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The first idea of this work occurred after reading Flaubert's great novel Madame Bovary. It was a coincidence that for my MPhil Courses I took up Flaubert and Bankim. The idea gradually developed into this topic and later to this work - and all this became a possibility with the help and guidance of my supervisor Dr. Harjeet Singh Gill.

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I have used the signet classic edition of Madame Bovary for the English quotations. I have tried to preserve Flaubert's distinctive habits of punctuation, italicization and paragraphing. He persistently uses commas to segment his sentences in a way that is intended to be mildly disconcerting. Flaubert's italics are deployed to foreground certain phrases for our scrutiny. We are invited to enjoy these phrases as prime specimens of cliche, pinned to the page.

Flaubert used very short paragraphs to emphasize certain sentences, lifting them out of the visual flow of the printed page. It is a form of typographic slow-motion. These three devices fill some of the space left empty by the notorious elimination of the story teller from the text called Madame Bovary. The French quotations are from the l'ecole des lettres, settled version edited by Pierre-Mare de Biasi.

All the Bengali quotations are from Bankim Rachanavali Vol. 1. Some of the translated quotations are my own.

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