



Report of ELT Webinar “Designing ELT”, organized by the Center for Language Translation and Cultural Studies (CLTCS), School of Humanities, NSOU on 5th of July 2020.

A one-day Webinar was organized on 5th July 2020 on “Designing ELT”. The webinar was attended by 60 participants on Google Meet link <meet.google.com/euy-camp-hvm>. The Webinar began at 11.00 am and ended at 4.30 pm with two breaks in between.

In the Inaugural session, the Director, School of Humanities welcomed the participants and the presenters of the webinar. He restated the eagerness of the School in expanding academic activities with emphasis on the ongoing changes since May 2015. NSOU is largest in Eastern India in terms of student enrolment with the School of Humanities its major entity. NSOU was the first in the country to introduce Post Graduate in English Language Teaching, a practice oriented course through distance mode, he stated.

In the Keynote Speech Professor S Mohanraj, formerly from EFLU Hyderabad, mentioned ELT as a new discipline, which had emerged as an offshoot of Linguistics. With its emergence, a new genre in teaching English took shape, distancing itself from the teaching of literary texts only. The natural language learning process came into being. His talk was based on six components of ELT Design. These were grammar and its teaching, the lexical approach and its forms, curriculum design, content, strategies and evaluation. He also talked on the use of computers in ELT. Replying to a question from the participants, Professor suggested the possible ways of producing the ‘best text book’ for our learners of secondary school level.

Dr J S Basu, Associate Professor English Language Teaching, NSOU, in his speech had talked on Collocation and Idioms in English. From the SLA perspective, he said learning compatible word chunks were more effective than learning dictionary entities. He differentiated the Synthetic Approach from the Lexico-grammatical Approach and said the later was more important and key to the learners. He also elaborated lexical collocations, transformational collocations with illustrations. The elements of denotative style were in his discussion on language and consciousness. Multiword sequences, collocations and colligations were the other topics in his discussion.

The inaugural Session ended at 12.38 pm with a brief vote of thanks by Dr Sumana Bandyopadhyay, Assistant Professor, English Language Teaching, NSOU.



In the Technical Session 1, Prof Basudeb Chakraborti formerly from the Department of English, Kalyani University, had presented on Dialectology. The focus of the talk was on a number of topics. These were; how and why the concept of language is more distinct than the concept of Dialect, many differences in one language, many languages in one language, synchrony and diachronic dialectal variations, changes in diachronic perspective, the concept of right and wrong – Standard Dialect and BBC English. He had said that the Standard Dialect was used for the purposes of teaching Reading and Writing. BBC English is the corresponding spoken form of the Stand Dialect, which is used for teaching and learning the spoken form of the language. His speech was showered with examples all along.

The other speaker of the session was Dr Sumana Bandyopadhyay. She had talked on Discourse. The theoretical aspects of Discourse Analysis were in her discussion with the task designs and application in ELT. Discourse analysis and pedagogic application was the topic of the second part of her talk. Elaborating various spoken discourses, she talked on the features of discourse in phone micros, and why the discourse is different from discourses in face-to-face interactions. Replying to a question she had talked on the application of Conversational Maxims in academic contexts. The session ended at 2.25 pm after a brief audience interaction.

In Technical Session 2, which began at 2.45 pm after a pause of 20 mins, there were six speakers. The first speaker was Dr C Vijay Kumar, Assistant Professor, BITS Pilani. He had talked on Task Design. Taking the Webinar proceedings as an example, he analysed the talks of the speakers who had spoken earlier in the day. Next he discussed the tasks on spoken discourse. He talked on focusing of strategies in designing tasks for technical students. The second speaker of the session was Dr Subh Brat Sarkar, Associate Professor from Rishi Bankim Chandra College, Naihati. His talk was on English pronunciation in the 21st Century. NRS, the Non Regional Speaker was the focus of his talk. The third speaker of the session was Mr Durbadal Datta, Assistant Teacher, Jamsherpur B.N. High School, Nadia. English education after Independence was his topic. The Mudaliar Commission had given importance in Diploma programs and the Kothari Commission had stressed the need for ELT programs in the country, he stated. Dr Sadhan K Dey, Associate Professor, RCCIIT Kolkata, was the fourth speaker of the session. His speech was on Morphology in English. Mr Saibal Chatterjee, Assistant professor, NSHM College of Management and Technology, was the fifth speaker talking on the process approach in teaching writing skills. The last speaker of the session was Ms Swati Basu, Assistant Professor, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Institute of Management Science, Kolkata. She had talked on Language and its functions. Technical Session 2 ended at 3.45 pm.

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The above session was followed by Question and Answer Session for 25 mins, in which the participants had interacted with the invited speakers of the day. It was more of one-to-one interaction. After this session, Prof S Mohanraj had reflected on the speech of individual speakers and summarized them in a nut shell.

Prof J S Basu had presented the formal vote of thanks of the Webinar.

Sumana Bandyopadhyay
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