



Table of Contents

1. Message from BELTA President
2. Special Webinar Series on Michael West
3. BELTA-THT 16th Annual Teacher Development Conference 2022
 - BELTA-THT in partnership with East West University, Dhaka
 - BELTA-THT in partnership with International Islamic University Chittagong
4. 10th BELTA International Conference
5. Special Teacher Development Programme by U.S. English Language Specialist
6. Teacher Training Event
7. BELTA Webinars
8. Women’s Day Celebration
9. BELTA Retreat and Strategic Planning
10. BELTA Journal
11. Publications
12. BELTA Participation at National and International Platforms
13. Cascading Session: TESOL International Conference
14. Events by BELTA Regional Chapters

15. New Partnerships
16. BELTA in Photos



Message from BELTA President

Greetings!

This is my last message as my four-year stint as BELTA President comes to an end this mid-June. Looking back, it has been challenging to navigate events as for two years we had to survive the COVID onslaught, but on the whole, it has been a rewarding experience.

It gives me immense pleasure to share that BELTA comprises a unique team of volunteers who are imbued with the spirit of volunteerism and sacrifice their personal time and efforts for the development of English teachers in the community. BELTA volunteers have accomplished great feats during the global pandemic as well as in pre and post-pandemic times. This year, as usual, we have had our regular



programs – International (biennial) and national conferences (annual), teacher development events, monthly webinars, memorandum of agreements with cross -border language teachers/teaching associations, and participation of BELTA members at International and national forums. The hard work and dedication of BELTA members has kept the BELTA flag flying high.

To mention a few highlights, we floated successfully our 10th BELTA International Conference in partnership with the University of Liberal Arts (ULAB). Our much awaited flagship annual event Teacher Development Seminar, Teachers Helping Teachers (THT) event was a huge success. We also carried the event to the region (Chittagong), which is an integral part of the program. Professional (PD) Development sessions, conducted by English Language Specialist, sponsored by the American Center, U.S. Embassy, Dhaka was another event which had a great impact. The resource person conducted PD sessions for 125 regional teachers and teachers of five institutions in Dhaka.

Our greatest achievement this term has been organizing the trilogy of Webinars on the contribution of Michael West (1888–1973) in collaboration with the University of Warwick ELT Archive with support from the Hornby Trust, History of ELT/ELE initiative. Last but not the least, the BELTA team’s contribution in publishing the latest BELTA Journal, VOL 7, Issue 1 and the publication of the online Newsletter is as usual a praiseworthy venture.

I thank all the members for their active engagement in participating in BELTA activities and promoting the credibility of this organisation. I would also like to

express my gratitude to all the office bearers of BELTA for their support and for their trust in me.

BELTA needs a strong team of dedicated and hardworking professionals! We all need to come forward and work with passion and compassion to keep BELTA together! I believe the new leadership will carry BELTA to further heights!

Long Live BELTA!

Thank you!

Best regards

Dr. Rubina Khan
President, BELTA &
Professor, Department of English
University of Dhaka

Special Webinars

**MICHAEL WEST WEBINAR SERIES
(1, 2 and 3):**



*“Appropriate ELT
Methodology for
Bangladesh and*



Elsewhere: How Relevant Are Michael West's Ideas Today?"

This series of webinars of 90 minutes each (May 27, June 3, June 10, 2023) was organized by BELTA, with the support of the Hornby Trust History of ELT/ELE initiative and in collaboration with Prof Richard Smith and the University of Warwick ELT Archive.

Michael West (1888-1973)

Michael West (1888–1973) was an influential British educator who spent twenty years in Bengal from 1910–1930, serving as Principal of the Teachers' Training College (TTC) in Dhaka from 1920 to 1932. During this time, he developed many original insights into the teaching of 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 Longman's *New Method* series, itself based on simplified readers originally designed for Bengali students.

In this webinar series, organized to coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of Michael West's death in 1973, the panellists considered 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.

The Panelists included Professor A M M Hamidur Rahman, Daffodil International University; Professor Dr. Richard Smith, University of Warwick; Professor Dr. Arifa Rahman, Advisor BELTA; Professor Dr. Rubina Khan, English Department, Dhaka University and President BELTA; Dr. Ranjit Podder, Associate Professor, Government Teachers' Training College, Dhaka; Dr. Santosh Mahapatra, Associate Professor at BITS Pilani Hyderabad Campus, India. In addition, distinguished guru of English Language Education world-wide, Professor Dr. Henry Widdowson, Emeritus Professor, University of London and Honorary Professor, University of Vienna, graced the webinars as special commentator.



The webinars attracted more than 200 participants from both home and abroad. The organization and the planned approach engaged the participants. The collaboration between BELTA, the Hornby Trust History of ELT/ELE Initiative, and the University of Warwick ELT Archive further ensured the success of these webinars, creating a platform for English language educators and practitioners to come together and engage with important issues in English Language Education – past present and future.

The format of each webinar used diverse interesting ways of engaging the participants by varying the content and activities

Webinar 1 dealt with contributions of Michael West (1888–1973) in the history of ELT in Bengal and beyond.

Webinar 2 discussed the present-day relevance of Michael West’s work in the light of teaching in difficult circumstances and his conceptualizing of the Reading Method as the most important skill to be learned initially in school.

Webinar 3 focused on West’s extensive treatment in the construction of textbook materials and the teaching of speaking.

Overall, there were opportunities for Q & As and plenty of feedback via the Chat box and Feedback forms.

Webinar 3 provided an engaging activity for 20 minutes in break-out rooms. Participants (5 in each group) were moved to separate rooms to discuss this question:

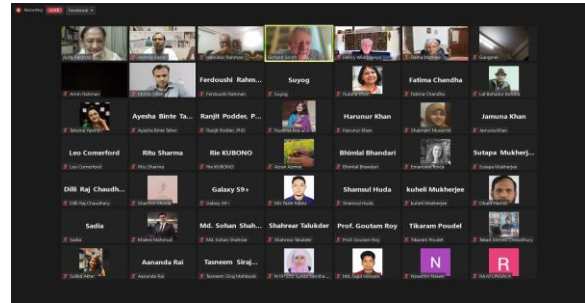
How relevant are Michael West’s ideas today? Consider all three webinars. After 15 minutes, write, up to three of the ideas you talked about. A link to a padlet site allowed each group to write down their thoughts on the padlet. In the next 5 minutes, the facilitator shared the feedback given by the groups with all the participants. Although not everyone actually participated and sometimes responded off-topic, it was a very interesting activity and the results seemed to point in the direction that there were some issues regarding M West that may be studied



further. Finally, there was a short 2-minute final thoughts by all seven panelists. Here too there was a diversity of opinion which again was thought provoking.

In the closing minutes, Professor Gulam Faruq, Principal, Government Teaching Training College, Dhaka announced that his college had just established The Michel West Study Centre (MWSC) in memory of the former Principal from British Bengal. The Centre aimed to undertake and support study and research on relevant issues related to Michael West and his time. It would welcome partnered projects with organisations like BELTA.

The webinar trilogy ended with a sense of having explored a vast and somewhat unfamiliar world – Michael West's legacy from the past and the possibility of linking it to future directions in English language education. The event not only fostered a sense of collaboration and learning among the attendees but also highlighted the importance of continuing to explore and develop appropriate methodologies to meet the changing needs and circumstances of English language learners in the global south.



BELTA-THT 16th Annual Teacher Development Conference 2022

BELTA-THT in partnership with East West University, Dhaka

The BELTA-THT-EWU 16th Annual Teacher Development Conference 2022 was held at East West University under the theme "Language Pedagogy in New Contexts." With 67 participants, including renowned educators and professionals, the conference provided a platform for teachers to enhance their skills and exchange ideas. Keynote speakers, such as Prof. Dr. Patrick Dougherty, Prof. Anne Howard, Prof. Dr. Cecelia Silva, and others, shared their expertise on adapting teaching methods, integrating technology, assessment, and using authentic materials. The conference featured interactive sessions and workshops, fostering active participation and networking opportunities for attendees to connect and gain insights from diverse perspectives.



Overall, the event offered a valuable learning experience, equipping participants with innovative approaches to language teaching in new contexts.

Hence, the BELTA-THT-EWU 16th Annual Teacher Development Conference 2022 at East West University successfully facilitated professional growth and development for language educators. Through a series of sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities, participants engaged in discussions on topics such as multicultural classrooms, technology integration, assessment practices, and authentic materials. The conference served as a platform to exchange ideas and strategies, enabling teachers to enhance their language pedagogy in evolving contexts.

BELTA-THT in partnership with International Islamic University Chittagong

The BELTA-THT-IIUC Chittagong South Conference took place on October 31, 2022, at the Board of Trust Office Building of International Islamic University Chittagong (IIUC). The event was chaired by Mr. Md. Mohib Ullah, Chapter Chair of BELTA Chittagong South, and began with an inspiring inaugural speech from Professor

Dr. Humayun Kabir, Treasurer and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at IIUC.

The conference was enriched by three Japanese professors - Prof. Dr. Patrick Dougherty, Prof. Dr. Cecelia Silva, and Prof. Anne Howard, who shared their expertise through workshops on Alternative Assessment Strategies, Mediation in Language Teaching: A Classic Concept, a New Model, and Simple Activities for Teaching Pragmatics, respectively. Over forty enthusiastic teachers from various schools, colleges, and universities across Chittagong participated in the day-long event. The Japanese scholars were highly appreciative of the warm hospitality extended by the chapter leaders and were particularly impressed by the energetic participation of the teachers present. They praised the attendees for their eagerness to learn and actively engage in the conference, contributing to its overall success.

The conference concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks from Mr. Md. Mohib Ullah, Chapter Chair of BELTA Chittagong South Chapter, who expressed gratitude to everyone involved in making the event a truly enriching and educational experience for all attendees.



10th BELTA International Conference, November 18-19, 2022

The 10th BELTA International Conference was held on November 18-19, 2022, in partnership with the Department of English and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh (ULAB). It focused on the theme of "Sustainable Approaches to English Language Education in a Changing World." The conference brought together renowned experts and practitioners from home and abroad to share their insights and research findings on various aspects of English language education. The event featured a series of seminars, keynote speeches, plenary sessions, paper presentations, a panel discussion, and a colloquium.

The conference commenced with valuable messages from distinguished individuals, including BELTA President Dr. Rubina Khan, Vice Chancellor of ULAB Prof. Imran Rahman, and Regional English Language Officers (RELO) Dr. Nabila Massoumi from the U.S Embassy in Dhaka. Dr. Richard Smith, Professor of ELT and Applied Linguistics at the University of Warwick, delivered the keynote speech on sustainable teacher development. Additionally, plenary

speakers such as Dr. Wendy Ashby from Arizona, USA; Dr. Amol Padwad, President of AINET, India; Miss Dawn Lucovich from the University of Nagano, Japan; Prof. Dr. Rubina Khan from the University of Dhaka and BELTA President; Dr. Ramesh Nair from MELTA; Prof. A.M.M. Hamidur Rahman from Daffodil International University, Dhaka; Ms. Motikala Subba Dewan, President of NELTA, Nepal; Dr. Mira Namsrai, President of ELTAM, Mongolia; and Dr. Qumrul Hasan Chowdhury and Dr. Bijoy Lal Basu from the Department of English, Dhaka University, shared their valuable insights through paper presentations.

The conference also provided a platform for educators from various educational institutions to present their papers on sustainable approaches to English language education in Bangladesh. Furthermore, a panel discussion on "English Language Teacher Education and Sustainable Development: Prospects for Primary to Higher Secondary Education in Bangladesh" and a colloquium on "A Global Approach to English Language Education: The Role of International Language Teaching Associations in a Changing World" were held. Overall, the conference was a



resounding success, highlighting the collaboration between BELTA and ULAB in promoting sustainable approaches to English language education and fostering meaningful dialogue among educators and researchers.

Special Teacher Development Programmes by U.S English Language Specialist, Dr. Wendy Ashby

Dr. Wendy Ashby sponsored by the American Center U.S. Embassy, Dhaka was a plenary speaker at the 10th BELTA International Conference (18- 19 November, 2022) . She conducted two-hour training for 125 regional BELTA teachers. In addition she carried out teacher development sessions titled: **“Sustainable Teaching: Engagement Beyond Classroom Walls”**, for teachers at 5 institutions – East-West University, University of Asia Pacific, Institute of Modern Languages , DU and Eden Mohilla College, Dhaka.

Professional Development Workshop at East West University

Dr. Wendy Ashby conducted a Professional Development Workshop for English language practitioners at East West University, Department of English, on 17th

November 2022. The session was conducted for three hours. Altogether 33 participants from three different universities and one high school participated in the workshop. The workshop title was “Sustainable Teaching: Engagement Beyond Classroom Walls.” The prime focus of the workshop was blended learning and flipped lesson planning with authentic materials. It was an interactive session where the participants could share their ideas and views.

The workshop also included the positive and negative practices in language classrooms, which raised awareness among the participants.



Professional Development Workshop at the University of Asia Pacific

On 23 November, 2022, the Department of English and the University of Asia Pacific – UAP jointly hosted a workshop titled “Sustainable Teaching: Engagement Beyond Classroom Walls.” The event was organized by Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA) and sponsored by the



American Centre, U.S. Embassy, Dhaka. Dr. Wendy Ashby, a professor at Faculty Support Center, Cochise College, Arizona, USA, was the facilitator at the program while Mrs. Tasneem Siraj Mahboob, the honorable member of the Board of Trustees, graced the program with her presence from the very beginning. The workshop was conducted via Zoom.

The workshop started at 02:00 pm and continued till 4:30 pm in the Board of Trustees conference room with participants from the Department of English, UAP, and other renowned private universities and colleges. Ismat Zarin, the Director of the Office of International Affairs (OIA) and the advisor, Seminar Committee, Department of English, welcomed everyone and introduced the facilitator to the participants and guests. The workshop intended to introduce how English language teachers can adopt a task-based approach to connect language learning to real-life scenarios. It also brought together educators, students, and experts in the field to discuss and explore innovative ways of engaging students in sustainable practices, both in and outside of the classroom.

Overall, “Sustainable Teaching: Engagement Beyond Classroom Walls” was a fruitful

event that emphasized the need for a more feasible approach to education and learning. Key highlights of the event included inspiring keynote speeches, interactive workshop, panel discussions, and a captivating Q&A session with experts in the field. Dr. Wendy Ashby appreciated our participants’ innovative ideas for creating a task-based lesson plan. Dr. Zakia Ahmad, the Head of the Department of English, thanked the facilitator, the honorable Board of Trustees member Tasneem Shiraz Mahboob, the organizers, and the participants for joining and actively participating in the event. The event successfully ended by giving certificates and souvenirs to the participants and the facilitator.

highlights of the event included inspiring keynote speeches, interactive workshop, panel discussions, and a captivating Q&A session with experts in the field. Dr. Wendy Ashby appreciated participants’ innovative ideas for creating a task-based lesson plan. Dr. Zakia Ahmad, the Head of the Department of English, thanked the facilitator, the honorable Board of Trustees member Tasneem Siraj Mahboob, the organizers, and the participants for joining and actively participating in the event. The event successfully ended by giving

certificates and souvenirs to the participants and the facilitator.

Teacher Training Programme on “Raising Awareness on Dyslexia”

On March 4, 2023, a workshop focusing on "Raising Teacher Awareness of Dyslexia for Children with Special Needs and Inclusive Practices in English Language Classrooms" was conducted at the EMK Centre of the U.S Embassy in Dhanmondi Dhaka. The workshop was led by Dr. Akhter Jahan from East West University. The workshop aimed to enhance teacher awareness and understanding of dyslexia and promote inclusive practices in English language classrooms, enabling teachers to effectively support students with special needs. A good number of participants attended the workshop from various educational institutions. The event served as a valuable platform for professional development, fostering collaboration and empowering educators to create inclusive and supportive learning environments.



BELTA Webinars

BELTA Webinar on Thoughts from a TESOL Classroom

On March 19, 2023, the Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA) hosted a webinar titled "Thoughts from a TESOL Classroom." Ms. Mimi Marstaller, an English Language Fellow at BRAC University, Dhaka gave her talk on **Thoughts**



from a TESOL Classroom in the webinar.

Over 60 teachers from various educational institutions, both locally and internationally, attended the online session.

Ms. Marstaller shared her insights and experiences in the field of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). She emphasized the importance of understanding learners' needs, cultural backgrounds, and individual learning styles to design and deliver more effective, engaging, and inclusive lessons. Her talk also highlighted the significance of adopting a student-centered approach and utilizing technology to enhance the learning experience.

The session was moderated by Mr. Mohib Ullah, Coordinator of the BELTA Webinar Organizing Committee. Participants had the opportunity to engage in a lively Q&A session with Ms. Marstaller and discuss various aspects of TESOL teaching.

Dr. Arifa Rahman, Advisor, BELTA, along with several other teachers, contributed their valuable opinions during the discussion. They shared practical examples of how TESOL principles and strategies have been successfully implemented in their

classrooms, as well as the challenges faced in adapting to different teaching contexts.

Mr. Harun Khan, the Immediate Past President of BELTA, concluded the event by expressing his gratitude to Ms. Marstaller, the participants, and the organizing committee. He also encouraged teachers to continue learning and exploring innovative methods in TESOL instruction to better cater to the diverse needs of their students.

Women's Day Celebration

On March 8th, in celebration of International Women's Day, a vibrant and engaging event took place at Naveed's Comedy Club in Gulshan. Organized by BELTA and with the courtesy of Dr. Arifa Rahman, the event lasted from 4 pm to 6 pm. The theme for this year's celebration was "Embrace Equity."

The event was filled with lively performances as everyone present was encouraged to showcase their talents through recitations, jokes, poems, and even a collective dance around the hall. This enthusiastic participation created an atmosphere of joy and celebration, with everyone embracing the spirit of Women's Day.



To conclude the event, a cake was cut and snacks, tea, coffee, and refreshing drinks were served, providing an opportunity for attendees to socialize and further enjoy the festivities. The overall success of the event was evident from the joyful mood and positive feedback from the participants. The celebration of Women's Day served as a reminder of the importance of equity and the empowerment of women, leaving everyone inspired and motivated.

BELTA Retreat and Strategic Planning (February 11, 2023)

On Saturday, February 11, 2023, a delightful retreat along with a strategic planning session was organized by BELTA at the Boat Club in Birulia, Dhaka. The event brought together 8 ladies and 5 gentlemen, all of whom were esteemed members of BELTA. The retreat was not only an opportunity for the members to engage in strategic planning but also to enjoy a relaxing and fun-filled day.

During the retreat, BELTA President Dr. Rubina Khan provided a brief overview of the planned series of activities, emphasizing the importance of both short-term and long-term goals. Among the long-term items discussed were the upcoming National Conference in 2023 and the

International Conference in 2024, indicating BELTA's commitment to organizing impactful academic events in the future. Financial planning was also addressed, reflecting the association's dedication to maintaining a sustainable framework.

Adding a touch of vibrancy and excitement to the retreat, Dr. Rubina Khan encouraged everyone to dress in spring colors, creating a cheerful atmosphere. The choice of the Boat Club, situated on the picturesque River Turag, contributed to the joyful ambiance, with participants enjoying the scenic beauty and capturing moments with boats on the river. The event concluded with a delightful tea and lunch, fostering a sense of camaraderie and leaving the attendees thoroughly satisfied with the enjoyable experience.

BELTA Journal

BELTA Journal, the flagship journal of Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association, is a platform for sharing ideas among English language teachers, trainers, researchers, policy makers, and practitioners in order to promote best practices at all levels in English language education in Bangladesh. It is an open access peer reviewed journal committed

to publishing high quality papers in the broad field of English Language teaching and learning. The journal maintains an international focus while at the same time encourages articles on praxis of English education in Bangladesh. It accepts contributions of scholars and practitioners from home and abroad.

BELTA Journal
CALL FOR PAPERS
Volume 7, Issue 1, June 2023

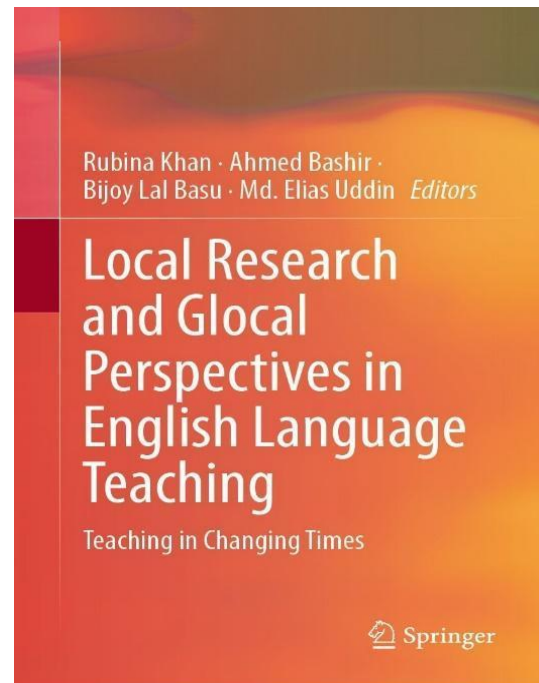
BELTA Journal, the flagship journal of Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association, is a platform for sharing ideas among English language teachers, trainers, researchers, academics, policy makers, and practitioners in order to promote best practices at all levels in English language education in Bangladesh. It is an open access peer reviewed journal committed to publishing high quality papers in the broad field of English Language education and applied linguistics. The Journal maintains an international focus while at the same time encourages articles on praxis of English education in Bangladesh. It accepts contributions of scholars and practitioners from home and abroad.

The Editorial team of BELTA Journal invites papers for its 7th volume. We welcome papers and book reviews relevant to English language education. The focus of the journal includes (but not limited to) the following topics:

- ELE Perspectives and practices in the global south
- SDG 4 and the initiatives to achieve quality education.
- Classroom interaction and discourse in the light of cultural diversity
- Instructed SLA and issues of contextual diversity
- Research informed language pedagogy
- Diversity, equity and inclusion in ELE
- Language policy and planning in terms of ground reality
- ELE, advocacy and social responsibility
- Multilingualism and multiculturalism
- Post-pandemic pedagogies
- Translanguaging as a pedagogic tool
- English as a Medium of Instruction (EMI)
- Testing, assessment and evaluation: changing norms and practices
- Technology and digital practices in ELE in the covid and post-covid era
- Blended learning and teaching – opportunities and challenges
- Developments in teacher education: Theory to Practice?
- Developing trends in curriculum, syllabus, and materials development
- Interdisciplinarity in ELE
- Literature and language teaching: Can the twin meet?
- Language Teachers Associations (LTAs) – and their roles in professional development
- ELE and socio-economic development – Reality or myth?

Deadline for manuscript submission: June 30, 2023
Visit on: <https://www.belta-bd.org/>
Email: beltajournal@gmail.com

Publications:



Rubina Khan, Ahmed Bashir, Bijoy Lal Basu, and Md Elias Uddin recently co-edited a book titled *Local Research and Glocal Perspectives in English Language Teaching: Teaching in Changing Times*. We are delighted to share that three members of the editorial team are BELTA Office bearers.

The volume has been published by Springer Nature Singapore Pte Ltd. Professor Richard Smith of the University of Warwick has written a foreword to the book. The volume contains 506 pages and 30 chapters including an introduction and a concluding chapter. The chapters are divided into the six parts:



‘Socio-cultural Perspectives in English Language Teaching’, ‘Curriculum and Materials’, ‘Educational Technology’, ‘ELT Practices’, ‘Assessment’, and ‘Teacher Education’. The book showcases research endeavours from a heterogeneous group of scholars from different parts of the world including some well-known western scholars with the experience of working in Asia and Bangladeshi academics stationed in Bangladesh and abroad. For more information about the book, please visit <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-981-19-6458-9>.

Citation:

Khan, R., Bashir, A., Basu, B. L., & Uddin, M. E. (Eds.). (2023). *Local Research and Glocal Perspectives in English Language Teaching: Teaching in Changing Times*. Springer Nature.

BELTA Participation at National and International Platforms

BELTA participation at the NELTA International Conference

The NELTA International Conference held in Nepal from 17th to 19th February 2023 was graced by the presence of esteemed

individuals, including President Dr. Rubina Khan, Roxana Ahmed, and Secretary Ahmed Bashir from BELTA. The conference provided a platform for English language teaching professionals to come together and exchange valuable insights, research findings, and best practices. With the participation of distinguished attendees like Dr. Rubina Khan, Roxana Ahmed, and Ahmed Bashir, the event offered a unique opportunity for networking and collaboration among educators from different countries. Their presence at the conference underscored the commitment to continuous professional development and the advancement of English language teaching in the region.

BELTA President as a Featured Speaker at the NELTA International Conference (17-19 February, 2023)

President, BELTA, Dr. Rubina Khan was an invited Featured Speaker at the 27th NELTA International Conference. Her featured talk was on “*Tertiary Level Student and Teacher Voices on Well-being During Covid-19*”. The session was presided by Dr. Laxman Gnawali.



BELTA General Secretary as a Panelist at the NELTA International Conference 2023

Professor Ahmed Bashir, BELTA General Secretary, was invited as a panellist for the 27th NELTA International Conference 2023, held in Lalitpur, Kathmandu on 17-19 February 2023. The theme of the conference was Reimagining Language Pedagogy: Wellbeing and Innovation Perspectives. The topic of the session where Prof. Bashir spoke was **Policy Input on Language Education: Role of Teacher Associations (TAs)**. Other panellists were Prof. Dr. ZN Patil, President of ELTAI (English Language Teachers' Association of India) Pune Chapter, Dr. Tracey Costley, Head of Department for Language and Linguistics at the University of Essex, United Kingdom and

Mr. Hemanta Raj Dahal, Current Advisor to and Past President of NELTA. The discussion was moderated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ganga Ram Gautam Advisor to and Past President of NELTA. The panelists highlighted the roles of their respective TAs play in language education policy making by their governments. They all agreed that the current roles of the TAs are insufficient and therefore they underscored the need for the TAs to engage with their respective governments and work more closely with them so that the TAs can exert some positive impact on the language education at the both policy and implementation levels.



(Left to right) the moderator, Tracey Costley, **Ahmed Bashir**, ZN Patil and Hemanta Raj Dahal

Participation at the 56th IATEFL International Conference, UK



BELTA life member Prof. Dr. Md Zulfeqar Haider, a recipient of the prestigious Gillian Porter Ladousse Scholarship, attended the 56th IATEFL International Conference in Harrogate UK from 17 to 21 April, 2023. Dr Haider presented a paper titled, “Exploring teachers' resources for professional learning: What really matters?” on the 3rd day of the conference and also attended the scholarship winners' reception ceremony on the 2nd day. He attended many important talks, workshops and exhibitions during the 4 daylong conferences.

Paper Presentation at the Dhaka University Conference

Afroza Aziz Suchana, a member of the BELTA EC, presented her paper titled 'Marginalization of Women in EFL Textbooks: Linguistic and Semiotic Analysis' at the International Conference titled 'Mapping Gendered Spaces in Language, Literature, and Culture' on May 5, 2023, organized by the Department of English, University of Dhaka. Her findings revealed an underrepresentation of women in English for Today textbooks at the primary level of education in Bangladesh. By shedding light on this issue, her study aimed to raise

awareness among stakeholders and promote gender equality in educational materials.

Associates Day, 56th IATEFL Conference 2023

As the BELTA representative, I had a truly rewarding experience on the Associates' Day of the 56th International IATEFL Conference and Exhibition 2023 held in Harrogate, UK. On 17 April, I had the opportunity to mix with a group of delegates from around 40 teacher associations across the globe. Following the welcome address by Gabriel Diaz Maggioli, President of IATEFL, and the 'Getting to know you' activity, we enjoyed as many as ten talks by delegates who highlighted the role of the teacher associations in their respective contexts, particularly in terms of fostering collaboration and networking among English language teaching professionals within and outside their local settings. One exciting event that deserves special mention is the 45-minute-long networking session where colleagues brainstormed over potential problems or situations in their ELT contexts and shared ideas about how to tackle these issues. During the coffee and lunch breaks, we dispersed to gather valuable insights from seven poster presentations showcasing the role and activities of seven more teacher associations in their respective contexts.

I also attended the first two days of the 56th IATEFL Conference on the 18th and 19th of April. I enjoyed the diverse and innovative plenaries, presentations, discussions, and workshops as well

as the interesting short talks on the Pop-up Presentation Stage during the exhibition. I really enjoyed visiting the stands of publishers and other stakeholders of ELT who showcased their latest developments. In my interactions with colleagues, I gained insights about the latest ELT world, cutting-edge ELT resources, and narratives of overcoming contextual constraints. Thanks to the huge networking opportunities offered by the conference, we simply found ourselves in a microcosm of the global ELT landscape: real ELT professionals from varied contexts shared their lived experiences, queries, concerns, doubts, tensions, and aspirations around the past, present, and future of ELT. And the vibrant crowd did not forget to empathize with their colleagues who are experiencing conflicts and crises in different parts of the world.

Md. Elias Uddin
Life member, BELTA &
Assistant Professor, Department of English,
University of Dhaka



Md. Elias Uddin, BELTA representative to the 56th International IATEFL Conference and Exhibition, in a group discussion in an Associates' Day workshop



Md. Elias Uddin, BELTA representative to the 56th International IATEFL Conference and Exhibition, with David Crystal, IATEFL Patron, and Gabriel Diaz Maggioli, President of IATEFL (on the Associates' Day)



Cascading Session: TESOL International Conference

On 9th May 2023, the American Centre in Gulshan hosted a Cascading Session titled "Learning from Professional Development Initiatives of Teachers by TESOL International: Reflections from the TESOL CPD." The session, conducted by Afroza Akhter Tina, aimed to shed light on the valuable insights gained from the teacher professional development initiatives offered by TESOL International. Present at the event were Harunur Rashid Khan, the Immediate Past President of BELTA (Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association), and N.K Bipul. The speaker shared her experience and reflections on the TESOL CPD, emphasizing the significance of continuous professional growth in the field of education. The session provided an excellent platform for educators to exchange ideas and learn from one another, ultimately contributing to the enhancement of teaching practices in Bangladesh.

Events by BELTA Regional Chapters

BELTA Sylhet Chapter Highlights

- **Pranab Kanti Deb**, Coordinator, BELTA Sylhet Chapter has attended and presented a paper at TESOL 2023 Convention from March 21-24 in Portland, Oregon, USA.
- A chapter titled, Blended Learning Approach in Higher Education of Bangladesh During COVID-19 by **Suman Roy**, Treasurer, BELTA Sylhet Chapter has been published in the book titled 'India and Covid 19' edited by Soma Roy Dey Choudhury, Assam University, Silchar, India.
- BELTA Sylhet Chapter nominated 25 teachers from the four districts of Sylhet Division to attend TESOL 2023 virtual convention with the scholarship from US Embassy, Dhaka.
- A book titled Dynamic English, Grammar and Composition by **Emdadul Haque Milon**, Executive Member of Sylhet Chapter has been recently published and well received by the learners.



Pabna Chapter:

Experiential Learning: Workshop on Teaching English Effectively

On 17th February 2023, a workshop on "Teaching English Effectively Following Experiential Learning Approach" was organized by Farjana Anwar, the Chapter Coordinator of Pabna. The event saw the participation of numerous teachers from different institutions. The workshop aimed to provide educators with valuable insights and strategies for teaching English using an experiential learning approach. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about innovative teaching methodologies, engage in hands-on activities, and exchange ideas with fellow educators. The workshop served as a platform for professional growth and development, fostering a collaborative environment for enhancing English language instruction in Pabna.

Two-day long Training Workshops by BELTA Chittagong South

The two-day teacher training program on Teaching English Effectively in the 21st Century was organized by BELTA

Chittagong South, in collaboration with the US Embassy, Dhaka and Global Aid for Sustainable Development (GASD) at Premier University, Chittagong, on January 12-13, 2023. The program aimed to equip English teachers with the latest techniques and tools to enhance their teaching skills and foster effective communication in the classroom.

The event began with an opening speech by Ms. Nabila Maussumi, RELO Kathmandu, Nepal, followed by a courtesy speech by Mr. Shaon Karmakar, English Language Lead, the US Embassy, Dhaka. Ms. Mimi Marstaller, an English Language Fellow from the US Department of State, USA, conducted several workshops throughout the program, focusing on the key skills required for teaching English effectively in the 21st century. The workshops covered topics such as using technology in the classroom, effective lesson planning, and student engagement strategies.

Mr. Md. Mohib Ullah presided over the workshops, ensuring that they ran smoothly and that all participants had the opportunity to engage with the material presented. The event concluded with a vote

of thanks from Ms. Sayeda Fatema, one of the founding directors of GASD.

The programme was a huge success, with more than 50 teachers from all over Chittagong attending and participating actively. The workshops were well-received, with many teachers expressing their appreciation for the valuable insights and practical tips they gained from the program. Overall, the program served as an excellent platform for English teachers to enhance their skills and contribute to the development of the education sector in Bangladesh.

New Partnerships:

1. BELTA has signed new partnership agreement with TESOL-SPAIN



2. BELTA has signed Memorandum of Understanding for Collaboration with 21st Century English Education

BELTA in Photos

Dr. Md. Zulfeqar Haider presenting his paper at the 56th IATEFL International Conference, UK



Dr. Wendy Ashby at the Professional Development Workshop at East West University



Professional Development Webinar at the University of Asia Pacific by Dr. Wendy Ashby



Dr. Wendy Ashby at a Professional Development Webinar at the University of Asia Pacific



Women's Day Celebration on 8th March 2023 at Naved's Comedy Club





BELTA Retreat and Strategic Planning Meeting at Boat Club, Birulia



Teacher Development Event



Webinars





**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/LE** 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–1920s, 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.



Michael West
1888–1973

WEBINAR 1	WEBINAR 2	WEBINAR 3
<p>Contributions of Michael West in the History of ELT: In Bengal and Beyond</p> <p>Hamidur Rahman and Richard Smith with comments from Henry Widdowson</p> <p>Saturday 27 May, 2023 13:00–14:30 GMT / 19:00–20:30 BDT</p>	<p>The present-day relevance of the work of Michael West</p> <p>(1) Teaching in difficult circumstances and (2) Reading Method</p> <p>Richard Smith, Hamidur Rahman, and Ranjit Podder</p> <p>Saturday 3 June, 2023 13:00–14:30 GMT / 19:00–20:30 BDT</p>	<p>Contributions of Michael West to ELT in Bengal and beyond:</p> <p>(3) Construction of textbook materials and (4) Teaching of speaking</p> <p>Santosh Mahapatra, Richard Smith, Rubina Khan and Arifa Rahman</p> <p>Saturday 10 June, 2023 13:00–14:30 GMT / 19:00–20:30 BDT</p>

[You can register for the webinar series here:](https://forms.gle/ZZJHTFKpwrKZKgvRA) <https://forms.gle/ZZJHTFKpwrKZKgvRA>
[Information on the Panelists:](https://www.belta-bd.org/michael-west-webinar) <https://www.belta-bd.org/michael-west-webinar>
[Further information about Michael West:](https://warwick.ac.uk/elt_archive/halloffame/west/) https://warwick.ac.uk/elt_archive/halloffame/west/
 In case of any difficulty, please contact Moshir: tmshomon@gmail.com







BELTA WEBINAR SERIES 19

**Organised by
BELTA & Department of English and Humanities, Brac University**

**Machine Learning for More Equitable
and Accessible English Language Testing**

**Saturday, July 23, 2022
7:30 PM–8:30 PM**

FACILITATOR
Dr. M. Gregory Tweedie
Associate Professor of Language and Literacy
Werklund School of Education
University of Calgary (Canada)



Abstract

Language proficiency tests have long been used in migrant destination countries to determine appropriateness for high-stakes considerations such as university admission, employment, residence, and citizenship. When done commercially and proprietarily, high stakes language tests typically operate on a one-off model: applicants are examined and given a score, but no performance feedback for future progress is provided. In contrast, principles of socially just educational measurement participants in assessment practices have a right to determine measures most relevant to their needs, and testing is subject for consultive, democratic decision-making. In this presentation, Dr. Greg will discuss how machine learning technologies can be deployed to make the high-stakes language testing process more socially just for test-takers and test users.

Bio

Dr. M. Gregory (Greg) Tweedie is Associate Professor of Language and Literacy at the Werklund School of Education, University of Calgary (Canada). He holds a PhD in Education (Applied Linguistics focus), and his research focuses on the assessment and pedagogy of English as an international language for professional communication. Dr. Greg's teaching and research draw heavily upon his experiences as a language teacher and language teacher trainer in East, Southeast and Central Asia, the Middle East, Canada, and his native Australia.

Zoom Link : <https://bdren.zoom.us/j/69444096449>

BELTA WEBINAR SERIES 20

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING IN BANGLADESH IN AN EMERGING ACCOUNTABILITY REGIME

Abstract
 Accountability in schooling based on high-stakes exam scores/grades has resulted in a new way of governance with significant implications for English language teachers and their pedagogical practices. In this presentation, I will highlight this emerging trend in the Bangladesh secondary schooling context and illustrate how score-oriented accountability influences teachers' work and how teachers navigate through this regime in relation to broader curricular foci.



FACILITATOR: DR. MD MAKSUD ALI
 SESSIONAL ACADEMIC,
 SCHOOL OF EDUCATION,
 THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND,
 AUSTRALIA

Dr. Md Maksud Ali, Sessional Academic, School of Education, The University of Queensland & Assistant Professor (On leave), DELL, IIUC, specializes in TESOL with an MA from the University of Essex, UK and a PhD from the University of Queensland, Australia. Dr. Ali's works have been published by leading international journals, including English Today, ELT Journal, Compare, Language Assessment Quarterly, and Comparative Education (Accepted). He has contributed around half a dozen chapters to edited volumes.

27th August 2022
 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Link:
<https://bdren.zoom.us/j/64204387087>



BELTA WEBINAR SERIES 23

FOSTERING ACTIVE READING: LINKING LITERACY THEORY TO PRACTICE

Abstract
 Reading comprehension of texts, a fundamental skill, is a common challenge for college students. Many students, lacking engagement and comprehension, view reading as a passive process to transmit facts. In contrast, some educators define reading as an active process involving engagement, reflection, and meaning. The presenter will share classic scholar Rosenblatt's "Reader Response" theory and research-based classroom strategies for teachers.



Parsa Choudhury
 Faculty, Columbia College,
 Chicago

Parsa Choudhury, former Faculty at IML, DU and Fulbright scholar, received her PhD. from Indiana University, Bloomington, specializing in TESOL, Reading, Composition, Literature, and Teacher-Education. Her teaching includes multicultural groups. Currently Chicago based, she teaches at Columbia College. She is affiliated with the National Council of Teachers of English, USA.

10th December 2022
 BDT: 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm


Zoom ID:
 6688717171
Passcode: 616161



BELTA WEBINAR SERIES 22

A BANGLA PHONETIC ALPHABET (BPA) FOR LEARNING/TEACHING ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION

Abstract
 Teaching and learning English Pronunciation is difficult and boring, and mostly ignored. In this talk I shall demonstrate the design and use of an easy to learn/use Bangla phonetic alphabet, BPA, and fun vocal exercises, which makes learning/teaching pronunciation enjoyable. The tools and techniques have been employed in rural schools in Bangladesh by teachers and students who have become aware and try to speak with an intelligible accent.




AMIN RAHMAN
 Freelance Applied Linguist

Amin Rahman first graduated from BUET. Subsequently, he obtained MSc in CS from Glasgow University, MBA in technology management from Deakin University, MA Applied Linguistics (TESOL) from UNE and Grad Cert Education research from Monash University. Since retiring in 2003 he has been working as a Freelance Applied Linguist. He has published four books and presents at international conferences.

29th October 2022
 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Zoom ID:
 6688717171
Passcode: 616161



BELTA WEBINAR SERIES 24

IS THE COMMUNICATIVE APPROACH STILL RELEVANT FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING?

Abstract
 The speaker traces some of the historic trends in educational theory that led to the advent of the Communicative Approach and its corresponding methods, and positions them within the orientations which informed and guided language teaching. From there, he situates the current orientation, the Sociocritical, and the prevailing attitudes toward language learning and education in general, asking whether the Communicative Approach remains intact and relevant in the contemporary language class. The question is explored through the lens of current concerns, including calls for innovative teaching methods, demands for more technology, the desire to decrease class time while accelerating learning time, and the general ennui with educational paradigms and their efficacy.



Lawrence N. Berlin, Ph.D.
 Professor Emeritus of TESOL
 Northeastern Illinois University,
 Chicago, IL USA

Lawrence N. Berlin, Ph.D. served as Senior English Language Specialist at the National Academy for Educational Management, Dhaka, during 2022. He is Professor Emeritus in TESOL from Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago, Illinois, USA, and the former Academic Director of Languages at EAFIT University in Medellin, Colombia, where he now lives. His academic career has included a wide range of areas, including language teaching and teacher training, educational theory, research design and methods, pragmatics, curriculum design and development, assessment, and discourse analysis.

January 28, 2023
 BDT: 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Zoom ID:
 6688717171
Passcode: 616161



WEBINAR SERIES 25

THOUGHTS FROM A TESOL CLASSROOM

Mimi Marstaller
English Language Fellow,
BRAC University

Mimi Marstaller is teaching at Brac University as an English Language Fellow from the US Department of State. She is interested in multicultural classrooms and the experiences of multilingual learners. She is also curious about student knowledge and the classroom as a place for shared knowledge creation.

Sunday 19 March 2023
BDT: 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Zoom ID:
6688717171
Passcode: 616161

Presenters from BELTA and MELTA at NELTA Conference



BELTA Presenters at NELTA Conference





BELTA-THT-EWU 16th Teacher Development Conference 2022



BELTA-THT-EWU - 16th Teacher Development Conference 2022
"Language Pedagogy in New Contexts"

First Come, First Served Basis
 Registration
 E-Certificate on Completion
 Registration Fee-500 Tk.

Day 1: Virtual (Fri, 28th Oct) 8:30 AM -4:50 PM
 Day 2: Face to Face: (Sat, 29th Oct) 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
 Venue: East West University

FACILITATORS

Prof. Erin Mikalec	Prof. Irina Kaznetova	Prof. Lee Friederich	Prof. Joel Friederich
Prof. Marian Wang	Prof. Anne McLellan Howard	Prof. Cecilia Silva	Prof. Patrick Dousherts



BELTA-THT-EWU 16th Teacher Development Conference 2022

10th BELTA International Conference



IIUC-BELTA Chittagong South THT









words. We accept contributions all year round.

WHERE TO SEND

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

Dr. Zakia Ahmad:

zakahmad17@gmail.com

BELTA website www.belta-bd.org

EDITORIAL BOARD

Dr. Zakia Ahmad

Prof. Ahmed Bashir

Ms. 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