

A Report on the Internship at

New Age

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I n s p i r i n g E x c e l l e n c e

BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

A Report on the Internship at

New Age

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Noushin Binte Habib

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Introduction

News keeps us updated and informed about the current incidents that are taking place around us. In this age of globalization, media plays a very important role. Print media, audiovisual media and social media are the mediums through which it is possible to enter into households and confront the general masses with an idea. However, this easy access can bring both positive or negative results. Media plays a vital role in our life by keeping us updated about the world and what is happening in our surroundings.

Journalism is not something that I had planned to pursue at an early age. Like any regular child I shuffled around with career options at various stages of life. However, I always enjoyed reading and writing. During my childhood I would see my father looking at the newspaper for hours, and it would make me curious about what is it that he keeps reading. I believe my curiosity is one of the reasons that increased my interest for reading. Reading the same news story in different newspapers, and gathering information about that particular news has always been fascinating to me.

I have always been interested in writing. The notion that I can share my views, and spread my ideas amongst everyone by using words always fascinated me. However, I never thought about taking it up as a profession until I chose Media and Cultural Studies as my concentration in order to complete my Bachelor of Arts in English at BRAC University.

I pursued my internship at *New Age* as a part of my BA.in English. *New Age* is one of the well reputed English newspapers in Bangladesh. They provide authentic news and refrain from promoting biased news. I appeared for interviews at both *New Age* and *Dhaka Tribune* and was selected in both organizations. However, I chose to do my internship at *New Age* because of flexible working hours and also due to the fact that it was close to my house.

I interned at the *New Age* from September 12 to December 12, 2017. During this time I not only got the opportunity to know more about the *New Age*, but was also able to witness how a news story goes through different stages of transformation (reporting, editing, final checking) and finally gets published. In these three months, I had the opportunity to improve my writing skills and to utilize the text-book knowledge that I of my media courses. Moreover, the raw news that reporters provided were in Bangla. This improved my knowledge of Bangla because the news stories contained new Bangla diction. Since I had to translate the news stories from Bangla to English it also enhanced my translation skills.

New Age has its own home styling and I had to adapt those techniques while writing. I had to collect information if the written report lacked any. Additionally, I also had to talk to the reporter to verify information sent by reporters if the written reports lacked any. Moreover, I was assigned to attend the weekly meeting of the Lifestyle magazine of *New Age*, which is *Trends*. At the meeting I got to see how they brainstorm different topics for their features and cover stories. I was professional and focused on my work. My colleagues at *New Age* were very helpful and welcoming, which helped me adapt to the workspace fairly easily this in turn made me work efficiently.

A brief History of The *New Age*



Fig 1: New Age

Source: Google images

New Age started its journey on June 7, 2003 and A.Z.M. Enayetullah Khan is the founder of the newspaper. The daily is published by the Chairman, Editorial Board ASM Shahidullah Khan on behalf of Media New Age Ltd. *New Age* is well known for its non-biased and neutral in its news presentation. This makes the newspaper one of the well-known English newspapers of the country.

The slogan of *New Age* is ‘the outspoken daily’. Mr. [Nurul Kabir](#) is the present editor of the newspaper. He is a journalist, writer, columnist, editor, and activist. He is well known for his upright journalism and bold political views.

New Age is a 20 page newspaper and currently employs around 200 reporters. Sometimes the page number exceeds due to extra pages in the Entertainment and Business sections. *New Age* also has a website. E-paper is available after 12:00 am. Hence, people can easily access their website for important news beforehand. There is a comment section in their website. Thus people can share their views, opinion and complaints regarding the news and the newspaper.

New Age has various sections such as national, politics, international, entertainment, sports, editorial, and business. Also, it has different weekly supplements called *Trends* and *Youth*. Apart from their own news reporters *New Age* collects news from United News of Bangladesh (UNB)

and Bangladesh Songbad Songstha (BSS). *New Age* subscribes to UNB and BSS, which are the two leading news agencies of Bangladesh. For their international news *New Age* subscribes to Reuters and Agence France Presse.

New Age has a wide array of loyal subscribers due to their neutral way of presenting authentic news to the readers.

Interning at the National desk of *New Age*

John Sinclair in his article titled, “Print and Electronic Media” states that, “The simultaneous intensification of globalization and the advent of new forms of media communication in the last two decades have challenged the complacent arrangements of the preceding ‘golden age’ of mass media.(224)”. One might say, newspapers might not be getting enough profit or working for newspapers might not be beneficial. However, a huge portion of the population of our country is still technologically challenged. Hence, reputed newspapers have a loyal range of consumers, who are their regular consumers. These people are affluent and technologically challenged people. Thus the newspapers profit remains constant. Moreover, newspapers have online editions too from which they also produce profit. Additionally, I believe interning at *New Age* has helped me to function in a professional environment.

I had to appear for an interview at *New Age* as per the appointment procedure. The Deputy Editor, Farid Ahmed conducted the interview and confirmed my internship at *New Age*. He also designated Senior Sub-editor, Abu Shyem Akhund as my supervisor. It was very challenging for me to intern at the office, attend my classes, appear for examinations and submit assignments on time since I had taken two courses during the same semester. During the entire semester balancing my university and internship together was only possible for the support of my family, friend and supervisor.

The National Desk or Central Desk of the *New Age* has one chief news editor and seven sub-editors. This department of the newspaper covers all kinds of national news, such as political news, crime news, press releases etc. Apart from news of the capital, Dhaka, regional news is also edited in this department. However, this department also edits news from the entertainment, business and sports departments.

My work for *New Age* included writing reports, verifying information sent by the reporter, collecting more information if needed and organizing information in a press release sent to *New Age* in the form of a letter into the inverted pyramid style. Additionally, I had to translate from Bangla to English continuously as reporters wrote their reports in Bangla. I also restructured the information of the letter into inverted pyramid structure, which means providing the most important information (who, what, when, where, why and how) in the beginning of the news report and then adding the less important details. Therefore, while writing the reports I had to use the inverted pyramid format learned in my media courses and also utilize my practical knowledge.

A lot of Bangla words were new to me as the press releases included jargons most of the time. Thus, while writing the reports I had to understand the meaning of the words by asking my supervisor or colleagues and then write them. Additionally, news changes everyday, so there is no scope to plagiarize while writing reports. Moreover, every newspaper follows its own format while writing, *New Age* is no different. It was tough for me to understand their housestyle and write accordingly. As it was a new experience for me, I made mistakes in the beginning, but with the help of my supervisor and colleagues I was able to work efficiently.

News Reports

Before starting my internship at *New Age* I had the basic idea about how to structure a news report as I learned it in my Eng401: Editing course at BRAC University. I had knowledge about the inverted pyramid format. The pyramid structure prioritizes and structures the news report in a descending order of importance. The most important information is kept on the top of the pyramid. After that, the less important information is placed lower in the pyramid. It is also helpful in terms of editing. The editor can cut the least important details of the story from the bottom of the pyramid, if there are any space constraints in the newspaper.

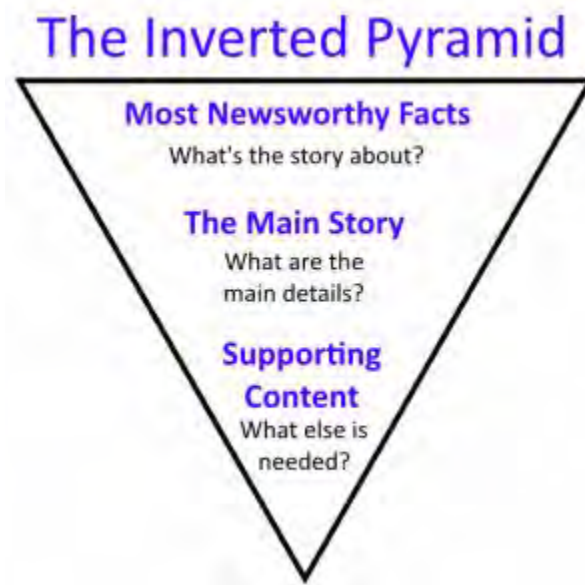


Fig 2: Inverted Pyramid

Source: Google images

Inverted pyramid format is also important in terms of keeping the attention of the audience, as it builds the story by giving the most newsworthy information in the beginning. Hence, while writing my reports I kept this knowledge in my mind and could relate to the structure of my reports with

the formats that I learnt in my Eng401: Editing, Eng404: Copywriting and Eng440: English for Print Media courses.

While working on the hard news reports, firstly I wrote down the five W's and one H of the news story, which are "who, what, where, when, why and how". In my lead paragraph, I tried to put all the necessary information given in the report by the reporter. While writing hard news reports, another important thing that I learned was the style and format of writing the victim's name, age and other details. For example, "The deceased was identified as Salauddin, 40, resident of village Uttar Bodolkoat in Chatkhilupazila of the district." The format of writing the reports was familiar to me as I could relate them with the format learnt in Eng 401: Editing.

The word limit of the hard news stories were advised to be kept within 150-250 words by my supervisor. I incorporated all the necessary details while also maintaining consistency in terms of grammar and British spelling and using transition words while writing the reports. Moreover, news reports are written in simple English, so my supervisor advised me to use easy words that can be understood by everyone who reads *New Age*. I had knowledge about it from Eng401: Editing, Eng404: Copywriting and Eng440: English for Print Media course, where my instructors told me to use easy words while writing, so that the average person understands the news story.

After that, another important part of writing the reports was the title. My supervisor asked me to keep the title to the point and within eight words, so I had to strictly stick to my script without adding any unnecessary/ornamental word. Additionally, I also learnt a few techniques of writing. Firstly, I learnt about shoulder, which is used while writing the title of the report. Shoulder is a part of the title of the story, which is used in order to shorten the title of a news story or to indicate a follow-up of a previous news story

Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain new CJ

Most senior judge Abdul Wahhab Miah resigns

M Moneruzzaman

APPELLATE Division judge Syed Mahmud Hossain was appointed chief justice on Friday while his senior colleague justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah resigned purportedly for being superseded.

'My father submitted his resignation letter to the president at about 7:15pm citing unavoidable personal ground,' Mohibullah Tanvir, son of Justice Abdul Wahhab, told New Age on Friday.

Mohibullah, also a Supreme Court lawyer, said that the president's office



Syed Mahmud Hossain



Abdul Wahhab Miah

received the letter of resignation submitted through Justice Wahhab's personal assistant Abdul Kashem.

Justice Abdul Wahhab Miah was due for retirement

on November 11 this year.

Lawyers observed that his retirement created a vacuum in the highest position of the judiciary since he was performing the function of

chief justice.

Attorney general Mahbubey Alam, however, finds no vacuum as the newly appointed chief justice is due to be sworn in today.

Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, the next most senior to Justice Abdul Wahhab Miah, is scheduled for December 31, 2021 to retire.

President Md Abdul Hamid signed the appointment at about 2:15pm, president's press secretary Joynal Abedin told New Age.

Joynal said that the president would administer the oath of office to the 22nd

Continued on page 2 Col. 5

Shoulder used in order to shorten the title of a news story

Fig 3: News report

Source: New Age

DAVIS CUP
**Bangladesh
 finish fifth**

Staff Correspondent

BANGLADESH ended their Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Group IV campaign with a 1-2 defeat against Myanmar in Muscat, Oman on Friday.

With the win, Bangladesh finished their campaign in fifth position out of six participating teams.

Bangladesh lost both singles games before winning the doubles game to reduce the margin of defeat.

In the first singles game, Mohammad Rana suffered a straight 0-6, 5-7 sets defeat against Aung Kyaw Naing while in the second singles, Dipulal lost to Tin Myo Wai by 6-7, 2-6 sets.

However, Bangladesh's Ranjam Ram and Amol Roy pair beat Myanmar's Zaw San Oo and Aung Myo Thant pair by 6-2, 6-2 sets in the third game to reduce the margin of defeat.

Bangladesh conceded two defeats over Oman and United Arab Emirates before beating Iraq and Kyrgyzstan in their next two matches.

Shoulder used in order to indicate a follow-up of a previous news story

Fig 4: News report

Source: New Age

Another technique that I learnt to keep the title of the news precise is *New Age's* format of writing short forms of words, For example, using "Int't" instead of "International" and "anniv" instead of "anniversary" in the title.

Following are four out of seven news reports that were published in the *New Age*. I have also included the links of the published news reports where it is available now.

BOGRA BNP LEADER MURDER Pro-AL UP chairman arrested

Our Correspondent · Bogra

THE police arrested Durgahata Union Council chairman Abdul Matin Mithu, also a local Awami League leader, and his nephew Shanto, in Bogra town on Wednesday on charge of killing a local leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

The victim, Tojammel Hossain Tojam, 45, BNP leader of Gabtoli Boithabhanga Dokkhinpara of Durgahata union, was hacked to death by miscreants on Monday night.

Local people also claimed that the incident took place following a land dispute.

The police, quoting locals, said that miscreants attacked and stabbed Tojam and his cousin Nayan at Dakkhinpara of Baithab-

hanga area while they were returning their houses in the evening riding a motorcycle.

Local people rescued the injured and took them to Bogra Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College where doctors declared Tojam dead.

Fazal-e-Huda, senior assistant superintendent of Gabtoli police circle, told New Age that the victim's brother Abdul Momin filed a case against 14 people, including the pro-ruling party chairman Abdul Motin, and listed miscreant Babul Pramanik, on Tuesday.

The police arrested AL leader Mithu and his nephew Shanto and sent them to jail through a court, the senior ASP said, adding that they also recovered Babul's bike which was used in the murder.

Link - <http://epaper.newagebd.net/30-11-2017/11>

Justice sought for stalking victim

Our Correspondent ·
Satkhira

TEACHERS, students and staff of Nawabeki College formed a human chain in Satkhira's Shyamnagar on Monday, demanding exemplary punishment of the stalkers of a student of the college.

On October 25, a student of the college, Joyosree, committed suicide after being molested by stalkers at Shyamnagar.

President of the governing body of Nawabeki College Johrul Haidar spoke during the programme which was presided over by Atulia union parishad chairman Abu Saleh Babu.

College principal Ikramul Kabir and other teachers also spoke at the event and condemned the attack.

They demanded that the stalkers should be arrested within 48 hours or else they would go for tougher movements.

On October 27, a case was filed against Seikhar Mandal, a resident of village Borokupot of the district, and around three to four other of his associates with Shyamnagar police station in this connection.

Syed Mannan Ali, officer-in-charge of the police station, said that the police were trying to arrest the accused who were absconding since the incident.

Link – <http://epaper.newagebd.net/detail/73959/1072>

Final exams suspended in 113 schools following question leak

Our Correspondent
Munshiganj

FINAL examinations of 113 schools were suspended in Munshiganj on Tuesday after Bangla question papers of Class II, III and IV were leaked.

Deputy commissioner Shayla Farzana said that examination was suspended due to the fact the question papers had been leaked and the examinations were already rescheduled.

A three-member probe committee, comprising additional district magistrate, Upazila Nirbahi Officer and district primary education officer, was formed to investigate the matter, she added.

Upazila education officer Taslima Begum also formed a three-member committee with assistant education officers Abdul Matin, Asaduzaman and Sanjida Akhter to investigate the matter.

Md Kamal Hossain, a guardian of a student of Panch Guria Kandi Government Primary School, said that those involved in the leaking of the papers should be punished.

Link - <http://epaper.newagebd.net/13-12-2017/4>

B'deshi soldier, killed in Mali peace mission, buried in Barisal

Our Correspondent · Barisal

UN PEACEKEEPER Manowar Hossain, killed in Mali, was laid to rest at family graveyard at Chandramohon in Barisal on Sunday.

Three members of Bangladesh Armed Forces were killed by improvised explosive devices implanted by rebels in Africa on September 22.

The bodies reached Bangladesh on September 30.

Their first namaz-e-janaza was held at the Army Headquarters Sunday morning.

According to family members, a team of East Bengal Regiment-62 battalion, led by Lieutenant Colonel Nahid, reached Chandramohon with the body of Manowar Sunday night.

He was given a guard of honour by the Armed Forces members and was laid to rest later in the evening after a second namaz-e-janaza at Alishia Joinopuri Khanka grounds.

Manowar is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Link - <http://epaper.newagebd.net/03-10-2017/4>

Press Releases

Press releases work as a bridge between organizations and the public. It contains important declarations that public needs to know. Marcel Garz in his article titled, “Good News and Bad News: Evidence of Media Bias in Unemployment Reports” states that, “Because information on general economic condition is somewhat of an impure public good, it has to be provided by the government in many cases, which leads to a principle- agent relationship between the government and the public(5)”. News medias cannot access all kinds of news due to authorization issues. Hence in order to inform the public about the important news, they need to depend on the press releases.

Press releases are hard news stories because they contain urgent declarations from different organizations and are written following the inverted pyramid format. During my internship at *New Age*, I organized information of press releases sent to *New Age* in the form of a letter into the inverted pyramid format. Additionally, the most critical part of writing press releases was to give them an appropriate title. It was challenging for me to sum it up and express the gist of the news in 8-9 words.

Another very important focal point of converting press releases into news report format was to include the name of the important people who spoke at the event in the given press release. Moreover, correctly including their designation in the respected organizations given in the press release was also an important part of writing news reports. Press releases were very lengthy because it had all the speech and topics discussed at the end and many of the given information was irrelevant. Hence, summing up their speech in concrete sentences and also making the news report cohesive for the readers was a part of my job. Moreover, a lot of the press releases were political due to which I had to be very careful about my word selection. Political press releases have a tendency to criticize opposition political parties. Hence, while writing I had to avoid

offensive words and also include all the important points discussed in the press release.

Press releases sent to *New Age* were mostly in Bangla. As press releases are sent from different organizations like - the government, religion based organizations, political associations, non-government organizations, different institutions - jargons were very common in press releases. Thus while writing I had to be clear about the meaning of the jargons and then simplify them for the reader.

Furthermore, press releases contained a lot of quotations from which I had to choose the most prominent and relevant quote and attribute it to the person who said it. For example, identity of the person who spoke at the event, the relevancy of his or her speech etc. *New Age* prefers writing in the past form so I had to always be careful about the tense I was using while writing. While quoting people, I had to use the full abbreviation of the organizations in the beginning and then in the body, I used the short form. For example, in the lead paragraph I wrote, “Bangladesh National Party” but in the later paragraph I wrote “BNP”.

In addition, *New Age* has its own form of writing the designation of people. For instance, “president”, “professor” are written in small letters. *New Age* also has their own form of writing time and abbreviations, like 5:00 am, 10kg, 100km etc. While writing press releases mentioning that it is a press release is mandatory. Therefore, after providing the information of the press releases, adding “said a press release” at the end of the sentence was crucial. Moreover, the news stories sent by the regional correspondents are published under the byline of that area. Such as, “Our Correspondent Barishal.” Byline is a line at the head of a newspaper or magazine article carrying the writer's name. However, press releases are published under the byline of “Staff Correspondent.”

Two electrocuted in Magura

Our Correspondent · Magura



Byline

TWO youths were electrocuted while working at a poultry farm at village Saitrish Lautara in Magura Sadar on Wednesday morning.

The victims were identified as Titul Kazi, 32, and Hasan Molla, 35, both residents of village Saitrish Lautara.

Tarikul Islam, additional police superintendent of Magura Thana, said the two friends came in contact with a live power cable while working at a nearby poultry farm, which left them dead on the spot.

Local people took them to Magura Sadar Hospital where on-duty doctors declared them dead.

Fig 5: News report

Source: New Age

Following are three press releases out of five that were published in the *New Age*. I have also included the links of the published news reports where it is available now.

Emergency service 999 to be launched today

Staff Correspondent

BANGLADESH Police will launch emergency service 999 today.

Prime minister's information and communication technology adviser Sajeeb Wazed will inaugurate the service at the police control room at Abdul Gani Road in the capital around 11:00am, said a press release issued by the police headquarters.

By dialling the toll-free number, people will get emergency ambulance and fire service.

After the inauguration, a discussion will be held at Osmani Smriti Milanayatan where home minister Asaduzzaman Khan will be present as chief guest along with special guests ICT division state minister Zunaid Ahmed Palak and home ministry's public security division secretary Mostafa Kamal Uddin. Inspector general of police AKM Shahidul Hoque will be presiding over the programme.

Link – <http://epaper.newagebd.net/12-12-2017/4>

Wednesday, March 07, 2018

NEWAGE

ATTENDING PROGRAMME

Mahila Parishad expresses concern over barring woman MP

Staff Correspondent | Published: 00:10, Oct 10, 2017 | Updated: 00:14, Oct 10, 2017

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad on Monday expressed concern over not allowing a woman lawmaker to attend a programme marking the foundation laying ceremony of Sheikh Russell Mini Stadium at Bahubal in Habiganj. The woman lawmaker, who initiated Sheikh Russell Mini Stadium project, was not allowed to preside over the event by the local lawmaker.

The women rights organisation in a press release condemned the obstruction created by the local lawmaker and expressed concern that this kind of incidents would hold back women empowerment in the country.

It urged immediate steps in order to prevent this kind of incidents, added the press release.

More about : women

Source : <http://www.newagebd.net/article/25832/mahila-parishad-expresses-concern-over-barring-woman-mp>

Link – <http://www.newagebd.net/article/25832/mahila-parishad-expresses-concern-over-barring-woman-mp>

*Mymensingh
Medical
College Day
observed at
BSMMU*

Staff Correspondent

A DAY-LONG programme was held to mark the Mymensingh Medical College Day on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University campus in Dhaka on Wednesday.

BSMMU vice-chancellor professor Kamrul Hasan Khan inaugurated the event and lawmaker professor Habib Millat was present at the event as chief guest, said a press release on Wednesday.

The joyous event comprised a colourful procession, cake cutting ceremony, memorial discussion and cultural programme, added the release.

Alumni of Mymensingh Medical College, including professor Shah Monir Hossain, professor A K M Salek, assistant professor Mamun Al Mahtab Shopnil, along with others, also attended the event.

Link – http://epaper.newagebd.net/images/14_09_2017/regular_28315_news_1505323002.jpg

Translations

Like every other newspaper, *New Age* also has correspondents all over the country. However, the news they sent to the *New Age* office is written in Bangla. The correspondents are usually from the area they report from. Bangla is our mother tongue so most of the people who belong to middle class or lower middle class tend to have limited knowledge of English. Hence, the district-based correspondents are advised to write their reports in Bangla, as they make more mistakes while writing in English.

During my internship at *New Age*, writing and editing were both a part of my job. The news reports sent by the correspondents and the press releases were both in Bangla. So translating from Bangla to English was my daily work. I had basic knowledge of the techniques of translating which I learnt in the “Eng465: Translation Studies” course. I used sense for sense translation and word for word translation techniques while translating.

I used the word for word translation technique while translating information like, name, address, designation of a person or the name of an organization. For example, I translated “*Hajee Mohammad Danesh Biggyano Projukti Bissobiddalyaya*” as “*Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University.*” After that, I did sense for sense translation while translating quotations. Quotations tend to be very lengthy and they also contain irrelevant information. I tried to sum up the gist of the quotation and then translate it with only relevant details. Moreover, my supervisor advised me to provide only the most relevant quotation. Thus, I had to read the entire news report quite a few times and find out the most important quotation in the given context.

While translating I also faced a few difficulties. The news reports sent by the correspondents and press releases sent by different organization contained new Bangla diction. Additionally,

finding the most appropriate English word for explaining and expressing the Bangla word was also a tough job. For example, I translated “Ezahar dakhil” as “filling a case”. As the word “Ezahar” was new to me, I looked up the word in the dictionary and its dictionary meaning was deposition, declaration or evidence. However, keeping the context in mind, and also taking my supervisor’s help I translated it as “filling a case.” My supervisor and my colleagues helped whenever I faced difficulty while translating.

The techniques learned in Eng465: Translation Studies course helped me in my work. I was aware of the fact that translating every single line was not mandatory rather translating the gist of the story is important. Harry L. Levy in his article titled, “Some Translation Techniques.” states that, ‘As a matter of fact, the hope that by applying these procedures whenever they are needed, the student will gradually acquire the habits of thought which the techniques reflect, and end by applying them unconsciously as he reads’(5). In the beginning of my internship I was very aware of the techniques I was using while translating, and was seeking help from my supervisor and colleagues. However, my translation skills gradually improved with time and more practice. I got a grip of the techniques of the word for word and sense for sense translations and where to apply which technique.

House Style of *New Age*

Like every other newspaper *New Age* also has its own style of writing news. In order to make the writing format clear for their reporters *New Age* introduced a book titled, “The Style Book of *New Age*” on October 16, 2004. However, this book is mostly used by the senior editors and chief reporters as they check and publish the final news reports. While doing my internship at *New Age* I learned and followed their housestyle of writing. Since I had to write similar news reports and press releases during my internship, my knowledge of their style and format is limited.

Firstly, I learned how they write the title of the story. The word limit for the title is 8-10 words, and it has to be written in present tense. The news reports are written in past form except the title. The title should give the impression that the incident just took place. For example, “Old man found dead in Bogra”, “DU Int’l Business dept celebrates 10th founding anniv” etc. Moreover, numbers mentioned in the title such as, “174 sacks of stolen rice recovered,” “10 fishermen held, fined for violating Hilsa ban” etc. are not spelled. However, numbers between one to nine are spelled out in the body part of a news report.

After the title, the byline is placed in the news report. Byline is the line that is written to address the reporter’s identity. *New Age* does not recognize the writer of the report by name, rather they are addressed by the area they are reporting from. For example, for the correspondent of Barishal the byline is, “Our Correspondent .Barishal”. Additionally, in terms of press releases the byline is, “Staff Correspondent” since the press release is sent to the *New Age* office by the public relations office of various organizations rather than a specific correspondent.

After that, the introduction of the news report is placed on the top of the report following the inverted pyramid structure. The introduction provides all the necessary details of the news

story. However, in case of murder and death news stories, the identity of the deceased person is provided in the second line. For example,

“The decomposed body of an elderly man was found at Badurtala Cross Lane in BograSadarupazila on Monday.

The deceased was identified as Azhar Ali, 70, a resident of village Chupinagar in Sahjahanpurupazila in Bogra.” Additionally, while writing the news story a line is counted as one paragraph. That way each line of the sentence contains different information which is distributed and organized following the inverted pyramid structure.

In terms of crime news reports, *New Age* does not accuse anyone of a crime until it is proven. If someone is arrested or accused of a crime, writing “allegedly” is mandatory until the court announces him/her guilty of the crime. For example,

“A man was arrested on charge of killing his wife in Nayan Mor area of Sirajganj on Tuesday.

The victim was identified as Marufa Khatun, 30, wife of Monowar Hossain, resident of the area. Marufa was allegedly tortured by her husband and his relatives.” Here, it is not directly mentioned that the man killed his wife, but allegedly she was tortured by her husband, and he was arrested on charge of killing his wife.

Furthermore, *New Age* avoids writing the exact time of an incident. As the reporters do not always know exactly when an incident takes place. For example,

“Awami League-backed chairman of Durgahata Union Council in Bogra was sent to jail on Wednesday in connection with the murder of a local leader of Bangladesh Nationalist Party on Monday.” Here the exact time of the murder or the arrest is not mentioned, as reporters did not know when exactly the murder took place.

Similarly, *New Age* avoids being specific in terms of money and numbers by adding “approximately”, “around”, “about” etc. For instance,

“At least nine shops were burnt in a fire at Hajirhut Bazar of Kamalnagar in Lakshmipur on Wednesday.

Local people and fire service station informed that the fire started at MaaFatema Clothing Store and spread to other shops.

Two units of fire-fighters had to work for around two hours to put out the fire.”

Here, by adding “At least” in the beginning I tried to impose that the number of burnt shops might increase. After that, in the third line “around” is stating that the time it took to put out the fire might be a bit less or more than two hours.

New Age also avoids unnecessary adjectives while writing reports. The reporters of *New Age* also have to keep in mind that the news story has to be from a neutral point of view using easy and understandable words. An example is, “Massive fire breaks out at Munshiganj.” According to *New Age*’s style, adding “Massive” in the title of the story is unnecessary, as “Fire breaks out at Munshiganj” expresses the intensity of the incident properly. The reporters kept a neutral view by not adding “Massive”, because readers might have felt that the reporter was presenting his/her point of view and intensifying the incident by adding the word massive.

Relating Theories with Real Life Work Experience

One of the courses of the Media and Cultural Studies stream is Eng331: Introduction to Cultural Studies: Theory and Practice course. Different theories were taught in this course by the course instructor Professor Firdous Azim. However, during the course I could not relate the theories learnt in the class with real life. Nevertheless, while doing my internship at *New Age*, I was able to relate my internship to a few of the theories.

Panopticon and Gaze:

The theory that I could relate to the most during my internship was Panopticon and Gaze by Jeremy Bentham. Later the concept of Panopticon was explained in Michelle Foucault's essay "The Eye of Power." The idea of Panopticon talks about an architectural structure that allows a possible viewer to keep everything under observation. This concept emphasizes on establishing control and a sense of authority over others.

The Panopticon talks about a tower within a circular courtyard, from which a supervisor is keeping an eye on everyone. The structure of prison, hospital and schools were built following this concept. Foucault describes Gaze as a power that is interiorized within the Panopticon. Gaze talks about the idea that everyone is being watched. It is decentralized; the power is not concentrated on one place. Everyone is being watched in the Panopticon. The idea of Gaze also explains that people tend to have a sense of control when they know they are being watched. For example, if there is a tower in a prison and everyone is aware that someone is watching them all the time, then everyone will be careful of their behavior regardless of whether a guard is present.

The concept of "Panopticon and Gaze" is also applicable in today's media because media works like a Panopticon. Different news medias are always observing people and publishing news to give the sense that people are being watched, that is they are under the Gaze. *New Age* has its

correspondents all over the country, who are constantly collecting news about the incidents that are taking place around us. This can be related with the concept of Panopticon. Moreover, *New Age* publishes news by naming the people who commit the crimes, so that general people are aware that everyone is under the surveillance. This also helps them know about the incidents that are taking place around them. It also alerts them to be mindful about their activities.

For example, *New Age* published and followed up on the Rohingya refugee crisis issue for a long time. The reporters presented both - the problems the refugees were facing and also the problems the local people were facing by providing shelter to the refugees. During the time of this crisis, *New Age* worked like a Panopticon. The reporters were on constant watch to spot any event that might be beneficial or harmful or both for the citizens of our country. On one hand, the refugees were tortured in Myanmar and they were in need of food, shelter, medicine etc, which our government was providing with the help of other countries and international organizations. This was reported by the reporters of *New Age*. On the other hand, the refugees were also getting involved in dispute with the Bangladeshi residents of the sheltered areas. Additionally, refugees were involved with drug transporting and selling, mugging and other criminal activities like fighting with the locals. It was beneficial for the citizens of the country because it improved the image of the country as our Prime Minister was referred as "Mother of Humanity". It was harmful because Rohingyas were involved in illegal activities. Their illicit activities were reported by the reporters of *New Age* and it created awareness among the citizens of our country. This alertness of the people can be termed as the Gaze. People complained at the nearby police stations if they saw any suspicious people in their area. The news of Rohingya refugees escaping from refugee shelter reached the ordinary people through news medias. Hence, the Gaze employed by the media helped the government to establish control over the refugee crisis situation.

Tourists and Vagabonds:

Zigmunt Bauman's "Tourists and Vagabonds" mentioned in his book *Globalization: The Human Consequences* is another theory I could relate to my internship experience. He talks about the change that globalization brought among people. According to Bauman, "There are no 'natural borders' anymore, neither are there obvious places to occupy" (77). He emphasizes on the fact that people are now connected to the entire world through mass media and internet. However, no one is staying in one place, people are always on the move. For example, people are constantly changing channels while watching television, jumping from one website to another while browsing.

Bauman also talks about the constant need of consumers. People are always chasing new desires after satisfying old ones. There is no limit or finishing line of the wants of the people. According to Bauman, "To increase the consumption, consumers must never be allowed to rest. They need to be kept forever awake and on alert, constantly exposed to new temptations and so remain in a state of never willing excitation – and also, indeed a perpetual suspicion and steady disaffection" (83). He also said, customers should be satisfied immediately, and the satisfaction should also finish in no time. Consumers cannot hold their attention or focus on one thing for a long time, so their need is constantly changing.

While interning at *New Age*, I observed the constant need of providing breaking news to the readers. People are always looking for the latest news in the newspapers. However, as all the newspapers are more or less providing the same news, in order to attract the readers, giving unique information is essential. For example, during the Rohingya crisis all the newspapers were providing news regarding the sufferings of the Rohingyas, aids that were coming from different countries and organizations, and the steps that our government was taking in order to help them.

However, the Rohingya crisis issue was on the headlines for a few weeks, and all the newspapers were trying to provide unique information to differentiate themselves. People were eager to know the latest condition of the refugees and what step Myanmar was going to take. Here the theory of “Tourists and Vagabonds” can be applied. When the Rohingya crisis started, newspapers were constantly publishing news stories regarding the crisis to satisfy the need of the consumers. Later, when the Rohingyas were rehabilitated, newspapers focused on the problems that they were facing at the rehabilitation center. For example, in order to satisfy readers needs in terms of updates about the Rohingyas *New Age* published follow-up news after the Rohingya rehabilitation the heading was, “Rohingyas reluctant to take birth control kits,” [“Bangladesh plans sterilising Rohingyas to curb population,”](#) [“Rohingyas still in dire straits”](#) etc.

Additionally, to increase the consumption of the readers, newspapers need to provide news constantly. They should not allow their readers to rest. Readers are constantly looking for new and more informative news reports. Breaking news changes everyday and newspapers compete with each other in terms of providing the latest news as fast as possible. A news stays on the top for a few days, then another news replaces it. For example, the recent incident of The US Bangla plane crash is now being covered by every newspaper, and everyday follow up news about it is published. However, before the US Bangla plane crash, Sridevi’s death news was hyped among the people. Follow up news reports were also published regarding the cause of Sridevi’s death and her funeral. After every one or two weeks, a new news story creates hype among the people, and newspapers provide as much information as they can to satisfy the need of their readers. Readers stay in a constant state of dissatisfaction as they cannot focus their attention towards one news story for too long as they are presented with new news stories.

During my internship I observed, *New Age* is always in a constant move to hold their readers and satisfy their need for knowledge. They do not report the same news for too long as that might disinterest their readers. However, if there is an update/follow up much later, it is always published in the newspapers. For example, the rape and murder case of Tonu was published with a lot of follow ups in 2016. However, when the culprits were not caught and punished, newspapers stopped publishing news about it, and moved on to other issues. Recently, a few news reports were published regarding how no verdict about the Tonu rape and murder case has been reached. So, the desire of the readers to know more is kept alive. *New Age* always provides breaking news with authentic information to hold on to their readers desire to know more. They are also aware about when to stop writing about an issue and move on to previous issues in order to keep the desire to know more about those issues alive among the readers. Hence, it can be said that newspapers of consumerist society are structured surrounding the relationship between consumers' needs and satisfaction.

Personal Account

Interning at *New Age* gave me the opportunity to learn about the newspaper industry and how it functions. Before starting my internship, I only saw the final copy of the newspaper that everyone receives daily. However, after starting my internship, I got to know how newspapers collect information and go through different procedures (collecting, writing, editing, and checking) before publishing.

While interning I wrote and edited news reports at the same time. I had the liberty to organize the news as per my understanding of the inverted pyramid structure. Editing news was also challenging, because an editor has to check the sentence structure, punctuation, grammar and authenticity at the same time. I faced a few difficulties while writing and editing news. The first few weeks were very tough for me as the housestyle of *New Age* was not known to me. Everyday my supervisor introduced me to different rules and regulations that *New Age* follows. Nevertheless, over time I got a grip of their writing pattern and made less mistakes.

Additionally, another difficulty that I faced was the length of the report. The length of the reports varied according to the incident and its importance. In the beginning I was confused about the appropriate length of a given report. However, my supervisor told me to avoid unnecessary information and only write what I consider to be important regardless of the length of the report.

Editing news reports made me responsible. I was writing news reports, editing them and finding missing information from the regional correspondent at the same time. Additionally, interning at *New Age* also helped me to be punctual and work under pressure. I had to be present at the office at 4:00 pm. sharp. After attending two back to back classes, it was hard for me to go to office at the given time as the office was far from BRAC University as well as my home. However, I managed my time and went to office regularly on time. In addition, this internship also

made me efficient. During my internship, I was asked to write one report per day. However, as time passed my efficiency increased, and I often wrote up to three reports per day.

At the end I can say that I found this whole experience to be very exhilarating and it has helped me to develop my writing, editing and working skills. It was not easy for me to complete my internship along with two other courses. It would have been very difficult for me without the help and support of my supervisor, colleagues and family.

Conclusion

This report focuses on news reports, press releases and translations. It also focuses on housestyle, history and national desk of *New Age*. Additionally, this report has also showed how my internship experience can be related to the theories.

This internship not only gave me my first working experience in a newspaper, but also helped me to be more professional and cooperative while improving my writing. During my internship, I was given the opportunity to put my academic knowledge to practical use. In order to learn and understand the writing techniques of news reports, reading newspaper is essential. This experience also helped me to realize that working in newspapers can be very exciting. Everyday writing about new incidents and news stories was very exciting for me and it has also strengthened my will to work for news media. My internship at *New Age* has been a great learning experience for me.

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