Chalantika : Strategies of Compilation

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[**Abstract** : *Chalantika* (1930) Dictionary was published at a time when many Bangla dictionaries, large and small, were readily available. Despite having such a large number of dictionaries, Rajshekhar Basu realized the lack of a handy and at a time effective dictionary. So he decided to compile such a dictionary which will help much the readers who faces trouble reading modern literature. To meet the objectives Rajshekhar Basu followed some special strategies in the Compilation of *Chalantika*.This paper is concerned almost exclusively with the process and techniques of compilation applied in *Chalantika*]

Key words : Lexicography, Compilation, Entry, Orthography, Synonym, Appendix.

The effects of the Renaissance in the nineteenth century that were observed on education, social development, study of native culture etc. in British India became much clearer in the next century. Along with other sectors, many positive changes and developments were noticed in the study of language and literature. Study of Bangla Lexicography moved a step forward in twentieth century. The most important and mentionable achievement for this sector is that, native lexicographers took several initiatives to compile Bangla Dictionary and showed profound skill in their works. Names of some native lexicographers who have played a leading role in the twentieth century are : Jogesh Chandra Ray Vidyanidhi (*Bangala Sabdakosh*, 1903), Subal Chandra Mitra (*Saral Bangala Abhidahan*, 1906), Janendra Mohan Das (*Bangala Bhashar Abhidhan*, 1917), Rajshekhar Basu (*Chalantika*, 1930) Haricharan Bandopadhayaya (*Bangiya Sabdakosh*, 1932), Ashu Tosh Dev (1938), Kazi Abdul Wadud (*Byabaharik Sabdakosh*, 1953), Sailendra Biswas (*Samsad Bangla Abhidhan*, 1955), Muhammad Enamul Haque & Shibprosanna Lahiri (*Byabaharik Bangla Abhidhan*, 1974 & 1984), Ahmed Sharif (*Sangkhipta Bangla Abhidhan*, 1992), Abu Ishaque (*Bangla Academy Samakalin Bangla Bhashar Abhidhan*, 1993) et al. Most of the works done in this century are being appreciated till now. *Chalantika*, compiled by Rajshekhar Basu created a groundbreaking event in the history of Bangla Lexicography by its own qualities and attributes. Collection of words, making entries, giving definition and other information in all respects *Chalantika* was different from other contemporary dictionaries, which were same in their nature. To meet the need of a handy dictionary, lack of the arrangement of practical and widely used literary Bangla words, Rajshekhar Basu compiled

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the dictionary. In this article we'll try to figure out through which process and techniques the lexicographer achieved his goals.

Bangla Lexicography and *Chalantika*

History of the Bangla lexicography was started by non-native people. The first Bangla dictionary *Vocabulario em idioma Bengalla e Portuguez*, though it was a bilingual dictionary, published in 1743 from Lisbon. It was a Portuguese-Bangla Dictionary and compiled by Portuguese missionary Manoel Da Assumpçam in 1934. In nineteenth and twentieth century Jesuit missionaries compiled dictionaries for their own benefit :

> In the 19th century and in the first half of the 20th century Jesuit missionaries sometimes needed to make their own dictionaries in order to enhance their missionary work. Lack of knowledge of local languages was a real barrier to their work, and some Jesuit missionaries set about both learning the languages and compiling grammars, phrase books and dictionaries. (website : Jesuits in Britain)

In British India English people working in this region for colonial governance were expected to learn Bangla language for better effort and service. That is why Officers appointed by English government were often paid with high allowance for learning Bangla Language. Ghulam Murshid says,

> In order to encourage the employees to learn the native language, arrangements are made to pay them twenty-five rupees for each munshi. Twenty-five rupees was a lot of money in that time. After paying the munshi's salary, most of that allowance was left in the hands of the employees. (Murshid, 2016 : 42)

Teaching English and learning Bangla was one of the vital causes for the emergence of lexicography in nineteenth century in this region. Throughout nineteenth Century, many non-native compilers as well as native compilers edited plenty of Bangla-English bilingual dictionaries. Henry Pitts Forster, William Carey, Ramkrishna Sen, John Mendis, Tarachand Chakrabarti, William Morton, J. C. Marshman et al. are the names of some legendary lexicographers of nineteenth century, who compiled bilingual and multilingual dictionaries.

The history of the study of Bangla monolingual dictionary started since1817. Sanskrit scholar Ramchandra Vidyabagish felt that, Bangla speaking countrymen faces the lacking of standard words to write letter and documents (Qayyum, 2017 : 28). To meet that lacking in 1817 he compiled the first Bangla monolingual Dictionary *Bangabhashabhidhan*. Though in nineteenth century most of the Bangla dictionaries were multilingual in nature, lot of Bangla dictionaries were published throughout this century. Practices of lexicography in this century influenced the lexicography of twentieth century. A huge number of Bangla monolingual dictionaries were compiled in twentieth century and the mentionable thing is that almost all lexicographers were native scholars.

The first monolingual bangla dictionary was not much bigger in volume, but most of the dictionaries compiled years next to *Bangabhashabhidhan* were big in volume e.g. *Shabdambudhi* (38,000 entries), *Sabdartha Prakashika* (about 40,000 entries), *Shabdarthamuktabali* (more than 60,000 entries). It occurred because of including huge number of obsolete or less common words along current words. Sometimes common or practical words remained ignored. Two important reasons were active there– one is over-valuating English and Sanskrit language and another is distrust or lack of respect to mother tongue. Attitude of the scholars of that time are pictured in Tagore's lines :

> The language Bangla was then ostracized to both Sanskrit scholars and Bangla scholars. They used to feel ashamed for the poorness of this language. They thought this language is like such a shallow river, which knee-deep water can met only a little domestic necessity of rural people, but the cargo ships from home and abroad can't move. (Rabindranath, 1989 : 529)

However, when Rajshekhar Basu started compiling Bangla dictionaries, the value of Bangla language to the Bengali scholars was much higher than before. Many small and large dictionaries were readily available then. Jogesh Chandra Ray Vidyanidhi, Subal Chandra Mitra, Janendra Mohan Das et al. compiled several outstanding Bangla dictionaries. But Rajshekhar Basu noticed that some of the dictionaries were so large in size that they could not be easily handled. Though some dictionaries were handy, they were unable to fulfill completely the purpose of using the dictionary. Under such circumstances he decided to compile a new dictionary and he named it by *Chalantika*.

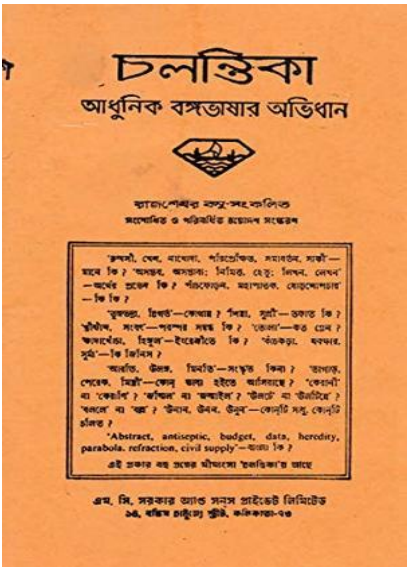


Fig. : cover of *Chalantika*

Chalantika was published as the first practical Bangla Dictionary in 1930. In the introduction of the dictionary Rajshekhar Basu expressed the objectives of *Chalantika* first : 'There is a need for a small dictionary in Bangla– which can be easily handled but works'. Some features of the dictionary mentioned by the author are given below :

1. Handy
2. Helpful to read modern Bangla literature
3. Useful for non native users of Bangla language learners
4. About 30,000 entries
5. Included only Current and usable words of Modern Bangla literature
6. Most of the colloquial words were included which can be used in literature. Oral or dialectical words were avoided. Compiler said, '/ʃo̲tti/(সত্যি), /no̲tun/ (নতুন) etc, already took place in colloquial language, but /ɔboʃʃi/ (অবশ্যি), /biʃti/ (বিষ্টি), /ra̲ttir/ (রাত্তির) are not being widely used till now…' (Rajshekhar, 1930 : Introduction)
7. Technical terms, applicable in literature were included. A list of newly introduced terms were attached in appendix.

Strategies of compilation

Lexicographers need to follow some strategies to compile a dictionary. Pabitra Sarkar (1992 : 85) told about some question, every lexicographer faces when he or they wants to compile a dictionary scientifically. Those questions are explained below :

1. Stakeholders of the dictionary
2. Native speakers?
3. Foreign Learners?
4. Both native and foreign learners?
5. What is the educational qualification of the readers?
6. What is the age of the readers?
7. Purposes of using dictionary
8. To read literature?
9. To find meaning of tough words?
10. To know uses of a certain word?
11. To find the meaning of local words?
12. Words of the dictionary

A lexicographer determines his or her strategies of compilation based on the above topics. The process and techniques of the compilation of *Chalantika* are discussed below :

1. Alphabetical order

In the discussion of the rules for use of *Chalantika*, the compiler mentioned the following alphabetical order :

অ /ɔ/ আ /a/ ই /i/ ঈ /i:/ উ /u/ ঊ /u:/ ঋ /ri/
এ /e/ ঐ /oi/ ও /o/ ঔ /ou/ ং /ŋ/ ঃ (bisharga)

ক /k/ খ /k^h/ গ /g/ ঘ /g^h/ ঙ / ŋ /
চ /c/ ছ /c^h/ জ /j̵/ ঝ / j̵^{h}/ ঞ /ĩɔ/
ট /t/ ঠ /t^h/ ড-ড় /d-ɻ / ঢ-ঢ় /d^h-ɻ^h/ ণ /n/
ত /t̪/ থ /t̪^{h}/ দ /d̪/ ধ /d̪^{h}/ ন /n/
প /p/ ফ /p^h/ ব /b/ ভ /b^h/ ম /m/
য-য় /j̵-y/ র /r/ ল /l/
শ / ʃ/ ষ (murdhonya ʃ) স (dantya ʃ) হ /h/

In the list of the Bangla alphabet, there is no written form for the cardinal vowel 'অ্যা' ('a' of bag). Rajshekhar Basu said, "অ্যা' is an individual vowel, so its place in the alphabet should be after 'ঐ'. However, it has been placed after 'অ' to make it easier to find' (Rajshekhar, 1930 : Introduction).

Recent dictionaries show the position of the letter 'chandra bindu' (actually ঁ is a diacritic mark which indicates nasalization of a vowel) after the anusvara (ং) and bisarga (ঃ) in the list of vowels. Although Rajshekhar Basu kept the use accordingly, he did not indicate the position of Chandrabindu in the list.

From most of the Bangla dictionaries of twentieth century the distinction between 'bargiya ba'[1] and 'antanstha ba'[2] is removed. To point out 'bargiya ba' and 'antanstha ba' In the spelling of 'tatsama words'[3] and 'atatsama words'[4] Rajshekhar Basu used a technique of his own–

1. A star symbol is used before a Sanskrit word with a 'bargiya ba' in initial position, e.g.

   *বলিষ্ঠ — অতিশয় বলবান্, সবল ('— ব্যক্তি, বাহু, দেহ, মন')
   *বাহ্য১ — বহিস্থ, বাহিরের (— জগৎ)। ... বাহ্যজ্ঞান — বহির্বিশ্বের জ্ঞান। চেতনা। ... বাহ্যেন্দ্রিয় বহিরিন্দ্রিয় — বহিরিন্দ্রিয় (দেখ)

2. A star symbol is used after a word with ba which can be 'bargiya ba' or 'antanstha ba' can be substituted by one another, e.g.

   বর্বর* — অসভ্য, মূর্খ, নীচ। অসভ্য জাতি। ... ষ্য. তা।
   বালা১* — বালিকা, তরুণী, যুবতী ('ব্রজ-')। কন্যা। (সং) যে স্ত্রীর বয়ষ ১৬ বৎসরের অনধিক।

3. No Symbol were used for non Sanskrit words even if the 'ba' was 'bargiya ba'.

If the pronunciation of 'ba phala' [ৰ] is similar to that of 'b', in *Chalantika* it is placed between 'pha' [ফ] and 'bha' [ভ] in conjunct letter, e.g. কম্ফর্টার /kɔmphɔrtar/ preceded কম্বল /kɔmbol/. But when [ব] 'ba' creates its sound

duplication in conjunct letter, it is placed after [ল] 'la', e.g. বিশ্লেষ /bisleʃ/ preceded বিশ্ব /biʃʃo/.

2. Orthography

Rajshekhar Basu played a great role to reform Bangla orthography. Through his dictionary *Chalantika* he tried to expose and establish his thoughts about the spelling and use of words. After being published *Chalantika*, Calcutta University appointed him as the head of the spelling reform committee formed by the university. After the publication of the Calcutta University Spelling rules, Rajshekhar Basu adopted them in his dictionary. In the introduction of his dictionary he also mentioned it– 'The spelling system prescribed by Calcutta University has been followed everywhere' (*Chalantica*, 1951 : Introduction).

Generally the spelling principles in a dictionary can be applied in two places : one in the spelling of entries and the other in the the statements or definitions of those entries. If two written forms of a word were found common, the standard one was given first. Then the colloquial form was compiled right after a slash (/). Example :

Example	IPA Version
পিছলানো / পিছলনো [√ পিছলা- ১৮] পিচ্ছল স্থানে স্খলিত হওয়া, হড়কানো ('পা–')	**pic^{h}lano / pic^{h}lɔno** [√pic^{h}la- 18] picc^{h}ɔl st̪^{h}ane skholito hɔoya, hɔɻkano ('pa–')
পিছানো / পিছনো [√ পিছা- ১৩] পিছনে যাওয়া, পশ্চাদ্‌গমন করা। পিছনে পড়া। পিছনে থাকা, অগ্রসর না হওয়া।	**pic^{h}ano / pic^{h}ɔno** [√pic^{h}a- 13] pic^{h}ɔne jaoa, pɔʃcadgɔmon kɔra. pichɔne pɔɻa. pichɔne thaka, ɔggroʃɔr na hɔoya.

Table 1 : spelling of head entry

It is often seen that, users have choices to use any of the two or more orthographic forms available of a word. In these cases, to compile head entries Rajshekhar chose the commoner one first and then another.

Rajasekhar Basu has followed the prescriptive and descriptive methods at the same time in the discussion of word spelling found in the appendix. In compounded form 'প্রাণিসমূহ' (প্রাণী+সমূহ = প্রাণিসমূহ) is said to be correct and at the same time, the compiler didn't ignore to mention that some people are also writing 'প্রাণীসমূহ'. More such examples are found in the appendix.

3. Origin of words

To indicate the origin, words are mainly divided into two parts : Sanskrit and Non Sanskrit. To refer words which are not Sanskrit in written form are indicated

with a single or double square bracket :] or [ ]. Within the bracket sometimes original form of the word, whether it is Sanskrit or from any other origin, are given if required. But no symbol is used for Sanskrit words. Example :

1. Non Sanskrit words
   বরফি] ক্ষীর ইঃর চতুষ্কোণ মিষ্টান্ন।
   বরবটি [< বর্বটী] শিম জাতীয় ফল বিঃ বা তাহার বীজ, মহামাব।
   নোনা২ [পো. anona] আতা-জাতীয় ফল বিঃ।
   নোয়া১ [লৌহ] 'লোহা' শব্দের গ্রাম্য রূপ। লোহার চুড়ি (সধবার লক্ষণ)
2. Sanskrit words
   বরপুত্র – দেবতার বরে জাত পুত্র। দেবতার অনুগ্রহ- বা শক্তি- প্রাপ্ত ('সরস্বতীর –')

4. Meaning of words

People consult dictionary mostly to find meaning of words. So it is the most important part of a dictionary entry. As meaning is the most mysterious part of a language, lexicographers always face challenges to compile all types of meaning periodically in a précised way. A practical dictionary should include both lexical and grammatical meanings.

In *Chalantika* Rajshekhar Basu included every meaning of a word and presented them one after another according to the frequency of use. Most of the meanings are given by synonyms rather than definition. The compiler did'nt ignore the contextual meaning. An example can clarify the argument :

Example	IPA version	Translation
অধিকার – স্বত্ব, দাবি। দখল ('–করা')। স্বামিত্ব, আধিপত্য, কর্তৃত্ব। নিজ কর্তব্যের অন্তর্গত বিষয় ('আপত্তি জানাইবার–')। অভিজ্ঞতা, বিদ্যা ('শাস্ত্রে–')। যোগ্যতা ('স্বাধীনতার–')। ... **অধিকারী**(-রিন্)– অধিকারবিশিষ্ট। দখলিকার। স্বামী। মালিক। অধ্যক্ষ। যাত্রাদল থিয়েটার ইঃর মালিক। অভিজ্ঞ। যোগ্য। উপাধি বিঃ। ... স্ত্রী. **অধিকারিণী**।	**Oɖʰikar** – ʃɔʈʈo, ɖabi. ɖɔkʰol ('–kɔra'). ʃamiʈʈo, aɖʰipɔʈʈo, kortriʈʈo nij korʈobber ɔnʈorgɔto biʃɔy ('apoʈʈi janaibar–'). Obʰiggoʈa, biɖɖa ('ʃaʂtre–'). joggota ('ʃaɖʰinɔʈar–'). … **Oɖʰikari** (-rin)– Oɖʰikarbiʃiʃto ɖɔkʰolikar. ʃami. malik. oɖɖʰɔkkʰo. jaʈʈraɖbl ʈʰiyetar iʈ ʈaɖir malik . Obʰiggo. joggo. upaɖʰibiʃeʃ … stri. **Oɖʰikarini.**	**Adhikar** – Rights, Claims. Possession. Ownership, domination, authority. Matters of one's own duty. Experience, insight. … **Adhikari** (adjective) –entitled. Occupier. Husband. The owner. Principal. The owner of a Jatradal (sort of drama group popular in Bengal), theater etc. Experienced. Eligible. A title. *Note*: Examples of contextual and grammatical applications are excluded in translation.

Table 2 : arrangement of meaning

In this entry, some examples are seen within first bracket, which the compiler included to clarify the meaning within a sentence or in use. Rajshekhar Basu did not include those compound words which meanings can be learned from its morphemes. Such as he অগ্নিতাপ [agnitap] or অগোপন [agopon], because every morpheme are included as separate entry in the dictionary. But he included those compound words which conveys a different meaning than the primary meaning of its parts. Such as অগ্নিকোণ [agnikon] and অকথা [akatha].

Words derived from Sanskrit words whose meanings have been changed radically in Bangla are marked with (বাং.) and whose meanings have been changed partially are marked with (সং.) written before the meaning. An example is given below :

> **বাধ্য** – (বাং.) বশীভূত, আজ্ঞাবহ ('মনিবের–'); যাহার অন্যথা নাই, ('হইতে–, করিতে–')। (সং.) বারণীয়। ...ষ্য. **বাধ্যতা**। ... **বাধ্যবাধকতা** – (বাং.) একজন অন্যের বশবর্তী এই সম্বন্ধ।

In *Chalantika* English words have been used in many places to clarify the meaning of the head words. Such as :

1. **বান** – বন্যা, জলপ্লাবন, নদী ইঃতে অকস্মাৎ জলস্ফীতি। উদ্‌বায়ী, গন্ধময়, volatile, essential ('–তৈল')। (§ **বেনো**)
2. **মল্ল** – বাহুযোদ্ধা, কুস্তিগির, wrestler ('-ভূমি, -যুদ্ধ')

Rajshekhar Basu has arranged the cognates[5] after the § sign within a first bracket. This allows the readers to easily connect with the key word. An example of this statement can be found in Example 1 mentioned above.

5. Synonyms

Rajshekhar Basu emphasized on synonyms as they are widely used in literature. He tried to compile all synonyms at one place. To do this job he selected the most common word to write other synonyms. Such as

> **বায়ু** – অনিল, পবন, বাত, বাতাস, মরুৎ, মারুত, সমীর, সমীরণ, হাওয়া। দেহস্থ পঞ্চবায়ু (পঞ্চ দেখ)। (আয়ুর্বেদে) দেহস্থ ধাতু বিঃ ('– পিত্ত কফ')। বাই, বায়ুরোগ, বাতিক। (§ বায়ব, বায়বীয়, বায়ব্য)। ... **বায়ুকোণ** – উত্তরপশ্চিম কোণ। ... **বায়ুগ্রস্ত** – বাতিকগ্রস্ত, পাগল। ... বায়ুপরিবর্তন – স্বাস্থ্যের জন্য স্থানান্তরে গমন, হাওয়া বদল। ... **বায়ুসেবন** – গায়ে হাওয়া লাগানো।

6. Parts of Speech

Among all grammatical information, which are found in a dictionary, parts of speech of a word is very important. Almost every dictionary of modern Bangla language gives information about parts of speech. But In *Chalantica* parts of speech are not presented everywhere. Rajshekhar says, 'Parts of speech are often understood from meaning, that's why it is not pointed out everywhere. Signs are used only there where there is a chance of doubt' (Rajshekhar, 1930 : Introduction). Let's look at the following example–

> **আবশ্যক** – 'ষ্য.' প্রয়োজন, দরকার। ... ণ. প্রয়োজনীয়, দরকারী। ... **আবশ্যকীয়** [অশুপ্রঃ] দরকারী। ... **আবশ্যকতা** – প্রয়োজনীয়তা।

In this example 'ষ্য.' refers to Noun and 'ণ.' refers to adjective. The form of the head entry can create ambiguity in terms of meaning. So the compiler showed parts of speech only in such cases.

7. Verb forms

There are many forms of a verb in Bangla. More over every verb has both standard and colloquial variety. It is very tough to compile in a dictionary as individual entry. In *Chalantika* verb forms are presented in the appendix and in dictionary to see verb forms readers are directed to the specific form of verb enlisted in there. Verb roots are enlisted in twenty classes in this dictionary.

8. Appendices

Dictionaries are often seen to make a part for appendices. Information, lists or any description, which can't be included in the body of a dictionary, are presented as appendices. This part made a huge difference for *Chalantika* from other contemporary dictionaries. Spelling rules published by the University of Calcutta, spelling of some selected Sanskrit words, nattabidhi[6] and shattabidhi[7], Sandhi[7], list of Bangla verb forms, inflections and case system, pronoun, list of numeric words, list of incorrect words, terminologies etc. are the appendices included in this dictionary. This part plays a complementary role for better understanding and learning of the readers. Types and nature of appendices let people know the linguistic thoughts of Rajshekhar Basu.

9. Symbols and abbreviations

Symbols and abbreviations are very essential linguistic element for a dictionary. Naturally a dictionary is a massive text. It's always a challenge for a lexicographer to make his dictionary redundancy free and compact. Six symbols (except alphabet, numerals and punctuation marks) are used in *Chalantika*. Symbols and their uses are given below :

Number	Symbols	Name	Uses in *Chalantika*
1	…	Ellipsis	To indicate that here starts a new head word within an entry. Ellipsis stands before the new word and at the end of the previous word. In most of the cases the newer words are derivatives of the head word given first.
2	] or [ ]	Square bracket	Square bracket or first half of it is used to refer that, this word is not a Sanskrit word.
3	§	Section	Section symbol has been used in this dictionary before cognates to mean that it is related to the head word.
4	<	Less than	Refers the origin. It is used at the left of a Sanskrit word, from which the head word was derived.
5	“ ”	Double quote	Used to differentiate oral, local, informal or slang words written in the dictionary.
6	√	Squire root	Indicates the verb-root.

Table 3 : list of symbols

Punctuation marks used in writing an entry is not always common. During giving different meaning full stops, commas and semicolons can be significant than their general use. In *Chalantika* ‘danri’ (।) was used to separate meanings of definitions which are totally different than other. Comma was used to give synonyms or words conveying same meaning. Semicolons have sometimes been used in such places.

Dash, first bracket and dots are also used in writing entries in addition to the symbols mentioned. Em dash (—) is used between head word and definition. First bracket `( )` is used to write root word, origin and example. To indicate abbreviation dot (.) is used after the abbreviated word.

Abbreviated forms used in *Chalantika* are enlisted below :

Abbreviations	Word	Abbreviations	Word
অ.	অব্যয়	পু.	পুংলিঙ্গ
অপ্রঃ	অপ্রচলিত, obsolete	পুঃ	পুরাতন বানান বা সংজ্ঞা
অশিঃ	অশিষ্ট	পো.	পোর্তুগীজ
অশুপ্রঃ	অশুদ্ধ কিন্তু প্রচলিত	প্রাঅপ্রঃ	প্রায় অপ্রচলিত, archaic
আ.	আরবী	ফা.	ফারসী
ই	ইংরেজী	(বাং)	পরবর্তী অর্থ কেবল বাংলায়

			চলে সংস্কৃতে নয়
ইঃ	ইত্যাদি	বিঃ	বিশেষ
উ	উর্দু	ব্র-বু	ব্রজবুলি
ক্রি.	ক্রিয়া	মূঃ	মূল অর্থ
ক্রি-ণ.	ক্রিয়া বিশেষণ	ষ্য.	বিশেষ্য
ক্লী.	ক্লীবলিঙ্গ	স.	সংস্কৃত
ণ.	বিশেষণ	(সং)	পরবর্তী অর্থ প্রধানতঃ সংস্কৃতে চলে
তু.	তুর্কি	স্ত্রী.	স্ত্রীলিঙ্গ
তুঃ	তুলনীয়, compare	হি.	হিন্দী
পঃ	পরিশিষ্ট		

Table 4 : list of abbreviations

Findings

The primary objective of compiling *Chalantika* was to publish a handy and effective dictionary. Despite the existence of some contemporary small and big volume dictionary, Rajshekhar had to compile a newer one. Because either they were too heavy to handle or small but not effective. So during the compilation he had to pay attention to both objectives, that means size and effectiveness. For this reason, he had to be tactful.

The compiler selected words very carefully. As he said in introduction that, *Chalantika* was compiled to fulfill the purpose for which readers of modern Bangla literature consult dictionary, it clears the vision for choosing words for *Chalantika.* Common words and words, those are usable in modern Bangla literature, were compiled in the dictionary. Colloquial words, those are usable in literature were also included. This selectiveness makes him a language planner. Along with appendices in many places in the dictionary his decisions are very normative.

As he said in the introduction, the dictionary has been made useful also for those who are not native speakers of Bangla. But the compiler didn't include pronunciation of head words. It's a bit conflicting. Because a language learner learns to speak a language, not only to write.

All words of this dictionary are divided into two classes : Sanskrit and non Sanskrit. And the significant thing is that, in an entry any of these classes was marked only by square bracket. This technique helped even a little to keep *Chalantika* handy.

In every entry almost every meaning were included. As a result, even though the dictionary is small, its effectiveness has not diminished.

To show the use of a word, compilers usually quote a sentence or use a phrase. In *Chalantika* Rajshekhar Basu followed an effective way to exemplify a head word. He used two-words phrases. A dash was used with the word where the headword sits to clarify meaning. Following this formula almost every where, saved *Chalantika* from being a massive text.

Using cross reference in dictionary is a modern approach of lecxicography. A compiler uses cross reference in dictionary to reduce redundancy and focus on a more common word. In the example given below, the meaning of the derived word **'বাহ্যেন্দ্রিয়'** is not given under headwords entry. To know the meaning readers are directed to another entry from different page **'বহিরিন্দ্রিয়'**–

> ***বাহ্য১** — বহিস্থ, বাহিরের (— জগৎ)। ... বাহ্যজ্ঞান — বহির্বিশ্বের জ্ঞান। চেতনা। ... **বাহ্যেন্দ্রিয়** — বহিরিন্দ্রিয় (দেখ)

After seeing the dictionary, Rabindranath Tagore wrote to Rajshekhar Basu, 'Anyone who wants to get intimate acquaintance with Bengali language has no choice but to read your book' (quoted in Habibur, 2009 : 202).

Conclusion

Since it's publishing, *Chalantika* remained the most popular dictionary for many years by meeting the expectations of readers. This was made happened because of the serious attention to the objectives of the dictionary. The compiler determined the strategies keeping in mind the purpose of compiling the dictionary. But it is important to remember that, every dictionary becomes obsolete as soon as it is published. The once hugely popular dictionary has lost its usability and effectiveness due to lack of regular updates. Concerned people may wonder whether the institutional initiative can bring *Chalantika* back to the reading table.

Notes

1. 'ba' ('ব'), uttered as a bilabial stop sound. Its group consists of five bilabial sounds : প, ফ, ব, ভ, ম.
2. 'ba' ('ৰ'), uttered as a semi vowel or gliding sound. The 'w' in Saraswati (সরস্বতী).
3. Sanskrit words used in Bangla without any change.
4. Changed form of Sanskrit words or words from other origin used in Bangla without any change.
5. The rules, which defines in what place of an word murdhanna na ('ণ') is used.
6. The rules, which defines in what place of an word only dantya na ('ন') is used.

7. The rules, which defines in what place of an word only murdhanna sha (‘ষ’) is used.
8. One of the phonological processes of word formation in Bangla language. It’s a euphonic junction of final and initial letters of a two different words. (e.g. mri̱̱+mɔy = mrinmɔy, ḏ̱eb+alɔy = ḏ̱ebalɔy

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