

The Language Movement of 1952

The foundation of Bengali nationalism is the Bayannar language movement. The importance of the language movement behind the establishment of an independent Bangladesh is undeniable. It was through the language movement that the democratic movement of the then East Bengal was consolidated and progressed. It was the spirit of the language movement that later instilled a new spirit among the people in the great freedom struggle of 1971 and through this gradually Bengali nationalism developed. This movement increased the social, political, cultural, and economic aspirations of the Bengali people thousands of times. Therefore, the language movement of '52 was the first manifestation of the public consciousness of Bangladesh and the Bengali nation and a strong step in the independence movement. The language movement played an important role in the development of independent Bangladesh. After ending the misrule and misrule of the British for almost two hundred years, on 14 August 1947, two independent states named Pakistan and India emerged in the Indian subcontinent based on the two-nation theory. Pakistan was formed with a Muslim majority region and India with a Hindu majority region, but Bangladesh was included in Pakistan for religious reasons only. However, Bangladesh had no ideological link with Pakistan. The main reason can be said to be a linguistic conflict between the two regions. The people of Bengal have never been able to feel unity with the Fundamental Ideology of Pakistan due to linguistic conflict. Apart from this, discriminatory policies are imposed on the people of East Bengal by Pakistan. Mainly for these reasons, the need for a language movement was felt immediately after the establishment of Pakistan, and in September 1947, the language movement started in East Bengal through a social and cultural organization called 'Tamuddun Majlis'. Tamuddun Majlis was led by Abul Kashem, a young professor at Dhaka University at that time. The influence of that language movement can be seen at every step of the long political history of Bengal. The fruitful result of this is today's independent sovereign Bangladesh. Every piece of history can be witnessed. The fruitful result of this is today's independent sovereign Bangladesh. Every piece of history can be witnessed. The fruitful result of this is today's independent sovereign Bangladesh.

Context of Language Movement: There is a historical context behind the Bengali language movement. Even though Bengali is the mother tongue of the majority of people in Pakistan, an attempt was made to impose Urdu as the state language in East Bengal in a completely undemocratic manner. Given this, on September 2, 1947, some teachers and students of Dhaka University started a massive movement to establish Bengali as the state language through the formation of 'Tamuddun Majlis', and the final success of that movement came on February twenty-one. After the partition of the country in 1947, Bengali history-tradition and language-culture were about to be lost. The Pakistani rulers showed utter contempt for the Bengali language and Bengali culture and on that day bound the Bengali nation in the chains of subjugation. Its consequences were dire. The Pakistani neo-colonialist regime continued the stream roller of torture of the innocent people of the country since its inception. Their first invention was how to steal the spoken language of the people of Bengal. As a part of this, they decided to destroy the Bengali language and culture and drew a blueprint to impose Pakistani culture on Bengalis. The then head of state of Pakistan Muhammad Ali Jinnah came to Dhaka and announced in a rally; 'Urdu & Urdu shall be the state language of Pakistan'. But the students and youth of this country strongly protested his bold announcement by shouting No, No, It can't be in that assembly. The Pakistani government tried to suppress all protests with brute force. The people of this country embarked on an uncompromising struggle against their discriminatory policies. Not only have the expensive boys of Bengal, but People from all walks of life have taken a thunderous oath to protect the dignity of the mother tongue. Historical language movement spread everywhere in Bengal. Bengali people from all walks of life including students and youth came to the forefront of this movement. The movement was conducted in three stages in East Bengal.

First Phase: An educational conference was held at the central level in November 1947 in Karachi. The conference decided to make Urdu the sole state language of Pakistan. As a result, protests started in East Pakistan against this decision. Against this decision in January 1948, the first National Language Struggle Parishad was formed in Dhaka and the policy of peaceful movement was adopted to meet the demands. The demand of Sangram Parishad was-

1. Bengali language will be the only vehicle of education in East Bengal and the main medium of office and court.
2. Bengali and Urdu will be the national languages of all Pakistan. The movement was conducted based on this decision.

Second stage: In the first session of the Pakistan Constituent Assembly on 23 February 1948, Congress party members, especially Dhirendranath Dutt, a member from Comilla, demanded the use of Bengali language in addition to Urdu and English. But Pakistan's Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan opposed this claim. As a result, the poisonous fumes of extreme dissatisfaction spread among the students and intellectuals in Dhaka. Then on February 26, strikes were observed everywhere. The Sangram Parishad thus continued the nationwide agitation by observing strikes and hartals till March 15. At one stage, the agitation was temporarily calmed when the then Chief Minister Khawaja Nazimuddin assured to accept the demand of Bengali language. But on March 1, 1948, Muhammad Ali Jinnah again announced in a public meeting at the Race Course Maidan and a conference at the Curzon Hall, 'Urdu will be the only state language of Pakistan'. After this announcement, the movement was re-energized, and a storm of violent protests swept across the country.

Final Stage: The language movement reached its final stage in 1950 and 1952. In 1950, the Prime Minister of Pakistan Liaquat Ali Khan announced again, 'Urdu will be the only state language of Pakistan.' At this Bengali became furious and vowed to intensify the movement. On 26 January 1952, Khwaja Nazimuddin repeated the same declaration. As a result students, teachers, There was great anger and frustration among people of all classes, including intellectuals. The pace of the movement gradually became more and more intense. As part of this movement, an all-out strike was observed on the streets of Dhaka on January 30 and public meetings were held. In order to make the movement more intense and dynamic, in the public meeting on January 30, the 'All-Union Language Struggle Committee' was formed. In the meeting of the formed committee, the decision was taken to observe 21st February as language day and observe nationwide strike. In order to thwart the strike program of 21 February, then Governor Nurul Amin government issued Section 144 in Dhaka. Students held a secret meeting at Amtala of Dhaka University on the night of February 20 to give a toothless response to this evil action of the government. Article 144 will be violated at any cost. According to the pre-decided, a protest rally was called on February 21 in the university premises. At the end of the rally, the procession came out. On that day, the protesting voice of the student community echoed the demand of independence. The streets of Dhaka gradually became turbulent. At that time, the session of the Provincial Council was going on in Dhaka. The march demanding language marched towards the provincial building. A lot of police were deployed in Dhaka that day. Police fired indiscriminately to disperse the procession. Salam, Barkat, Rafiq, Jabbar fell down one by one in the streets due to police firing. Safiur and other youths. The dark streets of Dhaka are stained with fresh blood from the chest. A unique history is written with the ink washed away by the blood of the people of Bengal. Finally, the Pakistani government was forced to capitulate in the face of intense protests. A proposal to temporarily make Bengali one of the national languages was presented to the Provincial Council. The proposal was unanimously accepted. Then constitutionally in 1956 Bengali was given status as the state language in article 214 of the constitution. The final victory of the Bengali nation was achieved through the establishment of the mother tongue Bengali.

Importance and significance of language movement

The importance and significance of the language movement in the development of Bengali nationalism is immense the importance and significance of the language movement are discussed below.

1. **Development of Bengali nationalism:** The unity of Bengali nationalism was adopted very strongly in the language movement. The language movement proves that the Bengalis are not ethnic barriers. The language movement can therefore be said to be one of the elements of the development of Bengali nationalism.
2. **Rights Awareness:** Bengalis learn to be aware of their rights through language movement. Through this, the Bengali nation learned about the resistance movement against unjust oppression and tyranny.
3. **Solidarity and Unity:** The language movement gave birth to a sense of solidarity and unity in the national life of Bengalis. Not only the students but also the peasant labor intellectuals joined the ranks and rose against Pakistan.
4. **Communal Harmony:** Hindu-Muslim communal harmony and amity increased in East Bengal through language movement. They learn to be secular.
5. **Participation of the middle class in politics:** It was through the language movement that the dominant part of the middle class of East Bengal began to participate in politics and the middle class came to the center of politics.
6. **Installation of Shaheed Minars:** As a result of the language movement, numerous Shaheed Minars were erected in towns and villages and every year February 21 is celebrated as Shaheed Day.
7. **Inspiration for Independence:** The seeds of the creation of an independent Bangladesh lay in the language movement Inspired by this movement, Bengalis got the inspiration for the liberation war in 1971 and gained independence.
8. **Increase in the status of the Bengali language:** As a result of the language movement, the status of the Bengali language increased. The Bengali language was upheld in the 1962 constitution, as a result of which the status of the Bengali language increased.

Language movement is the foundation of Bengali nationalism: The language movement plays a strong role in Bengali public consciousness and independence movement. A movement for a language and establishing it through giving life is a rare instance in the history of the world. No other country in the world has a history of struggle and blood sacrifice for the people's language. Hence the language movement unleashed a new national consciousness among the people of Bengal and established the foundation of Bengali nationalism. It was this movement that gradually inspired the Bengali nation in the spirit of the great liberation war of 1971. The democratic movement that the Bengali nation initiated through the language movement brought blessings for the subsequent movements. The historic victory of the United Front in 1954, the education movement of 1962, the 6 points of 1966, the popular uprising of 1969, the language movement of 1952 provided special impetus for the elections of 1970 and the great liberation war of 1971. So it cannot be denied that the language movement gradually paved the way for freedom through all subsequent political movements. So it goes without saying that the language movement is the foundation and spirit of Bengali nationalism and the successful inspiration of the great liberation war of 1971.