

The Influence of Santali language on the development of Bengali language

Sunil Kumar Mandi

Assistant Professor & H.O.D.

Department of Santali,

Silda C.S.College, At.+P.O.- Silda, Dist.-Jhargram, Pin-721515, (W.B.)

Former Teacher-in-Charge, B.M.M.College, Pirrah, Haludkanali, Bankura, 722140,(W.B.)

Abstract:

The Santali is one of the ancient languages of the Austro-Asiatic branch of the Austric language group. The Santali language is also considered by many linguists to be of Kol-Munda, Agneous or Kerwari origin. Recent linguists have proved that the Bengali language has been heavily influenced by Santali words. And about sixty percent of the deshi words in Bengali are adopted from or derived from Santali words. As a result, Santali is unquestionably the oldest language. "Charyapad" is the ancient sign of Bengali language. The birth and development of the Bengali language are at the hands of the Charyapad. Scholars believe the Charyapad reigned from the 10th to the 12th centuries. In linguistics, Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee has shown that long before the arrival of Aryan languages in Bengal, the people of this country were using Kol or Austric, or some Dravidian language. The Bengal country of the Ganges valley and large parts of central India were largely inhabited by Austric speaking Austroloids. Their language and culture were all present. Even the name "Banga Desh" is of Austric origin, as are some Santali words. "Bonga Dishom"(Santali)>Banga Desham(Sanskrit)>Banga Desh(Bengali). "Linguists believe that the Santali language has influenced the grammar of Bengali," said Dr. Sukumar Sen. But knowledge of Santali is essential for deep discussion of Bengali language." So, Santali language influenced the Bengali language, it can be said without doubt.

Keywords: Santali, Austric, Bengali, Linguists, Language.

The Santali language is a branch of the Kol-Munda language of the Austric language family. And of this Kol-Munda branch the Santali language is a very important ancient language. Linguists have proved that many Santali words have entered between the Sanskrit language and Bengali language, even an estimated sixty percent of India's indigenous words are originated from Santali words. Dr. Parimal Chandra Mitra in his book "Santhali: The Base of World Language," says that 'all ancient languages like Vedic or different types of speech like Prakrit have languages, without any substitution of new form tenses, suffixes, or case endings that are discernible from the "Kol" interpretation of Vedic hymns and Prakrit languages. Now, did the authors create any rules to indicate tenses or case endings.

About the Santali language L.S.S.O. Malley in 'Bengal District Gazetteer' "Santal Parganas" writes that "The Santali language has a pure Non-Aryan skeleton with very few exceptions, a pure grammar and an often rich vocabulary of words denoting everything which can be in any way of it, etc., in short, all which in their own by nature."

Santali language is a very rich language and a language of nature. This is prove from the above quote. Dr. Suhrid Kumar Bhowmik in his book "Adibasider Bhasa O Bangla" writes that 'kherwal jati addhyushita Banglay Brahman sanskritir plaboner somaye Kherwal (Saontal) lokerai kichu Sanskrit o Prakrito shabdo ebong kichhu Saontali, Mundari ba matri bhasar shabdokhe ghose meje sanskriter manansoi sanskrit byakoranke akshom anusaran kore ba adou na kore kherwal totha Saontali byakoran anusarei shabdo prayog kore Bangla Bhasa totha tader bhasa sristi kore chhilo moner bhab prokasher jannyo." (During the inundation of Brahman culture in Kherwal dominated Bengal, the Kherwal

(Santal) people adopted Sanskrit grammar by rubbing some Sanskrit and Prakrit words and some Santali, Mundari or mother tongue, words together. Who unable to follow or not at all Kherwal i.e. Santali using words according to grammar created the Bengali language i.e. their language to express their thoughts.")

Dr. Richard Pinal in his book 'Prakrito Bhashaoka Byakoran' writes at that time there were twenty three types of Prakrit language in use the country and among them there must have been tribble borrowed from vaidik, Prakrit and Sanskrit. So, it can truly be said that the Kol-Munda language was widespread at that time.

Dr. Parimal Chandra Mitra in his book "Santhali: The Base of World Language" gives a detailed illustration of how the word 'Kol' i.e. Santali, came into form in Vaidik language, Prakrit language and Sanskrit language, is given below:

<u>Santali</u>	<u>Vedic</u>	<u>Prakrit</u>	<u>Sanskrit</u>	<u>English</u>
ꠠꠠ(Am/Om)	ꠠꠠꠠ(Tom)	ꠠꠠꠠ(Tom)	ꠠꠠꠠ(Tom)	You
ꠠꠠꠠꠠ/ꠠꠠꠠ(Abon/Abo)	ꠠꠠ(Bo)	ꠠꠠ(Bo)	ꠠꠠꠠꠠ(Abam)	We two
ꠠꠠ(In')	ꠠꠠ(In')	ꠠꠠ(In')	ꠠꠠꠠꠠ(Ohom)	I
ꠠꠠ/ꠠꠠꠠ(Bo/Bon)	ꠠꠠꠠ(Bon)	ꠠꠠꠠ(Bon)	ꠠꠠꠠꠠ(Boyom)	We all
ꠠꠠ/ꠠꠠ(Am/m)	ꠠꠠ(Em)	ꠠꠠ(Em)	-----	You
ꠠꠠꠠ/ꠠꠠ(Tom/m)	ꠠꠠꠠ/ꠠꠠꠠ/ꠠꠠ(Tom/em/m)	ꠠꠠ(m)	-----	-----
ꠠꠠꠠ(Hor)	Not yet found	-----	-----	Man
ꠠꠠꠠꠠꠠ(Manoa)	-----	-----	ꠠꠠꠠꠠꠠ(Manob)	Man

Many words of Santali language are found in ' Charyapad ' the ancient book of Bengali and literature. For example –

i)"Khunti upari melichhi kachchhi

Bahotu kamoni sodguru puchchhi."

ii) "Tanti bikono dombi aborona changera

Tohar ontore chhari nor pera."

Here the words Khunti, Puchchhi, Tanti, Changera and Pera are Santali words of the **Kol-Munda** branch. Similarly, a great example of ancient and mediaval Bengali literature is the epic "Shrikrishna Kirtan" by poet Baru Chandi Das. The use of the word "Santali" can also be noticed in this book. Here are some examples of Radha's character, as well as some of Radha's quotes about Krishna. -----

" Na bunjho rongo dhamali,

Na jano suroti keli,

Banhuria cholo se nishod bonomali,

Jaisane roti janibon,

Tesane kahno anibon,

Suroti sombhoge sokol rati pohaibon."

The 'Banhuria' is easily understood here. This is a Kherwari word that means Santali. People of Santal society call a married woman 'Banhuria'. An example of some Santali words is given, which are similarly found in "Shrikrishna Kirtan" poetry or are obtained by changing something. as in -----

Santali:

ꠠꠠꠠꠠꠠꠠ(Mahajon)

ꠠꠠꠠꠠ(Gean)

Bengali:

ꠠꠠꠠꠠꠠꠠ(Mohajon)

ꠠꠠꠠꠠ(Gyan)

□□□(Gol)

□□□(Gal)

" Tobe boro gol kori builo jagannathe."(Harkhondo)

" mae yosoda pusilek dinya khir."(Radha Biroho)

" Nidra Bhangiya **sotwor** honyae

Kahnayin tulilo gatro."(Bonshi Khondo)

Here the Bengali word ‘ Sotwor ‘ means alert or aware(□□□□). And **Sotor** in Santali. The use of **n** (□) is more common in Santali language.

‘ **Jhant** ginya podumar thane’(Jonmo khondo)

Here **jhant** (□□□□) means fast , quickly etc. The word "**than**" is also a Santali word. The word "**Jaher**" means jaher’s place of worship."Sthan" is a Bengali word derived from the Santali word "than."

" Purushe odhik tiri andiya".(Dan Khondo)

The **andiya** word is Santali(□□□□.>□□□□□)word. in the sense of calf.

According to "Mangal Kavya" and "Shrikrishna Kirtan," the presence of the word "Santali" is also seen in the poem "Mansa Mangal" at that time. such as..

" Sonokar bochone behula kope jole.

Jor hat koriya shashuri age bole.

Pap kormer phole bidhata pashondi.

Biyar ratre hoylo swami, hoylam kancha randi."

In Bengali the word ‘ widow’ is called ‘ Randi ‘ (□□□□) in Santali. The word ‘ Randi ‘ (□□□□) in Bengali and ‘ Randi ‘ (□□□□) in Santali is almost the same. Here is an example of Kavi Kankan Mukundaram Chakraborty’s poet, Chandi Mangal. A part of the poem "Chandi Mangal" by Chakraborty----

" Ashrom pukhri ara noybeddo saluki pora

Puja koyntu kumud prosune.

Khuda bhoy porisrome nidra jai sei dhame

Chondi dekha dilen sopone."

Here the word ‘ Pukhri Ara’ is worth seeing. Undoubtedly, it can be said that it is a Santali word. More is available in exactly the same way. -----

" Shuno go shuno khuri Karjo kichhu achhe deri

Onguri bhangaia nibo kori.

Amar johar khuri Kali diho baki kori.

Jai onno boniker bari."

Here, the ‘Johar’(□□□□) is a Santali word. Many such Santali words or Kol-Munda language words have undoubtedly influenced the development of other languages in this country.

References:-

1. Hembram, Parimal – Saontali Sahityer Itihas, Nirmal Book Agency, Kolkata, Reprint:2008.
2. Hembram, Parimal- Saontali Bhasa Chorcha O Bikaser Itibrotto, N.B. Agency, Kol, 2010.
3. Mitra, Parimal- Santhali :The Base of World Language, Firma KLM Private Ltd,Kol, 1988.
4. Mitra, Parimal- Saontal Bhasa : Bhatti O Sombhabna, Hoogly, 1985.
5. Mitra, Parimal- Santhali : A Universal Heritage, F.K.P. Ltd, Kol, Reprint: 2014.
6. Baskey, Dhirendranath- Saontali Sahityer Itihas(Prothom Khondo), S.R.P, Kol, Reprint:2005.
7. Tudu, Dr. Krishna Chandra- Santari Parsi Saonhet, Marshal Bamber, Jhargram, 2018.
8. Grierson, Dr.G.A.-Linguistic Survey of India(Vol-IV, Munda & Dravidian Languages), L.P.P., Delhi, Reprint: 2005.

