

The real scenario

In present education system at secondary level in Bangladesh, English Texts are organized following Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) method. But it is a matter of sorrow that in most cases this method is not followed. This is because most of the teachers do not have the opportunity to gather a proper idea about CLT method. Of course, our government has been trying to get the teachers introduced with this method through some courses like English Language Teaching Improvement Project (ELTIP), Continuous Professional Development-1 (CPD-1) under Teaching Quality Improvement (TQI) project. I, myself also did CPD-1 in English for 24 days. Most of the teachers who have done these trainings still do not know how to deal with the English for Today (EFT) books. That is why most of our teachers learn off many activities in the lessons of EFT. We only readout the comprehension passages, give their Bengali meaning and put the students solve model questions from guide books. We do not do the activities with picture, diagrams, charts, matching, bubbles etc. Even more we avoid dialogues in the EFT lessons.

Very few teachers (I guess not more than 2%) know about TG (teachers guide); may be because it is not available at all. Moreover we do not know why some lessons in EFT (class VI-VIII) are given in the last part as listening comprehension. We do not follow the book map of EFT for class IX-X. All these drawbacks are because of the lack of proper training in English particularly English in secondary level.

We very often raise storm over cup of hot tea in seminars, talk-shows on the importance of English language but do nothing in action that is practically.

It is English in Action (EIA) which for the first time has come forward in action. They speak less, do more and want the teachers also to speak less and let the learners speak more in the class room. Before coming in contact with EIA I had no clear idea on how to deal with the EFT books. Now I know why there are pictures, charts, diagrams, gaps in the EFT books; how to do the different classes, what would be my role as a teacher and what would be the learners' role. I would like to mention here again that it is EIA which has made me understand and follow CLT method successfully. Their IT materials, teaching aids, publications and cluster meetings have not only grown confidence in me but also have improved it much.

Now my earnest request to EIA is to start 'English Olympiad' like 'Ganit (Math) Olympiad.' I know they have programmes- BBC Janala, ATN Buzz. I am sure 'English Olympiad' will be able to remove fear of English and will popularize and democratize English.

Mozammel Hoque

Asst. Teacher

Rangamati Govt. High School