

# TESOL CONNECTS

Newsletter of TESOL Society of Bangladesh



**TESOL SOCIETY OF BANGLADESH:  
AN ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED  
LINGUISTICS**

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## **Let's Talk Research: Exploring the Frontiers of Knowledge**

*TESOL Society of Bangladesh has launched a series called 'Let's Talk Research' in line with its vision of maintaining a steadfast commitment to research and innovation, and then disseminating all that is learned and discovered. This series embodies this vision, serving as an illuminating platform where researchers, experts, and inquisitive minds converge to kindle the flames of intellectual discourse.*

*The resource persons and speakers are some of the brightest minds in the fields of ELT, Linguistics, Literature, Cultural Studies as well as the interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary fields in between, and share their findings as they navigate through their research.*

*Through the ‘Let’s Talk Research Series’, budding researchers and fledgling scholars will find a haven for cutting-edge research and innovative pedagogies, and profound insights to be shared meant to inspire and propel further lines of inquiry.*

*These webinars cover a fascinating range of topics, spanning from English language teaching policy in Bangladesh through an economic lens, to an exploration into the Mystification of Bauls, to a Knowledge Mobilization Project on Research and Practice in TESOL. Each of our speakers share their motivations for focusing on their particular research areas, the challenges they faced, and where their research has led them for their future endeavors.*

*From their stories, we hope that novice researchers and aspiring scholars will gather the courage to dive into lesser-known areas of research and discover and divulge something new, as they hone their skills and develop as professionals.*



## Let's Talk Research Series 1: Webinar on “Researching English Language Teaching Policy in Bangladesh”

Dr Md. Maksud Ali  
Sessional Academic,  
School of Education  
The University of Queensland, Australia



*The Research SIG of TESOL Society of Bangladesh, in collaboration with the Department of English Studies, State University of Bangladesh successfully launched the first ‘Let’s Talk Research’ series, as an initiative to spark discussions among English Language practitioners, academics, researchers, and aspiring researchers updated with the latest knowledge to contribute to the field with their ideas and research skills.*

*The webinar was conducted by Dr Md. Maksud Ali, a Sessional Academic at the School of Education at the University of Queensland, Australia. In his talk on “Researching English language teaching policy in Bangladesh from a political economic perspective”, Dr. Maksud Ali discussed the problematic implications of neoliberal globalization on education policies in Bangladesh. After a lively round of questions, the informative session ended with a riveting discussion with Dr Mian Md. Naushaad Kabir, Associate Professor, Institute of Modern Languages, University of Dhaka.*

*The webinar started with a welcome speech by Hamidul Haque, Assistant Professor & Head, Department of English, American International University Bangladesh and Vice-President of TESOL Society of Bangladesh who welcomed the participants and introduced the ‘Let’s Talk Research’ Series. This was followed by the official inauguration of the series by the Chief Guest Professor Dr Md. Anwarul Kabir, Vice Chancellor, State University of Bangladesh, thanked TESOL society for organizing the event, emphasizing the need for postgraduate studies and research in academia.*

## **Let's Talk Research Series 1: Webinar on “Researching English Language Teaching Policy in Bangladesh”**

*Touhida Easmin Humaira, Assistant Professor & Acting Head, Department of English Studies, SUB then touched briefly on the collaboration between TESOL Society of Bangladesh and State University of Bangladesh, initiated by Professor Dr Sayeedur Rahman, President of TESOL Society since his joining the Department of English Studies as Advisor in 2020. The first session ended with a brief speech by the Special Guest Dr Raqib Chowdhury, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Education, Monash University, Australia who stressed the interdisciplinary nature of ELT in Bangladesh.*

## Let's Talk Research Series 2: Decoding the Myth of 'Mystics': The Exotification and Misrepresentation of Baul Culture and Communities

Golam Rabbani  
Assistant Professor  
School of Creative Industries  
Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada



TESOL Society of Bangladesh, in collaboration with the Department of English Studies, State University of Bangladesh organized the second session of the collaborative 'Let's Talk Research' series on October 30th, 2022. An initiative to spark discussions among English Language practitioners, academics, researchers, and English students, the series covers recent research publications, awarded PhD or projects in English Literature, ELT/TESOL, and Education. It works as a platform for research enthusiasts to informally discuss their work and aims to keep academics, English Language practitioners, and aspiring researchers updated with the latest knowledge to contribute to the field with their ideas and research skills.

The webinar was conducted by Golam Rabbani, PhD, an Assistant Professor at the School of Creative Industries, Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada. In his talk "Decoding the Myth of 'Mystics': The Exotification and Misrepresentation of Baul Culture and Communities", Dr Golam Rabbani addressed the misrepresentation of bauls by Western scholars and Bengali elites. He also elaborated on several prevalent misconceptions about the Baul community as well as how to engage with them without exoticizing or exploiting them. A lively round of questions and answers between the many participants and Dr. Golam Rabbani followed and the informative session ended with an engaging discussion with Dr Faheem Hasan Shahed, Director, the Center for Language Studies, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh and Dr Md. Habibur Rahman, Associate Professor, Department of English, Comilla University.

## **Let's Talk Research Series 2: Decoding the Myth of 'Mystics': The Exotification and Misrepresentation of Baul Culture and Communities**

*The webinar started with a welcome speech by Hamidul Haque, Assistant Professor & Head, Department of English, American International University Bangladesh and Vice-President of TESOL Society of Bangladesh who welcomed the participants and introduced the 'Let's Talk Research' Series. Touhida Easmin Humaira, Assistant Professor & Acting Head, Department of English Studies, SUB then touched briefly on the collaboration between TESOL Society of Bangladesh and State University of Bangladesh, initiated by Professor Dr. Sayeedur Rahman, President of TESOL Society since his joining the Department of English Studies as Advisor in 2020.*

## Let's Talk Research Series 3: Journey from Harishabha to the University of Oxford: The Story of an Indomitable Youth

Mizanur Rahman  
Assistant Professor  
Institute of Modern Languages  
University of Dhaka



*In continuation of the initiative to spark academic interest among English Language practitioners, academics, researchers, and English students TESOL Society of Bangladesh in collaboration with the Department of English Studies, State University of Bangladesh, organized the third session of the*

*Let's Talk Research series on November 15th, 2022. The series aims to share knowledge about recent research publications, awarded PhD or projects in English Literature, ELT/TESOL, and Education. This session was geared towards students and emphasized the untold struggles and achievements on an academic journey to ignite their enthusiasm and motivate them to believe in their abilities and endless possibilities.*

*The session started with a welcome speech by Touhida Easmin Humaira, Assistant Professor and Acting Head, Department of English Studies, SUB. The Vice-Chancellor of State University of Bangladesh, Professor Dr Md. Anwarul Kabir graced the session as the Chief Guest.*

*The resource person for this session was Mizanur Rahman, Lecturer, Institute of Modern Languages, University of Dhaka. In his talk "Journey from Harishabha to the University of Oxford: The Story of an Indomitable Youth", Mizanur Rahman shared his life story that started with a humble background, health issues, and countless challenges. His course of life from Harishabha to the University of Oxford pointed to the need to acquire skills, the power of determination, and the importance of mainstream academics to achieve goals in the future. As a recognized Best Fulbright Scholar, he accentuated the power of optimism in life which allows an individual to combine knowledge,*

## **Let's Talk Research Series 3: Journey from Harishabha to the University of Oxford: The Story of an Indomitable Youth**

*skills, and a positive attitude to turn rejection into success.*

*Afterward, students took part in a lively question-and-answer session with Mr. Mizanur Rahman about his challenges, achievements, and experiences abroad.*



## Let's Talk Research Series 4: Research and Practice in TESOL: Insights from a Knowledge Mobilization Project

Anwar Ahmed  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Language and Literacy Education  
The University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, Canada



TESOL Society of Bangladesh, in collaboration with the Department of English Studies (DES), State University of Bangladesh (SUB) successfully held the fourth session in the Let's Talk Research' series, an initiative to spark discussions among English Language practitioners, academics, researchers, and English students. A series covering recent research publications, awarded PhD or projects in English Literature, ELT/TESOL, and Education, it provides a platform for research enthusiasts to discuss their work informally and aims to keep academics, English Language practitioners, and aspiring researchers updated with the latest knowledge to contribute to the field with their ideas and research skills.

Anwar Ahmed, an Assistant Professor from the Department of Language and Literacy Education, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada conducted the webinar. In his talk on "Research and Practice in TESOL: Insights from a Knowledge Mobilization Project", the facilitator discussed ideas pertaining to research utilization, research mobilization, and the gap between research and practice when teaching English. He also talked about what happens when research-based knowledge is applied to pedagogical practice and his work on how research can be useful for teachers.

The webinar started with a speech by Touhida Easmin Humaira, Assistant Professor & Acting Head, DES, SUB, who welcomed the participants and introduced the 'Let's Talk Research' initiative, as well as the longstanding collaboration between DES and TESOL Society of Bangladesh. Hamidul

## **Let's Talk Research Series 4: Research and Practice in TESOL: Insights from a Knowledge Mobilization Project**

*Haque, Assistant Professor & Head, Department of English, American International University Bangladesh and Vice-President of TESOL Society of Bangladesh followed up the talk with a riveting discussion on the topic.*

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## KEEPING IN TOUCH

The vision of the Society is to establish an engaging platform for professionals working in the field of TESOL/Applied Linguistics and other allied disciplines to participate in constructive dialogue with one another and with recent developments to strengthen the impact of the field in the community. The Society can help you to remain connected to fellow applied linguists through regular interaction and collaboration with the members.

## BECOME A MEMBER

- Student membership: BDT 200/- (BDT 200/- yearly renewal fee)
- Life Membership: BDT 3000/- (One time) (BDT 2000/- if registered in a group of 5 members)
- General membership: Fees 1000 (BDT 500/- yearly renewal fee)
- Associate Membership: 5000 BDT (500 BDT discount if registered in a group of 10) (BDT 500/- yearly renewal fee for regional membership or collective members of a regional EL association)
- Institutional Membership: Departments of English of any school, college, etc.
- Fill out the Registration Form
- Submit a copy of PP Photograph & NID

## ENGAGE WITH THE SOCIETY!



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<https://www.youtube.com/@tesolsocietyofbangladesh6052>

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Applied Linguistics