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Dialect Decline in Bangladesh: Causes and Policy Implications

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Article Info	Abstract
<i>Article History</i> Date of Submission 01-02-2026 Date of Acceptance 06-05-2026 Date of Publication 15-06-2026	One of the most important topics for sociolinguists today is the decline and extinction of dialects and minor languages in the country of Bangladesh. The paper discusses how the death of a dialect is not an unintentional or spontaneous event, but rather is caused by unequal distributions of power in society and the social and economic stratification created by specific language ideologies. Language-related theories of ideologies and Pierre Bourdieu's idea of linguistic capital serve as the theoretical framework to understand the continuing dominant status of Bangla in Bangladesh due to government policies, education systems, and conditions in the job market. The methodology used in the research is qualitative and comprises language (education) policy analysis, recent research literature review, and secondary analysis of educational and demographic statistics. A mixed-method approach provides an overall position of macro-level institutions as well as day-to-day language use. Several reasons contributing to dialect extinction have been identified. These include prominent use of Bangla in symbolic and material respects, weak institutional support, rural migration to urban areas, ineffective multilingual education, and lack of intergenerational transmission of the
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dialects/languages. The prioritization of Bangla and English as it relates to schooling and the workplace establishes a language hierarchy in favour of mainstream languages at the expense of dialects.

Introduction

Linguistic diversity in Bangladesh can be seen through the use of both Standard Bengali and the various dialects and indigenous languages of the minorities. This diversity is important because it has implications for not only how people communicate but also for how they identify themselves with their culture. Many dialects and indigenous languages of the minorities are “at greater risk due to reports from the field of sociolinguistics around the world” (Bromham et al., 2022: 165) and the evidence of their decline.

Chambers and Trudgill (2004: 3) define “a dialect as a linguistic variety, either socially or locally, that has a similar syntactical structure to the standard form of the language but varies from it in other respects, such as the sounds that make up words and the words themselves”. In Bangladesh, Sylheti and Chittagonian could be considered dialects of Bangla, although the academic community does not agree as to whether or not these two languages share enough common features to constitute dialects. There are also indigenous languages spoken by the Chakma, Marma, and Santali peoples; these languages have distinct grammar and culture from either Bangla or the dialects of Bangla. Thus, “many of these indigenous languages have been identified as endangered languages” (UNESCO, 2010: 12).

Both dialects and indigenous languages in Bangladesh are rapidly declining due to the dominance of Standard Bangla, which is used in virtually every situation – from the workplace to public spaces to family gatherings. In addition, both dialects and indigenous languages are becoming increasingly rare due to the widespread use of Standard Bangla in institutions and interpersonal interactions. Bourdieu (1991: 56) states that “linguistic capital is the vehicle by which dominant

languages achieve a certain degree of prestige and status with the larger society". The association of Standard Bangla with success, opportunity and progress establishes its prestige while diminishing the value of other languages – thereby providing the basis for the replacement/eradication of languages through restricted domain use. Additionally, supporting evidence comes from Bangladesh's education system, where schools primarily teach students in Standard Bangla as the medium of instruction. This has left little room for dialects and indigenous languages. Studies of language instruction in Bangladesh have found that "when language instruction is one-dimensional by using only one language, students will develop lower skill levels in other languages" (Hossain, 2018: 49).

The increase in globalization and digitization is further widening the divide between Standard Bangla and English (as neither is associated with social status, economic advancement, or increased employability) and dialects (which are viewed as unsophisticated, unrefined, and having little social value). This shows how "attitudes regarding status and urbanity influence language use" (Woolard & Schieffelin, 1994: 58). Because dialects fail to reach and become part of successive generations, and "the scholarly belief that a shift in one's language, from his/her mother tongue to a more dominant language, can contribute to an unintentional cultural merge or loss of original identity" (Fishman, 1991). The inability of children to learn their regional dialects makes it very difficult to preserve local dialects (Fishman, 1991, 101). Furthermore, the representation of dialects in media and on the Internet continues to diminish. Standard Bangla is "frequently represented in national radio and television broadcasting, as well as in cyberspace. However, most regional and indigenous languages continue to have little exposure to the general public" (UNESCO, 2022: 3).

Currently, there is a worldwide trend of dialects disappearing (Bromham et al., 2022: 168). However, the case of Bangladesh is somewhat unique in that the existence of a large number of dialects (Bangla being a major one) plays a more significant role in national identity than in any other country. Dialect marginalization is really

caused by the fact that there are very few schools, or institutions, in which the dialects or any local languages are taught since the vast majority of them use standard Bangla as the primary mode of communication. Studies show that “teaching a child in only a single language will increase the number of children who will lose their first language” (Hossain, 2018: 49). There are global opportunities and jobs associated with globalization and the development of media technologies that promote the hierarchical system that has standard Bangla, and English, as being “more important than dialects; therefore, globally, there are a lot of ideologies surrounding language hierarchy, and how they affect the way an individual uses that particular language” (Woolard & Schieffelin, 1994). As a result of the above, the intergenerational transmission of dialects has been impacted. Furthermore, the challenge to revitalizing a dialect will be further compounded by not exposing children to dialects in the home.

This study will be an analysis of the sociolinguistic processes responsible for dialect loss and how they have been affected by global, national and local organizations, ideologies and economic systems and will examine the context of dialect loss within the framework of language maintenance and linguistic diversity.

Problematic Issues for Research: The loss of language and dialect is a major concern in the field of sociolinguistics. Investigators of language erosion in various spaces, whether through anthropology or social science, conducted studies that identify a plethora of languages which are “faced with language elimination because of education, globalization, urbanization and government language policies” (Bromham et al. 2022:165). However, most studies do not include an investigation into the unique sociolinguistic climate that exists within a post-colonial, multi-lingual society such as Bangladesh.

Bangladesh demonstrates a rich area of case studies for researching the issue of language loss. Languages in Bangladesh include: Standard Bangla (as the earned, official language), Sylheti, Chittagonian, Noakhali, Chakma, Marma, Santali, etc. Most of Michigan’s indigenous languages are not taught, have little formality,

and no institutional acknowledgement, and are primarily used for informal purposes.

This theme is very important, as the Standard Bangla language is present in the educational system and the process of creating identities, as well as having created a language hierarchy. Thus, the minority languages are marginalized in terms of social and economic values compared to Standard Bangla. According to Bourdieu (1991: 56), “language is both a form of linguistic capital, as well as a form of symbolic capital and economic capital.” The first two forms of capital (linguistic and symbolic) become the legitimate and prestigious form of capital while the last form of capital (economic) is the least prestigious of all.

People in Bangladesh have been forced to use Standard Bangla as a means of gaining higher social status through urbanization, migration and job opportunities. Furthermore, globalization and the new media have strengthened the relationship between Standard Bangla, English and modern world and continued to marginalize the dialects; the dialects are mainly thought of as rural or informal.

Although there has been substantial scholarship on this topic, there are still areas that require further investigation. To begin with, many studies have approached the languages and dialects spoken by Indigenous Peoples as distinct from one another, rather than treating them as parts of a common sociolinguistic whole. Furthermore, there has been very little application of global theories—such as those pertaining to language shift, linguistic capital, or language ideology—to the findings in relation to Bangladesh. Finally, there needs to be much more thorough focus on the manner in which institutional mechanisms, ideologies, and everyday practices interact to facilitate language shift.

Both the theoretical and practical significance of the current research are well-known in the area of study. In terms of theory, it represents an important contribution to the field of sociolinguistics by applying Fishman’s (1972) Theory of Language Shift Model, Bourdieu’s (1991) Linguistics of Capital, and the numerous

perspectives of Language Ideology to Bangladesh in an integrative manner. In terms of practical significance, this study documents the dialect loss problem as it relates to both the linguistic dimensions of dialect loss and the socio-institutional dimensions.

Significance of the Study

The significance of this research is both theoretical and practical. On the theoretical side, it advances the field of sociolinguistics by applying Fishman's model of language shift, Bourdieu's linguistics of capital, and language ideology perspectives to Bangladesh in a comprehensive manner. On the practical side, this study illustrates the fact that loss of dialects is not only a linguistic issue but also one that has a number of socio-institutional ramifications.

The present study provides a contextualized account for understanding the issue of language endangerment from a global perspective in relation to Bangladesh. It illustrates how globalization impacts are replicated locally via institutional and ideological practices. Furthermore, the present study lays the foundation for formulating policies regarding education, media, and dialect preservation.

Research Rationale

Whereas general language shift may carry certain consequences, dialect shift causes permanent loss of cultural and cognitive diversity. Every dialect represents its own philosophy, culture, history, and knowledge system. Thus, given the great importance of preserving dialects, this study aims to establish who should be blamed for their diminishing numbers based on literature review. Moreover, understanding of these issues is crucial for preserving linguistic equality.

Understanding these facts is important since language inequality is inevitable without comprehension of these factors. People speak dialects or native languages for expressing ideas and communicating. Dialect loss occurs because of exclusion and discrimination that prevents people from active participation in the social processes. This problem becomes even more complicated in Bangladesh, where

alongside the Standard Bangla, there are many ethnic languages and dialects.

Second, the present language policy in Bangladesh promotes Standard Bangla and English without offering any support to the dialects. Thus, dialects are being neglected in schools and in the media, posing challenges for intergenerational transfer and acquisition. It is evident from the findings of the paper that policy measures are needed that should address the root cause of the loss of dialects. It is, therefore, inevitable that the young generation loses cultural connection with the dialects spoken by their forefathers. It is highly possible that today's children may lack linguistic skills to converse in their dialects, which will affect their cultural identity.

Finally, this study will contribute useful information to the Endangered Languages field. Although a number of studies have looked at the causes of endangered languages, none had particularly focused on Bangladesh. This study will therefore be significant because it analyses the dialect loss in Bangladesh and fills a research gap by contributing to the preservation of linguistic diversity, promoting policy and education reform, providing empowerment of communities, and building knowledge base on dialect sustainability in Bangladesh.

Research Objectives

This research project consists of three principal goals:

- 1) To examine the dominant sociocultural, political, and educational influences on dialect endings (deaths) in Bangladesh.
- 2) To investigate how national language policies and the dominance of Standard Bangla affect the ongoing use and transmission of dialectal varieties; and
- 3) To offer suggestions for conserving the diversity of dialectal and indigenous language use in Bangladesh.

Research Questions

The study is guided by these questions, which match the research objectives:

- a. What are the major socio-political and educational causes of dialect decline in Bangladesh?
- b. How do national language policies and the dominance of Standard Bangla influence the transmission and use of dialects?
- c. What measures can be adopted to preserve and promote dialectal and indigenous linguistic diversity in Bangladesh?

Literature Review

In the following section, this review discusses the primary reasons for the decline of dialects and indigenous languages in Bangladesh based on the thematic areas: (1) Global and theoretical perspectives on language endangerment, (2) Policies and institutions, (3) Education and intergenerational transmission, (4) Attitudes and ideologies, (5) Urbanization and migration, (6) Technology and grass root movement.

Global and Theoretical perspectives on Language Endangerment

Language endangerment is a significant concern in the field of sociolinguistics. UNESCO's Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger indicates that, when a language is no longer transmitted between generations primarily due to political, economical or cultural causes it becomes endangered. More than 40 per cent of all existing languages were endangered and "in the event that languages were lost so was the cultural heritage related to the language" (UNESCO, 2023).

Bangladesh is a smaller-scale picture of global language endangerment. There is a Standard Bangla, a number of regional varieties, and more than thirty minority languages which have become endangered. As for scholars' findings in Bangladesh, they support the general pattern that "the marginalization and (potential) disappearance of minority languages in Bangladesh is the result of language hierarchy and state-imposed standardization" (Rahman, 2023; Awal, 2024).

Policy and Institutional Structures

In relation to policy, the existence or absence of language policy is closely linked with the fate of language survival. Although Bangla is the only official state language of the country, there has not been a clear multi-lingual policy in Bangladesh designed for the preservation of minority languages. According to Saif and Sultana (2022), “due to lack of policies to promote language diversity, the minority languages are not institutionally supported by government institutions, schools or any public areas.”

Bangla and English are widely used in the classrooms of Bangladesh, while indigenous languages receive little recognition. As children rarely get the opportunity to acquire the skills of literacy and writing in their mother tongue, their transmission into subsequent generations will remain difficult. The study data finds that those receiving a mother-tongue based education are more likely to understand and remember what they are taught, however; programs for such education are rare due to constraints on resources and policy limitations. This imbalance perpetuates the concept that the indigenous languages do not provide economic or educational benefits and families thus favor Standard Bangla or English at the expense of their mother tongues.

Socio-Cultural Attitudes and Language Ideology

The attitude towards languages within community play significant roles. According to the survey of Awal (2024: 45), “it is assumed that Standard Bangla and English are modern, prestigious, while dialect seems to have less importance”. The assumption causes the usage of language decline among people in the community. The media coverage clearly indicate that attitude toward language depends on economics and society as *The Daily Sun* and *BD-Pratidin* (2025) mention “many of the ethnics group has switched their own language into the others’ due to less economic advantage to their native language”. Such attitude shift is very important because it affects language transfer as the family transmit the language to generation, hence language

transmission will be affected by the shift in family attitude due to influence from the media and the society. Urbanization, migration and linguistic shift: The Dhaka-Sylhet case the role of urbanization and internal migration makes the dialect disappear faster. As people migrate from the rural and ethnic community and development occurs and migration increases the pace of loss of local dialect. When people migrate from their rural or ethnic area into city such as Dhaka they discover that many languages can be found there, however, Standard Bangla is the most common language there.

Here is another one of the commonly cited examples of speakers of Sylheti who relocate to Dhaka for study and work. Everyday conversation takes place in Sylheti (a vigorous regional dialect) in Sylhet, while its speakers are often found to switch to Standard Bangla at work and study, or when talking to others, in order to maintain intelligibility and to comply with societal expectations. This process leads to a gradual decrease in the use of Sylheti among certain groups, especially young urban natives, who, although are capable of understanding the dialect, will no longer be actively speaking it.

Technological and Community-Based Interventions

The latest studies provide insight into new projects that people are doing together to combat the loss of their language and these efforts will enhance our understanding of how technology can help. One such example is the Multilingual Cloud Repository Project (*Business Standard*, 2025) that will digitally archive endangered languages (ie. audio and text) in order to document them and make them available for future generations. Such projects not only aim to preserve endangered languages, but also demonstrate the ongoing under-representation of indigenous and non-indigenous languages in both the physical world and digital media.

Emerging technologies also represent fresh opportunities. Neural translation machines for translating between Standard Bangla and

diverse regional dialect variants have been proposed by Khandaker et al. (2025). Digital platform and a community-driven technique can also promote communication, education, and the comeback of low-resource languages.

These case studies indicate localized technological initiatives can be excellent means to help maintain our languages, while acknowledging structural barriers hinder those efforts.

Synthesis

According to these studies, on the whole, the studies suggest that a network of language policy ideologies; education exclusion; social and cultural degradation and a growing trend of urbanization can have an impact on language demise (loss of use in specific domains); and intergenerational transmission of languages (through the family). All of this impacts an individual's linguistic identity as well as the potential for revitalization through technology and community initiatives if there were supportive government policies; inclusive educational practices and socio-economic investment.

Theoretical Framework

Using a sociolinguistic framework, the relationship between language, power, and social hierarchy in Bangladesh has been analyzed. The research relies heavily on Joshua Fishman's concept of Language Shift and Maintenance, which discusses how minority languages and dialects can become extinct over time when intergenerational transmission ceases, or when these languages and dialects are not being used in vital social contexts such as family, education, community engagement, and cultural practices. The most critical component of a language's longevity according to Fishman is "intergenerational transmission; once younger generations begin failing to use a language for everyday communication, a language shift is inevitable" (Fishman, 1999).

Methodology

Research Design

The current project employs qualitative description and document review to analyze previously collected data; The current project can analyze the decline of dialect in Bangladesh via an analysis of documentary data as opposed to collecting new empirical data.

Furthermore, the current project will not test hypotheses or investigate direct causal relationships; it will be focused on analyzing, comparing and combining existing information about languages in Bangladesh to reveal commonality and rationale for dialect extinction.

Data Sources and Selection Criteria

Secondary Data consisted of: journal articles, scholarly books, policy documents and other published reports. All the sources provided by UNESCO are secondary. The majority of the data was published between 2020-2025.

Sources were found through Google Scholar, BanglaJol and ResearchGate. The criteria established were: highly relevant to dialect degradation or language shift and or endangered minority languages; focused on Bangladesh or similar multilingual contexts; substantive research foundation; and published in reliable sources.

All relevant works contain direct relevance to languages that are currently experiencing loss or shift and or endangered minority languages.

Works are considered critically for valid evidence both empirically as well as theoretically. All evidence is published within reputable academic and non-academic publications. Excluded from selection were older works that were methodologically unsound and/or opinion-based; rather, only those publications were included for the purpose of enabling a critical review of the trends, interpretations, and limitations of the concept of dialect extinction so to validate that the data presented in this analysis can support the conclusion drawn.

Analytical Framework

The investigation used thematic analysis of the selected literature from which thematic patterns emerged through the identification and collating of themes in groups of five (5). The first group of five (5) consists of: community language policy (ideology); educational practices; urbanization/migration; tech/media innovations; and transmission across generations.

The themes emerged from this repeated analysis of data, representing the actual experiences associated with these events. Each theme demonstrates a facet of sociolinguistics in Bangladesh and describes how social policy and economic influences affected their family language choices and how long dialects would exist (or not).

The data collected from the participants were analyzed, and an explanation of the findings was provided. Further analyses of the data were conducted and theoretical constructs were integrated. No measurable data were produced.

Ethical Considerations

This study uses only published secondary data and does not involve human participants. All sources follow APA (7th edition). Since no personal data is used, there are no ethical concerns. This research uses literature, policies, and reports rather than fieldwork, surveys, or interviews, so it cannot document language use in real time, community realities, and subtle differences in dialect. Using published sources means you cannot verify how language is used within rapidly changing contexts. It also makes it more difficult to know how individuals feel and what they think about themselves and their use or misuse of their language (code-switching). The methodology described here provides a comprehensive perspective on recent studies, but it provides evidence for many of the causes of dialectal decline in Bangladesh (i.e., structural inequality, institutions, ideology, and socioeconomic) and the way in which these factors provide evidence for understanding how global language endangerment trends are seen in Bangladesh.

Findings

Data from Fishman's Theory, Bourdieu's notion of linguistic capital, and language ideology were consulted before analyzing the results. The important findings are as follows: (1) The decline in the use of dialects in Bangladesh can be attributed to both structural causes (i.e., language policy, economics, institutional structure) and attitudes and beliefs. (2) Such support for Bangla and English decreases the support for regional or indigenous languages through policies promoting either language. (3) Education, government, and employment keep language hierarchy alive. (4) Language preference and identity are formed through ideological pressure. These four forces combined contribute to the decline in the use of dialects in Bangladesh.

Language Policy and Ideological Hierarchies (Objective 1 & 2)

Research indicates that national ideology primarily positions the highest authority on Bangla. Bourdieu's concept of linguistic capital can help explain why both Bangla and English are used more frequently than the rest of the languages (including claimed regional and Indigenous Languages) within schools, governments, and in the labour force. The decreasing use of the regional dialects is exacerbated by this hierarchy of languages. The decision about which language will be used by an individual is also influenced by language policies.

Educational Practices and Domain Restriction (Objective 2 & 3)

When we look at evidence, we see that the educational system supports a loss of minority languages by restricting the use of minority languages in the school system. Using Fishman's framework, if there are less dialects within the various important institutions, it causes a breakdown of intergenerational language transfer because children will begin associating educated success with the standard dialects of Bangla and English. The importance of this finding illustrates how educational institutions play a significant role in promoting the standardization of the language.

Urbanization, Migration, and Economic Mobility (Objective 1 & 3)

It is shown through a thematic analysis that the transition from rural to urban locales contributes to the rapid rate of dialectal erosion. Due to the perceived value of using language, as related to employment opportunities, speakers have turned to Bangla for the purpose of achieving economic success within cities. This reinforces Bourdieu's theory that language choices are driven by pragmatic as well as symbolic motivations in relation to economic mobility and language shift; which is aligned with the purpose of this study, as it seeks to identify what modifications occur within dialects as a result of socio-economic influences.

Media and digital platforms are another common way in which dialects aren't reflected. When we don't see dialects on television or in online forums, the dialects risk becoming ineffective and losing their function as a device for communication. Dialect invisibility through the lens of languages' ideology leaves minority languages without visibility. Therefore, their status is diminished, and young people will have minimal access to them.

Intergenerational Transmission and Family Domain (Objective 3)

In Bangladesh, families of all classes are now using their dialects less frequently than ever before. As more Bangla families are using Bangla at home for both education and work, there has been a corresponding decline in the use of dialects in the home. This suggests that the survival of a language, as suggested by Fishman, depends on maintaining strong intergenerational transmission of language; thus, this is currently decreasing in Bangladesh.

Synthesis of Findings

The results of this study suggest that dialect loss in Bangladesh takes place due to the existence of a monetary form of language equity, lack of institutional support for dialect speakers, and social prejudice toward dialects as valid forms of communication. The dialect decline results from a combination of macro and micro influences including globalization/travel and language use in various locations.

Discussion

The patterns of findings in this study will be analyzed with sociolinguistics Language Shift & Maintenance Theory, Bourdieu's concept of Linguistic Capital and Language Ideology. These findings suggest that the decline of dialects in Bangladesh has been influenced by Agents of Change (social structure, beliefs about the function and legitimacy of language, and interactions between speakers and non-speakers) rather than inherent language development processes.

Language Ideology and Structural Hierarchy

The state's promotion of standard Bangla as the primary representation of national identity indicates that governments endorse an idea about how people use language. Research conducted in Bangladesh reveals that favoring the use of institutions that are using standard Bangla increases the speed of the disappearance of regional varieties of language. This corresponds with "concept of a language market where the dominant language (standard Bangla) increases in value while the minority dialects lose value" (Bourdieu, 1991: 56).

Education and Domain Loss

Education make people not to use dialects outside houses. Young people have realized that dialects have no use in the educational sectors and offices. As a result of migrating to urban centres for employment-related purposes, speakers and students use standard Bangla in order to enhance their chances of success in the labour market. Formal education is also reducing dialect speaking with families.

Media Absence and Digital Invisibility

These factors are also causing dialect decline in Bangladesh.

Intergenerational Transmission

Another major finding supports Fishman's (1991, p. 101) conclusion that

“supporting the intergenerational transfer of language is essential to its survival”. In Bangladesh, many urban families trying to speak in standard language so that their children can learn to succeed. The parents are consciously avoiding dialect speaking at homes making dialects extinct.

Synthesis

The phenomenon of decline in dialects across Bangladesh is occurring because of the support for the standard form of the language, which is supported by the various levels of social rank within the society, therefore causing economic pressures to affect individuals’ choices regarding which form of the language to use. The combination of the above factors leads to a reduction in dialect usage in every part of Bangladesh. This is similar to the general world trend in the loss of languages, but more so to the extent that Bangla has such a strong association with the identity of the nation.

According to the findings, Bangla and English are the two languages that are encouraged mostly throughout India—Bangla as the primary language of education, and English by both job seekers and employment). However, as people migrate to urban areas, they will frequently alter their dialect for a chance at improved living conditions. This migration decreases the amount of exposure and visibility of dialects through traditional and/or new communication channels. When families stop teaching their children a dialect, that dialect will likely disappear. Standard Bangla is given official preference, while dialects are generally used in informal contexts, enhancing the existing superiority/inferiority dynamic between the two varieties of the same language and propelling through this process towards a single form of the language.

Future Research Directions

Ethnographic methods will remain important for future studies that are concerned with collecting empirical evidence of the use and change of dialects as they occur over time and in different places. Particular attention must also be paid to how dialects are passed

down from one generation to the next, to the dialectal differences between urban and rural communities, and most importantly, to how adolescents use dialects today. Data should include evidence of the loss of dialect materials, which are under-represented in Bangladesh. Any data that documents the existence of dialects that are likely to become extinct must be recorded (using audio and video, word lists, and oral traditions) in order to preserve their existence.

UNESCO may assist universities and cultural organizations in working together. With future studies focusing on how technology, social media, and AI affect language change and revive dialects, it will be valuable to compare similar trends in multilingual regions across south Asia in order to determine how language endangerment occurs within south Asia.

Teamwork will be necessary if we are to save the diversity of language in Bangladesh; we need to record dialects; we need to improve educational systems, and we also need to create incentives or support systems to ensure that dialects remain living means of communicating and are not considered out-dated cultural relics.

Conclusion

Bangladesh is losing dialects as a result of structural, ideological, socio-economic, linguistic, and cyclical processes, and this is not a mere linguistic change that takes place outside the ecological context. The marginalization of regional dialects and indigenous languages using the discursive framework is due to the dominance of Standard Bangla combined with restrictions on speaking a single language, urbanization, negative attitudes toward different types of a language, and limited access to media. These issues create less social space for dialects and restrict their intergenerational transfer, resulting in the endangerment or extinction of many dialects. This research shows that dialects are lost together with the cultures and identities of their speakers. A comprehensive official language policy and an education system that respects dialects will help. Community-based action must take place and the media and digital platforms must work closely with dialect communities. Preserving dialects is an essential part of maintaining culture and national identity.

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