

তারিখ ২৭/১০/৮৩ ...
পৃষ্ঠা ... ৫ ...

27/10/83
LETTERS

Modern English

Sir,—If a learned author or a learned professor who happens to be "a departmental authority ripe with age and knowledge" had had the opportunity to overlook a certain grammatical point in the usage of Appropriate Preposition in English language, I find it very difficult to "remain content" as has been advised by Mr. Khayeruzzaman of Kakrail in his letter of 18-10-83. His remark in support of the improper use of Preposition backed by the remark... "the pair fill up" is used everywhere by everybody..." is not tenable. The fact is that only those who are unaware or lack in such proper knowledge of grammar use the pair incorrectly. The observation: "What apparently is incorrect as per age worn-out classical grammar is absolutely correct as per usage and modern grammar" is a superficial remark which only complicates the issue more.

In the olden days (?), in the English Language our people learnt to say, "Please, get up or 'Please, stand up'. Now-a-days quite a number of teachers in a class prefer to say, 'Get up,' or 'Stand up'. For them the use of "FORCE" seems to be good in teaching profession. "I shall kill you" and "I will kill you" are both correct sentences. Yet, they do express the thoughts of the minds in two different ways. Here, 'Shall' does not show determination as 'will'. Again; when we say "They will not play;" or "They shall not play"; "You will not play"; "You shall not play"; we use 'shall' to show determination. The 'shall' is forceful here. 'FILL UP' surely sounds forceful. Normally, any English knowing person would feel offended to hear a respectful person uttering those words.

Mr. Zaman has said,....'But the modern grammar has replaced 'whom' by 'who' e.g. 'who' can be used all alike as a Nominative, as an Objective and as a Prepositional case.... e.g. 'Who do you want?' 'Who did you go to?' My knowledge of the English Grammar says: The Relative Pronoun 'who' has different forms for Accusa-

tive and Genitive use. For example: Nominative: This is the boy (or girl) who works hard. Genitive: This is the boy (or girl) whose exercise is done well. Accusative: This is the boy (or girl) whom all praise. Similarly in the Plural form it would be: Nominative: These are the boys (or girls) who work hard. Genitive: These are the boys (or girls) whose exercises are done well. Accusative: These are the boys (or girls) whom all praise. These sentences are not interrogative sentences. But when we say, 'Whom do you want?' or 'Whom did you go to?' WHOM is used for asking questions, and therefore it is an Interrogative Pronoun. So the Interrogative Pronoun 'who' must take the form 'whom' in Accusative cases.

The words 'read' and 'study' are two very simple words. Their usage are common and simple. But read the following sentences, please: 'I read a book'; 'I study my lessons daily'; 'I read (past tense) the English book in class to-day'; 'I studied History in class to-day'. Now, please 'study those sentences.

In 'Modern Grammar' books I find these sentences, 'I read in class Six'; or 'I read in School'; or 'The dog ran behind the cat' or "We write on a table or 'We use the table to write on'. Whether or not Mr. Zaman believes that those sentences are all grammatically correct, truly they are not! The correct sentences follow. 'I study in class Six, "I study in a school. "The dog ran after the cat, "We use the table to write. But when we say, 'I read a book,' or 'I read (past tense) the English book to-day in class,' they are perfectly correct.

There are two more simple words that are generally misused often. They are 'said' and 'told'. Now-a-days I often hear even learned persons say, 'I said him to go'; or 'I told that he can go'. These sentences are in the Passive Voice. Now, the correct sentences are as follows: 'I told him to go'; 'I told him that he could go'. It would be helpful for those who are interested to note that, after the word 'told' we always use a pronoun Noun or Pronouns Nouns; e.g. 'I told him....'; 'He told us....'; 'Karim told Rahim....'; 'My mother told me....'; 'The teacher told the boys....'; etc. etc. After 'said' we usually use 'that'. The use of 'ing' or the 'Preposition' or 'who'; 'whom'; or the following verbs should be followed by their Gerund. Verbs found to be followed by their Infinitives depend on what meaning we try to convey through sentences we make. It would not be proper to say that the 'Old Grammar' books were all wrong. —MUJIBUL HAQUE Dhaka