

Assignment 2

Linguistics II - Language Typology & Universals

20171047

A

The Source Text - Composed by Aditya Yadavalli

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~~My~~ My 1st day in 3-1

I ~~packed~~ my ~~luggage~~ The night before, I packed up my luggage at home after a long chat with my roommate. He assured me that everything in DBH is fine and set up everything for me. I was a sad that I had to leave my current hostel Bakul cause I got so used to it.

My plan was to come early morning before the classes started to shift and ~~unpack~~ unpack my luggage. and so I did. I came ~~and~~ to the campus in ~~near~~ and went straight to the store room in search of my things. ~~To my surprise~~ As I expected, I lost a few of my belongings - it looks like someone else took them.

After shifting right the luggage right till the room allotted to me, I see that it is locked. I called my roommate hoping that he would unlock it from the inside. To my surprise, he didn't lock the room, infact he never shifted his luggage to our room. He wanted to shift in early morning - just like I ~~would~~ too. After that call, Since I was ~~getting~~ already late to my first class I left all ^{my} luggage outside my room and left for the class.

CS CamScanner

The translated Text - By myself

Notation: IPA

Translation.
ager rate, amar rummeter fāte kōtā bōlar
por, ami malpōtro gōtāje fellam se amake
dānāc dze OBHe sōbki t̃h̃u amam dōnono
tōiri āt̃e. ami bokul nibāse sōkī t̃h̃ilam
ebong t̃h̃ātrabāf t̃h̃ārar bepare k̃ub
ōkūfi hoi ami porikōlpona mōtābik sōkal
sōkal OBH pōt̃h̃oi ebong malpōtro gōt̃h̃āte
uddōto hoi. ami sōdā malpōtro rakār
gōre dāi nid̃er d̃zinis̃p̃t̃r̃er s̃nd̃āne
dā b̃ēbet̃h̃ilam t̃ik t̃āi - k̃it̃h̃u
d̃zinis̃ ar pāowa gelo na : mone hō
d̃zeno keu nije gē t̃h̃ē. er por ami
māl nije gōre pōt̃h̃ē de k̃ī, dze
t̃āte t̃ālo mārā. rummet ke p̃on
korlam, dānā gelo dze se amar
mōtōi sōkal e se malpōtro neowar
porikōlpona kōret̃h̃ilo - sō b̃āb̃ik̃bāber
t̃ābi t̃ā k̃ā t̃h̃ē nei.
klāfer d̃zōne d̃erī kōt̃h̃t̃h̃ilo. ami
sōb d̃zinis̃ gōrer bāire rek̃ē
klāfer udd̃ese t̃h̃ū t̃lam.

For exercise-1, I translated the text into Bengali which happens to be my mother tongue. Bengali is an Indo-Aryan Language which is a subtree of the Indo-European Language family. It follows the SOV (Subject Object Verb) word order. It is analytic. It supports inflections and has postpositions. Bengali is not morphologically as rich as the Dravidian languages, but we see interesting word formations through 'sandhi'.

Some of the words I used while in class for the translation task are not extremely common in day-to-day Bengali speech. For example, the word 'chhatrabash' for hostel is usually replaced by its English counterpart, thereby giving code-mixing the edge as opposed to use of a pure language. Some words, such as roommate in English is used as-it-is in Bengali. We see a great deal of borrowing & borrowed words in day-to-day Bengali speech. Nativisation in 'school' → 'iskul' and "station" → 'isteshun' is also common in rural Bengal and in the works of Rabindranath Tagore.

Expressions in the text such as 'I see that it is locked' translating to 'pouchhe dekhi je tate tala mara' shows the concept of untranslatable words for the language pair (Bengali, English). Bengali does not have one word for locked and we use 'tala [lock] mara [put]' to show that something was locked by the explicit use of some kind of locking mechanism. Bengali supports pro-drop, that is the dropping of a pronoun where the intended referent is apparent and this can be seen in the translated text as well.

Concepts in the text like 'left for the class' has the Bengali counterpart of 'klaser [class] uddeshe [as destination] chhutlam [went fast]'. This conveys the similarity between word units in the languages while showing the altered clause structures.

Both English and Bengali belong to the Indo-European language family. But the word-order varies [English is SVO primarily]. Bengali is an official language of India. As a native of Kolkata, I speak the Kolkata-dialect of Bengali which is unintelligibly different from the versions spoken in Bangladesh. Bengali has its own script, the modern script coming from the contribution of various scholars including Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar. The language has 35 consonant, and 5 vowel phonemes. In spoken bengali, there seems to be a stress on the first syllable.

Similar to English, bengali has 3 genders: male, female and neuter. Although, as an important distinctions, Bengali pronouns do not have gender distinction. Unlike 'he' for male and 'she' for female in English, Bengali has 'shey' as a pronoun which can refer to both female and male based on the context. Bengali has a set of retroflex sounds: the retroflex 'ra' and the retroflex 'na' sound are both present in Bengali.

We see a great deal of morphological and word reduplications as well. Adjectives such as 'norom-norom' meaning soft & 'gorom-gorom' meaning warm are used to convey the idea while adding to the intensity of the thought being conveyed. Similar examples for verbs would include 'ja-ja' meaning go or leave quickly. Bengali has reduplicated verbal adverbs like 'jete-jete' meaning while going. Bengali has a wide array of onomatopoeia which is not unlike most other Indian languages. Terms like 'ton-ton' for pain, 'dhong-dhong' for the ringing of a bell, 'kaa-kaa' for the calling of a crow and 'bhou-bhou' for the barking of a dog are used pretty often.

Similar to Hindi, Bengali supports word formation by morphologically derived causatives. 'khao' meaning eat, 'khao-wa' meaning eating, 'khao-wa-no' meaning feeding illustrate exactly this. Expressives or a form of reduplication where iterated syllables are generally onomatopoeic is also common in Bengali. Expressions such as 'hoor-moor' meaning hurry, 'maar-dhor' meaning a beating are examples of such expressives. Bengali has echo-formations as well. 'naam-dham'

meaning name and place is a good example where the second morpheme has rigid replacer phoneme/lexeme 'dh' which is the unique replacer for Bengali.

An explicator compound verb is defined as a sequence of at least two verbs, say V1 and V2 where the first is the main or predicating verb, and the second member, although, homophonous with an independent verb in the language, does not appear in its primary lexical meaning. It only occurs in the sequence to mark the main verb for certain 'grammatical' features. In the sentence: 'nil [blue] pakhi [bird] ta ke dekhe [see] shey [pronoun: she/he] neche [dance] uthlo [got up].' - 'neche uthlo' has a different meaning than the one conveyed by the second verb namely 'uthlo'. The collective meaning is 'started dancing all of a sudden'. This is a perfect example showcasing the usage of an explicator compound verb.

The conjunctive participles or converb constructions are defined as those having non-finite verbal forms that "subjoin sentences (normally sharing the same subject) to the left of the main finite verb." For example, in 'ha-ha [onomatopoeic term] kore heshe [laugh] uthlo [got up]', 'ha-ha kore' is an example of an expressive being combined with a perfect converb to give rise to an adjectival clause.

The concept of linguistic convergence can be seen as once travels to areas in the Bengali Orissa border. The languages share a lot of common features and are more alike to each other as compared to say, the dialects of Bengali spoken in Kolkata and Sylhet.

Phonologically, Bengali has aspirated sounds and nasalisation. Nasalization is seen as a marker of respect while uttering a pronoun referring to someone who has deceased. The concept of gender agreement is not present in Bengali since the pronouns do not differentiate between genders. Bengali supports relative-correlative pronoun structures, 'jei [relative-pronoun] phol [fruit] ta [grammatical-marker] aaj [today] pelam [found] ta [correlative-pronoun] ekhon [now] khabo [eat].'

Similar to other Indian languages in north-eastern and southern India, Bengali has quotative verbs. 'Shey [pronoun] bajar [market] jabe [go] bolei bolechilo [decide & say → said], 'bolei-bolechilo' is a quotative.

Thus, we see a plethora of linguistic phenomena occurring in Bengali. The similarities and differences between Bengali and English have been sufficiently captured here. For a more granular analysis of structure, form and semantics, refer to part B.

B

Original Article:

গ্রামের নাম বীরসিংহ। তারিখ ২৬শে সেপ্টেম্বর, ১৮২০। ঠাকুরদাস বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়ের স্ত্রী ভগবতী দেবী এক পুত্রসন্তানের জন্ম দিলেন। ঠাকুরদা রামজয় তর্কভূষণ ছেলেটির নাম রাখেন ঈশ্বরচন্দ্র। ১৯৯ বৎসর অতিক্রান্ত। আজও এই নামটি অগণিত মানুষ শ্রদ্ধার সঙ্গে স্মরণ করেন। অসামান্য পাণ্ডিত্যের জন্য তিনি উত্তর-জীবনে বিদ্যাসাগর উপাধি লাভ করেন। বিদ্যাসাগর নামেই তিনি সমগ্র বিশ্বের কাছে পরিচিত। বালক ঈশ্বরচন্দ্র তীক্ষ্ণ মেধা ও অসাধারণ স্মৃতিশক্তির অধিকারী ছিলেন। খুব ছোটবেলায় বাবার সঙ্গে কলকাতা যাবার সময় বালকটি মাইল-স্টোনে খোদাই করা সংখ্যা থেকে এক বেলার মধ্যে ইংরেজির শূন্য থেকে নয় সব অঙ্ক শিখে ফেলেছিল। এই গল্প তিনি তাঁর অসম্পূর্ণ আত্মজীবনী ‘আত্মচরিত’-এ লিপিবদ্ধ করেছেন। কৃতী ছাত্র ঈশ্বরচন্দ্র সংস্কৃত, বাংলা ও ইংরেজি ভাষায় অসামান্য ব্যুৎপত্তি লাভ করেন। বিদ্যাসাগরকে আধুনিক বাংলাগদ্যের জনক বলা চলে। তিনি বাংলালিপির আধুনিকীকরণ করেন। ১৮৭৪ খ্রীস্টাব্দে তিনি রচনা ও প্রকাশ করেন ‘বর্ণপরিচয়’, যা আজও বাংলাভাষাশিক্ষার প্রথম ধাপ হিসেবে ব্যবহৃত হয়। রবীন্দ্রনাথ বলেছিলেন, “বিদ্যাসাগর বাংলাভাষার প্রথম যথার্থ শিল্পী ছিলেন”। তাঁর লেখা বইয়ের মধ্যে উল্লেখযোগ্য ‘বেতাল-পঞ্চবিংশতি’, ‘শকুন্তলা’, ‘সীতার বনবাস’, ‘ব্রাহ্মবিলাস’ ‘বাংলার ইতিহাস’ ইত্যাদি। ঈশ্বরচন্দ্র শুধু বিদ্বান ও পণ্ডিত ছিলেন তাই নয়, তিনি ছিলেন একজন হৃদয়বান মানুষ। অর্থ দিয়ে এবং অন্য নানাভাবে তিনি যে কত লোকের উপকার করতেন তা গুণে বলা যাবে না। মাইকেল মধুসূদন দত্তের বিখ্যাত কাব্যগুলি রচিত হতো না যদি বিদ্যাসাগর দুঃসময়ে তাঁর পাশে না দাঁড়াতেন। একজন সমাজ-সংস্কারক হিসেবেও বিদ্যাসাগর চিরস্মরণীয় হয়ে আছেন। তিনি বাংলার নবজাগরণের অন্যতম প্রধান ব্যক্তিত্ব। হিন্দু বিধবা-বিবাহ প্রচলন, বালবিবাহ প্রথা রদ, স্ত্রী-শিক্ষার প্রচার ও প্রসারে তিনি ছিলেন ভারতবর্ষের অগ্রণী পুরুষ। শিক্ষা-সংস্কারেও বিদ্যাসাগর ছিলেন অক্লান্ত এবং অপ্রান্ত। তিনি বাংলায় বহু স্কুল ও কলেজ প্রতিষ্ঠা করেন। অসামান্য চারিত্রিক দৃঢ়তার অধিকারী বিদ্যাসাগর শিক্ষাবিভাগের ব্রিটিশ অধিকর্তার সঙ্গে মতবিরোধ হওয়ায় সংস্কৃত কলেজের অধ্যক্ষের পদ ত্যাগ করেন। জীবনের শেষ সতের

বছর তিনি কর্মটাঁড়ে আদিবাসীদের মধ্যে জীবন কাটিয়েছিলেন। আদিবাসীদের অসুখবিসুখে হোমিওপ্যাথিক চিকিৎসা ও নানারকম সাহায্যের মাধ্যমে এই উদারমনা ব্রাহ্মণ অন্ত্যজদের একজন প্রকৃত আত্মীয় হয়ে ওঠেন। ১৮৯১ খ্রীস্টাব্দের ২৯শে জুলাই এই অলোকসাধারণ মনিষীর জীবনাবসান ঘটে। কিন্তু ভারতবাসীর হৃদয়ে বিদ্যাসাগর চিরদিন বেঁচে আছেন ও থাকবেন।

The original article speaks about Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar. Sentences from the article in sequence followed by their translations into English are provided. After each pair of ({Set of Bengali Sentences}, {Set of English Sentences}), the analysis for that set has been provided. The analysis looks at the units from the syntactic typology perspective. It also provides insight into what kind of concepts map into a single word. Some thoughts are kind of untranslatable and I have captured those nuances in my translation. Note that the translations are literal, preserving as much of syntactic and semantic structures as possible.

গ্রামের নাম বীরসিংহ। তারিখ ২৬শে সেপ্টেম্বর, ১৮২০।

The name of the village was Birsingho. It was the 26th September, 1820.

Analysis: Altered sentence structure. Pro-drop seen in the second part. No explicit use of 'it' in Bengali, the date is being stated directly.

ঠাকুরদাস বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়ের স্ত্রী ভগবতী দেবী এক পুত্রসন্তানের জন্ম দিলেন।

Bhagobati Devi, wife of Thakurdas Bandyopadhyay, gave birth to a male-child.

Analysis: Altered sentence structure. Proper nouns being preserved. One-word in Bengali: 'putrosontan' has no single word-representation in English hence I used 'male-child'.

ঠাকুরদা রামজয় তর্কভূষণ ছেলেটির নাম রাখেন ঈশ্বরচন্দ্র।

The baby's grandfather, Ramjoy Tarkobhushon named him Ishwarchandra.

Analysis: Sentence structure is also preserved.

১৯৯ বৎসর অতিক্রান্ত। আজও এই নামটি অগণিত মানুষ শ্রদ্ধার সঙ্গে স্মরণ করেন।

199 years have elapsed since then. Even today, innumerable people respectfully remember this one name.

Analysis: Sentence 1 - Structure preserved. Sentence 2 - Change of voice is seen. I stuck to the most natural construction to convey the given thought in English. The concept of 'shoron' is also not a conceptual unit in English. It's not the same as paying homage but is a sort of respectful reflection and admiration, which is not expressible as a single English word.

অসামান্য পাণ্ডিত্যের জন্য তিনি উত্তর-জীবনে বিদ্যাসাগর উপাধি লাভ করেন। বিদ্যাসাগর নামেই তিনি সমগ্র বিশ্বের কাছে পরিচিত।

In later life, for his outstanding scholarly abilities, he gained the title of 'Vidyasagar'. The world knows him by this name.

Analysis: Sentence structure gets modified. 'Uttor-jibon' gets translated into 'in [his] later life'. A change of voice is seen in the translated text.

বালক ঈশ্বরচন্দ্র তীক্ষ্ণ মেধা ও অসাধারণ স্মৃতিশক্তির অধিকারী ছিলেন।

As a little boy, Ishwarchandra possessed sharp intellect and extraordinary memory.

Analysis: Structure is pretty-much unaltered. Only the position of 'odhikari chhilen' which is 'possessed' in English gets changed.

খুব ছোটবেলায় বাবার সঙ্গে কলকাতা যাবার সময় বালকটি মাইল-স্টোনে খোদাই করা সংখ্যা থেকে এক বেলার মধ্যে ইংরেজির শূন্য থেকে নয় সব অঙ্ক শিখে ফেলেছিল। এই গল্প তিনি তাঁর অসম্পূর্ণ আত্মজীবনী 'আত্মচরিত'-এ লিপিবদ্ধ করেছেন।

When he was very small, while travelling to Kolkata with his father, the boy learned the English digits from zero to nine from the numbers on the milestones at the road-side within half a day. He wrote this story himself in his incomplete autobiography, 'Atmochorit'.

Analysis: A long and complex-sentence in Bengali. I tried to preserve the clause structure and provide a literal translation. Note that the word 'milestone' is also used in Bengali and is a commonly used borrowed word.

কৃতী ছাত্র ঈশ্বরচন্দ্র সংস্কৃত, বাংলা ও ইংরেজি ভাষায় অসামান্য ব্যুৎপত্তি লাভ করেন।

As a brilliant student, Ishwarchandra gained proficiency in Sanskrit, Bengali and English.

Analysis: Ordering of clauses is preserved; the phrase structure within clauses is modified.

বিদ্যাসাগরকে আধুনিক বাংলাগদ্যের জনক বলা চলে।

Vidyasagar can be named as the father of modern Bengali prose.

Analysis: Word order changes as expected. English has no single word for a language specific prose unlike Bengali. Hence multiple words have been used.

তিনি বাংলালিপির আধুনিকীকরণ করেন।

He also introduced the modern version of Bengali script.

Analysis: Word order changes. Bengali is inflecting in nature. Here, in the Bengali text, we see the formation of the word 'adhunikikoron' through inflections meaning "to bring about a modernization."

১৮৭৪ খ্রীস্টাব্দে তিনি রচনা ও প্রকাশ করেন 'বর্ণপরিচয়', যা আজও বাংলাভাষাশিক্ষার প্রথম ধাপ হিসেবে ব্যবহৃত হয়।

In 1874, he authored and published 'Barnaparichay', which is considered the first step towards learning Bengali, even today.

Analysis: Word order modified. Clause structures pretty much stay the same. We see a straightforward literal translation.

রবীন্দ্রনাথ বলেছিলেন, “বিদ্যাসাগর বাংলাভাষার প্রথম যথার্থ শিল্পী ছিলেন”।

Rabindranath once said, “Vidyasagar was the first artist of Bengali language.”

Analysis: Modified sentence structure. Bengali has one word, “banglabhasha” literally translating to Bengali language.

তাঁর লেখা বইয়ের মধ্যে উল্লেখযোগ্য ‘বেতাল-পঞ্চবিংশতি’, ‘শকুন্তলা’, ‘সীতার বনবাস’, ‘ব্রাহ্মবিলাস’ ‘বাংলার ইতিহাস’ ইত্যাদি।

The important books authored by him are 'Betel-panchabingshoti', 'Shokuntala', 'Sitar Banobas', 'Bhrantibilas', 'Banglar Itihas' etc.

Analysis: States a list of books. List structure does not depend on the language.

ঈশ্বরচন্দ্র শুধু বিদ্বান ও পণ্ডিত ছিলেন তাই নয়, তিনি ছিলেন একজন হৃদয়বান মানুষ।

Ishwarchandra was not only a knowledgeable and scholarly person; he was also a very kind-hearted human being.

Analysis: In the English counterpart, we see a sentence construction of the type "not only... also" - a similar format is also seen for Bengali. Bengali has a single word for kind hearted, namely "ridoybaan".

অর্থ দিয়ে এবং অন্য নানাবাবে তিনি যে কত লোকের উপকার করতেন তা গুণে বলা যাবে না।

It is impossible to count the number of people he helped through donations and through other means.

Analysis: Completely changed clause order. Subject in the Bengali sentence becoming the instrument in the English counterpart.

মাইকেল মধুসূদন দত্তের বিখ্যাত কাব্যগুলি রচিত হতো না যদি বিদ্যাসাগর দুঃসময়ে তাঁর পাশে না দাঁড়াতেন।

The famous verses of Michael Madhusudan Dutta would not have been composed unless Vidyasagar stood by him at the time of his distress.

Analysis: Word order changed. Illustrates the fact that English has prepositions while Bengali uses postpositions. The sense of "stood by him" is not used in the literal sense in the English sentence. A very similar expression literally meaning "standing beside someone" is used in the original Bengali sentence as well.

একজন সমাজ-সংস্কারক হিসেবেও বিদ্যাসাগর চিরস্মরণীয় হয়ে আছেন।

Vidyasagar's name is unforgettable as a social-reformer as well.

Analysis: Word order altered. The literal translations of the two words: social and reformer can be appended to get the meaning of the collective word. We see this phenomena in the English expression and in the original Bengali text.

তিনি বাংলার নবজাগরণের অন্যতম প্রধান ব্যক্তিত্ব। হিন্দু বিধবা-বিবাহ প্রচলন, বালবিবাহ প্রথা রদ, স্ত্রী-শিক্ষার প্রচার ও প্রসারে তিনি ছিলেন ভারতবর্ষের অগ্রণী পুরুষ।

He is one of the most principal personalities in the phase of Bengal-renaissance. He was the first person to propose Hindu widow remarriage, suspension and banning of child-marriage, and actively promoted and expanded girls' education in the country.

Analysis: "One of the most" translates to exactly one word in Bengalki - 'onnotomo'. The second sentence has been translated to English in the most literal sense possible. Standard word order modification witnessed here.

শিক্ষা-সংস্কারেও বিদ্যাসাগর ছিলেন অক্লান্ত এবং অত্রান্ত। তিনি বাংলায় বহু স্কুল ও কলেজ প্রতিষ্ঠা করেন।

Vidyasagar was also untiring and unerring in reforming the education system in Bengal. He established a lot of schools and colleges across Bengal.

Analysis: The subject in the Bengali sentence becomes the theme in the English translation. We see a modified sentence structure and rearrangement of clauses.

অসামান্য চারিত্রিক দৃঢ়তার অধিকারী বিদ্যাসাগর শিক্ষাবিভাগের ব্রিটিশ অধিকর্তার সঙ্গে মতবিরোধ হওয়ায় সংস্কৃত কলেজের অধ্যক্ষের পদ ত্যাগ করেন।

Vidyasagar was a man of extraordinarily strong character. Due to a clash of opinions with the British executive in the Education Department, he resigned from the post of Principal of the Sanskrit College.

Analysis: Two English sentences were used to capture the meaning as smoothly as possible. The adjectival phrase modifying the noun, namely Vidyasagar in Bengali is justified by the upcoming part of the sentence. This relation is captured by breaking up the sentence into two, the first one having the adjectival phrase structure associated with the noun in the form of a statement. The justification for that follows in the upcoming sentence.

জীবনের শেষ সতের বছর তিনি কর্মটাঁড়ে আদিবাসীদের মধ্যে জীবন কাটিয়েছিলেন। আদিবাসীদের অসুখবিসুখে হোমিওপ্যাথিক চিকিৎসা ও নানারকম সাহায্যের মাধ্যমে এই উদারমনা ব্রাহ্মণ অন্ত্যজদের একজন প্রকৃত আত্মীয় হয়ে ওঠেন।

For the last seventeen years of his life, he lived in Karmatar among the local tribals. By means of treating them with homeopathic medicines at the time of their illness and helping them in various other ways, this liberal Brahmin became a true friend of the marginal people.

Analysis: Word order inside clauses gets altered. Order of clauses stays the same for most parts. Note that I used a literal translation of my original Bengali text. Hence, words and concepts like 'Brahmin' are preserved in the English translation.

১৮৯১ খ্রীস্টাব্দের ২৯শে জুলাই এই অলোকসামান্য মনিস্বীর জীবনাবসান ঘটে। কিন্তু ভারতবাসীর হৃদয়ে বিদ্যাসাগর চিরদিন বেঁচে আছেন ও থাকবেন।

This 'saint' breathed his last on the 29th July, 1891. But in the hearts of all Indians, Vidyasagar is still alive and will continue living forever.

Analysis: In the Bengali sentence, the adjective of 'saint' was used for Vidyasagar. While translating into English, I preserved the adjectival structures. "Breathed his last" has a single word translation in Bengali, namely 'jibonaboshan'.

Conclusion:

Hence, we see how structures are modified while going from one language to another. What qualifies as a single word for a particular concept differs in each language. For a detailed analysis of phenomena seen in Bengali, kindly refer back to part A.