

[Type text]

Report on
Internship Experience at *NEW AGE*

By
Md. Sahadat Hossain
Student ID: 15103028

Bachelor of Arts in English
Department of English and Humanities
BRAC University
August 2019

[Type text]

Report On
Internship Experience at *NEW AGE*

By
Md. Sahadat Hossain
Student ID: 15103028

An internship report submitted to the Department of English and Humanities in partial
fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Bachelor of Arts in English

Department of English and Humanities
BRAC University
August 2019

©2019. BRAC University
All rights reserved.

Declaration

It is hereby declared that

1. The internship report submitted is my/our own original work while completing degree at Brac University.
2. The report does not contain material previously published or written by a third party, except where this is appropriately cited through full and accurate referencing.
3. The report does not contain material which has been accepted, or submitted, for any other degree or diploma at a university or other institution.
4. I/We have acknowledged all main sources of help.

Student's Full Name & Signature:

MD. SAHADAT HOSSAIN

15103028

Supervisor's Full Name & Signature:

ROOHI ANDALIB HUDA

Assistant Professor, English & Humanities
BRAC University

Acknowledgement

My academic journey at BRAC University was a pleasant experience full of learning and growth. While I give myself credit for my unwavering commitment towards self-development, it cannot be argued that the university education played a pivotal role in shaping my personality.

First of all, I would like to take pleasure in thanking my parents for being the resort of never-ending support. Also, I offer my heartiest gratitude to my grandparents who played crucial roles in my sound upbringing. Needless to mention, all of my close friends also contributed to my consistent growth.

Secondly, I take this opportunity to pay the due respect to my esteemed faculties at the university. Ms. Roohi Huda, Assistant Professor and my supervisor, provided constant support through her invaluable guidance and relentless dedication towards helping me in achieving academic excellence. I feel extremely privileged to have a teacher as knowledgeable and caring as her. Among the other faculty members, I must thank Ms. Anika Saba, Ms. Rukhsana Rahim Chowdhury, Ms. Rifat Mahabub, Ms. Nawshaba Ahmed and Professor Firdous Azim for their much needed encouragement and the constructive criticisms they provided.

Last but not the least; I would like to offer my gratitude to my onsite internship supervisor Mr. Nahid Riyasad (Staff Reporter) and Ms. Saydia Gulrukh (Assistant Editor). I thank them for ensuring an incredible learning experience at *New Age*.

List of Pictures

Picture 1: <i>New Age</i> Logo.....	4
Picture 2: Movie Review.....	10
Picture 3: Pahela Falgun Event Cover.....	16
Picture 4: Ekushey Book Fair Event Cover.....	18
Picture 5: Independence Day Special Feature.....	21
Picture 6: Feature on Young Entrepreneur.....	23
Picture 7: Feature Story on Netflix.....	24
Picture 8: NEWS section of <i>New Age Youth</i>	29
Picture 9: Popular Culture (Disney’s <i>Aladdin</i>).....	31
Picture 10: High Culture (Murakami’s <i>Norwegian Wood</i>).....	32

Table of Contents

Declaration.....	II
Acknowledgement.....	III
List of Pictures.....	IV
Chapter 1 Introduction.....	1
Chapter 2 A Brief History of <i>NEW AGE</i>.....	4
Chapter 3 My Daily Tasks.....	6
Chapter 4 Translation.....	8
Chapter 5 Writing.....	12
Chapter 6 Miscellaneous Tasks.....	26
Chapter 7 Relating Theories with My Work.....	30
Chapter 8 Recommendation.....	34
Chapter 9 Conclusion.....	36
Works Cited.....	38

Chapter 1

Introduction

News is a staple in our daily lives and the consumption of news every day is overwhelming. The world of journalism has been radicalized by the overreaching influence of social media, and as a result, it restrains the impact of both print and the electronic media to a considerable degree. Nevertheless, news agencies still remain vital in terms of influence primarily because of their credibility, and their adaptability to the modern ways of news consumption such as social media. Alongside the tradition of printed news, newspapers now reach our Facebook newsfeed with the latest news in the shortest time possible while being free of cost.

I did not think of declaring a concentration in media and cultural studies when I enrolled in the Department of English and Humanities at BRAC University. I was drawn by the language English itself. I wanted to know the ins and outs of it. I used to consistently score excellent marks in English; much more than any other subject during my academic life prior to the beginning of undergrad studies. This is the subject that helped me stand out in my class and I can surely say that it was reason that motivated me the most to pursue a career in English. Despite the prevalent corporate culture, I chose to study English instead because I had a good command over the language and believed that not only will I be able to achieve mastery over it but also I can be competent enough to make a career out of it.

I am overly enthusiastic about literature than many others around me. I take art very seriously regardless of its medium. I took quite a good number of literature courses. Some of them were compulsory for fulfilling the requirement of my degree and some by choice. I also had to enroll in few of the linguistics courses. I did fairly well in both of them but ultimately I decided to settle

with Media and Cultural Studies as my area of concentration. The crucial factor behind this decision was the practicality of this stream. The first course in the list of major courses that I did was Eng404: Copyrighting and it was very interesting because I learned about the creative process of making an advertisement stand out. Then I took ENG333: Globalization and the Media; which introduced me to the fascinating world of journalism. I was then well aware of the mechanism and complexity of news publishing. I realized the whole process was never that simple as it may seem and how much impact it can have. What I learned was intriguing and it helped me get a better grasp over the reality we live in. I learned about the various ways news is written, organized and even manipulated. I realized that the way news stories are presented can have a significant influence over the readers' perception towards the world and its people. Before finally settling with Media and Cultural Studies, I took ENG401: Editing. It effectively taught me the technicalities of news publishing. I also managed to do very well in the subject and then I was convinced that I can study media and journalism. I took into consideration the fact that declaring a concentration in Media and Cultural studies will equip me with practical knowledge through diverse courses that include ENG465: Translation Studies and ENG331: Cultural Studies.

The first and foremost reason behind choosing to do my internship at *New Age* was that among all the newspapers, I read *New Age* more often. Currently *The Daily Star* and *Dhaka Tribune* are certainly more popular among the mass but I have always liked the fact that *New Age* presents a rather serious image of itself. It is undoubtedly among the handful of reputed and quality news agencies in Bangladesh. The writings published are mostly serious in nature and are always very informative. Since it was founded, it maintains a reputation of being outspoken. The editor of *New Age*, Nurul Kabir, is one of the most highly respected intellectuals of our country who

contributes to the distinct presence that the organization has now. Considering all these factors, I came to a conclusion that I can have a meaningful internship experience at *New Age*.

Chapter 2

A Brief History of *NEW AGE*



Picture 1: New Age logo

New Age started its journey as English daily in Bangladesh in 2003, and has maintained its reputation as one of the leading newspapers in Bangladesh ever since. It boasts itself as The Outspoken Daily and seeks to live up to its tagline which is, “biased towards people.” The newspaper found success soon after it started publishing because of its unwavering and

outspoken nature. A.Z.M Enayetullah Khan is the founder of this prestigious English daily and currently Nurul Kabir, who is a veteran journalist very well-known for his unbiased stance over political issues, is the Editor. Needless to mention, with his visionary guidance from the very beginning, *New Age* has successfully been able to maintain its reputation as a considerable force in the world of journalism. *New Age* is active in both the print and the electronic medium. It consists of 20 pages which include sections such as sports, entertainment, editorial, op-ed, lifestyle, business, technology etc., while at present it also publishes a weekly supplement called *New Age Youth*

Chapter 3

My Daily Tasks

The internship at *New Age* was a learning experience for me. It is important that students put into practice what they learn in the class and I got various opportunities to do so during my internship. This experience undoubtedly added tremendous value to my education as it provided me with a big exposure to the world of journalism.

As mentioned earlier, I was a part of *New Age Youth* team and throughout the course of my internship I performed every task that is associated with publishing for this weekly supplement. I was a writer, editor and a translator as well.

I used to edit most of the articles that were published in the supplement. Rectifying grammatical mistakes and spelling errors were absolutely essential. Not only these, but I also had to reconstruct sentences or even paragraphs to fit the desired length for the article while maintaining the quality of writing as well. This required diction and paraphrasing skills.

Additionally, in few occasions I had to expand the length of the articles in order to meet the minimum word limit. Editing also required me to discuss matters such political aspects, angles in which an article should be written, leniency in editing, length of the articles etc.

Translation was also an important part of the job. The job of a translator is supposedly easy but in reality, translation is hard, time consuming and can be easily extremely tricky. Internship at *New Age* gave me the opportunity to hone my translations and make complete use of the knowledge that I accumulated during ENG 465 (Translation Studies). I was finally able to know how competent I am for doing translations.

The primary and hardest job, however, was writing. During my internship I published several articles under a variety of sections of *New Age Youth* that includes “Initiative”, “Icon”, “Art and Culture”, “Voice”, “Experience”, “Mindspeak” and “Cover story.” It required a lot of work to write the articles and then get them published. I had to pitch ideas first, discuss certain aspects such as the angle in which the article should be written and then get the approval to start writing. After doing so I could start doing everything else that was required such as interviewing or even visiting places. During the process of writing, I learned the importance of research, outlining, observation and keeping myself updated about important news around the world. All these make writing a rigorous process and more so because the writing has to undergo several edits before finally getting published. Overall, this internship experience for me was a substantial introduction to the business of journalism.

Chapter 4

Translation

Translation is not easy as it is believed to be by many people. In fact, it can be extremely hard, tricky and time consuming. Not only time, but a great deal of skill is required to produce a translated work that matches the quality of the original text. A translation may not be perfect, but by any means it should not distort the meaning. In addition to that, the translation should maintain the essence of the original text as much as possible.

A translation mostly depends on a translator's common sense and dedication. Nevertheless, what I learned during my English 465 course was absolutely crucial as it equipped me with an in-depth understanding of the craft. The knowledge acquired from this course adds a great deal of credibility to my work by always helping me to do translations that are closest to the essence and meaning of the original text.

From a theoretical point of view, I prefer the sense-for-sense translation rather than the word-for-word approach. Jeremy Munday in his book called *Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and Applications* mentions that Word-for-word means translating literally; whereas sense-for-sense translation is translating with latitude. The latter does not strictly follow the words in the original text rather it focuses on keeping the sense of the original text intact while translating (25). Needless to mention, sense-for-sense translation does not mean distorting the meaning altogether. It is also mentioned in Jeremy Munday's book that S. Jerome (a famous translator from late 4th century) was also an advocate of the sense-for-sense approach as he claimed that the word-for-word or literal translation produces a rather absurd translation that also cloaks the sense of the original text (20). John Dryden— an English poet, playwright and translator— also prefers

sense-for-sense translation. However, according to John Dryden's categorization, sense-for-sense translation is called paraphrase (25). Paraphrasing or sense-for-sense translation provides translators the liberty to change whole phrases. Etienne Dolet, a popular French scholar and translator, also deems it better to understand the sense and material of the original author and prohibits the word-for-word approach for translation (26).

The most important thing that I learned during the translation course and my translation assignments during my internship is that to be a good translator one needs to be equally efficient at both the source language and the target language. "The translator should have a perfect knowledge of both SL and TL, so as not to lessen the majesty of the language" (Munday 26).

One of my assignments during my internship was to edit a cover story along with translating major parts of it. The cover story was about the need to preserve languages of the ethnic minorities living in Bangladesh. While doing the translation, I realized that a good translation requires a good deal of time. It is not easy at all because the essence of a text is important and the essence can get lost in translation. The parts written in Bangla felt good to read and engaging. Instead of plain statements of facts, those texts were personal feelings of young indigenous people and conveyed a good deal of emotion. My translations had to be equally convincing and, this is where writing becomes more challenging. I chose words that can evoke certain kinds of emotions and pull off an emotional engagement with the reader. The length of sentences can also drastically change after doing the translation. Some Bangla sentences became much shorter after they were translated and some of them became longer. At times, I had to break a Bangla sentence into two English sentences whenever I felt that the translation was lacking the flow. A sample of translated work is given below:

Original Text: আমরাযাৰাংলায়পড়াশোনাৰেছি কিন্তু মাতৃভাষা বাংলা,

তারা সবাই সম্ভবত পড়েছি আমার মাতৃভাষা বাংলা। কলেজে থাকতে আমাদের একবার তর্ক উঠেছিল আমার মাতৃভাষা কী হবেতানিয়ে। সঠিক উত্তরটানিশ্চিত হওয়ার জন্য ক্লাসের ফাঁকে আমাদের বাংলা ম্যাদামের কাছে জানতে চেয়েছিলাম। তিনি বলেছিলেন সবার মায়ের ভাষা আলাদা হলেও মাতৃভাষা সবার বাংলা। আমার মনটা খারাপ হয়ে যাওয়ায় ওনার যুক্তিগুলো আর শুনতে পাইনি। মাতৃভাষানিয়ে এইরকম একটা কনফিউশনের মধ্যে বড় হওয়াটা একটা অস্বস্তিকর ব্যাপার। এই অস্বস্তিকর অনুভূতিকমবেশি অধিকাংশ আদিবাসী ভাষাভাষি শিক্ষার্থীর থাকেই। বিভিন্ন কারণে আদিবাসীদের ভাষাগুলো ঝুঁকির মধ্যে আছে। ভাষাগুলো অদূর ভবিষ্যতে বিলীন হওয়ার ও আশঙ্কা আছে। সরকারের পাঁচটি আদিবাসী ভাষার প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার উদ্যোগটা খুবই চমৎকার। এই উদ্যোগ যথাসীম্বা কী আদিবাসী ভাষার ক্ষেত্রে ও প্রয়োগ করা দরকার। সংকটের জায়গা হল,

এই কার্যক্রম চালুরাখার জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় যেসব পদক্ষেপ নেয়া দরকার সেগুলো হচ্ছে না। শিক্ষক সংকট সহ অন্যান্য সীমাবদ্ধতা গুলোর কাছে এই উদ্যোগ মুখথুবড়ে পড়ে আছে। এই সংকট কাটিয়ে উঠার জন্য সকলকে সদিচ্ছার সঙ্গে এগিয়ে আসতে হবে। উদ্যোগের ক্ষেত্রে আদিবাসীদের স্বকীয়তা ও সংস্কৃতিকে মাথায় রেখে পাঠ্যক্রম প্রণয়ন করতে হবে। ভাষাহারিয়ে যাওয়ার সাথেসাথে চিন্তাভাবনা, সাহিত্য ও জীবন এমনি কি ওই ভাষাভাষি মানুষের অস্তিত্ব ও হারিয়ে যাওয়ার ঝুঁকি থাকে। নিজস্ব ভাষায় সাহিত্য চর্চা, গ্রন্থ প্রকাশ প্রভৃতির উদ্যোগ আদিবাসী ভাষা চর্চার ক্ষেত্রে কেবুঁদ্ধিকরবে।

Translated Text: There are many of us belonging from the Bengali medium educational institutions who probably had to memorize the phrase, 'Bangla is our mother tongue' despite the fact that our mother tongue actually is not Bangla. When I was in college, once we had an argument on which should be our mother tongue. To be sure of the right answer, I went ahead to ask the question to our Bangla teacher during the class break. The answer she gave broke my heart and I couldn't bring myself together to listen to any of her reasoning afterwards. Her answer was that our mother tongue is Bengali, even if our mothers speak different languages. To grow up with the confusion about your own mother tongue is inexplicably suffocating. Most of the students who speak indigenous languages are somewhat suffering from this suffocating feeling. For various reasons, the future of these indigenous languages is at stake and the brink of extinction in near future. The initiative by the government of introducing five indigenous languages at the primary level, however, is fascinating and the implementation of this program needs to happen soon with the inclusion of rest of the indigenous languages. But the problem is that the measures needed to keep the program running are not being taken. These noble initiatives are helplessly drooping against the limitations such as the lack of teachers. All of us must come forward with good intentions if we are to overcome this crisis. The concerned authorities must consider the individuality and culture of the indigenous people as they make the curriculum. A person's thoughts, philosophy, values and even that person's existence can get lost in oblivion if his/her language gets lost. But if reading literature and publishing books in their own language get promoted, then the horizon of indigenous language will only broaden.

The more translation assignments that I undertook, the more I realized how important it is to have a considerable grasp over both the languages. In some cases it gets trickier and difficult

than usual. There are usually plenty of synonyms for a single word and all of them might be passable, but in certain places, there will be a particular synonym that fits in the translated text the best and using any word other than will sound wrong. For instance, the meaning of the word “independent” can be conveyed through multiple words such as স্বাধীন, স্বতন্ত্র, স্বাবলম্বী, স্বশাসিত, অনধীন, সংস্কারমুক্ত. Although all of them mean exactly the same, they cannot be used interchangeably because of the varying contexts in which they are used. For example, if someone wants to use the word ‘independent’ associating it with a political party, then the only right choice for the translated text would be স্বতন্ত্র or if ‘independent’ is to be associated with a country then স্বাধীন would be an appropriate choice. The translation has to be done with great caution, and I learned that the more exposure I have to both the languages, the better it is for translation. In some places, I did not translate the Bengali words into English and instead just wrote the Bengali words with English letters because translating them would not sound right. I learned from my ‘Translation Studies’ course that one cannot always find an equivalent word, and in such cases, the translator has to come up with alternative ways and I followed this rule.

Chapter 5

Writing

By the end of my internship, I had six articles credited to my name. I aspire to be a good writer and this internship experience was a stepping stone towards my goal. I did not only hone my writing skills, but also learnt many of the technicalities that are associated with it such as accuracy, precision, angle, research, editing, interviewing, persistence and collaboration. Owing to the diversity of the kind of articles that I had written, it was a fulfilling experience for me. The articles that I wrote included feature stories, movie reviews and event coverage. Two of them even got featured as cover stories for *New Age Youth*.

I wrote a movie review for the 'Art and Culture' section of *New Age Youth*. Usually, movie reviews are around 1,000 words in length, according to what I learned from the ENG 440: English for print media course, and my supervisor said the same. However, I wanted this review to be more of an in-depth commentary to educate my readers about some of interesting aspects of the story, and therefore, I was allowed to write a longer piece than the usual ones, although I reduced the article by 200 words and brought it down to 1200 from 1400 words because shorter is better. In the print media course I learned that movie reviews are typically short, but on some occasions they can be lengthier when they are more of extended commentaries in nature. My movie review piece was just that and because of the print media course, I knew exactly what I was doing. I had earlier experiences of writing movie reviews in blogs, but the print media course equipped me with the knowledge of all the necessary elements required (e.g: summary of the content, recap without giving away major spoilers, getting familiar with the context, making comparisons with another similar movie, credentials of the makers, creating a good lead, using

dialogues from the movie that sums up its message etc.). This knowledge helped me to write a detailed movie review for *New Age Youth*.

To write a detailed and interesting movie review, I utilized the key points that I learned from studying B. Danesco's article on writing a movie review during ENG440. In his article he talked about getting familiar with the context. He meant that before writing the review, one should be aware of things such as—"Is the movie based on a book or a historical event?" or "What have the actors and director worked on before?" According to Danesco, "All of this information will help you understand the movie better. You'll pick up on details, allusions, trademarks of the actor or director, and probably have more insight into important story elements." I was aware of these facts and before attempting to write an in-depth review, I read the book which the movie was based upon. In addition to that, I also checked upon some other notable works of the director to understand what he specializes in.

In his article he also discusses about creating a good lead. According to him, there are various ways to do so; such as—starting with a great quote from the movie or making comparisons with a similar movie. This helped me a great deal in understanding how deep and creative I can make my review appear to my readers. Following the advice, I also started my review with a quote from the movie and then explained how the quote reflects the movie. Additionally, I also watched another popular movie that is based on the same book, so that I could write about how these two movies fare against each other.



Picture 2: Movie Review

Some of the most interesting assignments, for me, were covering events. I covered two events during my internship—the first one I did was on North South University’s celebration of Pchela Falgun, and the second was on the Ekushey Boi Mela. *New Age* was one of the media partners of North South University during their event and therefore, I was sent from *New Age* to cover the event. What I learned in ENG 440: English for Print Media course helped me a good deal in doing both of the event coverage for *New Age Youth*. Owing to the lessons on how to write an event report, I knew all the elements that were needed to write an event report such as schedule,

getting interviews of the organizers and attendees, theme of the event, historical, and cultural significance etc. Therefore, I was never blank before going to the event or while writing about it. I knew what to take notes on during the event, and I also knew all that can be incorporated into my article to make it better. The most important thing that I learned from the lessons and while covering the events was that the writer has to take note of every little detail, and describe them well to help the readers feel the vibe of those events. In my articles, not only did I mention the most significant information about the events, but also I described the decorations in detail so that the description helps the readers visualize.



Picture 3: Pahela Falgun Event Cover

The second event that I covered was a national event—the ‘Ekushey Boi Mela’; also called ‘Ekushey Book Fair’. This was published as a cover story and had a special focus on the significance of the fair for the young generation of writers and readers since our weekly supplement, *New Age Youth*, is targeted towards the younger audience. I needed something interesting to start my cover story with, and because of the ENG 440 lessons, I knew I could use a quote, anecdote or history. I chose to inform the readers about the history of the book fair. I did not elaborate too much on the history. Instead, I kept the history of the book fair as brief as possible. I only included those interesting bits of information that readers most likely do not know such as the year when book fair unofficially started, and the year when Bangla Academy took the charge of organizing the Book Fair.

I interviewed two young writers as my cover story had a special focus on the youth. The interviews were informal as I interviewed them over phone. However, I planned all the questions to be asked beforehand, and in that sense it was a structured interview. I also interviewed two people who visited the book fair, and talked to few stall managers. The stall managers provided me with vital information such as how well the young writers are doing, who among the new writers are more popular etc. I incorporated all of their interviews into my article. I paraphrased parts of their interviews and used the rest of the information they gave me within quotation marks to make the article livelier.

I also met a specialist reporter at the Ekushey Book Fair who gave me access to all of his articles on this year’s book fair. From those articles I could collect all relevant statistics and information starting from how many books were arriving every day, which genre of books was in more demand to how well they are performing, the number of stalls in the book fair etc.

I observed what kinds of books people were picking up, listened to what they were asking from the stall managers and which genre or author is predominant in particular stalls. I paid attention to the details so that I can describe the fair in a way so that readers can visualize.

Cover Story

A visit to Amar Ekushey Granthamela

Sahadat Hossain Likhon | Published: 00:00, Mar 03, 2019



Children watching comic books at a stall in Bangla Academy Book Fair, Dhaka. Indrajit Ghosh

*Ekushey book fair allows a great number of young writers to introduce themselves in front of a greater audience. This fair, at one hand, pays tribute to martyrs of language movement as well as offers a platform to young and established writers to express themselves. Not only it is an essential part of Bengali cultural identity but also breeds and nurtures generations of knowledge seekers. Returning from the fair, writes **Sahadat Hossain Likhon***



Picture 4: Ekushey Book Fair Event Cover

Feature writing is as hard as it is exciting. “Features generally are longer than hard-news articles because the feature penetrates deeper into its subject”, said Dr. Anthony Curtis. He also said, “Journalists use three tools to gather information for stories: observation, interview and background research.” Having the experience of writing feature stories, I whole-heartedly agree with these statements. Among the features that I wrote, I found a political feature story to be the hardest one to write. Articles involving political issues are treated with utmost importance. Not only do they have to be factually accurate, there also has to be strong logic and evidence behind the arguments that are made. The article had to represent the political viewpoint of the newspaper itself. What the author writes in such articles has to strictly align with the interests of the newspaper. Therefore, a political feature or any article discussing a sensitive issue is more of a collaborative work than anything else. While I was editing movie reviews, I was instructed to be very lenient since they are supposed to be individual opinions and are least likely to draw public attention or cause any controversy. On the other hand, the political feature I wrote had to go through several edits to make sure it effectively and precisely says everything the newspaper wants to say.

The feature article was an ‘Independence Day’ special cover story for *New Age Youth*. The article was reviewed both by my supervisor and the editor. The feature underwent two major edits. I was instructed to talk with 10-12 people from different institutions and different walks of life so that the article can have a collective voice and include different kinds of perspectives. I could not afford to be biased towards a certain opinion as Curtis suggests, “The journalist keeps an open mind while interviewing subjects and researching sources. The writer avoids steering the story or imposing personal ideas on the sources.” About feature writing, he also said, “The

writer's opinions and attitudes are not important to the story", this is perhaps the most important aspect about feature writing that I learned while writing this feature story.

One of the issues that I discussed in the article was press freedom. I discussed this issue with one of my interviewees, and his point was that while press freedom is a good thing, there should be a limit to it. He argued that any misinformation published in newspapers can generate unnecessary chaos among people. Therefore, even newspapers should not be allowed to write whatever they want. Instead, they should always publish authentic news. While participating in the discussion, I learned that there are always pros and cons of a matter which I should consider while writing.

I collected peoples' opinion in the form of short written responses instead of interviewing because the question required much time to think before answering. I realized that some people will delay a lot in answering or simply not reply if asked for a written response because writing might be daunting for some, no matter how little they have to write. However, not everyone can instantly come up with a good answer for lofty questions, and therefore, I stuck to collecting written responses. I interviewed one of the respondents over phone and he preferred talking over writing. The experience of gathering opinions from people of different walks of life was enlightening because I got to learn how very diverse peoples' opinions can be from each other, and realized I can get varying insightful perspectives talking to different kinds of people. I could see the matter from a different light and inclusion of opposing, but also valid opinions added a different angle and weight to my article. The final edit was made by the chief editor who not only incorporated an important issue, but also added to the introduction, and came up with a more serious and suitable conclusion which reinforces the purpose of the article and newspaper's view on the matter.



Cover Story


Freedom is a constant struggle

Sahadat Hossain Likhon | Published: 00:00, Mar 24, 2019 | Updated: 13:59, Mar 24, 2019



— Street Art SF

INDEPENDENCE DAY 2019

Talking to students **Sahadat Hossain Likhon** writes about the state of freedom in today's Bangladesh 



Picture 5: Independence Day Special Feature

I also wrote a feature about a university student's start up business, and the write-up was for the 'Initiative' section of *New Age Youth*. This section is dedicated to featuring young aspiring

entrepreneurs. I prepared my questions beforehand, and then interviewed the student. To get an idea of what kind of a write-up this one needs to be, I looked at another recently published article in this section. In addition to that, I thoroughly read a few of the articles published in the *Forbes* magazine in order to get some ideas about what kind of insightful questions I can ask my interviewee and ensure a superior quality of the feature I was going to write. The articles in *Forbes* featured some of the young entrepreneurs of 2018. Initially, I wrote my article in a question answer format. A few of the articles that I read in *Forbes* were written in the question answer format. However, the chief editor of *New Age Youth* told me to re-write the article in the narrative format as articles written in question-answer format are not considered suitable to be published in this weekly supplement. This was the time when I realized one has to be creative, but he/she also has to conform to the requirements of the organization where he/she is working for. I re-wrote the article in a narrative format, and also, emphasized on the most unique things that I learned from the interview. Next, I came up with a catchy caption and a blurb. To incorporate into my article, I also collected a picture of the student and some of the products that she sells.

Initiative

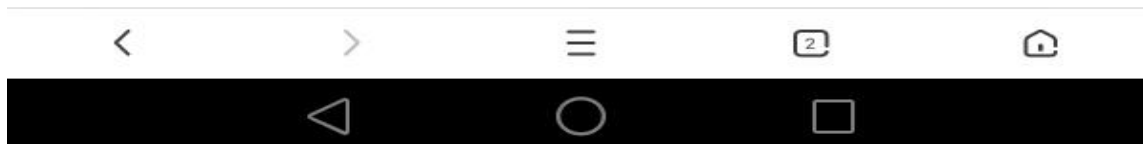
The marvellous mug maker

Sahadat Hossain Likhon | Published: 00:00, Mar 10, 2019 | Updated: 22:16, Mar 09, 2019

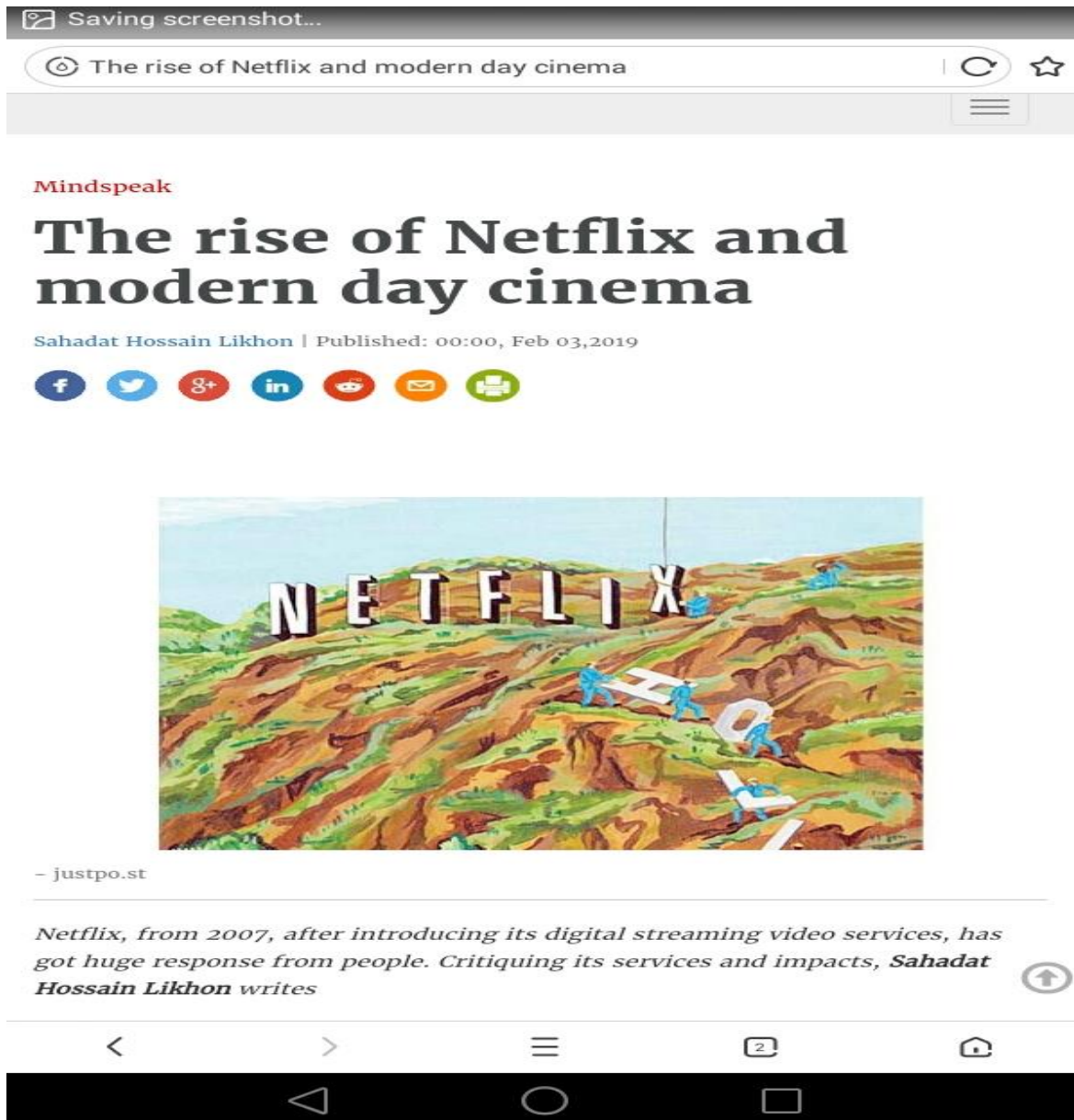


Nawwar Fatima Procheta

*Lucrative, amazing, unique, beautifully crafted are some adjectives seen in her business page on Facebook that people use to appreciate her art. Her creations are really something to marvel at. Nawwar Fatima Procheta is a 3rd year student of Bangladesh University of Professionals who makes acrylic mugs decorated with beautiful glass painting. She chooses to establish her own identity through her artistic ingenuity and become a financially independent woman. Procheta shares her experience in a session with **Sahadat Hossain Likhon***



Picture 6: Feature on Young Entrepreneur



Picture 7: Feature Story on Netflix

The picture above is of my first ever published article for *New Age Youth*. I had to read interviews published in various other newspapers and magazines related to my topic to incorporate them into my article as I needed. The most important thing I learned while writing the article is that I have to get the message across while maintaining the word limit. There can be a lot of sources available, and I can go on rambling about a topic, but it does not mean I can use

every data available or write as much as I want to. The article initially reached more than 1,600, words but in the end I had to cut that to 1,300. To achieve that, I had to paraphrase some of the parts instead of directly quoting them. Additionally, I omitted less vital and repetitive sentences. Another crucial thing that I learned was that thinking too much about perfection and aspects such as word limit, grammar, spelling mistakes; punctuation etc. can make the writing process slow and demotivate me. Instead, I can always fix things during the editing process.

Chapter 6

Miscellaneous Tasks

Besides my regular duties as a writer, editor and translator, I was also engaged in a few other tasks related to news publishing. It gave me a little more insight about what happens within a news agency. For instance, while I was going through some recent international news in the *New Age* online version, I noticed that ‘Reuters’ is credited right under the title of the article, instead of a writer’s name or mentioning ‘Staff Correspondent’. Upon being asked about it, my supervisor informed me that newspapers can pay and subscribe to other news sources such as Reuters, AFP etc. These subscriptions allow newspapers to directly copy contents from the subscribed sources and publish them. However, the newspapers have to mention the source from where the news is directly taken from. I also learned that newspapers even subscribe to journals. *New Age* publishes journal articles in its Op-ed section.

During my internship, I was also shown the process of uploading news online. Unlike people who upload hard news stories, the person who uploads contents online for *New Age Youth*, does not have to stay updated with the latest information to make changes in the already published article because *New Age Youth* is a weekly supplement only publishing feature articles. The articles uploaded online are made available even before they get published in print.

From time to time I went over to the computer section to observe how words and pictures are being adjusted before being printed. The computer section is where the whole outlook of a printed page is formed. The pictures and the words in a page have to be adjusted in such a way that does not make the appearance of the page odd. One of the interesting things that I learned is that the typeface and the font size always remain the same; what the newspapers do is that they

adjust the gap between the words according to their need. For instance, if an article is short of words, then they just increase the gap between the words to fill the space. Similarly, if there is an excess of words in the article, they decrease the gap instead to fit the page. A similar treatment is done in regard to pictures also. The length and width of the pictures have to be adjusted according to the amount of words. However, this is not always the case. As I have mentioned earlier, the outlook of the page has to appear natural; not odd. If there is an excessive shortage of words, the writer or the editor must fill the space according to the requirement. Similarly, if the article is excessively long, then the writer or editor must shorten the length accordingly. In such cases, doing things like stretching the pictures or narrowing the gap between the words will not help as it changes the outlook the newspaper. While observing this, I also learnt that often times some pictures are added in the online version to make up for the extra space required. They cannot make it to the print version due to constraints in space.

Newspapers are engaged in various kinds of promotional activities to increase readership. They can be Media partners. For instance, *New Age* was one of the media partners for North South University's 'Pahela Falgun' event, and I was assigned to cover that event. My internship supervisor informed me that *New Age* did not get paid for this; meaning that it was solely for a promotional purpose. Another promotional activity that I was involved in was the 'NEWS' section of *New Age Youth*. Since the target audience of the weekly supplement is the young minds of our country, we try to cater to and attract them in different ways.

The NEWS section of *New Age Youth* is dedicated to showcase various meaningful activities performed by youngsters across the country; including the club activities of various universities. Therefore, I was assigned to contact all the clubs of various private universities. This section

consists of not more than six pictures with captions accompanying them. The caption briefly informs what the activity or event is about while mentioning the date the event took place.

My job specifically was to contact the concerned authorities of the clubs and let them know that *New Age Youth* publishes different club activities from different universities. Hence, if the people associated with the clubs are interested to showcase their club activities; all they have to do is e-mail a picture from the event along with a brief description about the event including the date. I had some friends who were former members of various clubs at private universities and from them I collected contact numbers of the current members of those clubs. I contacted the members, instructed them what to do, and then listed their names, contact numbers, designations alongside the names of the clubs they were associated with.

After that I visited the websites of different universities to look for contact numbers of club authorities. From there, I collected the numbers and e-mail ids of the personnel from OSAs (office of student affairs) and OPAs (Office of public relations). The people I reached provided

me the lists of club coordinators and their contact numbers.



On April 8, BRAC University communication and language club arranged public speaking competition 2019 at their premises.

Picture 8: NEWS section of New Age Youth

I also regularly edited for the ‘Voice’ section of *New Age Youth*. This section was another way of increasing readership by directly engaging with the readers as it featured the opinions of young people. The opinions were mostly collected in written through comments on *New Age Youth*’s Facebook posts.

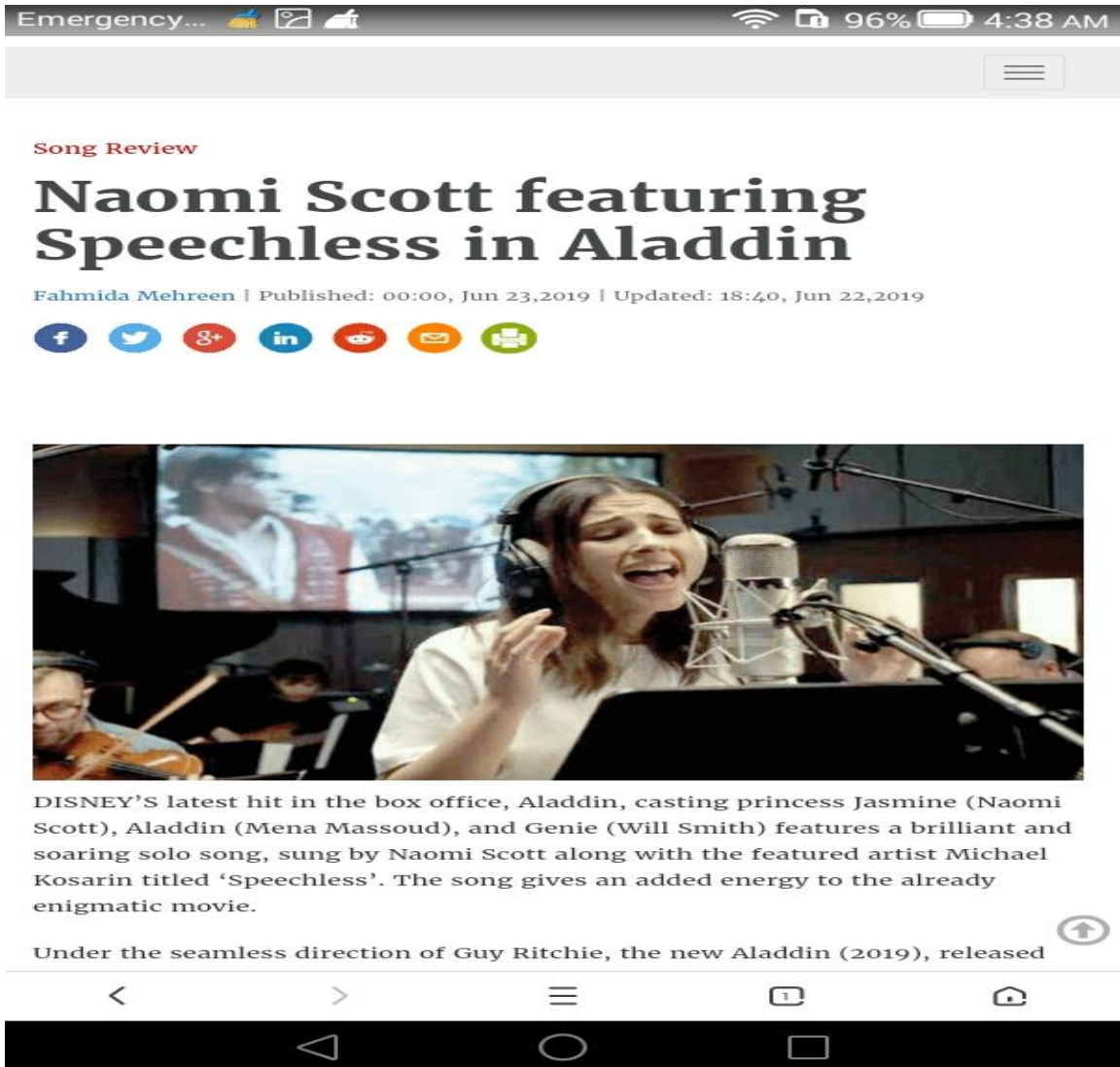
Chapter 7

Relating Theories with My Works

After declaring a concentration in Media and Cultural Studies, I learned about various theories and concepts which are absolutely essential in understanding the world. These theories and concepts are applicable in our own lives. Few of them even directly relate with some of the things that I have observed during my internship, and they are described below.

Popular Culture and High Culture: Various scholars contributed to the discussions relating to popular culture and high culture. John Storey in his book titled *From an Introductory Guide to Cultural Theory and Popular Culture* includes those discussions to enable the readers to make a distinction between popular culture and high culture. It is mentioned in his book that popular culture can be identified as something that is “well-liked by many people” and it has a relation with higher sales (Storey 7). One of the various definitions of popular culture suggests that “popular culture is mass produced for mass consumption” (10). High culture, on the other hand, is argued to be created by people with exclusive individual artistic interest as opposed to the commercial nature of popular culture (8).

The weekly supplement I worked for—*New Age Youth*—endorses both the cultures. Topics relating to popular culture appeals to the mass, whereas, contents related to the high culture can draw a more mature audience who are looking for something substantial and highly exclusive. Both of them are actually important for increasing the readership.



Picture 9: Popular Culture (Disney's Aladdin)

The picture above shows a song review published in *New Age Youth*. The song is from Disney's highly successful commercial movie *Aladdin* and it is an example of the popular culture.

Book Review

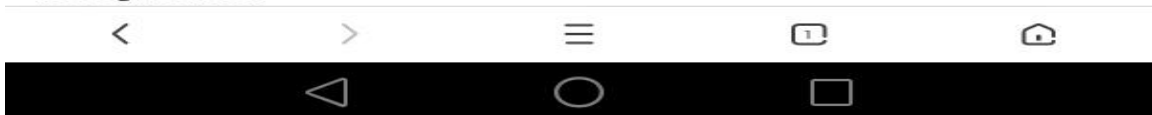
Norwegian Wood: one bright book of life

Muhammad kamruzzamann | Published: 00:00, Jun 23, 2019



Haruki Murakami's Norwegian Wood (1987) is set in Tokyo of 1960, when like many other countries, students there were protesting at the established order of the society. On the backdrop of this, Murakami, through a first-person narrative, sketches a story of loses and adolescent sexuality, reviews
Muhammad kamruzzamann

TERRY Eagleton, in his 'The Rise of English,' writes, 'If Life was creatively at work anywhere then it was in the writings of D. H. Lawrence'. Particularly, Terry, here, talks about English fiction and the continuation of the particular writing tradition.



Picture 10: High Culture (Murakami's Norwegian Wood)

The picture above shows a book review published in *New Age Youth*. The book is critically acclaimed, but certainly not popular with the masses. Therefore, it is an example of high culture.

Ideology: There are various definitions and connotations of the term ‘ideology’ but the very basic idea of ideology is that “ideology can refer to a systematic body of ideas articulated by a particular group of people” (Storey 2). Storey, as an example, states that professional groups have ‘professional ideology’ that inform the practices of those groups.

New Age describes its editorial policy as “anti-establishment”. In addition to that its tagline says “The outspoken daily”. It also has a slogan and that is—“biased towards the people.” The tagline, the slogan and the editorial policy speak for themselves. They are clearly indicative of the kind of ideology that *New Age* believes in.

Chapter 8

Recommendation

The few courses that BRAC University's Media and Cultural Studies stream offer are absolutely essential. However, there are also plenty of places where improvements can be made. First of all, there should be more guest speaker sessions. Few of the guest speaker sessions we had were extremely insightful. The esteemed guests provided such valuable insights about the real world of journalism that cannot be taught by books. Having said that, there should be additional courses that completely focus on the contemporary issues and world of journalism. The number of courses offered for Media and Cultural Studies students are insufficient anyway.

There is a wide array of courses that can be offered for students who want to delve into the world of media. While there are some courses related to the print media such as ENG 401: Editing and ENG 440: English for print media, there are no courses offered for people who would prefer going to work in the television industry. Courses such as Broadcast production, Television News Production etc. should be added. In my opinion, a course dedicated entirely to investigative reporting may prove to be of great value. In addition to that, courses can include more lessons on topics such as history of media, fundamental issues in journalism etc.

For adding depth by giving the students an all-round education, courses such as Strategic Communication, Government and Public Affairs Reporting, Mass Communication etc. can be interesting additions. Students also need to explore the creative sphere of communication. I think courses related to creative writing such as script writing, screenwriting will be interesting additions. A few other courses related to creative forms of expressions such as Visual

Storytelling, Advanced Audio-Video Journalism, Introduction to Filmmaking and Documentary will ignite the hidden creativity among the students.

Chapter 9

Conclusion

My internship experience at *New Age* was truly fulfilling. Overall, it was a complete learning experience because of the variety of tasks that I had to perform. As I completed my internship, I felt satisfied since I got plenty of opportunities to be better at what I liked to do. The variety of tasks that I performed during the internship included editing, writing and translating. Not only did I increase my expertise in doing such tasks, but I also gained a much needed self-confidence. By interning a newspaper organization, I was able to test my abilities and knowledge that I acquired over the course of my undergraduate career. More importantly, I received an all-round practical learning that lessons in class cannot offer.

One of the most important things that I learned was that news publishing is a collaborative effort. Although it is an arduous process, I am now able to deal with it. In addition to that, I feel such collaboration is important in order to keep learning. I always learned insightful things while working with my esteemed colleagues; especially my editor and supervisor. Having interned in a newspaper organization such reputed as *New Age*, I got a better view of the world of journalism. I cherish the experience at *New Age* as it equipped me with more knowledge and experience. It will most certainly help me in my future endeavors.

This report is an amalgamation of all my learning during my internship at *New Age* as a writer, editor and translator for its weekly supplement called *New Age Youth*. It consists of theories and strategies that I applied in order to efficiently complete my assignment. Additionally, it also includes the crucial insights into the world of journalism that I have gained by cooperating with people in my workplace. The report, therefore, is a written record of how my academic skills as a

student with Media and Cultural Studies concentration helped me in performing specific tasks, and also everything that I learned from a practical experience.

Works Cited

Curtis, Dr. Anthony. "How To Write a Feature Story." *UNC PEMBROKE*, 2011,

www.uncp.edu/home/acurtis/Courses/ResourcesForCourses/WritingFeatureStories.html.

DanESCO, B. "How To Write a Film Review." *How To Do Things.com*,

www.howtodothings.com/hobbies/a2206-how-to-write-a-movie-review.html.

Munday, Jeremy. "Translation theory before the twentieth century." *Introducing Translation*

Studies: Theories and Applications. Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, 2002.

Storey, John. "What Is Popular Culture?" *An Introductory Guide To Cultural Theory AND*

POPULAR CULTURE, The University of Georgia Press Athens, 1993.

Pictures Cited

[1] Wikimedia, New Age.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:New_Age_Logo.svg

[2] New Age Youth, 17 March 2019.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/67562/mowgli-legend-of-the-jungle>

[3] Sourav Lasker, New Age Youth, 17 February 2019.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/65011/nsu-dazzles-in-celebration-of-pahela-falgun>

[4] Indrajeet Ghosh, New Age Youth, 3 March 2019, Dhaka.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/66257/a-visit-to-amar-ekushey-granthamela>

[5] Street Art SF, New Age Youth, 24 March 2019.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/68167/freedom-is-a-constant-struggle>

[6] Nawwar Fatema Procheta, New Age Youth, 10 March 2019.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/66898/the-marvellous-mug-maker>

[7] Justpo.st, New Age Youth, 3 February 2019.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/63592/the-rise-of-netflix-and-modern-day-cinema>

[8] New Age Youth, 14 April 2019.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/69913/news>

[9] New Age Youth, 23 June 2019.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/76195/naomi-scott-featuring-speechless-in-aladdin>

[10] New Age Youth, 23 June 2019.

<http://www.newagebd.net/article/76201/norwegian-wood-one-bright-book-of-life>

