



# Memorandum of Understanding

*between*

**Centre for Language, Translation & Cultural Studies (CLTCS) Netaji  
Subhas Open University, Kolkata, India**

**&**

**English Discipline, Khulna University, Khulna, Bangladesh**

**on**

**Project Title:** *Mapping Partition Memory, Amnesia & Literature in Middle  
and Southern Bengal: An Indo-Bangladesh Perspective*

**Nature:** Collaborative Research Project

**Tenure:** One Year from the date of Acceptance

**20<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**Kolkata**

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### Objective:

Almost seven decades after the first partition of British India and more than four decades of the culling out of the modern nation of Bangladesh from erstwhile East Pakistan, partition(s) still remain an ineradicable reality in the lives of millions of people. Irrespective of geo-political considerations, common people of all partitioned nations have resented several nomenclatures that forced migrations have entailed upon them, and resulting in unmentionable suffering for them. Such suffering, trauma, violence and of course the angst of rootlessness and the anxiety of new settlements have plagued the immediate victims of partition. Challenges to religious identities, cultural mores and life-forms have also brought out the resilience of a generation that has experienced it all, travelled to new lands and made them their own. The responses in their places of new domicile shuttled amongst warmth, cordiality, indifference and hostility. Through a chequered history of post-partition years that number as much as the years of independent nationhood for both countries, all this has found diverse documentation, in government records, history and popular cultures.

In today's globalised world, much more than revisiting trauma that is deeply embedded in the psyche of the collective unconscious, interdisciplinary research demands new studies of the 'amnesia' of partition among a generation that might not have been direct victim but is part of a heritage handed down in ancestry. This collaborative research project aims at identifying degrees and levels of that 'amnesia' across a probable spectrum of three generations of post-partition families on either side of the border. The perspective is to dwell upon language and literature, culture and ways of livelihood, nature of relationships with memory fostered by families split across borders, and of course the entire chronicle of adaptation and assimilation in the new places of settlement.

In clarifiable and objective terms, the academic research that is being proposed in the broad domain of Cultural Studies aims at going beyond canonised grand narratives of partition-independence and unearthing authentic micro-narratives of societies that have perforce internalised history and have established transactional terms of livelihoods. At a psycho-social level, their relationship with the amnesia of partition will be the focus of this study.

### Area of Study:

The project will study the Post-Partition amnesia effect on the common people across the borders in general. Theoretical studies have been carried out by both the host institutions keeping in mind good academic spirit and sharing of knowledge. Library work, archival study are being done with innovative understanding to reach the goal that has not yet been covered.

Field surveys to be carried out under this project are limited to particularly the following Districts.





In West Bengal: a) North 24 Paraganas, b) South 24 Paraganas c) Nadia  
d) Murshidabad.

In Bangladesh: a) Khulna b) Jessore c) Satkhira

Writers, artists, educationists are being contacted for interview. People who suffer and have partition experience are being chosen from different social strata through random sampling. Statistical knowledge expertise may be hired for the purpose.

### General

**Both the host institutions will hold the right of their existing rules & regulations and amendments in effect from time to time.**

**All the committee members of host institution(s) will constitute the primary stakeholders of such collaborative research project. Internal arrangement/committees and functioning of such institution(s) shall not fall within the purview of such MOU.**

**Both the institutions will extend their infrastructural support i.e. office, computer, internet connectivity, Seminar Hall, etc. to run the project in good spirit within the ambit of existing rules & regulations of the concerned host institutions.**

The copy of the MOU thus evolved may be used by researchers in obtaining necessary travel documents as and when required. Such travel may be governed and planned under the norms of Cultural Exchange Programmes as may be decided upon by the partner institutions that are parties to this MOU.

### Action Oriented Plan:

#### **Academic engagement:**

Both the institutions agree to conduct this project with their best ability. Academic sharing and deliberations will be made in extremely spirited manner to explore the new areas of the proposed field of study.

Action Oriented plan under this collaborative research should be completed within a stipulated time. It is proposed that 6 (Six) months, from the date of agreement, will be the period for field survey which will include holding of the necessary workshops.

The remaining 6 (Six) months will be devoted for preparation of the report, Literary Study, Library consultation and publication of necessary findings.

### Field Survey

**Subtitle: Reaching Partition Memory beyond Borders; Three Districts of Bangladesh & India in Perspective.**

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- On the basis of selective sample, field survey will be organised to collect in audio-video format personal narratives of families across generations affected by partition.
- A team of researchers needs to be fixed / engaged by both the host institutions for field survey. Preferably the survey team will be constituted of Passed-out students / Researchers / Counsellors(in case of NSOU) / teachers in substantive posts who are at the entry level of their career, who are directly or indirectly associated with the host institution.
- Schedule of Survey will be fixed on mutual convenience. Host institutions will arrange accommodation and food as per specification to be fixed by them. The detail of the pre-fixed specifications / offerings will be intimated mutually. The details should be communicated to all concerned at any level of stake holding.
- Maximum span of survey on each visit will be fifteen days (15) at a stretch.
- One workshop each to be organized by either host institution to fix-up all the details regarding the survey before it starts.
- The findings coming of the survey shall be treated as confidential by the host institutions till the completion of the whole project. The publication thereof shall be a collaborative effort based on mutual consent and with due acknowledgements.

#### Workshops/ Seminar

- Maximum 4 (Four) workshops / Seminar will be organized; 2 (Two) each by both institutions. It is preferable to organize a workshop or a seminar of 2 (Two) days maximum, in mutually convenient schedules.
- Writers / Partition affected individual of first generations / critics will be preferably invited in such events.
- Workshop / Seminar will discuss the issues relating to the broad area of the Research Project. It will try to explore new dimensions of recent Partition Studies focusing on the trajectory or aftermath of Bengal Partition as specific level of study.
- The expenditure for organizing the workshops / Seminars will be incurred by the host institution with a modest budget and moderate arrangements. Experts / officials invited at the workshop will be covered by standard accommodation, hospitality, local conveyance etc. but Travelling allowance or Airfare may not be covered under project expenses. The TA or round trip fare for invited experts of either host institution will be the responsibility of their own.
- Intimation to the respective High-Commissions about the workshop/Seminar, and procuring necessary help thereof will be the responsibility of the host institution.
- Workshop report will be published in bilingual mode at the end of the project with mutual consent.





➤ To ensure passage of information about the project in the public domain, Press may be invited at such workshops.

#### Use of Website:

The project detail will be uploaded on the website of Khulna University and Netaji Subhas Open University. The host Institutions shall hold their rights to upload academic matters relating to broad areas of the research project in particular, and make available their planning regarding the project for greater publicity in good spirit. Such uploads shall however, not divulge any findings of the field study.

The matter recorded under this project, either in Audio or in Video format shall be uploaded on website with mutual consent. No such matter that can in any way run contrary to the spirit of national or local interest shall be uploaded in any case.

Cost of maintenance and other IT related technicalities will not come under the purview of such MOU.

#### Follow-up Report:

After completion of each phase a brief follow-up report, in printed form (Three copies), shall be placed in a meeting which will be convened by both the signatories to assess the progress of the project. Holding of meeting will be the joint responsibility. Expenditure incurred for the purpose will be shared. Maximum 3 (Three) meetings will be organized. The host institution will try to organize such meetings simultaneously with Project Workshop or Seminar to minimize the expenses.

#### Publication(s):

**The findings/outcome of the project will be published in the following manner.**

- i) Workshop report (Bilingual) will be published in printed form by the host institute with due acknowledge to the partner institution. It will be uploaded on the respective websites.
- ii) Final Report of the Research Project will be published jointly in Monograph (Bengali/English) format.  
Publication cost will be equally shared, if the same is published by the host institutions jointly. Otherwise, the final report may be offered to a reputed private Publisher for publication in monograph format. The modus operandi will be worked out by mutual consent.

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iii) Research papers that evolve from the findings of the project may be published (in bilingual mode) individually or jointly by any of the stakeholders who have been directly and actively involved with the initiative. In that case, due credit will be acknowledged.

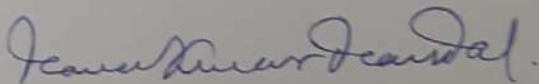
**Funding:**

The financial engagement for the proposed research project is as follows

CLTCS, NSOU Expenses		English Discipline, Khulna University, Expenses	
Heads	Maximum No / Quantity	Heads	Maximum No. / Quantity
Workshop / Seminar	2	Workshop / Seminar	2
Meetings	2	Meetings	2
Field survey (Of 10-15days duration) [A team of 5-7 members from Khulna University]	2 surveys [Modest accommodation, 2meals & conveyance will be offered]	Field Survey (Of 10-15days duration) [A team of 5-7 members from NSOU]	2 surveys [Modest accommodation, 2meals & conveyance will be offered]
Website	CLTCS, NSOU	Website	English Discipline, Khulna University
Project Reports	2	Project Reports	2
Final Publication	Jointly	Final Publication	Jointly



**Signatories:**



Dr Manan Kumar Mandal  
Coordinator, CLTCS, NSOU  
Officer-in-charge, School of humanities,  
NSOU

Seal:

**Coordinator**  
**Centre for Language, Translation**  
**and Cultural Studies (CLTCS)**  
**School of Humanities**  
**NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY**

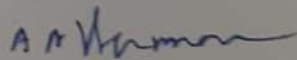


Professor Sabiha Huq  
Head, English Discipline  
Khulna University

Seal:



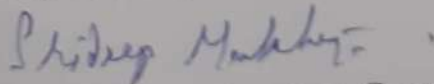
Witness:



*Representative from English Discipline*  
*Khulna University*

**Professor Ahmed Ahasanuzzaman**  
Professor, English Discipline, Khulna University

*Representative of CLTCS, NSOU*



**Mr Srideep Mukherjee, Asst. Coordinator, CLTCS**

*Place: Kolkata*

*Dated: 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2017*