Appropriate ELT methodology for Bangladesh and elsewhere: How relevant are Michael West’s ideas today?

A series of **three webinars** organized by BELTA (Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association), with the support of the **Hornby Trust History of ELT/ELE** initiative and in collaboration with the **University of Warwick ELT Archive**

Michael West (1888–1973) was a British educator who spent twenty years in Bengal in the 1910s–1930s, serving as Principal of the Teachers’ Training College (TTC) in Dhaka from 1920 to 1932. During this time, he developed many original insights into problems of teaching English in ‘difficult circumstances’, as expounded in works such as Bilingualism (with special reference to Bengal) (1926a), Learning to Read a Foreign Language (1926b) and – much later in his career – Teaching English in Difficult Circumstances (1960). He was also a successful textbook and supplementary reader author – becoming well-known internationally for his Longmans New Method series, itself based on readers originally designed for Bengali pupils.

In this webinar series, organized to coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of Michael West’s death, the panellists consider the continuing relevance of his ideas – and the relevance of historical studies of ELT in general – with a focus on issues of appropriate methodology in the challenging conditions of classrooms in Bangladesh and elsewhere in the Global South today.

---

**WEBINAR 1**

**Contributions of Michael West in the History of ELT: In Bengal and Beyond**

Hamidur Rahman and Richard Smith with comments from Henry Widdowson

**Saturday 27 May, 2023**

13:00–14:30 GMT / 19:00–20:30 BDT

---

**WEBINAR 2**

**The present-day relevance of the work of Michael West**

(1) Teaching in difficult circumstances and (2) Reading Method

Richard Smith, Hamidur Rahman, and Ranjit Podder

**Saturday 3 June, 2023**

13:00–14:30 GMT / 19:00–20:30 BDT

---

**WEBINAR 3**

**Contributions of Michael West to ELT in Bengal and beyond:**

(3) Construction of textbook materials and (4) Teaching of speaking

Santosh Mahapatra, Richard Smith, Rubina Khan and Arifa Rahman

**Saturday 10 June, 2023**

13:00–14:30 GMT / 19:00–20:30 BDT

---

You can register for the webinar series here: https://forms.gle/ZZjHTFKpwrXZKgvRA

Information on the Panelists: https://www.belta-bd.org/michael-west-webinar

Further information about Michael West: https://warwick.ac.uk/elt_archive/halloffame/west/

In case of any difficulty, please contact Moshiur: tmshomon@gmail.com