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About *Spectrum*

Spectrum is a peer-reviewed journal published by the Department of English, University of Dhaka. *Spectrum* receives submissions of scholarly articles, research papers, book-reviews, and creative pieces. The areas of focus of the journal are English Literatures, Applied Linguistics, English Language Teaching and Learning, and Education.

Guidelines for authors:

1. Articles should be between 4000 and 6000 words including references and an abstract of 150-200 words.
2. Book-reviews should be between 1500 and 2000 words. The books to be reviewed should be published within the last five years by a renowned publishing house.
3. Manuscripts currently under consideration elsewhere must not be submitted to *Spectrum*.
4. APA style sheet (6th edition) should be followed for all articles and book-reviews.
5. Times New Roman, 12 font size and double-line spacing should be followed.
6. Author's details including designation, affiliation, contact address, e-mail, and phone number should be on the cover page.
7. Authors will be responsible for plagiarism. Any plagiarized manuscript may result in barring the author from future submission to the journal.
8. Manuscripts should be emailed to **spectrum.ed.du@gmail.com**

The Editor

Spectrum

Journal of the Department of English

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In Lieu of an Editorial

It suddenly strikes me that the title of DU English Department journal, *Spectrum*, is oriented not only to broad nature, but to the spectacular variety there also. We must appreciate those who chose this title. May be, it's the on-going pandemic situation of Covid-19 which impels us more to look at this now-highlighted connotation of the word in the title. For, the present pandemic has pointed at mankind's tragic failure in both marking and pricing nature's vitally valuable ways of variety. We may self-felicitate for going for it long back in time when others did not or could not.

The journal didn't finish by deciding for a very apt title. In its editorial plan and performance, it has since the beginning been living up to the implied ideals. Readers of earlier numbers will by and large admit that the journal has been really spectrum-like in get-up and content. I feel like recollecting how during our many and long meetings of the Editorial Board for the present number, we both gossiped and argued in favour of variety, individuality, non-homogeneity, etc., and of not going by senses of blind conformity to rules of writing and editing, to style-sheets, one may say. Now-a-days authors and researchers seem to be tired of rules of citing, referencing, and the updatings and changes there. As if, research is more a matter of methodology than of concrete works of basic inquiry, investigation and innovation there! Going to the content of the present number, we may claim we could pull a fairly large number of essays in both literature and ELT. We have a few creative pieces and translation also. These items will testify to our emphasis on variety of themes, issues and genres.

Literary Articles

In literature part, we feel like mentioning first of all Prof. Fakrul Alam's essay, "Doing Environmental Criticism from Where We Are" which goes for an impressive review of eco-criticism of parts of our planet over centuries and chastising mankind's irresponsibility vis-à-vis our environmental surroundings. Kajal Bandyopadhyay's essay, "Two Newspapers in Two Ibsen plays: Some Sociological and Political Issues" also has a portion of focus on environment, but the other portion revolves round issues of freedom of expression and political economy of modern press. This takes us to Dr. Ahsanuzzaman's essay involving Ibsen again, Ibsen's *Doll's House*, "*Guriya-Ghar*: Tripti Mitra's Take on Sambhu Mitra's *Putul Khela*." It is about the performance part of the play, and re-creation as one of the most enchanting and enduring features of performance. Such re-creation is bound to occur in theatre, because it is all about translation of a work. As the author claims, the director, performers and crew translate, and the audience also translate the piece, "positioning themselves in their respective times and places where the original is continuously debated, contested, defined and redefined." In "Reinscribing Identity Formation on Screen: Ashima and Shashi", Musarrat Shamim has written about "two films of the commercial genre, the negotiation of two leading female characters in sculpting individual identity." "Issues that Matter: Inter-semiotic Transfer of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*" by Fahima Tasnim and Sabiha Huq also goes comparative as they analyze British novelist Roald Dahl's novel *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* in their two film adaptations which are *Willy Wonka*

and the Chocolate Factory (1971) directed by Mel Stuart and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (2005) directed by Tim Burton. The authors claim that these “two films are adapted in two different ways incorporating socio-political, psychological and, to some extent, technological issues.” Srideep Mukherjee joins then as he explicates how Badal Sircar’s *Michhil* aims to underscore the continuing relevance of Sircar’s ‘political’ theatre as interrogations on postcolonial subject positions after a span of nearly five decades since its first enactment. Tusar Talukder’s paper explicates *Canto General* (1950), one of the most notable works by Pablo Neruda, to expose how the bourgeois governments in Latin America intentionally excluded the contribution and sacrifice of the liberators of the continent from the text-book history to mislead the coming generations. This indicates how propaganda stands as a threat to history and historicity in Latin America, and why the proletarian struggle is important to challenge and question the rise of such ahistoricity there. By keeping Linda Hutcheon’s idea of parody in mind, Sanjeeda Hossain checks if Robert Lowell’s *Life Studies* is “a collection of poems that criticizes modernism, and adopts certain traits of postmodernism to mark American modernism’s shift towards postmodernism.” Shibajee Mridha draws on James C. Scott’s idea of “hidden transcripts” which stands for the subtle, masked nature of resistance used by the oppressed, and his paper argues that motherhood can be read as one “hidden transcript” that Linda Brent uses exhaustively not only to defeat her master but also to keep her dream alive. In “Examining the Idea of Gender, Greater Naturalism and Relationship in Strindberg’s Dramatic Oeuvre”, Mahbub Siddiquee shows that Strindberg’s characters sprouted from situations. Consequently, they crossed the gender-boundary, and landed on the ground of ‘position’. Having an apprehensible relationship with gender, this shows that gender is not a boundary but a balance that is, and should be, parallel to nature.

Applied Linguistics and ELT Articles

The second section, containing five articles and titled ‘Applied Linguistics and ELT’, opens with Ahmed Bashir’s “Undergraduate EFL students’ level of proficiency and their use of reading strategies”. It focuses on the use of reading strategies by English language learners, indicating how learners’ use of strategies varies depending on their reading proficiency levels. Based on secondary research studies, the second paper by Sukanto Roy analyzes students’ preference for audio feedback from the perspective of social cognitive theory. “Towards an Agrammatic Grammatical Theory: Evidence from Research on Aphasic Patients” is sort of a break, as it deals with a phenomenon commonly known as language loss of aphasic patients whose particular area(s) of brain accidentally get damaged resulting in language impairment. The author, Md Harun, highlights various aspects of agrammatism based on secondary research studies. In “Assessment Literacy: From Theoretical Constructs to Test Design and Delivery”, Md Elias Uddin discusses the basics of assessment in ELT. The paper sheds light on some key theoretical constructs of assessment and testing, stages of test design and successful delivery of tests. Finally, Motiur Rahman, in “Studying in the Department of English: An Analysis of Learners’ Expectations and Reality”, attempts to identify gaps between the first-year undergraduate learners’ expectations of studying in the Department of English and the realities they face.

Creative Pieces

The portion of creative pieces consists of three poems and one prose item. Nafisa Zamal has contributed her own poem, "Of Now and Then". The other two poems are translations. One is Khondakar Ashraf Hossain's Bangla poem, "Mrityu Kacher Deyal" translated by Rubina Khan into English, "Death: the Glass Wall." The other, "The Albatross" ("L'Albatros") by Charles Baudelaire, has been translated from French into English by Md. Elias Uddin.

The prose piece, famous "Boi Kena" by Syed Mujtaba Ali, has been translated into English, "Purchase of Books", by Anjuman Ara.

* * *

We expect that the present issue of *Spectrum* will satisfy both academics and general readers. We are grateful to scholars and creative writers for sharing their outputs. We acknowledge roles of the reviewers and contributions of all members of the Editorial Board. Thanks go to the present Chairperson. We are indebted to the Departmental office also for its support.

* * *

We began by referring to the title of our journal, *Spectrum*, drawing attention to the emphasis on variety there. Let us finish, on a comparable note, by stressing on the importance of democratization of academic communication and knowledge production. Inclusive concepts and conventions will help the cause of production of local or peripheral knowledge through academic journals.

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