

Notes on Translation and Writing Conventions

All translations of quotations from Bengali and Urdu (and if Hindi is used) are mine unless mentioned otherwise. In several instances, when quoting verses, for example, in [Chapter 2](#), I have relied on published authoritative translations with adequate notes in references. Wherever a published translation has been used, notes have been provided, and these translations are cited following year of publication and page number(s). While discussing the same text in both, the original and published translation, the year of publication should be an indication of the text referred to.

For titles of works in Bengali and Urdu, the original title is written in transliteration; titles of books are italicised, and titles of short stories are italicised within double quotations, whereas essays and chapters are written straight within double quotations. In transliterated titles, I have used capitalisation although Bengali, Hindi, and Urdu do not have different cases. This has been done to avoid confusion regarding words like ‘Islam’ or other proper nouns, which should be arguably written with the first alphabets in capitals. For instance, while writing the title of the novel *Umrā’o Jān Adā*, capitalisation is necessary as the title refers to the name of the protagonist. While “*Tafrīḥ kī ek dopahar*” could have been written as such, I have decided to write “*Tafrīḥ kī Ek Dopahar*”, for the sake of consistency in the transliteration of titles. If an English translation of the title is provided in italics, then it should be a published title. In that case, it follows the convention of writing titles in English, with the first words of the title in capitals. For titles that do not have corresponding English translations, I have provided verbatim translations in parenthesis, without italicisation and capitals. If a Bengali or Urdu title is followed by a published English title and year of publication in parenthesis, the year of publication corresponds to the original, and not the English translation, unless otherwise stated. Translated verses from Bengali and Urdu are written in italics. Within the text, “Urd” refers to Urdu, “Bng” to Bengali, “Ger” to German, and so on.

While it is common in English to refer to an author by the mere use of the surname, the plenitude of South Asian common surnames like Bhattacharya, or Ahmad, can be confusing while following this system. To avoid unnecessary

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confusion, I have tried to add the first name, where necessary. It is now also common for scholars writing on Bengali literature or history to write the first names of important figures – for example, Rabindranath Tagore is usually written as Rabindranath, and Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay, as Bankim.