In course of my long experience as a teacher of English in different colleges in Calcutta and the rural and urban areas of different districts of West Bengal, I have often seen students grappling with their English lessons. I thought over the problem every now and then and was eager to find out why Bengali Medium students fared so badly in English. From my personal experiences I have seen that there are certain basic rules of English grammar which Bengali Medium students cannot easily acquire. Moreover, they are often careless about the collocation patterns in English which differ from those in their mother tongue. Hence, collocation mistakes abound in their writings.

Partly on the basis of my experiences as a teacher and partly with the help of a number of books published by the Oxford University Press and Orient Longman, I prepared a questionnaire under the guidance of my supervisor Dr. S. K. Banerjee, M.A., M.Sc., Ph.D., of the Department of Linguistics, University of Calcutta to ascertain the degree of proficiency in English, acquired by the young Bengalee learners at the end of the Secondary School Stage.

Though the title of the thesis is "Young Learner and the English Language", the situation I have in my mind is that of young Bengalee students learning English as a second language.
To conduct a survey with different types of schools in all the districts of West Bengal is well-nigh impossible without the concerted efforts of a team of researchers. Hence, at the suggestion of my supervisor I have chosen some schools from Calcutta and some others from the rural and urban areas of the district of North 24 Parganas.

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