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## Bangla Monosyllables: A Sonority based Study

Mina Dan

**Abstract** Monosyllables offer the test-field for identifying legal combinations of segments in a language and, at the same time, for framing a set of laws for rejecting illegal partners in that same linguistic customs. The former is accomplished by devising a template that functions as a syllable-detector while the latter by discovering pertinent constraints or template conditions that reflect the phonotactics of the language.

Tools like template and template conditions have their foundation chiefly on the four aspects of sonority, viz. sonority value, sonority scale, sonority hierarchy and sonority sequencing generalization, as is depicted in the phonological tradition.

The present paper treats the monosyllables in Bangla, an Eastern Indic language, in terms of the (i) canonical patterns (ii) internal structures (iii) correlation between the phonetic peak and phonological nucleus (iv) template (v) template conditions and (vi) phonotactic implications of them. In the course of analysis the paper exploits the sonority factor to its fullest extent and also points out the limitations of the sonority scale as proposed in the literature as a universal yardstick.

**Keywords** Monosyllables, Syllables, Sonority value, Sonority Sequencing Principle, Metrical Phonology, Template

## রাজনীতি নির্ভর সংস্কৃত নাটক ও বাংলায় তার উত্তরাধিকার

অরুন্ধতী দাস

**Abstract** সংস্কৃত সাহিত্যের ইতিহাসে একমাত্র রাজনৈতিক নাটক 'মুদ্রারাক্ষস'। নাটকটির ঐতিহাসিক ও সাহিত্যিক বিশেষত্বগুলি তুলে ধরার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে তুলনামূলকভাবে এই নিবন্ধে দেখান হয়েছে প্রাচীন এই নাট্যকীর্তির পদাঙ্ক অনুসরণে পরবর্তীকালে ভারতের বিভিন্ন ভাষাতে বিশেষতঃ বাংলায় রাজনীতির ইতিহাসকে উপজীব্য করে কিভাবে নাট্যসাহিত্য গড়ে উঠেছে। বিংশ শতকের প্রথম দশকের নাটকগুলি এক্ষেত্রে বেশিরভাগই রচিত হয় পরাধীন ও বিচ্ছিন্নপ্রায় জাতিকে ঐক্যবদ্ধ করার প্রয়াস রূপে। তবে জাতীয়তাবাদকে অধিক গুরুত্ব দিতে গিয়ে ঐতিহাসিক সত্য বেশিরভাগ ক্ষেত্রেই প্রচ্ছন্ন বা বিকৃত। রবীন্দ্রোত্তর যুগেও রাজনৈতিক ইতিহাসকে কেন্দ্র করে অনেক নাটক রচিত হয়েছে। সব ক্ষেত্রেই মূল উপজীব্য ইতিহাস থেকে সাহিত্যে উন্নীত। তবে মুদ্রারাক্ষসে আমরা কুটনীতি ও কল্পনার যে যুক্তিগ্রাহ্যতা লক্ষ্য করি তার অন্তরালে কোন রোমান্টিসিজম নেই, যদিও তা পরবর্তীকালের নাটকে যথার্থ যুগোপযোগী সাহিত্যকীর্তি রচনার পথ প্রদর্শক।

**Keywords** রাজনৈতিক নাটক, ঐতিহাসিক নাট্যসাহিত্য, ভারতের রাজনৈতিক ইতিহাস, সাহিত্যকীর্তি, জাতির প্রতিফলন।

- Abstract** The Patua (or Chitrakar) communities of the Rarh region of Eastern India are folk painters-singers whose traditionally livelihood is centred around their intangible cultural heritage of publicly performing Hindu or Muslim legends or tribal folklore by chanting or singing them with the help of the frames of brightly-coloured painted narrative scrolls called patachitras. Unfortunately, competition from other contemporary media is significantly eroding this traditional way of life. In response to this cultural crisis, and as a novel means of supplementing their family incomes, a group of women of Naya, a small Patua community in the Pingla block of Paschim Medinipur district, West Bengal, have formed a rural craft-hub for marketing their traditional products across India and even abroad. Thus, the Patuas of Naya are significantly contributing to the conservation of their multi-faceted intangible cultural heritage. Preparing the paints is perhaps the most important precursor to the creation of a patachitra painting. Although readily-available synthetic chemicals are becoming increasingly popular, however some of these Patuas are still holding on to their age-old traditional knowledge and skills in sustainably using their local natural resource bases for obtaining the raw materials that are used to make their indigenous paints. Like many other folk art traditions of Bengal, the bright hues used in this art form are largely vegetable (occasionally mineral) dyes that are extracted from the local plant resources, using diverse plants and their parts such as bark, wood, roots, leaves, flowers, fruits and seeds. This article documents the local dye-yielding plants and the traditional process of preparing the natural dyes that are used in the patachitra paintings of Naya, Paschim Medinipur. This study also shows how these natural colours as an integral part of the patachitra paintings expresses the artisans' innate union with nature.
- Keywords** Intangible Cultural Heritage, Naya, Patachitra, Patuas, Vegetable Dyes
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## A Study of Findings of Prehistoric Remains from Dighi Area of Dumka in Jharkhand

Soumyajit Das and Debasis Kumar Mondal

- Abstract** Though several archaeological explorations had been carried out in the district of Dumka in the area of Jharkhand under the division of Santhal Parganas, the area around the town of Dumka remained unexplored. During a recent exploration, some remains of prehistoric culture are found from the campus area of Sido Kanho Murmu University in the vicinity of Dumka town. The focus of the present paper is to analyse these findings with reference to stratigraphy, the geological depositions as well as geomorphological features of the area, vegetation and soil types.
- Keywords** Prehistory, Dumka, artefacts, palaeoenvironment
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## Child Birth and Child Care Experiences among the Sherpas of Srikhola and Gurdum areas of District-Darjeeling, West Bengal

Chumu Sherpa and Pinak Tarafdar

- Abstract** Birth is a significant socio-cultural event that differs in several ways around the world as it is the symbol of the beginning of life. In every society we find certain amount of knowledge about the birth of a child; and the rituals are the conspicuous phenomena to understand the important construction of the society and its values. In anthropological point of view the process of birth and its related rituals form a great part of the whole process of socialization, which the new ones later get accustomed with. It is an observable fact that every society since time immemorial has been practicing some rituals and methods that help in taking special care of both mother and baby. This paper mainly focuses on the child birth experiences and its associated rituals among the Sherpa community of Srikhola and Gurdum areas of Darjeeling district in West Bengal.
- Keywords** Birth, Sherpa, Rituals, Experiences, Mother, Child
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## Kerala Floods 2018 and the changing dynamics of India's foreign aid dependence

Urmi Mehra

- Abstract** In August 2018, the south-western state of Kerala was hit by massive floods, which caused immense damage to life, property and infrastructure. India has traditionally been one of the largest foreign aid recipient states in the world, both for development purposes as well as disaster relief. However, in the 21st century, the government of India is reluctant to rely on foreign aid, particularly to address natural disaster, which was clearly evident in the decision of the central government to refuse acceptance of disaster relief aid from foreign sources during the devastating flood in Kerala in August 2018. The entire debate surrounding aid refusal mirrored a shift in India's foreign aid policy in favour of reduced dependence on aid receipt. Such refusal is indicative of the higher goal that India wants to achieve, as much as it is a reflection of the problems that the country has to face as a result of aid acceptance. The present article, taking cue from the Kerala aid refusal, attempts to highlight the changing contours of India's trust with aid dependence in the 21st Century. In the process, it will also discuss what kind of initiative India has taken to reduce aid dependence.
- Keywords** foreign aid, aid dependence, aid refusal, disaster aid, foreign policy
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## Police corruption in Bangladesh: An empirical study