

G L O S S A R Y

<u>Agency System</u>	In this system, the agents or the gomastas were instructed by the company to collect Silk directly from the aurangs.
<u>Alacha or Alijah</u>	Silk cloth of wavy like pattern and stripped with gold and silver.
<u>Anna</u>	16th part of rupee, one anna is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., 4 paise make one anna, 16 annas make 1 rupee, 4 annas make $\frac{1}{2}$ rupee i.e., a silver coin used in Bengal known as 'siki'.
<u>Aurang</u>	A place where export goods are manufactured or collected for wholesale disposal. A group of villages or small towns in the country constituted one aurang.
<u>Bale</u>	1 bale contains 160 seers, 40 seers make a maund, 4 maunds make a bale. Each bale weighing 100 livres (at 16 ounces to the livre).
<u>Banaks</u>	Filatures.
<u>Band or Bund</u>	The local name of the Silk harvest.
<u>Bandanna</u>	A richly coloured spotted handkerchief (usually worn round the neck).
<u>Bank</u>	Name of the local machine i.e., 'Ghai' by which country method silk is wound.
<u>Bank Silk</u>	Cocoon spun into thread by country method is called bank silk.
<u>Banti</u>	A banti is a big knife, fixed on to a log of wood. It is required for chopping leaf very fine when the worms are small.

<u>Banyan</u>	Banyan comes from Sanskrit word 'Vanik' means merchant. A Hindu trader, generally of Vaisya Caste.
<u>Bara Palu</u>	Bombyx textor. It is an annual variety and the egg-stage continues for 10 months. The colour of the silk is silvery white.
<u>Bariga</u>	Dutch name of the 2nd quality of Bengal raw silk and the English name is 'belly'.
<u>Bazar</u>	Daily market.
<u>Bigha</u>	A measure of land i.e. $\frac{1}{3}$ of an acre.
<u>Bosni</u>	Silk-worm rearers.
<u>Bulbul chasm</u>	Nightangle's eyes.
<u>Bulu Palu</u>	A kind of dhali cocoons of Midnapore district. It is somewhat greenish, i.e., 'blue' and not silvery white as is the colour of Bara Palu.
<u>Butidar</u>	Embroiderer.
<u>Cabessa</u>	Dutch name of the first quality of Bengal raw silk and the English name is 'head'.
<u>Canoe</u>	A kind of small boat.
<u>Chakra-chokri</u>	The rearers of Malda and Murshidabad call the male and female silk moths as 'chakra-chokri'.
<u>Chandraki</u>	Spinning screen or tray, made of bamboo. Also known as talias chances or fingas,
<u>Chand tara</u>	Moon and stars.
<u>Chassars</u> or <u>Chasnigirs</u>	Silk worm rearers and Cocoon growers.

<u>Cheena Palu</u>	Bombyx Sinensis. It is mainly reared at Tamluk Subdivision of Midnapur district and bred 8 times in the year.
<u>Chinangshuka</u>	Foreign silk i.e., mixed stuff.
<u>Chhatak or Chittack</u>	About two ounces.
<u>Chhoto Palu or Deshi Palu</u>	Bombyx Fortunatus. It is suitable to rear in cold season.
<u>Chop</u>	(i) Cut into small pieces; (ii) Company's mark. Both meanings occur in thesis.
<u>Choppis</u>	A kind of finished silk product.
<u>Chuna kete</u>	Muscardine or Calcino. It is an epidemic of the silk worm caused by a parasitic fungus. A pale rose-colour is seen all over the body and after death, the worms looked like a piece of chalk.
<u>Chussum</u>	A kind of waste-silk.
<u>Coccon</u>	The silken case spun by larvae. The size and weight of the cocoon, including Pupa, are 2.54 cm x 1.25 cm and 0.42 g. A common saying among cocoon-rearers is 'Late Pate Challish din', i.e., it takes forty days for yellow cocoons to form from the time of the moth's piercing the seed cocoons to the time of the new cocoons being formed.
<u>Contract System</u>	System of 'dadni merchants'. The Company advanced the merchants money for procuring raw silk, but they could not always fulfil their contracts.
<u>Country wound silk</u>	Silk produced in local ghais is known as country wound silk.
<u>Cubit</u>	1 Hath i.e., 18" (inches)
<u>Dadan</u>	Advance

Dadni

It has come from the Persian word 'Dadan', means advance. A term applied to the Company's merchants in Bengal who received a financial advance for supplying goods on contract.

Dadni merchants

The merchants of the European Companies who received money in advance for supplying goods on contract and used to book their orders for silk by paying advances to the Silk-growers.

Dagh-Dhobi

Special washerman who removed cloth stains.

Dalal

A broker.

Dalas

Made of bamboo and used for silk-worm rearing.

Daroga

superintendent in State karkhana.

Dastak

Permit or Pass i.e., a certificate.

Dasturi

A customary commission payable on cash transactions.

Darmestes Vulpines

A kind of beetle.

Dhali Silk

Silvery white silk made out of Bara palu cocoons.

Dolleria

Silk in which Portugese 'Cabessa', 'bariga', and 'pee', and the English terms 'head', 'belly' and 'foot' were all mixed.

Double cocoon

Two worms jointly form one cocoon.

Eri Silk

A variety of non-mulberry silk, and the eri silk worms are reared on castor leaves and mainly cultivated in Assam and to some extent in Bihar and Orissa.

Farman

The Mughal Imperial order i.e., decree or edict.

Filature wound silk

Silk produced in European filature was known as filature reeled silk.

Floretta

Having ornamentation based on flowers and leaves.

Free merchants

They were not Company's servants, but had the authority of the Court of Directors to carry on trade. They had to pay usual duties.

Ghai

Country machine by which khamru or khangru silk is produced.

Ghurrahs

Machans made of bamboo.

Gomasta

An agent employed by merchants and Company for their trade.

Gonutia

A village on the northern bank of the river Mor in the Birbhum district. It was the site of one of the biggest silk factories in Bengal.

Goragaut Silk

A large quantities of arindi were produced at Goragaut beyond Sherpore Murcha in Bogra district of Bengal. The usual dimension of this silk cloth was $8 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ yards and cost only 8 annas. The mechants used to procure Goragaut silk for Surat market.

Grasserie (Rasa)

Jaundice.

Great Pound

24 oz. (ounces) i.e., 0.681 kg. Raw silks were always measured in great lb.

Guild

An organisation for the protection of the interest of the artisans. It was in practice in ancient India, but developed in West only in the middle age.

<u>Gujrati Silk</u>	The Gujrat merchants paid highest amount as advance to the Silk-producers and received from them the best kind of raw silk, particularly the raw silk of Rangpur. They preferred Radhanagore silk and tanna silk from Cossimbazar.
<u>Halls</u>	'Royal karkhanas' set up by the Mughals.
<u>Hat (Haut)</u>	Weekly market held in villages.
<u>'In balance'</u>	The weavers failed to supply the contracted clothes at the end of the year were known as 'in balance' to the Company.
<u>Investment</u>	Company's purchases in India were known as 'Investment'.
<u>Jasandar</u>	Appraiser or sorter of cloth.
<u>Joar</u>	Silk worm rearing centre.
<u>Kahan</u>	1280 (1 kahan = 16 pans, 1 pan = 80, So 16X80 = 1280).
<u>Kalintarakshi</u>	Pigeon's eyes.
<u>Kalsira</u>	Flacherie. When the silk worms are attacked by Kalsira, the body becomes all black and, therefore, the disease is known as kalsira.
<u>Karigar</u>	Journeyman.
<u>Karkhana</u>	Mughal workshop or factory where weavers used to come to work at the looms.
<u>Karai</u>	Basin.
<u>Katani</u>	Female spinner or reeler.
<u>Khamru spinning</u>	Country method reeling.
<u>Khassas</u>	Calico variety.
<u>Kothi (kuthi)</u>	Factory or warehouse where fabrics were purchased and stocked.

<u>Kuji</u>	Fly pest. A kind of silk worm fly which caused a great deal of damage to the silk worms in its matured stage.
<u>Lali (Rangi or Kurkutte)</u>	Court. It is a symptom of disease of the silk worm and caused from Pebrine.
<u>Latin Silk</u>	Filature-reeled silk.
<u>League</u>	Equivalent to nearly three miles.
<u>Livre</u>	Slightly heavier than the English lb.
<u>Mahajan</u>	Money-lender (merchant, banker, creditor).
<u>Maund</u>	40 seers i.e., 75 lb. or 34.05 kg.
<u>Mazchar</u>	Ripples of Silver.
<u>Mookeem</u>	Supervisor or Inspector who inspected the works of the state karkhana.
<u>Monopsony</u>	A condition of the market in which there is only one buyer for the product of a number of sellers.
<u>Moraundars</u>	Skein-makers.
<u>Morus Alba</u>	White-fruited mulberry plants.
<u>Morus Nigra</u>	Black-fruited mulberry plants.
<u>Moulting</u>	Casting skin.
<u>Muga</u>	The muga silk yarn is made in Assam. The muga worms are reared on Oak trees only in Assam.
<u>Mulmul</u>	Thin plain muslin.
<u>Mutchulcah</u>	Undertaking.
<u>Nacauds</u>	Silk-winders.

<u>Naicha</u>	The first growth leaves of mulberry plants.
<u>Nikari</u>	Apprentice
<u>Nistari (Madrasi Palu)</u>	Bombyx Craesi. It is suitable for rearing in warm and rainy season. This variety is largely cultivated at Malda and Murshidabad and its fibre is soft and fine.
<u>Novi</u>	Filature.
<u>Novi Pattern</u>	The design introduced by Italian aritsans in the filature.
<u>Organzine</u>	Silk twisted like a rope with different strands, so as to increase its strength.
<u>Ounce</u>	$\frac{1}{12}$ of a pound, in troy weight. $\frac{1}{16}$ of a pound avoirdupois (about half-chhatak in Bengali weight).
<u>Paisa</u>	4 paise make 1 Anna. 64 paise make 1 Rupee.
<u>Pakdars</u>	They are generally young boys or girls who turned the handle of the reel and supplied the thread with fibres from the cocoons to the spinners. They were promoted to spinners after a few years.
<u>Palu</u>	Silk worm.
<u>Pan</u>	1 pan = 80.
<u>Patta</u>	Short-skein, the first two sorts of Bengal raw silk-'head and belly' i.e., 'Cabessa' and 'bariga'.
<u>Pattani</u>	Silk of superfine quality (unspun silk drawn from the cocoons).

<u>Pebrin</u>	Highly contagious and hereditary silk-worm disease.
<u>Pee</u>	Dutch name of the 3rd quality of Bengal raw silk and the English name is 'foot'.
<u>Peon</u>	Chaukidar i.e., watchman.
<u>Pie</u>	3 pie make 1 Paisa 12 pie make 1 Anna 192 pie make 1 Rupee.
<u>Pound</u>	In terms of English measures, Pound was either the 'small pound' or the 'great pound'. A small pound weighed 16 oz. Whereas, the great pound weighed 24 oz. 50 great pounds made a maund, and 200 great pounds made a bale of four maunds.
<u>Punda Caste</u>	Hereditary silk-worms rearing caste of Malda and Bogra.
<u>Punia Silk</u>	A kind of Bengal raw silk.
<u>Punjah Silk</u>	The word Punjah represented the Tamil or Telgu word. It was brought to Bengal by the factors, trained in Madras. A skein of silk or cotton, consisting of 120 or 60 threads, prepared from the warp.
<u>Pun. ya ceremony</u>	Celebrated at the end of the Bengali year and on that day the ensuing year's rent was settled.
<u>Purwannah (Parwanah)</u>	Letter of authority and order.
<u>Putney</u>	The chassars or rearers of the silk worm wind off the cocoon in the earthen basin (with the aid of cowdung as fuel instead of wood) upon the common Bengal nuttans or reels made of bamboo, the thread so reeled being called Putney.

<u>Putta</u>	It is derived from Sanskrit word 'Patta' means silk. Yellow cocoons and silks are still called 'Pat' in some parts of Bengal and Assam.
<u>Pykar</u>	An underbroker, mainly employed in the raw silk trade of Bengal i.e., silk dealer, middle men or a village broker who dealt with the weaver on a commission basis.
<u>Rafugar</u>	Muslim caste whose men repaired torn threads of cloth and whose women embroidered.
<u>Ryots</u>	Peasant, Cultivators.
<u>Rang-rez</u>	Specialist in colouring silk thread.
<u>Raw Silk</u>	Raw Silk is not purely raw. It is in between purely raw and finished product. It is semi-manufactured stuff.
<u>Rupee</u>	1 rupee = 2 s. 6 d., 64 paise made one Rupee.
<u>Salfa</u>	Gatine. It is a form of indigestion and the silk worm are attacked by this disease due to excessive heat or cold.
<u>Sardar</u>	Head of the silk winders.
<u>Saudagars</u>	Merchants.
<u>Seed</u>	Eggs of the silk worms are technically called.
<u>Seer</u>	The weight of the Bengal seer was 72 siccas. A sicca is equivalent to a tola. Forty such seers made a maund. A seer would be approximately 29 ounces.
<u>Shot silk</u>	Silk fabrics made of combined colours were known as shot silk.
<u>Sicca</u>	(i) A silver coin used in Bengal (coins of the current year's mintage). (ii) An Indian jeweller's weight of about 180 grains troy.

<u>Small Pound</u>	16 oz. (ounces) i.e., 0.454 kg.
<u>Span</u>	1 span = 9" (inches).
<u>Tabekdars</u>	Silk Collectors
<u>Taffeta</u>	A thin glossy silk stuff.
<u>Taftas</u>	Persian word originated from 'taftan' means 'to twist, to spin.' Taftas were plain silk made of two different types of thread i.e., mixed fabrics of wool and silk. It is a light thin silk stuff with lustre and gloss. Mr. Richard Temple called it as a 'Smooth watered Silk stuff.'
<u>Tani Silk</u>	A particular kind of raw silk suitable for making warps.
<u>Tanti (Tantubaya)</u>	The main caste of weavers.
<u>Tasar</u>	A variety of non-mulberry silk and the worms are reared on <u>asan</u> and <u>sal</u> trees in south Bihar and the adjoining district of Bengal.
<u>Til</u>	Sesame. A kind of (til) plant and its seeds.
<u>Throwing</u>	Makes the raw silk suitable for weaving or knitting.
<u>Thrown</u>	To turn or twist i.e., to unite several threads by winding together.
<u>Throwster</u>	One who winds, twists, spins and throws silk, to prepare it for weaving.
<u>Tola</u>	1 tola is $2\frac{2}{3}$ ounce.
<u>Wrought silk</u>	Ornamented silk.
<u>Yarn</u>	Thread i.e., twisted silk fibres used in weaving and knitting.
<u>Zamindar</u>	Land-lord (one holding land and pays revenue for that).

Zardose

Those who embroidered with gold.

Note: This glossary interprets the terms used in this thesis. Other meanings are omitted.