



Department of English and Humanities

**UNIVERSITY OF LIBERAL ARTS
BANGLADESH**

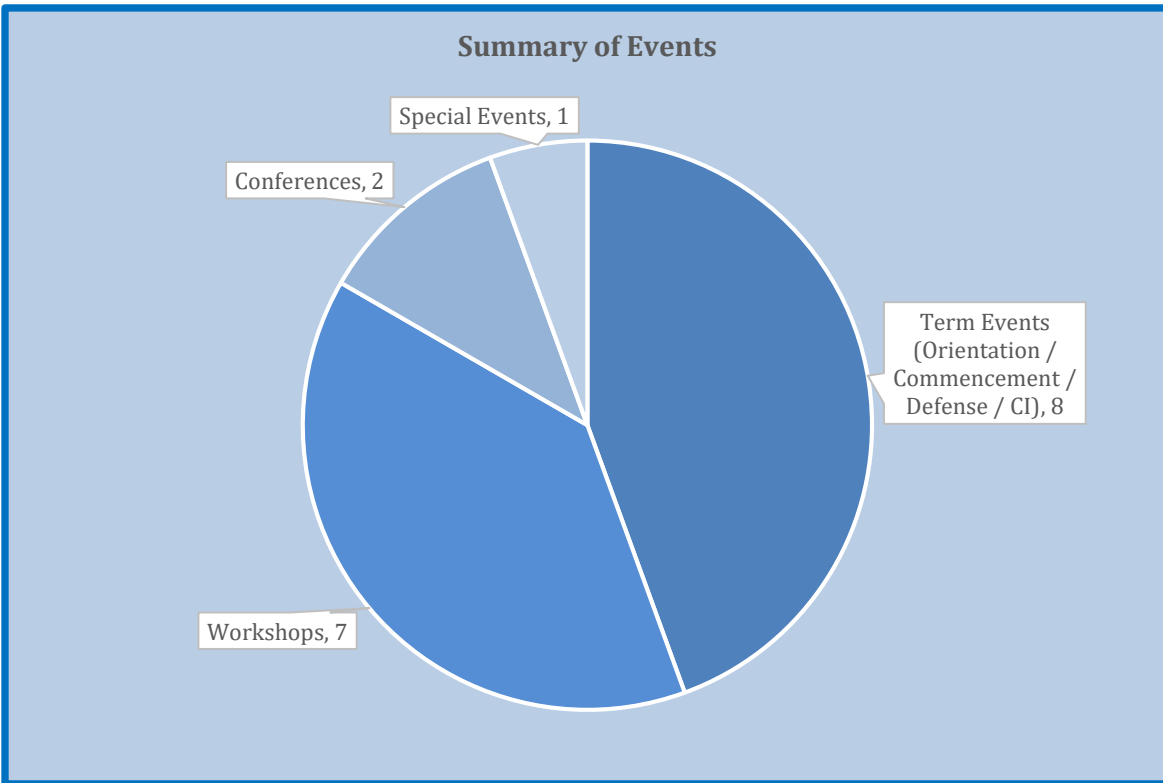
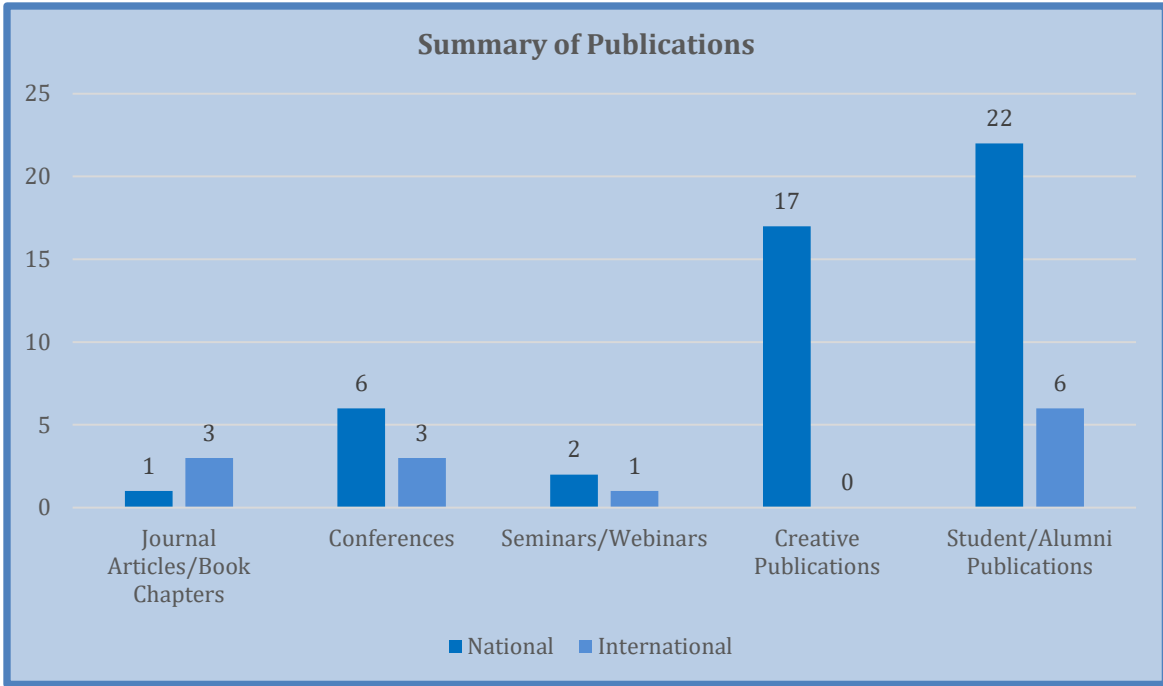
Publications and Events Report

Fall 2023

(September 22, 2023 – January 11, 2024)

Table of Contents

Publications and Events Summary	2
Publications	
Journal Articles/Book Chapters	4
Conferences	4
Seminars/Webinars	5
Non-Academic and Creative Publications	5
Student/Alumni Publications, Presentations, and Achievements	6
Events Report	
Event 1: DEH Fall 2023 Orientation	10
Event 2: Curriculum Integration Fall 2023: Forum One	14
Event 3: Curriculum Integration Fall 2023: Forum Two	15
Event 4: 9 th Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition	16
Event 5: Seven Mandatory DEH Final Term Student Workshops	21
Recommendation Letters: Ground Rules	21
Writing Statements of Purpose	22
Job Hunting and Networking	23
Writing CVs and Cover Letters	24
Interview Skills	25
Presentation Skills	25
So, What's Next?	26
Event 6: Special Issue Launch of <i>Critical Inquiry in Language Studies</i>	27
Event 7: DEH Graduate Student Seminar Fall 2023	29
Event 8: Curriculum Integration Fall 2023 Final Project Showcase	31
Event 9: National Symposium – English Connects	33
Event 10: BA and MA Thesis Defense	39
Event 11: Fall 2023 Commencement and Certificate-Giving Ceremony	42



Publications

Journal Articles/Book Chapters

International

Rafi, A.S.M. Book Review: *Multilingual Perspectives on Translanguaging and The Invention of Multilingualism*. *Applied Linguistics*, 2023.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/applin/amad052>. [Scopus indexed]

Manzoor, S.R. & **Al Mahmud, A.** (2023). Analyzing Push and Pull Factors for the Sustainable Impact of Inbound International Muslims in Malaysia: An Emerging Diaspora of Integrated Transnational Islam. In Ahmet Köroğlu & Baptiste Brodard (Eds.), *Transnational Islam and Muslim Politics: Policies, Identities, and Ideologies* (pp.19-40). **Istanbul University Press**. DOI:
[10.26650/B/SS30AA25.2024.003.002](https://doi.org/10.26650/B/SS30AA25.2024.003.002).

Rahman, Nadia. "Dilruba Z. Ara." *The Literary Encyclopedia*. First published 27 November 2023. <https://www.litencyc.com/php/speople.php?rec=true&UID=14677>.

National

Haq, Kaiser. "The Perpetual Catwalk of Modernity: The Show Seen from Bangladesh." *Crossings: A Journal of English Studies*, vol. 14 (2023), pp. 8-15.
<https://doi.org/10.59817/cjes.v14i.477>.

Conferences

International

Nahiyan, Sheikh. **Presenter**. "Stakeholders' Perspectives about Undergraduate EAP Courses in Bangladesh: Current Practices for Quality Improvement." *InPaC 2023 Conference*. School of Languages, Literacies and Translation, University of Science, Malaysia. December 1, 2023.

Haq, Kaiser. **Keynote Speaker**. "Crisis as Normality: Some Observations with Particular Reference to South Asia." *Crisis and/in South Asian Literature in English*, Department of English, Tezpur University, Assam, India. December 14-16, 2023.

Mortuza, Shamsad. **Plenary Speaker**. *Climate Change and Cultural Representations: Australian and Indian Perspectives*, Department of English and Culture Studies, The University of Burdwan, Golapbag, Burdwan, India. January 10-11, 2024.

National

Nahiyan, Sheikh and Arifa Ghani Rahman. **Presenters**. "Academic Integrity and Artificial Intelligence: The Ethical Dilemma of Assessment in Writing-Intensive Courses." *Osmosis 2023: Liberal Arts and AI Ecosystem 3rd Conference*, Department of English, East Delta University, Chattogram, Bangladesh. September 27, 2023.

Islam, Syed Manzoorul. **Keynote Speaker.** Entrepreneur Summit. “From Poetry to Passion: English for Innovation in an Entreprennaissance Era.” State University of Bangladesh. October 27, 2023.

Haq, Kaiser. **Keynote Speaker.** “Connecting the Dots.” *National Symposium: English Connects*, Department of English and Humanities, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. December 8, 2023.

Mortuza, Shamsad. **Plenary Speaker.** “Stories Beyond Armageddon: Rethinking Human and Nonhuman Interdependency.” *National Symposium: English Connects*, Department of English and Humanities, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. December 8, 2023.

Islam, Syed Manzoorul. **Plenary Speaker.** “English Studies in the Digital World: Restoring Human Connection.” *National Symposium: English Connects*, Department of English and Humanities, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. December 8, 2023.

Rafi, Abu Saleh Mohammad. **Plenary Speaker.** “Monolingual University Meets Multilingual Students: Connection, Disconnection and Translinguistic Fiesta.” *National Symposium: English Connects*, Department of English and Humanities, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. December 8, 2023.

Seminars/Webinars

International

Hasan, Md. Mahadhi. **Workshop Resource Person.** “Connecting Bangladeshi Software Engineers: Issues Related to Cross-cultural Communication.” Othello Japan, Japan. January 5, 2024.

National

Mortuza, Shamsad. **Speaker.** “Research in Literature: Importance and Relevance of Fieldwork.” Department of English, SUST. September 23, 2023.

Haq, Kaiser. Book Talk with Zafar Sobhan. University Press Limited, Dhaka. December 22, 2023.

Non-Academic and Creative Publications

National

Mortuza, Shamsad. “[Easy, Tiger! Hold your horses.](#)” *The Daily Star*. September 23, 2023.

Mortuza, Shamsad. “[Ranking race: Can’t live with them, can’t live without them.](#)” *The Daily Star*. September 30, 2023.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[From apathy to activism: Who's gonna clean my lake?](#)" *The Daily Star*. October 7, 2023.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[Unlocking the secrets of 'Khufiya'.](#)" *The Daily Star*. October 14, 2023.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[The war on error.](#)" *The Daily Star*. October 21, 2023.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[Mind the gap in centralised university admissions.](#)" *The Daily Star*. October 28, 2023.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[The Tigers' missed opportunity to unite a nation.](#)" *The Daily Star*. November 3, 2023.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[Unmasking the cinematic charade of 'Jawan'.](#)" *The Daily Star*. November 11, 2023.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[The statistics that hide our poor education system.](#)" *The Daily Star*. November 17, 2023.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[All the King's Men.](#)" *The Daily Star*. November 24, 2023.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[Girls are doing great in HSC, but what about the boys?](#)" *The Daily Star*. December 1, 2023.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[AI, AI, Captain: Will machines end our creativity?](#)" *The Daily Star*. December 8, 2023.

Islam, Syed Manzoorul. "[Muktijuddher Chetona Houk Mulmontro.](#)" *Bhorer Kagoj*. December 16, 2023.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[Bangladesh's journey beyond Cold War realpolitik.](#)" *The Daily Star*. December 16, 2023.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[The perils of our English education.](#)" *The Daily Star*. December 22, 2023.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[Living with fear and searching for hope.](#)" *The Daily Star*. January 1, 2024.

Mortuza, Shamsad. "[I Like America and America Likes Me'.](#)" *The Daily Star*. January 6, 2024.

Student/Alumni Publications, Presentations, and Achievements

International

Banu, Jainab T. **Award.** Library Fellow, NDSU Library. Fall 2023, North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota, USA (\$500). September 2023

Banu, Jainab T. **Presenter.** "Identity Narrative: Get Your Voice and Forget the Bias". TYCAMW-2023 conference: Blank Slate. North Dakota State College for Sciences, Wahpeton, North Dakota, 13 October 2023.

Banu, Jainab T. **Presenter.** "Navigating the Digital Frontier: Harnessing the Potential of ChatGPT through Teacher Training and Professional Development". "Writing,

Thinking, and Learning with AI: Exploring Relationships of Rhetoric and Artificial Intelligence”, The Program in Writing and Rhetoric at Stony Brook University and the SUNY Council on Writing (on zoom), 14 October 2023.

Banu, Jainab T. **Conference Travel Award.** English Department Travel Award for Presenting a Paper at the 55 th NeMLA convention, Department of English, North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota, USA (\$1000). Approved in October 2023.

Mortuza, Arshi. “[Stepsister Syndrome](#).” *Borderless Journal*. November 14, 2023.

Mortuza, Arshi. “[The Crawler](#).” *KITAAB*. December 10, 2023.

National

Shetu, Shahriyer Hossain. “[A Bus Ride or a Comedy Show?](#)” *The Daily Star*. October 14, 2023.

Chowdhury, Salwah. “[Books with playlists: A new trend among contemporary authors?](#)” *The Daily Star*. October 15, 2023.

Chowdhury, Amreeta Letha. **Presenter.** “Against Assimilations: Literature as a Tool of Retaining and Reclaiming Trans and Gender Diverse Identity in Bangladesh.” 9th DEH Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition. October 19-20, 2023.

Banu, Jainab T. “[A Tale of Two Educational Systems: Bangladesh and USA](#).” *The Daily Sun*, 27 October 2023.

Chowdhury, Salwah. “[Last Visit](#).” *The Daily Star*. October 29, 2023.

Banu, Jainab T. “[PUDS: An Exemplary Debating Society](#).” *The Daily Sun*, 2 November 2023.

Banu, Jainab T. “[History of High Heels and One Dance Performance](#).” *The Daily Sun*, 5 November 2023.

Banu, Jainab T. “[Develop Critical Reading Skills](#).” *The Daily Sun*, 9 November 2023.

Mortuza, Arshi. “[A Pressed Flower](#).” *The Daily Star*. November 11, 2023.

Banu, Jainab T. “[Justice for Karar Oi Louho Kopat](#).” *The Daily Sun*, 12 November 2023.

Chowdhury, Salwah. “[Witnessing the council of animals in the Sundarbans](#).” *The Daily Star*. November 13, 2023.

Banu, Jainab T. “[Guidelines for Writing Professional Emails](#).” *The Daily Sun*, 16 November 2023.

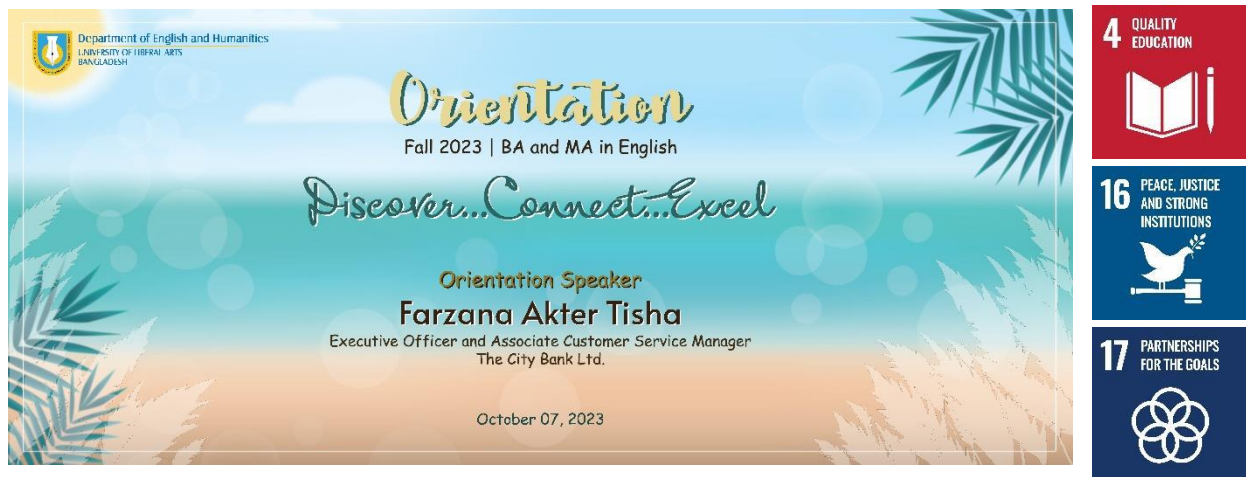
Banu, Jainab T. “[400 Years of Shakespeare’s First Folio: A Book that Preserved the Bard](#).” *The Daily Sun*, 23 November 2023.

Banu, Jainab T. “[Train Your Mind to Think Critically](#).” *The Daily Sun*, 30 November 2023.

- Banu, Jainab T. "[Information, Misinformation and Disinformation in Social Media.](#)" *The Daily Sun*, 12 December 2023.
- Banu, Jainab T. "[Three Effective Vocabulary-Building Games for Children.](#)" *The Daily Sun*, 14 December 2024.
- Islam, Tauhida. "[Muktomona Aroj Ali Matobbor Ek Bishshoykor Byaktitto.](#)" *Khoborer Kagoj*. December 22, 2023.
- Banu, Jainab T. "[Odrishshyo: A Cinematic Maze of Mystery.](#)" *The Daily Sun*, 23 December 2023.
- Shetu, Shahriyer Hossain. "[Poster Overload Turning Skylines into Election Wallpapers.](#)" *The Daily Star*. December 31, 2023.
- Banu, Jainab T. "[Anonna: An Untold Story of All Working Mother.](#)" *The Daily Sun*, 4 January 2024.
- Banu, Jainab T. "[Facebook and Identity Formation.](#)" *The Daily Sun*, 6 January 2024.
- Banu, Jainab T. "[Can We Consider Cinema as Literature?](#)" *The Daily Sun*, 11 January 2024.

Event Reports

Event 1: DEH Fall 2023 Orientation



On October 7, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) held the Fall 2023 Orientation program to welcome incoming BA and MA students. The program, held at the ULAB Permanent Campus, was themed “Discover...Connect...Excel” to help students discover themselves, create connections, and make the best use of their skills. The Orientation Speaker was Ms. Farzana Akter Tisha, Executive Officer and Associate Customer Service Manager at Citygem, an alumna of the department.

The Orientation program commenced with an opening song by new faculty member, Jahanara Tariq, Lecturer, DEH; Sumaiya Swati Udita, incoming MA student, and Antara Roy (BA Batch 223). Following this, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of the Department, delivered an encouraging speech and warmly welcomed the freshers. She then introduced the



faculty members as well as the Teaching Assistants and the administrative officers of the department.

Antara Roy then performed another song, “Tomar Ghore Bosot Kore,” accompanied by Md. Shayon Mia (BA Batch 232) and Faisal Hasan Anik (BA Batch 232). Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, then gave an inspirational speech to the freshers. He



welcomed the new faces and delivered his words of wisdom which was followed by another intriguing speech by Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees. Both professors spoke about building bonds, making connections, utilizing skills, and becoming the best version of oneself. A poetry recitation was then performed by Mst. Suraiya Alam (BA Batch 231). She recited

“Tokhon Shotti Manush Chilam” by the late poet, Asad Chowdhury.

The Orientation Speaker, Ms. Farzana Akter Tisha, was then invited on stage to share her experiences as a DEH and ULAB alumna, and how these helped her succeed. She emphasized the importance of participating in co-curricular activities and encouraged students to volunteer at various departmental events and clubs, while also mentioning how these help to build connections with peers and faculty members. Ms. Farzana also reminisced about her time in the department where she was well-known for her photography skills.

Following her speech, Senior Lecturer Golam Kader Zilany, Advisor to the English Zone, proceeded to introduce the EZ to the freshers, the services offered, and invited weaker students to avail the services while others who are capable could assist by becoming Peer Tutors.

In the last performance of the cultural segment, Jannatul Tasnia (Batch 232), Faisal Hasan Anik, and Md. Sayon Mia came together to perform the song, “Tomar Jonne Nilche Tara.”

Naziah Alam, an MA fresher, spoke on behalf of the incoming MA Batch 233, sharing her experiences so far at DEH. Fatema Haque Shova then spoke on behalf of the BA Batch 233 freshers, detailing her excitement at starting a new campus life and her expectations of being a part of DEH.

The event concluded with Professor Kaiser Haq handing over a token of appreciation to Ms. Farzana, followed by a group photo with all the freshers, faculty members, volunteers, TAs, and admins of the department.

The program was organized by Assistant Professor, Dr. Abu Saleh Mohammed Rafi, and Senior Lecturers, Tanzia Siddiqua, and Al Mahmud Rumman as well as volunteers from Batches 223, 231, and 232, and was hosted by Sadia Hoque Akhi from Batch 222 and Sadia Mukarrama of MA Batch 232.





Report by Salman Al Farsy

Event 2: Curriculum Integration Fall 2023: Forum One



On October 12, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities organized the first forum of its 9th Curriculum Integration Program through an online event where Dr. Luis Javier Pentón Herrera, Professor, Akademia Ekonomiczno-Humanistyczna w Warszawie, Poland and

Coordinator of the Graduate TESOL certificate, George Washington University, United States, was invited as the guest speaker to speak about the theme of the term's CI program, "Language as a Weapon."

Hosted by Dr. Abu Saleh Mohammad Rafi, Assistant Professor, DEH, the forum officially commenced with the introduction of the guest speaker to the students and faculty members present at the forum. Dr. Rafi then explained the purpose of the Curriculum Integration Program and the selected theme for this term before inviting Dr. Herrera to begin his presentation.

Dr. Herrera began his interactive and insightful discussion with the concept of "Language Weaponization" by sharing an anecdote from his own childhood that reflected the influence of derogatory language on individuals belonging to minority groups. Throughout his presentation, he minutely discussed the ways the dominant groups in a society strategically employ language to segregate, stereotype, harm, and dehumanize minoritized groups of the society. He further discussed how language, like a weapon, can influence a large group of people to conform as a result of societal and political pressure.

Following his elaborate discussion, Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, shared his comments. He commended Dr. Herrera on his analytical discussion on the far-reaching effects of language on every aspect of life. Afterwards, a question and answer session was held during which the students shared their queries and remarks regarding the concept of Language Weaponization. Finally, Dr. Shamsad Mortuza, Professor and Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees, extended his gratitude towards the guest speaker for providing the students with ideas that they could contemplate and work on for their CI projects.

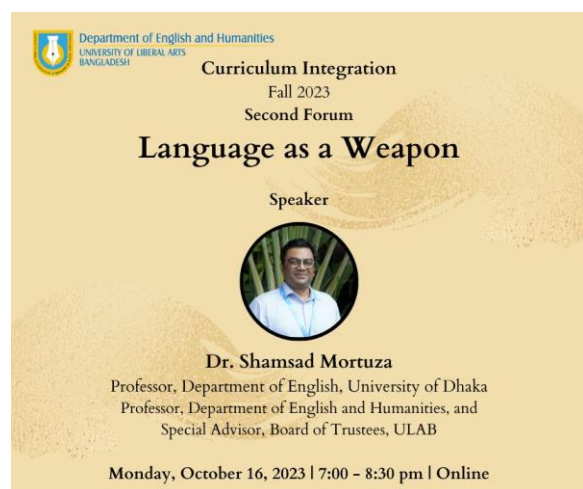
The event came to its conclusion with Dr. Rafi acknowledging the speaker's role in making the forum interactive and successful, and thanking the attending students and faculty members for their presence.

The Curriculum Integration Program is a tool used to guide students towards the practical application of their learning materials to real-world issues.

Dr. Herrera's lecture and the comments following are available on the [DEH YouTube Channel](#).

Report by Rafia Sultana (222013076)

Event 3: Curriculum Integration Fall 2023: Forum Two



On October 16, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities presented the second forum of the 9th DEH Curriculum Integration Program via an online event where Dr. Shamsad Mortuza, Professor and Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees, was invited as the guest speaker to expound on the theme of the term's CI program, "Language as a Weapon". He focused on language weaponization in Literature and Culture.

Hosted by Dr. Abu Saleh Mohammad Rafi, Assistant Professor, the program began with welcoming the speaker, faculty members, and students present at the forum. Dr. Rafi then briefly introduced the purpose of the Curriculum Integration along with the theme of the term. He further provided historical and scholarly evidence of how language is used as a weapon.

Dr. Mortuza then began his meaningful and enlightening information exchange by sharing how language is used as a weapon in literature. He began by reiterating the key points of Forum One. Then, using a storytelling approach, he drew examples from literary texts, such as the Bible and Homer's *Illiad*, to explain manipulation of language and victimization as a result of language weaponization. He also spoke at length about George Orwell's treatises on weapons, politics, and language. According to Orwell, "If people cannot write well, they cannot think well, and if they cannot think well, others will do their thinking for them."

Political leaders have also used language to dehumanize others and becomes a tool of oppression. Language can also be used to discriminate (“linguicism”). While still recognizing the necessity of using language as a tool to shape society, the speaker emphasized on its negative aspects. He stated, "Innocence of language can be lost by weaponization," and supported it through the example of how Covid-19 was called China virus which victimized the Chinese. Dr. Mortuza ended on a positive note with a reference to Toni Morrison who spoke about the power of language to distinguish humans from other creatures: “But we do language. That may be the measure of our lives.”

The event concluded with a question and answer session to address any concerns the attending students had.

The Curriculum Integration Program is a tool used to guide students towards the practical application of their learning materials to real-world issues.

Dr. Mortuza’s lecture and the comments following are available on the [DEH YouTube Channel](#).

Report by Kazi Bushra Orpy (203013003)

Event 4: 9th Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition



The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) concluded its 9th Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition, a two-day event organized by the Department of English and Humanities (DEH) in partnership with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Bangladesh.

The conference, held on October 19-20, 2023, delved into the theme "Gender: The Binary and

Beyond," and showcased the collective efforts of students from public and private universities across Bangladesh. “Beyond the Mirror,” the cultural production by ULAB won the Championship in the cultural competition while the Stamford University bagged the Runner-Up Award.

Raina Isabela of BRAC University won the Best Paper Award while Amreeta Lethe Chowdhury of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh and Rohama Chowdhury of Metropolitan University jointly won the Runner-Up position. Academics from non-participating universities ensured fairness and transparency in the adjudication process for both academic papers and performances.



This year, 19 universities presented academic papers on 19th October, competing for the prestigious Best Paper Award, while Day Two saw seven universities vying for the coveted Champion's trophy in the Cultural Competition. The event's grand finale was the Prize Giving and Closing Ceremony, which took place on Friday, October 20, 2023. Iqbal Hossain, Program Advisor of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Bangladesh, graced the ceremony as the Chief Guest, adding prestige to the culmination of two days of academic and creative exploration. Professor Jude William Genilo, Pro-Vice Chancellor of ULAB, Professor Kaiser Huq, Dean of School of Arts and Humanities, and Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of the Department of English and Humanities, handed over the awards to the winners. The winners received a crest, a certificate of recognition, and prize money as awards.



The DEH Inter-University Student Conference and Cultural Competition has established itself as a prominent fixture in the academic calendar, offering a unique platform for students

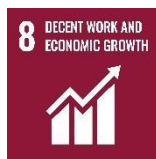
to engage in scholarly discourse and creative expression. One of the notable highlights of this year's conference was the introduction of an Art Exhibition, exclusively featuring artwork by DEH students and alumni, providing a visually captivating dimension to the event and attracting a diverse number of audiences.



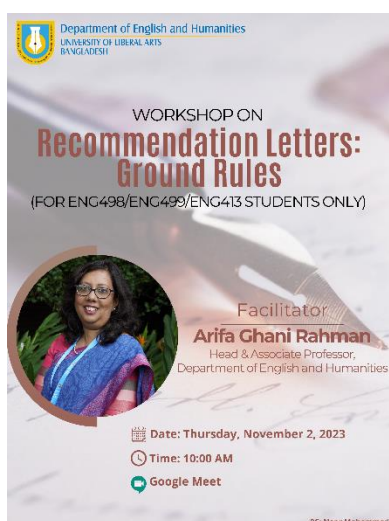




Event 5: Seven Mandatory DEH Final Term Student Workshops



Every term, DEH organizes seven mandatory workshops to prepare final term students for further studies or the job market. The workshops are conducted by DEH faculty members.



Recommendation Letters - Ground Rules

On November 2, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh commenced a series of mandatory workshops for Fall 2023 for the ENG 413, ENG 498, and ENG 499 students on the online platform, Google Meet. The workshop series aims to equip the final term students with certain skills before they begin their careers or higher studies.

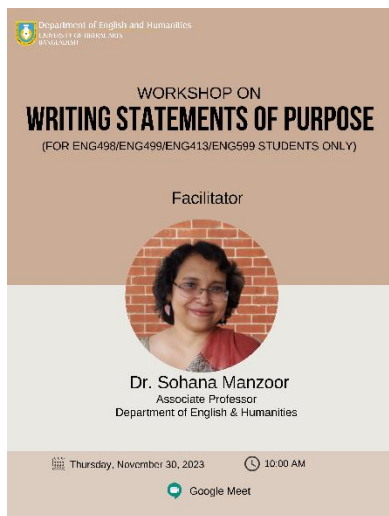
The series began with a workshop on “Recommendation Letters: Ground Rules” where students received training on how to obtain a valid recommendation letter, which is needed when applying for jobs or higher studies. The session was facilitated by the Head of the Department, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman.

The workshop began with a task assigned by the facilitator. Students were asked to write an email requesting a letter of recommendation from a referee. Subsequently, emphasis was put on why and how recommendation letters are important for the upcoming graduates. It was also stressed why maintaining the ground rules to obtain the letter was necessary for students intending to pursue higher studies or to achieve a career position. The key points in the discussion revolved around good composition, Do’s and Don’ts to request a recommendation letter, and how and how not to ask for a recommendation.

The facilitator further explained that recommendation letters require time to compose, so students should not expect request the letters at the last minute from referees. She mentioned how students would need to provide at least three weeks of time to their referee, along with relevant information and documents, so that the recommendation letter can be customized. The facilitator also suggested some ways to highlight achievements. Moreover, she discussed the proper etiquette that needs to be maintained throughout the procedure.

As the end of the workshop session approached, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman encouraged the participating students to state their concerns which she promptly resolved. The workshop concluded with a review of all the points discussed and the concerns that caught the spotlight.

Report by Sajia Afroza Khan (201013057)



Writing Statements of Purpose

On November 30, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), arranged an online workshop on “Writing Statements of Purpose.” The workshop was organized for the students of ENG 498, 499, and 413, who are in their final semester in Fall 2023. The workshop was facilitated by Associate Professor Dr. Sohana Manzoor to teach the students about the steps and elements of writing Statements of Purpose (SoPs), and how it is beneficial for students who wish to pursue higher education in national and international institutions. The workshop is part of a series of mandatory workshops designed to guide final term students in their pursuit of jobs and higher studies.

Dr. Manzoor began the workshop by talking about the crucial steps of the application process for higher studies, and how the SOP is a core element of it. She listed the requirements for graduate studies applications, which include transcripts, standardized tests (IELTS, TOEFL, GRE/GMAT), writing samples, statements of purpose, CVs, and recommendation letters. She discussed every element in detail, emphasizing how they each differ from each other, what importance they hold, and how each should be written or collected. She offered an overview of fellowships and scholarships, discussing the differences and advantages. Further explanations were focused on SoPs, where important points were discussed.

Dr. Manzoor, elaborated on browsing through university websites regarding programs, requirements, and funding opportunities, and to look for prospective supervisors before applying. She additionally gave a detailed insight into the components of writing an SoP, where she discussed every aspect with examples. She even mentioned the process and what the graduate committee looks for when assessing an SoP and application from a student. She emphasized on writing a concise SoP within 1-2 pages, single-spaced, by giving an introduction, summarizing student achievements, discussing the relevance of recent activities, and elaborating on academic plans. She suggested writing with brevity and to maintain approximately 500 to 800 words. She also showed two well-written SOPs as samples, pointing out the key features in every paragraph.

Lastly, Dr. Manzoor talked about staying motivated and not stopping the application process after rejection, for there can be several reasons for refusal and it is better to keep applying to other places. The workshop concluded with a question and answer session.

Report by Shanjida Nusrath Ali (201013093)



Job Hunting and Networking

On Thursday, November 23, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized an online student workshop titled “Job Hunting and Networking” via Google Meet. The workshop was conducted to aid the students in their career pursuits. The third in a series of mandatory student workshops for students enrolled in courses ENG 413, ENG 498, and ENG 499, it was facilitated by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of the Department.

Ms. Rahman commenced the session by emphasizing on the importance of building connections with people, stating that job searching is a challenge without networking. Following this, she urged students to assess themselves first; she asked them to discover their passions and pinpoint the skill sets that set them apart in the job market. Furthermore, she asked the students to map out their ultimate career goals before searching for job opportunities in the market.

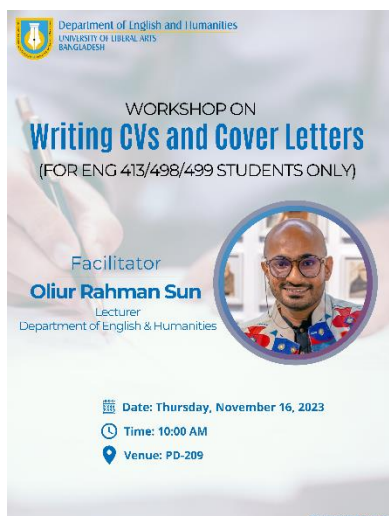
Although seeking a job can be an arduous process, Ms. Rahman encouraged students to believe in themselves. She advised the students to craft an error-free and concise CV, suggesting they should keep two CVs: one for academic jobs and another for corporate jobs. Furthermore, she suggested that students should create a professional email and regularly check and respond to emails. Ms. Rahman also urged students to establish connections within the professional industry using platforms such as LinkedIn and BDjobs. She emphasized that students should follow social media pages and groups that share job opportunities to smoothly navigate through the spectrum.

With the world becoming technologically advanced, Ms. Rahman brought attention to the importance of creating websites that can easily allow employers to understand the candidates. Additionally, Ms. Rahman urged the students to put similar kinds of information on both CV and cover letter, since having different information on both increases the chances of being rejected.

Besides this, Ms. Rahman provided tips on applying for jobs and what to do while doing the former. She recommended students to be careful about submitting necessary documents, informing people from the organization about attending the interview, and having a good understanding of the salary range and expectations. She also gave pointers on how to look for jobs in international organizations. She guided the students to utilize keywords effectively in their search. Ms. Rahman then went on to accentuate the importance of volunteering.

A question-and-answer session was held to clarify any questions or concerns that students had. Lastly, she concluded the workshop with a reminder that English graduates have a high potential due to their critical analysis and communication skills, thus motivating them, and wishing them luck for future endeavors.

Report by Nabihah Mahfuz (201013099)



Writing CVs and Cover Letters

On November 16, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh organized an online workshop titled, “Writing CVs and Cover Letters.” The workshop was outlined especially for the students of ENG 498, 499, and 413 to guide them through the importance, objectives, and steps of writing CVs and Cover Letters. The workshop is part of a series of workshops designed to prepare the final term students for their careers and higher studies. The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Oliur Rahman Sun, Lecturer, Department of English Language and Humanities.

Mr. Sun started the workshop by discussing the meaning and origin of CVs, and how, from a rough outline introduced by Leonardo Da Vinci in 1482, the structure and significance of the CV has changed over time. He offered an overview of the formatting of a CV for both academic and employment purposes. Further emphasis was put on the ways a student can showcase their work and experience by creating websites or LinkedIn profiles in order to represent their potential worth to institutions and organizations. Mr. Sun also gave some examples of poorly written CVs where he pointed out the flaws in grammar, font, formatting, and false information. He then demonstrated the correct steps for writing a proper CV with detailed information within 2 to 3 pages.

He mentioned the elements of a CV, which include Contact Information, Academic History, Professional Experiences, Relevant Skills/Qualifications, Publications/Presentations, List of Achievements, Professional Associations and Affiliations, and Hobbies/Interests. The facilitator also gave an example of a well-written Work Experience section, discussing how, with bullet points, one can separate the Work Experience and Achievements, to offer a more precise outlook for the recruiters. He elaborated on the About/Profile section, mentioning it should give a brief summary of a student’s personality, achievements, and work experience. Students were given an exercise to write their own About/Profile section and share it with the class, where they were given feedback. Mr. Sun used his own CV as an example to discuss more about the primary components in detail.

Finally, Mr. Sun briefly discussed Cover Letters and talked about how it is different from a CV, where it is written as a letter and addressed to the Recruiting Manager. He gave an idea about the tone of the letter, where it will start off with a brief introduction about the student, their background, and how they can contribute to the particular position they are applying for. He emphasized pointing out the achievements and accomplishments, highlighting the student’s potential for the position, and writing everything within one page. The workshop successfully came to a conclusion with a round of questions from the students, followed by Mr. Sun’s responses and suggestions.

Report by Shanjida Nusrath Ali (201013093)



Interview Skills

To help students smoothly embark on a new journey after graduation, the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh held an online Student Workshop on Interview Skills on December 7, 2023. The workshop, part of a series of mandatory student workshops designed to equip graduating students with guidance, was facilitated by Ms. Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the MA in English program at DEH.

The beginning of the workshop was marked by interesting anecdotes from a few students who had previously faced in-person interviews where they discussed their strengths and weaknesses. Ms. Rahman asked the students to write down

their expectations from the workshop, to which the answers ranged from suggestions for overcoming interview anxiety, guidance on appearance and etiquette, and ways to answer complex questions professionally.

During the main part of the workshop, Ms. Rahman touched on a variety of topics in detail, such as knowing your purpose, reasons to attend an interview, preparing for an interview, what areas to focus on and know more about as a candidate, preparation for cultural exchange programs and what to expect there, interview etiquette (e.g., punctuality), etc.

As the session approached its conclusion, the students were reminded of important points to be kept in mind before attending an interview. They were given sample questions that they can expect at interviews as well as pointers to help them create proper answers and advice on how to deal with unfamiliar questions. Before the workshop ended, the graduating students were familiarized with common interview mistakes, as well as given further important and useful tips.

After a quick question and answer session between Ms. Nadia Rahman and the students, the workshop concluded with good wishes.

Report by: Sajia Afroza Khan (201013057)



Presentation Skills

The Department of English and Humanities at ULAB organized the student workshop on “Presentation Skills” on December 14, 2023. The workshop was facilitated by Ms. Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor, DEH. This workshop is a part of the series of workshops conducted for students of the final term to help them navigate life after graduation as they explore higher studies and job

opportunities.

The session began with Ms. Rahman asking students about the difficulties they faced during presentations as undergraduate students. She then addressed the presentation skills of students and their struggles to put content on slides. This was followed by addressing the distress and fears that manifest during the actual presentations and how to effectively avoid them. From there, a discussion panned out on preparing slides and presenting in front of a crowd, the etiquette and manners to be maintained, the appearance of the presenter, etc. Moreover, the facilitator emphasized the role of students as audience during the presentations and how their participation affects the entire environment. More importantly, Ms. Rahman introduced and elaborated on the objectives of a presentation which are mainly the physical and visual messages of the story, and it is crucial to hold up the messages appropriately.

As the workshop approached the end, she highlighted the “Four Ps of Presentation” which were Plan, Prepare, Practice, and Perform, and the “Pecha Kucha” method was explained.

To conclude the workshop, Ms. Rahman summarized all the important points of the session. Additionally, she suggested some tips and methods to the students to alleviate their anxiety for their upcoming thesis defense and to induce some confidence in them. The session ended with Ms. Rahman wishing the graduating students luck.

This workshop was followed by a session on “So, What’s Next?” by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head of the Department, to acquaint the students with the next step forward.

Report by: Sajia Afroza Khan (201013057)

“So, What’s Next?”

After the final workshop for the graduating students, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman conducted a session titled “So, What’s Next?” The purpose of the session was to provide insights to the students on the next steps after the completion of their undergraduate degree. The session focused on ideas about graduate studies and what students should consider as they proceed.

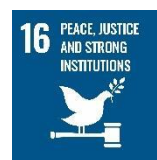
Ms. Rahman began the session by discussing certain factors regarding why a student should pursue graduate studies after completion of their undergraduate program. She talked about how it makes the student competitive in the job market, broadens their networking opportunities, improves their current skills, and boosts their salary. Ms. Rahman discussed in detail the requirements of graduate study applications. She gave an idea about the time required to complete the process of researching and application, which is about a year. She also gave a list of the documents and communication required during the process such as transcripts and certificates, recommendation letters, communication with potential supervisors, applications for funding, language proficiency tests, CVs, SoPs and other essays, research proposals, passport and visa applications, proof of funds, and other documents required by individual institutions. She elaborated all the steps while responding to students’ questions regarding the process.

Ms. Rahman also provided an overview of the MA in English program at ULAB, discussing the different tracks, the format of the courses/classes, and how the learning would be beneficial for those seeking to pursue higher studies as the MA degree at ULAB provides them with a solid foundation to face the challenges of studying abroad. In addition, there are numerous facilities for ULABians. The MA Coordinator, Ms. Nadia Rahman, joined the workshop to share her perspectives on the graduate program at ULAB. She elaborated on Ms. Rahman’s points by discussing the services, facilities, and external faculty who are part of the program. Ms. Arifa Rahman also gave some examples of previous and current students’ achievements in the MA program, which could motivate the graduating students.

The session ended with a brief question and answer session with the students.

Report by Shanjida Nusrath Ali (201013093)

Event 6: Special Issue Launch of *Critical Inquiry in Language Studies*



The Department of Urban Education at Rutgers University-Newark and the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) jointly organized a Zoom session on November 6, 2023, to launch the Special Issue of *Critical Inquiry in Language Studies* (CILS). The Special Issue, focusing on “Centering Southern Perspectives in Translanguaging Research,” is guest-edited by Dr. Zhongfeng Tian from Rutgers University–Newark and Dr. Abu Saleh Mohammad Rafi from ULAB.

The event featured prominent figures in the field of translanguaging, including Professor Li Wei from University College London, UK, and some of the contributing scholars. Dr. Zhongfeng Tian opened the session by emphasizing the need for a dynamic and fluid understanding of language as a social practice, transcending traditional linguistic categories. He pointed out that translanguaging is a multifaceted concept encompassing practice, theory, and pedagogy, leading to increased metacognitive and metalinguistic awareness and a heightened awareness of language’s role in power dynamics.

Dr. Abu Saleh Mohammad Rafi focused on the importance of centering southern perspectives in translanguaging research. He highlighted the exponential growth in translanguaging

research and its relevance in addressing issues of marginalization and sociocultural challenges faced by the Global South, such as capitalism, consumerism, and silence.

Saskia Van Viegen, Editor-in-Chief of the journal and an Assistant Professor at York University, provided an overview of the Special Issue of *Critical Inquiry in Language Studies*, discussing its aims and scopes. CILS is a peer-reviewed journal that explores applied linguistics, sociolinguistics, language policy, literacy studies, and education, with a focus on qualitative, critical, pedagogical, and emergent paradigms.

Li Wei, the Director and Dean of the UCL Institute of Education, spoke as the Discussant of the Special Issue. He emphasized the special issue's goal of challenging the colonial approach to research in applied linguistics. He hoped there would be more contributions, data, theoretical advancements, and methodologies to enrich the field.

Following these introductory remarks, the contributors to the issue spoke about their papers. Lara-Stephanie Krause-Alzaidi, an Assistant Professor at the University of Leipzig, presented her paper on "Relanguaging Translingual Writing In a Khayelitshan Primary School." She discussed problematic conceptual binaries and presented an alternative spatial perspective on re-languaging, focusing on heterogeneous classroom repertoires.

Jiajia Eve Liu, a faculty member at the City University of Macau, discussed her paper on implementing translanguaging pedagogy in higher education. She shared her research question, methodology, and findings, highlighting the challenges students face in adopting translanguaging strategies.

Dr. Abu Saleh Mohammad Rafi and other facilitators discussed the paper titled "Translanguaging in Higher Education: Experiences and Recommendations of International Graduate Students from the Global South" authored by Shakina Rajendram, Wenyangzi Shi, and Justine Jun. They presented research questions, context, methods, analysis, and recommendations, emphasizing the importance of incorporating translanguaging into course curricula and resources.

The interactive session concluded with Dr. Shamsad Mortuza, Professor and Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees, ULAB, offering closing remarks, and expressing gratitude to the guest speakers and authors. He highlighted the session's goals of promoting diversity, fluidity in translanguaging, and decolonizing research methods in multilingual settings, thus concluding the session.

The program can be viewed on the [DEH YouTube Channel](#).

Report by Nabila Faiza Islam (201013115)

Event 7: DEH Graduate Student Seminar Fall 2023



The Department of English and Humanities, ULAB, held its Graduate Student Seminar of Fall 2023 online, on November 16, 2023. Thirteen MA in English students, nominated by their respective course instructors from the prior semester, presented their diverse research papers, with faculty members and students in attendance.

The participants presenting their papers were from the three MA tracks: Literature and Cultural Studies, Applied Linguistics and TESOL, and Literature and Creative Writing.

Ms. Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor, DEH, inaugurated the seminar, giving a warm welcome to the presenters, faculty members, and students. She, then, introduced the first participant, Md. Naimul Islam (Batch 222), who presented his paper, “The Contribution of Frankfurt School in the Development of Cultural Theories on Popular Culture.” Naimul provided a contextual background on the Frankfurt School and brought forth the various modern theories and current cultures that the school had been a foundation for.

The second presenter was Anika Tahsin (Batch 223), whose paper was titled “Corpus-assisted Discourse Analysis.” Anika delved into the linguistic elements utilized for corpus-assisted discourse analysis and the applications of CADA, highlighting its contribution to the depth of the English language.

The third presenter was Shah Mohammad Tauhidur Rahman Afridi (Batch 232), who introduced his paper “Keyword: ‘Creative’: The Art of Incorporating Creativity in Nonfiction Writing.” He pointed out the objectives of specific nonfiction writings from the respective course, displaying the scale of creativity of the genre and how that had been implemented in his own nonfiction work.

The next presenter was Kaniz Fatema Lamia (Batch 231) and her paper, “Translanguaging as a Medium of Instruction (MOI) and a Pedagogy in Classrooms,” explained the effectiveness of flexible language use as an MOI for equitable education. She also presented a step-by-step demo lesson plan as an example of what could be utilized in Bangladeshi classrooms.

Rownok Jahan Akhi (Batch 223) was the fifth presenter, with her paper “The ‘Raw’ vs the ‘Cooked’: An Analysis of *Padma Puran* Narrative and *Padma Puran Gan* Performance in Natore, Bangladesh.” Rownok differentiated between the narrative (the “raw” version) and the performance (the “cooked” version) of *Padma Puran*, whilst highlighting the unique characteristics of the protagonist.

The next presenter was Maliha Huq (Batch 202), whose paper was titled “Reading ‘Candles from the Mausoleum’: Using Magic Realism and Folkloric Elements in Short Fiction”. She began by discussing the genres of folklore and magical realism, after which she presented her own work of fiction and how elements from the aforementioned genres had been incorporated into it.

The seventh presenter was Sumaiya Nawshin (Batch 231) with her paper “Theories on First and Second Language Acquisition.” Sumaiya discussed the theories and concepts learned from the respective course and how they carry applications in real-life linguistic scenarios.

The next presenter was Sayma Afsana (Batch 223), whose paper “Contradictory Ideas of Women in Shakespeare’s Tragedies and Comedies,” demonstrated how the playwright reinforced stereotypes of women in his tragedies while challenging those same stereotypes in his comedies, bringing forth the conflicting ways women were represented in Shakespeare’s two genres of works.

Abida Alam (Batch 232) was the next presenter and her paper was titled “Memory and English Language Teaching.” She explained the remembering strategies used to strengthen memory in ELT and how there might be certain biases towards normality in recollection, understanding both of which leads to effective ELT.

The tenth presenter was Fabiha Haider (Batch 222), and her paper “Theoretical Orientation and Teaching-learning Methods in the National Curriculum of Bangladesh” discussed the National Curriculum of 2012 and how it encouraged the implementation of the Constructivist theory. Fabiha emphasized the significance of this theory and how to utilize it in regard to the methods of establishing an effective learner-based classroom.

The following presenter was Md. Mushfiqur Rahman (Batch 231) and his paper was titled “Cultural Construction through Literature and Media.” He analyzed the connection between literature, media, and culture, highlighting the concepts of media literacy and the dynamic influence of literature; all of which contributed to one’s cultural understanding.

The twelfth presenter, Fariha Mahfuz (Batch 221), presented her paper, “ELT Methods in the 21st Century,” which brought forth the distinction between traditional ELT methods and those of the current century. She prioritized on the issues of ELT methods in Bangladesh and how these methods could be made more relevant and effective.

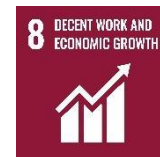
The final presenter was Rashmona Akther Rime (Batch 222), whose paper was titled “Agency, Development, and Displacement: A Postcolonial Ecocritical Study of *Gun Island*.”

She accentuated the three fundamental concepts of the Postcolonial Ecocritical theoretical framework, and how these were represented and depicted in the novel *Gun Island*.

After the students successfully completed their presentations, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head and Associate Professor, DEH, and Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, DEH were invited to comment on the presentations. They commended the participants on their excellent research papers and presentations, pointing out the broad range of specialties and knowledge exchange that had been illustrated. The seminar was brought to a close by Ms. Nadia Rahman thanking the presenters, the respective course teachers, and audience for their participation.

Report by Marifa Khan (211013012)

Event 8: Curriculum Integration Fall 2023 Final Project Showcase



On December 10, 2023, the Department of English and Humanities at ULAB held the Final Project Showcasing of the Fall 2023 Curriculum Integration Program that revolved around the theme of “Language as a Weapon.” The event showcased faculty-nominated presentations of ten different courses, which demonstrated the connection of between the course contents and the theme. The panel of judges included Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean, School of Arts & Humanities, ULAB, Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed, Associate Professor and Director, Center for Language Studies (CLS), ULAB, and Ms. Nadia Rahman, Assistant Professor, Department of English & Humanities, ULAB.

There were three different types of presentations submitted for the CI program: video, posters, and literary analyses. Among them, the video and poster submissions were presented during the event, while the literary submissions were sent directly to the judges for evaluation.

Dr. Rafi Saleh, Assistant Professor, DEH, who coordinated the Fall 2023 CI Program, began the program with a short introduction to the theme of the CI. Following this, the first video presentation by Mahmuda Akter Hasu (Batch 221) began. Mahmuda shared her vision through her topic, “Language as a Weapon in *Ode: Intimations of Immortality* by William

Wordsworth of the Romantic Era” where she portrayed the power of language in romantic poetry and how its timeless relevance can evoke strong emotions from its readers.

The next presentation, “Language Weaponization in Politics,” by Nada Tabassum (Batch 201), Habiba Akhter Lubna (Batch 201), Nasfiyatto Zaman Nodi (Batch 201), and Ritobina Ria Dey (Batch 201), displayed the place of language in politics and how it is often used by politicians to amass votes from the general public. By providing both national and international examples of the topic, the presenters encouraged the questioning of language being used for personal gain.

The third group for the video presentations comprised Mehedi Hasan Simanto (Batch 191), Parisa Saba (Batch 211), Mursalina Jahan (Batch 211), Samia Nur Rashid (Batch 211), Sakibul Hasan (Batch 212) and Atika Islam Omi (Batch 212) who explored the effects of language in the business realm with their presentation, “Can the Strategic Use of Language Boost the Sales of a New Company?” They investigated the use of language from a psychoanalytic perspective and portrayed how salesmen examine their customers and alter their patois as a tactic to increase their sales.

The fourth group comprised Alan Henry Costa (Batch 211), Tasnina Reza (Batch 181), Sakibul Hasan (Batch 212), Atika Islam Omi (Batch 212) and Raisa Nidhi (Batch 212), who enacted their twist on the famous Greek play, *Oedipus the King*. Titled “The Influential Role of the Chorus,” these students brought forth the use of language by the Chorus to sway Oedipus.

In the next video presentation, the presenter exhibited her prowess as a writer with an organic poem that was written from the perspective of the protagonist of Sandra Cisneros’ *The House on Mango Street*. Using her poem “Echoing Lights,” Samia Zahin (Batch 211) encapsulated the suffering of women of the Latin-American community and how as a result of this, Esperanza decided to be the voice of her silenced sisters.

The next presentation was about the “Differences of Using Language as a Weapon” by Jerin Tasnim (Batch 192), Fatema Tuz Zohura (Batch 192), Sadia Rahman Sumaiya (Batch 191), Noshin Sharmily (Batch 201), Juhi Rubaba Jurana Jahan (Batch 201), Mustafa Zahir (Batch 192) and Mostafa Al Wakil (Batch 192). They showcased the duality of language and how it can be used either as a bridge to connect people or a harmful divide. They emphasized the importance of tone.

The seventh presentation was carried out by Tahosin Tasnim Hoque (Batch 192), Afrida Lubaba Khan (Batch 201), Nandeta Saha Dola (Batch 201), Md. Habibur Rahman (Batch 201), Fahim Ibrahim Chowdhury (Batch 202), Kazi Bushra Orpy (Batch 203), Jannatul Fariha Mim (Batch 211) and Lamia Faiza (Batch 212). Their video, “Modern Teaching Materials: The Illumination of Acquiring Second Language as Weapon,” showed the power that language

has in classrooms. They emphasized the importance of the methods and approach of educators and how it impacts students.

The final video presentation was by Rabeya Rahman (Batch 183) and Rowjatun Jannat (Batch 212). They presented on “Vonnegut’s Prose in Lewis’ Postmodern Musings” where they focused on the many elements of Kurt Vonnegut’s *Breakfast of Champions* and how he welded them to get his point across.

The final presenter of the event was Ali Naznin (Batch 221). She presented a handmade poster that contained her interpretation of William Blake’s poem “London” and portrayed how he carefully crafted the language and vocabulary in his poem to showcase the binaries of the socio-economic classes in the often romanticized British life. Her vibrant poster contained original drawings and Blake’s perspective of London.

After the presentations, Professor Kaiser Haq shared his insights on the event as well as some words of wisdom. Finally, Ms. Nadia Rahman announced the winners. The Runner-Up was ENG 3102 (Psycholinguistics, Section 1) with the presentation on “Can the Strategic Use of Language Boost the Sales of a New Company?” The winner of the Fall 2023 Curriculum Integration Program was the group from ENG2201 (Sociolinguistics, Section 1), with their video “Language Weaponization in Politics.”

The event was brought to a conclusion by Dr. Rafi Saleh with his closing remarks and vote of thanks. The event was hosted by Ereti Rhidil Rahman (Batch 193)

Report written by Fatema Aftab Miah (211013016)

Event 9: National Symposium – English Connects

The poster for the National Symposium "English Connects" is organized by the Department of English and Humanities at ULAB (University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh) on Friday, December 8, 2023. The event features a Keynote Speaker, Prof. Kaiser Haq, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities. It also includes three Plenary Speakers: Prof. Syed Manzoorul Islam (Professor Emeritus, University of Dhaka), Prof. Shamsad Mortuza (Professor of English, University of Dhaka, Special Advisor, ULAB Board of Trustees), and Dr. Abu Saleh Mohammad Rafi (Assistant Professor, Department of English and Humanities, ULAB). An Open Forum is moderated by Dr. Mohammad Mahadhi Hasan (Assistant Professor, Department of English and Humanities, ULAB).



The Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) organized a one day National Symposium on the theme of “English Connects” on December 8, 2023,, where educators and

students of English studies from educational institutions all around Bangladesh were welcomed to present their scholarly papers on diverse topics.



The event commenced at 9 am with warm greetings to the attendees by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head and Associate Professor, DEH, ULAB. Afterward, Prof. Kaiser Haq, Dean of the School of Arts and

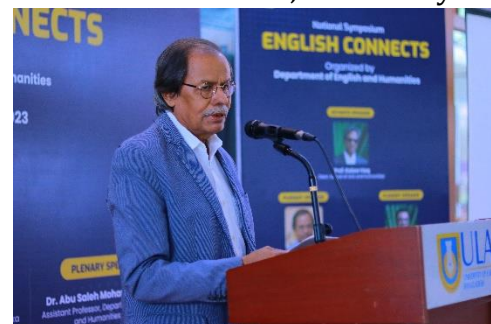
Humanities at ULAB and Prof. Shamsad Mortuza, Special Advisor to the Board of Trustees of ULAB welcomed the audience and appreciated their scholarly participation in this symposium. The Symposium was then formally inaugurated by Prof. Jude William R. Genilo, Pro-Vice Chancellor of ULAB.



Professor Kaiser Haq, in his Keynote Address titled “Connecting the Dots,” shared his insights on how the practice of English had evolved in the educational sector after Bangladesh’s independence. He, then, read an excerpt from a book to explain the journey of world literature to its current state and explored the ability of the English language to reflect one’s culture and tradition. The Keynote provided a comprehensive

study on the journey of English studies and how all the dots between different literatures in English can be connected.

The first plenary session, “English Studies in the Digital World: Restoring Human Connection,” was delivered by Professor Emeritus Syed Manzoorul Islam, University of Dhaka, who spoke about the paradigm shift of the eras from the classical to the “post-” and “-isms” in literature such as postmodernism, modernism, feminism, all of which symbolize plurality. He further elaborated on how English Studies allow both close and further readings, which can then let the theories produce reflective practices, encourage meaningful productions, and challenge established norms. The session concluded with the acknowledgment that the crux of AI is humanism, and using this, the inner workings of it can and will be further improved to be more emotionally intelligent and human-like.





In the second plenary session, Dr. Abu Saleh Mohammad Rafi, Assistant Professor, DEH, ULAB, explored the complexities of language that allows one to connect and disconnect in regards to colonizers. In his talk titled “Monolingual University Meets Multilingual Students: Connection, Disconnection and Translinguistic Fiesta,” he spoke about the traditional and ecological perspectives of language, and how one language does not inject into another. The speech also delved into the importance of the medium of instruction and how all institutions have decided to adopt a particular language for communication in classrooms. At present, the educational institutions are going back to adopting English which eventually disconnects the student from their own culture, which makes them incapable of connection at a global level and this can further alienate them.

The third plenary speaker, Prof. Shamsad Mortuza, Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees, spoke on the connection between language and historical and religious beliefs in a talk titled “Stories Beyond Armageddon: Rethinking Human and Nonhuman Interdependency.” He discussed the relationship between humans and machines, and how they control each other. However, Dr. Mortuza also acknowledged that though the technological advancements did not reach the human consciousness level, there might be possibilities of when the machines can parallel human emotions and creativity when proper training modules are created. He also explained the organic relation that is established between the teacher, student, and the textbook through the use of language as an essential medium of communication.



Dr. Md. Mahadhi Hassan, Assistant Professor, DEH, ULAB, and Symposium Coordinator moderated the open forum where he invited the presenters and participants of the Symposium to an open exchange of thoughts on how the practitioners as well as the students of English discipline can create a conducive environment in academia. Many in-depth thoughts were brought up and discussed such as the ability of language to connect people globally through social media trends and how English as a global language has allowed us to connect with authors from all over the world.

Two parallel sessions were held where 100 presenters from 24 universities, 8 schools, and colleges presented their papers on diverse topics of English studies. The sessions provided

a unique opportunity for the presenters to exchange their vibrant insights and bridge the prevailing gaps in our compartmentalized education system.

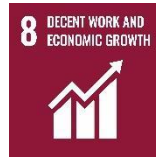
The day-long conference was brought to its conclusion with closing remarks by Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, Head and Associate Professor, DEH, ULAB, and a shout-out to the student volunteers and faculty members from the Department of English and Humanities, ULAB for their unflinching support of the entire event.







Event 10: BA and MA Thesis Defense









Event 11: Fall 2023 Commencement and Certificate-Giving Ceremony



The Fall 2023 Commencement was organized by the Department of English and Humanities of ULAB on December 26, 2023, at the ULAB Permanent Campus for the graduating students of the BA and MA in English programs. The students of Batches 202, 203, and 211 arranged the cultural segment of the program as a farewell to the graduating students. The theme of the event was “Echoes of Change,” and the Commencement Speaker was DEH alumna Nahida Shabnam Urmi, Business Operation Specialist at Yodo1 in Beijing, China.

The program began with DEH Head, Ms. Arifa Ghani Rahman, congratulating the graduating students on their success. She recalled the many contributions the graduating batches had

made to the department and to the university, pinpointing their engagement with different social issues such as human rights and sustainability.

Professor Kaiser Haq, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, during his congratulatory speech, recited a poem of his written to his own mentor that reflected on the teacher-student relationship.

Professor Shamsad Mortuza, Special Advisor, ULAB Board of Trustees, then imparted some invaluable advice to the students, emphasizing the importance of soul searching and values.



The Commencement Speaker, Ms. Nahida Shabnam Urmi spoke to the graduating students by first detailing her time at ULAB as a student, professing that despite English not being her first choice of subject, after joining ULAB, it felt like her true calling. She elaborated on her journey of being a PR leader for the World Academy for the Future of Women (WAFW) project, and how the leadership experience changed her perspective on life.

She spoke against the stigma of studying English Literature, emphasizing that she utilizes her learning from her degree in her current job. She ended her inspiring speech by advising students to find themselves and create their true value before stepping out into the real world. She was then presented with a token of appreciation by Prof. Kaiser Haq.

The cultural segment began with Mr. Al Mahmud Rumman, Senior Lecturer, DEH, reciting a poem that spoke of changes. There were performances by the organizing batches that began with a song by Alen Henry Costa (Batch 211) and alumnus Marzuk Ahmed Khan Mojlsh.

Fardeen Azwaad and Rubaiyat Raiyan (Batch 211) recited a captivating poem, and then graduating student from the BA in English program, Sanzida Alam (Batch 201) spoke on behalf of the outgoing students. She shared her experiences as a student of DEH and conveyed encouraging words to her batchmates. Then, graduating BA students, Tasfiyah Saba, Tanjila



Fairuz, and Mahzabin Montaha Tamim, along with Alen and Marzuk, took the stage to perform a choir song.

Graduating MA student Maliha Huq was invited on stage to share her experience at ULAB on behalf of her fellow graduates. She did this with an incredible poem she had written. The performances carried on with an entertaining skit scripted by MA students Quazi Farhina Hassan and Mahjabeen Hassan Wreete along with their team. Alen and Marzuk, once again, took the stage to end the performances with a beautiful song.

A certificate-giving session was held at the end of the program where the Prof. Kaiser Haq, Prof. Shamsad Mortuza, and Ms. Arifa Rahman handed over certificates to the students presenters of the Fall 2023 Graduate Student Seminar and the graduating Scholars Program students.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Mohammad Mahadhi Hasan, Assistant Professor, DEH. The program was hosted by Fatema Aftab Miah (Batch 211).









Report by Marifa Khan (211013012)

Department of English and Humanities




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