Title: Producing Ontologies of Relationships from Indian Nuptial documents longitudinally (PORINOY): A Case Study of Bengali/Bangla Wedding Invitations

Principal Investigator (PI)

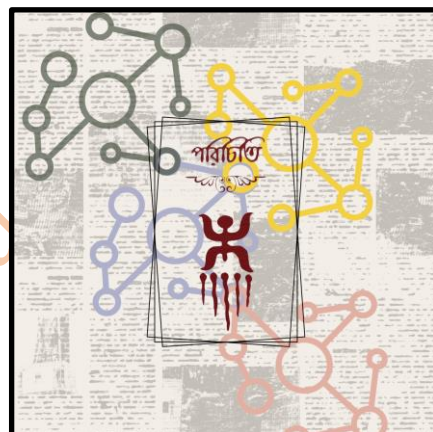Dr. Mayurakshi Chaudhuri, FLAME University, Pune

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Overview of the project: Producing Ontologies of Relationships from Indian Nuptial documents longitudinally (PORINOY): A Case Study of Bengali/Bangla Wedding Invitations is designed to examine, digitize, and contribute to one perennial area in the cultural study of South Asia: weddings/marriage rituals and practices, often considered the ruling apotheosis of "tradition". Over the decades, weddings/marriage rituals and practices have received considerable attention in conventional and emerging humanities and social science scholarship. Yet, analyses and examinations in this regard have largely centred around conventional data arising out of non-digital sources, including archives, interviews, and observations. Keeping this in view, this study aims to focus on Bengali/Bangla wedding invitation cards, historically and contemporaneously and will focus on: (1) Documenting, digitizing and analyzing Bengali/Bangla wedding invitations as vehicles of socio-cultural transitions of Bengali/Bangla marriage practices, which by extension reflects larger social changes; and (2) Changing discourses around Bengali/Bangla weddings and marriage practices, and of networks of relationships that they have influenced and inflected, as indicators of societal transitions.

Research Methodology: Methodologically, this project embraces advanced technologies such as Image Processing and Natural Language Processing (NLP) within the context of the Bengali/Bangla language, recognized as a "low resource language" in the domain of NLP. The project involves multidisciplinary approaches to comprehensively investigate the dynamics of Bengali wedding documents. These approaches include: (1) Data Collection and Digitization; (2) Image Processing and Natural Language Processing (NLP) Techniques; (3) AI-Based Framework for Discourse Analysis; and (4) Qualitative Data Analysis using MaxQDA

Deliverables: The project is committed to delivering an integrated knowledge portal which will serve as an invaluable resource for students, researchers, and the general audience, offering insights into the cultural practices and transitions in Bengali wedding and marriage practices over time, will provide a digital repository of digitized matrimonial documents, textual analysis, and visual representations, offering a holistic view of the evolution of these practices. A user visiting the knowledge portal can explore a timeline of Bengali wedding practices, accessing digitized copies of wedding invitations and photographs from various decades. The portal may include interactive features such as searchable databases of matrimonial text excerpts and image galleries showcasing changing wedding attire trends over the years.