

BRAC University workshop explores AI in foreign language education



BRAC University recently hosted a workshop titled “Artificial Intelligence and Digital Tools in the Teaching of Foreign Languages: Turning a Perceived Threat into a Powerful Ally” at its campus in Merul Badda.

The workshop was conducted by Dr Noura El Sayed Rodríguez, an education and language specialist with over 15 years of experience in academic leadership, multilingual education, and digital innovation.

Holding a PhD in multilingualism, multiculturalism, and equity studies in education from Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth, Dr Rodríguez shared insights from her work across the Middle East, Asia, and Africa.

“AI, far from being a threat, holds the potential to be a valuable educational ally when used with integrity, particularly in foreign language teaching,” said Dr Rodríguez at the workshop organised by the BRAC Institute of Languages.

AI tools were explored during the session, highlighting features such as real-time feedback, grammar and vocabulary support, writing assistance, and pronunciation practice.

The session also addressed the importance of normalising the ethical use of AI in classrooms, particularly by engaging students in open discussions.

Personalised learning pathways, accessible practice outside class hours, gamification, and

intercultural exposure were highlighted as major benefits of AI in language education.

Participants, including language teachers from across the country, programme coordinators, and digital learning enthusiasts, discussed the challenges of students using AI tools, particularly the difficulty in identifying when and how AI is being used inside and outside the classroom. This raised concerns about academic integrity and the need for clearer guidelines.

They participated in interactive exercises, which involved linking specific educational obstacles, such as difficulty with motivation, pronunciation, or grammar, to relevant AI tools that could aid learners.

They also reflected on widespread myths and realities of AI, helping to dispel fears and build a more realistic understanding of its capabilities and limitations.

This encouraged educators to think critically about how to responsibly and effectively integrate AI into their teaching.

In her closing remarks, Dr Rodríguez recommends that educators take an interest in the AI tools their students prefer to gain deeper insight into their learning processes.

This helps teachers integrate relevant tools into their teaching, making lessons more effective and aligned with students’ digital experiences. Encouraging this dialogue also promotes responsible, ethical use of AI in the classroom, she said.

North South University inaugurates NSU Writing Center

North South University (NSU) marked a significant milestone with the inauguration of the NSU Writing Center on May 27 at the Central Library. The Writing Center aims to support undergraduate and graduate students in improving their writing skills.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by the presence of the Chief Guest Azim Uddin Ahmed, Chairman of the Board of Trustees (BoT), Vice-Chancellor Prof. Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, and Treasurer and Pro-Vice Chancellor (IC), Prof. Abdur Rob Khan. The Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences Prof. Md Rizawanul Islam, Chair of the Department of English and Modern Languages Dr Nazia Manzoor, Coordinator of NSU Writing Center Dr Sukanto Roy, and several esteemed faculty members and the students of the university were present.

The event began with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, followed by warm addresses by key university figures. The coordinator of the Writing Center, Dr Roy, warmly welcomed all attendees. In his opening remarks, he emphasised the importance of the Writing Center.



Dr Manzoor highlighted the importance of strong writing skills in academic and professional contexts in her speech. She remarked, “The Writing Center is for our students, for aspiring writers, and for the potential they all have in terms of the kind of writer they can become.”

Prof. Chowdhury shared his thoughts on the importance of forming a proper writing centre in NSU for the sake of the students in creative writing and improving writing skills. He added, “If you do not read, you will not be able to write creatively.”

Prof. Chowdhury also thanked the faculty members of the Department of English for taking this great initiative.

The NSU Writing Center is envisioned as a collaborative space where students can receive personalised assistance with the writing process, including essays, research, papers, resumes, cover letters, and so on. Through one-on-one consultations with trained peer tutors, the centre aims to cultivate strong writing habits, critical thinking, clarity, and coherence in writing.

DIU professor appointed to Oxford University journal’s editorial board

Dr Kudrat-E-Khuda Babu, Associate Dean and a professor at the Department of Law, Daffodil International University, has recently been appointed as a member of the editorial board of the journal *Yearbook of International Environmental Law* published by the University of Oxford.

Among the faculty members of

Bangladesh’s private universities, Dr

Kudrat-E-Khuda is the first and only to be selected as an editorial board member of an Oxford University journal. Dr Babu’s

primary research areas involve

environmental issues and cybersecurity. He has also conducted significant research on human rights topics such as the Rohingya crisis and human rights during the Covid-19 pandemic.

