**Title**: Exploring the Students’ Understanding of Cultural Contents in SSC English Textbook



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**Abstract**

Teaching English by integrating culture makes students aware of their linguistic performance based on culture, which enables their communicative abilities. Researchers have discovered the importance of cultural content in textbooks and how it has become trending for research in this regard (Siddiqie, 2011). Since students are the major stakeholders in this case, this study explores the students' understanding of the cultural contents in their textbooks. A mixed method will be applied to collect the data through questionnaires for students and semi-structured interviews with the teachers. The study will provide impactful insights for further developing the textbook.

**Keywords**: SSC English Textbook, cultural contents, sociocultural theory, ICC framework

**Introduction**

To keep one’s language and culture secure, a lot of work has been done in this top-notch field. China’s works are impressive to protect against the English invasion of their languages and cultures. To Keep unity and cope with the glove, the researcher has conducted research to develop language policy and curriculum. However, in Bangladesh, we have hardly seen the cultural content of English textbooks. Siddique (2011) researched the SSC English textbook in 2011 based on theory. There is no work on students understanding of cultural content in their textbooks. To bridge this gap, this study will present a scenario in this field.

**Research Questions**

1. How do students perceive the cultural content of the SSC English textbook?
2. How do students relate the cultural content in the textbook to their own cultural backgrounds and experiences?
3. To what extent do students believe that cultural content enhances their language learning and communicative abilities?

**Significance**

This research will provide insights from the students for cultural content understanding, which will be considered for future curricula and textbook development. Moreover, this will fill up the gaps in the literature review of the student’s perspectives for the time being.

**Literature review**

Unlike Bangladesh, many countries like China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Turkey, and so on have put a considerable emphasis on the factor of how English should be taught, integrating culture into the mainstream education of foreign language learning to keep pace with the glove. As Kachru (1986) said, English has got Aladdin’s lamp for international communication and understanding, and now globalization urges economic, political, and cultural interaction among different countries, communities, and sociocultural groups (Xiang & Yenika-Agbaw, 2021). Moreover, Intercultural Communication Competence (Byram, 1997) enhances tolerance of other cultures. As Nguyen said, students who gain knowledge of a particular culture can develop a positive attitude in the community and become more tolerant of other cultures (Riadini & Cahyono, 2021). Brown (2001) stated that students who can better engage themselves in the use of the language are those who are exposed to the culture associated with the language (Riadini & Cahyono, 2021). Moreover, Siddiqie (2011) mentioned that the use of English as a ‘lingua franca’ by people who do not speak it as their first language in international situations rationalizes the inclusion of international cultures in language teaching textbooks (Cortazzi & Jin, 1999). However, this study will examine the cultural content using Cortazi and Jin’s ( three cultural sources: local, target, and international. For lack of expertise, the researcher will define the cultural source (local, target, international) based on the regional origin underpinning Kachru and Nelson’s (1996) three-circle mode.

**Methodology**

This is mixed-methods research for analyzing the contents of SSC English textbook of 2013. The researcher explores the cultural contents of the SSC English textbook in two famous public schools in Dhaka. 40 students will participate in this research. A semi-interview will be conducted for four teachers. Due to their level as SSC students, it is presumed that there exists a knowledge gap regarding cultural content. In order to bridge this gap, a 10-minute session will be implemented with the purpose of persuading students about the concept of cultural content in textbook. Then their opinion will be collected through a questionnaire. Here is the form of the indented methodology:

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| --- | --- |
| Methodology | Mixed |
| participants | Teachers and Students |
| Number of students | 40 |
| Number of teachers | 4 |
| Number of Institutions | 2 |
| Tools | Questionnaires, semi-structured interview |

**Ethical consideration:**

All information about the samples will be confidential. All data will be collected with the consent of the participants. There is no deceptive data in the research.

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