Bangla nasal consonants and concerned spelling puzzle: An analysis.

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ABSTRACT:
Umo (O), neo (T), murdhonno n (Y), donton n (b) and m (g) are five nasal consonants out of twenty-five plosive consonants in Bangla alphabet. Umo (O), donton n (b) and m (g) are three main nasal consonant phonemes in Bangla. Neo (T) and murdhonno n (Y) are extra nasal phoneme. There is one diacritical marks included as consonants namely moon-dot (u) functions as to make the letter nasal. Another diacritical marks onusshor (s) is also embedded in consonants and availed like umo (O) or alternatively. In international phonetics first four letters are denoted by n with using some dots. In most cases, neo (T), murdhonno n (Y) and donton n (b) are pronounced analogous. Umo (O) and onusshor (s) are identical in pronunciation and are used alternatively. Duplicate letters, harmonious pronunciation and substitute conduct of these letters made Bangla spelling awkward. For getting uniform and un-flaccid spelling nasal consonants required to shuffle in logical ground. This study watched the possibility and necessity of expelling some of nasal consonants to partially remove the spelling chaos in Bangla. Qualitative and documents study methods have been applied in collected data or information. All data collected are from secondary sources.
KEY WORD*: allophone, donton n (b), phoneme, moon-dot (u), onusshor (s).*

I.   Introduction

Umo (O), neo (T), murdhonno n (Y), donton n (b) and m (g) are the fifth letters of five classes of k-class (K-eM©), c-class (P-eM©), T-class (U-eM©), t-class (Z-eM©) and p-class (c-eM©) successively out of thirty nine consonants in Bangla alphabet. Another two letters namely moon-dot (u) and onusshor (s) are habited as nasal agent. In "A Grammar of the Bengali Language" by Mr. Nathaniel Brassey Halhed and Madan Mohan Tarkalanker's Shishu shikkha (1st Edition), onusshor (s) was in vowel in slide different form and different sound as au'ng (As) and moon-dot (u) was nowhere in Bangla. After Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar reform au'ng (As) got place as onusshor (s) in consonants and moon-dot (u) added as new letter that imported from Sanskrit. Neo (T) is used as nasal a (Avu) in some places and as n (b) in most places in a word. Murdhonno n (Y) is exercised as purely n (b) and used only in Sanskrit word and plays as the allophone of donton n (b).

Donton n (b) is the alveolar sound rather dontal one. M (g) is independent nasal letter and it has no aspirated sound. Moon-dot (u) is the diacritical marks set at the end of the Bangla consonants and is sited at the top of the letter to make holder nasal. In some cases, in a word umo (O) or onusshor (s) is correct grammatically and for Sanskrit word only onusshor (s) is allowable in spelling, which makes confusion to the readers or learners. Neo (T), murdhonno n (Y) and donton n (b) are similar in pronunciation but make spelling variation which create huge trouble in spelling. In ancient Bangla moon-dot (u) was not included but now in alphabet, made extra burden in spelling and learning. Due to presence of equivalent letters in nasal area spelling became hard, clumsy, obscene and unreadable. To knock-out these type of complication nasal letters demanded to analyze and modify. By removing some similar letters spelling solutions and spelling uniformity could be achieved. Supported books, journals, articles and writings are practiced to state and attain the goals.

1.1 Literature Review

After Rabindranath Tagore request for abolishing spelling conflicts, Kolkata University prepared and Published Bangla Bananer nitimala at 1936. After that East Bangla Language committee was formed and they submitted reports with recommendation for huge comprehensive reform with five points and named, "Easy

Bangla" [Bangla Bhasha-porikalpona, Page-301, 302]. After establishing The Bangla Academy, it took initiative for Bangla spelling reform and Bangla script reform at 1959 and 1963 respectively. Academy named its reform proposal as "Pakistani Bangla" in place of former 'Easy Bangla'. Academy again submitted its second proposal at 1963 proposing abolition of rossho ri (F), umo (O), neo (T), murdhonno n (Y), bishorgo (t), lee (9) letters, use of ri (wi) in place of rossho ri (F), onusshor (s) in place of umo (O), nch (b&P&), nchh (b&Q&), nj (b&R) in place of neo (T), donton no (b) in place of murdhonno n (Y) etc (Bangla Bhasha-porikalpona, Page-303, 304).

After long times, two initiatives were taken by national curriculum and textbook board about Bangla Bhasha porikolpona at 1984 and 1988 respectively for Bangla spelling using at primary level books and they formulated twenty-four rules for Bangla spelling through several seminars and symposiums. They also prepared a word lists based on the stated rule and published it at 1989 as the name of Spelling for textbooks. (Promito Bangla Bhashar Bakoron, Page-306).

Bangla academy again took initiative at 1991 to make similar spelling for all books and papers in Bangla and published 'Promito Bangla Bananer Niom' at 1992 depending on expert's committee suggestions (Promito Bangla Bhashar Bakoron, Page-308).

Some scholars like Yougesh Chandra Roy bidyanidhi, Shibprasanno Lahiri, Satish Ghosh, Pobitra Sarker, Muhammmad Sahidullah, Munier Chowdhury, Mofazzal Haider Chowdhury and Ferdaus Khan among others took several steps to reform Bangla script (meena dan, Bangla script Reform, Page-65) but there were no specific initiatives for nasal consonants reforms. Rather above initiative, no academic approach is yet to proceed for nasal consonants resolution to dismiss related spelling frictions.

II. Characteristics of Nasal Consonants

2.1 (a) Umo or w-o or w-a (O):

The fifth phoneme of k-class (K-eM©) or gutturals or velar letters of occlusive letters is the nasal umo (O). It is pronounced 'w-o' (O). As its name w-o (O) during its pronunciation, air does not touch anywhere inside the mouth-hole, so it cannot be treated as consonant phoneme that means it has lost its continuance. In ancient Bangla w-o (O) was pronounced as nasal inherent b (or w). W-o (O) is like w-o (D-I) or w-a (D-Av) but generally it is uttered as umo (O) in learning or normal speaking. In modern Bangla it is pronounced as au'ng (As).The pronunciation of umo (O) is like 'ng' of English word 'sing'. When back of tongue tends to touch the back of soft palate, normally soft palate becomes down, then naso-pharynx becomes fully open and the airflow coming from lung passing through vocal cord with vibration, passes through nasal-hole and produces the sound is the umo (O) sound. So in English it is treated as voiced velar nasal consonant sound. In rong (iO&), dhong (XO&), shong (mO&) where umo (O) is pronounced as 'ng' which is its original and unique sound. It cannot be used at the starting of the word. It can be used inside and end of the word like shangat (mvOvZ), Bangal (evOvj), kangal (KvOvj) as at the middle of the words and rong (iO&), bong (eO&), dhong (XO&) as at the end of the words. It is noticeable that no where it is pronounced as w-o (D-I) or w-a (D-Av) but pronounced as au'ng (As).

In some cases, it can be used with kar-sign 'a-kar' only like konka (K¼v), ranga (iv½v) but sometimes it takes other kar-signs when acts as conjugate or conjunct consonants like rongin (iOxb), angul (AvOzj) etc. In later case umo (O) cannot be changed its physical structure but is used as umo (O) + g (M) that means umo (O) = umo (O) + g (M) which makes complication and confusion to reader's mind.

2.1(b) Neo or E-o or Yuo (&T):

Neo (&T) is the fifth letter of c-class (P-eM©) of Bangla consonant. It makes sheltered letter nasal. It is addressed as nasalized onthosto o (q) or e-o (BI) and many places in Bangladesh it is known as neo (wbq) but its main pronunciation specified in word mia (wgTv) and some limited word like bhiya (fzBTv) or bhua (fzTv). In mia (wgTv-wgAvv-wgAv-wgqv), bhuiya (fzBTv-fzBAv-fzBqv) neo acts as nasal a (Avu) or simply a (Av) but it is not a vowel. It is not placed independently in all other words. No word starts with Neo (&T). Neo (&T) normally sits before the four letters of c-class (P-eM©), c (P), ch (Q), j (R), Jh (S) as consonant cluster and pronounces as donton n (b) like ponco (cÂ), banjon (e¨vÄb), lancito (jvwÂZ) but in some cases it can sit after that letters and pronounces as another donton n (b) also like jacna (hvPTv-hvPbv) and after borgio j (R) as conjunct it is pronounced as double g (MM) like gaan (Ávb-M¨vb), biggan (weÁvb- weMMvb). It is remarkable that Neo (T) takes vowel sign a-kar (v) in some cases but there is no example for taking other vowel signs like e-kar/i-kar (w / x) and when it adds with c-class (P-eM©) letters it changes the basic structure of sheltered letter and itself, then the conjunct word becomes opaque or un-transparent.

Since Neo (T) is pronounced differently in different places, it is not a vowel and in most places it is pronounced as the pronounce of donton n (b), so it is not an independent letter. It can be treated as one of the member of main alveolar phoneme donton n (b) that vindicated it is an allophone of donton n (b).

2.1 (c) Murdhonno n (Y):

Murdhonno n (Y) is a fifth letter of the T-class (U-eM©) of Bangla alphabet. It is treated as one of the nasal phoneme in Bangla. It is addressed as an alveolo-retroflex letter. From place of articulation, it is simply alveolar letters but for use, it is retroflex. Rare words start with murdhonno n (Y) in Bangla. Generally, it sits other place of the word either independent letter or as conjunct letters like dhoroni (aiwY-aiwb), torun (‡ZviæY-Ziæb), bonton (eÈb-eÈb) etc.

The limitation of pronunciation of murdhonno n (Y) and its position in word made it allophone of donton n (b) that results, murdhonno n (Y) is not an independent consonant. The pronunciation of un-conjunct murdhonno n (Y) in pure Bangla is pure dental sound. Nottobidhan (YZ¡-weavb), nich (YxP), nijonto-dhatu (YxRšÍ avZz) and nijonto-prokoron (YxRšÍ cÖKiY) are the example of use of murdhonno n (Y) as first letter of the word. Murdhonno n (Y) is used only in Sanskrit but it is very tough to identify such word while talking or speaking. Above all, there is a rule for use of murdhonno n (Y) which makes burden in spelling as well as burden to reader and learner.

2.1 (d) Donton n (b):

Donton n (b) is the fifth letter of the t-class (Z-eM©). This letter is treated as dental nasal sound. For articulation of dental sound or letter, the wide tongue tip touches the front two dentals of upper jaw but for donton n (b) the wide tongue tip never touches the front dental but it touches the convex place of teeth-ridge of front two dentals that sakes alveolar. So donton n (b) cannot be treated as dental letter rather alveolar. For pronunciation of nak (bvK), Kan (Kvb), nanan (bvbvb) where donton n (b) is placed as at first, middle and last letter of the word, experimentally found in laboratory that the tongue tip touched the teeth-ridge which proved that the donton n (b) is alveolar letter, not dental. But if donton n (b) is placed before the t-class (Z-eM©) four letters as cluster of the word, then it is pronounced as dentals like donto (`šÍ), pontha (cš'v), monda (g›`v), shandha (mÜv) etc., but in khan (Lvb), mon (gb) donton n (b) is alveolar. So it is clear that donton-n (b) is main alveolar nasal consonant.

Donton n (b) is nasal un-aspirated phoneme. As its name implies it is dental letter but according to Dr. Abdul Hye it is not a dental phoneme but alveolar, like nak (bvK), kan (Kvb), nana (bvbv) etc where donton n (b) plays as alveolar, not dental phoneme and he named it voiced un-aspirated alveolo-nasal consonant sound.

2.1 (e) m (g):

M (g) is the fifth of p-class (c-eM©) letters and 25th of plosive consonants in Bangla. It is the second full pledged nasal consonant. It is articulated by touching upper lip with lower lip or bilabial, form a deep-hole inside mouth and open the nasal hole or naso-pharynx fully, blocked airflow coming from lung creating vibration on vocal cords passes through naso-pharynx and produces m (g) sound. Like other continuant letters m (g) is also continuant. The phonetic name of m (g) is voiced un-aspirated bilabial nasal consonant sound. It has no associate member in Bangla.

2.2(a) Onusshor (s):

Before Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar reform onusshor (s) was the member of then Bangla vowel but now it is acted as one of the Bangla consonants. It is a nasal consonant phoneme. The phonetic name of onusshor (s) is velar nasal sound. It makes the sheltered consonant partially nasal like ongsho (Ask), bongsho (esk), mangsho (gvsk) etc. The pronunciation of onusshor (s) in Bangla is au'ng (As). It is a prosodic mark in Bangla but counted as consonant phoneme. The pronunciation of onusshor (s) is similar to another nasal consonant umo (O), so that onusshor (s) and umo (O) are used in a word alternatively like ongsho (AOk ev Ask), kongsho (KOk-Ksk), shonkhipto (mOwÿß-mswÿß) etc. onusshor (s) cannot be set with any kar-signs.

2.2 (b) Chandra bindu (u) :

Chandra bindu (u) is the last letter of the Bangla consonant. Its English name is moon-dot. It has no pronunciation of its own but it is set to make the vowel nasal. The pronunciation of vowel with Chandra bindu (u) is produced by the combined resonance of nose and mouth. Sometimes this type of nasal vowel sound is called the pronunciation by nose. With Chandra bindu and without Chandra bindu (u) make the different meaning of the word like kada (Kv`v-K©g), kada (Kuv`v-µ›`b), shakha (kvLv-Wvj), shaka (kuvLv-kO&L), pak (cvK-cweÎ ev ivbœv), pak (cuvK-cyKziZ‡ji Kv`v) etc.

The root of the word made by umo (O), neo (T), murdhonno n (Y), donton n (b), and m (g) and then converted from Sanskrit to Bangla uses Chandra bindu (u) to make different meaning like cad (Puv` from P›`ª), kata (KuvUv from K›UK), pac (cuvP from cÂ) etc.

The remarkable rules for use of Chandra bindu (u) are as follows: Words made by Chandra bindu (u) like cad from condro (P›`ª n‡Z Puv`), as verb like kada (Kuv`v), as numerical like pac (cuvP), traditionally used Chandra bindu like aka-aki (AuvKvAuvwK), for respectable manner like tara (Zuviv) etc.

2.3 (a) Neo (T), murdhonno n (Y), donton n (b):

Neo (T) is not independent letter or sign of any independent letter. In mia (wgTv), bhuiya (fzBTv), it is nasal sound of nasal a (Avu), in jasna (hvTœv) it is pronounced as donton n (b), in gaan (Ávb), it is æ (G¨v) sound, in banjon (e¨vÄb), lancona (jvÂbv) it is pronounced as donton n (b). Since it is pronounced different in various words, it is tough to give it any position in the Bangla either in vowel or in consonant.

There are two letters namely donton n (b) and murdhonno n (Y) in Bangla alphabet but in Bangla sound except alveolar donton n (b), there is no existence of other donton n (b) or murdhonno n (Y) as main phoneme. So it is true that there is no independent phoneme other than alveolar donton n (b). All five letters of this class is called alveolo-retroflex letter. From place of articulation, they are alveolar but for use, they are retroflex and for murdhonno n (Y) it is simply alveolar sound. No word is started by murdhonno n (Y) but inside the word and end of the word murdhonno n (Y) is set either free or as cluster. The limitation of articulation of murdhonno n (Y) and its activity in words made it allophone of donton n (b).

From the above information, it is found that neo (T) is the palato-alveolar sounds and murdhonno n (Y) is alveolar retroflex sounds. Both are not independent consonant and are not placed at the starting of the words, only used for making word nasal. Most of the places they are pronounced as alveolar donton n (b). There is a rare difference of their pronunciation from that of donton n (b). So they are the member of alveolar donton n (b) family. In short neo (T) and murdhonno n (Y) are allophone of alveolar donton n (b).

Neo (T) has no independent pronunciation in Standard Bangla. It is now act as the allophone of donton n (b). Murdhonno n (Y) is also pronounce as donton n (b) in maximum place of use. (Rofiqul Islam, Page-66, the role of phonology, Promito Bangla Bhasher Bakoron (First Part) (2017), Bangla academy, Dhaka).

2.3 (b) Umo (O) and Onusshor (s):

Umo (O) and onusshor (s) have no difference in sound and use with Bangla consonants. Both are set to make the sheltered consonant nasal. In modern Bangla the pronunciation of umo (O) and onusshor (s) are exactly same that means the pronunciation of onusshor (s) is au'ng (As) that is umo (O). So that umo (O) and onusshor (s) are used in a word alternatively like ongsho (AOk ev Ask), shonkhipto (mOwÿß-mswÿß), shonga (mOMv-msMv) etc.

Since both are same in nature and alternatively used, then no need to keep such two letters in alphabet that makes burden and problems in spelling to readers.

III.   Respecting Reform initiatives

3.1 Kolkata university prepared and affiliated Bangla Bananer niom: 1936.

2: For Sanskrit word, in combination, onusshor (s) is in place of inherent m (g), If m (g) is before k (K), kh (L), g (M), gh (N), then onusshor (s) is in place of m (g) or umo (O) alternatively, like ohongkar (AnsKvi/An¼vi), bhoyonkor (fqsKvi/fq¼vi), sonkha (msL¨v/m•L¨v) etc. But except combination, umo (O) is in other words like Ganga (M½v), rongo (i½), ashongka (Avm¼v) etc. Again in combination after inherent b (e) only onusshor (s) is in place of m (g) like barangbar (evisevi), Sangbad (msev`), sangbidhan (msweavb) etc.

7: Donton n (b) or murdhonno n (Y): Always Donton n (b) is in un-Sanskrit words like kan (Kvb), sona (‡mvbv), koran (‡Kvivb) etc., but in conjunct letter murdhonno n (Y) can be used like ghunti (Nyw›U), lonthon (jÉb), thanda (VvÛv) etc. Rani (ivbx) can be written rani (ivYx) alternatively.

9: In Bangali (evsMvjx /ev½vjx), Bhangon (fvsMb /fv½b), Bangla (evsjv/evOjv) both umo (O) and onusshor (s) are correct. Only umo (O) when pronounced like vowel, ronger (i‡Oi), Bangali (evOvjx) etc.

3.2 West Bengal Bangla Academy affiliated spelling Rule:

Rule 2: Among onusshor (s), umo (O) and umo-g (OM) only one is not accepted but umo-g (½) should avoid. Umo-g (OM) is a conjunct letter like danga (`vOMv) and only umo (O) is in Bhanga (fvOv).

2.1 They proposed use of transparent umo-g (OM) in place of opaque umo-g (½).

8. **Umo (O) and Onusshor (s):**

8.1 In Sanskrit word where both umo (O) and onusshor (s) are correct, there only onusshor (s) can be used like olongker (AjsKvi), shonkor (ksKi), songit (msMxZ) etc.

8.2 But where onusshor (s) is not produced but combination, there onusshor (s) use is illegal like ongkus (AOKzk), Atongko (AvZOK), pongko (cOK) etc.

8.21 but in Sombodhon (m‡¤^vab), sommondho (m¤^Ü) are not by onusshor (s) but by m (g).

16. Umo (O) and umo-g (OM):

16.1 In some spelling umo (O) and umo-g (OM) are regularly used, there umo (O) is preferable like Bangali (evOvjx/evOMvjx), Bhangon (fvOb /fvOMb) than Bangali (evOvjx), Bhangon (fvOb) are acceptable. But where umo-g (OM) is pronounced, then umo-g (OM) is acceptable like jongol (ROMj), lungi (jywOM), danga (`vOMv) etc.

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18. Donton n (b) or murdhonno n (Y):

18.1 Always Donton n (b) is in un-Sanskrit words like kan (Kvb), poran (cyivb), koran (‡Kvivb) etc.

18.2 but in conjunct letter murdhonno n (Y) can be placed like ghunti (Nyw›U), lonthon (jÉb), Thanda (VvÛv) etc.

3.3 Bangla Academy declared and published Bangla Bananer Niom:

1.04 For Sanskrit word, in combination, onusshor (s) is in place of inherent m (g), if m (g) is before k (K), kh (L), g (M), gh (N) like ohongkar (AnsKvi/An¼vi), shubhangkor (ïfsKi), sonkha (msL¨v) etc. But except combination, not onusshor (s) but umo (O) is used in other words like Ganga (M½v), rongo (i½), Langol (j½b) etc.

2.03 Donton n (b) or murdhonno n (Y):

Murdhonno n (Y) is used in only pure Sanskrit according to murdhonno n (Y) rule. Always donton n (b) is in un-Sanskrit words like kan (Kvb), sona (‡mvbv), koran (‡Kvivb) etc, but in conjunct letter murdhonno n (Y) can be set like ghunti (Nyw›U), lonthon (jÉb), thanda (VvÛv) etc.

2.10 Onusshor (s) and Umo (O): In Sanskrit word onusshor (s) or umo (O) is placed where appropriate. In un-Sanskrit word generally onusshor (s) is used like rong (is), song (ms), dhong (Xs) but in conjunct letter where vowel-like sounds demand umo (O) is used like bangali (evOvjx), rongin (iOxb), bhanga (fvOv) etc. Specially Bangla (evsjv) and Bangladesh (evsjv‡`k) spell with onusshor (s) according to Bangladesh constitution.

IV.   Problem statement

Umo (O) is a first nasal letter in Bangla. It cannot sit at starting of the word and it cannot place as a free letter but most cases it is used with other consonants as a conjunct letter where its physical structure changes. There is another letter namely onusshor (s) is exactly similar to it and exercises interchangeably. Many Bangla words can be written either by umo (O) or by onusshor (s) and in many cases both are accepted.

Neo (T) can be used in three ways for example, in mia (wgTv), bhuiya (fzBTv) it is like nasal shoro a (Avu), in (hvTœv) it is like donton n (b) with changing its structure, in gaan (Ávb) it is æ (G¨v) sound with g (MM) and very obscured conjunct, in banjon (e¨vÄb), lancona (jvÂbv) it is as donton n (b) but odd-looking conjunct consonants. These types of spelling made fear to reader's mind and extra pressure in writing. According to murdhonno n (Y) rule, murdhonno n (Y) is used only to express Sanskrit word but pronounce exactly as donton n (b). murdhonno n (Y) rule is tougher to learner to perceive. The difference between murdhonno n (Y) and donton n (b) is the mora in their writing figure.

Chandra bindu (u) is set to make vowel nasal, rather it is used to express Bangla word coming from Sanskrit and it is very hard to identify such type of word and also used to follow some manners. In ancient Bangla moon-dot was absent in Bangla Alphabet.

Objectives

The goal of the paper has analyzed the present nasal consonants and identified the spelling puzzle created by them. This paper tried to way out the probable solution of that type of matters. For this the research was set the following objectives:

(i)   Comprehensive reviewed of existing nasal consonants and identified the spelling problem due to them.

(ii)   Probable solution of spelling by carrying away some of them.

Research Questions

Many years have passed both general people and scholar have tried to reform spelling but remarkable success did not come in front due to conservative thinking on Sanskrit word and alphabet reforms. Though spelling reforms is a versed and tough matter but this study was part of that, means nasal consonant was the main concern in this paper. It is very important to justify whether some spelling partially depends on or not on similar nasal consonants. So the research questions of subjected topic were formulated as:

(i)   How did nasal consonants make Bangla spelling conflicting and confusion-able?

(ii)   How did nasal consonants create extra pressure on spelling?

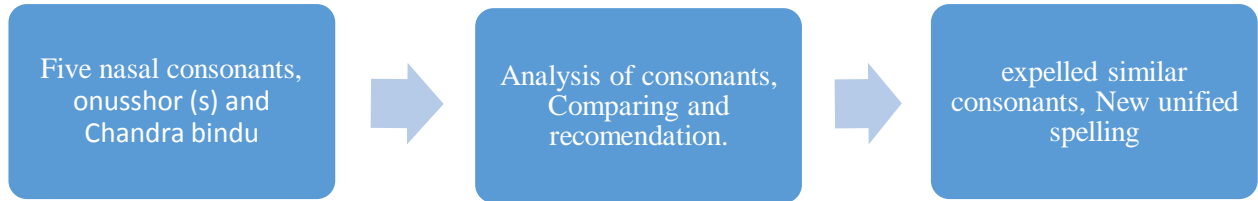(iii)   How could nasal consonants be reset to melt spelling dilemma?

Rationale of the study

Day by day the nasalized pronunciation of words in Bangla became diminished what was more in Sanskrit. The nasalized letter in Bangla made spelling tenacious, double meaning and sometimes un-transparent conjunct words. Discrete initiatives have taken to erase the Bangla spelling but not specifically for nasal consonants. Though here subject matter is nasal consonants in Bangla spelling matter, it is sure that by outing some nasal consonants the uniform spelling could be achieved in nasalized spelling area. So the topic was and is very much necessary to analyze and narrate.

Analytical framework

The five nasal phonemes umo (O), neo (T), murdhonno n (Y), donton n (b), m (g) and two other diacritical marks onusshor (s), Chandra bindu (u) and frictional spellings are playing as primary resources of this study.

Umo (O) and onusshor (s) are positioned substitutely but at times they made obscured spelling by changing their physical structure and one of them occasionally is created special choice without following any manner which is obstruction of maintaining uniformity in spelling. Neo (T) and murdhonno n (Y) are allophone of donton n (b) and they produced same sounds during pronunciation. Chandra bindu (u) is extra sign to make letter nasal. Analysis of above letters advised that similar letters and their alternative activity made nasal spelling steep and turbid.

Five nasal consonants, onusshor (s) and Chandra bindu	→	Analysis of consonants, Comparing and recomendation.	→	expelled similar consonants, New unified spelling

Declining umo (O), neo (T), murdhonno n (Y) and Chandra bindu (u) outcome un-contradicted and single spelled of each nasalized word.

V.   Methodology

Qualitative method has been employed for conducting this research. Around twenty Several Subject related books, book chapters, Bangla dictionary, Promito Bangla Bhashar Bakoron (First and second part), Bangla Banan Ovidhan, Dhvani Vijnan O Bangla Dhvani-tattwa, Uchchator Swanirbhor Bishuddha Bhasha shikkha, promito Bangla Bananer niom, Study reports and newspaper were exercised as a primary source to explain the subject-matter that clearly addressed the topic. Several documents study has been adopted to accomplish this paper.

VI.   Data analysis/Results

(i) According to Bangla phoneme umo (O) and Onusshor (s) are indifferent. In main three nasal phonemes in Bangla Onusshor (s) is not included. These two letters make two spellings of same word which make confusion to reader mind. In Bangla word kingba (wKsev) where Onusshor (s) acts as the phoneme of m (g) that means kingba = kimba (wKsev=wK¤^v), except this word everywhere Onusshor (s) acts as the replacement of umo (O). There is a debate among the scholars which letter is best to keep in Bangla but all are aligned to keep one letter.

(ii) Neo (T) can be placed in four ways, firstly it can be acted as nasal a (Av) like mia (wgTv), secondly it can be used as nasal aa (O) like jacna (hvÂbv), thirdly it can be behaviored as nasal sound of donton n (b) like lanchona (jvÂbv) and finally it can be exercised as nasal sound of g (MM) like biggan (weÁvb=weMMvb) etc. As it can be conducted in different places at different ways, so it is tough to set in Bangla consonants but most of the cases it is applied as the allophone of donton n (b).

(iii) Donton n (b) and murdhonno n (Y) are two consonants but in Bangla phonetics except alveolar donton n (b), there is no existence of other n (b) as main phoneme. So as independent main phoneme there is no existence of murdhonno n (Y). In Sanskrit word but in before T-class consonants murdhonno n (Y) is placed and in pronunciation its sound is exactly donton n (b) like kontok (KÈK), kontho (KÉ) etc. Though there is no difference in pronunciation of donton n (b) and murdhonno n (Y) except room in Sanskrit word, one letter should keep in Bangla and that would be advisable for donton n (b).

(iv) m (g) is the last nasal consonant of plosive letters. It is un-aspirated nasal phoneme. It has no other members but in some Sanskrit words its aspirated form can be favored like bramho (eªvþ), bromho (eªþ) etc. This letter is practiced as consonants as well as nasal consonants and frequently placed at any position of words where necessary either in free or in conjugate.

(v) Another phoneme styled in Bangla alphabet as nasal consonant is Chandra bindu (u) rather above five nasal consonants. It cannot be landed in a word and it has no sounds but locate at the top of the letter to make it nasal.

Implication and recommendations

From the study it is established that (i) there is no separate murdhonno n (Y) rather donton n (b) and murdhonno n (Y) is the allophone of donton n (b). Neo (T), murdhonno n (Y) and donton n (b) can be graphed by donton n

(b) and resultant pronounced exactly as donton n (b). Again manner of neo (T) as a (Avu) can be traced by another existing vowel a (Av).

(ii) Umo (O) and Onusshor (s) are in same pronounced sounds and their behavior in word, in most cases, is replaceable and also acceptable. Chandra bindu (u) was not part of alphabet before i. C. Vidyasagar reform and without it Bangla word expressed Hassel-less, this letter is no more essential in Bangla rather increase number of letters. Moreover nasalized tendency are diminishing in Bangla.

(iii) The existence of neo (T), murdhonno n (Y) and donton n (b) made Bangla spelling hard and complicated rather uniform easy spelling. Umo (O) and Onusshor (s) also made spelling clumsy, confusion-able and exerted extra burden on writing and in pronunciation.

(iv) By shattering some similar nasal sounds are the only fruitful way to get easy and lucid spelling. So the topic was and is very much concerned to achieve the target.

By circumstantial analyzing the Bangla nasal letters and their role in Bangla spelling the following recommendations are formulated to alleviate the spelling problem and achieve un-mix and transparent spelling in concerned area. Firstly, Between Umo (O) and Onusshor (s), umo (O) should be eliminated and Onusshor (s) can be kept as au'ng (As) as it was in shishu shikkha. Secondly only donton n (b) can be practiced in place of neo (T), murdhonno n (Y) and donton n (b). Thirdly m (g) should be as before but its aspirated conjugal word should clear. Fourthly Chandra bindu (u) should be deleted from Bangla alphabet. Finally by expelling umo (O), neo (T) and Chandra bindu (u) rests nasal consonants should count in Bangla for transparent and easy spelling.

Limitation

Bangla is an independent language and it has own writing system. It is one of the rich and sweet language of the world. So writings, research and all language related works have done in Bangla, as a result, no available literature in English and all documents had to translate from Bangla to English.

VII.   Conclusion

The finding of the study prevailed that umo (O), neo (T), murdhonno n (Y) and Chandra bindu (u) acting as nasal phonemes but made related spelling erratic and fuzzy. So by excluding those from nasal letters list Bangla spelling would be easy, clean and uniform. Finally au'ng (As), donton n (b) and m (g) would be stayed in alphabet and set as necessary.

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