

Notes on Translation and Transliteration

All the poems and other Hungryalist texts are my own translation from Bengali, unless otherwise stated. Some texts were originally composed in English and have been preserved in this book as they were published, including spelling mistakes and typos. Poems and manifestoes are mainly drawn from anthologies of Hungryalist writings (Ghoṣ 2011; Caṭṭopādhyāy 2015; Sen 2015). Other texts like ephemera and extracts from Hungryalist bulletins and pamphlets are based on unedited primary sources which are separately listed in the bibliography. The translation of Phalguni Ray's poems is based on a collection of his writings published in the magazine *Candragrahaṇ* and edited by Baidyanath Mishra (Miśra 2015). To my knowledge, Phalguni's poetry has been critically addressed here for the first time. An English translation of his *Television of a Rotten Soul* was published by Antivirus Productions, an independent publisher based in Liverpool (Ratul 2015).

In translation, I have given priority to accuracy and faithfulness to the Bengali text. However, the general tendency to make the translation pleasant and readable, especially to non-native English speakers, has prevailed over technical and literal accuracy. Puns and twists of language, typical of the Hungryalist spirit, encouraged me to play with words in translation too. These cases have been documented in the footnotes. I have tried to transpose the Bengali interjections (e.g. ki āścarya; camat·kār camat·kār; hāy hāy; hāyere; he mohan, and hi hi hi hi hi) and, in some passages, the lack of punctuation which are a distinctive mark of Phalguni Ray and other Hungryalist poets as well. For this reason, I have retained the original structure of the poems without breaking down the lines into proper stanzas to reflect the outlook of the free verse and the style of the single author. In other cases, I have provided a more visibly fluid and readable solution.

Different terminologies to describe the Hungry Generation are used heterogeneously in the sources. Since the adjective “Hungryalist” seemed to be of more common usage, I have used it especially in its link to “Hungryalism”, conceived as the literary movement and philosophical thought of the Hungry Generation. Alternatively to Hungryalist, “Hungry” is sometimes used with a broader application underscoring the diversity of anti-establishment literary production in India.

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All the words from Indian languages are transliterated except for names of authors, places and deities of common usage (Malay Roy Choudhury; Kali; Khalasitala; Calcutta). Although the Bengali names of the authors are spelled differently across the sources, in the book I have used the common spelling from Indian languages (e.g. Raychaudhuri, Ray, Chaudhuri, except for Malay's title which is officially spelled in English as 'Roy Choudhury'). Cases of printing mistakes and less usual spellings are common in the sources, especially in transcribed words from English (*telibhisan* instead of *ṭelibhiśan* or *phreś* instead of *ph'reś*) and other words (like *cārminār* instead of *cār'minār* and *caśma* instead of *caś'ma*). The 'incorrect' spelling has been retained in the transliteration of Bengali. Words from Indian languages that have become loan words of the English language are not transliterated (*sadhu*; *guru*; *pundit*; *ghat* and *bhadralok*). Only in the translation of poems, italics have been used to mark my choice to retain the Bengali word (e.g. *kichuri*, *paan shop*, *lungi* and *shal*) for want of a better translation. Italicisation has also been used to mark the poet's use of an English transliterated word (e.g. *caricature*, *machine gun*, *fresh information*, *frame*, *uterus*, and *clitoris*) in the Bengali original.

The system of transliteration of New Indo-Aryan by Rahul-Peter Das is used for the rendering of Bengali words, with slight modifications: as the latter part of conjunct consonants, the Bengali *b* in *tatsama* words is rendered by *v* (i.e. *dvandvī*, but *bideś* instead of *videś*). The diacritic sign used to transcribe the nasalisation of vowels (*candrabindu*) as in the word গাঁজা is *ṁ* (*gāṁjā*), and the sign used to transcribe the Bengali consonant *ṅ* is *ṅ* as in বাংলা (*bāṅlā*). The cases where the word is spelled with the equivalent consonant ঙ্গ are transcribed as *ṅg* (as in লিঙ্গ = *liṅga*). Except in the case of proper names, capital letters in words transcribed from Bengali are only used at the beginning of sentences.