



An Empirical Analysis on Bangla Language Distortion and Linguistic Law Implementation: A Youth Standpoint

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Received: 24 May 2024

Accepted: 10 August 2024

Published: 27 September 2024

Abstract: *This paper strives to investigate as per youth the profound reason and impact of Bangla language distortion and to stop linguistic right violation the importance of linguistic law implementation in Bangladesh. In past few papers shows only possible reason and impact of Bangla language distortion but never pointed out to stop the use of “Banglish” language the requisition of linguistic law. By this paper from youth perspective, with analyzing reason and impact we tried to find out due to “Banglish” language how linguistic rights are violating and to stop the violation necessity of linguistic law in Bangladesh. Collected youth responses were analyzed using multiple regression techniques. The results show that educational institution and academic medium of instruction, lack of knowledge and awareness, negative impact on- culture, lifestyle and social inequality have remarkable connection with “Banglish” language. The study findings will help to understand the importance of linguistic law in Bangladesh.*

Keywords: *Language Distortion, “Banglish” Language, Linguistic Right, Linguistic Law, Violation, Youth.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is a method where as a member of a social group and contributors to its culture, humans express themselves through language, which is a system of spoken, written, or manual symbols. Linguistic expression serves a variety of purposes, such as play, emotional release, storytelling, and identity expression. The English phonetician and language expert Henry Sweet said, “Language is the expression of ideas through speech sounds combined into words,



Sentences are formed by combining words, and this process corresponds to the formation of concepts into thoughts" (Hyder, M. N. A., 2018).

According to Farooqi S. (2007), after the end of British colonial rule Pakistan was subdivided into eastern and western parts in 1947 & 95% of people in United Pakistan spoke Bengali, which was the majority in East Pakistan. On February 21, 1952, students were killed for the demand for Bengali as the state language of Pakistan. (Erling et al., 2012). In 1999, UNESCO declared February 21 as International Mother Language Day to commemorate the sacrifice of the martyrs (Dasgupta, S.).

After the independence of Bangladesh, the Father of the Nation of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, adopted the 'one state, one language' strategy and added Bengali as an official language to the constitution in 1972 (Alam, 2018 and Rahman et al., 2019). The Bangla Language Application Act-1987 gives special priority to the Bengali language, where use of English influence in life, culture and society badly that Bangla and English language consider as part of socialization. (Banu, R., & Sussex, R., 2001).

In Bangladesh, Public universities adopt an English and Bengali mixed teaching policy, where the Private Universities follow EMI policy because Private Universities Act of 1992 had no provision of language policy (Rahman M.M. 2022). Sultana S. (2014) highlighted that, university students are using Bangla and English in virtually networks rather than linguistic monographs. Also, multilingual person freely uses non-English or mixed-language. This linguistic switching is a reflection of sociocultural notions (Ganguli et al.).

Long-standing criticism has been levelled at the Bangla language's distortion. Some claim that this should not have happened, while others claim that it was inevitable. Although everyone talks about the causes and effects of the issue, there is no mention of any laws or regulations to prevent Bangla language distortion in blogs or roundtable discussions. However, the truth is that Bangla is our language, our identity and as an identity and pride it should never be misinterpreted by anyone. It is difficult for people to communicate with one another when language is changing on a daily basis specially Bangla (Bangla Tribune, 2018).

1.1 Research Objectives

Focusing youth represented by linguistic right related variables, the main objectives of this study are-

- a) To examine according to youth the reason and impact of Bangla Language distortion in Bangladesh, and
- b) To terminate "Banglish" Language the necessity of specific linguistic law implementation in Bangladesh

1.2 Research Questions

In line with the research objectives, considerable research questions for this study are:

- a) Does educational institution and academic medium of instruction are responsible for "Banglish" language among youth?
- b) Does lack of knowledge, awareness regarding linguistic right is the main reason behind Bangla language distortion?
- c) Can Bangladeshi culture, lifestyle and social inequality possible to improve by linguistic law?

- d) Dose significant linguistic law need to implement to promote, protect and preserve Bangla languages?

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

In this section, we have given a summary of previous research which is relevant to our research. The summary is broken down into three category: System Algorithms, Sentimental Analysis, and Social Analysis. Table 1 presents a comprehensive summary of the existing works on Bangla language distortion that have been discussed within this study.

Table 1: Key finding of the previous literature

Category	Source	Authors	Methods/ Model	Key Findings
System Algorithms	Association for Computational Linguistics https://aclanthology.org/W16-5810.pdf	Chanda A. et. al. (2016)	WEKA Analysis	The Predictor of uses Bengali English (BE) is n-gram feature is 86.27% which widely being used in Facebook 64.86%.
	IETE Journal of Research https://www.tatandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1081/03772063.2020.1934125	Ganguli I. et. al. (2021)	Bidirectional LSTM Model	Detect typographical and cognitive mistakes in “Banglish”. Where Indic code-mixed languages demonstrate the model's possible generalizability.
	International Journal of Future Compute and Communication, pages 46–51	Siddique S. et. al. (2020)	Recurrent Neural Network (RNN)	English to Bengali translation uses sequence-to-sequence vectors in the encoder-decoder to improve translation accuracy.
Sentimental Analysis	Cornel University https://arxiv.org/abs/1610.00369	Hasan Asif et. al. (2016)	Long Short Term Memory (LSTM)	Natural language processing in Bengali along with Bengali and Romanized Bengali has a significant impact on social media.
	IEEE Explorer https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/abstract/document/8441371	Shalini, K., et al. (2018)	MSP model	The probability accuracy 74.66%, proves that the model increases the accuracy with other neural network models in a mixed dataset of multiple languages.

Social Analysis	Research in Social Sciences Volume 1, Issue 1, pp. 69-77	Ahmed: M. et. al (2018)	Quantitative Analysis	45% of Facebook users using Banglish language to express themselves. It establishes a "hyper-non-material culture," which fosters virtual ties and a misleading sense of solidarity.
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Source: Findings from Researcher's

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

This research developed a comprehensive approach to analyzing functional effects using both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. A statistical framework is used to describe the influence of "Banglish" language use on social trends and linguistic legal understanding. The researcher's purposefully selected youth of Bangladesh with a standard dataset of $N = 151$ aged 18–35 from all over the country who are activity involved in different extra curriculum activities and making significant spot to develop society from their own place. The data sources are combined with primary and secondary sources. The primary data was collected in online surveys with 17 open and closed ended questions in order to achieve a wide reach. At the same time, a qualitative deepening of the individual perspectives was achieved through personal interviews. In addition, secondary data is obtained from articles, journals, books and other scientific references. To improve the data understanding of descriptive analysis, visual representation and tables are also employed to identify the research reflection for the readers. Therefore, the amalgamation of these methods enhances the robustness and reliability of the data. Finally, the scenario factors are statistically analyzed using the Multiple Linear Regression method in SPSS version 25.

4. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The result section has been divided into three parts, to focus more specifically on the findings of the study.

4.1 Bangla Language Distortion from Different Aspects

4.1.1 Exploring "Banglish" Language Influence on the Educational Landscape

The insightful view of Table 2 shows, how the educational institution and the latest academic medium of instruction relies with the use of "Banglish" language. A total 151 respondents think their type of educational background is closely related with communication using "Banglish" language. The linguistic views will structure a proper foundation of this research on educational influence further analysis.

Table 2: Language Effects by Academic Medium and Communication

Medium of Instruction	Category	Yes	No	Total
	Bangla	52	10	62
	English	28	2	30
	Bangla and English	54*	5	59

Total		134	17	151
Educational Qualification	Masters or Postgraduate	18	4	22
	Honors or Bachelor	50	4	54
	SSC or HSC	66	9	75
Total		134	17	151
Educational Institution	Public University	31	1*	32
	Private University	29	4	33
	National University	17	5	22
	English & Bangla Medium College	57	7	64
Total		134	17	151
Changing of MOI	Reasons for using Banglish language	137**	14**	151

Source: Primary Data Analysis (2023)

The table 02 illustrates that, a total of 66 among 134 respondents believes that their most recent educational institution and academic medium of instruction have an impact during communication. In contrast, 68 individuals with Honors and Masters Degrees also agreed positively to this analysis. Furthermore, according to a comprehensive breakdown across different mediums of instruction, 54 respondents from Bengali-English medium institutions, 52 respondents from Bengali medium institutions, and 28 respondents from English medium institutions feel that has a vital role in communication. This insight reveals that, 60 respondents from both public and private universities believed an impact on the linguistic landscape is affecting the availability of specific languages. Finally, 137 respondents also agreed felt change in MOI would affect during communication.

4.1.2 Most Used Language Type Considering Bangla & English



Figure 01: Considering Bangla & English Most Used 2 Type of Language among Youth

Source: Primary Data Analysis (2023)

The Figure 1 explore the most use language type during communication among youth of Bangladesh. Is has been discovered that, a total of 151 individuals has 2 options to select what

type of language they use usually during any communication. And the result surprisingly still comes negative considering highest level of “Banglish” language use where “Banglish” language user number is $69+137=206$ and only 28 individual use proper Bangla language & English Language use number is 68. This number clearly give a look how at present of national language Bangla language, Bangla language distortion already spread deeply. The findings emphasize how much an unauthorized language “Banglish” among youth already spread that indirectly making impact on linguistic right. And to secure Bangla language and linguistic right the importance of Linguistic law in Bangladesh.

4.1.3 Analyzing Social Impact Insights on “Banglish” Language Using Trends

Categorically the below table reflect the impact and reasons of "Banglish" use in communication, language use, social impact and the overall outcome. This overall insight is easy to make a decision with its impact and highest and lowest based priority.

Table 3: Impact and Reasons analysis basis on effects Category

Category	Impact Priority	Highest Count (Gender)		Total	Age Group	Highest Count (Age)	Priority
		Male	Female				
Communication	1. Easy/ Short-cut	41	35	76	21-25	42	1
	2. Feel Smart	30	18	48	18-20	31	
Language Uses	1. Media & Internet	43	40	83	18-20	37	1
	2. Cultural Practice	22	12	34	21-25	18	
Social Impact	1. Culture & Life	75	59	134*	21-25	59	1
	2. No Relation	07	10	17	21-25	09	
Outcome	1. Language Disorder	44	41	85	21-25	37	1
	2. Identity Crisis	20	18	38	21-25	20	

Source: Primary Data Analysis (2023)

Table 3 finds the causes to promote “Banglish” language into 4 categories with 203 male and 175 female respondents aged 21-25 and 18-20. In this above table, 134 people believe that the “Banglish” language has an impact on society and lifestyle, 85 people aged 21-25 thinks users are in a language disorder. Table 3 highlights that, 76 of the users adopt this alternative for easily communication. At the same time, 83 people aged 18-20 years think that the social influence of media and internet is more important for people's daily lifestyle than cultural

practices. This means that Bangla language culture is spreading in the society through media and internet and influencing other categories.

Twenty million people in Bangladesh use Facebook. Social media on the internet has brought in a new audience and dimension. Users view the news that is shared on Facebook as information. Language acquisition takes place in schools. Cultural activities used to be hosted in neighbourhoods and schools in Bangla. However, these events are no longer held. It is not a recent development that Facebook is misusing Bangla. In the past, the language was distorted in dramas and motion pictures. The time to stop linguistic distortion is now. It is crucial to observe the impact that language used in TV dramas and commercials has on the public and if it's continued then language will change constantly, it can be quite problematic. (Dhaka Tribune, 2018)

4.1.4 Linguistic Right & “Banglish” Language Using Trend in Bangladesh

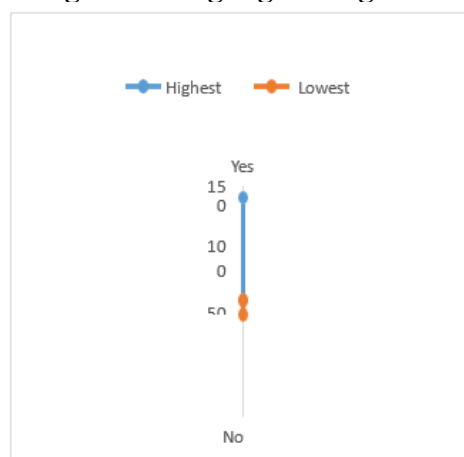


Fig. 2: During any type of communication do you use 'Banglish' Language?

Source: Primary Data Analysis (2023)

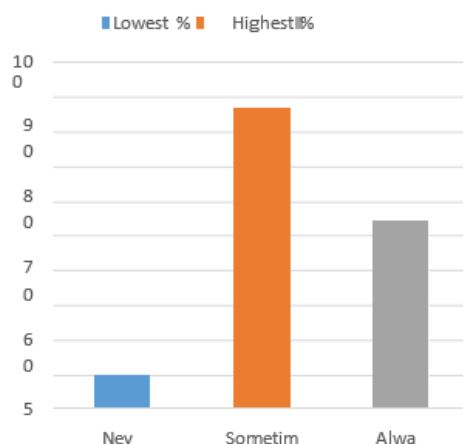


Fig. 3: Level of 'Banglish' Language Use

The Figures 2 and 3 explore the “Banglish” language uses range that negatively effects socio-cultural, lifestyle. Is has been discovered that, a total of 137 individuals uses “Banglish” language in their any communication purpose. Especially in figure 2 finds that, 10 people said they never use “Banglish”, 87 use sometimes and notably among 55 people have a high tendency using in real life. The findings emphasize the use of “Banglish” language among youth & to resolve this the necessity of linguistic right awareness to protect Bangla language from distortion.

4.1.5 Linguistic Law & Socio-Cultural Integration Trend in Bangladesh

Below table reflect the tendency and level of “Banglish” language use and its impact in communication, language use, social impact and the overall outcome. This overall insight helps to make an easy decision in highest and lowest based priority with the importance of implementation of linguistic law in Bangladesh.

Table 4: Coefficients^a

Constant	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
	.105	.110			
“Banglish” using Tendency	-.012	.025	-.017	-.483	.630
“Banglish” Language Usage	-.006	.044	-.005	-.134	.893
Culture and Lifestyle Impact	.039	.044	.030	.870	.385
Social Inequality	.905	.035	.905	25.75	.010
• ANOVA F Sig .000b, R Square .845, Adjusted R Square .841 a. Dependent Variable: Linguistic Rights Knowledge b. Predictors: Banglish using Tendency, Banglish Language Usage, Culture and Lifestyle Impact and Social Inequality					

Source: Primary Data Analysis (2023)

From the table 4 is highlights the regression analysis of the selected predictors with Linguistic Rights Knowledge (DV). On the whole, it is seen that R square value (0.841) 84% of the variance of DV accounted by the IV's. This is evident that, it has no multicollinearity problem with the explanatory variables. Three of the explanatory coefficients' values are find negative (B1 = -.012, B2 = -0.06) and B3 value (0.039) in a positive trend. None of the coefficient's outcome B1 =.630, B2 =.893, and B3 =.385 implies statistically significant ($p > 0.05$). As a result, this investigation fails to reject the null hypothesis. In a result, “Banglish” language using Tendency, “Banglish” Language Usage, and Culture and Lifestyle Impact should be excluded. Notably, Social Inequality B4 ($P = 0.10$) has a statistically significant ($p > 0.05$) associations with the DV to accept the null hypothesis. Finally, the study suggests that, social inequality essentially address to raise linguistic rights among the users.

4.1.6 Analyze Linguistic Right and Importance of Law

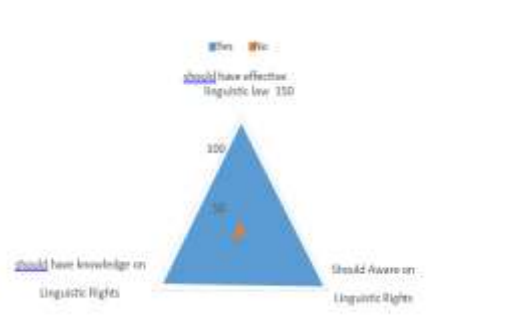


Fig. 4: Importance of Linguistic right and law

Source: Primary Data Analysis (2023)

From figure 4, the level of “Banglish” use does not correlate positively with knowledge of the language rights. Because of various criteria’s influence on social and lifestyle factors shown earlier in table 2. In the above figure we can see that, 141 people are not aware about linguistic rights and 138 people think implementing linguistic law will have an influence that they think they should have knowledge about linguistic rights. In this research 134 respondents are in favor on support linguistic right, linguistic law and regulation. This discrepancy emphasizes with moral obligations that linguistic rights knowledge and awareness is important to solve the excluded factors negative tendency shown on Table 3. Finally, from socio-legal perspective with knowledge and awareness about linguistic right, implementation of linguistic law is mandatory especially in the contest of “Banglish” to reduce effects on the social and cultural sphere.

4.2 Linguistics Associated Law and Regulations

"A language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols by which a social group cooperates," according to the definition developed by American linguists Bernard Bloch and George L. Trager. Language instruction and media in a language that is understood and freely selected by the parties involved are examples of linguistic rights, as is the right to use one's native language in legal, administrative, and judicial proceedings (Robins, R.H & Crystal D., 2023).

Regarding the acceptance of the right to language in international law, there is a lack of consensus. But to secure the authenticity of language, to establish the right of speaking on own language there are many international act, rules & regulations are existed that directly & indirectly possible to use to avoid multi mixing or deformation among different language like Bangla and English.

4.2.1 International Law, Act & Regulation Regarding Linguistic Right

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) 1948

Article 2 - Without regard to language, all individuals have the right to exercise their declared rights.



Article 10 - People have the right to a fair trial, which is widely understood to include the right to an interpreter in cases when the accused person does not understand the language used in criminal court proceedings. The person is entitled to have all proceedings, including court documents, translated by the interpreter.

Article 19 - Every person has the right to express themselves freely, including the freedom to use any language as their medium of expression.

Article 26 - Everyone has the right to an education, regardless of the language used as the medium of instruction.

International Convention on Civil and political Rights (ICCPR) 1966

Article 24 (1) - Every child shall have, without any discrimination as to race, color, sex, language, religion, national or social origin, property or birth, the right to such measures of protection as are required by his status as a minor, on the part of his family, society and the State.

Article 27 - In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practice their own religion, or to use their own language.

UN Declaration on the Rights of Minorities (UNDM) 1992

The first international treaty to specifically address the right to language of linguistic minorities is the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious, and Linguistic Minorities (UNDM, 1992) (article 4).

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Conventions No. 107 and 169 of the International Labour Organization (ILO) clearly affirm the right of indigenous people and children of migrant workers to an education in their mother tongue.

United Nation (UN) resolution 56/262. Multilingualism

The General Assembly, acknowledges that the United Nations works to promote, preserve, and defend the plurality of languages and cultures around the world. It also acknowledges that true multilingualism fosters unity in diversity and global understanding.

4.2.2 Bangladesh Law, Act & Regulation Regarding Linguistic Right

The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh 1972

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশের সংবিধান (the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh) is the supreme law of Bangladesh. The framework provided by the treaty defines the Bangladeshi republic's characteristics, including its unitary parliamentary democracy, which upholds fundamental human rights and liberties, its autonomous judiciary, its democratic local government, and its national bureaucracy.

Article 3 - Bangla is the official language of the Republic of Bangladesh.

Article 23(2) - It is the responsibility of the State to implement policies that preserve the cultural customs and legacy of the populace, thereby promoting and enhancing the national language, literature, and arts, to which all segments of society are entitled to contribute and engage in the enhancement of national culture.



Articles 153(2) - This Constitution shall have an authentic Bengali text and a genuine English text of an official translation, both to be confirmed as such by the Speaker of the Constituent Assembly.

Articles 153(3) - A document validated in compliance with clause (2) will serve as definitive proof of the contents of this Constitution: With the understanding that the Bengali text will take precedence over the English text in the event of a dispute.

The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898

Section 558 - The Government may decide which language will be used in each court within the areas under its administration for the purposes of this Code.

The Code of Civil Procedure, 1908

Section 137 (1)- Until the government specifies otherwise, the language that each court subordinate to the High Court Division used at the beginning of this Code will be that court's language.

Section 137 (2)- The Government have right to specify the language to be used in any such court as well as the format in which applications and court proceedings must be written.

Section 137 (3)- Aside from the recording, the court will cover the cost of any translation if any party cannot understand the language, which may be in English, during any testimony. This is done out of respect for the other party.

The Bangla Language Application Act (BLAA) 1987

বাংলা ভাষা প্রচলন আইন, ১৯৮৭ (Bengali Language Application Act, 1987) passed by the National Parliament of Bangladesh (Jatiya Sangsad). This act gives full force to article 3 of the Bangladeshi Constitution. As per the statute, all courts, government or semi- government offices, autonomous institutions in Bangladesh, and their records and correspondences, laws, court procedures, and other legal activities must be written in Bengali. The law was hailed as a revolutionary step taken by the State" because it was meant to strengthen the common people's language and eliminate the language barrier erected by the British colonial authorities, which was believed to have prevented common citizens from accessing public services and the legal system.

4.3 Importance of Linguistics Law and Regulation in Bangladesh

Although linguistic right is acknowledged globally but regarding protection of Bangla Language specific law and regulation are still absent. As a result, Bangla language distortion taking place again and again. Without specifying linguistic law, the importance of Bangla language is showcased constitutional mandate that violating linguistic right more and more with time especially in youth.

To ensure the linguistic right to express own self freely without any discrimination in every condition, as a medium of education, to ensure social equality in society where language distortion could be a big barrier and to avoid language distortion effect a nation like Bangladesh can take effective law and acts. To avoid any discrimination, to avoid negative impact of language distortion on culture and lifestyle, to remove social inequality, to ensure language right for all. As a reference using international law and regulation, as a state Bangladesh can adopt own linguistic law by which distortion of Bangla language possible to avoid.

As it's clearly mention in articles 3, 23(2), 153 (2) & (3) that Bangla is the state language. It's state responsibility to execute policies to preserve authenticity of Bangla language where for



translation purpose separately English and other language can be used. In case of any disagreement Bangla will be prioritize not English. Considering the language pollution if only Bangladesh constitution take into consideration, then effective linguistic law possible to implement & it is a demand of time.

5. CONCLUSION

The Supreme Court of Bangladesh banned the mixed use of Bangla and English, or "Banglish," on February 16, 2012, at all levels. The court described this type of language distortion as "tantamount to rape" and directed the government to take immediate action to safeguard Bangla, which has a thousand-year history. On February 17, 2014, the court ordered the government to take action and produce a compliance report by April 1 of 2014, requiring Bangla to be used in all electronic media commercials, signboards, personal name plates, and car registration plates. However, it appears that nothing has changed (Haque, E., 2015).

We are aware of pollution in the air, water, and environment. However, we are barely aware of linguistic contamination. A language can become contaminated, just like other forms of pollution, if its unique features are lost in translation or if it is spoken in a foreign accent, style, or tone. Additionally, a language can get contaminated by arbitrarily changing codes. Even though linguists and politically conscious citizens of the nation have been speaking out and writing for years against the pollution and misrepresentation of Bangla, the harmful process has continued. Instead, it is growing daily as a result of the relevant authorities' lack of stern action against language distorters. (Pakbir, M. M. H., 2022)

Language modification especially in case of Bangla supposed to be a crime and to save our language there should be effective law to ensure proper use of Bangla Language. As where Bangla is spoken as the first language by almost 200 million people worldwide, 160 million of whom are Bangladeshi. It is our duty to protect Bangla language from distortion to save Bangladesh, its culture and dignity (Pakbir, M. M. H., 2022).

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