

Editorial Note

Kaiser Haq, a versatile professor with many hats, brought his characteristic humor to a webinar at Ashoka University in India. Tasked with defining modernity in Bengal, Haq adopts three avatars – audience, performer, and critic – in a delightful exploration of what he coins the “catwalk of modernity.” Through witty reflections, he not only addresses canonical voices from Bangladesh that often go unnoticed across borders but also sprinkles in soundbites from popular media, leaving the audience with both laughter and a profound contemplation of the intertwining dynamics of culture, identity, and the contemporary global landscape. This engaging occasional paper sets the stage for the 14th volume of *Crossings*.

Remaining true to our commitment, *Crossings* continues to serve as a scholarly discursive platform for language, literature, and culture. Within the literature and culture section, our contributors delve into major societal issues involving trauma, identity, gender, environment, and homelessness. Spanning across time and space, these articles underscore humanity’s broader appeal and offer profound insights into the complexities of our existence.

Ali Afridi delves into the rupture of body and mind in *Hiroshima, Mon Amour*, exploring Resnais’s crafted trauma narrative. Shantanu Das identifies laughter as a form of *Écriture Féminine* in Manto’s short story “The Insult,” while Elham Hossain uncovers the knowledge and power nexus in J.M. Coetzee’s *Dusklands*. Nusrat Jahan reflects on the intricate interplay between identity, place, and the human condition in Jibananda Das’s poetry, and Nazia Manzoor analyzes sexual autonomy in Heinrich von Kleist’s *Betrothal in San Domingo*.

Subrata Chandra Mozumder highlights the resistance of first-generation African American feminist Mary Ann Shadd in *A Plea for Emigration*, while Afsana Rahman critiques the portrayal of women as mad in the fantasy world of *Game of Thrones*. Raihanur Rahman connects capitalism and environmental precarity, while Debjani Sengupta sheds light on the lingering shadows of Partition, understanding historical legacies that defined neighbors across the eastern borders of Bangladesh and India.

The language section initiates with Tanvir Hassan Anik, Mohammad Golam Mohiuddin, Md. Didarul Islam, and Muhammad Kamruzzaman’s discourse analysis of street hawkers and the registers they use, unveiling coded jargons that make readers alert to their inside jokes. Md. Jahurul Islam, Abdulla Al Masum, and Md. Sayeed Anwar’s article on speech production contributes significantly to understanding why Bengali speakers face challenges in pronouncing certain English vowel sounds. A stylistic reading of *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* by Radia Al Rashid provides a fresh perspective on accent reduction through the lens of multilingualism. Additionally, Md. Nurullah Patwary’s paper on peer feedback proves invaluable for readers in the teaching profession.

The volume fittingly concludes with a review of Amitav Ghosh’s recent publication, *The Living Mountain*. Emphasizing the importance of treating our environment and its culture as living entities, it encourages us to preserve these invaluable aspects for posterity beyond time and space – a sentiment that aligns with the ultimate aim of *Crossings*.

Happy reading.

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