

## Methods Adopted for Teaching English in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Bengal: A Brief Note

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### ABSTRACT

*Several historical research works have looked into the policies used to teach English in the 19<sup>th</sup> century Bengal. Keeping this in view, an attempt is made in this paper to look at the specific methods that are adopted in the context of English language teaching that helped the colonial British rulers to anglicise the Bengali people who really mattered in the process of education and administration. It is known that the British rulers had clear colonial motives in teaching the English language to the Bengali people. An intimate analysis of the phenomenon may show that the policies of teaching English of the ruler were controlled by a distinct motive of using English in all domains of language use by the administrators. The teaching of English by the missionaries was guided by this motivation and teaching materials were prepared to make this mission successful. Education in English in missionary schools was provided for native pupils with the ready-made texts and workbooks for preparing pupils as servants for the rulers. The present paper tries to focus on some the strategies of teaching English that were adopted in that by-gone era and how the Bengali learners tried to cope up with the system.*

**Keywords:** British India, English teaching, 19<sup>th</sup> century Bengal, lexical database memorisation, memorisation skill, naïve sentence formation