

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### **DRIPTA PIPLAI (MONDAL)**



#### **PERSONAL DETAILS**

Contact Address: Department of  
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Dripta Piplai (Mondal) did her PhD from the Centre for Advanced Studies in Linguistics, University of Delhi in 2015. She joined as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur in 2018. Prior to that, she worked at Jadavpur University, Kolkata as a Research Associate (2016-2018), as a Fellow of the Central Institute of Indian Languages, India (2015-2016) and A fellow of Wipro Applying Thoughts in Schools (2014-2015).

She primarily works in the domain of Language-in-education, by using morphosyntactic and sociolinguistic analysis. She worked with the children of several minority and minoritized Speech Communities in last few years. Her primary aim is to use the morphosyntactic as well as sociolinguistic analysis of child language data to create materials for classroom use. She believes that the data can also be used to sensitise teachers to understand the problems of language conflict in early literacy and elementary education.

Dripta is also interested in the domain of Language-Music interface. She works on ethnomusicology and language vitality from a viewpoint of Endangered Language Research. Another domain of her interest is the discourse of the practice-performance of Tagore songs, which is based on her formal training in Tagore songs since her childhood.

## **RESEARCH INTEREST:**

Home language and school language conflict; language variation and syntactic change; hybrid language in classroom; stereotypes, attitudes and linguistic discrimination; curriculum development for early literacy; language-in-education policies for elementary level classrooms; gender-based discriminations; anthropological linguistics; language and music.

## **CURRENT POSITION:**

Assistant Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Kharagpur

## **RECENT PROJECTS:**

Enabling Language Technology for Low Resource Languages, Microsoft Research India (From July, 2021), (as Co-PI with Dr. Bornini Lahiri)

Using Link Language to Develop Material for Early Literacy: A Study of Two selected areas of Bengal: ISIRD Project, IIT Kharagpur (from December, 2020)

Language Technology For Mundari Language, Microsoft Research India (2018-19)

Author Fellow, Language Courses, The Teacher App, New Delhi ( 2017-2018)

Consultant, Early Language and Literacy Education in Colonial India: A Socio-Historical Study, Tata Institute of Social Sciences( 2017-2018)

## **WORK EXPERIENCE:**

Organization: **Jadavpur University, Calcutta**

Designation: Research Associate

Job Description: Research on endangered and indigeneous languages of India, field work, analysis and language documentation.

Duration: November, 2016- April, 2018

Organisation:**Language and Learning Foundation, New Delhi**

Designation: Consultant

Job Description: Language curriculum development and analysis

Duration: April to December, 2017

Organisation:**Jadavpur University, Calcutta**

Designation: Guest Faculty

Job Description: Teaching, undergraduate course on sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics

Duration: August, 2016 to November, 2016.

Organisation:**Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore**

Designation: Fellow

Job Description: Research on primary level mother tongue education policies of West Bengal, finding the gap between central level and state level mother tongue education policies, preparing a handbook for teacher training curriculum in mother tongue education.

Duration: August, 2015 to July, 2016.

Organisation:**Department of Linguistics, University of Calcutta**

Designation: Guest Faculty

Job Description: Taught two post-graduate level courses : Sociolinguistics and Language Teaching. Also did internal assessment for the two courses.

Duration: October, 2014 to May, 2015.

Organization: **Tata Institute of Social Sciences**

Designation: Research Assistant

Job Description: Research, A Study of the Markets of Pedagogic Materiality in India. Field based research on textbook markets in West Bengal.

Duration: August, 2014 to February, 2015.

Organization: **NEG FIRE, New Delhi**

Designation: Research Assistant

Job Description: field work and analysis on 'Secondary Education: Demand and Supply of Girls Education' at Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh.

**Duration:** January-February, 2015.

Organisation: **Wipro Applying Thought in Schools, Bangalore**

Designation: Fellow

Job Description: Fellowship project 'Fighting the language battle: finding reason and remedies in first language errors among elementary school children of Bengal'. Finding out the error patterns in first language among the children of four districts of Bengal, organizing workshop with teachers to discuss and suggest ideas to combat the language problems in schools.

**Duration:** September 2014 to February 2015

Organisation: **Shikshamitra Kolkata through Wipro Applying Thought in Schools, Bangalore**

Designation: Independent Researcher

Job Description: field work and analysis of four linguistic varieties of Bangla spoken at four regions of West Bengal, preparing testing tools for the children of these four areas to figure out language conflict zones and language problems of children in elementary schools, preparing a model for teachers to use as an aid in classroom.

**Job Duration:** March to June, 2014.

Organization: **Praxis, institute for participatory practices**

Designation: Consultant, Specific task assignment, Curriculum and Exclusion project

Job description: recorded and analyzed gender issues in classroom and building a guideline for gender sensitive curriculum for school. Designed field-based task in both rural and urban schools in West Bengal, focusing the voice of both the teacher and the student relevant to interaction in classroom and various gender issues.

Job duration: March to June, 2013, extended till September, 2013.

Organization: **Miranda House, University of Delhi**

Designation: Assistant Professor (Ad-hoc)

Job Description: Taught papers on basic linguistics and psycholinguistics, supervised first year students in school contact programme, supervised student interns in Delhi government schools, supervised students on the research projects based on various language teaching issues.

Job duration: July, 2011 to June, 2012

Organization:**Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi**

Designation: Assistant Professor (Ad-hoc)

Job Description: Taught papers on basic linguistics, psycholinguistics, and classroom management, supervised student interns in Delhi government schools, supervised students on the research projects based on various language teaching issues,

Job duration: September, 2010 to July, 2011.

Organization- **CRY (Child Rights and You)**

Designation- Associate Consultant

Job Description- Managing research proposals submitted in Indian languages, deciding policies regarding research proposals/reports of the CRY Research programme written in Indian languages, involvement in the selection procedure of the research fellowship scheme.

Job Duration- from October 2008 to September 2009.

Organization- **Shikshamitra, Kolkata**

Designation- Consultant, language

Job Description- Prepared reports on language curriculums in both rural and urban schools, designed syllabus for first language curriculum, prepared teaching aids and introducing the teachers and resource persons with the TLM, graded teaching learning materials in language curriculum.

Job Duration- February to May, 2009.

Organization-**Vidya Bhaban Society, Udaipur.**

Designation- resource person

Job Description- Prepared English textbook for rural primary school children.

Job Duration- throughout the year, 2007

Organization-**Department of Linguistics, University of Calcutta** (as a part of the University with potential for excellence (UPE) scheme of UGC)

Designation- Project Associate

Job Description- Prepared a bilingual online dictionary, in the project entitled 'Defining Key Concepts in Linguistics: A Bilingual Approach with Text-Machine Interface'

Job Duration- from October 2007 to December 2008.

Organization: **CRY (Child Rights and You)**

Designation: Research Fellow

Job Description: Research, Linguistic Human Rights

Job Duration: March, 2007-January, 2008.

Organization: **Sarai, CSDS, New Delhi**

Designation: Independent Fellow

Job Description: Discourse Analysis of Musical Notation , finding out the power game in practice-performance of Tagore songs by analyzing notation

Job Duration: January, 2006-August, 2006

## **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:**

### **Paper in Journal:**

- 'On the Identity of Toto Community: An Anthropolinguistic Investigation' in *Jadavpur Journal of Language and Linguistics*, Vol. 2.2, 2018, pp 115-130.
- 'Designing Strategies for Multilingual Classroom' in *Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences*, Summer, 2017, Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla. ISSN: 0972-1401.

- 'The Periphery of Language Faculty and Variation: A Case of Rajbanshi Children' in *Indian Linguistics*, Vol. 77 (Nos. 1-2), 2016, pp. 103-117. ISSN: 0378-0759
- 'Are We Going to Speak a Different Tongue? The Case of Language Change among the Rajbanshi Children' in *Man in India*, Vol. 95, No. 3, July-September, 2015. ISSN: 0025-1569
- 'Saying 'You Can Use Your Own Language in the Classroom' Can Make a Change' in *Language and Language Teaching*, Vol. 4, No. 2, Issue 8, July, 2015. ISSN: 2277-307X
- 'Creating Code Language in Peer Talk: A Case of Children from Malda District of West Bengal' in *Language in India*. Vol 15:5, May, 2015. ISSN: 1930-2940

**Edited Book:**

'*Nijer Bhashay Golpo*' ( Stories in Own Language). 2016, A Bilingual Book of Stories by School Teachers written in different language varieties. Wipro Applying Thought in Schools, Bangalore and Karukatha Eisamay, Kolkata. ISBN: 978-93-83017-16-4.

**Fellowship Paper:**

'Where Children Lose their Language: The Endangered Linguistic Identity of the Rajbanshi Children of North Bengal' submitted to CRY as a part of the National Child Rights Research fellowship in 2007. [http://www.cry.org/resources/pdf/NCRRE/Dripta\\_Piplai\\_2007\\_Report.pdf](http://www.cry.org/resources/pdf/NCRRE/Dripta_Piplai_2007_Report.pdf)

**Other Writings:**

'*Globalization, Bangla Bhasha ar bangali identity*' ( Globalization, Bangla language and Bengali identity) in 4numberplatform.org, published on 1st February, 2018.

'How Code Mixing Can be Used in Education' in Pokomixmaadi, A Blog about Code Mixing in Human Language by Project Melange, Microsoft Research India ,published on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2017, <https://pocomixmaadi.wordpress.com/2017/05/03/how-code-mixing-can-be-used-for-education/>

2016. 'Multilingual Students in One Classroom' in souvenir of 'Tea and Tribal Festival' (2015-16) Tribal Welfare Department, Alipurduar, Government of West Bengal.

'Ghost in the archive' in *Working Questions* (2000-2008). New Delhi: Sarai, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies.

#### **Paper in Regional Language Journals:**

2018. '*Khichuri Bhasha Ebong Ekhashikotar Shopno*' (Khichri Language and the Dream of Monolingualism', Kolkata: Charbak, ISSN: 2319-3697. (In Bangla)

2017. '*Tumi Boro Hoye Ki Hote Chao?*' (What do you want to be When You will Grow Up?) Kolkata: Durdoibo, ISSN: 2394-9090. (In Bangla).

2016. '*Matribhashar Tokma O Nimnoborger Utthanpoton*' (Labelling Mother Tongue and the Ups and Downs of the Subaltern'. Kolkata: Matribhasha. (In Bangla)

2016. '*Bohubhashi Poschimbonge Prothom Bhashar School Shikkhaniti*' (The School Education Policies of First Language in Multilingual West Bengal), Kolkata:Matribhasha. (In Bangla)



2015. '*Stage-er Jonno Bhashar Bodol: Banglar Nobojagoron Ebong Obhinetrider Bhashik Poriborton*'. ( Changing Language for the Stage: The Bengal Renaissance and Language Change of the Actresses). Kolkata: Karukotha Ei Somoy. (In Bangla)

2014. '*Ancholik O misro Bangla ebong shishushikkha*' (regional and mixed Bangla and child education). Kolkata: Arek Rokom, WBBEN/2013/49896. (In Bangla)

2014. '*ODBL-er punormulyayon ebong Upobhashar itihash-bhugoler aj kal agami*' ( The re-evaluation of the ODBL and the history and geography of dialect). Kolkata: Alochona Chakro, ISSN: 2231-3990. (In Bangla)

2009. '*Onyo Iskuler Sondhane*' (In search of the Other school). Kolkata: Desh Kal Bhabna. (In Bangla)

2008. '*Noam Chomsky Bhashatotte Notun Songa Ebong*' (Noam Chomsky and the New Definition of Linguistics). Kolkata: Alochona Chakro, ISSN: 2231-3990.(In Bangla)

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#### **AWARD /SCHOLARSHIP:**

- Fellowship, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Govt. of India, 2015–16.
- Fellowship, Wipro Applying Thought in Schools (WATIS), Bangalore in 2014-15.
- Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) from University Grants Commission in June, 2010.
- National Child Rights Research Fellowship of CRY (Child Rights and You) in 2006-07.
- Independent Research Fellow of SARAI, CSDS, New Delhi in 2005-06.
- Selected for Lectureship by University Grants Commission (UGC) in 2004.

- National Scholarship from Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India for Higher position in merit in B.A. (Part-2, Linguistics) Examination, 2003.
- National Scholarship from Govt. of West Bengal for higher position in merit in the Higher Secondary Exam, 2000.

#### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS/SCHOOLS/WORSHOPS:**

1. 'Multilingualism in Toto Community' in 'Broadening the Horizon of the Current Research on Endangered and Indigenous Languages of India' at Jadavpur University, Calcutta, March, 2018.
2. Participated in post-conference workshop on Language revitalization at Endangered and Lesser Known Languages Conference (ELKL-6) at Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, February 26<sup>th</sup> –March, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018.
3. 'Role of Socio-Economic Variables in Language Shift with Special Reference to Kurmali and Toto Communities of West Bengal' (Jointly with Arup Majumder), at the Conference of Endangered and Lesser Known Languages (ELKL-6), February, 2018, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, February, 2018.
4. 'Developing an Integrated Curriculum Using Mother Tongue: Integrated Resource Centre in Sunderban Islands' (Jointly with Pal Biswas, Tirumala) at International Conference of South Asian Language and Literature (ICOSAL-13), January, 2018.
5. Exposure to Education as a Factor for Language Endangerment: Revitalizing Toto and Rajbanshi Using Mother Tongue Education', Proceedings of 'Communities in Control: Learning Tools and Strategies for Multilingual Endangered Language Communities', Mercator-SOAS-CIDLes and FEL Conference, October, 2017

6. Participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> Linguistic Spring Schools in the Indian Mountains' (LISSSIM) organized by 'Formal Studies in the Syntax and Semantics of Indian Languages' (FOSSSIL) at Solang and presented on 'Focus, Topic and Differential Case Marking in Bangla' (with Ghoshal, K. Datta, M. Sanyal, P. and Roy, Y.) at the workshop on 'Focus', May-June, 2017.
7. 'Creating Classroom Strategies Using Variation and Mixing' at workshop on 'Grammar in Classroom' at Centre for Advanced Studies in Linguistics, University of Delhi on 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> February, 2017.
8. Conducted a workshop titled 'Documenting Lesser Known Languages through Tools and Textbooks' (along with Dr. Bornini Lahiri and Dr. Arup Majumder) at Students' Conference of Linguistics in India (SCONLI- 11) at Jadavpur University in January, 2017.
9. 'Possibilities of Using Language Variation as a Tool in Classroom: Reflecting on the Education Policies of India' at Centre for Advanced Studies in Linguistics, University of Delhi Workshop on Syntactic Variation (UGC-SIU sponsored under Indo-Norwegian Cooperation Programme 2014-2017), October, 2016.
10. 'Code Avoidance and Multilingual Strategy: The Language of Negotiation by the Artisan Villagers of Odisha' at International Conference of Linguistic Society of India (ICOLSI-38) in IIT Guwahati in November, 2016.
11. 'Journey to a 'Big' School: Locating Language Change from a Transitional Phase of the Rajbanshi Children' at International Conference of Linguistic Society of India (ICOLSI-37) at Jawaharlal Nehru University in October, 2015.
12. 'Using the Conflicts between Mother Tongue and School Language to Develop Teaching aid: A Case of West Bengal' at the workshop on 'Role of Linguistics in Mother Tongue Education' at Jawaharlal Nehru University, February, 2015.

13. 'The How and Why Questions of Evaluation in Language Classroom and Rajbanshi Children' at the national seminar cum workshop 'Learning and Learnability issues of the SC/ST children' organized by Central Institute of Indian. Languages and Jadavpur University in July, 2014.
14. 'Using language variation analysis to facilitate language conflicts in classrooms: The case of Rajbanshi children' at 'Wither MLE: Rethinking multilingual education in the 21st century' organized by Zakir Hussain Center for Educational Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University and UNICEF in November, 2013.
15. 'An interaction with UG: the key external factors for language dominance and the Rajbanshi children' at 'Parallel Grammar and Multilingualism' at Trondheim, Norway in October, 2013.
16. Participated in the 7th 'Linguistic Spring Schools in the Indian Mountains' (LISSSIM) organized by 'Formal Studies in the Syntax and Semantics of Indian Languages' (FOSSSIL) at Kangra and presented 'Syntactic variation in Rajbanshi' at the language variation workshop conducted by David Adger, Queen Mary, University of London in May-June, 2013.
17. Participated at the workshop on Syntax for Language Teachers at Eklavya, Bhopal, in November-December, 2012.
18. 'Language Conflict in School: The Case of Rajbanshi Children' at '(M)other Tongue: 'Marginalized' Language-Cultures of West Bengal' at Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University, Calcutta in February, 2012.
19. 'Problematizing Literacy in Bangla: Hegemony of Bangla Primers' at Second International Congress on Bengal Studies, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh in December, 2011.

20. 'Variation and Rajbanshi Verbs: From Classroom to Theory, from Theory to Classroom' at a workshop 'Language as a Social Fact' at "Vidya Bhavan Society", Udaipur in 2010.
21. 'Variation as a Hindrance in Classroom vs. Variation as a Tool for Language-in-Education Policy: An Understanding from the Agreement System of the Rajbanshi Children' at the 'Multilingual Individual Multilingual Societies' (MIMS) conference at University of Hamburg, Germany in October, 2010.
22. 'Mapping Variation with the Minimalist Framework: Intra-Sentential variation and the Verbal Constructions of the Rajbanshi Children' at the 4th International Students' Conference of Linguistics in India (SCONLI 4) at University of Mumbai in February, 2010.
23. 'Analyzing Variation with Minimalism: Tense and Agreement in Rajbanshi.' (Co-authored with Dr. Tanmoy Bhattacharya) at the International Conference of South Asian Languages (ICOSAL 9) at Patiala in January, 2010.
24. Participated at 'Workshop on Effective Presentation Skills' organized by The British Council, Kolkata in May, 2009.
25. Participated in the 4th Linguistic Spring Schools in the Indian Mountains' (LISSSIM) organized by 'Formal Studies in the Syntax and Semantics of Indian Languages' (FOSSSIL) at Kausani in May-June, 2009.
26. Poster presentation. 'Do not Speak your Language in your Classroom: Linguistic Human Rights and the Rajbanshi Children of North Bengal' at the Students Conference of Linguistics in India (SCONLI 2) at University of Delhi in 2008.
27. Participated in IL-POST Parts of Speech Data Annotation Experiments for Bangla, conducted by the Multilingual Systems Group, Microsoft Research Labs India in November, 2008.

28. Participated in 'Workshop on Acoustic-Phonetics Analysis of Bengali Speech' organized Jointly by Microsoft Research India, Bangalore and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Kolkata from 27<sup>th</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2008.
29. 'Between the Curriculum and Notebook: Some Problems of the First Language Classroom among Bengali Children of Calcutta' at 'All India Conference of Linguistics' at Department of Linguistics, Banaras Hindu University in November, 2006.
30. Participated at 'Workshop on Electronic Resources and Bibliographical Citations' organized by Delhi University Library System, University of Delhi in November, 2006.
31. Developed teaching material for adult learners in the 'Workshop for the Preparation of Supplementary Materials for Bangla Online Course' organized by Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore in 2005.
32. 'Understanding Bangla Intonation – a Different Way' (jointly with Mridusmita Mitra, CDAC, Kolkata) at 'All India Conference of Linguistics' organized by Linguistic Society of India in 2002.
33. Participated at 'Winter School on the Methods of Core Linguistics' at Linguistic Research Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata from 6<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> December, 2000.

#### **TALKS:**

1. Combinatorial Variability: Looking Back, Centre for Advanced Studies in Linguistics, University of Delhi, 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2021.
2. 'Big' vs. 'small' languages and mother-tongue education. IEE WIE Affinity group, IIT Kharagpur, 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2020.

3. Teaching Bangla as a Foreign Language: Some Implications from Bilingual Pedagogy and Task-Based Approach', Jadavpur University, 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2018.
4. 'School Education for Language Revitalization' at Christ University, Bangalore on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.
5. 'Multilingual Resources and Language Conflict in Classroom', Workshop for Teachers at SCERT, Raipur, Eklavya and UNICEF, 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> December, 2017.
6. 'Introduction to Sociolinguistic Theory' at Department of Bengali, Raiganj University, Raiganj on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2017.
7. 'Can Language Variation be used as a Tool in Classroom?' at Microsoft Research India, Bangalore on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2016.
8. 'Language Teaching and Community Intervention: Understanding Ecological Literacy' at Manipur University 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2016.
9. 'Mother Tongue Education Policies for Primary Schools of West Bengal: Identifying Some Problem Areas' at Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore on 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2016.
10. Series of Lectures, 'Language in Multilingual Classrooms', Teachers' Training Programme at Malbazar, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal from 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016.
11. 'Language and Marginalization' at IIT Delhi on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2016.

12. Lecture Series on 'Using mother tongue in classroom' organized by Central Institute of Indian Languages and Rajbanshi Academy at Coach Behar, West Bengal beginning from 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.
13. 'Using Language Variation as a resource to facilitate the classroom for Rajbanshi children' at Vidya Bhawan Society, Udaipur on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2013.
14. 'Analyzing Language for Classroom', two lectures delivered at Primary Teachers' Training Institute, Hastings House, Kolkata on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2013.
15. Syntactic Variation and Language Conflict in the Classroom of Rajbanshi Children: An Account' at Meertens Institute, Amsterdam in 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2010.
16. 'Use of Local Language Resources in Research', at 'Data user workshop for advocacy collective' organized by 'Child Rights and You' at YWCA, New Delhi on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2007.

**PROFESSIONAL BODY MEMBERSHIP:**

Member, DiscourseNet Association.

Life Member, Linguistic Society of India.

Life Member, Indian Anthropological Society.

Member, Advisory Board, The Language Rights Blog, NALSAR Hyderabad

Member, Problem Committee, Panini Linguistic Olympiad