

Bengali is an Eastern New Indo-Aryan language and is the official language of Bangladesh where it is spoken by about 110 million people. It is also the official regional language for another 55 million people in West Bengal. As well, there are sizable Bengali speaking communities in Orissa, Assam, Bihar, Tripura, and Meghalaya. The numerous dialects of Bengali are generally classified on a broad east / west basis. The speaker in this recording stated that she was from Delhi, and it is not known with what Bengali speaking community she was raised.

### Bengali Consonants (Phonetic):

Stops	p	t	ʈ	k	
		tʰ	ʈʰ	kʰ	
	b	d	ɖ	g	
	ɓ	ɗ	ɗ	g	
Fricatives	f	s		ʃ	h
Affricates				tʃ	
				tʃʰ	
				dʒ	
				dʒʰ	
Nasals	m	n			
Liquids		l			
		r			
		ɽ			

Consonantal length is contrastive.

### Bengali Vowels (Phonetic):

i		u
		ʊ
e		o
ɛ		ɔ
æ	a	ɑ

Vowel nasalization is contrastive, however, in this speaker, nasalization is very weak.

### I. Spontaneous Speech

### II. Word Lists

#### Consonants - Aspirated vs Unaspirated:

- [fal] 'fruit'
- [pat] 'road'

3.	[bala]	'to speak'
4.	[b̥ola]	'forgetting'
5.	[feni]	'candyfloss'
6.	[pelu]	'became'
7.	[bela]	'time of day'
8.	[pɛdʒa]	'becoming wet'
9.	[faʃa]	'to crack'
10.	[paʃa]	'leaves'
11.	[bat <sup>h</sup> i]	'bowl'
12.	[bat]	'cooked rice'
13.	[t <sup>h</sup> oli]	'bag'
14.	[tala]	'bottom'
15.	[d̥ol]	'heavy rain'
16.	[dol]	'group'
17.	[t <sup>h</sup> amun]	'stop' (imp)
18.	[dam]	'price'
19.	[d̥ama]	'basket'
20.	[a <sup>h</sup> a]	'glue'
21.	[aʃa]	'custard-apple'
22.	[adur]	'affection, respect'
23.	[ãdar]	'in the darkness'
24.	[ʃat]	'seven'
25.	[ʃat <sup>h</sup> i]	'with'
26.	[ʃad]	'taste'
27.	[ʃad]	'desire'
28.	[t <sup>h</sup> aka]	'being cheated'
29.	[taka]	'money'
30.	[d̥aka]	'to call'
31.	[d̥aka]	'to hide'
32.	[tika]	'vaccination'
33.	[t <sup>h</sup> ika]	'temporary'
34.	[d̥im]	'egg'
35.	[d̥il]	'piece of stone'
36.	[mat <sup>h</sup> ]	'field'
37.	[mɔ̃]	'total'
38.	[ʃat]	'sixty'
39.	[at]	'eight'
40.	[k <sup>h</sup> al]	'canal'
41.	[kal]	'tomorrow'
42.	[gal]	'cheek'
43.	[agut]	'hurt'
44.	[k <sup>h</sup> ɔ̃rɔk]	'expense'
45.	[kɔ̃ra]	'making'
46.	[gɔ̃ra]	'root'
47.	[gɔ̃ra]	'horse'
48.	[æk <sup>h</sup> unu]	'yet, still'
49.	[æk <sup>h</sup> an:u]	'fifty-one'
50.	[ægaru]	'eleven'
51.	[agat]	'struck'

52.	[ɖaka]	'having called'
53.	[ɖækʰa]	'having seen'
54.	[lagat]	'costs'
55.	[æk]	'one'
56.	[nokʰ]	'nail'
57.	[dʒajga]	'place'
58.	[baɟ]	'tiger'
59.	[tʃur]	'thief'
60.	[kər]	'violin bow'
61.	[dʒur]	'force'
62.	[dʒar]	'storm'
63.	[tʃola]	'walking'
64.	[tʃʰotu]	'small'
65.	[dʒola]	'swamp'
66.	[dʒola]	'hanging'
67.	[matʃ]	'fish'
68.	[madʒi]	'middle'
69.	[dʒopdʒar]	'bush'
70.	[tʃʰobi]	'picture'
71.	[atʃar]	'to thrash'
72.	[nidʒar]	'spring'
73.	[maʃ]	'month'
74.	[ʃaʃun]	'rule'
75.	[ɖaʃa]	'slipping'
76.	[ʃukʰ]	'comfort'

Consonants - Retroflexives:

1.	[tat]	'heat'
2.	[ʈat]	'mat'
3.	[kʰat]	'budget'
4.	[kaʈʰ]	'wood'
5.	[dan]	'gift'
6.	[ɖan]	'right side'
7.	[bed]	'Vedas'
8.	[baru]	'big'
9.	[ʈati]	'in it'
10.	[ʈaʈka]	'fresh'
11.	[tʰala]	'plate'
12.	[tʰɛla]	'pushing'
13.	[tumi]	'you'
14.	[ʈupi]	'cap'
15.	[oti]	'too much'
16.	[oʈa]	'that one'
17.	[ʃat]	'seven'
18.	[ʃaʈ]	'sixty'
19.	[ɖulu]	'dirt'
20.	[ɖulu]	'you doze'
21.	[ɖola]	'swinging'

22.	[d̪ɔl]	'bucket'
23.	[duj]	'two'
24.	[d̪ɔba]	'having sunk'
25.	[ʃara]	'whole'
26.	[ʃara]	'noise'
27.	[para]	'be able'
28.	[paʃa]	'neighbor'
29.	[dar]	'price'
30.	[dowɾ]	'run'

Consonant Length:

1.	[baɡu]	'go away'
2.	[baɡ:u]	'luck'
3.	[ʃud̪ʒa]	'straight'
4.	[ʃud̪ʒ:a]	'bed'
5.	[aʃa]	'whole-wheat flour'
6.	[atʰ]	'eight'
7.	[bona]	'to weave'
8.	[bun:a]	'flood'
9.	[mala]	'garland'
10.	[ma:l:a]	'boatman'
11.	[hãʃ:a]	'to walk'
12.	[ʃatat:ur]	'seventy-seven'
13.	[agi]	'first'
14.	[ag:i]	'yes, coming'

Vowels - Nasal:

1.	[tar]	'wire'
2.	[tār]	'his, her'
3.	[baɖa]	'obstacle'
4.	[hãɖa]	'to bind'
5.	[aɖik]	'half'
6.	[ãɖari]	'in the darkness'
7.	[ba]	'or'
8.	[bã]	'left'
9.	[foʃa]	'to bloom'
10.	[fõʃa]	'mark on forehead'
11.	[katʰ]	'side'
12.	[kãʃa]	'raw'
13.	[tʰilu]	'was'
14.	[tʰili]	'tom'
15.	[kaʃa]	'cutting'
16.	[kãʃa]	'thorn'
17.	[tʰili]	'boy'
18.	[tʰiki]	'strained'
19.	[ʃur]	'tune'
20.	[ʃõr]	'elephant trunk'

End of Tape 1

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|-----|------------|--------------------------------|
| 21. | [gur]      | 'molasses'                     |
| 22. | [gũrɔ]     | 'particle of dust'             |
| 23. | [tʰoli]    | 'bug'                          |
| 24. | [tʰɔ]      | 'lips'                         |
| 25. | [bida]     | 'farewell'                     |
| 26. | [biɖo]     | 'sticking'                     |
| 27. | [bɔrʃa]    | 'spear'                        |
| 28. | [bɔrʃi]    | 'fish hook'                    |
| 29. | [budʒi]    | 'I understand'                 |
| 30. | [bũdʒi]    | 'having closed'                |
| 31. | [utʃuti]   | 'proper'                       |
| 32. | [ũtʃuti]   | 'on top'                       |
| 33. | [gãʃagũʃi] | 'bumping shoulders in a crowd' |
| 34. | [dʒidʒ]    | 'numb'                         |

### III. Reading Sample

#### References:

Campbell, George L. 1991. *Compendium of the World's Languages*. New York: Routledge Press.