***IML Spectrum Seminars***

**Teaching English Globally: Opportunities and Requirements**

In the present era of globalization the whole world has become a global-village and where English has undoubtedly become a sole means of global communication (a lingua franca, more specifically). In such a present-day scenario we cannot simply dismiss the requirement of learning and teaching English. English is spoken today as a world language and hence the area of Teaching English (as a Second/Foreign Language) has spread out globally. Being aware of the global demand of English teachers, the Institute of Modern Languages (IML) of North South University (NSU) organized an interactive seminar titled “Teaching English Globally: Opportunities and Requirements” on 20 August 2013 held at NSU campus.

The primary objective of the seminar was to provide a guideline for the English major students of NSU who want to pursue their career in teaching. The seminar also intended to make them aware of vast teaching opportunities globally. A fair number of under-graduate and graduate students of NSU participated in the seminar. Mr. Rajib Ahmed, Lecturer at the Department of English of Najran University, Najran, KSA (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) was the key speaker and presenter at the event while the presence of Mr. Mohammed Shahedul Haque, Chairperson of the Department of English of NSU and Director of IML, NSU graced the occasion. In his introductory speech, Prof Haque shed light on the opportunities of the English graduates specializing in TESOL that they can get the privilege of teaching at the language institutes, centers as well as at the community colleges in the USA, UK, Canada, Australia, and the Middle East etc., which pave the way to experiencing excellent ways and methods in the arena of language teaching. He further said that the students having Bangla as their mother tongue, who are the immigrants can get better knowledge of English from these TESOL graduates from Bangladesh because of their unique ability of teaching bilingually (employers often place a high premium on bilingualism abroad), if and when needed.

The seminar proceeded with Mr. Rajib Ahmed’s discussion on global teaching opportunities and the requirements for the English teachers.

**Teaching and Global Opportunities:**

Mr. Rajib Ahmed focused on the significance of global market for English. English is the widely spoken international language, and thus English teachers can have exciting job opportunities from home and abroad. Teaching English offers handsome pay packages with some other fringe benefits, e.g., international mobility, global exposure, more opportunities and contacts etc. So, why not teach English.

English teachers usually have better teaching opportunities in the countries where English is spoken as a second/foreign language (apart from L1). According to Mr. Ahmed, popular destinations for English teachers include China, KSA, and Thailand. English teachers have other choices as well. They can get better teaching opportunities in Qatar, Yemen, Oman, Kuwait, UAE, Turkey, and Japan.

**The Requirements:**

Mr. Ahmed emphasized that English graduates who want to pursue their career in teaching should start taking preparation as soon as they complete their degree. The primary requirement for teaching English abroad is to have an MA (in English) degree. Teaching experiences (1 to 2 years) would be an added advantage for the applicants. Applicants without MA may also apply but for that they should have a specialized English language teaching certificate, e.g., CELTA (Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults), TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) etc. British Council, Bangladesh usually offers such certificate courses.

Mr. Ahmed further focused on how should be the portfolio of a 21st century English teacher. They should have an updated CV and access to Personal Learning Networks (PLN). They should have affiliations with language teaching associations, e.g., BELTA (Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association), IATEFL (International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language) etc. They should attend different seminars, workshops, and symposia organized by such associations. 21st century English teachers must have the knowledge of Teaching with Technology (Mlearning, iPads, BlackBoard, Podcasts). They should possess a positive face in the social world (Blogging, Twitting).

**Exploring the Opportunities:**

According toMr. Ahmed, applicants can send online applications including their resume and certificates. It’s better to also share applicant’s personal website, Skype account, and videos showing that applicant teaching in a class. Thus, the employer can get the evidence of applicant’s teaching capabilities and experience. An employer can take online interviews (via Skype) as well. Mr. Ahmed suggested that applicants should apply in as many places as possible in order to get noticed easily. He enlisted some websites from where applicants can explore better teaching opportunities: www.teach.com; www.seriousteachers.com; www.jobs.ac.uk; www.tefl.net; www.eslcafe.com; www.teachaway.com; www.jobsabroadbulletin.co.uk; www.eslstarter.com; www.esl-teaching-jobs.com; www.gooverseas.com; www.eslcafe.com; www.englishjobmaze.com; www.eslcareer.com

“Teaching is the one profession that generates all other professions,” an anonymous saying was further illuminated through the interactive discussions in the seminar as it made us realize that how versatile teaching English can be and how it leads us to various opportunities.

***Written by the RIT***

**IML Spectrum Seminars**

The Institute of Modern Languages (IML) organizes weekend seminars in which researchers and experts discuss language and communication issues with students and faculty members to motivate further exploration of the issues taught in the mainstream programs (BA and MA) in the English Department.

The *Spectrum Seminars* may be attended by students/teachers of English of other universities too.