



## Opinions can be formed by reading news headlines only, research finds

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A recent research by the University of Lingua has found that readers can instantly form opinions by reading the headlines of a report only.

Commissioned by the Newspapers of the World, a not-for-profit, the research looked into 1,000 different newspaper reports and 10,000 opinions of those who had read the selected pieces.

"Test subjects demonstrated the ability to form an opinion on a particular topic just by skimming the headlines. They did not have to read more to do so," Jamat Azmat, lead researcher, said.

"This is a breakthrough, really. For years, we have ridiculed people who formed opinions on things just by reading headlines. We felt that because they had not invested the time to pore through the content in its entirety, they should not have

a right to an opinion about it. Turns out we were gravely wrong," he said.

"It seems an opinion can be both informed or misinformed. It does not have to be based on facts or even logic. It can simply be based on a whim," Dean of the language department Hakimi Inayat said.

The research, conducted over six months, is expected to be of great use to newsrooms around the world. "There should be ample space left for headlines. As attention spans

decrease, we must use whatever tools we have at our disposal to make most use of whatever time readers are giving us," Inayat said. Although the research and its findings are yet to be peer-reviewed, there is widespread confidence in the methodology undertaken. The results may also put an end to arguments breaking out in social media on whether commenters have or have not read the article they are talking about.

## 'I can't be sexist', says man accused of sexism again

### NONE-OF-YOUR-BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

"If I was sexist, how is it that I have a wife AND a girlfriend at the same time? I love women!" said Sadman Sakib (28) before quickly telling us that he's joking. Owner of the popular food blog @fatboyslies, he rose to fame notably for his sarcastic reviews but recently has been heavily criticised for certain remarks he made on social media.

"First off, I want it to be absolutely clear that I am deeply and sincerely sorry for the hurt I have caused with my words. That was never my intention," Sadman told this correspondent as soon as they sat down.

Now removed, the photo uploaded by @fatboyslies on Instagram showed Sadman at a bakery, holding two donuts of different sizes accompanied by a rude joke in the caption. This caused quite a stir as screenshots from Instagram were posted on Facebook which were then taken to Twitter.

This would not be the first time Sadman Sakib was accused of being sexist either. Almost a year back, he was in hot water due to a photo posted of him at a fish market with another unfortunate caption. Critics and certain bloggers have even gone as far as to accuse him of engineering social media publicity stunts

whenever his content dips in engagement.

"That is an understandable reaction to what's been happening to me ever since my account blew up but that does not make it true. Us bloggers have to make content daily and at that speed, mistakes do happen and I sincerely apologise for my mishaps. All of them were extremely valuable learning experiences for me," he continued "You have to understand that if I was truly sexist, why would I only hire women to work in production with me? I believe in equity."

Upon asking whether hurting so many people is a fair price to pay for his valuable lessons, Sadman gave us an insight into how he sees life.

"Hurting someone is never okay and what I'm saying is my own personal belief. People may disagree as is their right but I don't think that being offended on the internet is such a good idea. We all know how the internet is so why go there with the entitlement that people owe you your feelings? Being online is a whole lot like being covered in honey and out in the summer evenings -- unless you are okay with flies landing on your body, you shouldn't be doing that."

Sadman Sakib is currently under investigation for insurance fraud.



### READERS CAN WRITE

## Bangladeshi-origin Bangladeshi Boy claims ownership of Google after new logo change A proud moment for the country, apparently



### MAHBUB ALAM MUNNA

Google recently changed its email service's logo, only to change it again. But this time, their logo looks like the letter M and this has caused a huge controversy.

Mahdi Munshi, a 24-year-old Bangladeshi-origin boy from Bangladesh, recently claimed ownership of Gmail service! He claimed that he had changed the logo of Gmail into letter M as his name starts with M. In one of his Facebook posts, he wrote, "I am delighted to announce that I have bought the Gmail service of Google. After buying it, I have changed its logo into my name's first letter. Those who were wondering why Google changed its logo into the letter M, should know that, Google didn't change it, but I did. I did it to represent my name among the people of the world. I hope, this post has removed your confusion regarding the Gmail's new logo."

The unusual claim soon went viral. The claim stands as truth since Google is yet to clarify the issue.

The claim also has a solid ground in a country without intellectual property rights and loose copyright laws.

"When it was in Google's hand, we saw a huge G in the logo. Now that G is gone and has been replaced by M, meaning its ownership is up for grabs..." Mahdi said.

Though no official statement from Google hasn't been seen yet, this correspondent can say, "We are really proud of you, Mahdi. You have earned global recognition. It's a proud moment for all the Bangladeshis, specially whose names start with the letter M." Would you like to see your work on the hottest page in the country? Send in your illustrations, art work and writings to [satireday@thedailystar.net](mailto:satireday@thedailystar.net) or give us a buzz on our dying Facebook page [facebook.com/Satireday](https://www.facebook.com/Satireday)