

**Concept Paper:
Encyclopaedia Grammar of the English Language**

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In line with the continuous process of UITS Research Centre, the university can publish the largest English grammar of the world titled *An Encyclopaedia Grammar of the English Language (EGEL)*. There are many concise books on this subject published from Oxford, Longman, Cambridge, and Birmingham universities. But few of them have tried to publish comprehensive grammar. As a result grammatical rules are not combined in any single book.

There are so many rules of the English language that they often confuse the learner whose mother tongue is not English. There are some cases in which great experts however scholarly become confused. For example if one asks, what is the English translation of শেখ হাসিনা বাংলাদেশের কততম প্রধান মন্ত্রী?, perhaps there are few English professors who are not confused in solving this problem. If we ask what the verb forms are after words like class/agenda/data/poultry, many people are confused. Again if we ask ourselves what the past participle of *telecast* is, we must be confused because there are few grammar books which give information on this subject. [1] Some dictionaries give either no information [2] or give only half information on this subject. [3] They say that past participle of *telecast* is *telecast* [4] and in such cases a reader thinks that *telecasted* is wrong although both *telecast* and *telecasted* are correct according to modern standard English. [5] In this context grammar books have either no solution [6] or they have incomplete solution. [7] These problems are very difficult to solve. Experienced professors often avoid these questions very tactfully and in such cases they disregard grammar. But the reader's hunger is not fulfilled by such avoidance. Two gigantic English grammar books have been published from Longman titled *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* by Randolph Quirk, Sidney Greenbaum, Geoffrey Leech, and Jan Svartvik (1985) and *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English* by Douglas Biber, Stig Johansson, Geoffrey Leech, Susan Conrad, and Edward Finnegan (1999). These two grammars are undoubtedly assets to the English language. Perhaps no other language has so large a grammar as English. Although these two books are gigantic in size, they fail to contain a lot of necessary information. They have elaborately discussed the theoretical aspects of the language rather than hinted at its practical aspects. In some cases they have just imitated the previously prevalent grammar books like *J.C. Nesfield*, for example, if one asks what the correct plural form of *deer's*, these books will answer *deer*. [8][9] This information is available in any good grammar book, however small. But the actual answer should be deer/ deers.[10][11] To find such information a reader has to consult many dictionaries, which is almost impossible for an ordinary reader. So a comprehensive grammar is highly needed to avoid any inconvenience. Again if one asks any theoretical questions like discrete grammar, contextualized grammar, ergative verb [12], subjunctive verb [13],

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empty verb [14], ground noun [15], lazy pronoun [16], donkey sentence [17], factive verb [18], homomorphic verb [19], these books have nothing to answer. But seeing their monumental size, a reader can easily expect such answers from them. So a very comprehensive grammar book is highly needed covering all theoretical and practical aspects of the English we use today. At the same time there will be hints at exceptions that were prevalent in Shakespearean or Victorian times but now they have become either obsolete or archaic such as

Tempt not a desperate man. (Archaic)

Don't tempt a desperate man. (Modern) [20]

The following recommendations should be maintained for our new monumental book.

01. The book will be the most detailed and most comprehensive work on English grammar in the world.

02. Its name will be *An Encyclopaedia Grammar of the English Language* since its size will be encyclopaedic.

03. Its estimated page numbers are more than 2000 (thousand) in a4 size.

04. The book will be bilingual for Bangladeshi and Indian readers. Again it will be monolingual (English) for international readers.

05. It will contain very basic information, for example, word and syllable with the most advanced topic like case grammar, discourse, syntax and morphology, phonetics and phonology.

06. It will always prioritize practical aspects. In such cases it is very advanced research for grammar ever undertaken in this sub-continent.

07. It will collect information from all previously published grammar books, dictionaries, corpuses, and real life (journals and magazines.)

08. It will never copy any previous books.

10. It will of course emphasize correctness.

10. In cases of ambiguities it will depict historical and political aspects of particular usages, for example, every student should do *his/her* duties.

11. The treatment of presentation should be as easy as possible.

12. It will indicate all sources.

13. The book will be marketed throughout the whole of Bangladesh, and parts of India.

14. Its monolingual (English) version will be marketed through the whole world.

15. The book will be authored by a single person and will be revised (edited) by several experts.

16. UITS Research Center will own the copyright of the book.

17. The Research Center will patronize all financial and infrastructural support for this purpose.

18. The book will maintain an international index.

19. The book will contain both British and American English where they are not same such as

He is different from/to you. (British)

He is different from/ than you. (US) (21)

Compiling such a gigantic book is very difficult and needs inhuman toil and industry. It will perhaps be the only work ever undertaken by a single man across the world especially for English. The university can have unimaginable reputation by publishing such a rare and almost impossible task.

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