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Internship Report

On

Scenario of English Language Teaching in a Bangladeshi School

Prepared by:

Nidhi Chakma

ID: 152-10-1232

Department of English

Prepared Under the Supervision of

Shamsi Ara Huda

Assistant Professor

Department of English,

Daffodil International University

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Scenario of English Language Teaching in a Bangladeshi School

DECLARATION

I do hereby sedately declare that the report conferred on “Scenario of English Language Teaching in a Bangladeshi School” is an exhibition of my field work to observe the teaching learning system of English in a Bangladeshi School under the guidance of Shamsi Ara Huda, Assistant Professor of Department of English, Daffodil International University.

Nidhi Chakma

ID No: 152-10-1232

Department of English

Daffodil International University

CERTIFICATE

I am delighted to certify that the project on “Scenario of English Language Teaching in a Bangladeshi School” conducted by Nidhi Chakma (Id- 152-10-1232), Department of English has been approved for presentation and viva voce.

I am contented to certify that the findings presented in the project report are the original piece of work done under my supervision by Nidhi Chakma and I wish her all success in her life.

Shamsi Ara Huda

Assistant Professor

Department of English

Daffodil International University

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I must begin initially thanking my supervisor Ms. Shamsi Ara Huda, Assistant Professor, Department of English. Daffodil International University under whose supervision and warm detailed guidelines I got the opportunity to flourish myself with a lot of practical aspects. I am indebted to her as she furnished my ability and for the faith she has shown on me during my work with her. Then, I would like to thank Ms. Shreela Talukder, Headmistress of Khagrachari Government High School who allowed me to do my internship in her school. I am sincerely thankful to all the teachers who have been so co-operative with me during observing and conducting their regular classes and helping me on making lesson plans as well. And finally, I must express my deep appreciation to the Department of English which has provided me the letter of recommendation, without this cordial support I would not be able to accomplish the task given.

Nidhi Chakma

ID: 152-10-1232

Batch : 35th

Department of English

Daffodil International University

ABSTRACT

Words are not enough to illustrate the inevitability of learning English in this modern world. The necessity of learning English language cannot be passed over. Particularly, in Bangladesh we do not have sufficient fluent English language speakers. As a result, we are not getting the opportunities to perform in the global workforce. Moreover, we are losing the chances of getting a job with a handsome salary even in our own country Bangladesh. English is the language of international communication in the fields of tourism, business, aviation, journalism, education and shipping. So, to communicate with foreign countries and agencies and to develop our country we need to read, write and speak English. However, this internship report aims to discover the teaching method of English as a second language and targets to seize the genuine scenario of English language teaching in a Bangladeshi school which is situated in the remote area of Khagrachari, under Chittagong division. Moreover, this report attempts to equip some recommendations for the advancement of the English language teaching method.

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I. INTRODUCTION

We live in a fascinating world. Our duty is to discover it and marvel its beauties. English is the Official Language of 53 countries all over the world. English is the phenomenon bridge celebrating diversity and still connecting our dreams and expectations for an alluring future. We are bound to learn proper and proficient English in order to explore the freedom that the modern world is providing us. Regrettably, our people of Bangladesh are suffering from a phobia of learning English and thus fallaciously parting us from all kind of fortuity that we can look into. Also, it is the language of most of the higher studies, business, technology and media. “Education is the backbone of a nation” and that higher education is provided in English. So we can predict how strong our nation’s backbone is without English Language. Therefore, in Bangladesh because of the less expertise in this, our people’s, especially the young generations, access is being denied in the higher opportunities. Our government is hiring foreigners for the higher paid posts instead of us, only because we are not qualified enough. And thus, our economy is getting affected because we are losing our jobs with a hefty amount of salary to the foreigners. Most of our Bangladeshi elder citizens do not even have any idea about what is going around the world, only because international news are presented in English most of the times. So, if the elders are unknown to the world news, how come our future generations will get to know about the ample opportunities the world is offering them. In a nutshell, if we think we are compromising with ourselves by not learning English, now it is high time we realize that we are simply endangering our future generation’s bright future.

So, to know and experiment the present scenario of English Language Teaching, I have been asked by my supervisor Shamsi Ara Huda to visit a high school and compose and report on the present scenario of English language teaching in a Bangladeshi school.

II. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the proposed internship are:

1. To learn about the present scenario of English language teaching in a Bangladeshi school.
2. To observe English language teaching in real classrooms under a classroom observation checklist.
3. To learn to apply language teaching techniques in a real classroom and evaluate its impact.
4. To get a detailed idea about the proposed topic while making the report.

III. METHODOLOGY

To accomplish my project report, I have chosen Khagrachari Government High School which is located in the district of Khagrachari. The place where I have been born and brought up. At the very outset, I collected the recommendation letter provided by department of English of Daffodil International University. The next, I made an appointment with the Headmistress of the school and sought for the permission to allow me to do my internship in her school. It was so kind of her that she not only allowed me to do my internship in her school but also charged one of the English teachers in her school to help me in my need. Then the dutiful English teacher introduced me with the other two English teachers in the school and I observed their three different classes with an attempt to pick up the teachers' teaching methods, presentation, subject matter content as well as students' response and adaptability. Once I was done with my observations, I have conducted three different classes of those teachers following their regular teaching subjects. First of all, I found the students very respectful as they greeted me and their teachers every time we entered and exited the classroom. I put my best to bring out the best of every individual student. And not surprisingly, I found most of the students have phobia regarding the English subject. And as expected they were answering the right most of the time. So, I focused on to break the ice, encouraged them to ask questions and answer whether it is right or wrong because this is how they will learn more. I assured them that, to answer the wrong is far much better than not answering anything. In my last day at school I took an interview of the Headmistress about the institution in detail. However, this experiment was my very first experiment as a teacher and it was literally something that I am going to cherish for my entire life because I have both taught and learned so many important aspects during my internship in Khagrachari Government High School.

IV. INSTITUTION DETAILS

I have chosen Khagrachari Government High School for my internship as it is the oldest school of Khagrachari district. The school was established in 1957 and located at the center of Khagrachari. The school is a government approved school, so the cost of the school fee is cheaper than the other schools in the city. The medium of instruction in the school is Bangla. The school provides tiffin for the students from Saturday to Wednesday during the lunch break. Although the school has two shifts, morning and day shift, the entire school is supervised by the Headmistress. They have two different vice principals for two individual shifts. The school is a combined school. The academic area of the school is 4.10 Acres consisting, 1 four storied building, 1 two storied building, and 3 long one storied building. It has a playground of 2 Acres and rest of the 0.17 Acres are reserved for the Teacher's Residence. However, they have two different libraries for two individual shifts, a computer lab which is a training center as well, a chemistry lab, a biology lab and an agricultural lab. They have 20 classrooms and the classrooms are spacious enough. Teachers have their extra sitting room and there are three different rooms for the Headmistress and the other two Vice Principals namely Ms. Shreela Talukder, Ms. Trina Dewan and Debabrata Chakma. Besides, there are two other rooms for the office assistants and peons. Two different washrooms are there for male and female students. The classrooms are spacious with 5 ceiling fans in a room and appropriate light facility though comparatively a bit noisy. Most importantly they have multimedia classroom as well, where students do class once a week. The school has first aid facility for any kind of unexpected accidents.

Moreover, their recruitment system is government based so, all the teachers are trained. There are 30 school teachers including the Headmistress, 1 clerk, 1 accountant, 5 peons

and 2 security guards. And also all the teachers and staffs are permanent. According to the SSC Exam Result 2018, the number of the students appeared are 246 and 167 have passed the exam with a passing rate of 67.9%. Only 6 students among 246 got A+ with the rate of 2.4%. Whereas comparatively the passing rate of JSC Exam is 86% and 222 students have passed among 258 in 2017. As per the information from the interview with the Headmistress she claims that the passing rate of SSC was 92.8% in 2016 and the passing rate of JSC was 94.6% in 2016. She is hopeful to come up with a good percentage of passing in this year.

The Headmistress also stated that this year was the lowest passing year since she joined the school from 2006. There are in total 1261 students in the school. As per their academic report 2017, there were 254 students in class VI, 262 in class VII, 248 in class VIII, 97 in class IX (Arts), 94 in class IX (Commerce), 97 in class IX (Science), 59 in class X (Arts), 81 in class X (Science) and 69 in class X (Commerce). The students of the school participate in many events and competitions such as debate, football (both male and female), Shornokishori, Anti-drug Cabinet Foundation, Cricket and many more. The school celebrates every national occasion sincerely, an Annual day, Tree Plantation Day, World Environment Day and so on with a prize giving ceremony for the participated competitors. The school is also active in guardian meetings and celebrating Parent's Day. The school strongly follows the disciplines they are promised to. The dress code for the female students are blue frock, white salwar, white orna, white socks, white snickers and red belt. For boys navy blue pants, white shirt, white socks and white snickers. The school does not have any prayer room facility. The morning shift of the school day begins at 8.30 am and school day ends at 12.00 pm, after the end of morning shift the day shift school day begins at 12.30 pm and ends at 5.00 pm.

The educational background of all the teachers is BA or B. ED or B.Sc. degree. The Headmistress of the school Ms. Shreela Talukder holds MA, B. ED, BCS degree and she has joined the school on 19th June, 2006. She has dreams for her every individual student, she wants the students to get educated in a real meaning and make the forthcoming future of Bangladesh as one of the brightest futures in the world map.

V. CLASS OBSERVATION REPORTS

To accomplish my internship from a Bangladeshi High School I have observed 3 classes in Khagrachari Govt. High School before I conduct classes. The subjects of those classes were English 1st and English 2nd paper. The observation reports are inclined below:

1st CLASS OBSERVATION

I set out my first class observation of English language teaching in class IX, section A, room number 22. The class teacher was Mohammad Shafikul Islam. The number of students present was 48. The class started at 8.46 am, as per the temporary routine during the Test Exam of class IX and class VIII students. He taught grammar of Transformation though it was a revised topic as their annual exam was knocking at the door. At the beginning, the teacher spoke in English for the introduction and later on kept on Code Switching for the student's better understanding. I found the teacher has sufficient knowledge on the selected topic as well as in English grammar. He used the white board to write questions over there and sought for answers from the students while giving them clues so that they can answer the questions. However, he was not partial at all, as he was asking from backbencher to first bencher students to answer. Finally he was praising the students who were answering the right by saying 'very good!' Moreover, he gave the students both classwork to do but didn't check them all. Finally he concluded the class by giving the students some homework and asking me to introduce myself. The class duration was 40 minutes and ended at 9.30 am.

In a nutshell, though the students were quiet attentive throughout the class, I didn't find them enthusiastic. As the students are all teenagers the use of only bookish examples might get boring, the teacher could have used some practical examples to hold the students' interest. Overall, the class was quite effective to me. I learned some new things from the teacher and about the students. And I enjoyed the class but a better understanding about the students' interest could have made the class more effective for the students.

2nd CLASS OBSERVATION

After I finished my first class observation of Morning Shift I entered for the 2nd class observation in Day Shift at 11.45 am, for the English class with Mohammad Yusuf Ali at room number 22 again. The level was class IX, section C and the number of students present was 23. He conducted the class of English 1st Paper. He seemed to be quite prepared for the class as he carried question sheets for every students with a passage. He started the class with roll call which took 5 minutes and spoke in English and has a good command over English language. After that, he wrote the words from the passage which were new to the students with meaning both in Bangla and English which expresses how well he knows about his students. Then he asked them to read the passage and try to understand what it says. Later on, he asked the students to try to answer the questions given related to the passage. He was interrogating the students impartially and was trying to connect with them orally through question answering session. The teacher was enthusiastic enough to give historical examples and as well as real life examples from our everyday lifestyle which helped him to connect more with the students. They completed the classroom tasks all together with the teacher as a group. And of course, he was also switching the codes from English to Bangla for the better understanding of the students. The class duration was 40 minutes and ended up at 12.25 pm. The teacher concluded the class by asking me to introduce myself to the students.

In conclusion, I had really a good class with so many practical aspects to learn and practice. Most importantly the atmosphere of the class was less noisy than the first one.

3rd CLASS OBSERVATION

I entered for the 3rd class observation in room number 21, at 12.25 pm with the English teacher Nikhil Kumar Mondal who conducted English 2nd Paper. This was again class IX section D with the number of students present 20. He planned to make the students practice Transformation from previous Board Questions. It seemed he has a good knowledge over English Grammar. They all followed a particular grammar book where different years Board Questions are given to practice. The teacher targeted a few selective Board questions consisting Transformation and solved all those with the students by calling them come up and write the right answer on the board. He was encouraging his students to participate in the class whether the answer is right or wrong, if wrong he was helping the student for the correction .And thus made the students to participate the class tasks willingly. I have noticed that he is very punctual as well. He was giving a particular time to the students to solve the questions, this helped him to cover more topics. Moreover, he was walking through the classroom to check if the students are taking notes or not. The class ended at 1.06 pm as the duration was 40 minutes.

To sum up, I enjoyed the class as an observer. So, as the students are the mirror of their teachers, the teacher's pronunciation should be standard. And I believe a little bit of concentration on the teacher's pronunciation would bring a huge difference and acceptability environment in the classroom. However, I appreciate the confidence in both the teacher and the students.

VI. TEACHING EXPERIENCE

I have conducted 3 classes to attain my internship report and certainly to enhance my teaching experience as an English teacher. For the very first time I have conducted 3 classes as a school teacher in Khagrachari Govt. High school. Though I had a very short time to know my students, I tried to put my best for them, to expand their knowledge as well as my own knowledge. I have conducted both English 1st Paper and English 2nd Paper classes. My very first teaching experiences as a school teacher are given below:

1st CLASS TEACHING EXPERIENCE

I had prepared a lesson plan before I have conducted my 1st class as a school teacher. The lesson plan is shown in a table below:

Topic	Time	My activities
Introduction	5 minutes	Greetings, ice breaking through simple talk, announcing the topic name
How to write creative writing in English	10minutes	Writing synonymous words, linking words, using experience
Class work	10 minutes	Asking to write one of the experiences
Checking and feedback	5 minutes	Checking copies
Writing story	8 minutes	Innovative story ideas
Advice	2 minutes	Practicing reading and speaking

I conducted my 1st class on 11.10.2018 at 8.45 am in class IX section A. The observing teacher's name is Mohammad Shafiqul Islam. The number of students present was 41 and the classroom number is 22. I entered the class at exact 8.45 am, just after the assembly ended. I and my students- we both greeted each other. I did their roll call first and then

asked about their health and started normal talk. The class teacher asked me nothing specific to teach, so I were free to choose a topic. I asked the students if they feel boring to learn grammatical rules or not and the answer was in affirmative. Then I assured them that we will be doing something interesting and that is Story Writing. I started the class speaking English and ended up by code switching from English to Bangla.

I used the white board by writing some synonymous words, linking words and their meaning. Once I found them understood I asked them to write any of the experiences of their life using those words. I approached to every individual student to help them to write in a right way. Later on, I checked their copies by correcting the wrong things and giving a feedback writing Very Good or Good.

After that, I taught them how simple it is to write creative writing. One can bring a change in the whole story by only changing a small portion of the story. I told them how effective it is to get good marks.

Finally, I finished my class by advising them to read more books apart from the academic books and practice speaking in the classroom whether it is right or wrong.

2nd CLASS TEACHING EXPERIENCE

I have prepared another lesson plan before my 2nd class and the plan is shown in a table below:

Topic	Time	My activities
Introduction	5 minutes	Warm up the class and introduce the topic
Word meaning	5 minutes	Writing words meaning on the board
Passage reading by students and translating	15 minutes	Asking students to read, correction of pronunciation
classwork	5 minutes	Seeking answer from the passage
Checking and feedback	5 minutes	Checking the answers and write on the board
Advise	5 minutes	Practice reading books and speaking

I conducted my 2nd class on 12.10.2018 at 12.25 pm in class IX section D. The observing teacher was Nikhil Kumar Mondal, the regular teacher. The number of students present in the class was 25. The regular teacher gave me the book of English for Today a day before I conducted the class and asked me to teach any one of the chapters he has selected for me. I chose one of them which was about India. After I entered the classroom I greeted the students first and boosted up the atmosphere of the classroom by asking general knowledge questions to the students and then I announced my topic and asked them to find out the chapter in their book.

I wrote guessing some words from the passage which might be new to them. And wrote its meaning as well. And asked almost all the students to kindly stand up and assist me to read out a particular section of the passage while I was translating its meaning with as much reference as possible. I tried to relate the passage with our everyday life examples so that

the students might not lose interest to learn and to communicate. I focused on to make them understand that they should always ask questions whether it is right or wrong. Because only asking questions can enhance their knowledge nothing else can replace it and not to feel low if someone mocks because those who are mocking are the fools.

After I finished reading the passage, I asked them to answer the questions so that I could write them on the board. I was glad that most of them were answering the right. I feedback them by praising them.

And then I concluded my class by advising them to read lots of out sourced books any books they find interesting and not to embrace the back step only because fools are discouraging you. The class ended up at 1.05 pm.

3rd CLASS TEACHING EXPERIENCE

I prepared another lesson plan for my 3rd class which was my last class. The table below given is the lesson plan I have prepared before my last class of teaching:

Topic	Time	My activities
Introduction	5 minutes	Warm up session and announcing the topic
Providing sheets and writing word meaning	5 minutes	Distributing sheets and writing new words' meaning
Read out the passage	10 minutes	Explaining the passage, seeking answers
Classwork (gap filing)	5 minutes	Asking to write answers on the board
Classwork (summary)	5 minutes	Asking the students to write whatever they understood
Checking and feedback	5 minutes	Checking with students and encouraging feedback
Advice	5 minutes	English is not tough to learn.

The 3rd class was the last class I have conducted for my internship report. I have conducted the class on 13.10.2018 at 1.06 pm just after I have finished conducting my 2nd class. The observer of my class was Mohammad Yusuf Ali. He asked me to provide sheets which he has given me. Again I took class in class IX section C. The number of students present were 22. The passage asked to teach was a part of English 1st Paper. I started the class with roll calls. At the beginning, some students were inattentive and some were expressing very much enthusiasm. I dragged their attention by asking them their names, some word meaning and made them to participate in the question answer session. Then I distributed the sheets among the students.

I read the passage with the help of the students translating the meaning and writing the new words on the board. I tried to bring as more references as I could bring in the text while reading out. Then I asked them to answer the fill in the gaps by coming to the board and writing the answer. And the students who answered the right I asked them to call another student of their class.

After finishing the fill in the gaps and table making task, I asked them to make a summary by making a group consisting 2 students. I checked every group's copies with correction and feedback.

At last I ended up the class by making them understand that English is tough to us only because we don't practice it. I explained the consequences between a mother tongue language and a 2nd language. I advised them to read more non-academic books or articles.

VII. FINDINGS

Khagrachari Govt. High School is one of the institutions in entire Khagrachari district which is providing a qualified education to generations to generations from a long period of time. This is an institution where students of even lower socio economic class can also study because of the low amount of fees. A student just has to pay 60 taka per month as a school fee. The school provides free tiffin among the students on every working school day. Students get free books and scholarship facilities based on their merit. Most significantly, female students with average merit also gets scholarship. The teachers are well trained, recruited governmentally. The school arrange events for the students' entertainment. The Headmistress is active in calling guardian meeting every month for feedback. The relation between the teachers and the students is quite friendly. The class routines and rules are strongly followed by the teachers, students and all other staff.

The classrooms are spacious enough for the students. The school has facilities for an appropriate atmosphere in a classroom. Both the students and teachers respect each other from their positions. Students get tutoring facilities in need from their school teachers. Students have a huge playground to play. To enlarge their knowledge, they also have 2 libraries, multimedia classrooms and a computer lab. It is a trustworthy institution where anyone can wish to study with a very little amount of money.

Despite of all these facilities I found some shortcomings during my observation, and those are:

1. Only one CCTV camera has been installed at the front gate of the school.
2. Lack of sufficient washrooms. There should be more washrooms.
3. Only one multimedia classroom which the entire school shares.
4. A garden should be there to decorate the school.
5. A bit noisy environment.
6. Classrooms are not always neat and clean.
7. They don't have dusters which is surprising.
8. There should be a canteen inside the school campus.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

No doubt, the school is one of the best schools in the heart of Khagrachari district but still I would like to recommend something for this institution for the development of the school. Though the teachers are well trained and qualified and promised to teach and share their knowledge at best, the Headmistress should visit the classrooms during the class time to check the classroom activities as long as they can put CCTV camera in every classroom. There should be more competitions arranged by the school for reading, writing and speaking English. Because these competitions will boost up students' confidence level to present themselves in front of the world. The teachers could give assignments to the students to make creative things in every class for at least 5 times a year. The school should announce a rule to speak in English during the English classes at least. If all these arrangements are possible for the school authority to arrange, then nothing can stop the school to mark its place as one of the most renowned educational institutions in Bangladesh.

IX. CONCLUSION

Certainly it is the boon of English language that enables us becoming closer to each other in spite of having physical distance, social or cultural differences and so many distinctions among several races. It has broken down the communication barrier in our increasingly globalized world. In addition, it also ensures learners' bright future in preparing themselves for the fast-moving world. Unfortunately, we, natives of Bangladesh fall behind from the global world for our phobia about learning English. This internship has given me that opportunity through which I have observed the present scenario of a Bangladeshi School as well as have explored my susceptibility for teaching profession. It plays the role of a helmsman by introducing myself with practical life.