



### Table of Contents

01.	Editorial	02
02.	BELTA 217th EC Meeting and Pitha Utshob	03
03.	Online Panel Discussion on International Mother Language Day	03
04.	<b>BELTA Retreat and Strategic Planning</b>	03
05.	<b>BELTA-British Council Agreement Signing</b>	04
06.	<b>International Women's Day Celebration</b>	05
07.	<b>US Embassy-BELTA-LPC Teacher Training Workshops</b>	05
08.	Community Service by BELTA Team	07
09.	Reports on BELTA Webinars	08
10.	<b>BELTA Representative at the NELTA Conference 2024</b>	12
11.	<b>BELTA Participation in British Council Regional Webinar</b>	13
12.	<b>Publications and Participation in Conferences by BELTA Members</b>	14
13.	Success Stories of BELTANs	16
14.	<b>BELTA Representative at the IATEFL Conference 2024</b>	25
15.	BELTA Activities	25
16.	<b>Upcoming Events</b>	19
	<b>BELTA THT Teacher Development Conference</b>	
	BELTA NSU International Conference	
17.	BELTA in Photos	21



### **Editorial Note**

Dear BELTA Members and Friends,

It is with great enthusiasm that we present June 24, Issue 34 of the BELTA Newsletter, which captures the vibrant activities, accomplishments, and strategic advancements of the Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA). This year has been one of exceptional growth and development, marked by diverse events and collaborative engagements aimed at furthering our mission to enhance English language teaching across Bangladesh.

We began with an onsite Executive Committee meeting, where we discussed BELTA's upcoming goals and initiatives. The year saw us organize meaningful observances, such as the Online Panel Discussion on International Mother Language Day and the International Women's Day Celebration, affirming BELTA's commitment to fostering inclusivity, cultural appreciation, and the empowerment of women in education.

In pursuit of strengthening our organizational goals, BELTA held a Retreat and Strategic Planning session. This retreat was instrumental in outlining our vision and aligning our initiatives with the needs of our members. Additionally, a significant milestone was achieved through the signing of the Agreement, BELTA-British Council established a partnership that will support our teacher development programs. This synergy is exemplified by initiatives like **Embassy-BELTA-LPC** Teacher Training Workshops, which continue to benefit educators nationwide through specialized modules developed by expert teachers.

Community service has also been a priority during this period, as highlighted in our section on Community Service by BELTA Team, detailing our outreach and impact beyond the classroom. BELTA has maintained a dynamic presence in regional and international events, proudly representing Bangladesh at both the NELTA Conference and the British Council Regional Webinar, reinforcing our commitment to fostering cross-border collaborations and knowledge exchange.

This issue includes reports on our various webinars that share insights from sessions aimed at equipping teachers with contemporary pedagogical skills. We also celebrate the Success Stories of BELTANs by spotlighting the remarkable achievements of our members in their professional journeys. In our Publications section, you'll find articles and research that underscore the academic rigor and innovative spirit within our community.

A special treat awaits readers in BELTA in Photos, a visual journey of our events and memories from the year that encapsulates the vibrancy of our association. Additionally, our 'Upcoming Events' section features some exciting gatherings ahead, which include the much-anticipated BELTA THT Teacher Development Conference and the BELTA-NSU International Conference, where educators from across the globe will join us in advancing the field of language teaching.

As we move forward, BELTA remains steadfast in its commitment to empowering educators, promoting professional growth, and creating inclusive spaces for learning and collaboration. We invite you to read, reflect, and join us in this journey of continuous development.

June 2024 Issue 3



## 2. BELTA 217th EC Meeting and Pitha Utshob

BELTA EC Meeting and Pitha Utshob were held on Saturday the 27th January, 2014 at the resident of Professor Dr. Arifa Rahman which is situated at the greeneries of Gulshan-2. It was the 217th EC meeting and a Pitha Utshob was held on behalf of the host of the house. It was a privilege for BELTA members to attend the event along with the EC meeting courtesy of the BELTA Adviser. Among the other discussed agendas, BELTA International Conference venue fixed, IATEFL membership renewal, BELTA Retreat and Strategic Session event planning were discussed. BELTA President Professor Ahmed Bashir, immediate past president Dr. Rubina Khan was present there as well, the General Secretary Dr. Mohib Ullah came to attend the meeting from Chottogram, showing his strong commitment to BELTA. Other members present in the meeting were Professor Harun ur Rashid, Dr. Tazin Aziz Chowdury. Dr. Akhtar Jahan, Dr. Zakia Ahmad, Dr. Mehnaz Tazeen Choudhury, Dr. Afroza Shuchona, Ms. Kanita Ridwana, Mr. Saiful Islam Akon, and the treasurer, Ms. Zakia Sultana were present at the meeting as well.



## 3. Online Panel Discussion on International Mother Language Day



On the occasion of the International Mother Language Day 2024, an online Panel Discussion was organized by BELTA. The distinguished panellists were Professor Dr Hakim Arif, Director General, International Mother Language Institute, Ministry of Education; Professor Dr Shamsad Mortuza, Director, Office of International Affairs, University of Dhaka; Prof Dr Zulfegar Haider, Senior Curriculum Specialist, NCTB, Ministry of Education; Dr Sabiha Hug, Prof, Department of English and Humanities, Brac University, and Professor of English Discipline, Khulna University (On leave). The panel was moderated by the President of BELTA, Professor Ahmed Bashir, Department of English, University of Dhaka, and Vote of Thanks was given by the General Secretary of BELTA, Dr Md Mohib Ullah.

## 4. BELTA Retreat and Strategic Planning 2024

BELTA Retreat and Strategic Planning Session 2024 was held at Jirai Bari, a cozy resort at Vagarul Bottola in Gazipur on Saturday, the 24th February 2024. It was planned to take a fresh breath escaping from the maddening crowd of city life and brainstorming for new strategies of the year along with a treat for the BELTA EC members. The trip to Gazipur started from Dhaka University campus where BELTA members joined

June 2024

Issue 34



from their pre-decided pick up point to a tourist bus arranged by Ms. Ferdousi. All the members wore vibrant yellow red colored attire to uphold the spirit of Falgul – the Bengali month of Spring. The day remained remarkable not only for the wonderful trip but also for BELTA EC members' passionate commitment for their voluntary works. Though the resort was half an hour away from Dhaka city, it took six hours to reach the destination in Dheeraso Tongi from the starting point of journey due to a roadblock caused by an unforeseen accident. The passionate BELTA members kept their promises and patience and started

the meeting in the standstill bus on the mid-way to the destination point. Finally, the members completed the meeting after lunch. Though there was a gigantic traffic jam, the food reached there in time from Dhaka and the team could find oven-fresh food ready to be served for the hungry BELTANs, which reenergized everyone to restart the meeting in the green lawn of the resort.

Respected Advisor of BELTA, Professor Dr. Arifa Rahman, attended the session along with Professor Dr. Rubina Khan, the immediate past President. Professor Ahmed Bashir, BELTA President, Dr. Mohib Ullah, General Secretary of BELTA, Professor Harun ur Rashid were present among the other EC members of BELTA. Ms. Roxana Chowdhury and Ms. Kanita Ridwana were in charge of refreshment and coordination of the event.

Other Members present in the event were Dr. Akhtar Jahan, Dr. Saiful Islam Dr. Afroza Shuchona, Mr. Takad Ahmed Chowdhury, Mr. Saiful Islam Akond, Ms. Rumi Ahmed, Ms. Nasrin Sultana and Treasurer, Ms Zakia Sultana.

At the time of departure from Jirai Bari, the BELTA president thanked the owner of the resort for permitting and inviting BELTA to use his cottage for the Retreat and Strategic Planning event on a complimentary basis.

The event ended up with the spirit of happiness and accomplishment.

## 5. BELTA-British Council Agreement Signing

A three-year Operational Alliance Agreement was signed between BELTA and British Council on 7 March 2024 at the 5 Fuller Road, Dhaka premises of British Council.

Prof. Ahmed Bashir, President, BELTA and David Knox, Director Programmes, British Council signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations.



Ahmed Bashir & David Knox

The agreement aims at establishing collaborations between these two organizations for the development of English Education in Bangladesh.

In the agreement signing ceremony, among the presence from BELTA were Prof. Dr. Arifa Rahman, Advisor, BELTA; Prof. Dr. Rubina Khan, Immediate Past President, BELTA; Prof. Dr. Moninoor Rashid, EC Member, BELTA, Dr. Qumrul Hasan, Vice-President, BELTA; Dr. Md. Mohib Ullah, General Secretary, BELTA.

British Council officials Mr. Imran Saifur, Senior Academic Advisor, Ms. Tahnee Yeasmin, Manager, English Programs and Ms. Waseka Wahid, Coordinator, English Programs were also present during the agreement signing ceremony.

June 2024

Issue 34





International Participants after signing the agreement

### 6. Women's Day Celebration

On the 8th of March 2024, we celebrated the International Woman's Day. It was indeed celebrated in a beautiful manner. The lovely programme was organized at Naveed's Comedy Clum. Our President in aspirational speech geared us more. The tea, cake, and pakoras were delicious. To top it up Dr. Arifa madam cheese was a hit. It was an evening full of joy, fun and laughter. Kanita's melodious rendition inspired us and the poems recited by BELTANs pitted our enthusiasm. A special thanks to BELTA President for joining the program. A big thanks to Dr. Arifa Rahman and Dr. Rubina Khan and of course the organizers for making the event successful. We hope that have more .....in our next event. Hip Hip Hurrah! To all the empowered members of BELTA.



Participants at the Women's day Program



Cutting a Cake

### 7. U.S. Embassy- BELTA-LPC Teacher Training Workshops 2024

In collaboration with the U.S. Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA) and Language Proficiency Center (LPC) successfully implemented a nationwide teacher training initiative. This program, which ran from May 17 to June 29, 2024, aimed to uplift the professional competencies of secondary English teachers across all eight divisions of Bangladesh, including the Rohingya host communities in Cox's Bazar.

#### Overview of the Workshops

The workshop, inaugurated at Kutupalong High School, Ukhiya, in Cox's Bazar by Mr. Roger Cohen, Regional English Language Officer (RELO) based in Kathmandu, focused on equipping secondary English teachers with contemporary skills in English Language Teaching (ELT). The comprehensive training program addressed both pedagogical improvements and emotional well-being, targeting over 300 teachers in eight divisions of Bangladesh.

To ensure the program's effectiveness, BELTA assembled a team of expert trainers to design six modules covering a range of vital topics, including new curriculum adaptation, technology in teaching, assessment strategies, and socio-emotional well-being for both teachers and students.

BELTA

#### **Workshop Objectives**

The primary goals of the workshop were to:

Enhance the pedagogical expertise of participants by introducing interactive, student-centered teaching approaches.

Bridge gaps in curriculum knowledge, ensuring teachers are proficient in applying updated content.

Foster intercultural awareness and global perspectives to enrich classroom environments.

Equip teachers with digital tools and resources that aid in improving English proficiency among students.

Build assessment literacy, helping teachers create assessments that align with learning outcomes.



#### **Training Structure and Outcomes**

The training sessions, each spanning two days, were held in key regions across Bangladesh, including Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Barisal, Mymensingh, Rangpur, and two locations within Cox's Bazar (Kutupalong and Ramu). Each session catered to 30 participants, bringing the total number of trained teachers to 300.

By the end of the program, participants were expected to:

Build confidence in teaching the four skills of English (listening, speaking, reading, writing) effectively. Develop skills in using technology for language teaching, improving their ability to integrate digital tools into lessons.

Enhance their ability to design and implement assessments suited to the learning needs of students.

Foster emotional intelligence, enabling teachers to manage classroom stress while supporting students' emotional well-being.

#### **Training Modules and Facilitators**

The six modules covered during the training workshops were as follows:

**Induction to the New Curriculum:** Familiarizing teachers with updated curriculum content.

**Developing 21st Century Skills:** Helping teachers cultivate essential skills such as critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration.

#### Technology in English Language Learning and

**Teaching (I & II):** Focused on integrating digital tools into ELT.

**Innovative Methods of Continuous Assessment:** Equipping teachers with strategies for ongoing student assessment.

**Socio-emotional Well-being:** Promoting the mental health of both teachers and students, essential for a positive learning environment.



June 2024



Distinguished resource persons from universities across Bangladesh facilitated these sessions. Professor Dr. Zulfegar Haider and Dr. Md. Mohib facilitated training at Cox's Bazar International University, Cox's Bazar, Professor Gautam Roy, and Mr. Abu Sufian facilitated training at Kutopalong High School in Ukhiya, Mr. Saiful Islam Akon and Mr. Golam Kader GZilany facilitated training at Rangpur, Prof. Dr. Samyul Hoque and Dr. Mohib Ullah facilitated training in Chattogram, Dr. Md. Shaiful Islam and Mr. Md. Shahrear Talukdar facilitated training in Rajshahi, Prof. Dr. Ahmed Bashir and Dr. Mian Mohammad Nawshadul Kabir facilitated training in Khulna, Prof. Dr. Zulfigar Haider, Mr. Harun Khan and Ms Akhter Jahan facilitated training in Mymensing, Prof. Dr. Rubina Khan and Ms. Zakia Sultana facilitated training in Sylhet, Prof. Ahmed Bashir and Prof. Dr. Mohammod Moninoor Rashid facilitated training in Barishal.



The U.S. Embassy-BELTA-LPC Teacher Training Workshop 2024 has played a crucial role in advancing English language education Bangladesh. By equipping teachers with modern pedagogical tools and enhancing their emotional

well-being, the program has empowered educators to better serve their students and contribute meaningfully to the country's broader educational goals. With the ongoing efforts to support both teachers and learners, such initiatives pave the way for sustained improvements in English language proficiency across the nation.

### 8. Community Service by BELTA Team: Training Conducted at Alea Girls' Madrasa

On the 4th of February, 2024, a significant training session was held at the Jebunnisa Alea Girls' Madrasa, aimed at enhancing the educational experience for the children of marginalized communities. The session, which took place from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., was facilitated by distinguished trainers: Rumi Ahmed from PlayPen School, Ferdoushi Rahman from DPS School Dhaka, and S. Nasrin Chowdhury from The Aga Khan Academy, Dhaka. Their collective expertise brought a wealth of knowledge and innovative teaching strategies to the forefront of this initiative.

The training session was meticulously designed with the aim of enriching the educational employed at the Madrasa, methodologies particularly focusing on the needs of students from Play and Nursery grades up to grade 5, as well as enhancing the pedagogical skills of the teachers.

For the Play and Nursery grades, the training adopted a foundational approach. The young learners were engaged in interactive sessions where they were taught the alphabets in a fun and engaging manner. Storytime was a highlight, with the trainers sharing tales that not only captivated the children's imagination but also subtly reinforced the alphabetic concepts they had just learned.

June 2024

Issue 34



This blend of education and entertainment ensured that the learning was both effective and enjoyable for the youngest attendees.

The training for students in grades 1 to 5 took a more structured approach to learning, with an emphasis on collaborative work and critical thinking. The use of the 'Flower Power' strategy to introduce the use of articles (a, an, the) demonstrated an innovative method of teaching grammar in an interactive manner. The session also included the 'Fishbone' activity, which further engaged students in learning through group work, fostering a sense of teamwork and cooperation. The highlight for this group was also a storytime, but with a twist: the students were encouraged to participate, making it an interactive and immersive learning experience.

Teachers were not left out of the learning curve. The session for them focused on the critical area of lesson planning. The trainers introduced both detailed and weekly planning techniques, aiming to equip the teachers with the tools to design more effective and coherent lesson plans. This was followed by a practical exercise where the teachers, divided into groups, were tasked with creating lesson plans for the current unit they were teaching. This hands-on experience allowed them to immediately apply what they had learned and receive feedback, enhancing their skills in real-time.

In conclusion, the training session at the Jebunnisa Alea Girls' Madrasa was a comprehensive effort to uplift the educational standards for both students and teachers. By focusing on foundational learning for the youngest, introducing interactive learning strategies for the primary grades, and enhancing the pedagogical skills of the teachers, the session set a precedent for future educational initiatives within marginalized communities. The commitment of the trainers and the enthusiasm of the participants promise a brighter educational future for the students of Jebunnissa Alea Girls' Madrasa.



BELTA Team



**Participants** 

June 2024 Issue 3



### 9. Reports on BELTA Webinars

#### **BELTA 31st Webinar**

On January 30th, 2024, BELTA hosted its 31st Webinar Series, featuring Kelly Royster, an esteemed English Language Fellow with the U.S. Department of State. The webinar, titled "Metacognition in Action: Applying Metacognitive Strategies to English Language Learning and Teaching," provided valuable insights into enhancing language instruction through metacognitive approaches.

Kelly Royster, with extensive experience in teaching and curriculum development, delivered a compelling session aimed at both instructors and students. Her background includes teaching contextualized medical English to health sciences students in North Carolina, USA, and introducing English Linguistics online for international students. Royster also served as a virtual English Language Fellow in Belarus, focusing on business English and ESL for adult learners, alongside English tutoring for young children.

The webinar centered on the importance of metacognition in the language learning process. Royster emphasized the necessity for instructors to not only design lesson plans, teach, grade assignments, and assess student achievement but also to inculcate metacognitive strategies. These strategies help students reflect on their learning processes, thereby fostering better understanding and retention of language skills.

Royster posed critical questions to attendees: Do we teach students how to think about their learning? Do instructors reflect on their teaching methods? She explained that metacognition involves thinking about one's thinking and is crucial for both students and teachers. By adopting metacognitive strategies, educators can significantly improve the efficacy of language acquisition.

The workshop concluded with practical insights on implementing these strategies in the classroom. Royster's session was well-received, providing attendees with actionable techniques to enhance both teaching and learning experiences.



METACOGNITION IN ACTION: APPLYING METACOGNITIVE STRATEGIES TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING AND TEACHING

#### Abstract:

As instructors, we create lesson plans, teach, grade assignments, and assess student achievement. We do everything we can to help our students be successful by improving their cognition in the second language learning process. But do we teach them strategies to think about the way they are learning? Do we, as teachers, reflect on and think about our own teaching approaches in the classroom? In short, how do we think about our thinking? This strategy is called metacognition and it is a process that can benefit both instructors and students in the process of language acquisition. This workshop provides insights into how to use metacognitive strategies in the language classroom for both students and teachers.



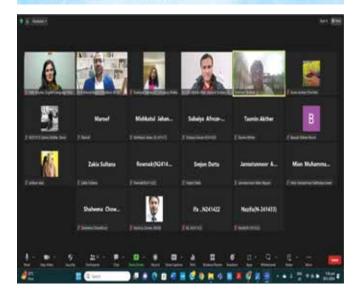


Kelly Royster

English Language Fellow, U.S. Department of State, USA

#### GRIEF BIO

Kelly Royster is an English Language Fellow with the U.S. Department of State. Before coming to Bangladesh, she taught contextualized medical English to health sciences students in her home state of North Carolina, USA, as well as Introduction to English Linguistics online for international students. She was also a virtual English Language Fellow, U.S. State Department, for students in Belarus. She has experience teaching business English and ESL for adult learners, and English tutoring for young children. Kelly has a BA in Linguistics and an MA TESOL. She is also a mother of 5 beautiful daughters and a grandmother of two granddaughters.





### **BELTA 32nd Webinar**

BELTA held its 32nd Webinar Series on March 7, 2024 which was facilitated by Dr. Sukanto Roy, an assistant professor of English at North South University. With the topic "Workshop on Research & Publication," the webinar provided a thorough description of how to conduct empirical investigations and choose appropriate journals to publish research work.

Dr. Sukanto Roy, who completed his Ph.D. in TESOL from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, USA, brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the session. His current role at North South University and his extensive background in research and publication positioned him as an expert in guiding participants through the intricacies of academic research.

The workshop aimed to demystify the process of conducting empirical research, a critical component of academic scholarship. Dr. Roy provided participants with a step-by-step approach to designing and implementing empirical studies where he emphasized the importance of rigorous methodology and data analysis. He highlighted common challenges researchers face and offered practical solutions to overcome these obstacles.

In addition to empirical research, Dr. Roy focused on the crucial aspect of selecting appropriate journals for publication. He shared strategies for identifying reputable journals, understanding their submission guidelines, and tailoring research manuscripts to meet the specific requirements of these journals. Dr. Roy also discussed the peer review process and provided insights into how to navigate reviewer feedback and improve the chances of publication.

A significant number of participants eagerly joined the webinar conducted via Zoom, with the goal of enhancing their research skills and publication prospects. Dr. Roy's presentation style was clear and engaging, which made the session highly informative and beneficial for both novice and experienced researchers. His expertise added to the overall value of the session.

Participants left the workshop with a deeper understanding of the research process and practical tips for successfully publishing their work. Dr. Roy's contributions to the BELTA Webinar Series were highly valued, furthering the professional development of English language educators and researchers in Bangladesh.



#### **BELTA 33rd Webinar**

Susan Mast, an English Language Fellow with the U.S. Department of State, was the highlight of BELTA's 33rd Webinar Series on April 29, 2024. The webinar, "Exploratory Research on Teacher and Student Talk Time: Current Situation and Solutions," focused on the critical issue of harmonizing teacher and student talk time in the classroom.

With an MA in linguistics, Susan Mast has taught languages in six different places for a long time. Mast was a certified English, Chinese, and Japanese teacher, so she brought a lot of information and real-world experience to the discussion. Her expertise in facilitating language learning through experiential and project-based methods enriched the webinar content.



The webinar focused on exploratory research conducted through classroom observations and a questionnaire survey, which highlighted an imbalance between teacher talk time and student talk time. This imbalance can hinder effective language learning by limiting student engagement and participation.

Participants in the webinar were invited to engage in an instant anonymous survey which allowed them to contribute their experiences and insights in real-time. Mast discussed various techniques to increase student talk time, reduce teacher talk time, and promote an atmosphere that encourages active student participation. Her presentation emphasized the importance of creating a classroom environment where students feel comfortable and motivated to speak, thus enhancing their language learning experience.

Mast provided practical strategies for teachers to implement, such as incorporating more student-led activities, using open-ended questions, and designing tasks that require collaborative student interaction. She also highlighted the significance of reflective teaching practices and encouraged educators to regularly assess and adjust their talk time balance.

A large audience of educators eagerly joined the session conducted via Zoom, all seeking to enhance their teaching methodologies. Mast delivered the webinar in an engaging manner that made sure to involve all participants in an interactive format. This ensured that everyone had a highly informative and beneficial experience.

The insights gained from this webinar are expected to have a positive impact on classroom dynamics and promote more effective and student-centered language teaching practices. BELTA's commitment to professional development was once again evident through this successful event, contributing significantly to the enhancement of English language education in Bangladesh.



Some Participants at the Webinar

June 2024

Issue 34









#### WEBINAR ON

### EXPLORATORY RESEARCH ON TEACHER AND STUDENT TALK TIME: CURRENT SITUATION AND SOLUTIONS

#### **ABSTRACT**

Exploratory research in the form of classroom observations and a questionnaire survey highlighted an imbalance of teacher talk time and student talk time. Webinar participants will also be invited to participate in an instant anonymous survey. We will discuss techniques for increasing student talk, reducing teacher talk, and fostering an atmosphere that encourages student talk.

#### SPEAKER

#### SUSAN MAST

ENGLISH LANGUAGE FELLOW, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE



#### **BRIEF BIO**

Susan Mast, MA Linguistics, has taught languages in six countries and is a certified teacher of English, Chinese, and Japanese. She enjoy's learning languages as well as facilitating language learning in the classroom through experiential and project-based learning.



29 APRIL 2024 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM



ZOOM ID: 6688717171 PASSCODE: 616161

### 10. BELTA Representative at the NELTA Conference 2024

In accordance with the bilateral agreement between BELTA and NELTA, BELTA nominated one of its senior members, Professor Dr. Mohammod Moninoor Roshid from the University of Dhaka, to attend the 28th NELTA International Conference. The conference, held from February 17–19, 2024, in Kathmandu, Nepal, focused on the theme "Rethinking ELT in Diversity: Equity, Inclusion, and Innovation."

Professor Moninoor delivered a plenary presentation titled "Best Practices and Path Forward to Sustainability of English Teachers' Associations: The Case of BELTA." His presentation provided an insightful overview of

BELTA, highlighting its history, objectives, and international partnerships. He emphasised BELTA's commitment to best practices through various initiatives, including webinars, "Teacher Help Teachers" sessions, workshops, seminars, conferences, and research activities. Additionally, he discussed BELTA's efforts to maintain sustainable relationships with ELT scholars, practitioners, and partner organisations both locally and internationally.

Addressing the challenges faced by BELTA as a voluntary organisation, Professor Moninoor identified issues such as communication gaps at the policy level, the absence of a physical office, financial dependencies, and inactive memberships. He proposed several strategies to enhance BELTA's sustainability, including:

- Engaging young and emerging ELT scholars and practitioners across all educational levels.
- Integrating experienced leaders with fresh perspectives.
- Collaborating as a team on a strategic action plan.
- Exploring income-generating sources for financial stability.
- Encouraging greater member participation by offering improved services.

In addition to Professor Moninoor's participation, a group of English teachers, practitioners, and researchers from various universities across the country also participated in the NELTA conference, enriching the event with their expertise and insights.



June 2024

Issue 34





## 11. BELTA Participation in British Council Regional Webinar

#### Enhancing Teacher Development for Multilingual Classrooms: Insights from British Council's Online Panel Discussion

On February 12, 2024, a highly anticipated online panel discussion took place, organized by the British Council Teaching English platform. The event, titled Exploring Specialised Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for Teachers in Multilingual Classrooms, brought together experts in the field of teacher development and education. The session was designed to address the specific challenges and opportunities that arise in multilingual classrooms and how Continuous Professional Development (CPD) can be tailored to meet the needs of teachers working in such environments. The panel discussion aimed to offer valuable insights, strategies, and practical solutions for educators navigating the complexities of teaching in multilingual settings.

The panel featured four distinguished educators, each of whom brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the conversation. The panelists included:

- **Dr. Fatima Dar,** an expert in teacher education and multilingual pedagogy.
- **Dr. Md Mohib Ullah,** an Associate Professor and a leading figure in CPD, well-versed in the needs of multilingual classrooms.
- **Dr. Lina Mukhopadhyay,** whose extensive research focuses on language learning and bilingual education.
- **Dr. Ganga Ram,** a seasoned educator with practical experience in multilingual instructional strategies.

The session, which was held from 16:00 to 17:00 India time, saw participants from across the globe, including teachers, educators, and academic leaders interested in understanding how CPD could be better tailored for multilingual teaching contexts.

#### Key Highlights from the Discussion

The panel discussion began with an introduction by the moderator, who set the stage by explaining the growing importance of multilingual classrooms, especially in today's increasingly globalized world. She pointed out that educators often find themselves managing diverse linguistic backgrounds within a single classroom, which can pose unique challenges in terms of communication, instruction, and assessment.

**Dr. Fatima Dar** started the discussion by exploring the nuances of multilingual education. She emphasized that teachers in multilingual settings need to be equipped not only with pedagogical knowledge but also with cultural competence. She pointed out that understanding the linguistic and cultural backgrounds of students is crucial for developing inclusive teaching strategies. Furthermore, Dr. Dar highlighted the need for ongoing professional development that focuses on the development of these competencies. She stressed that CPD programs should include training on differentiated instruction and the integration of multiple languages into the curriculum without disadvantaging students who are less proficient in the dominant classroom language.

June 2024



Next, Dr. Md Mohib Ullah shared insights from his extensive work in Bangladesh's multilingual education sector. He spoke about the crucial role of CPD in supporting teachers to become more confident in managing multilingual classrooms. Dr. Ullah outlined various methods by which CPD programs can be adapted to meet the needs of teachers, such as by including workshops that focus on practical classroom strategies, peer mentoring systems, and the use of technology in supporting language learning. His presentation underscored the importance of creating a supportive environment where teachers can continuously learn and share best practices.

Dr. Ullah also touched upon the unique challenges faced by educators in Bangladesh, where classrooms often contain students who speak different regional languages. He argued that effective CPD programs should be contextualized to address the specific needs of teachers in these environments. offering professional By development that is localized, educators can better engage with their students and foster more inclusive classroom environments.

**Dr. Lina Mukhopadhyay**, another key contributor to the panel, expanded on the theme of bilingual and multilingual education. She provided an in-depth look at how CPD could incorporate language acquisition theory and bilingual teaching methodologies. Dr. Mukhopadhyay stressed that CPD should go beyond theoretical knowledge, offering practical tools and techniques that teachers can implement in their classrooms. She also emphasized the importance of collaborative learning, where teachers from various linguistic backgrounds come together to share experiences and best practices. This peer-learning approach, she noted, could be a powerful tool for fostering innovation and improving teaching practices in multilingual settings.

Rounding off the discussion, Dr. Ganga Ram brought his practical experience into the conversation. He focused on the day-to-day realities faced by teachers in multilingual classrooms, providing concrete examples of how CPD had helped him and his colleagues manage

linguistic diversity more effectively. He highlighted the importance of adaptability in teaching and the role CPD plays in helping educators become more flexible in their approach to instruction.

The online panel discussion ended with a Q&A session, where attendees had the opportunity to pose questions to the panelists. The panelists provided thoughtful and practical responses, offering additional resources and strategies that could be implemented in multilingual classrooms.

### 12. Publications and Participation in Conferences by BELTA Members

#### Anxiety level of students pursuing tertiary level studies in a compulsory second language.

Ahmad, Z., Ehsan, T., Kaiser, W., & Rahim, S.

Dr. Zakia Ahmad, Associate Professor Department of English, University of Asia Pacific and Publication Secretary BELTA studied the anxiety level of students studying at the university level in a compulsory foreign language. She carried out her research along with some of her junior colleagues, Tawsif Ehsan, Wahid Kaiser and Sifatur Rahim published her research article in the International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social VIII (V),https://doi.org/10.47772/ijriss.2024.805002. The paper also offers pedagogical implications giving insights to the researchers and teachers in helping students overcome the obstacles which increase their anxiety. The study concludes with some possible suggestions that educators

#### Hallucinations in ChatGPT: An Unreliable Tool for Learning

Zakia Ahmad, Wahid Kaiser, Sifatur Rahim

Dr. Zakia Ahmad, Associate Professor Department of English, University of Asia Pacific along with two of her junior colleagues, Wahid Kaiser and Sifatur Rahim published a research article in Rupkatha Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities, 15(4). https://doi.org/10.21659/rupkatha.v15n4.

June 2024

Issue 34



titled Hallucinations in ChatGPT: An 17 Unreliable Tool for Learning. Rupkatha Journal is a Web of Science indexed journal. ChatGPT has become an extraordinarily popular phenomenon all over the world for creating texts within seconds, however, it can disseminate wrong information and misconceptions which has been identified as hallucinations by experts. The researchers examined ChatGPT's ability to differentiate between correct and incorrect relations in the questions that are set to it. It also explored the efficacy of ChatGPT in helping students acquire linguistic and literary proficiency. The findings of this research indicate that ChatGPT has a tendency to provide inconsistent information when a series of contextual questions are asked. Because of this hallucination, ChatGPT becomes an unreliable source for language and literature learning.

Mr. Takad Ahmed Chowdhury, Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Asia Pacific (UAP) and Member of the Executive Committee of BELTA, published a paper in Volume 7, Issue 1 of MOTHER LANGUAGE, the journal of the International Mother Language Institute (IMLI). The paper, titled "Use of Mother Language in English Literature Classroom: Insights from Students of a Bangladeshi University," was co-authored with Mr. Sabbir Ahmed Dibbo, Lecturer in the Department of English at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST), and Mr. Amit Kiron Pal, a former student of the Department of English at UAP.

The study conducted a quantitative analysis of students' perspectives on using their mother language (Bengali) in English literature classrooms at an English-medium university in Bangladesh. Findings from a questionnaire survey revealed that students favor teachers who are proficient in their L1 and support the selective use of Bengali, especially when analyzing new concepts, literary terms, or creative and unique literary expressions. However, many students also appreciate the use of English as the medium of instruction (EMI) to practice and improve their English skills.

This article provides timely insights for pedagogical considerations and suggests adaptations to institutional policies regarding the medium of instruction. The study underscores the need for a balanced approach that incorporates students' linguistic preferences while enhancing their English proficiency.

#### Paper Publication and Conference Presentation by Takad Ahmed Chowdhury



Caption: Takad Ahmed Chowdhury, Member, Executive Committee, BELTA is receiving a certificate after presenting at the 2nd TESOL BD International Conference.

Mr. Takad Ahmed Chowdhury, Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Asia Pacific (UAP) and Member of the Executive Committee of BELTA, presented a paper at the 2nd TESOL BD International Conference on February 10, 2024. The paper, titled "Exploring the Challenges of Effective English Writing for Bangladeshi Tertiary-level Students," was co-authored by Md. Sajid Hussain, a promising student of the Department of English at UAP.

The study employed a mixed-method approach to investigate three categories of challenges faced by Bangladeshi EFL students in developing their English writing skills:

June 2024



language proficiency challenges, motivational and challenges, and learning support external challenges. Conducted in the context of a Bangladeshi university, the findings highlighted various factors hindering the writing proficiency of tertiary-level Bangladeshi EFL learners. These insights are crucial for implementing effective pedagogical, psychological, and other supportive measures to enhance their EFL writing skills.

In addition to his presentation, Mr. Takad Ahmed Chowdhury was invited to chair an important session on the second day of the international conference.

#### 13. Success Stories of BELTANs

#### Dr. Mohib, General Secretary of BELTA, Honored with IVLP Impact Award 2024 for AI-Enhanced **English Language Education Project**

Dr. Md. Mohib Ullah, General Secretary of BELTA and Associate Professor of English Language and Literature at IIUC, has been selected by the U.S. Department of State for the prestigious IVLP Impact Award 2024. This accolade recognizes his groundbreaking project, "Empowering Educators: AI-Enhanced Inquiry-Based Implementing Approaches in English Language Education in Bangladesh."

The project, set to unfold over six months, aims to transform English language education seamlessly integrating advanced AI technologies inquiry-based teaching methods. equipping educators with innovative instructional strategies, the initiative seeks to enhance student engagement and significantly improve learning outcomes in English language classrooms across Bangladesh.

A distinguished U.S. Exchange alum, Dr. Mohib has previously participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) and the Fulbright FLTA program, where he earned an Award of Excellence Certificate from his Fulbright supervisor in 2013. His latest endeavor underscores his unwavering commitment to advancing educational practices and empowering educators in Bangladesh.

The BELTA community celebrates Dr. Mohib's achievement and looks forward to the positive impact his project will have on English language education in the country.

### 14. BELTA Representative at the IATEFL Conference 2024 Brighton, U.K. 8 Reflections by Dr. Zakia Ahmad

I had the privilege and good opportunity to International participate at the Conference 2024 which took place at Brighton, UK from 16 to 19 April 2024. The venue of the Conference was the Brighton Centre and the Grand Hotel adjacent to the Centre. I was fortunate enough to be nominated as the representative of BELTA (Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association) to participate in the IATEFL Conference as an Associate Member.

IATEFL celebrated the Associates' Day on 15 May 2024. This event like the whole conference was a huge success. Almost a hundred associate members from all over the world were present here. The Associates' Day event was a special affair where the gathering, the sessions, the food (I served the mango bars, a gift from Ms. Roxana Choudhury during the tea break which were welcomed by all) and everything was excellent. There were talks by some members and some members had poster presentations which were displayed in the hall. I a poster on BELTA Activities presented (2023-2024) which attracted the interest of other associates. They found a keen interest in the varied activities presented in the poster. Highlighted in the poster were the BELTA activities which are carried out in alignment with the UN SDG goals of inclusivity and sustainability in education, such as: webinars, teacher development programmes and workshops, reaching out to marginalized communities for enhancement of education and activities conducted by Chapters all over the country. My poster presentation went quite well. There were a few people who came and talked to me. One lady also knew our history of liberation.

June 2024

Issue 34



One important event emphasized in the poster was the THT Conference hosted by the University of Asia Pacific, Dhaka in 2023. This is a regular teacher development event conducted by BELTA annually in collaboration with the Japan Association of Language Teachers. The University of Asia Pacific extended overall logistic support to make this conference a success. All faculty members of the Department of English took part in this conference along with many teachers from other institutions. UAP's convenient location, infrastructure, logistics and management made the conference a huge success. We hope and look forward to such collaborations with other institutions for the progress of English language teaching and improvement of English teachers all over the country. After the Associates' Day the posters were kept on display at the Associates stall throughout the conference. The poster at the IATEFL Conference provided an excellent opportunity to internationally showcase BELTA's activities in supporting the community of English Language teachers in Bangladesh.

The mornings at the conference began with sessions on Mindfulness, followed by the plenaries held in the auditorium, parallel session in the rooms, presentations on the Pop-up Stage and exhibitions on two floors - with tea, coffee, juice and water flowing freely all day long. Penny Ur's session on ELT-related controversies, Jeremy Harmer's session on the importance of empathy, sessions on Teacher Wellbeing, emergence of the AI factor in ELT, using Mediation for better outcomes, creating a greener classroom environment and Harry Kuchah Kuchah's story telling were all extremely educational, enriching, entertaining and inspirational sessions. The only drawback being that one could not be at all the places at the same time. Participating at the Conference provided me with the opportunity to meet an array of ELT celebrities like Jeremy Harmer, Penny Ur, George Pickering, Sarah Mercer, Sue Garton and Jan Blake, the storyteller to mention a few. Some of them have been to

Bangladesh and expressed wishes of visiting again. When I introduced myself they greeted me very happily and welcomed me with a lot of warmth. Those who have not been to Bangladesh also seemed to have a very high opinion of our education system. I was fortunate enough to meet Simon Borg whose seminal work on teacher cognition initiated my doctoral study. I have been able to establish a new network of teachers and colleagues through my first-time participation at an IATEFL conference. My participation at the conference gave me a wholly satisfying, enriching experience and I could return home with a sense of wellbeing. This is a very brief summary of what I have experienced. Relating the richness of all the sessions and events is not possible here. I can only say that this experience has enriched me not only professionally but also personally and emotionally. I am grateful to BELTA and UAP for giving me this opportunity.





15. BELTA Activities

#### **Trainings and Workshops**

#### 1. BSRS Workshop

Dr. Md Shaiful Islam, Assistant Professor, Department of English and Modern Languages, Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) and member, BELTA Executive Committee facilitated a workshop on "Research Literacy for Beginners" on 3 February 2024 organized Saturday, Bangladesh Space Research Society (BSRS). Beginning with defining knowledge and how research generates knowledge, Dr Islam discussed the processes rigorous research undergoes. The members of BSRS participated in the workshop. The workshop involved the participants through various tasks on how to develop research question/s, review literature, design methodology, collect and analyze data, and report findings. The workshop ended with a questions and answers session.

### 2. Self-regulated Learning (SRL)

Dr. Md Shaiful Islam, Assistant Professor, Department of English and Modern Languages, Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) and member, BELTA Executive Committee gave a talk "Self-regulated Learning in Language Education: The Use of Strategies". In his talk, he highlighted that self-regulated learning (SRL) as a learning approach helps learners achieve learning goals and make learning sustainable. He added that SRL has emerged from social cognitive theory by Bandura (1986). Various models of self-regulated learning were developed over the decades (Panadero, 2017). However, all these models positioned SRL broadly in the field of education.

Application of SRL in language education was conceptualized by Dörnyei (2005) who proposed a model comprising five categories of self-regulation. Other researchers (e.g. Tseng et al., 2006; Oxford, 2011) gradually got attracted to explore and examine the use of SRL strategies for the improvement of learners' proficiency in language skills and language systems. The talk addressed the theoretical frameworks of SRL, models of SRL developed over the decades, and its emergence in the field of language education. It concluded by addressing some implications.





### 3. Online Professional English Network Course



June 2024



Completion of Online Professional English Network (OPEN) course Teaching for The Future: Climate Change- Part-1Spring -2024 through CANVAS Learning Management System by EC Member Ms. Kanita Ridwana

Teaching for The Future: Climate Change-Part-1, Spring 2024 conducted by Kansas State University has been successfully completed by BELTA EC member Ms. Kanita Ridwana. It is a Professional development 8 week long Online Course that is developed for English Language Teachers who are non-native English speakers around the world and taught by U. S academic partners The instructor of the course was Professor Greta Climenhega-Professor of Kansas State University. The course was concluded on 3rd June, 2024 before the World Environment Day. The online graduation ceremony was held on 25th June and certificates

were given to students in a virtual graduation ceremony. The program was supported by US Embassy Dhaka, BELTA and GSD. Ms. Kanita Ridwana was nominated from BELTA-GSD to participate in the course and it was sponsored by US embassy, Dhaka.



### 16. Upcoming Events:

**BELTA-NSU (BELTA 11th)** International Conference 2024 is going to be held on 6-7 December 2024 at North South University





BELTA-IUB-THT 18th Teacher Development Conference is going to be held on 3 November, 2024 at Independent University Bangladesh.



BELTA-IUB-THT 18th Teacher Development Conference is going to be held on 4 November, 2024 at Barishal University, Barishal.



June 2024

Issue 34



### 17. BELTA in Photos:















### **BELTA in Photos:**









### **BELTA** in Photos: **BELTA Retreat 2024**













### **EDITORIAL TEAM**

Dr. Zakia Ahmad Prof. Ahmed Bashir Dr. Md. Mohib Ullah Dr. Afroza Aziz Suchana

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

BELTA newsletter primarily aims at all the members of BELTA. It is not a refereed journal, rather a newsletter that contains various news items including brief reports on events organized by BELTA and its chapters, and seminars and conferences participated by its members. It also contains short write-ups on any topics related to ELT, Applied Linguistics and Education in general. Besides, the newsletter welcomes any write-ups about your teaching and learning experiences or any tips on teaching and learning. Please send your contributions to BELTA Newsletter as a Word file in 350-500 words. We accept contributions throughout the year.

#### WHERE TO SEND

Send your write-ups to **belta.newsletter@gmail.com** Cc to

Dr. Zakia Ahmad: zakahmad17@gmail.com

Dr. Md. Mohib Ullah: mohib.luminous@gmail.com Dr. Afroza Aziz Suchana: suchanadu@gmail.com

BELTA website www.belta-bd.org