

SELFIE ETIQUETTE

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Our generation is obsessed with selfies. I am as well. It had been going on for quite a while before the front camera was abundant, but the moment you get a smart phone with a front camera, you do become a selfie addict of sorts. You take selfies of yourself, and you take group selfies with a bunch of people in it (also known as groupie). From my months of selfie experience, I've come to a set of norms you should maintain while taking selfies.

1. Manage to get everyone in the picture. Don't just focus on yourself, and don't even intentionally leave out the people you dislike. Just don't. If you are the selfie-taker, it is your responsibility to accommodate everybody in the screen. Take multiple shots if needed. If your hands aren't long enough, ask someone else to do the honour. Otherwise, get a selfie stick.

2. If you are taking a selfie with two or three people but there are more of your pals around, don't forget to invite them to join in. Otherwise, take separate selfies with them. In any case, do ensure that nobody feels left out; we don't want anybody going home with a heavy heart, do we?



3. One recurring problem of the countless selfies we take with people is that the pictures get lost in the bottomless abyss of your phone's gallery. As a selfie maestro, your job is to upload the pictures promptly and tag your friends, unless they don't want to be tagged. Believe me, otherwise you'll be subject to much nagging, and in some cases, said friends may even stop talking to you.

4. The above example of friends disowning you also stands true for when you upload only the selfies where you look good. Nobody wants to look bad in pictures. So, you can't just upload a bad picture of your friend and get away with it, even if you are looking at your best. Crop yourself and upload separately if need be, but don't be that narcissistic selfie-addict who cares not about others.

5. Develop a sense of time and space of

taking a selfie. Needless to say, funerals or hospitals aren't the best location for selfies. Neither are overnight jail cells, if you ever get arrested. Add exam halls to that list, but hey, who am I to judge if your invigilator is cool with that? Similarly, you can't just break up with your not-so-better half, and attempt to take a selfie while they are crying. That is highly unethical and might be injurious to your health.

6. In a selfie featuring you alone, you are allowed to go berserk, so long as you maintain ample decency, as it goes up on Facebook. Oh, and #putting #hashtag #in #every #word #is #just #annoying, and won't really get you all the likes you are fishing for. It's best if you don't flood everyone's newsfeed with a bunch of hashtags that don't make sense. Use your hashtags smartly, efficiently and sparingly.

In order to ace the art of selfies, you need practice. But to become a maestro loved by all, you need to follow the rules. Keep clicking, y'all!

Arman R. Khan is an engineer, a caffeine addict, a dreamer and a culture enthusiast who takes life one day at a time. Correspond with him at fb.com/arman.r.khan or tweet @ArmanRK



English Bangla Dictionary by Syamu Vellnad

Bangla to English and English to Bangla Dictionaries

ANDROID APP REVIEWS

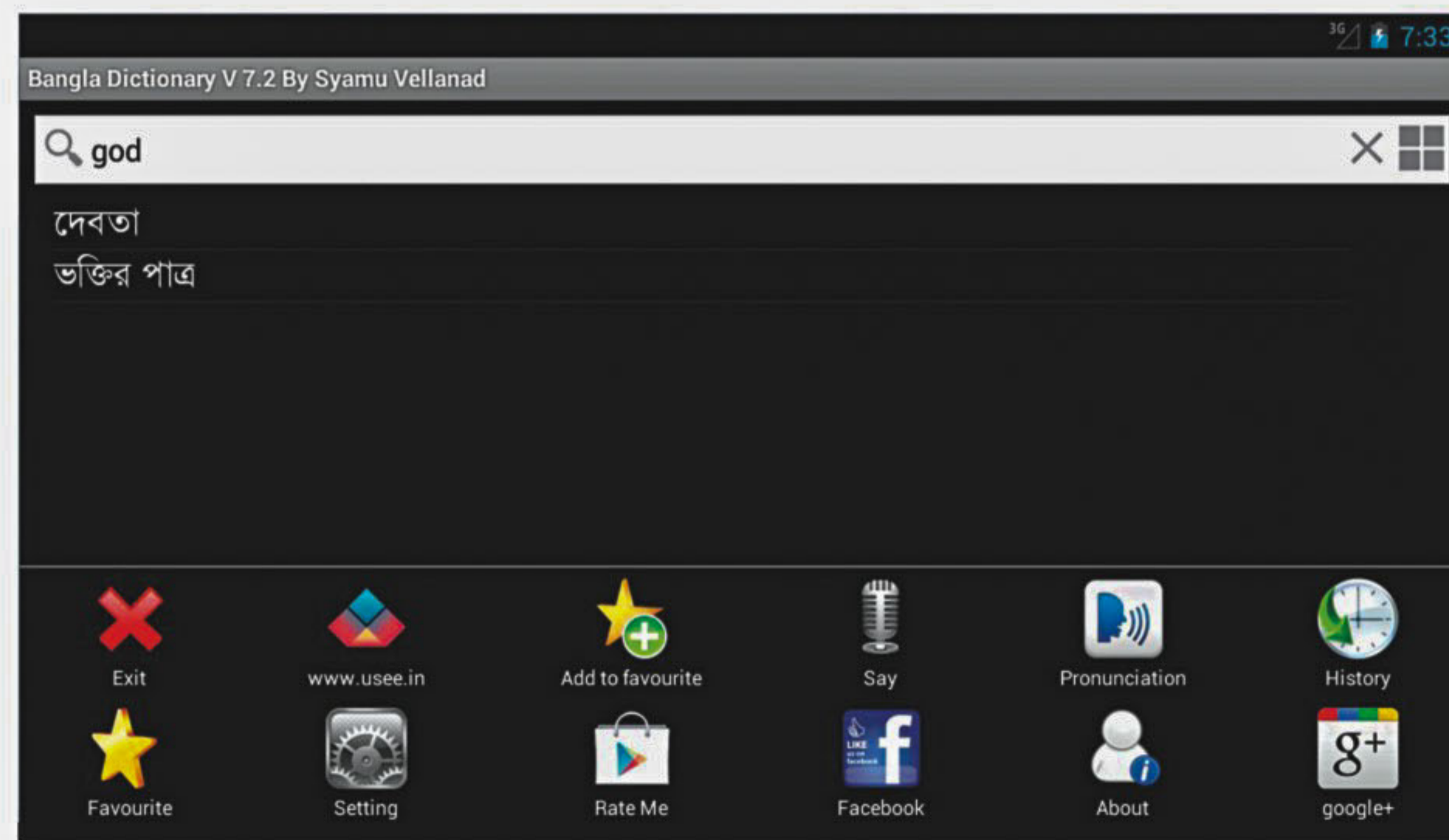
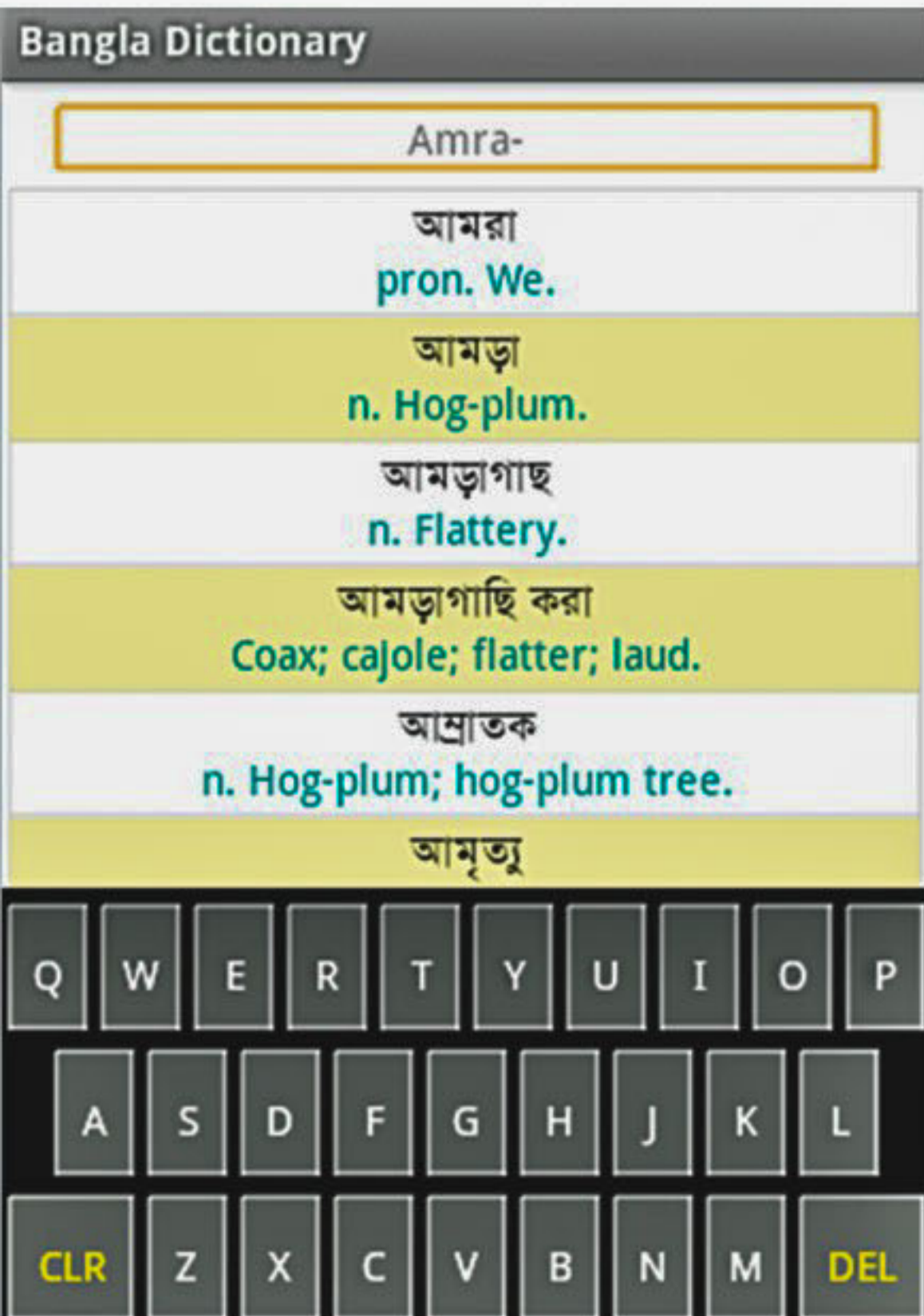
SALMA MOHAMMAD ALI

For many of us O level students, who have the subject Bengali in particular, incessantly scratching our heads while translating an English word to Bangla, or the other way around is part of a daily struggle. Especially while solving question papers, apps for English to Bangla dictionaries and vice versa can really come in handy. Out of the few apps found in the

Playstore, only the following two seemed to meet standards.

1. **English to Bangla Dictionary** by Syamu Vellnad - This free and offline English to Bangla dictionary has over 85,000 words in its database. You can either, very easily, type the English word (and receive suggestions while typing) or speak the word into your microphone. I would not recommend the latter as the option seems to be faulty and recognises an entirely different word altogether, like 'cartridge' for 'courage'. The multiple Bangla meanings/translations that follow are clear enough however the part of speech isn't shown nor is the word used in a sentence for clarification. The app is easy to use and offers options like changing font size and colour, and background colour. You can also check your history and find a word you've searched for before. Sounds good so far I believe, but sadly it has a very annoying feature- multiple ads. These either appear as a small box at the bottom of the screen or as one that covers the entire screen every few minutes. In which case you curse and close the ad and just resume using the app. I found the database vast enough as it includes most of the words one may want to translate.

2. **Bangla 2 English Dictionary** by Md. Waliul Islam Mondal- This too is completely free and offline. All you have to do is write the desired Bangla word using the



English 'phonetic spelling' (transliteration in English) and you're met with numerous suggestions as you're typing and you choose the word you want translated. In this way no Bangla keyboard is needed. A number of English translations are shown for each word along with its part of speech. The words aren't used in sentences as an example here either, and you don't have the option to speak the word instead of typing it (but that's probably for the best). You can either view the translations in 'normal view' or 'list view', both show words that come after the one you've

searched for, like any page in a regular dictionary would. Most of the ads that accompany this app cover up only a small portion of the screen so they don't interfere with the task at hand. You have the option of changing font size for better viewing. There is also a 'bookmark' option which unfortunately doesn't work.

Salma Mohammad Ali fears she is becoming a crazy cat lady and uses writing as a means to grasp on to sanity. Send her your views/hate/love at <https://www.facebook.com/salma.ali209>