

# Equatives as Predicationals: Evidence from Bangla

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Adger and Ramchand (2003) claim that the different kinds of copular constructions can actually be reduced to predicationals since all such constructions are formed under a PredP. Bangla, on the surface, exhibits two kinds of structures for predicationals and equatives. Predicationals do not carry a copula. However, equatives take an obligatory copula in non-embedded clauses which is marked aspectually (perfect or progressive) and occur in clause-medial position.

- (1) oi chele-ta klanto  
that boy-CLASS tired  
That boy is tired.
- (2) Peter Parker ho-l-o/ho-chch-e Spiderman  
Peter Parker be-PERF-3P/be-PROG-3P Spiderman  
Peter Parker is Spiderman.

However, despite this surface difference it can be shown that Bangla copular constructions actually abide by Adger and Ramchand's claims and also give an insight into the system of finiteness in this language. Becker (2004) cites examples from child English data and Russian to show that stage-level predicates (which include adjectival (as in (1)) and prepositional phrases) have an inherent aspectual projection that allows their 'anchoring' even without an overt copula. Here are a few instructive observations of equative clauses that strengthen the claim that appearance of the copula in equatives is related to finiteness and not to the nature of predication:

- (i) They are not obligatory in embedded clauses:
- (3) ami jan-i je Peter Parker (ho-l-o /ho-chch-e)  
I know-1P that Peter Parker be-PERF-3P be-PROG-3P



## References:

1. Adger, David Gillian Ramchand. (2003). Predication and Equation. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 34(3), 325–359.
2. Becker, Misha (2004). Copula Omission Is a Grammatical Reflex. *Language Acquisition*, 12(2), 157–167.
3. Bhattacharya, Tanmoy (1993). *The Subjunctive in Bangla. In Mood and Tense.* Cambridge University Press.
4. Adger, David (2007). Three domains of finiteness: A minimalist perspective. In *Finiteness: Theoretical and Empirical Foundations*, ed. I. Nikolaeva, 23–58. Oxford: Oxford University Press.