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## **GROWTH OF GENERALIZED ITERATED ENTIRE FUNCTIONS**

# Dibyendu Banerjee\*1 and Nilkanta Mondal<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Mathematics, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan-731235, West Bengal, India.

<sup>2</sup>Ballavpur R.G.S. Vidyapith (H.S.), Ballavpur, Raniganj, Burdwan, West Bengal, India.

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## ABSTRACT

We consider generalized iteration of two entire functions of (p, q)-order and study some growth properties of generalized iterated entire functions to improve some earlier results.

Key words: Entire functions, (p, q) order, Generalized iteration.

AMS Subject Classification: 30D15.

## **1. INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITION**

It is well known that for any two transcendental entire functions f(z) and g(z),  $\lim_{r \to \infty} \frac{M(r, f \circ g)}{M(r, f)} = \infty$ . In a

paper [5] Clunie proved that the same is also true when maximum modulus functions are replaced by their characteristic functions. Singh [9] proved some results dealing with the ratios of  $\log T(r, f \circ g)$  and T(r, f) under some restrictions on the orders of f and g. In a recent paper [2] Banerjee and Mondal generalize the results of A. P. Singh [9] for iterated entire functions imposing some restrictions on (p, q)-orders and lower (p, q)-orders of f and g. In the present paper we extend the results of Banerjee and Mondal for generalized iterated entire functions under some restrictions on (p, q)-orders and lower (p, q)-orders of f and g. Following Sato [8], we write  $\log^{[0]} x = x$ ,  $\exp^{[0]} x = x$  and for positive integer m,  $\log^{[m]} x = \log(\log^{[m-1]} x)$ ,  $\exp^{[m]} x = \exp(\exp^{[m-1]} x)$ .

Let  $f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n$  be an entire function. Then the (p, q)-order and lower (p, q)-order of f(z) are denoted by  $\rho_{(p,q)}(f)$  and  $\lambda_{(p,q)}(f)$  respectively and defined by [4]

$$\rho_{(p,q)}(f) = \limsup_{r \to \infty} \frac{\log^{\lfloor p \rfloor} T(r,f)}{\log^{\lfloor q \rfloor} r} \text{ and } \lambda_{(p,q)}(f) = \liminf_{r \to \infty} \frac{\log^{\lfloor p \rfloor} T(r,f)}{\log^{\lfloor q \rfloor} r}, \ p \ge q \ge 1.$$

According to Lahiri and Banerjee [7] if f(z) and g(z) be entire functions then the iteration of f with respect to g is defined as follows:

$$f_{1}(z) = f(z)$$

$$f_{2}(z) = f(g(z)) = f(g_{1}(z))$$

$$f_{3}(z) = f(g(f(z))) = f(g_{2}(z))$$

$$f_{4}(z) = f(g(f(g(z)))) = f(g_{3}(z))$$
.....
$$f_{n}(z) = f(g(f(g(...(f(z) \text{ or } g(z) \text{ according as } n \text{ is odd or even})))), \text{ and so are } g_{n}(z).$$

Clearly all  $f_n(z)$  and  $g_n(z)$  are entire functions.

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In paper [1] Banerjee and Mondal introduced a more general type of iteration, called generalized iteration as follows:

Let f and g be two non-constant entire functions and  $\alpha$  be any real number satisfying  $0 < \alpha \le 1$ . Then the generalized iteration of f with respect to g is defined as follows:

$$f_{1,g}(z) = (1 - \alpha)z + af(z)$$
  

$$f_{2,g}(z) = (1 - \alpha)g_{1,f}(z) + af(g_{1,f}(z))$$
  

$$f_{3,g}(z) = (1 - \alpha)g_{2,f}(z) + af(g_{2,f}(z))$$
  
.....  

$$f_{n,g}(z) = (1 - \alpha)g_{n-1,f}(z) + af(g_{n-1,f}(z))$$

and so are

$$g_{1,f}(z) = (1-\alpha)z + \alpha g(z)$$
  

$$g_{2,f}(z) = (1-\alpha) f_{1,g}(z) + \alpha g(f_{1,g}(z))$$
  

$$g_{3,f}(z) = (1-\alpha) f_{2,g}(z) + \alpha g(f_{2,g}(z))$$
  
.....  

$$g_{n,f}(z) = (1-\alpha) f_{n-1,g}(z) + \alpha g(f_{n-1,g}(z))$$

**Note-1:** For  $\alpha = 1$ , generalized iteration reduces to relative iteration.

**Definition 1[1]:** We say a real valued function  $\phi(r)$  is said to have the property P if

- (i)  $\phi(r)$  is non-negative and continuous for  $r \ge r_0$ , say;
- (ii)  $\phi(r)$  is strictly increasing and  $\phi(r) \to \infty$  as  $r \to \infty$ ; and
- (iii)  $\phi(r) < e^{\delta[\phi(\frac{r}{2})]^{\lambda}}$

hold for all  $\lambda, \delta > 0$  and for all sufficiently large values of *r*.

The purpose of this paper is to compare the characteristic function of generalized iterated entire functions with that of the generating functions. Throughout we assume f and g are non constant entire functions having finite (p, q)-orders.

### 2. LEMMAS

Following two lemmas will be needed during the proof of our theorems.

**Lemma 1[6]:** If f(z) be regular in  $|z| \le R$ , then for  $0 \le r < R$ 

$$T(r, f) \le \log^+ M(r, f) \le \frac{R+r}{R-r} T(R, f).$$

In particular if f be entire, then for all large values of r

 $T(r, f) \le \log M(r, f) \le 3T(2r, f).$ 

**Lemma 2[3]:** If f is meromorphic and g is entire then for all large values of r

$$T(r, f \circ g) \leq (1 + o(1)) \frac{T(r, g)}{\log M(r, g)} T(M(r, g), f).$$

Since g is entire so using Lemma 1, we have

 $T(r, f \circ g) \leq (1 + o(1))T(M(r, g), f).$ 

## **3. MAIN RESULTS**

**Theorem 1:** Let f(z) and g(z) be two entire functions with  $\rho_{(p,q)}(g) < \lambda_{(p,q)}(f)$ . Then for even n

$$\limsup_{r \to \infty} \frac{\log^{\lfloor p+(n-2)(p+1-q)\rfloor} T(r, f_{n,g})}{\log^{\lfloor q-1 \rfloor} T(2^{n-2}r, f)} \le \rho_{(p,q)}(f).$$

**Proof:** We have

$$T(r, f_{n,g}) = T(r, (1-\alpha)g_{n-1,f} + \alpha f(g_{n-1,f}))$$

$$\leq T(r, (1-\alpha)g_{n-1,f}) + T(r, \alpha f(g_{n-1,f})) + \log 2$$

$$\leq T(r, g_{n-1,f}) + T(r, f(g_{n-1,f})) + O(1)$$

$$\leq T(r, g_{n-1,f}) + (1+o(1))T(M(r, g_{n-1,f}), f) + O(1), \text{ by Lemma 2}$$

or, 
$$\log^{[p]} T(r, f_{n,g}) \leq \log^{[p]} T(r, g_{n-1,f}) + \log^{[p]} T(M(r, g_{n-1,f}), f) + O(1)$$
  
 $< \log^{[p]} T(r, g_{n-1,f}) + (\rho_{(p,q)}(f) + \varepsilon) \log^{[q]} M(r, g_{n-1,f}) + O(1),$   
for all large values of  $r$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$   
 $\leq \log^{[q]} T(r, g_{n-1,f}) + (\rho_{(p,q)}(f) + \varepsilon) \log^{[q-1]} \{ 3T(2r, g_{n-1,f}) \} + O(1),$  by Lemma 1  
 $\leq \log^{[q-1]} T(2r, g_{n-1,f}) + 3(\rho_{(p,q)}(f) + \varepsilon) \log^{[q-1]} T(2r, g_{n-1,f}) + O(1)$   
 $= [3(\rho_{(p,q)}(f) + \varepsilon) + 1] \log^{[q-1]} T(2r, g_{n-1,f}) + O(1)$ 
(1)

or, 
$$\log^{[p+(p+1-q)]} T(r, f_{n,g}) < \log^{[p]} T(2r, g_{n-1,f}) + O(1)$$
  
< $[3(\rho_{(p,q)}(g) + \varepsilon) + 1] \log^{[q-1]} T(2^2 r, f_{n-2,g}) + O(1), \text{ using } (1)$ 

or,  $\log^{[p+2(p+1-q)]}T(r, f_{n,g}) < \log^{[p]}T(2^{2}r, f_{n-2,g}) + O(1).$ 

# Proceeding similarly after some steps we get

$$\begin{split} \log^{[p+(n-2)(p+1-q)]} T(r,f_{n,g}) &< \log^{[p]} T(2^{n-2}r,f_{2,g}) + O(1) \\ &= \log^{[p]} T(2^{n-2}r,(1-\alpha)g_{1,f} + \alpha f(g_{1,f})) + O(1) \\ &\leq \log^{[p]} T(2^{n-2}r,g_{1,f}) + \log^{[p]} T(2^{n-2}r,f_{(g_{1,f})}) + O(1) \\ &\leq \log^{[p]} T(2^{n-2}r,g_{1,f}) + \log^{[p]} T(M(2^{n-2}r,g_{1,f}),f) + O(1) \\ &< \log^{[p]} T(2^{n-2}r,g_{1,f}) + (\rho_{(p,q)}(f) + \varepsilon) \log^{[q]} M(2^{n-2}r,g_{1,f}) + O(1) \\ &= \log^{[p]} T(2^{n-2}r,(1-\alpha)z + \alpha g(z)) + (\rho_{(p,q)}(f) + \varepsilon) \\ &\qquad \times \log^{[q]} M(2^{n-2}r,(1-\alpha)z + \alpha g(z)) + O(1) \\ &\leq \log^{[p]} T(2^{n-2}r,z) + \log^{[p]} T(2^{n-2}r,g) + (\rho_{(p,q)}(f) + \varepsilon) \\ &\qquad \times \log^{[q]} M(2^{n-2}r,g) + O(1) \\ &< \log^{[p+1]} (2^{n-2}r) + (\rho_{(p,q)}(g) + \varepsilon) \log^{[q]} (2^{n-2}r) + (\rho_{(p,q)}(f) + \varepsilon) \log^{[q]} (2^{n-2}r) \\ &\qquad + (\rho_{(p,q)}(f) + \varepsilon) \exp^{[p-q]} \{\log^{[q-1]} (2^{n-2}r)\}^{\delta_{(p,q)}(f) - \varepsilon} + O(1) \end{split}$$

$$(2)$$

by choosing  $\varepsilon > 0$  so small that  $\rho_{(p,q)}(g) + \varepsilon < \lambda_{(p,q)}(f) - \varepsilon$ .

On the other hand

$$T(r, f) > \exp^{[p-1]} (\log^{[q-1]} r)^{\lambda_{(p,q)}(f) \varepsilon}, \text{ for all } r \ge r_0.$$
  
or,  $\log^{[q-1]} T(r, f) > \exp^{[p-q]} (\log^{[q-1]} r)^{\lambda_{(p,q)}(f) - \varepsilon}, \text{ for all } r \ge r_0$ 

Therefore, from above

$$\frac{\log^{[p+(n-2)(p+1-q)]} T(r,f_{n,g})}{\log^{[q-1]} T(2^{n-2}r,f)} < \frac{\log^{[p+1]} (2^{n-2}r) + (\rho_{(p,q)}(g) + (\rho_{(p,q)}(f) + 2\varepsilon) \log^{[q]} (2^{n-2}r) + (\rho_{(p,q)}(f) + \varepsilon) \exp^{[p-q]} \{\log^{[q-1]} (2^{n-2}r)\}^{\lambda_{(p,q)}(f)-\varepsilon} + O(1)}{\exp^{[p-q]} (\log^{[q-1]} (2^{n-2}r))^{\lambda_{(p,q)}(f)-\varepsilon}},$$

for all  $r \ge r_0$ .

Hence, 
$$\limsup_{r \to \infty} \frac{\log^{[p+(n-2)(p+1-q)]} T(r, f_{n,g})}{\log^{[q-1]} T(2^{n-2}r, f)} \le \rho_{(p,q)}(f) + \varepsilon.$$

The theorem now follows since  $\varepsilon(>0)$  is arbitrary.

Note-2: From the hypothesis it is clear that f must be transcendental.

**Theorem 2:** Let f and g be two entire functions with  $\rho_{(p,q)}(f) < \lambda_{(p,q)}(g)$ . Then for odd n

$$\limsup_{r\to\infty}\frac{\log^{[p+(n-2)(p+1-q)]}T(r,f_{n,g})}{\log^{[q-1]}T(2^{n-2}r,g)}\leq \rho_{(p,q)}(g).$$

The proof of the theorem is on the same line as that of Theorem 1.

**Theorem 3:** Let f(z) and g(z) be two transcendental entire functions such that  $\lambda_{(p,q)}(g) > 0$ . Then for even n

$$\limsup_{r \to \infty} \frac{\log^{[p+(n-1)(p+1-q)]} T(r,f_{n,g})}{\log^{[p]} T(2^{n-2}r,g)} \le \frac{\rho_{(p,q)}(g)}{\lambda_{(p,q)}(g)}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Proof: From (2) we have for all } r &\geq r_{0} \\ \log^{\{p+(n-2)(p+1-q)\}} T(r, f_{n,g}) &< \log^{\{p+1\}} (2^{n-2}r) + (\rho_{(p,q)}(g) + \varepsilon) \log^{\{q\}} (2^{n-2}r) + (\rho_{(p,q)}(f) + \varepsilon) \log^{\{q\}} (2^{n-2}r) \\ &+ (\rho_{(p,q)}(f) + \varepsilon) \exp^{\{p-q\}} \{ \log^{\{q-1\}} (2^{n-2}r) \}^{\rho_{(p,q)}(g) + \varepsilon} + O(1) \\ &= \log^{\{p+1\}} (2^{n-2}r) + (\rho_{(p,q)}(g) + \rho_{(p,q)}(f) + 2\varepsilon) \log^{\{q\}} (2^{n-2}r) + (\rho_{(p,q)}(f) + \varepsilon) \\ &\times \exp^{\{p-q\}} \{ \log^{\{q-1\}} (2^{n-2}r) \}^{\rho_{(p,q)}(g) + \varepsilon} + O(1) \end{aligned}$$

or, 
$$\log^{[p+(n-1)(p+1-q)]} T(r, f_{n,g}) < \log^{[2p+2-q]} (2^{n-2}r) + \log^{[p+1]} (2^{n-2}r) + (\rho_{(p,q)}(g) + \varepsilon) \log^{[q]} (2^{n-2}r) + O(1).$$

On the other hand,

 $\log^{[p]} T(r,g) > (\lambda_{(p,q)}(g) - \varepsilon) \log^{[q]} r, \text{ for all } r \ge r_0.$ 

## Therefore,

$$\frac{\log^{[p+(n-1)(p+1-q)]} T(r,f_{n,g})}{\log^{[p]} T(2^{n-2}r,g)} < \frac{\log^{[2p+2-q]} (2^{n-2}r) + \log^{[p+1]} (2^{n-2}r) + (\rho_{(p,q)}(g) + \varepsilon) \log^{[q]} (2^{n-2}r) + O(1)}{(\lambda_{(p,q)}(g) - \varepsilon) \log^{[q]} (2^{n-2}r)}.$$
  
Thus 
$$\limsup_{r \to \infty} \frac{\log^{[p+(n-1)(p+1-q)]} T(r,f_{n,g})}{\log^{[p]} T(2^{n-2}r,g)} \le \frac{\rho_{(p,q)}(g)}{\lambda_{(p,q)}(g)}, \text{ since } \varepsilon > 0 \text{ is arbitrary small.}$$

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**Theorem 4:** Let f(z) and g(z) be two transcendental entire functions with  $\lambda_{(p,q)}(f) > 0$ . Then for odd n

$$\limsup_{r \to \infty} \frac{\log^{[p+(n-1)(p+1-q)]} T(r,f_{n,g})}{\log^{[p]} T(2^{n-2}r,f)} \leq \frac{\rho_{(p,q)}(f)}{\lambda_{(p,q)}(f)}.$$

The proof is omitted.

Note-3: If  $\rho_{(p,q)}(g) > \rho_{(p,q)}(f)$  holds in Theorem 1 we shall show that the limit superior will tend to infinity.

Now we prove the following four theorems where we assume that the maximum modulus functions of f, g and all of their generalized functions satisfy property P.

**Theorem 5:** Let f(z) and g(z) be two entire functions of positive lower (p, q)-orders with  $\rho_{(p,q)}(g) > \rho_{(p,q)}(f)$ . Then for even n

$$\limsup_{r \to \infty} \frac{\log^{[p+(n-2)(p+1-q)]} T(r, f_{n,g})}{\log^{[q-1]} T(\frac{r}{A^{n-1}}, f)} = \infty.$$

Proof: We have,

$$T(r, f_{n,g}) = T(r, (1-\alpha)g_{n-1,f} + \alpha f(g_{n-1,f}))$$
  

$$\geq T(r, \alpha f(g_{n-1,f})) - T(r, (1-\alpha)g_{n-1,f}) + O(1)$$
  

$$\geq T(r, f(g_{n-1,f})) - T(r, g_{n-1,f}) + O(1)$$
  

$$> \frac{1}{3} \exp^{[p-1]} \{ \log^{[q-1]} M(\frac{r}{4}, g_{n-1,f}) \}^{\lambda_{(p,q)}(f)-\varepsilon} - T(r, g_{n-1,f}) + O(1). \quad \{\text{see}[9], \text{page100} \}$$

Therefore,

$$\log^{[p]} T(r, f_{n,g}) > \log\{ \log^{[q-1]} M(\frac{r}{4}, g_{n-1,f}) \}^{\lambda_{(p,q)}(f) - \varepsilon} - \log^{[p]} T(r, g_{n-1,f}) + O(1)$$

$$= (\lambda_{(p,q)}(f) - \varepsilon) \log^{[q]} M(\frac{r}{4}, g_{n-1,f}) - \log^{[p]} T(r, g_{n-1,f}) + O(1)$$

$$\geq (\lambda_{(p,q)}(f) - \varepsilon) \log^{[q]} M(\frac{r}{4}, g_{n-1,f}) - \frac{1}{2} (\lambda_{(p,q)}(f) - \varepsilon) \log^{[q]} M(\frac{r}{4}, g_{n-1,f}) + O(1).$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (\lambda_{(p,q)}(f) - \varepsilon) \log^{[q]} M\left(\frac{r}{4}, g_{n-1,f}\right) + O(1).$$
(3)

So, we have for all  $r \ge r_0$ ,

$$\begin{split} \log^{[p+(p+1-q)]} T(r,f_{n,g}) &> \log^{[p]} [\log M(\frac{r}{4},g_{n-1,f})] + O(1) \\ &\geq \log^{[p]} T(\frac{r}{4},g_{n-1,f}) + O(1) \\ &> \frac{1}{2} (\lambda_{(p,q)}(g) - \varepsilon) \log^{[q]} M(\frac{r}{4^2},f_{n-2,g}) + O(1), \text{ using (3)} \\ \text{or, } \log^{[p+2(p+1-q)]} T(r,f_{n,g}) &> \log^{[p]} T(\frac{r}{4^2},f_{n-2,g}) + O(1) \\ &> \frac{1}{2} (\lambda_{(p,q)}(f) - \varepsilon) \log^{[q]} M(\frac{r}{4^3},g_{n-3,f}) + O(1), \text{ using (3)} \end{split}$$

Proceeding similarly after some steps we get

 $\log^{[p+(n-2)(p+1-q)]} T(r, f_{n,g}) > \frac{1}{2} (\lambda_{(p,q)}(f) - \varepsilon) \log^{[q]} M(\frac{r}{4^{n-1}}, g_{1,f}) + O(1)$ 

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$$= \frac{1}{2} (\lambda_{(p,q)}(f) - \varepsilon) \log^{[q]} M(\frac{r}{4^{n-1}}, (1-\alpha)z + \alpha g(z)) + O(1)$$

$$\geq \frac{1}{2} (\lambda_{(p,q)}(f) - \varepsilon) [\log^{[q]} M(\frac{r}{4^{n-1}}, g) - \log^{[q]} M(\frac{r}{4^{n-1}}, z)] + O(1)$$

$$\geq \frac{1}{2} (\lambda_{(p,q)}(f) - \varepsilon) [\exp^{[p-q]} \{\log^{[q-1]}(\frac{r}{4^{n-1}})\}^{\rho_{(p,q)}(g) - \varepsilon} - \log^{[q]}(\frac{r}{4^{n-1}})] + O(1)$$
(4)

for a sequence of values of  $r \to \infty$ .

On the other hand for all  $r \ge r_0$  we have,  $T(r,f) < \exp^{[p-1]} (\log^{[q-1]} r)^{\rho_{(p,q)}(f)+\varepsilon}$ 

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or, 
$$\log^{[q-1]} T(r, f) < \exp^{[p-q]} (\log^{[q-1]} r)^{\rho_{(p,q)}(f) + \varepsilon}$$
. (5)

So, from (4) and (5) we have for a sequence of values of  $r \to \infty$ ,

$$\frac{\log^{[p+(n-2)(p+1-q)]} T(r,f_{n,g})}{\log^{[q-1]} T(\frac{r}{4^{n-1}},f)} > \frac{\frac{1}{2} (\lambda_{(p,q)}(f) - \varepsilon) [\exp^{[p-q]} \{ \log^{[q-1]} (\frac{r}{4^{n-1}}) \}^{\rho_{(p,q)}(g)-\varepsilon} - \log^{[q]} (\frac{r}{4^{n-1}})]}{\exp^{[p-q]} (\log^{[q-1]} \frac{r}{4^{n-1}})^{\rho_{(p,q)}(f)+\varepsilon}} + o(1)$$
  
and so 
$$\limsup_{r \to \infty} \frac{\log^{[p+(n-2)(p+1-q)]} T(r,f_{n,g})}{\log^{[q-1]} T(\frac{r}{4^{n-1}},f)} = \infty,$$

since we can choose  $\varepsilon(>0)$  such that  $\rho_{(p,q)}(g) - \varepsilon > \rho_{(p,q)}(f) + \varepsilon$ .

This proves the theorem.

An immediate consequence of Theorem 5 for odd n is the following theorem.

**Theorem 6:** Let f(z) and g(z) be two entire functions of positive lower (p, q)-orders with  $\rho_{(p,q)}(f) > \rho_{(p,q)}(g)$ . Then for odd n

$$\limsup_{r \to \infty} \frac{\log^{[p+(n-2)(p+1-q)]} T(r, f_{n,g})}{\log^{[q-1]} T(\frac{r}{4^{n-1}}, g)} = \infty.$$

**Theorem 7:** Let f(z) and g(z) be two entire functions of positive lower (p, q)-orders. Then for even n

$$\limsup_{r \to \infty} \frac{\log^{[p+(n-2)(p+1-q)]} T(r, f_{n,g})}{\log^{[p]} T(\frac{r}{4^{n-1}}, g)} = \infty.$$

**Proof:** From (4), we have for a sequence of values of  $r \rightarrow \infty$ 

$$\log^{[p+(n-2)(p+1-q)]} T(r, f_{n,g}) > \frac{1}{2} (\lambda_{(p,q)}(f) - \varepsilon) [\exp^{[p-q]} \{ \log^{[q-1]} (\frac{r}{4^{n-1}}) \}^{\rho_{(p,q)}(g)-\varepsilon} - \log^{[q]} (\frac{r}{4^{n-1}}) + O(1).$$
Also,  $\log^{[p]} T(r,g) < (\rho_{(p,q)}(g) + \varepsilon) \log^{[q]} r$ , for all  $r \ge r_0$ .

Thus for a sequence of values of  $r \rightarrow \infty$ 

$$\frac{\log^{[p+(n-2)(p+1-q)]} T(r,f_{n,g})}{\log^{[p]} T(\frac{r}{4^{n-1}},g)} \ge \frac{\frac{1}{2} (\lambda_{(p,q)}(f) - \varepsilon) [\exp^{[p-q]} \{ \log^{[q-1]}(\frac{r}{4^{n-1}}) \}^{\rho_{(p,q)}(g) - \varepsilon} - \log^{[q]}(\frac{r}{4^{n-1}}) + O(1)}{(\rho_{(p,q)}(g) + \varepsilon) \log^{[q]}(\frac{r}{4^{n-1}})}$$

which tends to infinity as  $r \to \infty$ , through this sequence since  $\rho_{(p,q)}(g) > 0$ .

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**Theorem 8:** Let f(z) and g(z) be two entire functions of positive lower (p, q)-orders. Then for odd n

$$\limsup_{r \to \infty} \frac{\log^{[p+(n-2)(p+1-q)]} T(r, f_{n,g})}{\log^{[p]} T(\frac{r}{4^{n-1}}, f)} = \infty.$$

The proof is omitted.

Note-4: If we put  $\alpha = 1$  in the above Theorems we get the results of Banerjee and Mondal [2].

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