

Editorial Note

This special volume of *Crossings* is special in every sense of the term. It attempts to address the numerous loci where Englishes are found entangled. It goes beyond identifying English as a linguistic and cultural resource to engage with the voluminous debate on the after-life of English that once had its heyday as a colonial tool. It, therefore, promotes other Englishes and explores new directions of scholarship while problematizing the meaning-making process. The concern for disproportionate access to English and its consequent empowerment and disempowerment of language users in translocal spaces also find its voice in this volume.

Papers selected for this special issue were originally presented at a conference titled “Entangled Englishes in Translocal Spaces” on September 2-4, 2021. Organized by ULAB’s Centre for Language Studies and Department of English and Humanities, the conference brought together scholars from all continents to participate in an academic gala that promised: “a discursive platform to explore possible ways of ‘de-elitisation’ of Englishes for sustainable development of human resources.”

The keynote speaker, Dr. Alastair Pennycook, set the tone for both the conference and this issue. Pennycook extends his version of vital materialism scholarship that he employed earlier to understand the nuanced relational agencies of English in the Philippines to a Bangladeshi context and examines how Englishes are connected, both materially and non-materially.

The plenary speaker, Dr. Shyam Sharma, calls for Scholarship 2.0 to challenge the language-knowledge hegemony and identifies the Global South as the new realm for alternative knowledge. This is exemplified in two other papers selected for the volume. Paolo Coluzzi critiques the western-centricity of academic journals that control the double helix that Sharma mentions. Monisha Biswas’s identification of the presumed prestige associated with the use of English for communication on Facebook offers another example.

The other conference plenary speakers, Dr. Shaila Sultana and Dr. Sender Dovchin use three-month-long ethnographic research on 29 participants to establish Bakhtin’s concept of chronotope in suggesting how shared experiences over time and space could give them a shared knowledge and craft their relationship and affiliation. Asif Kamal locates the literary space in the syllabi of Bangladeshi universities to argue that the language skills of students can be developed through their exposures to literary texts while Zarin Tasnim and Risala Ahmed make a case for humanistic approaches to teaching.

The discussion on sociolinguistics thus neatly segues into the literature section where the language question is located in the contested spaces of different genres.

This issue of *Crossings* makes a serious attempt to identify various trends and shifts in knowledge production and circulation concerning the use of Englishes. We expect our readers and scholars to disseminate the findings and give the volume the visibility it deserves in various metric-controlled indices.

On behalf of the Editorial Board,
Shamsad Mortuza, PhD
 Chief Editor