

EDITORIAL

The Department of English of the University of Dhaka, since its inception in 1921, has been closely associated with the historical journey of the nation and has been instrumental in shaping the educational, literary, cultural and political tradition of the country. To celebrate the completion of 100 years of the department and the university and 50 years of Independence, we decided to publish this volume of the English department journal as a special centenary issue.

Spectrum, Journal of the Department of English began its journey quite late in 1998 for reasons unknown. The editor of the first issue, Professor Shawkat Hussain, in his editorial writes, “The idea of a departmental journal had been mooted several times: names were proposed, articles solicited, committees formed, but for one reason or another, the project never took off.” It was expected to be an annual affair but due to monetary constraints, only 15 issues have been published so far. This editorial team after taking over in 2020 began working hard with a lot of promise but unfortunately with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic all academic activities had slowed down for quite some time and hence the delay in its publication.

We have been quite fortunate with the centennial issue. Normally, the publication cost is managed by the department’s own funds; however, this time we received a ‘Centennial Research Grant.’ With that, it has been possible to pay an honorarium to contributors as well as reviewers and also publish this issue. Another bright side of this issue is that we were successful, following a rigorous application process, in obtaining the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) for the articles. Now that we are into the system, I hope that the future issues will continue with DOI and think of reducing hard copy prints not just to save money but also to reduce paper consumption for a safer environment.

From the 1998 issue editorial, we also come to know that the journal was initiated with the aim to accept submissions from both established and upcoming writers and to consider all kinds of literary writing – critical essays, research articles, reviews, translations, creative pieces, and hence the title *Spectrum*. This issue includes research-based articles and short essays in three sections: the first section titled ‘Centenary Articles’ features six articles on history and contributions of the English department, roles played by the luminaries of the department, and how Dhaka University played a decisive role in different phases of the history of the nation; the second is comparatively a short creative section titled ‘Memoirs: Remembering Dhaka University’ comprising four prose pieces from our notable alumni reminiscing with passion and longing their times spent in the department with their friends and teachers; the last section, ‘Research Articles on General Topics’ contain ten research articles on various areas stretching from symbolism in Bengali Romantic poetry, feminist approaches to translation studies, magic realism, diaspora, trauma, gender/transgender issues, women representation to reading Shakespeare from the perspective of pandemic literature.

As the editor, I am grateful to the authors for submitting articles on a wide array of topics and the reviewers from home and abroad for their scholarly feedback. I am also indebted to my editorial team members for their time and hard work they put in towards this publication. The first issue of *Spectrum* was dedicated to the memory of our teacher, Dr. Benazir Durdana who died in April 1998 after losing her battle with cancer. We dedicate this centenary issue to the memory of our teachers, Dr. Jyotirmoy Guhathakurta and Rashidul Hasan and the students of our department, Bidhan Chandra Ghosh, Nasim Mohsin, Atiqur Rahman, Alauddin Mohammed Zaheen, Kartik Chandra Shil, Shishutosh Dutta Choudhury, Sheikh Abdus Salam and Kishorimohon Sarkar who embraced martyrdom during the Liberation War in 1971. We are grateful to the Dhaka University authorities for providing us with a research grant. Finally, we hope this volume will prove to be informative, insightful and a refreshing read.

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