# Verbs of Communication in Bangla

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## Abstract

This paper investigates the argument structure and alternations of the communicative verbs of Bangla. The paper is based on the model of English verb alternations as proposed by Levin (1993). Levin's work is guided by the assumption that the behavior of a verb, particularly in respect to the expression and interpretation of its arguments, is majorly determined by its meaning. Verbs as argument-taking elements show especially complex sets of properties. Levin has shown that native speakers can make extremely perceptive judgments concerning the occurrence of various syntactic expressions. She also mentions that any particular description of verb classes must include a discussion on sentential complements and dative alternation. We have also tried to examine these issues following here. The study of the verbs of communication in Bangla provides a concise treatment of some of the classes of verbs pertaining to communication and transfer of ideas.

**Keywords:** Verb class, Bangla, communicative verbs, communication, verb alternation.

## Abbreviations

| | |
|---|---|
| 3 -Third | LOC-locative |
| ACC – accusative | NP – Noun Phrase |
| AUX- auxiliary | PL- plural |
| CLA-classifier | P-person |
| Comp- complement | PRO-arb – Pronoun-arbitrary |
| CONT –continuative | PRS- present |
| CP- conjunctive participle | PST – past |
| DAT – dative | |
| GEN –genitive | |

**Language in India** www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940 17:7 July 2017**
Dr. Priyanka Dey (ne'e Das) and Dr. Atanu Saha
Verbs of Communication in Bangla

<12-36>

## 1. Introduction

This paper attempts to categorize Bangla verbs of communication based on the function and the message it conveys to the recipient. The purpose of this paper is to study and analyze the verb alternations that are prevalent in these verbs. The paper also draws a comparison between the English and the Bangla verbs of communication based on several categories. For example, the '*Verbs of Instrument of Communication*' as present in English is expressed in a different way in Bangla verbs.

1) John emailed me yesterday.

2) ɟɔn  ama-ke     kal           email kor-l-o  (Bangla)
   john  me- ACC yesterday      email do-PST-3P
   'John emailed me yesterday.'

3) Mira yesterday telecasted the new cinema.

4) mira kal       notun    chobi-ta   ʃɔmprocar  kor-l-o
   mira yesterday new      cinema-CLA    telecast  do-PST-3P
   'Mira yesterday telecasted the new cinema.'

Examples (2) and (4) are considered as complex predicates following Butt (2005) & Ramchand (2008) among others. This phenomenon is common in Bangla and in many other South Asian languages. The tense is inflected on the light verb because Bangla is a V2 language. The following sections carry detailed descriptions of several verb classes of communication.

## 2. Bangla Verb Classes of Communication

In this section, the Bangla verbs of communication is compared to the nine sub-categories introduced by Levin (1993) for English verbs of communication .

The categories are shown in the following Table 1.

| Type | Example |
|---|---|
| **Verbs of Transfer of a Message** | Ask, cite, demonstrate etc. |

**Language in India** www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940 17:7 July 2017**
Dr. Priyanka Dey (ne'e Das) and Dr. Atanu Saha
Verbs of Communication in Bangla

<12-36>

| Type | Example |
|---|---|
| **Tell Verbs** | Tell |
| **Verbs of Manner of Speaking** | Whisper, call etc. |
| **Verbs of Instrument of Communication** | Cable, email, fax etc. |
| **Talk Verbs** | Speak, talk etc. |
| **Chitchat Verbs** | Argue , Chat etc. |
| **Say Verbs** | Announce, say, articulate, etc, |
| **Complain Verb** | Boast, complain, object, etc. |
| **Advise Verbs** | Advise, alert, instruct, etc. |

**Table 1 Verb Types**

## 2.1 Verbs of Transfer of a Message

In this set of Bangla verbs, the nature of the message is described. Some 'verbs of transfer of message' are the followings –

ɟiggesh kɔra 'ask';                                     lekʰa 'write';

 adeʃ kɔra 'dictate, order';                    proman  kɔra  'demonstrate ,prove';

 boɟʰano 'explain';                                    uḏʰrito  kɔra  'cite' ;

pɔra 'read';                                               bækkʰa  kɔra  'explicate';

abritti kɔra 'recite';                                 bɔrnona  kɔra 'narrate';

dekʰano 'show';                                         dʰɔrmopodeʃ dewa 'preach';

pɔrano 'teach';                                         uddhrito kɔra 'quote'

bɔla 'tell';

## 2.1.1 Sentential complement

The Bangla verbs of transfer of message participate in 'Sentential Complement alternation'. For example –

5) ʃima cʰaṯro-der bojha-l-o  ɟe  prithibi gol chi-l-o    (Bangla)

**Language in India** www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940 17:7 July 2017**
Dr. Priyanka Dey (ne'e Das) and Dr. Atanu Saha
Verbs of Communication in Bangla

<12-36>

sima student-PL  explain-PST-3P that earth round be-PST-3P

'Sima explained the students that the earth was round.'

## 2.1.2. Dative alternation

The Dative alternation is not quite acceptable in Bangla unlike English as we can see in the following examples. In case of Bangla, only scrambling takes place.

6) ʃima cʰaṯro-der        pora-l-o                    (Bangla)

sima student-PL            teach-PST-3P

'Sima taught the students'.

7) ʃima pora-l-o cʰaṯro-der

sima teach-PST-3P student-PL

'Sima taught the students'.

Examples (6) and (7) are also called Noun-Verb (NV) - complex predicates. The other examples of this type are: *building a house, seeing a girl and watching a movie*.

8)  ! ʃima iŋreʝi    pora-l-o      cʰaṯro-ḏer- ke          (Bangla)

sima English teach-PST-3P student-PL-DAT

'Sima taught English to students'.

9)  ʃima cʰaṯro-der  iŋreʝi   pora-l-o

sima student-PL English  taught

'Sima taught students English'.

10) ʃima ɔnko  ʃekʰa-l-o            cʰaṯro-ḏer- ke

sima math teach- PST-3P student-PL-DAT

'Sima taught math to the students.'

11) ! ʃima cʰaṯroder      ʃekʰa-l-o      ɔnko.

sima  student- PL  teach –PST-3P maths

'Sima taught the students maths'.

## 2.2    Tell Verb

**Language in India** www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940 17:7 July 2017**
Dr. Priyanka Dey (ne'e Das) and Dr. Atanu Saha
Verbs of Communication in Bangla

<12-36>

In Bangla, *bɔla* 'tell' is an example of 'tell verb'. *'Middle alternation', 'Sentential Complement without Goal To Phrase alternation'* and *'Parenthetical use of the verbs'* are possible in Bangla 'Tell Verbs' because in few instances there is a preference for an overt accusative case marker. However, these alternations are not possible in English.

### 2.2.1 Middle Alternation

Consider the examples of middle alternation in Bangla as in examples (12) a. and (12) b.

12) a.       mira gɔlpo-ta     bol-l-o                   (Bangla)

               mira story-CLA tell-PST

               'Mira told the story'.


        b.        gɔlpo-ta      ʃohoɟe bɔla ho-lo

                 story-CLA    easily   tell AUX-PST

               *'The story was told easily.'


This alternation is not allowed in English as in (13) (a.) and (b.).

13)   a. Mira told the story.


     b.  *The story was told easily


### 2.2.2 Parenthetical Use of the Verbs' Alternation

In case of parenthetical use of the verbs, Bangla allows it as in example (14) but not in English, as in example (15 a) and (15 b).

14) biɟoyi, ʃima ama-ke bol-l-o, agamikal gʰoʃiṱo hɔbe  (Bangla)

    winner, Seema me-ACC tell-PST-3P , tomorrow announce be-FUT

   '*The winner, Seema told to me, would be announced tomorrow.'


15) a. The winner, Seema told me would be announced tomorrow.


    b. *The winner, Seema told to me, would be announced tomorrow.


### 2.2.3 Sentential Complement without Goal to Phrase Alternation

Goal to phrase alternation, in the sentential complement is not found in English but is found in Bangla as in example (16).

**Language in India** www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940 17:7 July 2017**      <12-36>
Dr. Priyanka Dey (ne'e Das) and Dr. Atanu Saha
Verbs of Communication in Bangla

16) *Seema told to Mira that the conference would be tonight.


17) ʃima mira-ke bol-l-o ɟe kɔnpharens -ta                    aɟ rate hɔbe          (Bangla)

ʃima mira-ACC tell-PST-3P that conference-CLA tonight will-FUT-be

‘*Seema told to Mira that the conference would be tonight.’


However, alternations that are not possible in both English and Bangla are ‘*Conative alternation’, ‘Possessor-Attribute alternation’, and ‘Cognate alternations’.* Examples are shown in examples (18-19).


**2.2.4 Conative Alternation**

Examples of conative alternations are cited as below:

18) *Mira told one essay at Seema.


19) *mira bol-l-o     akta probondʰo ʃima- ʈe     (Bangla)

   mira  tell-PST-3P one essay seema-LOC

  ‘*Mira told one essay at Seema.’


**2.2.5 Possessor and Attribute Alternation**

Possessor alternation and attribute alternations are not compatible with this verb class as shown in examples (20-22).

20) a. *I told him for his honesty.


21) b. *I told the honesty in him.


22) a.*ami ta-ke ta-r ʃahoʃ-er     ɟonno bol-l-am          (Bangla)

    I   he-ACC  he-GEN courage-GEN for tell-PST-1P

  * ‘I told him for his courage.’


  b. *ami ʃahoʃ-ta jeta tar    modhey ache bol-l-am

   I  courage-CLA that he-GEN  inside  be tell-PST-1P

  ‘I praised the courage that is in him.’


**2.2.6 Cognate Alternation**


**Language in India** www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940 17:7 July 2017**
Dr. Priyanka Dey (ne'e Das) and Dr. Atanu Saha
Verbs of Communication in Bangla

<12-36>

Similarly cognate alternation is not possible in either English or Bangla as in examples (23- 24).

23) *Mira told one tell.

24) *mira bol-l-o akta bɔla                                    (Bangla)

   Mira tell-PST-3P one tell

   '*Mira told a tell.'

**2.2.7 Dative Alternation**

Dative alternation is possible in English but not in Bangla as in examples (25) - (28).

25) Rita told one story to Gita.

26) Rita told Gita one story.

27) rita ek-ta  gɔlpo  bol-l-o  gita-ke            (Bangla)

   rita one-CLA story tell-PST-3P gita-ACC

   'Rita told one story to Gita'.

28) *gita rita bol-l-o ek-ta gɔlpo

   gita    rita tell-PST-3P one-CLA story

   'Gita Rita told one story'.

On the contrary '*Benefactive alternation', 'Passive alternation', 'Impersonal Passive alternation'* and *'Reflexive alternation'* are possible with the 'Tell Verb' in both Bangla and English.

**2.2.8 Benefactive Alternation**

29) a.Mira told a story for the baby.

   b. Mira told the baby a story.

30) a. mira ækta gɔlpo bol-l-o              bacca-ta –r              ɟonno  (Bangla)

   mira one-CLA story tell-PST-3P     baby –CLA- GEN      for

   'Mira told one story for the baby.'

**Language in India** www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940 17:7 July 2017**
Dr. Priyanka Dey (ne'e Das) and Dr. Atanu Saha
Verbs of Communication in Bangla

<12-36>

b. mira bacca-ta - ke      ækta gɔlpo   bol-l-o

  mira  baby –CLA-ACC one story      tell-PST-3P

  'Mira told the baby a story.'

Bangla shows a Direct Object to Indirect Object (i.e., DO-IO) conversion as shown in examples (30) a. and (30) b. In (30) a. the indirect object gets genitive case marker and in (30. b) the indirect object is marked with accusative case. This is a classic example of benefactive alternation.

In Bangla there is a dative genitive syncretism (Nakamura 2009). Therefore, one can say that dative alternation is equally possible in these cases.

31) ṭar      gʰum    bʰaŋg-lo.   (Klaiman 1980)

  he-DAT       sleep   break-PST

  'He awakened'. (Literal: His sleep broke)

## 2.2.9 Passive Alternation

This alternation is possible for both English and Bangla verbs, examples:

32) I was told that the prize would be given tonight.

33) amay bɔla hoy-e chilo ɟe puroʃkar-ta aɟ raṭ-e dewa hɔbe                (Bangla)

  Į-LOC tell be-CP was that prize-CLA today night-LOC would be given

  'I was told that the prize would be given tonight'.

## 2.2.10 Impersonal Passive Alternation

This alternation is possible for both English and Bangla verbs, examples:

34) It was told that today night s/he would come.

35) eta  bɔla  hoy-e cʰilo ɟe  aj  raat-e  o  as-b-e

  this   tell be-CP   was  today night-LOC s/he      come-FUT-3P

  'It was told that today night s/he would come'

## 2.2.11Reflexive Alternation

This alternation is possible for both English and Bangla verbs, examples:

36) a. Yesterday I told the story.

**Language in India** www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940 17:7 July 2017**
Dr. Priyanka Dey (ne'e Das) and Dr. Atanu Saha
Verbs of Communication in Bangla

<12-36>

b. Yesterday I told the story to myself

37) a. ami gɔʈokal gɔlpo-ta bol-l-am

I yesterday story-CLA tell-PST-1P

'Yesterday I told the story'.

b. gɔʈokal niɟeke gɔlpo-ta bol-l-am

yesterday myself-ACC story- CLA tell-PST-1P

'Yesterday I told the story to myself'.

## 2.3. Verbs of Manner of Speaking

This set of verbs has been referred to as 'Verbs of manner of speaking' and as this label suggests, they are distinguished from each other by the manner in which the sound is expressed.

Examples of 'Verbs of manner of speaking' in Bangla are cited as under Verbs and their meaning in the following Table 2.

| Verb | Meaning |
|------|---------|
| caecano | 'scream' |
| cellano | 'shout' |
| gʰaen gʰaen kɔra | 'groan, nag' |
| kãɖa | 'cry' |
| kʰepe ɟawa | 'rage' |
| g ɔrɟon k ɔra | ' roar' |
| gawa | 'sing' |
| phiʃphiʃ | 'whisper' |
| birbir kɔra | 'mumble' |
| pæ̃k pæ̃k kɔra | 'crackle' |

**Language in India** www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940 17:7 July 2017**
Dr. Priyanka Dey (ne'e Das) and Dr. Atanu Saha
Verbs of Communication in Bangla

<12-36>

| bilap kɔra | 'groan,lament' |
|---|---|
| g ɔɟgɔɟ kɔra | 'grumble' |
| citkar kɔra | 'howl, shout' |

**Table 2 Verbs of manner of speaking**

The alternations with verbs of manner of speaking are discussed as the following:

### 2.3.1 To Phrase Alternation

Bangla does not allow '*To phrase alternation*'. Whenever the verb *kore* 'to do' is added to the verb of manner of speaking such as, *phiʃphiʃ kore* 'whispered', *gʰaen gʰaen kore* 'nagging' and *bilap kore* 'repenting, lamenting', instead of behaving as a verb, they behave like adverbials of manner. Thus, this leads to the change in the grammatical category of the word. But in this paper since we are studying these under the class of 'Verb of Manner of Speaking' for Bangla language we will consider these as verbs.

38) mira phiʃphiʃ kore kɔtha-ta bol-l-o     (Bangla)

mira whisperingly word-CLA say-PST-3P

'Mira whisperingly said the word'.

The other possibility is to articulate the construction with a conjunctive participle formation.

39) mira phiʃphiʃɪye  bol-l-o

mira whisper -CP say–PST-3P

'Mira said whisperingly.'

### 2.3.2 Dative Alternation

Dative alternation is not possible with the 'Verb of manner of speaking'. In 'Dative alternation' only scrambling takes place. This has been argued for in Russian by Slioussar (2007) and Emonds & Whitney (2005) that there are languages where what is seen as dative construction is actually an A' scrambling. This happens with those languages where the object NPs are overtly case marked (Den Dikken 1995). In Bangla animate objects are accusative case marked.

40) a. mira phiʃphiʃ kore khobor-ta ritu-ke bol-l-o          (Bangla)

**Language in India** www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940 17:7 July 2017**
Dr. Priyanka Dey (ne'e Das) and Dr. Atanu Saha
Verbs of Communication in Bangla

<12-36>

mira whisperingly news-CLA Ritu- ACC say-PST-3P

'Mira whisperingly said the news to Ritu'.


b. mira phiʃphiʃ kore ritu-ke khɔbor-ta bol-l-o

mira whisperingly ritu-ACC news-CLA say-PST-3P

'Mira whisperingly said Ritu the news'


*'Passive alternation', 'Conative alternation',* and *'Benefactive alternation'* are also not possible unlike as it can be possible in English language.


Conative and Benefactive alternations are shown in the following examples, respectively. Here in the Bangla, in Benefactive alternation since the semantic of the sentence changes because of the alternation, this alternation is not possible in Bangla.

41) *mira ritu-ţe   phiʃphiʃ  kor-l-o        (Bangla)

mira ritu-LOC whisper          do-PST-3P

'Mira whispered at Ritu'.


42) *mira katha-ta phiʃphiʃ kor-l-o ritu- r ɉonno

mira word-CLA whisper do-PST ritu-GEN for

'Mira whispered the word for Ritu'.


43) Mira whispered at Ritu.


44) Mira whispered the word for Ritu.


Whereas, the '*Sentential Complement with Optional Goal To Phrase'* and *'Parenthetic use of verbs'* are possible for this set  of Bangla verbs and in English.


45)   ritu  phiʃphiʃ kor-e  bol-l-o      (mira-ke) ɉe aj  raat-e  biyeta  hobe

ritu    whisper  do-CP say-PST-3P (mira-ACC) that today night-LOC marriage- AUX-FUT

'Ritu whispered (to Mira) that tonight the marriage will happen'.


46) ritu phiʃphiʃ kor-e bol-l-o (mira-ke) kamon kore lok-ta-ke aerate


**Language in India** www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940 17:7 July 2017**
Dr. Priyanka Dey (ne'e Das) and Dr. Atanu Saha
Verbs of Communication in Bangla

<12-36>

ritu whisper do-CP say-PST-3P (mira-ACC) how to man-CLA-DAT avoid-CP

'Ritu whispered (to Mira) how to avoid the man'.

47) ritu phiʃphiʃ kor-e (mira-ke) aʃte bol-l-o

ritu whisper do-CP mira-ACC come-CP say-PST-3P

'Ritu whispered (to Mira) to come'

## 2. Verbs of Instrument of Communication

In Bangla, alternations with the 'Verbs of Instrument of communication' are not possible unlike English due to many factors. This class of verbs includes words such as, '*cable, email and telegraph*'. Primarily these words are used in their borrowed form in Bangla language. Bangla do not have separate set of lexical items for this class of verb. The other factor which leads to the impossibility of this class of verbs in Bangla is that, only few of the words which are possible are found only in the form of nouns but cannot be found as verbs. For example, the words such as, '*email'* and *'google'* are borrowed in the language as Nouns but not as Verbs. Consider the following example once again.

48) ɟɔn  ama-ke     kal          email kor-e-che                    (Bangla)

john  me- ACC yesterday      email do-PRS-3P

'John emailed me yesterday.'

Thus, all these factors make this alternation not possible in Bangla for 'Verbs of Instrument of Communication'.

## 2.5 Talk Verb

The 'Talk Verbs' have been grouped together here, even though a more extensive examination of their properties reveals differences between them, because the meanings of both relate to speaking but do not involve a means or manner specification. Some of the Bangla 'talk verbs' are *kɔʈha bɔla* 'speak/talk' and *bɔla* 'say'.

### 2.5.1 Understood Reciprocal Object Alternation

This alternation is not possible in Bangla unlike English.

49) a.      sita ar mita kɔʈha bol-l-o   (Bangla)

sita and mita talk tell-PST-3P

'Sita and Mita talked'.

**Language in India** www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940 17:7 July 2017**
Dr. Priyanka Dey (ne'e Das) and Dr. Atanu Saha
Verbs of Communication in Bangla

<12-36>

b. *sita kɔʈha bol-l-o mita

     Sita talk tell-PST-3P  Mita

     Lit. 'Sita talked Mita'


*'With Preposition Drop alternation'* and *'Conative alternation'* are not possible in both English and Bangla.


## 2.5.2 Preposition Drop Alternation

50) a. sita mita-r ʃɔŋge kɔʈha bol-l-o

    sita mita-GEN with talk tell-PST-3P

    'Sita talked with Mita'.


b. *sita kɔʈha bol-l-o mita

    sita talk tell-PST-3P  mita'

  *'Sita talked Mita'


## 2.5.3 Conative Alternation

51) *sita mita-ʈe kɔʈha bol-l-o           (Bangla)

    sita mita-LOC talk tell-PST-3P

   *'Sita talked at Mita'


*'Simple Reciprocal alternation'* and *'Together Reciprocal alternation'* are possible with 'Talk Verbs' of Bangla just like English, such as in the following examples, respectively.

52)  a. sita mita-r ʃɔŋge kɔʈha bol-l-o

    sita mita-GEN with talk-PST-3P

    'Sita talked with Mita'.


b. sita ar mita kɔʈha bol-l-o

  sita and mita talk-PST-3P

  'Sita and Mita talked'.


53) a. sita mita-r sathey kɔʈha bol-l-o

    sita mita-GEN with talk-PST-3P

**Language in India** www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940 17:7 July 2017**
Dr. Priyanka Dey (ne'e Das) and Dr. Atanu Saha
Verbs of Communication in Bangla

&lt;12-36&gt;

'Sita talked with Mita'.


b. sita ar mita ek sathey kɔʈha bol-l-o

sita and mita together talk-PST-3P

'Sita and Mita talked together'.


Talk verbs cannot have Sentential Complement alternation for both English and Bangla language. Consider the following examples:

54) *Ellen talked (to Helen) that the party was tomorrow. (Levin 2008)


55) *elen helen-ke kɔʈha bol-l-o ɟe parti-ta gɔʈokal cʰilo (Bangla)

ellen hellen -ACC say -PST party -CLA yesterday AUX-PST

'Ellen talked (to Helen) that the party was tomorrow'.


Like English, this alternation is ungrammatical in Bangla too. The noticeable thing is however, that in Bangla the verb talk is constituted of a noun + verb complex. The Bangla verbs that can allow this are verbs like say 'bɔla' and tell which is also 'bɔla'.


## 2.6 Chitchat Verbs

Most of the 'Chitchat Verbs' can be used to describe spoken interactions between two or more participants. Some of the 'chitchat verbs' can be listed as:

- *tɔrko kɔra 'argue'*

- *gɔlpo kɔra 'chat'*

- *alocona kɔra 'converse,discuss'*

- *cɔrca kɔra 'discuss'*

These verbs are found with 'with phrases' but not usually with 'to phrases'.
*'Sentential complement', 'Simple Reciprocal alternation (intransitive)'* and *'Together Reciprocal alternation (intransitive)*, are possible.


**Language in India** www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940 17:7 July 2017**
Dr. Priyanka Dey (ne'e Das) and Dr. Atanu Saha
Verbs of Communication in Bangla

<12-36>

*'Understood Reciprocal Object alternation', 'with Preposition Drop alternation', 'Conative alternation'* and *'Middle alternation'* are not possible with this set of verbs in Bangla as well as in English, examples:

56) *mira sita-ţe gɔlpo kor-l-o          (Bangla)

Mira Sita-LOC chat do-PST-3P

'Mira chatted at Sita'.


57) *Mira chatted at Sita.


58) a. *mira gɔlpo kɔr-e                    (Bangla)

mira chat     do-HAB.PRS-3P

*'Mira chats'.


b. *gɔlpo ʃɔhoɟe kɔra ho-lo

chat easily  do    AUX-PST

'Chat easily was done'.


59) a.*Mira chats talks.


b. *Talks easily chats.


**2.7 Say Verbs**

Verbs such as 'Say Verbs' are described as 'Verbs of communication of propositional attitudes' by Gropen, et al. (1989). Sentential Complement Phrase Alternation is possible with this set of verbs in Bangla as well as in English language.


Some of the 'say verbs' are -

| | |
|---|---|
| *bɔla 'say';* | *ʃikar kɔra 'confess';* |
| *procar kɔra 'announce';* | *shamorpon kɔra 'confide';* |
| *uccaron kɔra 'articulate';* | *bohon kɔra 'convey';* |
| *bɔkbɔk kɔra 'blab';* | *ullekh kɔra 'mention'* |
| *dabi kɔra 'claim';* | *proɟţab kɔra 'suggest'.* |


60) a.  mira bol-l-o ɟe am-gulo bhalo   bikri hocch-e (Bangla)

**Language in India** www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940 17:7 July 2017**
Dr. Priyanka Dey (ne'e Das) and Dr. Atanu Saha
Verbs of Communication in Bangla

<12-36>

mira say-PST COMP mango-PL good sell AUX-CONT

'Mira said that mangoes are selling good'.

b. mira sita-ke bol-l-o ɟe am-gulo   bhalo bikri hocch-e

mira sita-ACC say-PST-3P COMP mango-PL good  sell AUX-CONT

'Mira said to Sita that mangoes are selling well'.

c. mira kichu katha sita-ke bol-l-o

mira few words sita-ACC say-PST-3P

'Mira said few words to Sita'.

61) a. 'Mira said that mangoes are selling good'.

b. 'Mira said to Sita that mangoes are selling well'.

c. 'Mira said few words to Sita'.

Dative Alternation is not possible in this set of verbs in Bangla as well as English as seen in the following examples, respectively.

62) a. mira ritu-ke kichu bol-l-o                (Bangla)

mira ritu-ACC something say-PST-3P

*'Mira said Ritu something'.

b. *mira kichu bol-l-o ritu

mira something say-PST-3P ritu

'Mira said something to Ritu'.

63) a.*Mira said Ritu something.

b. Mira said something to Ritu.

**2.8 Complain Verbs**

**Language in India** www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940 17:7 July 2017**
Dr. Priyanka Dey (ne'e Das) and Dr. Atanu Saha
Verbs of Communication in Bangla

<12-36>

These verbs specify the speaker's attitude or feelings toward what is said. Some of the complain verbs' are such as – *ɔhonkar kɔra 'boast'; bɔrai kɔra 'brag' ; obhijog  kɔra 'complain' ; birbir kɔra 'grumble'   and badha diye bɔla 'object'.*

These verbs do not show '*Cognate Object alternation', 'Transitivity alternation', 'Benefactive alternation'* and *'Conative alternation'.*

## 2.8.1 Cognate Object in Bangla verbs

64) a.*mira duto obhijog obhijog kor-l-o (ritu-ke)

   mira two complaints complain do-PST-3P (ritu-ACC)

    'Mira complained two complaints (to Ritu)'.


   b. *ritu obhijog kor-l-o mira-ţe

     ritu complain do-PST-3P mira-LOC

      'Ritu complained at Mira'.

Some   of   these   verbs   can   take   'to   phrase', 'Direct speech', 'sentential complement with optional goal to phrase' and 'Parenthetic use of verb'.

## 2.8.2 Parenthetic Use of the Verb in Bangla

65) cithi-ta, ʃima obhijog kor-l-o ( ritu-ke) ɟe aʃe ni

     letter-CLA seema complained (ritu-ACC) COMP did not come

     'The letter Seema complained ( to Ritu) that did not come'.

## 2.9 Advise Verbs

These verbs relate to giving advice or warning. Some of the 'advise verbs' are such as – *ʃɔtorko kɔra 'admonish/warned' ; pɔramorʃo dewa 'advise' ; ʃabɖʰan kɔra 'caution'   and adeʃ kɔra 'dictate, order'.*

The verb in this verb class in Bangla is impossible with the 'Benefactive alternation'. Such as –

66) *mita ʃotorko kor-l-o ritu-r ɟonno aʃţe

     mita warned do-PST-3P ritu-GEN for  come-INF

       'Mita warned for Ritu to come'.

**Language in India** www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940 17:7 July 2017**       <12-36>
Dr. Priyanka Dey (ne'e Das) and Dr. Atanu Saha
Verbs of Communication in Bangla

The verbs of this class allow a PRO-arb object interpretation when used intransitively in both English and Bangla.

67) a. The sign warned us against skating on the pond.

   b. The sign warned against skating on the pond.

68) a. sigareter bidhibɔddho ʃɔʈorkikɔron amaḏer sigarete kʰawa   tʰeke birɔʈo korʈe pare
cigarette statutory warning us cigarette eat-NOM from prevent do-CP can-PRS-3P.

   'The statutory warning can prevent us from smoking cigarettes.'

   b. ʃigareter bidhi bɔddho ʃɔʈorkikɔron ʃigarete kʰawa tʰeke birɔʈo korʈe pare
   cigarette statutory warning  cigarette eat from prevent do-PRS
   'The statutory warning can prevent from smoking cigarettes.'

This set of verbs can also take '*to phrase alternation', 'Sentential complement with optimal goal object alternation', 'Direct speech alternation', 'Parenthetical alternation',* and *'about phrase alternation'* in both the concerned languages. Examples are as follows:

**2.9.1 Direct Speech**

69)  ritu ʃɔtorko kor-l-o rima-ke "okhane ɟaʃ na"
      ritu warn do-PST-3P rima-ACC "there go NEG".
     'Ritu warned Rima, "do not go there'.

**2.9.2 Parenthetical Use of the verbs**

70) kaj-ta, mita ʃoɔʈorko kor-l-o (sita-ke) aɟ ʃeʃ korte hɔbe bole
    work-CLA mita warn do-PST-3P sita-ACC today finish do-CP AUX-FUT COMP
     'The work, Mita warned  Sita, must be finished by today'.

71) mita (ritu-ke) bonna-r ʃombondhe ʃɔʈorko kor-l-o
       mita (ritu-ACC) flood-GEN about warned do PST 3P
       'Mita warned (to Ritu) about flood'.

**Language in India** www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940 17:7 July 2017**
Dr. Priyanka Dey (ne'e Das) and Dr. Atanu Saha
Verbs of Communication in Bangla

<12-36>

## 3. Conclusion

The above comparative study between Bangla and English 'Verbs of Communication' clearly reflects the lexical properties of the verbs of communication in both the concerned languages. The observations are shown in the form of tables (3), (4) and (5).

There are few Verbs of communication, where the given alternations are not possible for both the languages. This is shown in the following Table 3.

| Verb Classes | Alternations not possible for both English and Bangla |
|---|---|
| **Talk Verbs** | Benefactive alternation, with Preposition Drop alternation and Conative alternation. |
| **Tell Verbs** | Possessor and Attribute alternation, Cognate alternation and Conative alternation. |
| **Chitchat Verbs** | Middle alternation, Conative alternation and Understood Reciprocal alternation. |
| **Say Verbs** | Dative alternation |
| **Complain Verbs** | Cognate alternation |
| **Advise Verbs** | Benefactive alternation |

**Table 3: Impossible alterations**

There are few Verbs of communication where the given alternations are possible for both the languages. This is shown in the following Table 4.

| Verb Classes | Alternations possible for both English and Bangla |
|---|---|

**Language in India** www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940 17:7 July 2017**
Dr. Priyanka Dey (ne'e Das) and Dr. Atanu Saha
Verbs of Communication in Bangla

<12-36>

| Verb Classes | Alternations possible for both English and Bangla |
|---|---|
| **Transfer of Message verbs** | Sentential Complement |
| **Tell Verbs** | Benefactive alternation, Passive alternation, Impersonal Passive alternation and Reflexive alternation |
| **Verbs of Manner of Speaking** | Sentential Complement with Optional Goal To Phrase and Parenthetic use of verbs alternation. |
| **Talk Verbs** | Simple Reciprocal alternation and Together Reciprocal alternation. |
| **Chitchat Verbs** | Simple Reciprocal alternation (intransitive) |
| **Say Verbs** | Sentential Complement Phrase Alternation |
| **Complain Verbs** | Direct speech alternation, sentential complement with optional goal to phrase and Parenthetic use of verb. |
| **Advise Verbs** | PRO-arb object , to phrase alternation , Sentential complement with optional goal object alternation, Direct speech alternation, Parenthetical alternation and about phrase alternation. |

**Table 4: Possible Alterations**

Thus, in this paper the Bangla 'Verbs of Communication' is divided into various classes similar to Levin's English 'Verbs of Communication'. Based on the class divisions the different properties of these different classes of verbs are analyzed according to the verb

**Language in India** www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940 17:7 July 2017**
Dr. Priyanka Dey (ne'e Das) and Dr. Atanu Saha
Verbs of Communication in Bangla

<12-36>

alternations as discussed by Levin and a brief comparison is created between Bangla and English language.

The summarization is shown in the following Table 5:

| Verb Class | Possible alternations | English | Bangla |
|---|---|---|---|
| Transfer of Message | Dative alternation | √ | X |
| | Sentential complement | √ | √ |
| Tell verbs | Middle alternation | x | √ |
| | Sentential Complement without Goal To Phrase alternation | x | √ |
| | Parenthetical use of the verbs | x | √ |
| | Conative alternation | x | X |
| | Benefactive alternation | √ | √ |
| | Possessor- attribute alternation | x | X |
| | Cognate alternation | x | X |
| | Dative alternation | √ | X |
| | Passive alternation | √ | √ |
| | Impersonal Passive alternation | √ | √ |
| | Reflexive alternation | √ | √ |
| Verbs of Manner of Speaking | To phrase alternation | √ | X |
| | Dative | X | X |
| | Passive alternation | √ | X |
| | Conative alternation | √ | X |
| | Benefactive alternation | √ | X |

**Language in India** www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940 17:7 July 2017**
Dr. Priyanka Dey (ne'e Das) and Dr. Atanu Saha
Verbs of Communication in Bangla

<12-36>

<12-36>

| Verb Class | Possible alternations | English | Bangla |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Sentential Complement with Optional Goal To Phrase | √ | √ |
| | Parenthetic use of verbs | √ | √ |
| Verbs of Instrument of Communication | Different syntax | √ | X |
| Talk Verb | Understood Reciprocal Object alternation | √ | X |
| | With Preposition Drop alternation | x | X |
| | Conative alternation | x | X |
| | Benefactive alternation | x | X |
| | Simple Reciprocal alternation | √ | √ |
| | Together Reciprocal alternation | √ | √ |
| | Sentential Complement alternation | x | X |
| Chitchat Verbs | Sentential complement | x | √ |
| | Simple Reciprocal alternation (intransitive) | √ | √ |
| | Together Reciprocal alternation (intransitive) | x | √ |
| | Understood Reciprocal Object alternation | x | X |
| | With Preposition Drop alternation | x | X |

**Language in India** www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940 17:7 July 2017**
Dr. Priyanka Dey (ne'e Das) and Dr. Atanu Saha
Verbs of Communication in Bangla

| Verb Class | Possible alternations | English | Bangla |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | Conative alternation | x | X |
|  | Middle alternation | x | X |
| Say Verbs | Sentential Complement Phrase Alternation | √ | √ |
|  | Dative Alternation | x | X |
| Complain Verbs | Cognate object | x | X |
|  | To phrase | √ | √ |
|  | Direct speech | √ | √ |
|  | Sentential complement with optional goal to phrase | √ | √ |
|  | Parenthetic use of verb | √ | √ |
| Advise Verbs | Benefactive alternation | x | X |
|  | PRO-arb object | √ | √ |
|  | To phrase alternation | √ | √ |
|  | Sentential complement with optional goal object alternation | √ | √ |
|  | Direct speech alternation | √ | √ |
|  | Parenthetical alternation | √ | √ |
|  | About phrase alternation | √ | √ |

**Table 5: Sum up**

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**Language in India** www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940 17:7 July 2017**
Dr. Priyanka Dey (ne'e Das) and Dr. Atanu Saha
Verbs of Communication in Bangla

<12-36>

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**Language in India** www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940 17:7 July 2017**
Dr. Priyanka Dey (ne'e Das) and Dr. Atanu Saha
Verbs of Communication in Bangla

<12-36>

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**Language in India** www.languageinindia.com **ISSN 1930-2940 17:7 July 2017**
Dr. Priyanka Dey (ne'e Das) and Dr. Atanu Saha
Verbs of Communication in Bangla

<12-36>