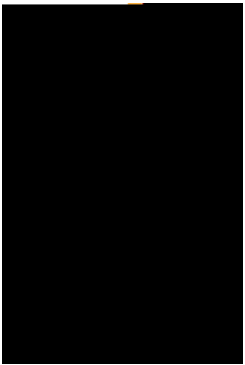


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CEââacá[}æ|Á•^!çã&^•Á~[!Á **Journal of the International Phonetic Association:**

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ÖUQÁFÉFÉFÉFÍDÜÉEGÍFÉEHFÉÉÉÉÉÍFÉÁÚ~`àjã•@^ÁÁ []jã}^KÁÉ!ÁR~!^ÁGÉFÉ

[@\]b_`hc`h\\]g`Ufh\]WY.`@cc\]KDEb\[~!}æ|•É&æ{ à:ia*^É\[!*Dæà•c:æ&c`ÜÉEGÍFÉEHFÉÉÉÉÉÍF](#)

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Ú@ []^cá&ACE•• [&âæcá []ÉÁ!ÉÁ]ÁGGFÉGG ÍÁá [áKÉFÉFÉFÍDÜÉEGÍFÉEHFÉÉÉÉÉÍF

FYe i Ygh`DYf a]gg]cbg` : [Ôj&VÁ@^!^](#)



Bengali (Bangladeshi Standard)

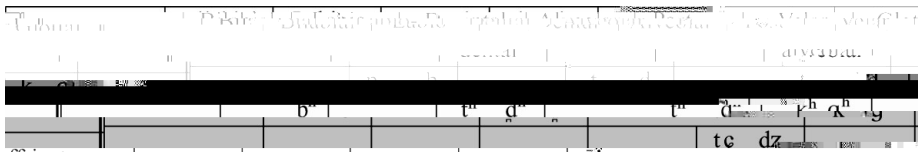
Sameer ud Dowla Khan

বঙ্গীয় প্রজাতন্ত্র
বাংলাদেশ

Bengali (বাংলা /baŋla/) is an Indo-European language (Indic branch) spoken by over 175 million people in Bangladesh and eastern India (Dasgupta 2003: 352; Lewis 2009). The speech illustrated below is representative of the standard variety widely spoken in Dhaka and other urban areas of Bangladesh.

Consonants

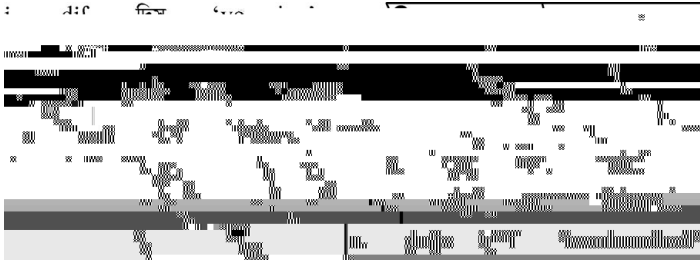
Plosives and affricates contrast in voicing and aspiration. Although displayed in one column, the articulation of the postalveolars varies by consonant type (see ‘Conventions’ below). Barring rare exceptions, /d^h h/ do not occur word-finally and /N/ does not occur word-initially (Dasgupta 2003: 358–359).



বাংলাদেশ (baŋladɛʃ)

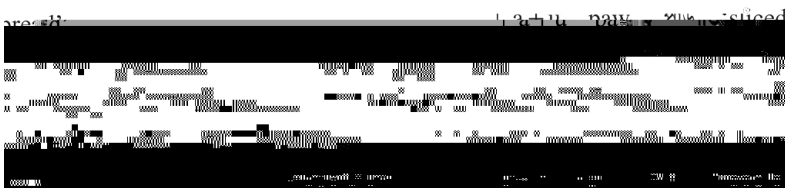
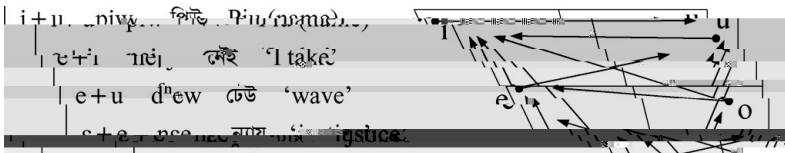
Vowels

Vowels are plotted below based on F1 and F2 frequencies averaged across six speakers. Vowel length is not contrastive, except across morpheme boundaries. The contrast between oral and nasal vowels observed in Kolkata Standard Bengali (Masica 1991: 118) is not characteristic of Bangladeshi Standard, presumably due to Eastern dialect influence (Majumdar 1997: 108).



Diphthongs

Diphthongs contrast with heterosyllabic vowel sequences (Islam 2000: 95; Dasgupta 2003: 356–357), as in / aj/ গাই ‘I sing’ vs. / ai/ গা-ই ‘body (emphatic)’ and / oeɔ/ ‘lies down’ vs. / oe/ সয়ে ‘having tolerated’. There is no high-mid vs. low-mid distinction in off-glides, so diphthongs such as /ao/ may vary between [ao] and [aɔ]. Off-glides are produced with a higher tongue position than corresponding nuclear vowels; compare / o/ শো ‘show’ vs. / oo/ শোও ‘you lie down’ (cf. / ɔ/ স ‘tolerate!’; / oɔ/ সও ‘you tolerate’). Some speakers monophthongize / eɔ/ to [ɔ]; compare the two recordings of /n eɔ/ ন্যায় ‘justice’. Vowel sequences not included below can only occur across syllable boundaries, e.g. /bie/ বিয়ে ‘wedding’, /kua/ কুয়া ‘well’.

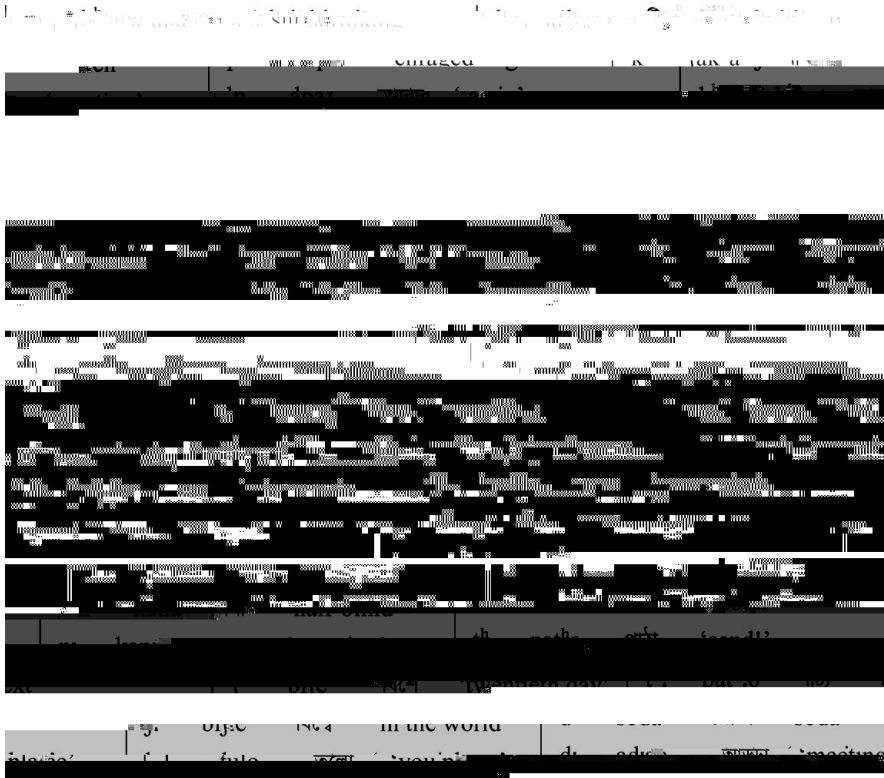


Stress

Stress is not marked in broad transcription as it is consistently word-initial. While stress is neither contrastive nor phonetically salient (Chatterji 1921, Goswami 1944, Ferguson & Chowdhury 1960, Anderson 1962, Bykova 1981, Kawasaki & Shattuck-Hufnagel 1988, Hayes & Lahiri 1991, Lahiri & Fitzpatrick-Cole 1999, Michaels & Nelson 2004, Selkirk 2006), it is associated with phonological alternations and plays an important role in the intonational system, as it is associated with the postlexical pitch accent (Khan 2008: chapter 2).

Geminates

Excluding /d^h ɳ N f s h ʈ/, all consonants can occur geminated within morphemes, and are transcribed with the length diacritic /:/ . Singleton /d d^h/ do not occur after tautomorphemic vowels except in ideophones and loanwords, e.g. /ʈod/ রোড ‘road’.



Conventions

Postalveolar

The postalveolar region includes three distinct tongue configurations: apical for plosives and /ʈ/, laminal for the affricates, and domed for /ɳ/. The plosives /t^h d^h/ are variously described as ‘cacuminal’ (Islam 2000: 90), ‘cerebral’ (Majumdar 1997: 166), ‘retroflex’ (Ramasmami 1999), ‘retroflex alveolar’ (Ray, Hai & Ray 1966: 6), ‘not true retroflex’ (Haldar 1986: 22), ‘alveolo-retroflex’ (Hai 1960), ‘approaching the alveolar region’ (Chatterji 1970: xxxiii), ‘more apico-alveolar . . . than the true apico-palatals of sister languages to the west’ (Dasgupta 2003: 359), and ‘simply alveolar’ (Tunga 1995: 139). The affricates /tʃ dʒ/ are variously characterized as ‘palatal affricates’ (Ramasmami 1999, Islam 2000: 91), ‘apico-dental hissing sibilants . . . [or] affricated plosives’ (Ray et al. 1966: 81), ‘palatal . . . made with the front of the tongue’ (Chatterji 1970: xxxii), ‘dental affricates’ (Haldar 1986: 26), ‘alveolo-palatal affricates’ (Dasgupta 2003: 359), and ‘dental-palatal plosives’ or ‘dorso-alveolar’ affricates (Tunga 1995: 131). Palatographic evidence indicates dorso-alveolar affrication (Hai 1960). The fricative /ɳ/ is described as ‘mediopalatal’ (Alam 2000: 43; Islam 2000: 91) and ‘palato-alveolar’ (Dasgupta 2003: 360).

Rhotic

Bangladeshi Standard Bengali has only one rhotic /ʀ/, as is the case in most Eastern dialects (Dasgupta 2003: 359; Masica 1991: 97); however, some speakers may maintain a marginal /ʀ/ vs. /r/ distinction in formal registers due to influence from Kolkata Standard. The rhotic /ʀ/ can be realized as a tap [ɾ], especially following dentals (Dasgupta 2003: 359), and both realizations can be devoiced [ʀ̥] in codas. Consonants are often lengthened following /ʀ/.

Fricative

Unlike Kolkata Standard, Bangladeshi Standard contrasts /f/ and /s/ word-initially, e.g. /siʃka/ সিকা ‘vinegar’ vs. /iʃa/ সিরা ‘syrup’, in medial clusters, e.g. /astɬ/ আন্তে ‘softly’ vs. /a tɬ/ আসতে ‘to come’, and word-finally, e.g. /bas/ বাস

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