

ABSTRACT

In reading and analysing a selection of travelogues published in six major Bangla juvenile periodicals between 1883 and 1915, this dissertation will analyse the (re)production of landscapes in these texts, keeping in mind the broader relationship between landscape, travel, nation, and empire. The six periodicals are – *Sakha*, *Sathi*, *Sakha o Sathi*, *Mukul*, *Balak*, and *Sandesh*.

These periodicals were important landmarks in the history of the development of Bangla children's literature in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. In their own ways, they signify and represent the changes taking place in the domain of Bangla juvenile literature which, in this period, was taking a turn from education to entertainment. In this dissertation, I have chosen to focus primarily on these periodicals for the importance they had in their own time as well as the longevity they have displayed in terms of subsequent reprints.

This thesis takes as its timeframe the years between 1883 and 1915 – bookended by two periodicals – *Sakha* and *Sandesh* – which shifted the needle of Bangla juvenile literature in their own ways. The thesis also recognises two important historical moments within this time-frame – the establishment of the Indian National Congress in 1885 and the beginning of the First World War in 1914.

It is not, however, the aim of this thesis to use history as bookends, but rather to understand how historical processes shaped the ideas of childhood, travel, nation, and children's literature in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Keywords: children's literature, travel writing, colonial Bengal, travel culture, periodicals