INTRODUCING THE RESEARCH THEME:

Bengali is the language in the state of West Bengal in India. One-third of the population in Assam and almost the entire population in Tripura are Bengali speaking. Also a sizable number of Bengalees are there in Orissa, Bihar, Delhi and other places in India. Bengali belongs to the Eastern Modern Indo-Aryan group of languages and is assumed to have descended of the Magadhi Prakrit.

It is spoken in West Bengal in India and Bangla Desh both the stretching in geographical and contiguity but under different political sovereignties.

Bengali separated itself and emerged as an independent language in or around 1000 A.D. from its affiliated group in which Assamese, Oriya and Maithili also belong. Development of Bengali language has three main stages:

1. Old Bengali, starting before 1200 A.D. to 1300 A.D. consists of works entitled carya viniscaya and Gitagovinda.

2. Middle period, from 1300 A.D. to 1750 A.D., consists of compositions such as Mangal Kavya and Maha Kavya. The latter period of middle Bengali includes works of Muslim poets also notable among them being Daulet Kaji and Alaol. As the themes of the work of these poets were mainly from Perso-Arabian stories, so were the admixture of vocabulary into Bengali from Persian and Arabic language, nevertheless to enrich Bengali.

3. The modern period starting from 1800 A.D. is the period in which the language use underwent revolutionary changes.

According to Dr. Sukumar Sen1, modern Bengali has five dialect groups of which three belongs to Bangla Desh. The two dialect groups spoken in West Bengal have sub-dialect such as (1) East Central (Presidency Division) (2) West Central (Southern 24th Paraganas) (3) North Central (Murshidabad, Nadia and South Malda districts) (4) East South Western (Midnapore district) and (5) West South Western (West Bankura and Old Manbhum districts).

Tamil on the other hand, is not used by so many people through this language recorded history of more than two millennia. The majority of the people who of speak

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1. Dr. Sukumar Sen, 'A grammatical sketch of Bengali', 1975, Census of India, P.-21 ('Gramatical sketches of Indian languages with comparative vocabulary and text'.)
Tamil live in Tamilnadu. A good number of people in Sri Lanka and Malaysia speak Tamil. That apart, some people in Singapore, Fiji and Mauritius and some recent immigrants to the UK, USA and Canada also speak Tamil. Tamil is the typical and representative language of the Dravidian family of language.

The literary Tamil of today with its typical grammatical core, functions as medium of communication in journals, newspapers, films, radio broadcast and formal and platform speeches. The colloquial or day to day language / dialects differ a lot from the language of formal communication.

OBJECTIVE OF THE RESEARCH:

A comparative study of these two independent language is not only important linguistically because it brings out the comparable and contrasting features between these two genetically different languages but also additionally it is more need based from the point of view of preparation of meaningful teaching materials and developing useful methods for language teaching. This research work attempts to undertake a contrastive morphological analysis of Bengali and Tamil language. A study of such contrastive type is expected to provide various informations about the two major languages namely Bengali and Tamil.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

No study of the morphological contrasts of Bengali and Tamil has been done so far. However, contrastive study as a part of the linguistics discipline was first proposed by Weinrich (1953). Another serious work is there by Boopathy in Phonology (A Comparative Phonemic Study of Tamil and Bengali, 1978) In this study, greater emphasis has been put on morphology. The Non-Tamil students are perplexed by the complicated network of Tamil conjugation system. The most challanging areas of Tamil grammar is the Verb-Tense Marker combination. A number of works on contrastive analysis are there, e.g. English and German Syntax (Fichtner,1979); Papers in Contrastive Linguistic (Nicke [edr.], 1971); Multi lingual Reader (Mahapatra and Chakrabarti, 1998); The Encyclopaedia of Language and Linguistics (Asher, 1994).
Review of Literature:

Contrastive study as a part of the linguistics discipline was first proposed by Weinrich (Languages in Contact, 1953). Another serious work is there by Boopathy in Phonology (A Comparative Phonemic Study of Tamil and Bengali, 1978). A number of works on contrastive analysis are there, e.g., English and German Syntax (Fichtner, 1979); Papers in Contrastive Linguistic (Nicke [edr.], 1971); Multilingual Reader (Mahapatra and Chakrabarti, 1998); The Encyclopaedia of Language and Linguistics (Asher, 1994). But a contrastive analysis on morphology is yet to be done.