

STUDY 56

GRAMMAR 56.1

Word Forms that Indicate Gender

Bengali words for persons or animals are assigned either Masculine or Feminine Gender. Things are neuter. Feminine words can be related or derived from masculine words by the five methods given below.

a) Unique Terms

Sometimes the words for the masculine form and the feminine form are very different:-

ছেলে chele	son / boy
মেয়ে meye	daughter / girl
ভাই bhaai	brother
বোন bon	sister / girl
পুরুষ puruṣ	male / man
স্ত্রী strii	female / woman

b) Gender Specifier

In a few cases a special word used is inserted in front of a generalized word to indicate its gender:-

পুরুষ মানুষ purus maanus	male human being
মেয়ে মানুষ meye maanus	female human being

In other cases, the common word for the male can be modified by adding a feminine ending, as shown below.

c) Addition of a feminine ending after a final consonant

Append “-া” “-aa”; or “-ী” “-ii”; or “-ানী” “-aanii”; or “-িনি” “-ini”

মহাশয় mahaashay	gentleman
মহাশয়া mahaashayaa	lady
ছাত্র chaatra	male student
ছাত্রী chaatrii	female student
মেথর methar	sweeper
মেথরানী metharaanii	sweepress
বাঘ baagh	tiger
বাঘিনি baaghini	tigress

d) Addition of a feminine ending after a final vowel

Append “-নী” “-nii”

জেলে jеле	fisherman
জেলেনী jেলেনী jelenii	fisherwoman

e) Change an ending to feminine form

Amend the final “-া” “-aa” to “-ী” “-ii”

Amend the final “-অক” “-ak” to “-িকা” “-ikaa”.

শিক্ষক shiksak	male teacher
শিক্ষিকা shiksikaa	female teacher
বুড়া buraa	old man
বুড়ী burii	old woman
জ্যেঠা jyethaa	father’s older brother
জ্যেঠীমা jyethiimaa	father’s older brother’s wife

GRAMMAR 56.2**Titles, Other Polite Terms of Address, and Letter Writing**

The common terms Mister and Misses [Mistress] are widely used just as they are in English. They are placed just before the surname. These are sometimes mimicked by using words of Sanskrit background, such as:-

“শ্রী X” “shrii X” * / “মি: X” “mi: X” *	Mr. X
“শ্রীমতী X” “shriimatii X” * / “মিসেস X” “mises X” *	Mrs. / Misses / Mistress X
“X মহাশয়” “X mahaashay” ‡	‘gentleman X’
“X মহাশয়া” “X mahaashayaa” ‡	‘lady X’
“X বাবু” “X baabu” †	Respected friend X

* placed before the surname

‡ placed after the surname

† placed after a friendly forename. This is used only rarely, primarily in Hindu areas.

Announcements are often addressed to “ভদ্রমহিলা ও মহাদেবগণ” “bhadramahilaa o mahaadev-gan” as for “Ladies and Gentlemen”.

A letter to a senior relative may be addressed to “শ্রী X” “shrii X” with the addressee’s name. It may be signed off with the greeting “প্রণত X” “pranata X” and the author’s name.

A letter to a junior relative may be addressed to “স্নেহের X” “sneher X” with the addressee’s name added. It may be signed off with the greeting “তোমার X” “tomaar X” and the relationship followed by the author’s name.

A letter from a customer to a business supplier may be addressed to “মহাশয় X” “mahaashay X” with the addressee’s name added. It may

be signed off with the greeting “ইতি, ভদনীয়া,” “iti, bhadaniiya,” and then “শ্রী X” “shrii X” with the writer’s name inserted.

GRAMMAR 56.3

Extended Use of Words for Brother and Sister

As is evident in the family tree in *Grammar 56.4*, the words for brother “ভাই” “bhaai” and for sister “বোন” “bon” or “ভগ্নী” “bhagnii” are used in a wide range of meanings. These terms are even used for friends. For various cousins the same word is used, but preceded by an adjective derived from the word for the uncle and aunt who are the parents of the cousin. If it is necessary to indicate that a brother is one’s biological brother, the adjective “আপন” “aapan” can be inserted to convey “own”.

You may wish to print and highlight the charts below in colour to indicate gender and blood-line.

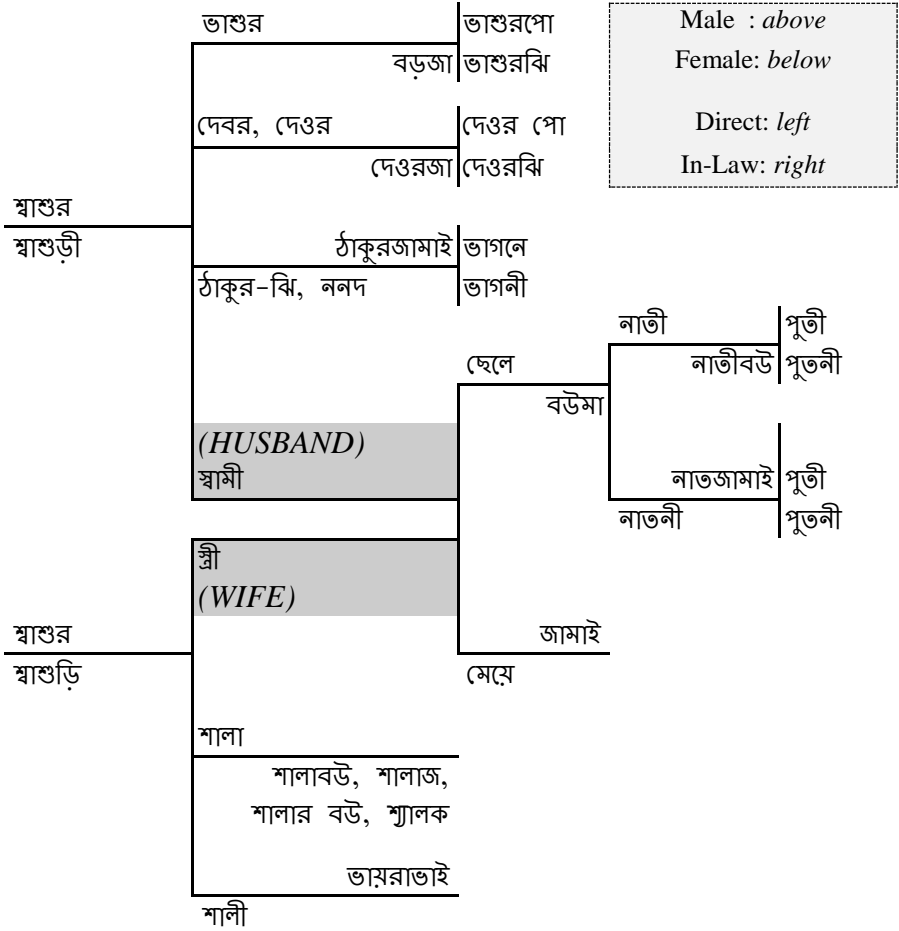
GRAMMAR 56.4

Family Relationships Before One's Marriage

	জেঠা, জেঠী	জেঠতুতো ভাই
	জেঠাইমা, জেঠী, জেঠীমা	জেঠতুতো বোন
Male : above	কাকা, চাচা	কাকাতো ভাই, চাচাতো ভাই
Female: below	কাকী, কাকীমা, চাচী	কাকাতো বোন, চাচাতো বোন
Direct: left	পিসা, পিসে, ফুপা	পিসতুতো ভাই, ফুপাতো ভাই
In-Law: right	পিসীমা, ফুপু, পিসি	পিসতুতো বোন, ফুপাতো বোন
ঠাকুরদাদা		দাদা
ঠাকুরমা		ভাইপো
		বউদি
		ভাইঝি
		দাদাবাবু
		ভাগনে
		দিদি
		ভাগনী
	(FATHER)	
	বাবা, আবা, পিতা	
		আমি
		(MYSELF)
	মা, আশ্বা, মাতা	
	(MOTHER)	
		ভাই
		ভাইপো
		বউমা, ভাইজ
		ভাইঝি
		বোনাই,
		ভেগিনী-পতি
দাদু, দাদা মহাশয়		ভাগনে
দিদিমা		ভাগনী
	বোন	
	মামা	মামাতো ভাই
	মামী, মামানী	মামাতো বোন
	খালু, মেসো, মেশোমশায়	খালাতো / মাসতুতো ভাই
	মাসীমা, খালী, মাসী	খালাতো / মাসতুতো বোন

Family Relationships Before One's Marriage

	jethaa, jyesthaa	jethatuto bhaai	
	jethaa ^h imaa, jethii, jethii ^h imaa	jethatuto bon	
Male : above	kaakaa, caacaa	kaakaato bhaai, caacaato bhaai	
Female: below	kaakii, kaakiimaa, caacii	kaakaato bon, caacaato bon	
Direct: left	pisaa, pise, phupaa	pis-tuto bhaai, phupaato bhaai	
In-Law: right	pisiimaa, phupu, pisi	pis-tuto bon, phupaato bon	
<u>thaakur-daadaa</u>		daadaa	bhaai ^{po}
<u>thaakur-maa</u>		baudi	bhaai ^{jhi}
		daadaabaabu	bhaag-ne
		didi	bhaag-nii
	(FATHER)	aami	
	baabaa, aabbaa, pitaa	(MYSELF)	
	maa, aammaa, maataa		
	(MOTHER)	bhaai	bhaai ^{po}
		baumaa, bhaaija	bhaai ^{jhi}
		bonaai, bheginii-pati	bhaag-ne
daaduu, daadaa mahaashay		bon	bhaag-nii
didimaa	maamaa	maamaato bhaai	
	maamii, maamaanii	maamaato bon	
	khaalu, meso, meshomashaay	khaalaato/maas-tuto bhaai	
	maasiimaa, khaalii, maasii	khaalaato/maas-tuto bon	

GRAMMAR 56.5**Family Relationships After One's Marriage**

Family Relationships After One’s Marriage

