A Linguistic Review on the 'Laleng Thar Language' of the Patro Community of North-Eastern Bangladesh

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Abstract: In the present article, I have discussed the linguistic characteristics of the language 'Laleng Thar' spoken by the Patro community residing in the Sylhet region of Bangladesh. As the Patro community does not have its own script, they use the Bengali script to write their language. Therefore, in order to uncover new linguistic aspects, the 'Laleng Thar' language requires further research. In the present article, I have used a qualitative method in the linguistic analysis. Several important findings have emerged in this paper through the linguistic analysis of the 'Laleng Thar' language. These are as follows: 1) the use of five new consonant sounds. 2) A morphemic writing system that follows the Chinese language. 3)The extinction of certain counting-related words. 4)The use of some words of common genders alongside masculine and feminine words. 5)The influence of English and Hindi on the language. The present article is the result of an exploratory research on the 'Laleng Thar' language.

Key-words: Laleng Thar, Iindigenous language, Patro, culture, Linguistic Characteristics, language extinction, community.

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Introduction

Language plays a significant role in identifying the ethnographic characteristics of a community. By analyzing languages currently spoken worldwide and extinct languages whose remains have been found, linguists have classified all languages into several genealogies. Linguists have classified languages into 26 branches (Biswas, 2017). In the Indian subcontinent, modern languages can be divided into four major groups: 1. Indo-European, 2. Dravidian, 3. Austric, and 4. Tibeto-Chinese (Ray, 1997). In Bangladesh, more than 45 indigenous or distinct linguistic and cultural communities reside. They make up about 2 percent of the total population. An analysis of the languages of the indigenous people living in Bangladesh reveals that there are approximately 30 languages from four of the world's major language families (Sikdar, Bangladesher Adibasi: Bhasha Sangskti-Odhikar, 2014) . Among the ethnic communities in Bangladesh, languages from three major families are present (Karim, 2014).

Among these small ethnic groups in Bangladesh, there are primarily three major language families. The language of the Chakmas and Tanchangyas of the Chittagong Hill Tracts is part of the Indo-Iranian branch of the Indo-European family. Other hill tribes such as Marma, Tripura, Bom, Mro, and the Manipuri of Sylhet, as well as the Rakhine of Cox's Bazar and Patuakhali districts, belong to the Tibeto-Burman or Tibeto-Chinese branch of the Sino-Tibetan family. The languages of the Santals, Mundas, and Mahalis belong to the Austroasiatic family (Rahim, 2017).

However, several characteristics of the Chinese language can be observed in the Laleng Thar language such as the monosyllabic nature of many words, it also shows notable influences from English and Hindi.

Location of the Laleng Thar Language Speakers

In northeastern Bangladesh, a total of 3,999 Patro people live

across 33 villages and 705 families in four upazilas of Sylhet (Sylhet Sadar, Jaintiapur, Gowainghat, and Barlekha). Among them, there are 2,076 men and 1,923 women. The Patro community resides not only in Sylhet, Bangladesh, but also in parts of Meghalaya, Assam, and Cachar in India (Patra, Swarthi, & Patra, 2020).

Literature Review

The smallest community among the indigenous groups residing in the Sylhet region is the Patro community. Many anthropologists, linguists, and sociologists have discussed the language, culture, society, and other aspects of this community from its inception to the present day.

Although many have discussed aspects such as culture, life, language, and more, the first scholarly discussion on the linguistic aspect of the Patro community's language 'Laleng Thar' from a socio-linguistic perspective was conducted by Mohammad Asaduzzaman. In his unpublished Ph.D. dissertation titled "The Language and Culture of the Patro Community of Bangladesh: An Anthropo linguistic Analysis" he has discussed the Patro community in detail. Divided into twelve chapters, in the eighth chapter of his dissertation, he analyzes the language of the Patro community. In that analysis, he mentions a total of 24 consonant sounds. However, in the present article, 28 consonant sounds are mentioned.

In section 8.3.2.11 of the eighth chapter, he discusses number counting.

One of the distinctive features of the Patro language is the use of counting numbers. It is noteworthy that among the counting numbers from one to one hundred, the following numbers in the Patro language have distinct words of their own. [Tʃik] (One), [kʰɑni] (two), [tʰom] (three), [pʰɑlli] (four), [pʰɑnɑ] (five), [phanakhani] (ten), [pʰɑɳɑ inkbum] (fifteen), [innokol tʃik] (twenty), [pʰɑnɑpink antʃiki] (twenty-five), [inkʰomo pʰɑlli] (sixty), [inkʰolo gɑntɑ] (one hundred).The remaining

number words are borrowed from the Bengali language by the Patro community. Additionally, while the Patro people use the word *lākha* [lɑkʰɑ] for lakhs, they use the Bengali words for thousand and crore (Asaduzzaman, 2018).

However, currently, apart from the numbers one to five and twenty, the subsequent numbers in the Patro language are no longer found or used by anyone (Patra, Swarthi, & Patra, 2020). In other words, the counting numbers (twenty-five) - /pʰanɑpink antʃik/, (sixty) - /inkʰomo pʰalli/, (one hundred) - /inkʰolo gantɑ/, and lakh [lɑkʰɑ] are no longer used.

Additionally, in section 8.3.2.13 of the eighth chapter, he discusses gender. In that section, he mentions that there are primarily two types of gender in the Patro language: a) Masculine, b) Feminine (Asaduzzaman, 2018).

However, in the present article, several words of common genders have been observed. Mohammad Asaduzzaman's research will be considered a shining example for future studies on the life, culture, and language of the Patro community.

In the book *Bhashar Nanarup*, Dr. Md. Ashraful Karim, in one of the three essays titled "Adibasi Patra Bhasha: Bhashatatthik Boishishtyer Swaroop Sandhan," has conducted a morphological and phonological analysis of the Patra language. In the phonological discussion, he mentions 6 vowel sounds and 23 consonant sounds in the Laleng language. However, in the current research, 7 vowel sounds and 28 consonant sounds have been observed in the Laleng language.

In 2020, a publication titled *Patra Jati'r Sangskritik Oitihya* (Cultural Heritage of the Patra Community), edited by Gourang Patra, Labani Swarty, and Bichindra Kumar Patra, was released. This 80-page publication was produced under the planning and publication of the Patra Community Welfare Council (PASKOP), with funding from AIERP, IWGIA, and the European Commission. The book covers various aspects of the Patra community, including their habitat, language, tribe,

society, rural culture, family structure, and the status of women. It also discusses their economic condition, education, religious rituals, social governance, and the contribution of the Patra people in the Liberation War, along with other relevant topics. This publication can be considered of significant importance to researchers and enthusiasts of the Patra language.

Under the planning and publication of the Patra Community Welfare Council (PASKOP), another publication titled *Patra Bhasha O Shabdkosh* (Patra Language and Dictionary) was released as part of the same project. This 88-page publication was also published at the same time. The publication includes the Bengali meanings of all types of words, starting from the names of gods and goddesses to terms related to local roads and streets. It can be considered the first dictionary of the *Laleng Thar* language.

Dr. Ratanlal Chakraborty has described the aforementioned topics in his book *Nihsha Adibasi Patra from Sylhet*.

In the book *Bangladesher Bhasha-Porikalpona*, Dr. Abdur Rahim, in the sixth chapter titled "Bangladesh-er Adibasi-der Bhasha-poristhiti O Bhasha-porikalpona" (Language Situation and Language Planning of Indigenous Peoples in Bangladesh), provides a detailed discussion on the language situation and language planning of the indigenous ethnic groups. In regard to the steps needed for the development of indigenous languages, Dr. Abdur Rahim mentions that for those indigenous communities that do not have their own script, it is necessary to transcribe their languages using another script (Rahim, 2017).

In the book *Bangladesher Adibasi Bhasha Sangskti Odhikar*, Saurav Sikdar discusses the origins of the languages of the indigenous communities, their alphabets, education, and culture.

In his book *Bangladesher Adibasi Bhasha*, published by the Bangla Academy, Saurav Sikdar has conducted research on the languages of 10 indigenous communities. In that book, he discusses the Laleng language, the population of the Patra community, their professions, and other related aspects. In

Adibasi Bhashar Obosthan Bangladesh Chitre, Saurav Sikdar classifies the Laleng language as belonging to the Sino-Tibetan language family (Sikdar, Bangladesher Adibasi Bhasha, 2011).

Pobitro Sarkar, in his essay Matribhashar Madhyame Shikha: Koto Din, Kotodur (Education through Mother Tongue: How Long, How Far), emphasizes the importance of preserving a language by stating that a language becomes an effective medium of education when it is used for teaching in the classroom, when textbooks are available in that language, when supporting books can be found, and when exams are conducted in that language (Sarkar, 2022) .

In the article *Indigenous Languages in Bangladesh: Loopholes behind the Scene*, Abdullah Al Mamun Bhuiyan states that to secure a job, one must study in Bangla or English, where there is no value for the mother tongue. As a result, indigenous youth are compelled to turn away from their native languages (Bhuiyan, 2016).

From the above discussion, it can be said that while many researchers have worked on the material aspects of the Patra community, linguistic research on the *Laleng Thar* language is rare. The increasingly declining *Laleng Thar* language demands further fundamental linguistic research. The present article is the result of exploratory research aimed at uncovering the linguistic nature of the *Laleng Thar* language.

Ethnic Identity of the Patro Community
The Patro community is one of the indigenous groups in Sylhet. Historically, they were known as "Laleng" a term they prefer to identify with. Locals often refer to them as "Patar" or "Patro people". However, the Patro community is now widely recognized by everyone as Patro. "They make coal and live in hills and forests" (Partha, 2020).

The Patro ethnic group is the true indigenous population of Sylhet, and according to ancient Patros, they have resided

in the Sylhet region since before the 14th century. The Patros are descendants or associates of King Gaur Govinda, which is a source of pride for them. During King Gaur Govinda's rule, a son was born to Borhan Uddin, a resident of Tultikar in Sylhet. To fulfill a previous vow, he sacrificed a cow and held a feast. Coincidentally, a crow dropped a piece of beef in the courtyard of the king's shrine, angering the king, As a result, the king became furious and cut off one hand of Burhan Uddin's newborn son. Borhan Uddin sought justice from the Emperor of Delhi. After the Delhi emperor's troops were defeated by King Gaur Govinda, Hazrat Shah Jalal (R.A.) of Yemen, who was in Delhi, came to Sylhet with 360 saints. A pact was made between the king and Shah Jalal (R.A.). If Shah Jalal (R.A.) could pierce an 80-mon (about 3,000 kg) spade with his bow and arrow, the king would leave his kingdom. King Gaur Govinda was defeated by Shah Jalal (R.A.) and fled north with his followers. Many were unable to follow him, and since then, this Patro ethnic group has remained in the deep forest, starting a new way of life.

The general physical anthropological characteristics of the Patro people are that they are of medium height, have long foreheads, and their body color is brown. The physical structure is not like that of the Bengalis. Although the lifestyle, culture, and behavior of the Patro community differ in their character traits, they lead a very simple and straightforward life in terms of attitude. Agriculture was their main occupation, and they later relied on producing charcoal by burning wood as a means of livelihood (Patra, Swarthi, & Patra, 2020).

Like other indigenous communities, the Patro community is divided into various clans, each with unique symbols and customs. The Patro society is organized into twelve clans: (1) Langkhirai, (2) Gaburai, (3) Alairai, (4) Langthurai, (5) Tongrarai, (6) Tukurai, (7) Theklarai, (8) Kelaangrai, (9) Chamangrai, (10) Barai, (11) Tiprarai, and (12) Chandrakanyarai (Patra, Swarthi, & Patra, 2020) .

Clans are referred to as 'rai'. There is no social or hierarchical stratification within the community, and they follow a patrilineal system. Although they practice Sanatan Dharma, they remain culturally distinct from Bengali Hindus (Patra, Swarthi, & Patra, 2020).

The Patra people had their own traditional attire, but it has now become extinct. According to elders, men wore 'jama' (shirts) and 'dhuti' (loincloth), while women dressed in 'sari'. They also had unique jewelry, such as silver rings, which were crafted from 25-paisa coins (Patra, Swarthi, & Patra, 2020).

Their dietary habits are similar to those of Bengalis, though currently, they observe one vegetarian day per week. Traditionally, they had their unique dishes, including 'Pachuben' and 'Falaben', and a homemade beverage called 'khar', which is a part of their cultural heritage. However, many educated members of the younger generation are now refraining from consuming 'khar'.

Research Aims, Objectives and Significance
Although some scattered studies exist regarding the origin and linguistic features of the Patro community's Laleng Thar language, few studies have analyzed it from a linguistic perspective. This paper aims to identify and analyze the linguistic characteristics of Laleng Thar to gain a better understanding of the language.

Research Questions
1. What are the linguistic features of Laleng Thar?
2. What elements contribute to determining the linguistic characteristics of Laleng Thar?

Research Methodology
In the current research, I have adopted a qualitative approach. This approach involves three steps: literature review, language data collection, and data analysis. Data in the paper has been collected from primary and secondary sources. The primary source of this research is the field-collected linguistic data from

the Patro community residing in Sylhet Sadar Upazila of Sylhet Division, Bangladesh. Additionally, various research books, articles, reports, and websites on the Laleng Thar language have been used as secondary sources.

Research Process
In the initial stage, I formulated questions based on the linguistic features of the Patra community and specific vocabulary. Then, I went to the Patra linguistic community in Sylhet Sadar Upazila to collect data. On the other hand, I gathered responses to the questionnaire on linguistic features from four men, four women, three elderly individuals, and four children from the village. I then verified and presented this information in the paper based on the linguistic features.

Laleng Thar Language
The Patro community lives in several villages on the hills of Khadimnagar, about 12 kilometers northeast of Sylhet town (Karim, 2014). Due to various socio-economic challenges, they have struggled to preserve their language, and it has integrated elements from both Bengali and Sylheti. The influence of these languages has gradually narrowed the scope of Patro. For example, it can be said that the Patra community's alphabet includes the numbers 1 to 5 and 20, which can be found or observed in their usage. These are: সিক (one), খানি (two), থম (three), ফালি (four), ফাংঙ্গা (five), and ইনকোল (twenty). However, the subsequent numbers are not found in the Patra language or are not observed to be used by anyone currently. In this way, not only numbers but also many other words have become extinct from their language (Patra, Swarthi, & Patra, 2020).

Analyzing the phonetic features reveals that the consonant sounds of Bengali and English have notable similarities with those of the Laleng Thar language (Karim, 2014). Additionally, analyzing the origins of the Patra community shows that their roots can be traced back to the Tibetan-Himalayan region, specifically those known as Bodo. The Bodos are both an ethnic

group and a linguistic group, who were originally inhabitants of Assam in Northeast India.

Another study shows that the Patra people belong to the 'Mongolic Monochre' family, which is part of the Tibeto-Chinese family. They are included in the Bodo sub-section of the Bodo-Naga section, which is a branch of the Tibeto-Burman group under the Assam-Burmese category (Chowdhury & Saha, December 2012).

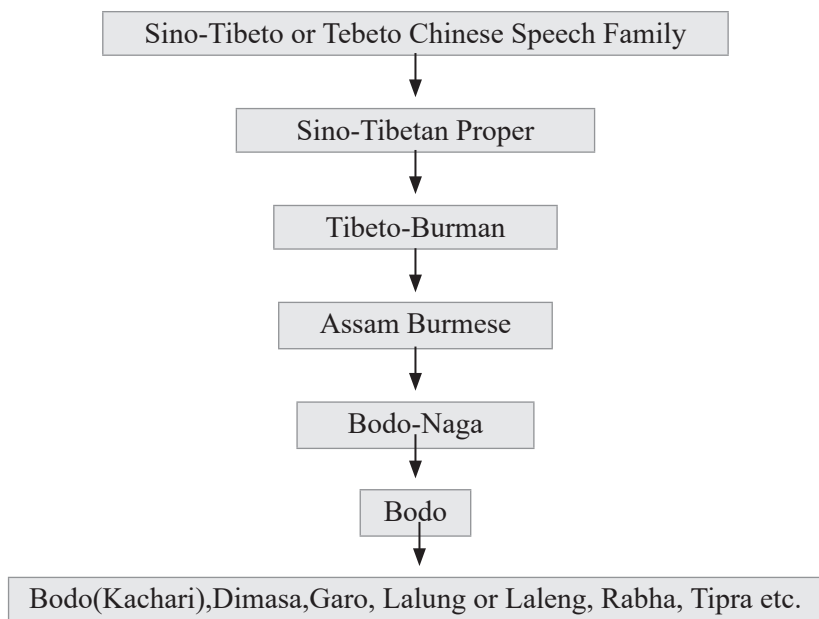The origin of the Laleng Thar language can be explained in the following sequence:

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Sino-Tibeto or Tebeto Chinese Speech Family
                    ↓
          Sino-Tibetan Proper
                    ↓
            Tibeto-Burman
                    ↓
            Assam Burmese
                    ↓
              Bodo-Naga
                    ↓
                 Bodo
                    ↓
Bodo(Kachari),Dimasa,Garo, Lalung or Laleng, Rabha, Tipra etc.
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Fig. Origin of the Patro (Chowdhury & Saha, December 2012)

Script

The Laleng Thar language does not have its own script. The Patro people in Bangladesh write their language using the Bengali script (Patra, Swarthi, & Patra, 2020). Languages of indigenous communities that do not have their own script need

to be documented using another script. Any small ethnic group can abandon their own script when necessary and adopt any preferred script (Rahim, 2017).

Linguistic Characteristics
The fundamental elements of language are sound, words or morphemes, sentences, and meaning. Language elements are grouped into hierarchical stages, leading to classifications within phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics (Morshed, 2009). This paper also emphasizes these four aspects of the Laleng Thar language.

Phonology
Language is a collection of sounds produced from human articulation. (Tewari & (Translator), 2018). The largest and most essential part of sound consists of vowels and consonants (Hi, 2000).

Consonants

Laleng Thar contains 28 consonants

ক | /k/ |, খ | /kʰ/ |, গ | /g/ |, ঘ | /gʱ/ |, ঙ | /ŋ/|, চ | /tʃ/ |, ছ | /tʃʰ/ |, জ | / dʒ/ |, ঝ | /dʒʱ/ |, ট | /ʈ/ |, ঠ | /ʈʰ/ |, ড | /ɖ/ |, ত | /t̪/ |, থ | /t̪ʰ/ |, দ | /d̪/ |, ধ | /d̪ʱ/ |, ন | /n/ |, প | /p/ |, ফ | /pʰ/ |, ব | /b/ |, ভ | /bʱ/ |, ম | /m/ |, র | /ɾ/ |, ল | /l/ |, শ | /ʃ/ |, স | /s/ |, হ | /ɦ/ |, ড় |/ɽ/ .

Although Karim (Karim, 2014) mentioned 23 consonant sounds. In the current research, the use of five additional consonant sounds has been observed in the Laleng Thar language:

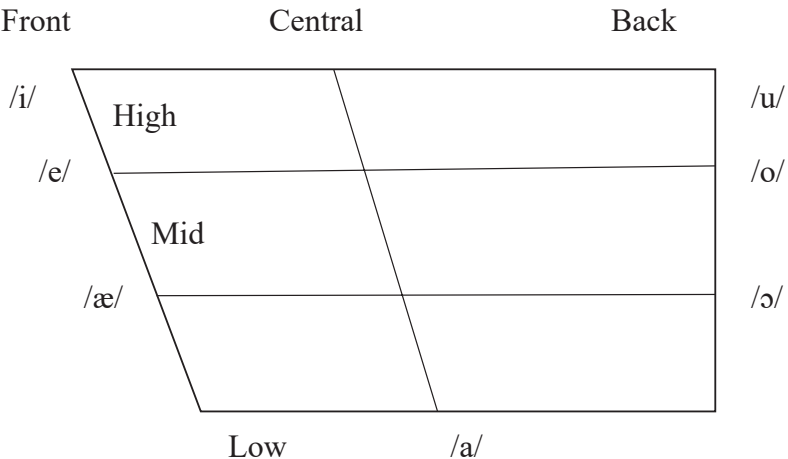ঘ | /gʱ/ |, ঝ | /dʒʱ/ |, ধ | /d̪ʱ/ |, ভ | /bʱ/ |, ড় |/ɽ/ .

According to the feature-template, the 28 consonant sounds in the Laleng Thar language can be classified as follows:

1. Bilabial: /p/, /pʰ/, /b/, /bʱ/, /m/.
2. Dental: /t̪/, /t̪ʰ/, /d̪/, /d̪ʱ/.

3. Retroflex: /ʈ/, /ʈʰ/, /ɖ/, /ɽ/
4. Alveolar: /ɾ/, /l/, /n/.
5. Palatal: /tʃ/, /tʃʰ/, /dʒ/, /dʒʱ/, /ʃ/.
6. Velar: /k/, /kʰ/, /g/, /gʱ/, /ŋ/, /ɦ/

Vowel Sounds

In all languages of the world, there are typically 3 to 5 vowel sounds found (Karim, 2014). In the Laleng Thar language, there are seven vowels ই | /i/ |, এ | /e/ |, অ্যা /æ/, আ | /a/, অ | /ɔ/, ও | /o/, উ | /u/. Additionally, there are two semi-vowels, /j/ and /w/, along with two compound vowels, /ɔɪ/ and /ɔʊ/. The Laleng Thar language also features a prominent use of the nasal sound (/ŋ/). In contrastive words, stress is observed. However, variations in vowel stress, length, tonal patterns, pitch, and intonation do not result in differences in meaning.

Front	Central	Back

/i/ High /u/

/e/ /o/

Mid

/æ/ /ɔ/

Low /a/

Consonant Clusters

Laleng Thar	IPA	English
ইল্লং	/ɪl:ɔŋ/	Hill
হালিং	/ɦa:lɪŋ/	We

Laleng Thar	IPA	English
নাং	/naŋ/	You
স্কুল	/skuːl/	School
মন্তানী	/mɔntani/	Elder
এস্কি	/ɛski/	Love
ইনি	/inti/	Salt
ছাত্রি	/t͡ʃatːi/	Umbrella
চং	/t͡ʃɔŋ/	Frog
ফান্টা	/fanta/	Goat

In the Laleng Thar language, there are both monosyllabic and disyllabic consonant clusters. Some examples include:

Diphthongs

The Laleng Thar language features a variety of languages and dialectal elements, resulting in a non-specific number of diphthongs. Some examples are provided below:

Base vowel	Laleng Thar	IPA	English
(i-i)	ঈ/য়ি	/i/ /ji/	blood
(ie)	থিয়ে	/tʰi.e/	will die
(ia)	ইয়াং	/jaŋ/	come
(io)	ইয়ো	/jo/	(mother
(ei)	যেইরং	/jæirɔŋ/	in this way
(eo)	এওলাং	/eɔlaŋ/	gooseberry
(aea)	ছেয়া	/t͡ʃeja/	shadow
(ai)	দাই	/dai/	tongue
(ao)	ছাওয়া	/t͡ʃaʋa/	boy

Base vowel	Laleng Thar	IPA	English
(au)	আউওয়া	/aʊʋa/	fool
(ou)	মৌর লকওই	/moʊr lɔkwi/	mountain white flower
(oi)	ঐরা	/oiɾa/	this way
(oy)	অয়	/ɔj/	sleep
(ua)	উয়া	/u.a/	this

Syllables

In the Laleng Thar language, there are syllable formations ranging from single syllables to multiple character syllables. It is discussed below.

Syllable Type	Example in Lalen Thar	IPA	Meaning in English
V	ঈ	/i:/	blood
VV	উয়া	/ua/	this
VC	আন	/a:n/	rice
CV	থাক	/tʰak/	above
CVV	ইরান	/i:rɑn/	song
CVC	মউল	/mɔʊl/	waist
CCV	চারই	/tʃa:r.i/	rope
VCC	অসদ	/ɔsɔd/	medicine

Morphology

The smallest meaningful unit of language is called a morpheme. In the Laleng Thar language, there are certain morphemes that are used as standalone words. When a single letter serves as the minimal meaning-bearing symbol of a morpheme, it is referred to as a morphemic writing system. The writing system of the Chinese language is similarly morphemic (Hi, 2000). Many morphemes can be observed in the Laleng Thar language. For example: i- /i:/ - (Meaning in English is blood). Here are some examples of free morphemes and bound morphemes:

Example in Laleng Thar	IPA	Meaning in English
খাজা	/kʰad͡ʒa/	stomach
লা	/la/	leaf
লক	/lɔk/	White

Gender

In the Laleng Thar language, there are primarily two types of gender: masculine and feminine. However, this language also exhibits forms of common gender. For example:

masculine		Feminine		common gender	
IPA	Meaning	IPA	Meaning	IPA	Meaning
/pa/	father	/jo/	mother	/tʃa.tʃu/	child
/kɔrtai/	brother	/i.d͡ʒor/	sister	/kʰa.mai/	widow
/ga:bur/	groom	/kɔi.na/	bride	/dɔ.ra/	relative
/pin.tʃa/	man	/la.la.oi/	woman	/lɔ.gor/	friend

Determiners

In the Laleng Thar language, the most commonly used determiners are as follows:

Laleng Thar	IPA	Meaning
সিক	/ʃik/	one
খানি	/kʰa.ni/	two
ওয়া	/wa/	the
উয়া	/u.a/	this
পিনচাউয়া	/pin.tʃa.u.a/	the man

Quantitative Determiners

In the Laleng Thar language, several quantitative determiners are observed. Notable among these are:

Laleng Thar	IPA	Meaning
চিচা	/tʃi.tʃa/	a little
আরোচিচা	/a.ro.tʃi.tʃa/	a bit more
অনচা	/ɔn.tʃa/	a small amount
উমফই	/um.fɪ/	more
পারাসিক	/pa.ra.sik/	a lot

Word Formation

Derivative words
The use of prefix can be seen in the Laleng Thar language. For example:

- তি (ti) – to throw → তিলো (ti.lo) – throwing (present continuous).
- পি (pi) – to give → পিরাতি (pi.ra.ti) – give it.
- দাম (da:m) – to walk → দামলো (da:m.lo) – walking.

Expansion
One of the important processes of word formation is inflection. Various types of affixes are attached to a root or base to form words. For example:

- তক (tɔk) – to chop → তককাং (tɔk.kãŋ) – chopping.
- বম (bɔm) – to hit → বমলো (bɔm.lo) – hitting (present continuous)
- বে (be) – to keep → বেরাতি (be.ra.ti) – keep it, etc.

Reduplicated Words
In the Laleng Thar language, words are formed through reduplication, such as:

Laleng Thar	IPA	Meaning
থেংথেংরং	/tʰẽŋ.tʰẽŋ.rɔŋ/	foliage
হইরা হইরা	/hɔi.ra hɔi.ra/	casually
হাসং হাসং	/ha.sɔŋ ha.sɔŋ/	truly

Compound Words

Name of Compound Words	Laleng Thar	Meaning
Duple Compound	চাকলাই ইজর – /tʃaklaɪ idʒɔr/	brother and sister
	খেমার বউ –/kʰemar bɔu̯/	bride and groom
Dependent Compound	দিকপন – /dɪk.pɔn/	marriage dowry
	লুরকি – /luːr.ki/	nose ring
Digenetic Compound	চুকদাল – /tʃʊk.dal/	quadrangle
Attributive compound	সিগিল সাগাল – /si.gil sɑ.gal/	hug

Tense and Verbs

In the Laleng Thar language, a separate affix is added to verbs for each tense.

1. হাই নে মাই দাখাং /hai ne maɪ dɑ.kʰɑŋ/ – I am also well.
2. আলিং বাড়িকা খারাই রং দাখাং /ɑ.lɪŋ ˈbaɽika kʰɑ.raɪ rɔŋ dɑ.kʰɑŋ/ – There is a mango tree in our yard.
3. ব্রজ পাত্র থাই খেতদার দাদিং /(brɔd͡ʒ pa.tʰrɔ tʰai kʰɛt̪.d̪ar dɑ.d̪iŋ/ – Braj Patra was a big landlord.
4. নাইলুং মাত আইন নেংকা দানা /nai.luŋ mɑt aɪn neŋ.ka dɑ.nɑ/ – I will remember your words.

Past	Present	future
দাদিং /dɑ.d̪iŋ/	দাখাং /dɑ.kʰɑŋ/	দানা /dɑ.nɑ/

However, the difference in verb tense based on grammatical number is not usually noticeable.

Case and Affix

The influence of Hindi is clearly evident in the case markers in the Laleng Thar language.

Bengali Case Marker	Laleng Thar	Example in Bengali and English	Example in Laleng Thar
te, e	কা	barite – in the house	বাড়িকি – in the house
r	কুং	Mamaar – of uncle	খালকুং – of uncle
diye	কুং	jal diye – with the net	জালকুং – with the net

Person and Pronouns

In the Laleng Thar language, pronouns and the presence of first, second, and third persons are observed. Additionally, there are variations in the usage of number (singular and plural).

Person	Singular		Plural	
	IPA	Example in English	IPA	Example in English
First Person	Hai – /hai/	I	Haling – /hɑː.lɪŋ/	we
Second Person	Nang – /naŋ/	you	Naling – /nɑː.lɪŋ/	you all
Third Person	Alang – /a.laŋ/	he/she	Alaling – /ɑː.la.lɪŋ/	they

Syntax

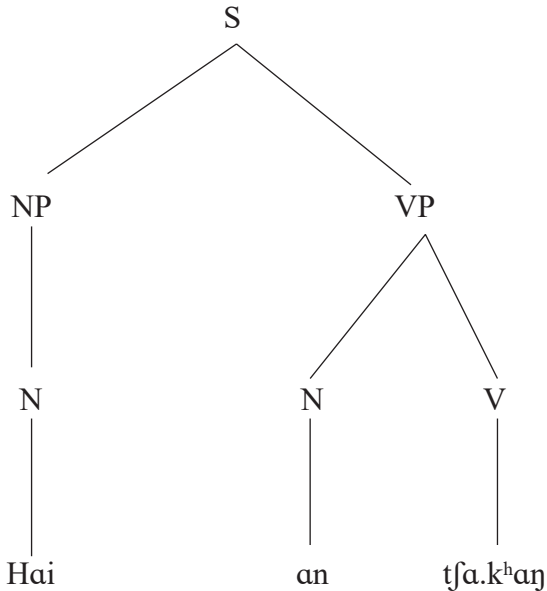In the Laleng Thar language, sentence structure follows the Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) order. Here are some examples:

1. How are you?
   নাং মাই দাখাং /naŋ maɪ dɑ.kʰaŋ/
2. I am fine.
   হাই মাই দাখাং /hai maɪ dɑ.kʰaŋ/
3. Where is your house?
   নাং বাড়ি তংকা /naŋ ˈbaɾi tɔŋ.kɑ/
4. My house is in Dalipara.
   আইন বাড়ি দলইপাড়া /aɪn ˈbaɾi dɔ.lɪˈpaɾɑ/.

Tree Diagram of Laleng Thar Sentence

A sentence of the Laleng Thar language is analyzed through a tree diagram.

I have eaten rice.

হাই আন চাকাং /hɑi ɑn tʃɑ.kʰɑŋ/

Conclusion

In the present article, along with uncovering various linguistic features of the *Laleng Thar* language, I have attempted to present new aspects such as five new consonant sounds, the use of some words with common genders, similarities with the writing system of the Chinese language, and other characteristics. The steps that need to be taken to preserve this language are as follows:

1. Establish necessary arrangements for education in the Patra language, at least at the primary and pre-primary levels.
2. Promote and preserve the literature of the *Laleng Thar* language in mainstream media.

3. Create a grammar for the *Laleng Thar* language.
4. Provide opportunities for the community in the education sector.
5. Compile a dictionary on a larger scale with state sponsorship.

I believe that if the above recommendations are implemented, the gradually declining language of the Patra community can be preserved

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Appendix

A rhyme written by Moumita Patro in the Laleng Thar language (Patra, Swarthi, & Patra, 2020).

লালেং থারুং বাং হাই- পাত্র ভাষায়	I am Human in Patra language
লালেং থারুং বাং হাই	I am Human in Patra language
লালেং থারুং চমলো।	I speak in Patra Language
বাংলাদেশকা ইনছকাং হাই	I was born in Bangladesh
বাংলাদেশুং দামপইউং দামলো।	And walk on the street of this country
থার আইন লালেং থার	My language is Laleng Thar
বাংলাদেশ আইন দেশ।	Bangladesh is my homeland
হ দেশকা জন্ম ইনছরা	I am proud to say that
ধন্য ইনছকাং বেশ।	I am blessed being born here.