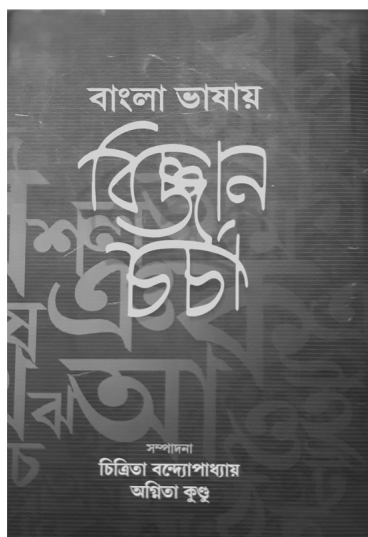


Book Review



Bangla Bhashay Bigyan Charcha

edited by Chitrita Bandyopadhyay and Agnita Kundu

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The book '*Bangla Bhashay Bigyan Charcha*' (which translates into English as 'Studies of Science in Bengali'), edited by Chitrita Bandyopadhyay and Agnita Kundu, is an well-edited compilation book whose contributors include scientists, writers of Bengali literature, teachers, researchers and students. All the writings are in Bengali. Majority of the articles are based on the main theme of the book, but some are linked with various relevant forms of the subject of interest. It actually adds to the versatility and completeness of the book in many respect. The hardcover book with an aesthetic cover-page design was published (the 1st edition) in March of 2019. Printing quality is good. The language used in these Bengali articles is quite easy. Each article provides an in-depth study relevant to its topic. All these aspects add positively to the readability of the book. However, a few printing mistakes are noticeable.

The 272-paged edited book, which contains 36 select writings from the papers/articles presented in the One-Day National Seminar '*Bangla Bhashay Bigyan Charcha*' held on 1st September of 2018 at Shri Shikshayatan College, organized by the departments of Chemistry and Bengali of the said college in collaboration with the corresponding

departments of Jogesh Chandra Chaudhuri college and supported by a financial assistance from Science and Technology and Biotechnology division of Higher Education Department of West Bengal Government, is by and large a creative discussion in the domains of science and science-fiction writings in Bengali in the past, stepped development of science description in Bengali by the scientists and Bengali writers, terminology development in the past and its present status, some contemporary thoughts and efforts to develop terminologies, Bengali translation of science literature from English and other foreign languages, intellectual discussions and exchanges between scientists and litterateurs, positive psychological effects of learning in mother tongue, role of media on science education and the development of scientific mind, and the scientific development of describing and counting the repetitive natural phenomena like day, lunar phase, cycle of months or seasons, concept of solar year, and the development of calendar.

The editors have rightly recognised that the book deals with an outstanding, continued, or unsolved problem for Bengali-speaking people. [Of course it is true for other Indian languages.] The

notion of injecting words from English and other foreign languages, as many people envision it as a solution, has been strongly rejected by the present author by means of a comparative study of the languages. For example, the Bengali translation of the word 'isomer' fails to pinpoint the actual scientific phenomenon. As a consequence, coining of meaningful appropriate terminologies is an unavoidable task. What he had to say is that an apparently correctly translated terminology in a language may not be compatible with the language in some application areas. Each language has its own style of expression to convey a particular meaning. Thus, in Kuuk Thaayorre language used in Western Cape York Peninsula of Australia's Queensland State, the position of a monument or an important place is expressed in cardinal directions, i.e. the instructions do not use words like left and right, instead it uses terms like East, West, North, Northeast, North-northeast.

In German language, a bridge is described by feminine words like beautiful or elegant, whereas

the Spanish language uses masculine terms like strong, long, etc. In English, constructions like 'He broke the flower vase' or 'He broke his arms' are customary, widely used and accepted. Many languages do not approve such constructions as the events were accidental. In keeping with reality, a Spanish people writes "The vase broke". In addition to these abstract discussions, the reviewer also created in his article a series of science terminologies in Bengali.

In this short discussion, it is not possible to accommodate all the interesting features of the book. However, the organization of the seminar and the publication of the book are undoubtedly noble acts of promoting science education in Bengali. It will definitely encourage others in this direction. In future more and more such publications and improvements in the learning of advanced science through texts written in Bengali will be a reality.

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Conference Report

Report of the "Professor M R Gupta Memorial National Seminar"—2019

The 'Advanced Centre for Nonlinear and Complex Phenomena' (ACNCP) and Centre for Plasma Studies in collaboration with the Department of Mathematics, Jadavpur University, with financial assistance from the family members of Late Professor M. R. Gupta organized a National Seminar as a memorial tribute to the departed mathematician. It was held on the 6th August, 2019 at the Department of Mathematics of Jadavpur University.

The 'Inaugural Session' (Session I) started at 10-30 A.M. and was chaired by Professor Shamik Ghosh, Head of the Department of Mathematics,

Jadavpur University. The proceedings started with an opening song by Dr. Sima Chakrabarti. Flower bouquets were presented to the Chairman of the Session, the Chief Guest and Mrs. B. Gupta (wife of late Professor M. R. Gupta). Some introductory remarks were made by Professor R. Bhar of Jadavpur University. Professor Rajkumar Roychoudhury, Professor Nikhil Chakrabarti, Professor Ujjwal Sen and the family members of Late Professor Gupta reminisced about the departed mathematician. After that the Chairman of the session gave a brief talk. The 'Vote of thanks' was delivered by Professor Alaka Das.