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English Again

Sir,

The government has recently decided to introduce English language in Degree classes including those of Honours from the next academic session, with a view to increasing the standard of the language, which has tremendously deteriorated due to decades of neglect toward it. In this regard, the aim of the government is good but the method going to be applied is not conducive to attaining the goal.

It appears that the process of deterioration of the standard of the language in question began since after liberation, which marks the deterioration of virtually everything from moral values to industrial output.

It also appears that the decision-makers have failed to realise the very nature of the problem, otherwise they would not have suggested to introducing the language at degree level. Generally the learning of English language begins from class three. So, if one cannot learn the language even after 10 years of continuous "struggle," how can one be expected to learn the same in only two more years' time?

Higher education begins from degree level, where a student has to consult big volumes, which are, fortunately or unfortunately, written in English. If a student keeps himself engaged in learning language, which is not an end in itself but a means to an end, when will he study the other subjects?

To my mind, the problem of poor performance of students in English is not related to time allowed but to the method followed in teaching it. Experience shows that it does not require more than one year to learn a particular language.

We should therefore rationalise the method of teaching English and not increase time limit, which is already more than sufficient to learn at least two languages.

How to rationalise the teaching of English? It is a problem to be solved by the experts in language teaching. Md. Ekramullahil Kafi, West Rampura, Dhaka.

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