Reflection of Bangladeshi Cultural Practices in *Daily Sun*'s Magazines: *Morning Tea, Hood* and *Groove*

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Inspiring Excellence

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Reflection of Bangladeshi Cultural Practices in *Daily Sun*'s Magazines *Morning Tea, Hood* and *Groove*

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Introduction

Newspaper plays an important role in our everyday lives. As a human being we are always curious to know what is happening around us as well as around the world. In here, newspapers are meeting the demands of our curiosity. Newspaper is one kind of Medias that helps people to be updated every day. Arjun Appadurai, a contemporary social-cultural anthropologist recognized as a major theorist in globalization studies describes this as mediaescapes. According to him, "mediaescapes refer both to the distribution of the electronic capabilities to produce and disseminate information (newspaper, magazine, television stations, film-production studios) which are now available to a growing number of private and public interests throughout the world and to the images of the world created by this media" (35). For instance, through the help of media the whole world was being part of the most controversial election that took place in 2017 in the United States of America. We were physically not present there but our mind were present. In fact, we were mentally participating in that election. Even we could feel the vibe of that election by sitting in our home. And these all happened with the help of media.

Newspaper is one of the good sources to get all kind of information such as politics, sports, business, news of entertainments, national and international news as well. Along with these we also get much knowledge related to health, art, science, technology, study, food and life-style. The foremost purpose of newspaper is to let its reader to be informed about what is happening around the world. Modern world is known as the world of advertisement. Therefore, newspaper also carries out different advertisements as it has to keep up with the evolving world. In addition, advertisement also helps to run Newspaper Company.

Newspaper has separate pages according to different subjects for instance, national page, business page, sports page, international page, editorial page, entertainment page. It also contains columns of matrimonial, vacancies, wanted and missing as well. Reader can choose easily what section or column he/she wants to read first.

In our country we have many Bangla and English newspapers. Although the priority of Bangla newspaper is more than the English newspaper, because our first language is Bangla and majority of our people do not know English very well. However, gradually the importance of English is getting attention day by day. Therefore, the significance of English newspaper is also rising up. On that note, I got the opportunity to do my internship in an English newspaper as a part of my undergraduate studies.

Journalism is a profession related to media. The person who gathers information, writes and delivers the news to the public is known as journalist. A job of a journalist is not an easy job. A journalist duty is to serve the truth and non-bias news to the public. Journalist can work in general issues or specialize on certain issues. Reporting, Writing and editing news, surveying facts are different parts of journalism. To become a journalist one has to be dedicated and passionate because this job takes a lot of efforts and energies. On the other hand, it is an exciting profession. Unlike other professions, where people get bored by keep doing the same thing day after day, a journalist gets to cover new story and get the exposure to learn new things every single day. Therefore, it does not make him/her bores towards his/her job.

Brief History of Daily Sun

"Wake up with the true and impartial Daily Sun" is the slogan of *Daily Sun*, one of the rising English-language newspaper of Bangladesh. This newspaper has the ethos of publishing unbiased and natural news. Therefore, they try to deliver true and real news to the public. *Daily Sun* was founded in 2010 by The East-West Media Group. It is one of the daily English-language newspapers in Bangladesh. The East-West Media group Limited is the largest leading media house of Bangladesh. The enterprise owns two Bengali language dailies, an English language daily, a bilingual online portal, a financial weekly, a diplomatic journal, a radio channel as well as a television channel. East-West Media Group is a part of Bashundhara Group. Along with *Daily Sun* there are other newspapers which have been launched by this conglomerate for instance; *Bangladesh Protidin, Kaler Kontho*and also an online news portal Banglanews24.com.

Daily Sun consists of twenty-eight pages including four pages on business, and eight pages on sports called "Winner". The newspaper has various sections such as Front Page, Back Page, Metropolis, Sun Extra, Editorial, Asia, World, Culturetainment and Post-logue. *Daily Sun* is daily circulated approximately thirty-four thousands readers in Dhaka city. Besides Groove, Hood and Morning Tea are the paper's weekly supplements print out Monday, Thursday and Friday respectively. The readership of this newspaper are mainly for the people who knows English. It has completed 7 years this October.

The eminent historian, British Commonwealth scholar and a senior faculty of Dhaka University Professor Syed Anwar Hussain was made the first editor of Daily Sun. Later, the freedom fighter Amir Hossain became the editor of Daily Sun. However, after the sudden death of Amir Hossain Md. Shiabur Rahman was the acting editor. Currently, the editor of *Daily Sun* is Enamul Hoque Chowdhury and Md.Shiabur Rahman has become the executive editor. The authorities of the newspaper are bias free and try to keep themselves honest and rational. The working environment is very good, and the employees are very friendly and helpful to each other. The office is located at plot no: 371/A, block no: D, Basundhara R/A, Baridhara, Dhaka-1229.

The print version of *Daily Sun* is also available in online- <u>http://www.daily-sun.com/</u>. Therefore, people can also read *Daily Sun* in online anytime and anywhere. Along with it there is also ePaper of Daily Sun, which is also accessible in online.

The number of employees in Daily Sun is around eighty. These people work in different sections. For instance;

- Culturetainment- two peoples
- Sports- five peoples
- Reporting- sixteen peoples
- Front and back page editing- five peoples
- Metropolis- three peoples
- Districts- two peoples
- Marketing- thirteen peoples
- Online version- eight peoples
- Business- ten peoples
- Photos- three peoples
- Magazine- seven peoples

• Circulation- two peoples

There are also sub-editors, who edit all the write-up of above these people and make sure that no vague news has been published.



Logo of Daily Sun

My Experience

As a student of ENH (English and Humanities) of BRAC University I got the opportunity to do an internship to complete my undergraduate program. Internship is an academic proclamation, which is required for completing the undergraduate studies as well as gives student the opportunity to have an experience of career-related work. Its aim is to prepare the student for future challenge. I selected *Daily Sun*, one of the rising English newspapers in Bangladesh to do my intern.

I started working in Daily Sun from May 7th till August 7th. I was excited at the same time little nervous on my first day. I was also looking forward to learn something new and experience the journey of my internship. It was 12 weeks internship that I was assigned to do.

I worked in the magazine sector. In magazine sector along with magazine coordinator there were about 9 members. I was direct under the supervision of the magazine coordinator. He was very gentle and kind man. He guided me and never scolded me or shouted at me for my mistakes, instead he taught me how to do things properly. He also shows me the way through which I can improve my writings. Since, I was always under the direct observation of my supervisor. Therefore Michel Foucault's (a French philosopher, historian of ideas, social theorist and literary critic) theory of panopticon is relatable to my internship.

The panopticon is a machine for dissociating the see/being seen dyad, in the peripheric ring, one is totally seen, without ever seeing; in the central tower, one sees everything without ever being seen. It is an important mechanism, for it atomizes and disindividualizes power. Power has its principal not so much in a person as in a certain concerted distribution of bodies, surfaces, lights,

gazes; whose internal mechanisms produce the relation in which individuals are caught up (101-102).

I worked there as a feature writer. I basically used to write for the magazine named *The Morning Tea.* I used to get three days to write a feature. Apart from that I wrote for the other two magazines as well.

My experience in *Daily Sun* is appreciable. The working environment was safe as well as satisfactory. All my co-workers were very helpful and friendly. I think a healthy and friendly working environment is important for an employee to produce good work. In addition, for a writer its important is foremost, because a writer needs a calm, quiet and peaceful place to think and to produce a good writing. *Daily Sun*'s environment was good and workable. I wrote many feature articles, edited as well as translated some stories in magazine sector.

Writing feature is very different from writing hard story. The feature has to be detailed and vivid so that the reader can see a picture out of it. It has to be colorful and intrigue as well. On the other hand, the hard story follows the 5Ws (Who, What, When, Where, Why) and 1H (How) pyramid. Generally, the feature is tending to be longer than any hard news story. I wrote at least seven features during my internship and five of them got published. I had to research and had to gather information from the internet before writing any feature. The first time, I had seen my writing on paper with my name under, it gave me a shiver of joy. It was really a great experience for me to see every time my write-up is published. The title of my first feature was "Women's battle on the Roads." It was about the problems and hazardous conditions that every woman faces and goes through while she is on a public transportation. I was happy to get this topic, since I also travel on public transportations and I am familiar with this issue. Therefore, I could relate to the topic very easily. I tried to bring out those problems that I have seen and experienced by myself. To make it more lively I talked to 3 women and asked about their experiences of getting on public transportation. Then, I used their opinion and shared their experiences in my article. Their experiences have helped me to draw a connection with my readers.



After that I wrote several others like, "Is It Love or Trend," "The real Heroes of Our Country," "The world of Comics," etc. I also wrote personal story "Let Your Child Make Mistakes." Writing a personal story was interesting because through this I could share my memories and personal experiences with the readers. My first feature's topic was given by my supervisor. After that he told me it would be better if I choose my own topic because if I do that then I would be able to write in more flexible and comfortable way. Moreover, this actually gave me lot of exposure in terms of writing. Thus, after choosing any topic I had to discuss with my supervisor whether the topic is appropriate or not and if he finalized then I would go for the writing.



In addition, I wrote couple recipes, which was actually different and fun to write. I had to research and would try to find the easiest recipe by keeping the readers on mind before writing each recipe. Then, I tried to write an intrigue introduction for the recipe. Basically, I tried to find those recipes which are easy to make at home and also good for health.

Every Eid-ul-Fitr D*aily Sun* publishes a substantial magazine. Fortunately I got the opportunity to be a tiny part of that magazine. I wrote an article for it. It was about the information of all the electronic companies and devices, which were given special offer on the occasion of the Ramadan and Eid.

Then, I edited some short articles. At first, I read the article and tried to understand the story. After that, I tried to give a suitable and meaningful title to it. While I was editing I tried to use simple words so that the reader can understand easily. I kept the necessary information and omitted the unnecessary words so that it did not look vague. Because, I was in a learning process therefore, after my editing the magazine coordinator used to check my editing copy and informed me about my mistakes so that I can learn from it.

After that I also had to select appropriate pictures for my write-up, which was actually interesting. Since, picture has great importance on magazines or any other story. Through picture one can draw attention of readers. Therefore, I knew what kind of picture would go with my story and what kind of pictures would help to look more appealing and vivid to the readers.

All in all, these twelve weeks were a learning experience for me. I got to experience all that I have been reading and learning in my student life.

ENH Media Courses

The media courses that I have done helped me a lot to do my internship. For instances, I have done Editing (ENG-401), Copyrighting (ENG-404), Print Media (ENG-440), Translation Studies (ENG-465) and Globalization. Apart from these courses some Literature courses helped me further. Editing course helped me to edit the stories that I was given in better way. I have tried to apply the rules and techniques which I have learnt in these courses for instance, the using of punctuations, how to remove the unnecessary words, the format of the features and etc. While editing headlines, writers should remember the following techniques-

- 1. Writers should read and understand the story before writing the headline
- 2. Writers should write a rough headline, experimenting with word combinations that will form one or more lines of the headline.
- 3. Writers should choose specific and precise words
- 4. He/she should make each word count
- 5. He/she should use action verbs and some creativity
- 6. He/she should stuck over if he/she were stuck (Smith and O'Connell 139).

Therefore, I tried to shadow these rules while I was editing and it helped me a lot. The techniques I have learnt in translation studies course helped me to do translation in easy way. Because it is not easy to do a translation and often I used to struggle with this part. Like, there are many ways to do a translation; however the best way of doing a translation is 'sense for sense

translation.' Nevertheless, I would have faced more problems if I did not do the course before. 'Sense for sense' translation means do not translate literary because if we do that then it would not make any sense to the readers and it also make the copy vague as well as the meaning of the story would be changed completely. The target language does not have the same words as the source language. I had to translate the stories from Bangla to English. There were many words and phrases in Bangla language that English languages did not have. For this reason, I tried to keep the essence and the prominent information while I was translating and this is known as 'Sense for Sense' translation. The omission Then, I learnt how to write a good feature in Print Media course and I have tried to follow the methods. For example, to grab the attention of the reader the beginning of the feature could be start with a dramatic moment. Every time I wrote a feature this was rule I tried to maintain and really helped me to forward in telling the story. There are different types of feature stories. Some of them are –

- Human interest- these are the best known feature stories. Human interest stories discuss issues through the experiences of another. Example- sexual harassment of women in the work place.
- Profiles this is a common type of feature. This type of feature presents an individual's character and lifestyle. These features are mostly about celebrities or famous people. Example- the profile of Bangladeshi famous writer Humayun Ahmed.
- How-To- these features give information on how to do something. The writers learn about the topic through education, experience, research or interviews with experts. A feature can be written about how to do yoga.

- 4. Historical features- these features celebrate important dates in history or turning points in our social, political and cultural development. They offer a useful juxtaposition of then and now. Historical features take the reader back to revisit an event and issues surrounding it. Example- a feature on 21st February
- 5. Seasonal themes- these features are stories about holidays and the change of the seasons. They cover life milestones, social, political and cultural cycles and business cycles as well. Example- a feature on summer in Maldives.
- 6. Behind the scenes- these features offer the inside views of unusual occupations, issues, and events. Readers like feeling privy to unusual details and well kept secrets about procedures or activities they might not ordinarily be exposed to or allowed to participate in. Example- a feature giving inside information about how a magician performs his/her tricks in front of the audience.

Feature writers need to remember three things. Those are-

- The writer's opinions and attitudes are not important to the story.
- The writer keeps herself or himself out of the story.
- Writing in the third person helps maintain the necessary distance (Curtis, Anthony, 2011).

I always tried to keep in mind the above three rules while writing feature. Specially, I used to write feature as a third person. Then, I already knew the word limitation that a feature could have on paper and writer has to be careful about the word limitation. A Magazine feature usually are

500-5000. In *Morning Tea* the word limitation for feature was 700-900 words. Generally, I used to write about 800 words.

At the time of giving a proper title of my write-ups or the stories that I had been editing, I tried to follow the rules that I have leant in my course. For instance, the title of the feature or article or any other stories should not be more than eight words and less than eight words is better. Therefore, I always tried to give a title, which appropriate and tried to cover it within 8 words or less than 8 words.

Bangladeshi Cultural Practices in Different Magazines of Daily Sun

Different magazines of *Daily Sun* project the culture of Bangladesh and I will try to explain this based on my internship experience in *Daily Sun*. The magazine section is mainly about fashion, style, culture, entertainment, knowledge and current affairs, mostly of our country as well as around the world. Therefore, working in this section was quite interesting and tough at the same time. This section is known as creative section. For this reason, in this section the writer has the access to write creatively. Like, I mentioned before that I could choose my own topic for writing and it helped me to become a creative person. This magazine has three weekly supplements- Groove, Hood and The Morning Tea. Basically, The *Daily Sun* magazine section is run by nine members:

Magazine Coordinator- the magazine coordinator was my supervisor. He is the in charge of the whole magazine section. He basically, takes care of all the news items for the magazines as well as edits all the writing that has been published in this section.

Three feature writers- They write about issues in the form of features, essays, obituaries etc. They provide information and entertainment through their writing.

Two reporters: They mainly take interviews of the celebrities, cover different concerts and cultural programs mainly centered in Dhaka city. They often cover drama, which take place outside Dhaka as well. They also cover particular sections that focus trending fashion and style. Among one of them also takes photos of the city on different content.

Model: She takes part in photo shoots for fashion news. She plays a very important role because without photographs, fashion and style news would look vague.

Two Graphic in charges: in this section two Graphic designers work together. They are also the designing in charge of the magazine. Among them, one person designs cover pages and another one designs rest of the pages under the supervision of magazine coordinator.

5.1 Morning Tea

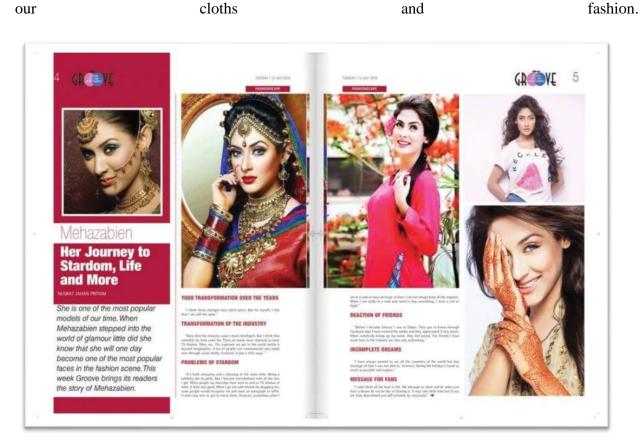
Morning Tea has been published on every Friday. This magazine introduces any subjects in a deep way as feature articles. The cover story of this magazine mainly discuss about the problems that we have in our country. It also gives information about arts exhibition and drama and theater under the page titled 'Around the city.' Under this page they publish the recurring events that are taking place in Dhaka. For instance, the renowned event 'Dhaka Lit Fest' has taken place on November 16-18, for this reason short article has been covered about the fest on this page. In addition, the festive natures of the 'Chand Raat' or any other religious festivals in Dhaka people celebrate these days differently than other cities. Morning Tea magazine portrays these festivals as featured article. Other than this, in different time different events take place in Dhaka city as well as outside the Dhaka and this page tries to give information and ideas about those events as well. Therefore, people who love art and play and exhibitions they will get to know about different kinds of play, art and exhibition through this page. Since, Bangladesh is known as agricultural country, therefore to keep this in mind Morning tea often publishes article related to agriculture. It also publishes article about health and other rising issues. It consists of 10 pages all together. One cover story, one special feature along with two other features and around the city are consisting pages of Morning Tea.



Image: Cover Page of Morning Tea

5.2 Groove

Groove magazine mainly focuses on life style and trendy Fashion of our country. Therefore, it can be said this magazine represents the popular culture. As popular culture describe, "An obvious starting point to be say that popular culture is simply culture which is widely favored or well-liked by many people. And undoubtedly, such a quantitative index would meet the approval of many people. We could examine sales of books, sales of singles and albums. We could examine attendance records at concerts, sporting events and festivals" (Storey 6-7).Likewise, *Groove* magazine covers life-style, recipes, and interior designs, fashion style of male and female of Bangladesh, skin and hair care as well as conversation of celebrities of Bangladesh. While was working there I saw that the writer try to bring something new that is preferable or the most new trend that is going on our country. The writer has to research a lot to write about trendy fashion. The writers basically try to be updated about the changing fashion environment and give the readers trendy fashion information. It also uplifted the different festive looks or fashion that has been followed in our country. It also contains entertainment information like singers' or actors' interviews and their fashion as well as lifestyles. It also covers different concerts by famous bands and singers. Basically, they are showing the changes that has come in





In our country most people get married in winter season therefore, November to February are known as the 'wedding seasons'. Thus, during this time marriage and bride related write-up find place in this magazine. For instance; bride's makeup, cloths and accessories. Among the three magazines this magazine (Groove) is mostly liked and mostly preferred by the audiences because people are very fond of popular culture. Audiences are always interested to know about music, concerts and celebrities. Any channel or magazine which covers these items is very popular among the audiences. As Groove covers concerts, lifestyles of celebrities and different trendy items, as per the theory of John Storey's popular culture, we can say that Groove contains the popular culture of our country. *Groove* has been published on every Monday and it consists of twelve pages.



Image: Cover Page of Groove

5.3 thehood:

Magazine *thehood* has been published on every Thursday. It basically covers the technological things and services that are available in Bangladesh. Hood is also about knowledge and entertainment. It covers general knowledge, study and exam related issues. The best and unique part of this magazine is, it often publishes poems of the writer. Therefore, it is actually giving the opportunity to the poetry lovers to show their talents. For instance, the recent poem that has been published on 16th November was about our Dhaka city and it is a beautiful poem Written by Nujhat Aslam. It also cover inspiring and successful stories of our young generation. It basically, glorifies young generation's technological works and success. This magazine cover story, article and feature mostly related to young people of our country. *The Hood* is consisted of ten pages.



Image: Cover Page of the hood

Conclusion

Media plays an important role in our everyday lives. The print media is one of the common ways through which general people can access information. The benefit of reading a newspaper is that people can get all kind of information by tuning over the pages because it has various sections. One part of the world is linked with another through newspapers.

Daily Sun is a rising English-language newspaper in Bangladesh. The working experience in Daily Sun was delightful. As I have mentioned before that a safe working environment is important for any woman. The environment at *Daily Sun* was safe and women friendly.

Since, Bangladesh is a culturally diverse country. The three different magazines of *Daily Sun* project the local cultures of our country. The magazines describe the cultural events that take place at different times of the year. The festive nature and vibes of different traditional and religious festivals also find place in these magazines as featured article. Altogether, these three magazines also try to give trendy fashion related news to its readers. The historical places and stories that are embedded in our country also get presented through these magazines.

Since, the importance of English is increasing on a global level, therefore the demand of English newspaper is also increasing gradually. It has not been too long since *Daily Sun* was launched. It has not yet reached the high position in the field of Bangladeshi print media. However, it has the ability and potential to be in the top list of English-language newspapers of Bangladesh.

The three magazines which were mentioned in this report present the changes that have come in our cultural, social values which are neglected in the modern trends. These trends have had a huge impact on the young generation of our country. These three magazine also trying to draw a connection between the global fashion and the fashion in Bangladesh.

These magazines would be more appealing to a wider audience, if these reports are treated or presented more human interest stories arising out of a sense of newly developed fashion in Bangladesh.

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Appendix-1



