

Editorial Note

Chinese astrology divides life into ten-year cycles, believing that each section has its own force. While bringing out Volume 11 of *Crossings*, we cannot but reflect on the planned changes that we are going to embrace in this new section. We are already in the process of being indexed with several databases to give our local effort an international accent. The expansion of our international advisory body to include some accomplished academics and journal editors has boosted our initiative.

Crossings has already become an intellectual forum for all those who take interest in issues related to language, linguistics, literature, and culture. The wide-ranging discussions available in the volume is a testimony of the fact that we have been able to create a discursive platform where literary texts can be analyzed for academic causes, language can be examined for both pedagogical and practical purposes, and cultural texts can be located beyond the academy.

The Occasional Paper reflects on the pioneer of female education in Bengal, Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain. Prof. Mohammad Abdul Quayum of Flinders University, Australia argues for the moral climate created by the nineteenth century Bengali renaissance that allowed Begum Rokeya to forward her feminist activism.

Nearly half of the articles that have been accepted for this volume engage with South Asian, including Bangladeshi, authors. In addition, while there are articles on canonical authors such as T S Eliot, H G Wells, R L Stevenson, and the Brontë sisters, they are equally matched by interests in contemporary authors from Africa, comic-books, and popular films. This reflects the changing ecology of English studies in which *Crossings* is located.

The language and applied linguistics section is dominated by the interest in how language works and operates in our lived experience. Language professionals are constantly investigating different ways of improving classroom teaching. The articles on process writing or feedback giving will be particularly useful for teachers who need information to improve their pedagogical models. The lexical analysis of a Malaysian newspaper's editorials shows the politics of confusion that language can construct.

In the book review section, the reader's interest in two books by Bruce King is generated by Kaiser Haq. The memoir of the peripatetic literary critic and historian, *An Interesting Life So Far*, and his collection of essays on eleven postcolonial writers, *From New National to World Literature: Essays and Reviews*, receive a credible endorsement from Haq.

The articles gathered here, as you can see, are varied – yet united in their spirit of enriching English Studies. Let us know how you feel about this volume and the changes that you want to see in the next cycle that we are entering.

On behalf of the Editorial Board,

Shamsad Mortuza, PhD
Editor