

Reflection of an incandescent experience



Wasifa Haq

Student ID: 17203017

Department of English and Humanities

BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

July, 2018

**A Report on the Internship at the
*NEWAGE***

**A Report Submitted to
The Department of English and Humanities**

Of

BRAC University By

Wasifa Haq

Student ID: 17203017

**In Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements**

For the Degree of Bachelors of Arts in English

July 2018

Acknowledgement

At first, I am grateful to Almighty Allah for providing me with enough patience to finish this report. I would first like to express my earnest gratitude to my BRAC University supervisor Ms. Rukhsana R.Chowdhury for her whole-hearted supervision and for providing me with guidance and suggestions during my internship period, and while writing this report.

I would also like to thank my *New Age* supervisor, Farid Ahmed, deputy editor, for being very co-operative and also my editor at *New Age*, Abu Shyem Akhund, senior sub-editor, for the encouragement, throughout the internship.

Lastly, I would like to thank my family and friends for always being there when needed.

Wasifa Haq

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Chapter 1

Introduction

English is the most influential and commonly spoken language around the world. David Crystal in his book, *English as a Global Language* mentions that about a quarter of the world's population is already fluent or competent in English, and this figure is steadily growing. At present English is spoken by some 1.5 billion people worldwide, meaning, one in every four people can speak in English (2).

According to Higher Education Statistics Agency each year over 600,000 international students from 200 countries come to study at universities, colleges and boarding schools in the UK and another research conducted by Department for Business Innovation & Skills (BIS) suggests that a further 600,000 come to do a short English language course. People worldwide are studying this subject because many countries like Bangladesh, Sweden, Netherlands, Denmark, Singapore, Malaysia etc. have included it as a second language in their academic system to make sure they can increase and open many opportunities for individuals across the world. The language helps and enables people to better understand and communicate with one another.

These were the various reasons which encouraged me to do a major in English. Therefore, I enrolled in the English and Humanities Department of BRAC University. English and Humanities, features a concentration in literature, English Language Teaching (ELT) and Media and Cultural Studies. I chose Media and Cultural Studies for my major.

To finish the under-graduate degree we have to complete 120 credits which include 39 courses. 33 courses are a mixture of literature, ELT and courses from other departments and the department offers 6 courses in total for the Media and Cultural Studies concentration, those courses are as follows:

Number	Subject Code	Course	Credit
1	ENG 331	Theory and Practice	03
2	ENG 333	Globalization and Media	03
3	ENG 401	Editing	03
4	ENG 404	English for the Print Media	03
5	ENG 440	Copyrighting	03
6	ENG 465	Translation studies	03

The course *ENG 331: Theory and Practice*, concentrates on cultural issues and questions related to culture, imperialism, hegemony, Orientalism, high culture, low culture, cross culture and many more important issues of the day.

On the other hand *ENG 333: Globalization and Media* discusses different aspects and operating mechanisms of global markets, investments, business, trade, economics of diverse countries etc. It also emphasizes the various methods of transmission of ideas, meanings, and values around the world.

ENG 401, 404 and *440* are the media courses. They are designed to help students acquire knowledge and skills in journalism and advertising. For example, *ENG 401: Editing*, teaches spelling, grammar, punctuation and syntax that are needed to edit a news articles. Students also learn about page designing and layout, editing pictures and graphics and typography etc. in these courses.

ENG 465: Translation Studies taught me different techniques of understanding the details, nuances and methods related to language and language transfer. This course helps to develop skills needed in order to translate effectively.

As I am a media major student hence it was mandatory for me to do an internship. During my second last semester when I was almost done with the required credits for my under- graduation program I was advised to drop CV in my desired places. Luckily, I was fortunate enough to do my internship in one of the leading newspaper organizations in Bangladesh, The *NEWAGE*.

Chapter- 2

Background and Information

2.1 A Brief History of the *NEWAGE*

The *NEWAGE* was first published on June 7, 2003 with the aim of being neutral in news presentation. It is one of the leading English newspapers of Bangladesh. *NEWAGE* was published by the Chairman, Editorial Board ASM Shahidullah Khan on behalf of Media New Age Ltd. The Editor of the daily is Nurul Kabir.

NEWAGE is the most outspoken newspaper in Bangladesh. It is highly regarded for its anti-establishment editorial policy.

Its office is situated at Hamid Plaza (4th floor), 300/5/A/1, Bir Uttam CR Datta Road, Hatirpool, Dhaka-1205. It is a Dhaka Based English newspaper.



Fig 01: Logo of NEWAGE

2.2 The organizational structure of The *NEWAGE*

The New Age is composed of sixteen (16) pages which are arranged by about two hundred (200) journalists. The number of pages varies according to the need of reporting significant events.

It has diverse sections in its daily publication such as national, international, politics, business, entertainment and editorial. Additionally, it has two weekly supplements, i.e. Xtra and Youth. Xtra highlights the real life events and social issues such as price hike, quality of education, addiction etc.



Fig 02: Logo of Xtra

On the other hand Youth focuses on the various aspect of a young person.



Fig 03: Logo of Youth

They also publish a weekly magazine named Trends. It is a lifestyle magazine which gets published on Friday.



Fig 04: Logo of Trends

The work flow of *NEWAGE* is very systematic. The reporters submit the news to the Chief News Correspondent. The Chief News Correspondent then selects news based on news value factors.

After that, the selected news is given to news editor's desk where joint news editors edit the news with the sub-editors. The photojournalist and the news that are collected from news agencies are directly sent to news editor's desk. After editing, news moves to deputy editor's desk for review. Deputy Editor prioritizes the news according to the importance as space is very limited in newspaper. Later, it goes for page design and further edit to the graphic designer's desk. At last, the news goes to editor's desk for final approval before being sent to the printing press for publication. These are the sequence of work in newspapers.

One chief news editor runs the Central Desk of the New Age. There are eight sub-editors in this editorial section. National affairs, political news of Bangladesh, crimes, obituary, weather updates, press release and any kind of national events are being edited in this section. Regional small stories are also edited in this editorial section.

New Age subscribes the two leading news agencies of Bangladesh which are United News of Bangladesh (UNB) and Bangladesh Songbad Songstha (BSS) because travelling every place to collect news is not always possible for reporters.

2.3 The Digital NEWAGE

Due to the technological revolution, journalism evolved and embraced new stylistic features. This in turn gave rise to online journalism. Steensen in *The Handbook of Global Online Journalism* defines online journalism as a new form of journalism which has its own routines, norms, and practices related to immediacy, interactivity, and multimodality. All these things are placed together to create an end result known as online news.

Besides print media *NEW AGE* has online version known as e- *NEW AGE*. The online version was first published on May 2013. One can easily access the online news through their website (<http://epaper.newagebd.net/>) published after 12:00 am and also can leave their opinion in the comment section.

Chapter- 3

BASICS OF INTERNSHIP AT PRINT MEDIA

3.1 Searching for an Internship

Internship is the gateway to the professional sphere. Previously I never had any experience of working in an office. Hence I started my professional journey through internship as it is mandatory for me to complete my graduation.

As I was very new in this sector I was very unsure about the procedure of dropping CV. After preparing the CV I did not do anything at least for a month. After that I dropped my CV at *NEW AGE*. I did not other than *NEW AGE*. I went to *The Daily Star* and *Dhaka Tribune* as well but did not drop my CV as I did not like the environment. The officials of *The Daily Star* were very rude and the time duration for an intern in *Dhaka Tribune* was too long.

Thankfully after 3 days they called and asked me to come for an interview. I was very scared and nervous as I never faced an interview before. Before attending the session I talked to some of my relatives and friends to gain some courage.

My interview was on August 21, 2017. Mr Farid Ahmed, deputy editor of *NEW AGE*, interviewed me for almost an hour. At first I was very nervous, so my performance was not up to the mark. After a while when I became comfortable I did not hesitate to answer any of his questions. The interview session went pretty well.

After four days they called me and asked me to join as an intern. I was overwhelmed and relieved at the same time as I did not drop my CV in any other office.

3.2 My Internship Journey

I have joined *NEWAGE* on September 14, 2017. I started my intern as a sub-editor. In this section, my supervisor was, Md. Abu Shyem Akhund, head of the central desk. Desk is the section where all the national and international news get covered. As a sub-editor, my job was to edit the national news, but as I went there to learn so I had to both write and edit reports. The duration of my internship was 3 months.

3.3 Environment of *NEWAGE*

The environment of *New Age* is kind of informal, very comfortable and flexible. This thing was really needed for me as I am a bit shy and not very extrovert. Everyone address each other as “Bhaiya” and “Apu”. Addressing “Sir” or “Madam” was forbidden for everyone. In their opinion this addressing style helps to keep “friendly” and “stress-free” environment. I also think that this is important because journalist’s job is writing and for that they need to have a relaxed environment to concentrate.

The office hour starts from 4pm. I had to go to office 4 days a week. There was no time limit for interns. Interns can leave right after they are done with their assigned works.

My advisor was Mr Farid Ahmed, deputy editor of *NEWAGE*. He is also very friendly and helpful. He always tried to make me comfortable at the office and also helped me to understand my work. Every week I had to report him about my work and what I learnt from there. He also helped me to find new topics for my reflection papers. I really liked working there and very happy to get the opportunity to be an intern at *NEWAGE*.

Chapter- 4

WRITING EXPERIENCE AND TECHNIQUES

4.1 Parts of News

There are two basic parts of news, i.e. hard news and soft news. Hard news refers to the stories that have just happened or about to happen. For instance; crimes, protest rallies, accidents, press release etc. In short, hard news refers the news that has immediacy. On the other hand, soft news emphasizes on human interest and less immediacy than hard news such as profile about public figure, stories about places etc. As I have worked mostly in central desk and my job was to write hard news. Therefore I will be discussing my experience regarding hard news.

4.2 Selecting press releases

David Manning White in his book, *Journalism in the Mass Media* termed journalists as “Gatekeepers”. He believes that journalists act as gatekeepers of media messages and select eminent events on a daily basis, those that become "news" later on.

Press release refers to an official statement issued to newspapers, giving information on a particular events or matters. Reporters" or editors" job is to find the important information from the given press release as they need to be specified regarding the events or matters.

The correspondents provide many press releases which are filled with unnecessary information. Our job is to find to important and appropriate press release and write it according to news rules.

4.3 Collecting news stories from different sources

Siapera in his book, *The Handbook of Global Online Journalism* quoted Patterson who presented a survey where he found that along with the increase in the quantity of online news sites, reports prepared by eminent news agencies have also increased by 43%.

There are so many new websites out there who sell news stories to different newspaper organizations across the world. Local and international news sources include UNB (United News Bangladesh) and BSS (Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha), Reuters, Reuters Media Express AFP, AFP Relaxnews, AP (Associated Press) news and AP video etc.

NEW AGE has also subscribed these websites which allows them to incorporate different news stories, videos, images etc. from them. *NEW AGE* mostly takes international news from these websites as they have 200 correspondents present all over the country.

4.4 Translating news stories

In my opinion, translating news is the hardest part of preparing news. Every language has its own style and colloquial words. These colloquial words and some styles of a language cannot be translated in “word for word” technique. Therefore, “sense for sense” is the best technique to follow while translating news.

Peter Newmark in his book, *A Textbook of Translation* distinguishes between communicative and semantic translation by saying that, “Communicative translation attempts to produce on its readers an effect as close as possible to [...] the original” (38). This means the translation does not change the original meaning of the text.

We were supposed to translate news from Bangla to English. Keeping the meaning same we had to do the translation, also had to ensure that the translation does not sound odd in the target language.

4.5 Editing

After translating news, now comes editing. The content of a news story is edited by focusing on different influential external factors like government issues, audience, economic, market, cultural and social forces. In terms of editing news, the following steps are followed-

- ❖ The introduction part is always written by keeping the 5W"s and 1"H (who, what, when, where, why and how) in mind
- ❖ The supporting points has to be accurate and convincing
- ❖ Irrelevant information needs to be removed

4.6 Photo captioning

Captioning photos is an important part of journalism. Captions should be informative and accurate. Surprisingly, many readers have a tendency of reading the caption after looking at the photo.

Additionally, captions should be informative, not judgmental. Journalists should not make assumptions based only on appearance in the photo because journalists are supposed to present the facts in an unbiased way and allow the reader to form their opinion.

Attaching a sample of my work, photo captioning-

Caption: Rajshahi University Teachers and students take off a procession on the campus on Wednesday marking World Philosophy Day.

World Philosophy Day observed at RU

RU Correspondent

THE World Philosophy Day was observed at Rajshahi University on Wednesday with the theme 'mutual sympathy to overcome the crisis of civilization'.

Marking the day, over three hundred teachers and students of the university's philosophy department brought out a colorful rally on the campus in the morning.

Later, a discussion programme was held at the Senate Building chaired by the philosophy department chairperson Professor Asaduzzaman.

Vice-chancellor Professor M Abdus Sobhan attended as chief and pro-vice chancellor Professor Ananda Kumar Saha was present as special guest.

Professor emeritus Arun Kumar Bosak and noted writer Professor Hasan Azizul Huq attended the event as honorable guests.

Professor Abul Kashem Fazlul Haque, former chairman of Bangla department of Dhaka University delivered the keynote paper titled 'Crisis of civilization and way of progressive' at the meet while treasurer of philosophy department alumni association Professor Dr Nilufar Ahmed gave the welcome speech.

Addressing the seminar, the speakers said that philosophic thought is an inescapable part of human existence. The study of philosophy helps people to obtain clarity of belief and stimulates one's thoughts about the ultimate questions of life.

The speakers also urged the students initiate a greater number of activities, including dialogues, debates, conferences, workshops, cultural events and presentations, based on the general theme of the day to cultivate an enduring value of philosophy for the development of the human thought, for each culture and for each individual.



Rajshahi University teachers and students take off a procession on the campus on Wednesday marking World Philosophy Day.

— New Age photo

4.7 How to write a proper news headline

The headline needs to be catchy enough to grab reader's attention. Here, the editor can play with words in terms of making the line look attractive. Keeping the word limit and news in mind the editor can write the way s/he wants to.

4.8 How to upload news stories

We were not allowed upload stories/news. After preparing the news we had to send it to our supervisor, after getting his approval we again had to send it to Chief reporter, Mr. Mostafizur Rahman for publishing the news. He is one who chooses which news is important and appropriate for the newspaper. Before uploading a story the following things are being checked by him-

Grammar	Reader orientation
Sentence structure	Cross checking information
Organization of story	Checks for the credibility of the source

Chapter- 5

Conclusion

Internship is a great opportunity to prepare oneself to enter in professional sphere. Also, it is an opportunity to convert academic learning into practice by using creativity. Overall, my internship experience at *NEW AGE* was positive. I was happy that I was fortunate enough to work with so many talented people of this industry.

As a matter of fact, from what I have learnt the basics of writing hard news as well as some technical aspects of writing news which I believe enhanced my confidence and capability to enter in professional life.

In addition, doing internship at *NEW AGE* gave me the chance to experience the environment of newspaper and the daily activity of journalists which has lessen my fear of adjusting in professional field.

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Appendix

Appendix-1

Man killed over land dispute in Rajshahi

RU Correspondent

A MAN was killed over land dispute at village Rakkhitpara of Bagmara upazila in Rajshahi on Wednesday night.

The deceased was identified as Ali Akbar, 60, resident of village Rakkhitpara.

Bagmara police officer-in-charge Nasim Ahmed, quoting local people, told New Age that Akbar had a long standing dispute over the ownership of a piece of land with one Mohsin Ali of the same village.

On Wednesday afternoon, Akbar called some local people to his house and showed them ownership documents of the land that he got following a court verdict.

Around 10:00pm on Wednesday, a group of people, led by Mohsin Ali, swooped on Akbar's house, leaving the house inmates injured. The injured were taken to Rajshahi Medical College where he succumbed from his injuries.

Appendix-2

BSMMU, China University discuss collaboration in medical education

Staff Correspondent

A delegation of China's Kunming Medical University visited Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University on Monday to discuss collaboration in medical education, research and training.

Kunming Medical University vice-president Professor Dong Jun led an eight-member team in the meeting with BSMMU vice-chancellor Professor Kamrul Hasan at his office, said a press release.

BSMMU pro-vice-chancellors Professor Md Shahidullah Sikdar and Professor Md Sharfuddin Ahmed, treasurer Professor Md Ali Asgar Morol, registrar Professor ABM Abdul Hannan, proctor Professor Md Habibur Rahman Dulal, among others, were present.

Appendix-3

9 women killed for dowry in Nov: report

Staff Correspondent

AT LEAST 49 women committed suicide, nine were killed for dowry and four committed suicide after being stalked in November this year, revealed a report published on Tuesday by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

The report also found that 92 women were victims of rape and 13 of gang-rape in the same month.

Prepared on the basis of news published in 14 national dailies, the report showed that 427 women were victims of violence in the month.

Of them, 42 were killed, three died in fire incidents, two were killed after rape and one was killed following an acid attack.

As many as 60 girls were victims of attempted child marriage and four of child marriage.

Appendix-4

Inaugural ceremony of a workshop organized by UGC

Staff Correspondent

Inaugural ceremony of a two-day workshop organized by University Grants Commission of Bangladesh was held in a hotel at the city on Monday.

The workshop was on making peaceful campus and eradicating campus extremism and violence around the world including Bangladesh, said in UGC press release on Tuesday.

Professor Abdul Mannan, chairman of UGC of Bangladesh was the chief guest and Ms Alison Blake, British High Commissioner in Dhaka was the special guest of the event.

The chairman of UGC of Bangladesh said that UGC has already introduced a course entitled History of Emergence of Bangladesh to project the real history of our liberation war among the young generation.

Members of UGC, Professor Dr Mohammad Yousuf Ali Mollah and Professor Dr Md Akhtar Hossain, Secretary of UGC, Dr Md Khaled, Deputy High Commissioner in Dhaka. Mr David Ashley, Vice-Chancellors from Public and Private Universities, high officials from Home Office in England and others were present at the workshop.

Appendix-5

Upgrading National food policy-2006 recommended

Staff Correspondent

The 21st meeting of parliamentary standing committee on food ministry was held at Jatiya Sangshad Bhaban on Tuesday.

Committee member food minister Md Kamrul Islam, Sheikh Fazle Nur Taposh and Begum Shirin Naim attended the meeting preside over by the committee president, Md Abdul Wadud.

Upgrading the National food policy-2006 in order to formulate a safe food policy was recommended in the meeting.

The committee recommended “food stock policy” to keep food price under control.

It was also recommended inclusion of the class IV employees of the food directorate in revenue sector.

Quick implementation of the modern food warehouse project under food directorate with the financial help of World Bank was also recommended.

Acting secretary of food ministry, director general of food directorate and high officials of ministry and parliament were present in the meeting.

Appendix-6

NEWAGE

NEWS IN BRIEF

*College student
stabbed dead
in Bogra*

Our Correspondent · Bogra

MUGGERS stabbed a youth to death near Shah Newaz Shishu Park in Bogra on Saturday. The deceased was identified as Sabbir Hos-sain, 18, son of Mojammel Hoque, resident of village Kurail of Mohadebpur in Naogaon and a student of Nazipur Government Col-lege. Chilimpur police sub-inspector Ashutosh Mitra said that Sabbir had come to Bogra to attend an army recruitment test at Ma-jhira Cantonment. Around 8:00pm on Saturday, Sab-bir was intercepted by a group of muggers at a taxi stand near the park. They snatched his phone and stabbed him, leaving him critically injured. He was taken to Shaheed Ziaur Rah-man Medical College Hos-pital where he died around midnight. The body was sent to the hospital morgue for a post-mortem examina-tion. Sabbir's father filed a case against eight to 10 un-named men with Sadar po-lice on Sunday, said station officer-in-charge (investiga-tion) Aslam Ali.

Ctg city transpo

Our Correspondent · Chittagong

CHITTAGONG city dwellers suffered on Sunday amid a crisis of public transports on roads because of the indefinite strike called by a faction of Chit-tagong city transport owners.

Chittagong Metro Public Transport Owners' Action Council enforced the strike from Sunday morning to press home their 11-point demand including an end to harass-ment by police and stopping movement of vehicles without route permit.

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Appendix-7

Interpol conference starts in China

Staff Correspondent

The four-day 86th annual general meeting of Interpol themed “Taking a stance on global security” started in Beijing of China on Tuesday.

President of China Xi Jinping inaugurated the conference in China National Convention Centre, said a press release on the day.

In his inaugural speech, Xi Jinping emphasized getting cooperation from the member countries in expanding developed technology, exchange mutual information and experience and advance training and skill of police in tackling extremism and rightist ideology, cyber-crime, money laundering, terror financing and other global crimes.

Bangladesh Police inspector general AKM Shahidul Haque is leading the five-member Bangladesh delegation at the program where he will talk about the recent achievements of Bangladesh in curbing extremism and creating social security through community policing.

During the conference, the Bangladesh delegation will discuss about mutual interests with China, Oman, Interpol alone with other countries and organizations.

In this conference, minister and of public safety Guo Shen Kiun, vice-minister and Interpol president Meng Hong Wei, secretary general of Interpol Jurgen Stock, 158 heads of police of Interpol members, senior officers and officers of associate organization were present.