



Title: Relationship between Bengali and Persian: A critical overview

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Abstract: Bengali has a very deep relationship with Persian. With the establishment of Muslim rule, Persian was the language of administration, government, and literary culture throughout India, including Bengal, from 1204 A.D. to 1837 A.D. In 1203, Ikhtiyar Uddin Muhammad bin Bakhtiyar Khalji's conquest of Nadia began the journey of Muslim rule in Bengal. Since then, wherever Muslims have settled, religious institutions like mosques, maktabs, and madrasas have been established. Basically, since the establishment of Islamic rule, the Persian language has flourished in the footsteps of Sufi dervishes, soldiers, philosophers, and poets from Persia. We have to remember that Persian was the state language of Bengal from 1204 to 1837. Many Persian words have taken place in the Bengali language. Numerous books written in Persian have been translated into Bengali. Even our national poet, Kazi Nazrul Islam, has used numerous Persian words in his literary works. Currently, these words are my own words in Bengali. In this article, I have reviewed the relationship between Persian and Bengali.

Keywords: Farsi-Bangla, Sufi-dervishes, Modern Persian, Muslim influence, interpreters, cultural influences, Dobhashi-Puthi, mutual relationship.

Introduction:

Vocabulary is the main resource for language. The vocabulary of the Bengali language is rich in many ways. All the words of foreign languages—all the words that have been integrated into the vocabulary of Bengali—are foreign words. (Biswas, 1998: 26) 'Farsi-Bangla' developed over many days of relationship development. It was in use in Bengali-speaking areas two hundred years ago. A large collection of it has also occurred in 'Dobhashi Puthi' and Muslim literature. There are fifteen types of words, such as namaz, roja, balish, nalish, behaya, and khadder, that exist in the Bengali language. Persian words have the most numbers in Bengali vocabulary. They are an integral part of the Bengali language. The role of Persian in achieving the excellence of Bengali is many. The early period of Bengali language and literature (1400–1800 A.D.) is also called 'Farsi-Bangla'. (Rahman, 2003:23)

During Turkish rule (1203–1305 A.D.), Persian words began to appear in Bengali. During the Mughal period (1576–1757 A.D.), the penetration of Persian words increased significantly. (Chattopadhyay, 1991:92) About these words, linguist Sunitkumar Chattopadhyay said that among all the foreign words found in Bengali, Persian words occupy the first place. At the beginning of the 13th century A.D., after the conquest of Bengal by the foreign Turks, the entry of Persian words into Bengal was opened. (Chattopadhyay, 1989:18)

The Persian language was established as the official language in Bengal for more than six hundred years (1203–1838 A.D.). The Persian language is used in state and social work. According to linguist Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah, the Bengali language was gradually influenced by Persian after the conquest of Bengal by Ikhtiyar

Uddin Bakhtiyar Khalji. (Shahidullah, 1998:93) Later, Bengali language and literature established a deep relationship with Persian language and literature.

Research Significance:

Persia had a long relationship with the Indian subcontinent, i.e., Bengal. Sufi dervishes from Persia came to this land and spread Islam. Persians arrived in this country due to trade. From 1204 to 1837, there was Muslim rule in this territory during the Sultanate period and the Mughal period. Due to this, Persian was the state language of this country for more than 600 years. The Bengali language has established a deep relationship with the Persian language. Numerous Persian words entered the Bengali language and enriched the Bengali language. Bengali language and literature are still related to Persian language and literature. So this article on the relationship between the Persian language and the Bengali language is very important.

Research objective:

The main objective is to highlight the relationship between Bengali and Persian words and literature. The arrival of Sufi dervishes in Bengal, Muslim rule, and the influence of Persian culture highlight the deep relationship between the Bengali language and the Persian language.

Research questions and hypotheses:

The main question of this article is: how was the relationship between Bengali and Persian established, and what are those relationships? This article reveals how the Bengali language is related to Persian and also reveals the use of numerous Persian words in Bengali. Also discussed is the deep relationship between Bengal and the Bengali language with Persia and the Persian language.

Research Methodology:

The article was about the methods of data analysis research. The data used in this study was taken from many book and library resources, including ancient literary texts and historical texts. I mostly took information from Bengali speakers and Bengali linguistics's resources.

Literature review:

Books and articles that have been written on the relationship between Persian and Bengali are very rare. This is the first article to review the relationship between Persian and Bengali.

Introduction to the Persian Language:

Persian is one of the oldest and richest traditional languages in the world. Among the hundreds of thousands of languages in the world today, Persian is the first representative of the two main ethnic groups of the human race, Aryan and Semitic. This language develops in four stages: Avesta, Old Persian, Pahlavi, and Modern Persian. Today, it is the language of more than 60 million people in countries and regions such as Persia, Iran, Afghanistan, Kurdistan, Tajikistan, and Baluchistan, but it originated in Iran. About two-thirds of the population of present-day Iran is of Aryan origin. The interaction between the indigenous and immigrant Aryans here resulted in the emergence of a new language and culture known as Persian. (Banglapedia, 6th volume, 2003: 135). After the establishment of Muslim rule in Persia, due to the influence of Islam on the Persian language, the Persians abandoned their ancient script and replaced it with the Arabic script. In the 8th century A.D., this change in script gave rise to the modern Persian language. (Sattar, 1992:101)

Prevalence of Persian in Bengal:

With the establishment of Muslim rule, the Persian language began to be used in Bengal. From 1204 A.D. to 1837 A.D., Persian was the language of the administrative, royal, and literary cultures of the whole of India, including Bengal. (Abdullah, 1983: 22). In 1203, Ikhtiyar Uddin Muhammad bin Bakhtiyar Khalji's conquest of Nadia began the journey of Muslim rule in Bengal. Since then, where Muslims have settled, religious institutions like mosques, makhtabs, and madrasas have been established. Basically, since the establishment of Islamic rule, the Persian language has developed in the footsteps of Sufi-dervishes, soldiers, philosophers, and poets from Persia. We have to remember that Persian was the state language of Bengal from 1204 to 1837 AD. Thousands of Persian books were written during this time. But according to many, Persians entered Bengal before Muslim rule. The people of Bengal first came to know the Persian language through the people who came for the purpose of trade and religion in the 8th–9th centuries. The Persian language also spread through Sufi saints in Bengal. About this, A. M. Faiz Ahmed Chowdhury said, "The influence of Persian on the Bengali language has been extensive. Persian came to Bengal long before the thirteenth century A.D., as we find that the Muslim saints and preachers such as Sultan Bayazid Bostami (died, 1047 A.D.), Mir Sayyid Sultan Mahmud Mahi-Sowar (died, 1047 A.D.), Shah Muhammad Sultan Rumi (died, 1053 A.D.). (Chowdhury, 1968:5) Just as the Bengali language was enriched by the Muslim rulers of Bengal, the Persian language was established by trampling the Sanskrit language. (Alam, 1998: 60)

Practicing Persian in Bengal:

Muhammad bin Bakhtiyar Khalji's general Maizuddin Muhammad Sam (Shehab Uddin Ghori) started the practice of Persian in Bengal by establishing a madrasa in Rangpur. (Faridi, 1986: 26). Abul Qasem says in Tarikh-e-Firishta:

و سر حد بنگالہ در عوض شہرند یا شہری موسم بہ رنگ پور فناء کردہ دار الحکومت خود ساختہ و مساجد و خانقاہ ، و مدارس در ان شہر و ولایت برسم اسلام برونق و رواج تمام مزین و محلی گردانید

(۲۲ : ۱۹۵۹ ، ستار)

That is to say, it is believed that the journey of learning Persian in this region started there, and since then, Persian has started to be appreciated by the learned and educated people.

He was a Muslim ruler in India who played an essential role in the development of the Persian language during the reign of Ali Mardan Khalji. The first Persian book written in Bengal is "Bahalul Hayat." A new chapter of Persian began in Bengal during the reign of Mughal Shahzada Mirza Shah Suja. During his period, many poets and writers came to Bengal from Persia. Shah Shuja himself used to write Persian poetry. Poet Alaol, one of the most talented poets in Bengali literature, was his poet laureate. Moreover, under his patronage, he translated Nizami Ganjvi's "Sikandarnama" and "Haptapaykar" into Bengali.

The defeat of Nawab Sirajuddaula in the Battle of Palashi brought an end to Muslim rule in Bengal, and company rule prevailed in Bengal. Bengali was the official and administrative language of the company because of the antipathy of the leaders of the company to Persian. From the beginning, the Persian language fell into the hands of the ruling group. As a result, the state is deprived of the opportunity to develop the Persian language.

In the 18th century, a significant role was played in the development of Persian practice in Bengal. Again, the first Persian dictionary was written in Bengal in the 18th century. Moreover, the author of the East India Company wrote "A Grammar of the Persian Language" with his classmate William Jones. In 1780, Hastings built the Calcutta Madrasa at his own expense and conducted Persian education there.

In 1830, the English language was declared compulsory, and Persian and literature were expelled from the activities in Bengal. In general, I did not patronize the Persian language for more than 25 years. Their aim was to create only the required number of Farsi-knowing manpower for the company. Basically, they used Persian to run the administration and communicate with the local people. In 1843, the company declared Persian as the language of religious and cultural heritage. And before that, through the decree of November 20, 1837, Persian was abolished as the official language in India on December 1 and replaced by English. (Sarkar, 2015: 26–29)

Number of Farsi words in Bengali language:

Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah, in his book 'Bangala Bashar Itibritto', claimed for the first time that Bengali has the most Persian words. It was published by the Bangla Academy in 1965. In the 'Foreign Influence' section of the book, he wrote, "During the reign of Emperor Akbar, the country of Bengal came under the Mughal Empire. At this time, the language of the royal government was Persian. This Persian influence lasted until the time of Lord William Bentinck. This long 600 years of Muslim influence have resulted in the introduction of more than two thousand Persian words into the Bengali language, Arabic, and some Turkish words through Persian." That is, more than two thousand Persian words have been assimilated into the Bengali language. These linguists said:

But another linguist, Dr. Muhammad Enamul Haque, believed that the number of Persian words in the Bengali language was almost twice that of Shahidullah. The latest publication by the Bangla Academy, 'Dictionary of Arabic Persian Urdu Words Used in Bengali Language' includes about four and a half thousand Persian words. Some have suggested the use of 10,000 Arabic-Persian words in Bengali. (Siddiqi and Hossain, 1997: 47)

By studying the dictionary titled 'Perso-Arabic Elements in Bengali' by Ghulam Maqsood Hilali (1900 AD–1961), one can understand the Persian-Bengali interaction and the enrichment of the Bengali language from Persian. This dictionary shows the usage and meaning of 5,186 Persian and Arabic words that are used in Bengali. (Billah, 1402: 171). During Muslim rule, both Hindus and Muslims practiced Persian. As a result, about 2,500 Persian and Persian-accented Arabic words entered Bengali. (Shahidullah, 2010: 15)

According to linguists, Bengali was under Muslim rule for a long time, and at the same time, Persian words were adopted in official and literary works. A large number of words from the language entered Bengali. Because words from different languages have been added to Bengali at various times, it is called 'Mixed Language'. However, among these foreign words, the word of the language that has entered Bengali is 'Persian'. As a result, the relationship between Persian and Bengali became stronger. (Sarkar, 2015: 30)

Use of Persian in Bengali literature:

Due to the rich heritage of Persian literature, there is no dearth of interest among Bengali-speaking literary readers. Different types of songs, including Bengali poetry, Murshidi, Zari, and Baul songs, are written following the thoughts and feelings of the famous Persian poets Hafiz, Rumi, Attar, Saadi, Khayyam, Ferdowsi, Sanayi, etc., and the flow of Persian words flows. (Government, 2015:28) 125 Persian words are found in 18,000 lines in Vijayagupta's Padma Puran and Manasamangal, written in the fifteenth century. In the first half of the 16th century, there was evidence of its increase. Many Persian words are found in the 17 thousand lines of Manik Ganguly's Dharmamangal. In Mukundaram's Chandimangal poem, written in the last half of this century, two hundred Persian words can be found in 20,000 verses. (Swapan, 1995: 41) In the next century, Syed Sultan (1550–1648) titled his poetry in Persian as "Shabemeraj Name." (Haq, 1965: 142) A poetic genre called Arabic-Persian eloquent interpreters arose from Muslim poets. Two great poets in this regard are Shah Garibullah (seventeenth century) and Syed Hamza. (eighteenth century). (Shahidullah, 1967:1) Kazi Nazrul Islam (1899 AD–1976 A.D.) emerged with immense talent at the beginning of the 20th century. He translated the famous Persian poet Hafiz Shirazi's "Rubaiyate Hafiz" into Bengali. Numerous uses of Persian words are found in Nazrul's literature. This poet had a deep connection with the Persian language. Also, numerous poets translated Persian literary works into Bengali and used numerous Persian words in their own literature. Farsi words are used prominently by the interpreters. Gholam Saqlayen's opinion is mentioned in this regard. He wrote in Faqir Gharibullah's Pusthika, "The use of Arabic-Persian words in poetry was based on the need to create an Islamic religious atmosphere or to clarify religious content." (Saklayen, 1368:10)

The most common Persian words in Bengali are:

As a result of the long Muslim rule, many Persian words related to revenue, administration, royal greetings, war, trade, land, and religion entered the Bengali language through religious, political, and cultural influences. Here are some examples of Persian words used in the Bengali language.

1. Religious words - Namaj (نماز), Roja (روزه), Behesht (بهشت), Dojok (دوزخ), Khoda (خدا), Poigambar (پیغمبر), Fereshate (فرشته), Pir (پیر), Shabe barat (شب برات), Shabe kadar (شب قدر), Dargah (درگاه), Khanqah (خانقاه), Gunah (گناه), Parhezgar (برحز غار), Zaynamaz (جای نامز) etc.
2. Words related to education and literature - Kagaj (کاغذ), duat (دوات), ghazal (غزل), Nakal (نقل), adab (ادب), madrasa (مدرسه), Tarjoma (ترجمه) etc.
3. Words related to law and court- Nalish (نالش), Aiin (آیین), Moqaddama (مقدمه), Hakim (حاکم), Daroga (داروغه), Faisalaha (فیصله), Qasur (قصور), Ray (رای) etc.
4. Words related to kingdoms and war- Badshah (بادشاه), Bahadur (بہادور), Kaman (کمان), jakham (زخم), thir (تیر), Nawab (نواب) etc.
5. Administrative and cultural terms - Karkhana (کارخانه), Jaban bandi (زبان بندی), Tarikh (تاریخ), Daftar (دفتر), Darbar (دربار) etc.
6. Civilization words - atar (عطر), aina (عینہ), jama (جامہ), Sheloar (شلوار), Lebas (لباس), surma (سورما) etc.
7. Caste and trade related words- Karigar (کاریگر), Hindu (ہندو), Chakar (چاکر), Ojon (وزن), Armani (ارمنی), Dokandar (دکاندار) etc.
8. Words related to body parts and food - pa (پا), Sina (سینہ), dil (دل), Komar (کمر), Sabji (سبزی), halwa (حلوا), kabab (کباب), Cha (چای), Angur (انگور) etc.
9. Regarding family and relatives:
Baba (بابا), ma (ما), dada (دادا), khala (خالہ), Bacca (بچہ), iyar (یار) etc.
10. Nominative:
Dil Afroja (دل افروز), Dilruba (دلربا), Dilara (دلارا), Nurjahan (نورجہان), Fatema (فاطمہ), jahara (زہرا), Jinat Ara (زینت آرا), iftekhar (افتخار), Alamgir (عالمگیر), jahangir (جہانگیر), jamshid (جمشید), Sohrab (سہراب), Rostam (رستم), Mahdu (مہدی), Jahan Ara (جہان آرا), Andalib (اندلیب) etc.
11. Regarding animal names:
Khargosh (خرگوش), Kabutar (کبوتر), Bulbul (بلبل), Thutha (طوطا), Baj (باز), Haiwan (حیوان), Januyar (جانوار) etc.
12. Location Matters:
Hamam khana (حمام خانہ), Gosholkhana (غسل خانہ), Khayedkhana (قیدخانہ), Hujrakhana (حجرہ خانہ), Sharaikhana (شرای خانہ), Mosafarkhana (مسافر خانہ), Yathimkhana (یتیم خانہ), Karkhana (کارخانہ), Balakhana (بالاخانہ), Bajar (بازار), Darbarkhana (دربارخانہ), Topkhana (تب خانہ), Asman (آسمان), Jamin (زمین) etc.
13. Regarding geographic location:
Gulistan (گلستان), Nowabpur (نواب پور), Philkhana (پیل خانہ), Rajshahi (راجشاہی), Rangpur (رنگ پور) etc.
14. Words used in daily life - Kam (کم), Khabar (خبر), Afsos (افسوس), Morda (مردہ), Baba (بابا), Asman (آسمان), Barf (برف), Doniya (دنیا), Dosth (دوست), Doshman (دشمن), Jamin (زمین), Sobuj (سبوز), Saban (سابون), Garm (گرم), Balish (بالش), Bajar (بازار), Qaida (قائدہ), Aql (عقل), Joan (جوان), Hishab (حساب), Hawa (ہوا), Hajar (ہزار), Baki (باقی), bad (بد) etc.

Correlation between Bengali grammar and Persian grammar:

A correlation is observed between Bengali grammar and Persian grammar. Nar, Paira, Marda or Madda Kukur, Madi Goda, etc. The gender indication of words in the form is a result of Persian influence. Although in Persian these gender words come after the root word to indicate the gender of the root word, in Bengali they are used before the root word. Morag means bird in Persian. By adding the feminine suffix 'ee' to this, the word 'murgi' is formed in Bengali. In Bengali, Morag means male Morag, and Murgi means female Morag. But there is no word 'Murgi' in Persian.

With the suffix 'i': Irani, Deshi, Bilati, Bangali, etc.

In the suffix 'kar': Jadukar, Dunkar, Kalaikar, etc.

In the suffix 'khor': Afimkhor, Gajakhor, Chashmkhor, Haramkhor, etc.

With the suffix 'giri': Keranigiri, Babugiri, Bandigiri, Baburchigiri, Darjigiri, etc.

Conclusion:

We notice the bright presence of Persian words in various fields of our lives. The influence of Farsi is not only on the words of the Bengali language. Bengali Muslim poets of the Middle Ages (1200–1800 AD) wrote human love poems in Bengali under the influence of Persian poetry. Syed Ismail Hossain Shirazi (1880-1931 AD), Yakub Ali Chowdhury (1888-1940 AD), Shahadat Hossain (1893-1953 AD), Kazi Nazrul Islam (1899-1976

AD), Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah (1885-1969 AD), Qazi Mazhar Hossain, Ghulam Mostafa (1897-1964 AD), Farrukh Ahmad (1918-1974 AD), Akhtarul Alam, Syed Ali Ashraf (1924-1998 AD), Syed Ali Ahsan (1922-2002 AD), Mohammad Barkatullah (1898-1974 AD), Muhammad Enamul Haque (1906-1982 AD), Jasimuddin (1903-1976 AD) and many others wrote many important literatures for the development of Bengali literature, in which the richness of using Persian vocabulary is evident. Persian and Bengali are the result of mutual relationships.

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