

New Directions South Asia 2025: Preliminary Conference Schedule

Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

**Technology and tradition: the changing face of assessment in English
language learning systems**

Strand 1	English for employability
Strand 2	Artificial Intelligence (AI) in English education
Strand 3	Assessing young learners
Strand 4	The role of English in multilingual education contexts

21 Feb Day 1: Friday

India Habitat Centre

07:30 – 08:25

Registration

08:30 – 09:15

Opening ceremony

Regional Panel discussion: The vision for English language assessment in South Asia

Chair: Amol Padwad

Panelists

09:15 – 10:15

- Dr Indrani Bhaduri, National Council of Educational Research & Training, India
- Dr Mahashram Sharma (National Examination Board) (Nepal)
- Dr Gazi Md. Saifuzzaman, Department of Youth Development, (Bangladesh)
- Professor Ramoola Rasool, Director of the Postgraduate Institute of English (PGIE) of the Open University of Sri Lanka
- Dr Fauzia Shamim (Pakistan)

10:15 – 11:00

Keynote speech: Technology and tradition: the changing face of assessment in English language learning systems

Professor Barry O'Sullivan, British Council

11:00 – 11:30

Tea/coffee break

Parallel sessions

11:30 - 12:00

A Pedagogical Question for Multilingual Education in India
Meganathan R

Chatbots for Interactive Testing of Reading
Ashani Maxworth

A study of Rubric Based Assessment in Improving the Self-Esteem of Learners,
Dhivya A P

12:05 – 12:35

Alternative Assessments for Young Learners to Re-engineer the Assessment Culture in Sri Lankan Government Schools.
Peththahandi Priyang De Silva

Assessing multilingual children on monolingual tests: Addressing the policy-practice conflict
Rama Mathew

TBC

12:40 – 13:10	Innovative assessments using translanguaging strategies in multilingual Bilingual Education classrooms <i>Romola Rassool</i>	Redefining Assessment in ESL: In-Service Teachers' Views on ICT Challenges and Strategies, <i>Shadab Khan</i>	Transforming the Traditional: Gamification of English Language Assessment for Young Learners, <i>Angel Sharon</i>
13:10 – 14:10	Lunch break		
Parallel sessions			
14:10 – 14:40	Assessing English Language Learners: A Mixed-Methods Study of Assessment Practices in an Indian School Context <i>Muskan Chhaparia</i>	Assessing the Implementation and Impact of Mother Tongue-Based Education in Delhi: An Evaluation of NEP 2020 Policies and Stakeholder Perspectives, <i>Meena Sehrawat</i>	Cognitive Load and Morphological Development in Young ESL Writing: The Influence of Task Familiarity, <i>Satuluri Sahana</i>
14:45 – 15:15	Bridging Technological Inequities in English Language Assessment: A South Asian Perspective on Equitable and Inclusive Evaluation <i>Kumar Akshay Singh</i>	Leveraging AI-Powered Speaking Analytics for Enhanced Workplace Communication Assessment: A Mixed-Method Study <i>Sajida Panwale</i>	'TCS iON NPT English with British Council': Developing a localised proficiency test to international standards <i>Meha Dayal</i> <i>Johanna Motteram</i>
15:20 – 15:50	Leveraging Multilingualism in Sri Lankan Young Learners' A2-Level Classrooms: Translanguaging Approaches for Effective English Assessment <i>Isaac Ajuoga</i>	Fostering Positive Attitudes towards Learning among ESL Students through AI-integrated Assessment Practices: A Mixed-methods Study <i>Bhargavi C</i>	Navigating Multilingualism and English Language Education: Challenges and Prospects in Higher Studies under NEP 2020 <i>Rashmi Saikia</i>
15:50 – 16:20	Tea / coffee break		
16:20 – 16:40	Dr Praggya M. Singh, Director (Academics), CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education)		

16:40 – 17:40	Plenary talk: Challenges and approaches in assessing language learning in young learners Professor Victoria Murphy, University of Oxford
17:40 – 17:50	Day 1 closing
19:00 onwards	Networking dinner

22 Feb Day 2: Saturday		India Habitat Centre
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome	
09:10 – 10:10	Panel discussion: The role of English in employability in the region Chair: Dr Victoria Clark, British Council	
10:10 – 10:40	Tea/coffee break	
Parallel sessions		
10:45 – 11:15	TBC	<p>What can we learn from comparing Adult and Teen performances on a B2 Speaking task? <i>Gwendydd Caudwell</i></p> <p>Integrating Technology and AI into ELT, Islam <i>Mohammed Thowhidul</i></p>
11:20 – 11:50	Data Privacy and Ethical Standards: Challenges of AI in Language Assessment <i>Anup Mitra</i>	<p>Spotlight: Using English Language Assessments to support skill development initiatives in Kerala, India <i>Moneesha Gupta</i></p> <p>Designing C-tests: A Path to Superior Grammar and Vocabulary <i>Dildora Umarova</i></p>
11:55 – 12:25	A Holistic Approach to Formative Assessment in Young Learner Classrooms: Insights from a Project-Based Learning Pilot Project in Sri	<p>Testing Emergent Bilinguals' Vocabulary: Use of L1 and Possibilities for AI-assistance <i>Jenifer Deivanayagam</i></p> <p>Building Workforce Readiness: Integrating English Proficiency and Human Skills in Language Teaching and Assessment</p>

	Lanka <i>Ahisha Haneef</i>		<i>Mike Mayor</i>
12:30 – 13:00	TBC	Guiding Multilingual Competencies: New Directions in Materials, Pedagogies, and Assessments for English in Diverse Educational Settings. <i>Nandita Sarkar</i>	Spotlight: Undergraduate Students' perceptions of learning public speaking for academic and professional development <i>Pushpa Priya</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break		
Parallel sessions			
14:00 – 14:30	Spotlight: Online learning - a gamechanger for learning and assessment? <i>Shivangi Gupta</i>	Bangladeshi young learners perform well in grammar but poor in language <i>Masum Billah</i>	Spotlight: High volume. High stakes. Introducing Communicative Speaking testing in Japan. <i>Johanna Motteram</i>
14:35 – 15:05	Symposium: English for employability Symposium Chair: <i>Duncan Wilson</i>	Spotlight: FET for IT Freelancers - a successful case from ICT Division, Bangladesh <i>Sarwat Reza</i>	Spotlight: Enabling respectable migration, Nepal <i>Pratistha</i>
15:10 – 15:40		Spotlight: British Council Exams India & British Council Global Assessments <i>Vicki Clarke</i>	TBC
15:40 – 16:10	Tea / coffee break		
16:10 – 17:10	Panel discussion: Artificial Intelligence in English Education: Bridge or Barrier? Chair: Mina Patel, British Council		
17:10 – 17:45	Closing ceremony		