

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Bangladesh Times, 1 DIT Avenue, Dhaka 2

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Controversy on English language

After the omission of compulsory English from the Degree course by Dhaka University I wish to add just a little more to show how the quality of education generally has deteriorated with the gradual deterioration of English, in the country.

In 1946 I was preparing to appear at the 'Centre' (primary final) examination, when suddenly I learned that the 'Centre' examination for that year could not be held. Subsequently, it was abandoned altogether and that is when deterioration in quality control of education started. Then in the early 50's compulsory English was also stopped in the primary schools. Thereafter, due to different experiments, the process started to lower the standard of English, which resulted in lowering the quality of education generally.

English is not only the first international language of communication, it is the reading matter of most newspaper magazines, books etc. as well as for medicine, jurisprudence and what not.

An arts graduate who takes up a clerical or administrative position, must have a knowledge of English, particularly in commercial or foreign organisation.

With the present standard of English acquired by our graduates most of them are not fit even for a junior clerical position.

Reverting to the present changeover by Dhaka University, if we look back we see that experiments carried out in the past resulted in the deterioration of education, step by step.

Were a survey to be carried out it would show that the children of the university syndicate members, as well as those of the elite of the country, are studying in either English medium or English based kindergarten schools. Most of them are sent to English speaking countries, particularly those reading in the Arts Group.

It is for guardians and teachers to guide students and made them understand the advantage of learning English. I would request the Education Department and our Universities to consider the introduction of compulsory English language and literature of 200/300 marks at degree level for the Arts Group to cope with the present dearth of English teachers in schools and colleges, and to prevent future post graduates from walking aimlessly about the streets.

MD. MAMTAZ UDDIN
CHOWDHURY

Atlas Shipping

Dilkusha, C.A.

Dhaka 2