ZULF PROPOSES STANDARDIZATION OF SOME ENGLISH VERNACULAR LANGUAGE

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For me English is not exactly my mother tongue but it is my *natural* language of thought and action. Perhaps this had to do with my father Khondkar Miran Ahmed's family being strongly Anglophile and containing large libraries of English books including the English Romantics and William Blake when I was very young, and my father's veneration of many English things, or perhaps it was more American, as I grew up in New York acclimatising myself to the music of Led Zeppelin and Pink Floyd and U2 and many others not to mention reading a lot of literature beyond science fiction.

Now my proposal today is for global English-speaking public. This is far vaster than just England and America – and actually even during my Princeton years 1991-1995 – I wrote some essays about the work of Salman Rushdie and others who brought new energy and style to writing in English but were not of English ethnicity. I am not a writer myself but I do have a sense for the English language and I do love it. My Bengali is not as good as my English.

Regardless, I am interested today in talking about lexicon that ought to be vernacular standard English across the world. I want people to be talking about human genome in terms of snips and snip locations. The human genome is a string of deoxyribonucleic acids, denoted "A", "C", "G", and "T" of length six billion. Of these 99.9% are fixed and *exactly the same* for all human being, from the Englishman in London to the Australian aborigine, to every man of Africa, to every man of South America, to every Arab and every Chinese. I want this to be known to every child who is ten or older in the world. Then 6 million, or 0.1% of the letter locations, or *snip locations* can have alternatives. I would like vernacular English to change so that people everywhere in the world can have lively discussions about how we are unique by differences in our letters in 6 million snip locations. Then I want them to know that in fact the variation is not all $2^{6\times 10^6}$ which is impossibly large but in fact closer to 5.5-27 trillion, or closer to four or five orders of magnitude larger than the total unique human genomes people carry around the world.

So we are unique except for six million *snip locations* where different letters are *alleles*, and then by my great discoveries, the actual human genetic diversity is not vast but limited. Our sameness overwhelms our differences in the world genetically.

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