

STUDY 55

GRAMMAR 55.1

Comparative and Superlative Adjectives

There are two ways of forming comparisons between two or more adjectives.

Adding Qualifying Words

In English one says "more" and "most", as in: "helpful, more helpful, most helpful". Similarly, in Bengali one can associate the equivalent words:-

আরও	aar-o	more
সবচেয়ে	sab-ceye	most [all taken into view]
সকল থেকে	sakal theke	most [from all, than all]
সকল হতে (হইতে)	sakal hate (haite)	most [from all, than all]
সকল অপেক্ষা	sakal apeksaa	most [from all, than all]
তুলনায়, অপেক্ষা	tulanaay, apeksaa	in comparison
সর্ব- (সর্ব-)	sarva-, sarvva-	most ... of all, al-
ছোট	choṭa	small
আরও ছোট	aar-o choṭa	smaller
সবচেয়ে ছোট	sab-ceye choṭa	smallest

Modifiable Adjectives

To extend their degree, some common English words [of Germanic root] have forms ending in "-er", and "-est". Similarly, some Bengali words [of Sanskrit root] can be suffixed with the equivalent endings - as with "ক্ষুদ্র kṣudra", but not with "ছোট choṭa":-

-তর	-tar	-er
-তম	-tam	-est
ক্ষুদ্র	ksudra	small
ক্ষুদ্রতর	ksudratar	smaller
ক্ষুদ্রতম	ksudratam	smallest

These forms can be used as noun substitutes [see *Grammar 51.4*]. For example [Jude 20]:-

প্রিয়	priya	dear one
প্রিয়তর	priyatar	dearer one
প্রিয়তম	priyatama	dearest one
প্রিয়তমেরা	priyatameraa	dearest ones

Sometimes words like "বেহতর behatar" "better" are met, which are imported.