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Report

'OBSERVATION OF INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY & SEMINER'



Organized by: Dept. of Bengali in collaboration with Dept. of Arabic & Dept. of English

Date: 21/02/2020 Time: 11 am

Total participant : 79 Venue: Seminar Hall

Guest:

1. Prof. Subrata Chatterjee, Principal, Sreechaitanaya College, Habra & 2. Prof. Aniruddha Chudury, former T.I.C Hiralal Majumder College,

3. Prof. S. A. H Mounuddin, Former Professor, BHU

Activity Report

On 21st February 2020, the Department of Bengali in collaboration with the Department of Arabic and the Department of English organized a seminar on the occasion of International Mother Language Day at the Seminar Hall. The seminar aimed to raise awareness about the importance of preserving mother languages and promoting linguistic diversity.

The seminar was attended by a total of 79 participants, including students, teachers, and guests from various academic backgrounds. The event started at 11 am with a welcome speech by the Head of the Department of Bengali, Dr. Ananya Ghosh. She emphasized the importance of celebrating International Mother Language Day, which was first proclaimed by UNESCO in 1999 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. She also highlighted the significance of mother language in the development of personal and cultural identity.

The first guest speaker was Professor Subrata Chatterjee, the Principal of Sreechaitanaya College, Habra. He spoke about the historical significance of the Bengali language and the role it played in the Bengali Language Movement in 1952. Bengali is an Indo-Aryan language spoken in the Indian subcontinent, primarily in Bangladesh and the Indian states of West Bengal, Tripura, and Assam. It has a rich history and cultural significance in the region, and played a pivotal role in the Bengali Language Movement of 1952. He highlighted that The Bengali Language Movement was a political and cultural movement in East Bengal (now Bangladesh) that began in 1948 and culminated in the Language Movement Day protests of 1952. The movement sought to establish Bengali as the official language of East Pakistan (which at the time was part of Pakistan) and to promote its use in government, education, and cultural institutions. The movement was triggered by the Pakistani government's decision to impose Urdu as the sole official language of Pakistan. This move was seen as a threat to Bengali language and culture, and sparked protests and demonstrations across East Pakistan. On February 21, 1952, a group of students and activists gathered in Dhaka (now the capital of Bangladesh) to demand the recognition of Bengali as an official language. The protests turned violent when police opened fire on the protesters, killing several people. The incident, known as the Language Martyrs Day or Shaheed Dibas, became a defining moment in Bengali history and the language movement. The Bengali Language Movement was significant for several reasons. First, it marked a turning point in the struggle for Bengali identity and autonomy in East Pakistan. Second, it galvanized the Bengali people and created a sense of unity and solidarity around the Bengali language and culture. Third, it brought international attention to the plight of East Pakistan and contributed to the eventual creation of Bangladesh as an independent country in 1971. In recognition of the importance of the Bengali Language Movement, the United Nations declared February 21 as International Mother Language Day in 2000.

The second guest speaker was Professor Aniruddha Chudury, the former T.I.C of Hiralal College. He spoke about the importance of preserving linguistic diversity and the threats faced by endangered languages. He said that preserving linguistic diversity is important because language is not only a means of communication but also a vital component of culture, identity, and history. Every language carries unique knowledge, beliefs, and traditions that are passed down through generations. Losing a language means losing a part of the world's cultural heritage and diversity, and this can have far-reaching consequences for communities, nations, and the world at large. He highlighted that endangered languages face various threats that put

their survival at risk. The most common threats include language shift, language loss, and language death. Language shift occurs when a community stops using their native language and adopts a new language due to factors such as migration, globalization, or economic opportunities. Language loss occurs when a language is no longer used by any community members, while language death occurs when there are no remaining native speakers of a language. Other threats to linguistic diversity include political and social factors, such as discrimination, marginalization, and persecution of linguistic minorities. Globalization and the spread of dominant languages can also contribute to the erosion of linguistic diversity, as smaller languages struggle to compete for attention and resources in a globalized world. The loss of a language has numerous negative consequences. It can lead to a loss of cultural identity, social isolation, and reduced access to information, education, and opportunities. It can also have a negative impact on biodiversity, as indigenous knowledge of the environment and natural resources is often closely linked to language. His submission is to create efforts to preserve linguistic diversity and protect endangered languages are crucial. This can involve documenting and revitalizing endangered languages, promoting multilingualism and language education, and supporting linguistic minority communities in their efforts to maintain and transmit their languages. Such efforts can help to ensure that the world's linguistic heritage is preserved for future generations.

The third guest speaker was Professor S. A. H Mounuddin, a former professor of BHU. He discussed the importance of multilingualism and the benefits it provides in terms of cognitive development and cross-cultural communication. He highlighted that Multilingualism refers to the ability to speak multiple languages fluently. It has become increasingly important in today's globalized world where businesses, social networks, and cultural interactions transcend national borders. He said some of the reasons why multilingualism is important. These includes:

- Cognitive Development: Learning and using multiple languages stimulates the brain and enhances cognitive development, particularly in the areas of memory, problem-solving, and decision-making. It has been shown to improve attention span, creativity, and analytical skills.
- Cross-Cultural Communication: Knowing multiple languages makes it easier to communicate with people from different cultures and backgrounds, which is essential for effective collaboration and relationship building in today's diverse society.
- Career Advancement: Being multilingual is a valuable asset in the workplace, as it opens up more job opportunities and can lead to higher salaries. Multilingual individuals are often sought after in industries such as international business, government, and tourism.
- Personal Enrichment: Multilingualism provides a sense of personal enrichment by enabling individuals to appreciate different cultures and perspectives. It also allows individuals to read literature and watch movies in their original languages, which enhances their understanding and enjoyment of these works.

He concluded that in overall, multilingualism has numerous benefits, both personally and professionally. It is a valuable skill to have in today's interconnected world, and it can lead to increased cognitive development, cross-cultural understanding, and career opportunities.

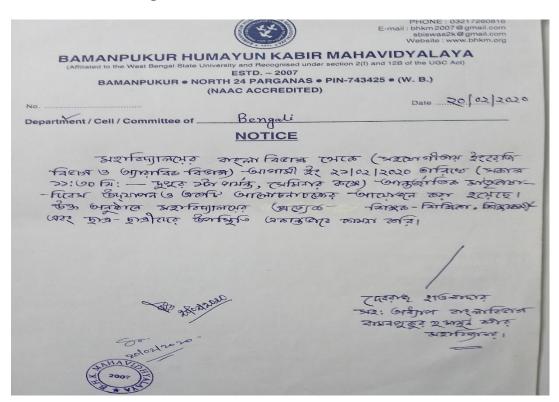
After the guest lectures, a **panel discussion** was held, which was moderated by Debraj Howlader. The panel included the three guest speakers and other language experts from the

audience. They discussed various issues related to mother tongue-based education, linguistic diversity, and the challenges faced by minority language speakers.

The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks by Smt Madhu Sriwastav the Head of the Department of English. She expressed her gratitude to the guests, participants, and organizers for making the event a success. She also emphasized the need to continue promoting linguistic diversity and preserving endangered languages.

In conclusion, the seminar was a great success, and it provided a platform for language experts, teachers, and students to discuss and share their views on various issues related to mother languages. The event highlighted the importance of promoting linguistic diversity and preserving endangered languages to promote cultural heritage and cross-cultural communication.

Annexure: 1 Notice of the Programme



Annexure: 2 Attendance sheet of the participants

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3,	Armina Khatun	201-201	BEN	
4.	Jahanara Khatun	191	BEN	
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9.	Suhana Parvin	238	Bengali	suhana 743425 @gmal.co			
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বামন পুকুর হুমায়ূণ কবীর মহাবিদ্যালয়

বামন পুকুর, উঃ ২৪ পরগণা, পিন - ৭৪৩ ৪২৫, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ

याःला विভाग आद्याजिण

আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবস উদ্যাপন ও আলোচনাচক্র



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অধ্যাপক সুব্রত চ্যাটার্জী

———— অধ্যাপক অনিরুদ্ধ চৌধুরী

স্থান: মহাবিদ্যালয়ের সেমিনার কক্ষ

সময় : সকাল ১১.৩০টা থেকে দুপুর ১টা • তারিখ : ২১.০২.২০২০

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যোগাযোগ ঃ দেবরাজ হাওলাদার

সহঃ অধ্যাপক, বাংলা বিভাগ, বামন পুকুর হুমায়ূণ কবীর মহাবিদ্যালয়।

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अवन्त्राक्ष आपत्र आग्रज्ञ ।

Annexure – 4: Programme Snap





