

CultureTalk Bangladesh Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
A Family Conversation

English translation:

Interviewer: Tell us where you went today.

Interviewee-1: Today we went to Gaushia¹ and had *shik-parata*.² Then

Interviewer: How far is it from here?

I-1: From here

I-2: Two kilometers.

I-1: Yes, something like that.

Interviewer: You had an invitation, right?

I-1 and I-2: Yes.

Interviewer: Inviting people over is a part of the culture in Bangladesh. There is almost always an invitation and then³... right? (to I-1) Do you like being invited?

I-1: Yes. I like it.

Interviewer: Do you like being invited?

I-2: Very, very much!

I-1: Yes he just came from [a dinner party].

Interviewer: Say you were invited by someone to his place but the food wasn't good and you hadn't eaten all day. What do you do then?

I-2: Even then we keep ourselves content though we can't eat much.

Interviewer: You hurry back home, right?

I-1: Yes.

P: Exactly. And you should have said, "The food was really good."

¹ Name of a place in Chittagong.

² A delicious dish in which the dough is fried in oil and savored with *kabab* (similar to meatballs).

³ The conversation is not clear.

I-1: Definitely, yes.

I-2: Yes, for their satisfaction.

I-1: Yes.

Interviewer: In that case, what if they offered you more food?

I-2: No, they won't. That's too much.

Interviewer: Then you come back home and ask aunty to cook for you!

I-2: No.

I-1: No, that doesn't happen.

Interviewer: No? Then do you go and eat out?¹ Your husband is very nice – doesn't bother you much.

I-1: What are you saying, *apa*?² Doesn't bother me! He bothers me now even more.

I-2: Did you make me a cup of tea today?

I-1: See, I told you. He asks for tea at 12 or one 'o clock in the night.

I-2: *Apa*, will you drink some tea?

Interviewer: Yes.

[Lots of laughter.]³

Interviewer: How many meals do you have in a day? Like meals in morning, in the afternoon?

[A third person enters.]

I-2: Don't disturb us.

I-1: Have a seat. May I go and get some tea?

Interviewer: No, no -- wait.

¹ Not clear conversation

² *Apa* -- A former way of referring to someone (usually a stranger or a senior) who is like a sister. In Bangladesh, people rarely call each other by their names (except for friends who are of same age).

³ Conversation not clear.

I-2: It doesn't take much time to make tea.

I-3: Will you bring coffee?

I-1: Yes.

I-4: Give this to *abbu*.¹ *Phupi*?²

I-3: Yes?

I-4: Take this.

I-4: What is your name? Please tell me.

Interviewer: Yes, tell us your name.

I-4: Your name! Your name!

I-1: The boy is so naughty!

I-4: Say it!

I-1: Kaniz Fatema

I-3: Thank you!

Interviewer: Okay, can you tell why people in Bangladesh always have a proper nickname? It is not necessary.

I-3: To be *impti*.

Interviewer: What does *impti* mean?

I-3: To make it easy.

I-2: Easier to call.

Interviewer: So why not make the nickname the original? Is that a problem?

I-2: Hey, Arif!

I-4: What?

¹ *Abbu*- Bangla for father.

² *Phupi*- Bangla for aunt.

I-2: They are recording you on tape.¹

I-4: That doesn't matter.

I-2: Go. Go upstairs.

I-3: No, no! I want to go to Cox's Bazar² please!

I-2: No. Turn on the lights. No, you understand right? I am just home today. I don't have time.

I-3: And what if I go in a bus? How will that be? And we can't travel on the road because no more than three people can get in that car.

I-2: That was all right; that was all right... by road?

I-3: Yes? No, our car is small.

I-2: You can fit four.

I-3: No, not only four. Now a lot of people are going. Shima said she has never been to Cox's Bazar; she wants to go too.

I-2: Hmmm.

I-3: And Ruma. Now Ruma wants to go too.

I-2: Fine, then hire a microbus. It will take something like 800 taka.

I-3: Yes.

Interviewer: You have never been to Cox's Bazar?

I-3: No. And I was born in this country. Everyone has visited Cox's Bazar: Rupa has, Ruma has, though Shima hasn't.

Interviewer: What will you do there?

I-2: They will look at the sea water, the open beach

I-3: Beach! Did you forget about it?

Interviewer: No, I haven't forgotten. But going again to a beach in Chittagong

¹ Conversation not clear.

² A town in southeastern Bangladesh featuring what is often claimed as the longest natural sand beach in the world.

I-3: Yes

I-3: Yes. No, we haven't been to a good site in Chittagong.

I-2: Why?

I-3: Where did we go? That's not beautiful; that wasn't a beautiful place. I want to go to a place where you can relax for a while and go for a little walk in a beautiful environment.

I-2: Yes, but here too you can find places like that. But wherever you go, you must go with time on your hands, right?

I-3: Yeah, two days is fine. We will go there one day. We go there the day before and go the day after that. I mean, go there the day before and return the day after.

I-2: If you go the day before, you have to return the day after or how else will you ¹

I-3: Right, right! Apart from that we have little time. There's no time.

I-2: Then you guys are really returning next Friday.

I-3: No, because... return next Friday... what's the date next Friday?

I-2: The 19th.

I-3: We definitely have to go by the 19th.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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¹ Words not clear.

