IN GRATEFULNESS

Prior to everything, my gratitude flows to GOD the Most Exalted and the Benevolent, who showered upon me the strength and determination to start, continue and finish this research.

Then I am grateful to various groups of individuals who extended their aid and cooperation toward me over the years. I must say, it is not an easy job to measure the extent of their help.

During the days of my MA programme in the University of Dhaka, where I was studying Applied Linguistics & English Language Teaching (ELT) at its Department of English, I used to take considerable interest in the study of ELT from sociolinguistic perspectives. After coming to JNU to pursue an advanced research at its Centre of Linguistics and English (CLE), I have been fortunate to meet Prof. R. S. GUPTA in no time who offered the course ‘Teaching of English in India’ in the first semester of my M.Phil course work. My interest in writing a Ph.D thesis on this present topic stemmed from his eloquently substantive lectures in those classes. My M.Phil dissertation titled English in School Education in Bangladesh: Focus on Urban Schools in 1998 was my first attempt toward materializing this interest. I deem it a rare privilege to have worked under such an individual of immense erudition, one who is so thoroughly knowledgeable in sociolinguistic aspects of English studies, as well as in ELT analyses concerning this South Asian region.

I am deeply indebted to Prof. R.S. Gupta for his exacting direction of my work. And also because of his constant sympathetic encouragement, I have been able to shrug off my habitual indolence and submit this thesis quite long before the stipulated time.

In addition to Prof. Gupta’s guidance, I profited enormously from the ideas of Prof. Meenakshi Mukherjee (now retired from CLE), Prof. Kapil Kapoor (faculty at CLE and currently the Rector of JNU) and Prof. R.K. Agnihotri (faculty at the Department of Linguistics at the University of Delhi).

I benefited significantly from the unstinting assistance of some individuals in Dhaka while doing my fieldwork. Prof. Monsoor Musa of the Institute of Modern Languages (IML) at the Dhaka University was the first and foremost person to enrich me about the overall English language context of Bangladesh and to provide me the relevant items in this regard. Prof. Binito Wajihur Rahman of the Institute of Education and Research (IER) at the Dhaka University, to whom I was a total stranger, voluntarily gave me a much-needed material that I was not getting elsewhere from anybody.
I owe deeply to Prof. Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Prof. Syed Manzoorul Islam, Prof. Fakrul Alam (my teachers at the Department of English in Dhaka University; all prominent scholars and thinkers), Prof. Zillur Rahman Siddiqi (VC of Gano Bishobiddalya, Savar, Dhaka), Prof. Kabir Chowdhury (now retired from Department of English at Dhaka University), Prof. Shaheen Kabir (faculty at English Department of Jahangirnagar University), Mr Syed Mazharul Islam (my teacher and currently a faculty at the Independent University of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Open University) and Mr Kazi Fazlur Rahman (author, translator and ex-Member of Planning Commission of Bangladesh).

No syntactic expression is adequate to convey any gratitude to my parents – Prof. Husne, Ara Shahed (principal, educationist and author) and Mr A.F. Shahed Ali (social worker) – who have been relentlessly extending their all out support over the years. It is needless to describe, HOW. They could do so simply because they are parents.

I recall with profound reverence the indescribable affection and blessings I constantly received from the following noble humans, all of whom have passed away to the next world: my dada (paternal grandpa) Mr Aftabuddin Mian, dadi (paternal grandma) Ms Begum Akramunnesa, nana (maternal grandpa) Mr Aizur Rahman, nani (maternal grandma) Ms Aftabun Nisa Begum, bawro chacha (paternal uncle) Mr A.F. Mohammad Ali, khalu (maternal uncle-in-law) Mr Rezai Karim alias ‘bawrmama’, Maulana Ashrafur Rahman (who taught me to recite the entire Holy Quran), Maulana A.T.M. Mustafizur Rahman (my Islamiat teacher in school who suffered tremendously in absolute loneliness before his demise) and Ustad Ram Gopal Mohanto (my music guru and guide).

I specifically acknowledge the contribution of some most intimate people since my arrival in JNU. They are: my friend-cum-batchmate Dr Paul Kiprop Chepkuto (now faculty at the Department of Communication Studies in Moi University, Kenya), my guru-cum-guide Mr Partha Sarathi Mondal (now faculty at the Department of Medical and Psychiatric Social Work in Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai), Dr Atanu Sarkar (nowa Social Medicine and Community Health Practitioner of WHO in Ranchi), my hostelmate-cum-caretaker brother Dr Bijoy Bhushan Das (now faculty of ELT at a Private University in Dhaka). All of them, in their respective capacities, kept helping me consistently by way of ideas, information, books, journals, and of course, boost.

I owe heavily to the following persons in Dhaka whose assistance during my fieldwork was unparalleled: Ms Mahira Shahnaz (Assistant Librarian of BANBEIS) Mr Fazlur Rahman (Assistant Documentation Officer of BANBEIS), Mr Md. Abdul Halim and Mr Md. Yusuf Ali (Book Sorters of Teachers Training College Library) and Mr Saiful Alam (M.Phil Research Fellow at the Institute of Modern Languages). All of them helped me out of the way, which was beyond my expectation.
Mr L.N. Malik of the English and European Language Section at JNU Library deserves a gigantic thanks for all his generosity. So do Mr Rawat of CLE; he smilingly tolerated all my now-and-then disturbances even on petty issues, and never stopped short of helping me till the end.

In personal level, I am ever grateful to a section of individuals in Dhaka who has given me psychological support during my years in JNU through ordinary, registered and EMS speedpost letters, ISD phone calls and e-mails. It comprises: Elora (younger sister), Eshad (younger brother), Marie ‘Bamma’ (maternal aunt), Anjan (cousin), Shanto (the only source of constant e-mail contact between me and my home), Aftab, Rajib, Ripon, Mashur, Galib, Joy, Jahangir, Koel bhai, Farhad, Asma, Rita, Bula & Ujjal (all bosom friends), Yea and Shaon (Eshad’s friends) and of course, Shakkhor (my dearest follower nephew).

It would be a sin on my part if I do not at least mention the names of Mr Amal Krishna Basu kaka and Ms Manashi Basu kaki of Salt Lake City, Calcutta. Their instant and active aids in moments of dire need have been instrumental in facilitating matters in my favour. Then there are Mr Pinaki Ray and Ms Dhruba Ray, my local guardians in Delhi whose selfless care and compassion till the end can never be forgotten.

I gratefully acknowledge the care I received from Mr Pintoo Datta & Ms Mita Datta (now at Belghata, Kolkata) during my earliest days in Delhi at their Madangir DDA flat. Also my deep regards to Mr Dhiren Mukherjee mama & Ms Meena Mukherjee mami of C.I.T. Building, Kolkata. I cannot repay their emotional affection and blessings toward me over the years.

A few words of warm gratitude should obviously go to the following people: Mr Andrew Riechi (Ph.D scholar in Education Studies at ZHCES/JNU) & Mr Jamin Masinde (Ph.D scholar in Social Systems at CSSS/JNU) of Kenya, Mr Taimur Reza Sharif (Ph.D scholar in Development Economics at CESP/JNU) & Mr Hamidul Huq Shibli (post-graduate student in Linguistics/Delhi University) of Bangladesh, Mr Amit Ranjan Basu (Ph.D scholar in Psychiatric History at CHS/JNU) & Jagdish Kumar (Ph.D scholar in Linguistics at CLE/JNU) of India AND Ms Chaveewan Mekaroon Kamol (Ph.D scholar in Education Studies at ZHCES/JNU) of Thailand. They provided me materials and other academic assistance whenever I required.

And here is my special and silky ‘thank you’ for the following individuals in JNU who made my life very soothing by the goodness of their hearts. They are: Ms Naira Mkrtchyan of Armenia (you taught me four specific positive values and ideals), Ms Trisha Dasgupta & Mr Joydeep Barua of Bangladesh (apart from giving academic support in way of ideas, two of you constantly motivated me by treating me with lunch at your Muninka house and with English movies in Priya during my tensed moments), Dr Issah Kipera & Dr Charles
Moturi of Kenya (I learned from you the value of being just the same person inside and outside), Cho Cho Thein of Myanmar (I discovered a childlike elder sister in you), Mr Rajib Nandi of India (you allowed me to treat you PC as my own), Ms Maroona Murmu, Ms Priyanka Bhattacharya and Mr Debasish Chakraborty (three of you have been selflessly sympathetic and helpful toward me all through) Mr Temba Gyalbo Yolmo & Passang Yolmo of Dargeeling (you two brothers used to soothe my heart with your immaculately innovative acoustic and electric guitar playing), Mr Buddha Dev Biswas of Bangladesh (you are the one responsible for ‘establishing’ me as a singer and musician in JNU), Dr Mobin Shah & Ms Anima Amatya of Nepal and Ms Hasangana Kotoguda of Sri Lanka (you three were to me just as sugar is to tea), Mr Shambhu Saran, officer at the JNU administration (after helping me to complete all admission formalities on my very first day in this campus, you shook my hand and welcomed me by saying ‘Congratulations... you are now a student of JNU!’), Mr Jagdish of Godavari and Mr Shishu Pal of Ganga (you guys took great pains for me), Mr Biredra Singh of Bus 615 & later of 621 (you have been the only conductor-ji who always had a charming smile on your face and greeted me everytime regardless of the situation-time-place) AND Mr Michael of Library Canteen (you have been a great human... your care for me was limitless, specially during my last crucial months of work).

Mr Ashok Kumar, Mr Vikram and Mr Jasveer Choudhary of A.P. Computers deserve appreciation for the good work they have done in typing the thesis.

Last but not least, I am immensely thankful to a handful of ‘friends’ (irrespective of Bangladeshis, Indians and Foreigners) who, by their efforts(!), have helped me to grasp a basic lesson of life. That is: I must never, ever trust anyone by the beautiful innocent mask s/he wears upon her/his real evil face.

Finally, my gratitude to ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) as well as the High Commission of India in Dhaka who have made it possible for me to undertake my M.Phil and Ph.D research in this unrivalled campus to JNU. Especially the warmth and affection of Ms Usha Naqvi (Senior Programme Director of ICCR), Mr Kewal Krishan (Senior Programme Officer of ICCR) and Mr Kamaljeet Singh (Programme Officer in ICCR) have been unique.

AND, I will remember Delhi. This lush green, soul city – together with its pleasures and pains, events and evidences – will illuminate my memory forever.

While my debt of gratitude to all the above mentioned individuals and organizations is substantial, any errors of facts and interpretation are necessarily mine.

FAHEEM HASAN SHAHED