

I was born and raised up in Bangladesh, a developing country, where the native language is Bengali. Naturally, I am not a native English speaker. Although there is a compulsory English course under the national curriculum from primary to higher secondary level in Bangladesh, the general standard of English is very poor. This is because, under the national curriculum, all the courses are taught in Bengali. In addition, the quality of teachers who teach English in primary schools, especially in schools outside Dhaka, is low.

My father, who is an Electrical Engineer, faced lots of difficulties when he went to England for his higher studies because he was weak in English. This experience prompted him to admit me in English medium school with the hope that I would not face the difficulties that he had faced because of his weakness in English. Most of the English medium schools in Bangladesh are based on British curriculums. Instead of the Secondary School Certificate Exams and Higher Secondary School Certificate Exams under the national curriculum of Bangladesh, I completed O' Levels and A' Levels under the curriculum of Edexcel International, a British education and examination board.

Studying in English medium school provided me the perfect platform and environment to develop a solid base in English language. From the primary level, I had the experience of doing classes in English. The teachers in my primary school would encourage the students to always communicate in English inside the class. This practice helped me to improve my speaking and communication skills. Since all the courses were in English, I developed a habit of writing fluently and freely in English. In both my O' Levels and A' Levels I got the top grade in all the subjects, including English Language. My strong ability in writing is also reflected by my TOEFL writing scores of 29 out of 30 and the GRE Analytical Writing scores of 4.5 out of 6.

I was fortunate enough to be in a university where the language of instruction is strictly English. I completed my graduation in Computer Science from Islamic University of Technology (IUT), which is an international university funded by Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). In IUT, there are students from more than 25 different OIC member countries. Therefore, I had the privilege of knowing people from diverse culture and society and make friends with them. I have met and interacted with people coming from subcontinent, Africa, Middle East and South-east Asia. It was a highly valuable experience for me. It made me understand the values, behaviors and customs of people from different parts of the world; how they think, which things they find offensive, what are their ways of greeting each other etc. After completing my graduation, I joined as a lecturer in IUT. Therefore, I also have experience of delivering lectures in English in classes where there are students from multiple countries. Therefore, it is not possible to interact with them in any language other than English.

All these 16 years of formal education in English proved to be really fruitful for me. Now I can write and speak fluently in English with confidence. My TOEFL scores demonstrate my ability and command over the language. The experience of being in a multicultural environment taught me how to adapt myself under such circumstances.