

**A Bengali Lady in England: A Translation of Krishnabhabini Das' *Englandey Bangamahila***  
**(With Introduction and Critical Notes)**

**Abstract**

This dissertation is an annotated translation of Krishnabhabini Das' *Englandey Bangamahila* (1885) or *A Bengali Lady in England*, the first travel writing on England by a Bengali woman. The author, a Hindu, Bengali, middle class house wife, accompanied her husband to England in 1880. She recorded her experiences of the first three years of their stay there in this text. Her keen perception and sensitivity make this book a study of the British character through an exploration of their lifestyle. Krishnabhabini Das, a woman from colonies, and hence a doubly marginalized individual makes a sincere effort to explore and understand the virtues that make the British such a powerful race. A comparison with Bengal runs throughout the text. Situated within the contexts of nationalism, women's education, and the nineteenth century social revolution that was taking place in Bengal as well as in other parts of India, her work provides an interesting angle to the nineteenth century Bengal-British relationship. The bold and uninhabited comments on the positive as well as negative aspects of both the societies bring forth the strong personality of the author and an unbiased mind.

In order to contextualize the text, my work includes an 'Introduction' containing a brief biography of the author, a study of the nineteenth century Bengal and looks at the text as a travel writing. The last section of the introduction deals with the translation strategies and the challenges faced while translating this text. My work also includes three appendices essential to assess her achievements in an extra-textual context.

*Englandey Bangamahila* is a rich ethnographic and cultural document of her times and it is a remarkable achievement for a woman of her background. This translation I hope, will add to the corpus of the texts which present the Bengal- British interface in various ways.

*Nabanta Sen Gupta*