**To whom It May Concern**

It is matter of pleasure for me to write a recommendation letter for Mohammad Hasan Jan whom I have known since 2002. He was a direct student of mine in the Department of English, Jahangirnagar University and he completed two courses under my supervision namely “105-Introduction to Prose and Drama” and “501- Reading Literature through Critical Theories.”

I found Hasan in my drama class when he was in his freshman year. I particularly remember his regular and active participation in the classroom activities starting from attending pop quizzes to having open discussions on the text. He seemed really inquisitive to learn and had the knack of asking thought-provoking questions. However, I did not get to teach him during his sophomore year through his remaining undergraduate years as I myself was on leave for pursuing my PhD at Birkbeck, University of London.

By the time I returned to the department after completing my PhD, Hasan had enrolled into the MA program where he did his second course with me which was “Reading Literature through Critical Theories.” In my MA class, I discovered that Hasan had matured noticeably as a student of literature and more importantly, as a critical thinker. I remember his ability to think outside of the box and to ‘critique the critic.’ In that course, he submitted a term paper which was an analysis of Aphra Behn’s *Oroonoko* by using the Barthesian codes. In his paper, he quite interestingly pointed out the limitations of the Barthesian codes in terms of questioning the author’s subtle bias regarding the so called “myth of beauty.” Hasan also did a group presentation on postcolonial reading of *The Petals of Blood*, in which he was the group leader. In his presentation, he questioned the presumed canonical position of the western literary critics in Postcolonial Studies and showed the failure of critics like Peter Barry in appreciating the authenticity, richness, and diversity of African literary texts. Hasan’s intellectual growth as a student was reflected in his grades and it was no surprise that in his Masters examination he earned a first class and secured a fifth position in order of merit out of a graduating class of about ninety students.

After completing his graduation from the department, Hasan started his career as a full time teacher of literature and language at the tertiary level. He made his first foray into academic conferences by presenting a paper on gender and literature at an international conference entitled “Thinking Other-Wise With/In English Studies,” of which I happened to be the Convener. A few years later, he presented his second conference paper on climate refugees at a conference – of which I was the Convener coincidentally – titled “Refugees in the Public Imagination: Discourse of (Dis)location and (Dis)placement,” arranged under the auspices of the Department of English, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, where I currently work. It seemed that in terms of research he found his cup of tea as he presented another paper on postcolonial ecocriticism at Birkbeck, University of London. I was interested to know because he was presenting at Birkbeck, my alma mater.

I am extremely happy to know that Hasan has finally braced himself in pursuit of his doctoral studies overseas. I reckon his interest in studying (….) is both timely and public-facing given that Bangladesh is among the countries that are at the frontline of the potential threats of climate change. I will be really looking forward to seeing how his research eventually pans out.

I am aware of the fact that Hasan has taken quite a few years’ time before deciding to explore his possibilities of studying abroad. Nevertheless, I firmly believe that he possesses both the passion and the core skills that are prerequisites to completing a PhD journey in the North American academia. I am quite confident that if he is given the opportunity and a congenial academic environment, he will definitely thrive and flourish as a researcher. I hope to see him prosper in his career and wish him the very best in his academic and professional endeavors.

Best regards,

-------------------------

Professor Shamsad Mortuza, PhD

Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean

School of Arts and Humanities

University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh

Email: shamsad.mortuza@ulab.edu.bd