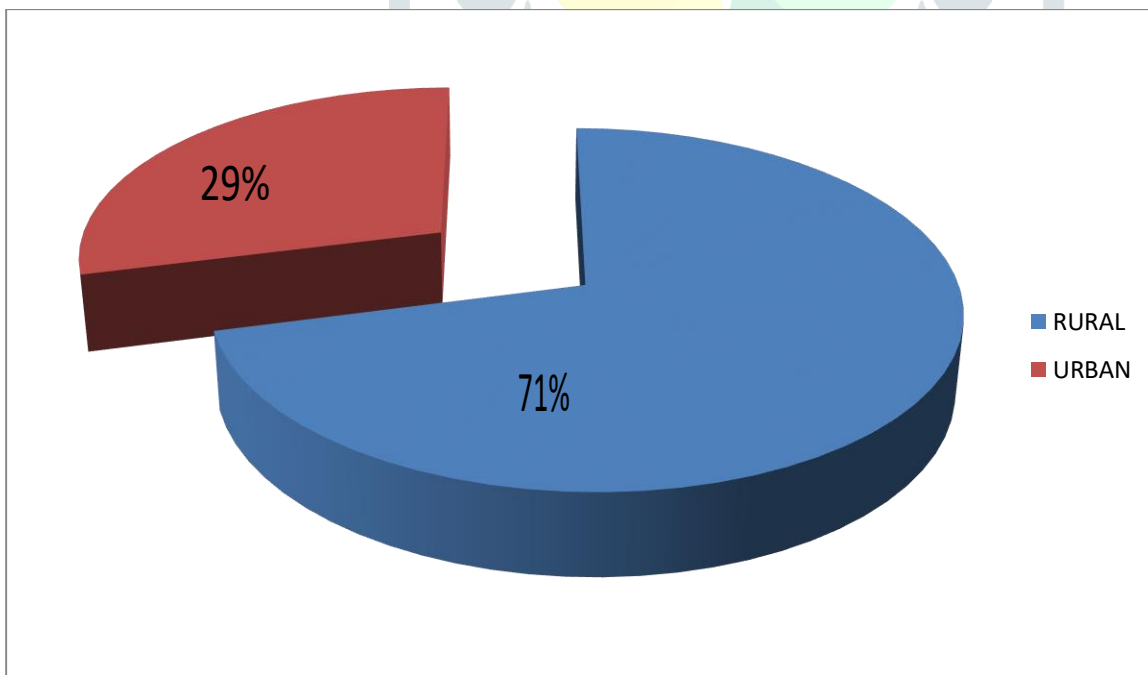


Figure .4. . Distribution of respondents on the basis of inhabitant.

Table 1. I like to speak fluently in...

Language	Respondents Percentage(%)
Bengali	88
English	4
Surjapuri	4
others	4

Table no 1 indicates that students wish to speak in Bengali fluently. This result indicates the every student want to get perfection in Bengali language whereas, the other language like English, surjapuri is too little attitude of the student because those language is not a prestigious language like Bengali.

Table 2. Important language for me in globalisation...

Language	Respondents Percentage(%)
Bengali	57
English	39
Surjapuri	2
others	2

Table no 2 depicts most important finding in this research that 57% student realize Bengali has the power in globalization. English language has own identity in the respective section. But little away from the positioning of the crown.

Table 3. Which language speaking advantage to you....

Language	Respondents Percentage(%)
Bengali	78
English	7
Surjapuri	12
others	3

Table no 3 show only mother language has high attitude for speaking advantage rates of 78%. English, surjapuri are 7% and 12% respectively.

Table 4. Which language offer advantage in seeking good job...

Language	Respondents Percentage(%)
Bengali	31
English	49
Surjapuri	3
others	17

Table no 4 represent high attitude towards English language in the context of the job opportunity. In the other hand Bengali , surjapuri is little scope for job. Students meant that English language has super power for seeking job .

Table 5. I would like read more newspapers and magazines in ..

Language	Respondents Percentage(%)
Bengali	85
English	9
Surjapuri	0
others	6

Table no 5 Another data shows the result in favors of Bengali language attitude. Overall 85% of total population like to read newspaper, magazines in their mother language . Only 9% in the students like to read in English newspaper. But no one can represent in surjapuri language in favor of reading newspaper.

Table 6. All official Document should be in.

Language	Respondents Percentage(%)
Bengali	62
English	33
Surjapuri	1
others	4

The respondents showed their positive attitude towards English language in office domain as well which is shown in table 6 below. Like media domain, the respondents opined that all official documents should be both in Bengali and English , i.e. English and Bangla should go hand in hand in official use. Such a pattern of choice for Bengali indicates a positive attitude of the respondents towards Bengali language.

Table 7. I wish to learn...

Language	Respondents Percentage(%)
Bengali	21
English	69
Surjapuri	3
others	7

Table 7 shows that almost 69% students want to learn English whereas only 21% students want to learn Bengali language. Such positive attitudes towards English are due to versatility and demand of English language all over which has dominated this language over all languages.

Table 8. Which language helps you in making new friends-

Language	Respondents Percentage(%)
Bengali	52
English	29
Surjapuri	0
others	19

Table 8 show the result in mother tongue become more preferable to making of new friends. 52% students like in Bengali language for looking new friends. But the local surjapuri language has no pupils choice to making friends.

Table 9. Which culture fascinates to you-

Language	Respondents Percentage(%)
Bengali	54
English	23
Surjapuri	7
others	6

Results of table no 9 exhibits that majority of students feel attracted towards Bengali culture as compared to surjapuri and, English culture.

Table 10. Which language wish to learn to gain respect in society-

Language	Respondents Percentage(%)
Bengali	35
English	43
Surjapuri	4
others	18

Major finding in the study of language attitude shows 43% students like to English due to the respect in the society. But Bengali (35%) few stapes ahead, on the other hand surjapuri little favorable.

Table 11. Only language must be used in advertisements, public signs, map etc-

Language	Respondents Percentage(%)
Bengali	50
English	37
Surjapuri	4
Others	9

50% of the total population consist on the side of advertisement , public signs, maps, in Bengali language. Another half of the population English ,surjapuri , 37% and 4% respectively.

Table 12. Which language make your position stronger of the developed countries-

Language	Respondents Percentage(%)
Bengali	24
English	59
Surjapuri	2
others	15

These results prove that only English is consider to be a source of development and way of progress As the percentage of 59 for English, but very low like only 2% for surjapuri (Table12) which, means only 24 % students agree that Bengali is required for the progress of India.

Table 13. I worry a lot about making mistakes in-

Language	Respondents Percentage(%)
Bengali	8
English	62
Surjapuri	20
others	10

In the table no 13 told us that 62% pupils fear about making mistake in English language. As well as they don't worried about their mother tongue Bengali and surjapuri.

Table 14. I fine boring language –

Language	Respondents Percentage(%)
Bengali	9
English	14
Surjapuri	50
others	27

Pupils feel boring in surjapuri language table no 14 shows data collection report. One- half (50%) pupils cast their opinions in surjapuri language. Only 9% students in Bengali and 14% in English language, were boring task. Such reactions towards surjapuri language indicate its less social.

Table 15. I want to listen music in-

Language	Respondents Percentage(%)
Bengali	47
English	13
Surjapuri	7
others	33

Another group data shows the result in favour of mother language . In the entertainment section also got the steps in favor. Bengali language got 47%, then English 13%, surjapuri 7%. Researcher also note down that another language such as Hindi etc got 33% .

Table 16. Pronunciation fascinates me in-

Language	Respondents Percentage(%)
Bengali	47
English	35
Surjapuri	5
others	13

Results of Table17 indicates that most of students agree that Bengali accent and pronunciation fascinates them because they blindly want to follow the speech, norms, standards followed by powerful countries.

Table 17. I like medium of instruction –

Language	Respondents Percentage(%)
Bengali	68
English	14
Surjapuri	2
others	16

As far as the medium of instruction in tertiary studies is concerned, 68% of the respondents of them agreed that Bengali should be the medium of instruction in tertiary studies. While an option between English ,surjapuri and Bangla is available. This was observed while they reported with regard to the statement that if an academic text is available in English and Bangla. Finally, the majority of the respondents 68% reported that they need Bengali in order to succeed in higher education. What is apparent from table 17 is that the respondents have a positive attitude towards Bengali language as they are inclined to the increase use of Bengali language in education domain.

Table 18. I recommending compulsory subject in –

Language	Respondents Percentage(%)
Bengali	30
English	62
Surjapuri	6
others	2

Major finding in this research table no 18 demanding in becoming compulsory subject in the English language. In the educational sector in West Bengal to be note down in this recommendation of the transferred area . Collected data shows 62% student supported in English language.

Table19. I like poetry in-

Language	Respondents Percentage(%)
Bengali	68
English	17
Surjapuri	4
others	11

Table no 19 reflect in favor of the world sweetest language. Bengali poetry become highest attitude about scoring 68%, English got 17% and surjapuri only 4%.

Table 20. I like grammar and idioms in-

Language	Respondents Percentage(%)
Bengali	64
English	29
Surjapuri	2
others	5

Almost 64 % students like Bengali idioms and grammar, whereas 29% students like English idioms and grammar (Table20). Because Bengali is a compulsory subject so Bengali idioms and grammar are rarely included in exam whereas English language is considered to be incomplete.

8.0. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS.

This study found it relevant to discover the attitudes towards Bengali, English and surjapuri of the target population because the implementation of the foreign language acquisition policy of India. Modern age demanding English language, for seeking good job, pupil wish to learn, it respect in society, stronger of the developed countries. Other picture that comes out in this study, major population worry a lot about mistakes in English language. As a result they recommend English a compulsory language. The result of the study shows that the respondents have positive attitudes towards Bengali language.

Our language policy is not stable, in this circumstances vast area of surjapur in Uttar Dinajpur District has been clearly Backwards in language learning situation. The Government, Educationalist and Teaching Community are interested in providing quality education, which will lead to produce more achievement.

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