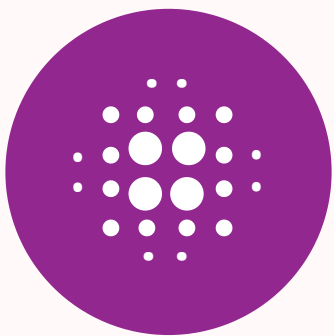# TESOL.BD

MUJIB 100

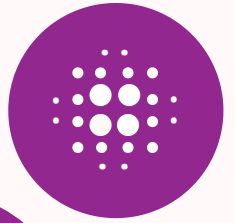**1st International Virtual Research Conference**

Contextualizing Research In Challenging Times

PRE-CONFERENCE 16 DECEMBER
CONFERENCE 18-19 DECEMBER

TESOL SOCIETY OF BANGLADESH

CONTEXTUALIZING RESEARCH IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Message from the President

Professor Dr. Sayeedur Rahman
President
TESOL Society of Bangladesh

It is indeed a delightful occasion for the TESOL society of Bangladesh. We have successfully arranged our 1st Virtual International Conference titled "Contextualizing Research in Challenging Times." This conference is the result of the relentless endeavor and hard work of the entire team of the TESOL Society of Bangladesh driven by our desire to build a rich and meaningful platform for exchanging knowledge and sharing best practices in the face of these challenging, chaotic times. I would like to extend my heartiest gratitude and sincere appreciation to the distinguished guests who took time out from their busy schedules to make this occasion successful.

I am delighted that world-renowned ELT experts, Dr. Richard Smith (Reader, Center for Applied Linguistics, University of Warwick) and Prof. Dr. Ravinder Gargesh (President-Elect, Asia TEFL & Head of the Department of English, Samarkand State University) have joined us as keynote speakers. We have Prof. Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain (Member, University of Grant Commission of Bangladesh and Director, Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited (BSCL)) as the chief guest of the conference. The conference is also graced by the presence of a group of recognized academicians, scholars, and enthusiastic students.

TESOL Society of Bangladesh has always tried to create a reliable platform for ELT professionals, prospective practitioners, researchers, scholars, and enthusiasts from all levels of education to improve themselves by promoting the culture of collaboration, research, and support. Since the beginning of the pandemic when the entire world came to a standstill, we took it as an opportunity to help the Bangladeshi English teachers from primary to tertiary level to acquire the indispensable skills for operating in academia in the future. We are also collaborating with globally recognized experts in relevant fields to exchange knowledge and implement the best pedagogical practices in the field of ELT in Bangladesh.

I thank the entire team for making this event a success and I look forward to arranging more conferences in the future as part of our continuous effort to improve and support the professionals related to ELT, both nationally and internationally.

Thank you.

Professor Dr. Sayeedur Rahman
President
TESOL Society of Bangladesh

CONTEXTUALIZING RESEARCH IN CHALLENGING TIMES
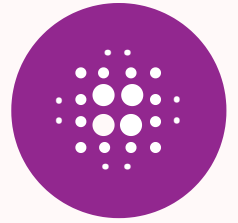
Message from the Chief Guest

Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain
Chief Guest
1st International Virtual Research Conference
TESOL Society of Bangladesh

I would like to begin by thanking and congratulating the organizers, TESOL Society of Bangladesh, for taking such a timely initiative by arranging the conference titled "Contextualizing Research in Challenging Times." We are all living in a pivotal time in history and the world as we knew it, is changing in front of our eyes with incredible speed. The Corona pandemic has forced us to transform our ways of life and the education sector is no different. It is the time when we come together to create a sustainable and fruitful impact on the future education sector through meaningful and contextualized research.

TESOL Society of Bangladesh has been consistently providing a reliable platform for ELT professionals, prospective practitioners, researchers, scholars, and enthusiasts from all educational levels to share knowledge and establish a network among the educators since its inception in 2014. After the onset of the pandemic TESOL Society of Bangladesh has been whole-heartedly supporting the Bangladeshi English teachers from primary to tertiary level in building necessary skills for Future Academia. Side by side, they are also collaborating with globally recognized experts in their field to exchange knowledge and implement the best pedagogical practices in the field of ELT in Bangladesh.

I am delighted that world-renowned ELT experts Dr. Richard Smith (University of Warwick) and Dr. Ravindra Garges (President, Asia TEFL) are joining the conference as the keynote speakers. The conference is also graced by the presence of a group of recognized academicians, scholars and enthusiastic participants.

I wish the conference a great success and looking forward to many more such events to be organized by the TESOL Society of Bangladesh.

Thank you.

Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain
Chief Guest
1st International Virtual Research Conference
TESOL Society of Bangladesh

CONTEXTUALIZING RESEARCH IN CHALLENGING TIMES
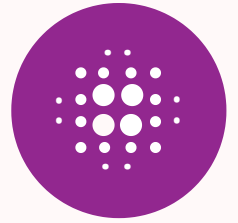
Message from the Sponsor

Professor Dr. Md. Anwarul Kabir
Vice-Chancellor
State University of Bangladesh

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to learn that the TESOL Society of Bangladesh (popularly known as TESOL.BD) has successfully organised their First International Virtual Conference-"Contextualizing Research in Challenging Times" on December 18-19.

I wish to congratulate the entire team of TESOL BD team for organizing such an effective and time-befitting program to connect all concerned during this chaotic time of the corona pandemic. I would also like to thank the presenters and participants for enthusiastically taking part in the conference and transforming it into an engaging platform for sharing knowledge and ideas.

As far as I know, the TESOL Society of Bangladesh, since its inception in 2014, has been continuously working to create a professional network of ELT practitioners for building support, collaboration, and promoting research culture. I think the Association of English Teachers should feel proud in achieving another milestone by arranging such a successful international conference. I would also like to congratulate the TESOL.BD for becoming successfully registered as a teachers' association.

On the other hand, the State University of Bangladesh (SUB), established in 2002, is a trendsetter in the field of the country's tertiary education. SUB is proud to be a part of the program, following the linkage of its Department of English Studies and TESOL.BD, and by sponsoring the exciting first-ever TESOL Quick Fire Presentation Competition. I hope TESOL.BD would organize many such programs in the future, and the tie-up between SUB and TESOL.BD would continue in achieving great things.
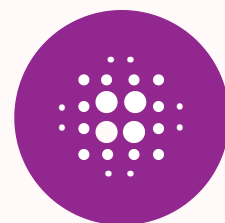
Thank you all again.

STATE UNIVERSITY OF BANGLADESH
join the trendsetter

Professor Dr. Md. Anwarul Kabir
Vice-Chancellor
State University of Bangladesh

CONTEXTUALIZING RESEARCH IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Message from the Convenor

Tasnima Aktar, PhD
Convenor
1st International Virtual Research Conference
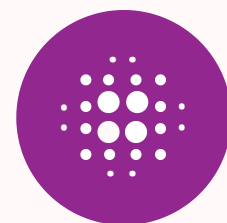TESOL Society of Bangladesh

Just months back, we couldn't even imagine such a huge crowd online. It is the Time, the Context that made it real today. We have got a very time befitting theme for this conference 'Contextualising Research in Difficult Times'- where the context and time can be anything from pandemic and beyond. It is a proud privilege for me to have convened this 1st International Research Conference 2020 organised by the TESOL Society of Bangladesh. ELT researchers and practitioners of a developing country of Global South have a very limited access to research resources. With the hope to create a window to talk research, the plan for this research conference is conceived. I am also pleased to inform that, the TESOL Society of Bangladesh is going to introduce its three initial Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and Research SIG is one of them. One of the key objectives is to create and foster a research culture among Bangladeshi ELT practitioners and researchers.

I am very grateful to our Chief Guest Professor Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain, UGC member and Director of BSCL for inaugurating our conference, to our Keynote Speakers, world renowned ELT experts- Dr. Richard Smith (University of Warwick) and Dr. Ravinder Gargesh (President-Elect, Asia TEFL), to the speakers from around the globe. Apart from pre-conference event and keynotes and talks, we have a roundtable discussion on the conference theme and a key attraction was our 5-minutes TESOL Quick Fire presentation competition. I very much hope the conference provides a forum for ELT practitioners and researchers to exchange cutting-edge research ideas as well as examine the nexus between research and education.

It is rewarding to work with the TESOL Society of Bangladesh because of its progressive and enthusiastic ambience. As its Lead of Research and Development wing, I feel honoured on being bestowed with the responsibilities of such an international virtual conference. Convening while sitting in a different time zone of London was not an easy task. The immense hard work, perseverance and efforts of all the organisers and members involved have finally reached its culmination in the successful organisation of this conference. Thank you very much, everyone! Happy Victory Month to All Bangladeshis!

Tasnima Aktar, PhD
Convenor
1st International Virtual Research Conference
TESOL Society of Bangladesh &
Associate Professor in English, Comilla University

CONTEXTUALIZING RESEARCH IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Message from Keynote Speaker

Dr. Richard Smith
Reader, Department of Applied Linguistics
University of Warwick, UK
1st International Virtual Research Conference
TESOL Society of Bangladesh

It is a great pleasure to give a talk as the Keynote Speaker at the 1st International Research Conference 2020 'Contextualizing Research in Difficult Times' organised by the TESOL Society of Bangladesh, and to share this unique platform with so many excellent speakers located around the globe. I am very impressed by the interest and enthusiasm of all the participants and by the efficiency of organisation of the conference. The design and implementation of the conference is a credit to the vision of the TESOL Society of Bangladesh in seeking ways to promote the field of ELT research.

I am delighted to see that the TESOL Society is resourcefully addressing issues of context-relevant and context-sensitive research in these challenging times. I believe that, there are synergies to investigate between the TESOL Society of Bangladesh and IATEFL Research SIG. I will be pleased to play my part in this in the future.

Let me again pay tribute to the smooth organisation of this vibrant conference and to the way it has served to support those teaching, learning, and researching in 'emergency' mode. I look forward to seeing how the TESOL Society of Bangladesh continues to support ELT practitioners and researchers in Bangladesh and beyond. I wish the TESOL Society of Bangladesh all the best in its future endeavours.

Best wishes and thank you!

Dr. Richard Smith
Reader, Department of Applied Linguistics
University of Warwick, UK
1st International Research Conference
TESOL Society of Bangladesh

CONTEXTUALIZING RESEARCH IN CHALLENGING TIMES
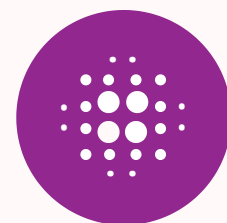
Program Schedule

Pre-Conference Event (16 December 2020)

10.00 am-12.30 pm :   CREDIBLE Projects in Action
Dr. Ahmar Mahboob
The University of Sydney, Australia
& His Team

Day 1, 18 December 2020

12.00 pm-2.05 pm :   Welcome Speech by President, TSB
Prof. Dr. Sayeedur Rahman
Institute of Modern Languages
University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

2.05 pm-2.15 pm :   Inaugural Speech by the Chief Guest
Prof. Dr. Md. Sazzad Hossain
Member, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) &
Director, Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited (BSCL)

2.15 pm-2.20 pm :   Conference Brief by the Conference Convenor
Tasnima Aktar, PhD
Comilla University, Bangladesh

Keynote Speech

2.20 pm-3.20 pm :   Research for Super-difficult Circumstances: Where to Start
and How to Go on?
Dr. Richard Smith
University of Warwick, UK

Plenary Session 1

3.20 pm-3.50 pm :   Writing a Literature Review: Going beyond Summarising
Dr. Asifa Sultana
BRAC University, Bangladesh

3.50 pm-4.20 pm :   Re-searching Ways to Research During the Pandemic: Methods, Types
and Execution
Dr. Sandesha Rayapa-Garbiyal
Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

CONTEXTUALIZING RESEARCH IN CHALLENGING TIMES
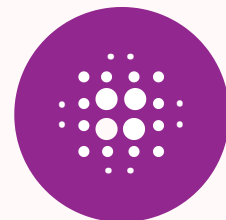
Program Schedule

PLENARY SESSION 1

4.20 pm-4.50 pm :   Ethical issues in TESOL research: Considerations for Research in Bangladesh and Beyond
Prof. Elizabeth J. Erling, PhD
University of Vienna, Vienna

4.50 pm-5.10 pm :   Networking and Chitchat with Panelist

PLENARY SESSION 2

5.10 pm-5.40 pm :   Knowing Thyself: The Pandemic as an Optimised Space for Metacognitive Learning for Graduate Researchers
Dr. Raqib Chowdhury
Monash University, Australia

5.40 pm-6.10 pm :   SHELL System: A Learner-Centric Approach to ELT for Challenging the Challenging Time
Prof. Dr. Niladri Sekhar Dash
Indian Statistical Institute, India

6.10 pm-6.40 pm :   Digital Ethnography, Ethnographic Sensibility, and Social Transformation
Prof. Shaila Sultana, PhD
Institute of Modern Languages
University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

WORKSHOP SESSION

6.40 pm-7.40 pm :   Systematic Reviewing – from Selection to Publication: Dos and Don'ts
Manzoorul Abedin, PhD
University of West London, UK

CONTEXTUALIZING RESEARCH IN CHALLENGING TIMES
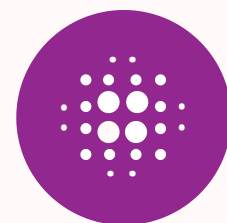
Program Schedule

DAY 2, 19 December 2020

Keynote Speech

2.00 pm-3.00 pm :   Need for Contextualization in Research in Relation to English Language Education
Prof. Dr. Ravinder Gargesh
President-Elect, Asia TEFL.
Samarkand State University,
Uzbekistan

Plenary Session 3

3.00 pm-3.30 pm :   Publishing Your Practices in TESOL: The Question of 'What' and 'How'
Prof. Kamarul Kabilan, PhD
 Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia

3.30 pm-4.00 pm :   Incorporating Objective Methods in Phonetics Research: The Context of Bangladesh
Jahurul Islam, PhD
The University of British Columbia, Canada

4.00 pm-4.30 pm :   Research-based Case Studies: A Critical-narrative Approach to Evaluating Academic Innovations amidst Disruptions
Dr. Mohammad Golam Jamil
University of Bristol, UK

4.30 pm-4.50 pm :   Networking and Chitchat with Panelist

Round-table Discussion

4.50 pm-5.50 pm :   Contextualizing Research in Challenging Times
Panel Discussion

CONTEXTUALIZING RESEARCH IN CHALLENGING TIMES
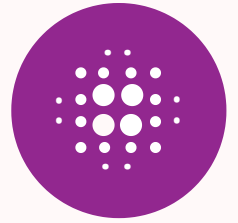
Program Schedule

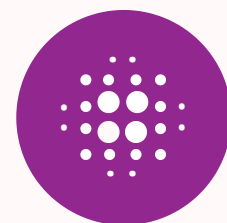### DAY 2, 19 December 2020

TESOL Quick Fire Presentation

5.50 pm-6.50 pm :   TESOL Quick Fire Presentation Competition
3 PhD/ MPhil, 3 MA

6.50 pm-7.15 pm :   Best Presenters announcement & Vote of Thanks
Prof. A. M. M. Hamidur Rahman
Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Daffodil International University, Bangladesh

Mr. Hamidul Haque, MPhil
Vice President, TSB
American International University-Bangladesh

Tasnima Aktar, PhD
Conference Convenor
Comilla University, Bangladesh

CONTEXTUALIZING RESEARCH IN CHALLENGING TIMES

CREDIBLE Projects in Action

CREDIBLE projects refer to work that brings observable and real benefits to communities. You can develop such projects with a range of goals in your own educational programs.

This session will give you insights on how we can incorporate a CREDIBLE approach in our work as well as ideas about how such projects can be planned and carried out.

In order to do this, in this session, we will a) briefly introduce the notion of CREDIBLE education and research, b) share an outline of its methodology, and c) provide a sampling of projects carried out earlier this year.

Dr. Ahmar Mahboob is currently working as an Associate Professor in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Sydney. He earned his Ph.D at Indiana University, Bloomington, in 2003. Dr. Mahboob is keenly interested in the application of language sciences in developmental issues. His primary research interests are examination of policies, practices, and implications of language variation in local and global contexts.

Ahmar Mahboob has published extensively. He was the co-editor of TESOL Quarterly and the Associate Editor of Linguistics and the Human Sciences for several years. In 2019, Dr. Mahboob was named as Australia's Research Field Leader: English Language and Literature in The Australian's Research magazine.

Dr. Mahboob has organized a number of regional, national, and international conferences and is the convener and the co-creator of the Free Linguistics Conference. Recently, he has been conducting many workshops and giving talks online.

CONTEXTUALIZING RESEARCH IN CHALLENGING TIMES
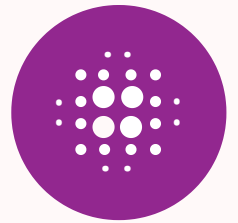
## Keynote Speech (Day 1, 18 December 2020)

Research for Super-difficult Circumstances: Where to Start and How to Go on?

Top-down pedagogical innovations – however theoretically well-motivated – tend to fail if they ignore local conditions. Indeed, teachers may need to be the main agents of innovation, in particular in the generally neglected 'difficult circumstances' of Global South contexts. In the tougher, 'super-difficult' circumstances of the pandemic, it has become even clearer that teachers' shared experience and insights offer a solid foundation for appropriate innovation, more than academic research can do. Thus, an enhancement approach to inquiry and innovation – building on teachers' own achievements – represents a recommendable way forward. In this talk, I argue for research which takes as a starting-point teachers' own experience, indeed which is carried out by and/or with teachers themselves. I illustrate the benefits of this mainly from my recent work mentoring small-scale Exploratory Action Research projects in India and Nepal, highlighting ways in which a deficit-based view of teacher development can be replaced with a focus on success and achievement.

Dr. Richard Smith studied for his PhD with A.P.R. Howatt in Edinburgh and is known for his historical research within applied linguistics. Twelve years ago he set up the unique ELT Archive at the University of Warwick, where he has been teaching for the last 20 years, and he founded and is joint coordinator of the International Association of Applied Linguistics Research Network on the History of Language Learning and Teaching. Apart from his pioneering historical research, he is equally known for his innovative work in the fields of learner autonomy, teaching English in difficult circumstances, and teacher-research. In his talk, he will be referring to his experience working with teachers in South Asia and Latin America, and the approaches he has developed with them, namely an 'Enhancement Approach' and 'Exploratory Action Research' as ways for teachers to address difficulties in their classroom situations.

CONTEXTUALIZING RESEARCH IN CHALLENGING TIMES
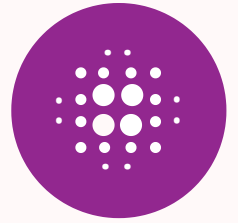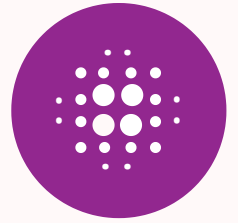
Plenary Session 1

Writing a Literature Review: Going beyond Summarising

In this lecture, I will highlight two integral features of writing a good literature review: how to cite without interrupting the flow, and how to synthesize information. The overall organization of a literature review often suffers from two problems; firstly, while reporting the details from previous studies we often move away from the main arguments, and secondly, the internal connection among the arguments is not established by the author. By presenting actual samples from writings from the same discipline, I will demonstrate how to avoid a mechanical presentation of information, and to bring cohesion to the research writing. The session is expected to be useful to researchers who are already familiar with the basic principles of academic writing, but need to improve on the organization of the literature review in order to publish in distinguished publishing platforms.

Dr. Asifa Sultana is Associate Professor at the Department of English and Humanities, Brac University. Dr. Sultana is an applied linguist working on different aspects of language acquisition that include typical language development, language disorders, and literacy development. She completed her PhD from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand in 2015. In the PhD project, she examined the nature of morphosyntactic development among Bangla-speaking typically- and atypically-developing children. She is currently part of several international research collaborations that examine language development, language loss, language policies, and the relationship between language and gender.

# CONTEXTUALIZING RESEARCH IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Re-searching Ways to Research during Covid-19 Pandemic: Methods, Types and Execution

The Covid-19 pandemic brought with it a Tsunami of unprecedented transitions in nearly every sphere of human life. Both the world of Academia and Research too witnessed their share of a major movement from the traditional methods of Data Collection to the latest technology-based ones. This talk aims at discussing the plausible methods, kinds and techniques of research under the constraints of complete lockdowns, partial lockdowns, and the looming fears of the further spread of the Covid-19 virus. Responsibility towards the consent, health, and safety of one's participants plays a significant role while delving into the ethical concerns of any research work especially those involving indigenous communities. Apart from the issues and challenges faced during online data collection; actual cases of ongoing research work that are being adapted to the current situations will also be discussed.

Dr. Sandesha Rayapa-Garbiyal is an Assistant Professor at JNU's Linguistic Empowerment Cell, specializes in the area of English Language Teaching. With a PhD focusing on Syllabus Design for Communication Skills, she aims to use her experience for running positive, focused and energised classes. She is also the Project Investigator of the first project between JNU & ONGC. Dr. Rayapa has been a Co-Convener of a two-day workshop series every month known as WETOM that has been having over 2000 University faculty participating in every WETOM. Due to her ELT experience, ELTAI and RELO India nominated her as one of the faculty to represent Indian teachers at the TESOL 2020 Virtual Convention and Language Expo. Dr. Rayapa has been a regular resource person for English language training to the ASO (Assistant Section Officers) in the various Ministries of the Indian Government and has now also been appointed as an English Language Expert for testing the English Language Skills of Air Traffic Control Officers (ATCOs) and Pilots of the Airport Authority of India's Northern region.

# CONTEXTUALIZING RESEARCH IN CHALLENGING TIMES
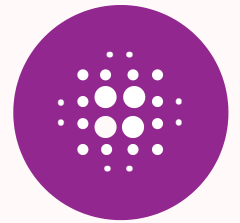
Plenary Session 1

Ethical Issues in TESOL Research: Considerations for Research in Bangladesh and Beyond

Ethics has become an unavoidable and integral part in applied linguistics and English language education research. There are a number of ethical guidelines and checklists; however, in this presentation I argue that ethics should not be merely treated as an official/institutional formality but rather should underpin the entire research process, from theoretical choices, research design, research practices, data collection, issues of data ownership to research dissemination. This is particularly true when undertaking research with participants who might be classified as "vulnerable" and in contexts that might be labelled "fragile". This talk explores some of the ethical tensions that can arise in carrying out research into English language education in such contexts. Based on the experience of being involved in major ELT research projects in Bangladesh and beyond, I identify key ethical dilemmas in conducting research and the ways in which I – with colleagues – have attempted to respond to them. I finish by arguing that as TESOL researchers, we all need to be "ethically literate" and present a set of guidelines that could form the basis of an ethical framework for conducting research in similar contexts (Hultgren et al., 2016).

> Hultgren, A. K., Erling, E. J., & Chowdhury, Q. H. (2016). Ethics in language and identity research. In S. Preece (Ed.), The Routledge Handbook of Language and Identity (pp. 257–271). Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315669816

Professor Elizabeth J. Erling, PhD currently teaches in the Department of English and American Studies at the University of Vienna. From 2017-2020, she was a Professor of English language teaching methodology and research at the University of Graz. Previous to that, she was at the Open University, UK, and worked for a number of years on the English in Action project in Bangladesh. Her research explores issues of equity in English language education, particularly with regard to multilingual students with lower socioeconomic status. She is interested in the nexus between language policy, ideology, and (language) learning.

# CONTEXTUALIZING RESEARCH IN CHALLENGING TIMES
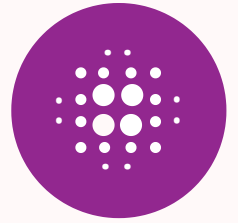
Plenary Session 2

Knowing Thyself: The Pandemic as an Optimised Space for Metacognitive Learning for Graduate Researchers

Our pre-pandemic hubris of touting our times as an advanced digital age has given way to misgivings and scepticism as we slowly realise the limits of technological advances and how our teaching and learning practices have not been able to completely sever from age-old traditions. With unprecedented changes triggered by the global pandemic which saw schools close and move on to online spaces within the span of a few weeks all the world over, there has been a flurry of academic research into student disengagement, better integration of technology and best practices in adaptation of teaching and learning. However, much less attention has been paid to the needs of educators themselves as learners, such as those engaged in the essentially solitary experience of graduate studies, often characterised by writer's block, procrastination, or lack of motivation.

Yet the COVID-19 scenario has opened up splendid and unprecedented opportunities for reflection into our own practices. This presentation critically considers the value of metacognition and self-regulated learning which current circumstances can nurture in unique ways. Much more than just learning to learn, such strategies also activate prior knowledge and make learners become higher-order agents overlooking their own learning while also being part of it, thereby leading to independent and transferable practice. Drawing on anecdotal case studies of the presenter's doctoral students, the presentation will offer insights into ways in which early-career researchers can become effective and self-regulated learners who can take control of their own cognitive and motivational processes in planning, monitoring and evaluating skills and practices.

Dr. Raqib Chowdhury is an academic in the Faculty of Education at Monash University. He taught in the Department of English, University of Dhaka from 1997 to 2004 and then joined the Monash Faculty of Education in 2009 upon completing his PhD in 2008. Raqib has published extensively in the areas of TESOL and ELT, culture and pedagogy, international education, social justice and identity. His current research focuses on social justice issues in education, family language policies, as well as higher education policy reforms. His upcoming book is entitled The Privatisation of Higher Education in Postcolonial Bangladesh: The Politics of Intervention and Control (Routledge, 2021). Originally from Dhaka, Raqib has been living in Australia with his family for more than 20 years.

# CONTEXTUALIZING RESEARCH IN CHALLENGING TIMES
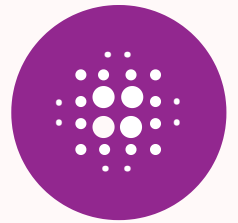
SHELL System: A Learner-Centric Approach to ELT for Challenging the Challenging Time

Think of a situation when English is being reintroduced at the primary level in a state after a gap of 20 years. At this crucial stage, we propose a strategy for developing ELT materials in such a manner that learners can learn English, at the initial stage, on their own with guidance from their mother tongue. We call this Self Help English Language Learning (SHELL) system. This new strategy is adopted on an experimental basis to develop ELT text materials for the new generation of learners who are exposed to English for the first time in life at a primary level. We assume that learners, for whom this method is proposed, have acquired a certain amount of skill in their mother tongue and are sent to schools to learn English as a second language. We also envisage that learners receive no academic help or tutorial support from their parents, as they are mostly first-generation learners. At present we have completed a pronunciation module for English vowel graphemes and consonants with inputs from digitally accessible British English speech corpora. We devised an interface based on CALT, in which learners utilise computer-assisted learning devices in a classroom situation with passive assistance from teachers. The resource and the device that we propose here can guide learners to acquire a high level of competence in English within an interactive learner-centric interface linked to their mother tongue.

Dr. Niladri Sekhar Dash is Professor and Head, Linguistic Research Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata. He works in the areas of Corpus Linguistics and Language Technology, Language Documentation and Digitization, Computational Lexicography, Computer Assisted Language Teaching, Digital Ethnography. He is a Visiting Fellow of the British Academy, UK (2018), University of Reading, UK (2018-2021), and University of Oxford, UK (2019-2022). He has published 17 books and 260 research papers in international and national journals, anthologies and conference proceedings. https://sites.google.com/site/nsdashisi/home/
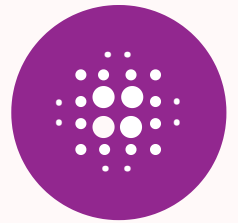
# CONTEXTUALIZING RESEARCH IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Digital Ethnography, Ethnographic Sensibility, and Social Transformation

The computer-mediated multi-modal environment of digital spaces affords different types of meaning-making processes for individual and collective engagements. Meaning-making processes are not always restricted to specific linguistic features. Other multimodal resources, such as images, music videos, photographs, memes, GIF, emoticons, links to news articles or YouTube videos, tag lines and characters from popular culture are used for meaning-making processes. However, sociolinguistics research studies in Bangladesh have not adequately explored the meaning-making processes in digital spaces, missing out on opportunities of exploring how social dynamics are linguistically and multimodally constructed within the emergent spatial realities of digital spaces in the 21st Century Bangladesh. There are only a few research studies on digital discourses by Sultana (2014, 2015a, 2015b, 2016, 2018a, 2018b, 2019a, 2019b) in the context of Bangladesh.

In this presentation, hence, the theoretical underpinnings of ethnographic research, the processes involved in the research design, and the steps required for participant observations, interviews, and other data collection methods, such as capturing chatlogs and screenshots and collecting video, audio, and virtual artefacts, will be explained. The significance of maintaining the ethical boundaries in digital ethnography will be described. The data analysis processes with 'ethnographic sensibility' will be briefly discussed. At the end, some sample research studies will be shared in order to show the role of digital ethnography in social transformation.

Shaila Sultana, PhD is Professor and the former Head of the Department of English Language at the Institute of Modern Languages, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. She is one of the Founder Members of CIRCLED (Center for Integrated Research on Culture, Language, Education, and Development). She is also the Advisor of Applied Linguistics and TESOL and the CLS (Center for Language Studies) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh.

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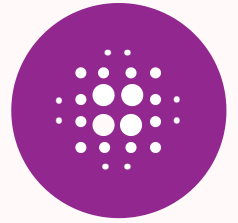
Plenary Session 2

Professor Shaila Sultana, PhD, has been educated at Jahangirnagar University (Dhaka), Monash University (Melbourne), King's College (London), and UTS (Sydney). Her research interests include- trans approaches to language and identity, teacher education, sociolinguistics, sociology, critical geography, and the historical and sociocultural significance of English in post-colonial countries. She has authored numerous articles in renowned international applied linguistics journals, starting from Linguistics and Education to Journal of Sociolinguistics. Her co-authored book titled Popular Culture, Voice and Linguistic Diversity has recently been published from Macmillan, Palgrave (UK). She has also published several book chapters on gender performativity, critical awareness, and multimodal resources of advertisements and virtual spaces from Routledge (UK) and Multilingual Matters (USA). She is also the Chief Editor of Routledge Handbook of English Language Education in Bangladesh (Routledge UK, in press).

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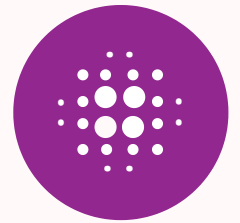
Workshop Session

Systematic Reviewing – from Selection to Publication: Dos and Don'ts

The workshop is designed for postgraduate researchers and practitioners interested in learning about the rationale, step-by-step process and challenges of conducting a systematic review and publishing it. The workshop is built around working experience from a 'Classroom Dialogue' project at the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge. The workshop is organised into three major sections. First, I describe the process by which we selected the studies reviewed and introduce the initial themes we used to categorise the recent literature on classroom dialogue. I then explore in depth each of the themes and the studies that support them. Finally, from the current, detailed, and systematic look at the studies on this topic, and the empirical evidence and underlying beliefs with which they support their ideas, I identify areas for potential dialogue and future research. Activities include short presentations, small group work, and discussions covering the entire systematic review process.

Dr. Manzoorul Abedin is Senior Lecturer in Education and Society at University of West London, and collaborates with University of Cambridge and Canterbury Christ Church University for two funded large-scale research projects that support teacher professional development and research-informed practice. Manzoor's doctoral work at University of Cambridge (2014) was in English in education policies in SL/FL contexts, and since then, his key interests have been sociological variables, classroom dialogue, quality education and knowledge mobilisation. He has published a book recently from Routledge and his research papers are published in high-impact journals such as British Educational Research Journal, Language and Education and Cambridge Journal of Education. Manzoor taught English in Bangladeshi universities for a few years before moving to the UK. He is a now Higher Education Academy UK-approved teaching fellow and has championed pedagogic innovation and reflective practice.

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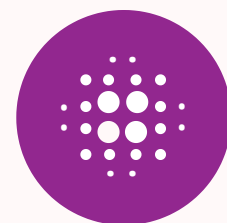
Need for Contextualization in Research in Relation to English Language Education

The presentation is about issues related to the training of English language teachers. There are numerous areas that a teacher-researcher can explore, however, I have tried to highlight some key areas of research for English language teachers at the university level. The areas highlighted are the following:

(i) Development of the concepts of communicative competence from that of Chomskyan 'linguistic competence' and its implications;

(ii) The relationship of the concept of communicative competence with issues related to cognition and language teaching, which involve curriculum formation, syllabus design and classroom teaching;

(iii) Issues related to language assessment and testing in the light classroom observation and feedback have also been touched upon.

Of course, there will be other areas of language pedagogy, such as the independence of the learner and life-long learning, etc. which will also be implicated in the presentation.

Though I have not been able to touch on the use of internet and allied technologies for enabling research during the present-day pandemic times, it is necessary to suggest the exploration of available technologies for conducting research online, and to use data available online for significant comparisons, evaluation and even for making significant generalizations.

Dr. Ravinder Gargesh is currently Professor & Head, Department of English at the Samarkand State University, Samarkand, Uzbekistan. He is the former Professor & Head of the Department of Linguistics, Centre for Advanced Studies in Linguistics, at the University of Delhi, Delhi. He has also served as Visiting Professor at the Centre for Linguistics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, and also at Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. For three years he also served as an invited Professor at the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul, South Korea.

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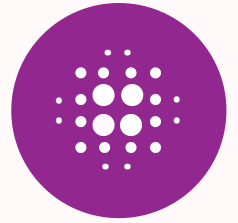
Keynote Speech (DAY 2, 19 December 2020)

His areas of interest are Linguistic Stylistics, Language Teaching, Translation Studies, Phonology and Lexicography. He has published 03 books, edited 09 books, and has compiled & edited with a team 06 volumes out of the 12 planned of the Persian–Hindi-English-Urdu dictionary (Farhang-e-Aryan). He also has over 70 research articles in national and international journals in the areas of Linguistic Stylistics, Applied Linguistics, Lexicology, Translation Studies & Phonology. He is currently the elected President of the International organization Asia TEFL (Association of the Teachers of English as a Foreign/Second Language in Asia) for the term 2020-2022.

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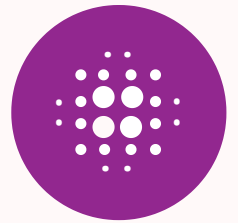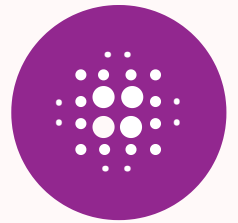
Plenary Session 3

Publishing Your Practices in TESOL: The Question of 'What' and 'How'

Teaching and learning are not static but dynamic. This means that new pedagogical practices should dictate how TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) is approached, leading to the scholarship of teaching, especially in contexts that are challenging. By doing so, the teaching fraternity would benefit through the sharing of innovative ideas, critical discussion of the said innovations and further reconfiguration of ideas through continuous research and publication. This paper puts forward the notion that teachers would be able to improve their teaching and learning by engaging in the scholarship of teaching – particularly by experimenting, researching, and publishing new pedagogical ideas. The presenter will share and demonstrate the above notion, focusing on the practices and strategies of teaching-learning, researching, and publishing.

Professor Dr. Muhammad Kamarul Kabilan has been teaching at the School of Educational Studies, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Penang since 2004. His research interests include ICT and English Language Education and, professional development and critical practices of teachers. He has published widely in his area of research in reputable journals such as TESOL Quarterly, British Journal of Educational Technology, Computer and Education, The Internet and Higher Education, Professional Development in Education, and Teaching and Teacher Education. Currently, he is an Editorial board member for the British Journal of Educational Technology (SSCI) and Malaysian Journal of Learning & Instruction (SCOPUS) He can be contacted via email: kabilan@usm.my

# CONTEXTUALIZING RESEARCH IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Plenary Session 3

Incorporating Objective Methods in Phonetics Research: The Context of Bangladesh

Phonetics research in Bangladesh in recent decades has been mostly focused on impressionistic data where researchers code the collected data based on their perceptual impressions of what properties of sounds they can detect. This method of working with phonetic data can often fail to identify subtle properties of speech sounds since a person's ability to perceive acoustic properties beyond the phonemes in their native language(s) is very limited (cf. Best, 1994; Tyler et al., 2014). This talk advocates the incorporation of tools and approaches that can offer more objectivity in terms of the coding and interpretation of speech sound properties in phonetics studies, an approach that needs to be welcomed in the context of Bangladesh. Alongside a conceptual discussion, the talk will offer a quick introduction to Praat (Boersma & Weenink, 2018), a speech analysis software, as a tool to extract phonetic parameters from speech sounds.

Jahurul Islam, PhD is a linguist with an interest in articulatory and acoustic phonetics, phonology, sociophonetics, and quantitative approaches to linguistics studies. Mr. Islam received his Ph.D. from Georgetown University, Washington, DC, USA in 2019. Before that, he completed his M.A. in Linguistics from NC State University, North Carolina, USA as a Fulbright scholar.

Prior to his graduate studies in the USA, Mr. Islam taught at Comilla University and Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh. Currently, he works as a Lecturer in the Department of Linguistics at the University of British Columbia, Canada.

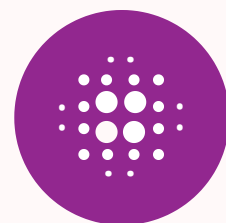# CONTEXTUALIZING RESEARCH IN CHALLENGING TIMES
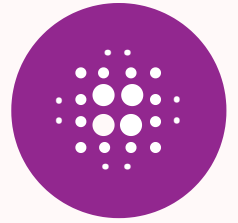
Research-based Case Studies: A Critical-Narrative Approach to Evaluating Academic Innovations amidst Disruptions

Research-based case studies within the education discipline are a robust research method involving systematic evaluation of the respective learning contexts and associated actors. In my talk, I shed light on the strengths and limitations of such a structured study approach and link it with the perspectives of English language education in Bangladesh.

The systematic evaluation of innovative or non-traditional academic activities is essential for recognising the feasibility and sustainability of the extraordinary educational environments and activities. In my talk, I refer to my forthcoming co-edited collection in which authors from different countries and academic disciplines explore academic innovations in higher education during the COVID-19 pandemic. The chapters are based on research-based and narrative case studies enriched with robust appraisals of academic policies and practices during the unprecedented educational disruption. In addition to explaining some approaches to context evaluation as the key research method, I share ways to present research findings in traditional cases.

Dr. Jamil is Researcher in the Transforming the Experience of Students through Assessment (TESTA), a flagship education enhancement exercise informed by research, at the University of Bristol, UK. He has taught academic programmes and managed the Professional Development Centre at BRAC University in Bangladesh, and worked as Research Fellow (Research-informed Teaching) at Solent University in the UK. His research interests include technology-enhanced learning; research-informed teaching; applied pedagogies; internationalisation of higher education; educational context evaluation; and language education. Dr Jamil is a Senior Fellow of the Advance HE/ Higher Education Academy UK.

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Round-table Discussion

Theme: Contextualizing Research in Challenging Times

Dr. Richard Smith
University of Warwick
United Kingdom

Shaila Sultana, PhD
University of Dhaka
Bangladesh

Dr. Sayeedur Rahman
University of Dhaka
Bangladesh

Dr. Ravinder Gargesh
Samarkand State University
Uzbekistan

Manzoorul Abedin, PhD
University of West London
United Kingdom

Tasnima Aktar, PhD
Comilla University
Bangladesh

Dr. Mohammad Golam Jamil
University of Bristol
United Kingdom

Md. Al Amin, PhD
BRAC University
Bangladesh

Dr. Asifa Sultana
BRAC University
Bangladesh

Mr. Hamidul Haque, MPhil
American International University
Bangladesh

Dr. Sandesha Rayapa-Garbiyal
Jawaharlal Nehru University
India

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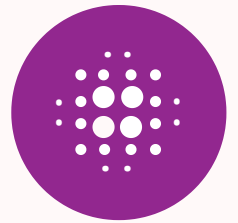
TESOL Quick Fire Presentation

TESOL Quick Fire Presentation Competition

Category: Masters Research

Research Topic: An Evaluation of Tertiary Level EAP (English for Academic Purpose) Materials Used in Private Universities of Bangladesh
Researcher: Talbia Islam

Research Topic: Domain-Based Language Use and Linguistic Landscape: A Case Study on the Bihari community in Dhaka
Researcher: Moumita Akter

Research Topic: A textual analysis of voice constructions in Algonquian languages
Researcher: Kuntala Shabnam Parama

Category: PhD Research

Research Topic: Action Research in English for Specific Purposes: English Language for the Students of Health Science Area in Bangladesh
Researcher: Liza Sharmin

Research Topic: English in the Bangladeshi rural context: a ladder or a barrier to the socio-economic development?
Researcher: Saleh Ahmad

Research Topic: Motivation and English Language Learning at the Tertiary Level of Education in Bangladesh
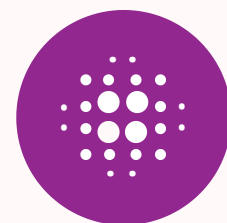Researcher: Kazi Dawood Hafiz

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TESOL Quick Fire Presentation

TESOL Quick Fire Presentation Competition: Winning Presentation Synopsis and Bio

Category: Masters Research

Domain-Based Language Use and Linguistic Landscape: A Case Study on the Bihari Community in Dhaka

Abstract:

Biharis face difficulties in accessing their basic rights in the Bengali society due to their differences in language, tradition, culture (Persoob 2014). In this backdrop, to which extent Biharis can access their linguistic rights is a matter of concern; an issue that have been neglected since forever. So, this study aims to explore the domain-based language use and linguistic landscape in the Bihari community. And, special attention will be paid to the role of Bangla language in affecting the language use of Biharis. This study will employ interview, observation, field notes and photographing in the tradition of mixed method. Both male and female participants will be chosen using purposive sampling from two Bihari camps inside Dhaka namely Geneva Camp and Town Hall Camp. The number of participants will be 20 to 25.

Bio:

My name is Moumita Akter. Currently, I am pursuing my master's degree in TESOL at Institute of Modern languages in University of Dhaka. My ultimate goal is to enlighten others with my knowledge through teaching. Moreover, my ambition is to improve the teaching and learning process doing research. Until now, I have presented my two research work in two different regional and international conferences. In addition, I have experiences working as a leader in research groups.

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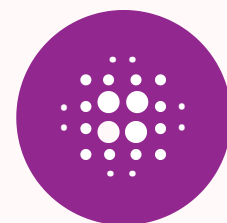
TESOL Quick Fire Presentation

TESOL Quick Fire Presentation Competition Winning Synopsis and Bio

Category: PhD Research

Action Research in English for Specific Purposes: English Language for the Students of Health Science Area in Bangladesh

Abstract:

The core of the research is to design a tailor-made ESP course for the students of health science area in Bangladesh. Students of this area experience difficulties while use English language due to insufficient vocabulary, grammar-rules, fluency and accuracy. The study attempts to analyze the register and discourse of their language of academic and professional areas to assess their needs, to design syllabus and finally to develop materials. A mixed-methods approach was adopted to complete the procedure. Two sets (pre and post-test) of data were collected through preset questionnaires (and oral interview) from randomly selected 300 learners. Findings of this action research proves that such a tailor-made course consists of vocabulary, jargons and contexts from the learners' domain-specific area can successfully bridge their domain specific academic and professional usages with their English language proficiency.

Bio:

Liza Sharmin has completed her B.A (Hons.) and M.A in English Literature and Language from Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh. She is an Associate Professor, Department of English, Daffodil International University. She had previously been teaching in the Department of English Language and Literature (as Senior Assistant Professor and Head, last position) at Gono Bishwabidyalay (University) for fourteen years. She has been teaching English Literature, ESP and Linguistics to the students majoring in English. Her research area is Applied Linguistics and ESP. She has presented papers in various national and international conferences. She is very interested in translation. Some of her translations were published in national dailies. She has published books on English Language and ESP, and research papers in academic journals.
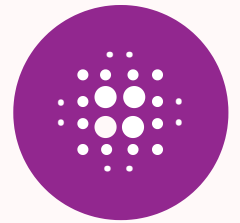
She is waiting for her PhD degree to be awarded by Syndicate Committee as the auspicious degree has already been conferred by 118th Academic Council of Islamic University on 23th February 2020.

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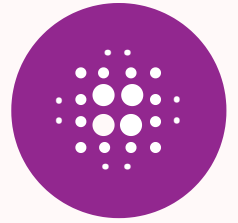
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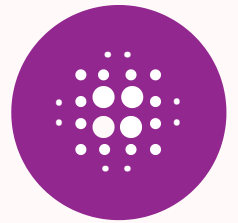
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