

# 1 Learning Style Preferences of EFL Learners at Higher Secondary 2 Level in Bangladesh

3 Mohammad Emdadul Huda<sup>1</sup>

4 <sup>1</sup> Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, Trishal, Mymensingh, Bangladesh

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## 7 **Abstract**

8 If the classroom teaching-learning practices are based on the learning style preferences of the  
9 learners of EFL/ESL, the language learning can take place effectively. However, in this regard  
10 learners? learning style preferences have to match with teachers? perceptions about the tasks  
11 and activities to be done in the classroom. In Bangladesh the classroom teaching-learning  
12 practices, which are now followed to teach English as a foreign language, are not based on  
13 proper investigation of learners? learning style preferences. Consequently, expected results are  
14 not found from classroom teaching. Therefore, it is necessary to investigate the learning style  
15 preferences of the EFL learners of Bangladesh and take appropriate measures accordingly.  
16 Taking this point in view, the present researcher has attempted to investigate the learning  
17 style preferences of the EFL students at higher secondary level and then provide some  
18 suggestions in the light of the findings.

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20 **Index terms**— learning style, teacher?s perception, cognitive, psychological, affective, culture, socialization,  
21 classroom practices, pedagogical implications, fi

## 22 **1 Introduction**

23 In language teaching and learning, learning style is concerned with learners' preferred ways of processing or  
24 internalizing data/information of a language with a view to learning it. Claxton and ??alston (1978, 1 cited  
25 in Hyland 1993, 72) define it as ".....a student's constant way of responding and using stimuli in the context  
26 of learning." ??yland (1993, 73) refers it as a person's natural, habitual and preferred way of learning. A more  
27 recent definition given by Vester (2005) explains it as the way a person perceives, conceptualizes, organizes and  
28 recalls information. All these definitions indicate that learning style is a broad concept, which includes a learner's  
29 cognitive, psychological and affective variables.

30 Learners' learning style preferences have very close relationship with the culture of the society of which they are  
31 members. During socialization, psychological and cognitive characteristics of learners get shaped by their cultures.  
32 Through their interactions with the members of their society, they develop certain traits of their personalities  
33 which ultimately go into the making of their learning style preferences. It is found that the people who live  
34 within the same cultural patterns of a society obtain certain basic and common traits of that culture. That is  
35 why, the learners of one society differ from the learners of another society in their learning style preferences.  
36 ??xford et al (1992, 441 cited in ??yland 1993, 75) recognize culture as a significant factor in the learning style  
37 preferences of the learners. Expressing similar views, Guild and Garger (1985, 18 cited in Melton 1990, 30) state,  
38 "Socialization plays a role in the development of the style preferences of the people of various cultures and in  
39 both sexes." As to differences in the learning style preferences of the learners of different societies, Young (1987)  
40 also thinks that culture plays a vital role in this respect. Referring to the role of culture, he ??1987,18) claims,  
41 "Children from identifiably different cultural groups overwhelmingly exhibit certain learning styles." He ??1987,  
42 ??4) asserts that it is due to culture that ways of teaching and ways of learning differ from one community to  
43 another. It is, therefore, necessary to identify the learning style preferences of the learners of Bangladesh, the  
44 country that has her own peculiarities in respect of her society, culture, history, geography and language.

## 2 II. A REVIEW OF DIFFERENT MODELS OF LEARNING STYLES

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45 Knowledge about learners' learning style preferences has wider implications for language teaching methodology  
46 or classroom practices. If teaching methodology is in tune with the preferred learning styles of students, teaching  
47 can take place in the satisfaction of students and better results can be achieved. According to Domino (1979  
48 cited in Melton 1990), Dunn (1984 cited in Melton 1090) and Young (1987), if students are taught according to  
49 their preferred learning styles, they achieve greater academic success and get more motivated to learn. Echoing  
50 similar views, Reid (1987Reid ( , 1995) ) says, "All students have their own learning styles and learning strengths  
51 and weaknesses, and a mismatch between teaching and learning styles causes learning failure, frustration, and  
52 demotivation." Pointing out the importance of the knowledge about learners' learning styles, ??lfonseca et al.  
53 (2006) state that an awareness of students' learning styles enables teachers to adopt appropriate techniques  
54 and methods so that they suit the students' preferences. Knowledge about students' preferences can also provide  
55 proper guidelines to the curriculum designers and materials developers. In this regard, ??eid (1987, p. 788) opines  
56 that identifying the learning style preferences of non-native speakers (NNSs) may have wide-ranging implications  
57 in the areas of curriculum design, materials development, student orientation, and teacher training.

58 However, along with knowledge of learners' learning style preferences, it is also important to know the  
59 teachers' perceptions or preferences about these preferences of learners. Teachers have their own experiences  
60 and preferences about good teaching and are the key players to make the learners' learning practices successful.  
61 Therefore, if the teachers do not endorse the learners' preferences, effective learning will not take place. For  
62 effective learning there should be a compromise between teachers' perceptions or their teaching style preferences  
63 and learners' preferences. Putting emphasis on the matching between learners' and teachers' preferences, ??polsky  
64 (1987, 110) says, "...learning is best when the teaching style matches the learner's learning style preference."

## 65 2 II. A Review of Different Models of Learning Styles

66 The researchers and experts have proposed a number of models of learning styles over the past few decades.  
67 Taking learning mainly as cognitive factor, Witkin et al. ( 1978) have considered learning styles in terms of  
68 field-dependence and field-independence. To explain these two categories of learning styles, they have identified  
69 three types of differences between them such as 'global vs. analytical', 'external vs. internal', and 'passive  
70 vs. active'. By 'global vs. analytical' they explain that field-dependent students have global perception and  
71 try to perceive something holistically whereas field-independent students are good at analytical thought and pay  
72 attention to separate parts of an object. Regarding 'external vs. internal' they state that field-dependent students  
73 tend to rely on external environment and referents to process information, but field-independent ones tend to  
74 be autonomous by relying on internal capability and referents. As to 'passive vs. active' Witkin et al. maintain  
75 that field-dependent students are passive to use cognitive strategies, but field-independent ones are active to use  
76 cognitive strategies.

77 According to keefs (1979, 4 cited in Melton 1990, 33), learning styles are the cognitive, affective and  
78 physiological traits/ behaviours that serve as relatively stable indicators of how learners perceive, interact with,  
79 and respond to, the learning environment. That is, he has categorized learning styles into three dimensions-  
80 cognitive, affective and physiological. He argues that learning style does not depend only on cognitive factor, but  
81 also on physiological and affective factors.

82 Discussing learning styles, Felder and Silverman (1988) have categorized them into five dimensions, with each  
83 dimension having two opposite variables. The categorization of their model is like this: (i) perception (sensitive vs.  
84 intuitive), (ii) input (visual vs. verbal), (iii) processing (active vs. reflective), (iv) understanding (sequential vs.  
85 global) and (v) organization (inductive vs. deductive). To explain each variable of these dimensions, Felder and  
86 Silverman state that (i) sensitive learners are patient with details and like facts and data, but dislike complexities.  
87 Contrarily, intuitive learners like complexities, but get bored by details. (ii) Visual learners remember something  
88 better if they can see it in the form of picture, diagram, line, etc., whereas verbal learners remember better when  
89 they hear and talk about something. (iii) Active learners like to work in groups and remain active in any learning  
90 environment, but reflective learners like to learn in the situations where they get opportunities for thinking. (iv)  
91 Sequential learners like to learn something by following linear reasoning process while global learners like to learn  
92 something holistically, instead of following linear reasoning process. (v) Lastly, inductive learners like to move  
93 from particulars to generalities in reasoning while deductive learners do just the opposite.

94 After analyzing and duly considering the views of some other researchers on different kinds of learning styles,  
95 Willing (1988) has presented his own model of learning styles. He has categorized learners into four types and  
96 described them as analytical learners, authority-oriented learners, communicative learners and concrete learners.  
97 According to Willing, analytical learners like to learn something by analyzing it carefully and autonomously. He  
98 interprets authority-oriented learners as persons who like to learn under teacher's direction, instead of learning  
99 autonomously. Regarding communicative learners, he says that they like to follow a communicative and social  
100 learning approach in relation to language learning. With respect to concrete learners, he maintains that they are  
101 the people who like to use very direct means to take in and process information.

102 Among the popular learning style models that have so far been forwarded by the researchers, one has been  
103 proposed by Reid (1987). Reid's model has two major dimensions: perceptual and sociological, and under these  
104 two dimensions there are six categories of learning styles in total. He has split the perceptual dimension into four  
105 categories-auditory, visual, tactile and kinesthetic. Similarly, she has divided the sociological dimension into two  
106 categoriesindividual preferring and group preferring. However, later on Reid (1995) modifies her model a little bit

107 on his attempt to accommodate all the available proposed models. This time she presents it through three major  
108 dimensions and they are: i) cognitive learning styles, ii) sensory learning styles, and iii) personality learning  
109 styles. Obviously, she has divided each of these dimensions into some sub-categories. She has categorized the  
110 cognitive learning styles as field-dependent vs. field-independent, analytic vs. global and reflective vs. impulsive,  
111 the sensory learning styles as auditory, visual, haptic and physical vs. sociological, and lastly the personality  
112 learning styles as extroversion vs. introversion, sensing vs. perception and thinking vs. feeling.

### 113 **3 III. Major Types of Learning Styles**

114 Found from Different Models

115 An analysis of the above mentioned models of learning styles shows that there are remarkable similarities  
116 among these models with respect to their variables/dimensions. Though in some cases of these variables separate  
117 terminologies have been used, they indicate more or less similar kind of learning style. However, variations are  
118 also found in respect of the number of these variables. Some model or models include larger number of variables  
119 than the others. Therefore, on any attempt to make a list of the major types of learning styles on the basis of  
120 the above mentioned models avoiding the repetitions of their variables/dimensions, the following list is found.  
121 Obviously, this selection includes the major aspects of cognitive, psychological and affective learning styles. a)  
122 Field-Independent Vs. Field-Dependent Field-independent learners learn more efficiently step by step, from the  
123 beginning with analyzing facts and proceeding to ideas. They also like to learn individually. On the contrary,  
124 field-dependent learners prefer to learn something as a whole by depending on the total field and on the context.  
125 b) Reflective Vs. Impulsive Reflective learners learn more effectively if they get some time to consider options  
126 before the response is made. Impulsive learners, in contrast, are able to respond immediately, and they take  
127 risks. c) Auditory Vs. Visual Auditory learners learn more effectively through the ears (hearing) such as listening  
128 to lectures, oral explanation, audio tapes, discussions in class, etc. On the other hand, visual learners learn  
129 more effectively through the eyes (seeing) such as reading texts, studying books, etc. d) Kinesthetic and Tactile  
130 e) Group-Preferring Vs. Individual-Preferring Group-preferring learners are extrovert and interested to learn  
131 in group and communicate with others to maintain a good relation with them. On the contrary, individual-  
132 preferring learners are introvert and try to learn something individually and independently. f) Inductive Vs.  
133 Deductive Inductive learners like to induce a rule or draw a conclusion from a number of instances, thereby  
134 moving from instances to rules or generalizations. On the other hand, Deductive learners like to articulate a rule  
135 first and then proceed to its instances. That is, their reasoning progression moves from rules or generalizations  
136 to specific instances. g) Authority-Oriented Vs. Communicative Authority-Oriented learners like to learn under  
137 the authority or the directions of teachers, but Communicative learners like to learn in a free environment by  
138 following a communicative and social learning approach.

139 IV.

### 140 **4 Objectives of this Study**

141 English language teaching (ELT) in Bangladesh is not based on appropriate mode of classroom practices. The  
142 replacement of the Grammar-Translation Method by the Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) in the last  
143 nineties was not based on proper empirical investigation into the suitability of the principles of CLT in the context  
144 of the country. In the classroom practices neither the contextual realities nor the preferred strategies or styles of  
145 learners have been duly taken into consideration. The teachers here are little aware of the ways their students  
146 prefer to learn the language. But the reality is that both the teachers and the learners have their own preferences  
147 in respect of English language teaching and learning styles as they have their own cultural profiles which they  
148 have derived from the culture of their society. According to Islam (2011), teachers in Bangladesh need to discover  
149 their students' preferred ways of learning English, by which they can make their teaching effective and appealing  
150 to the students to the optimum level. Therefore, considering the importance of knowing learners' preferred ways  
151 of learning in order to make ELT in Bangladesh effective and appealing, the present article has dealt with the  
152 following questions:

153 1. What are the preferred learning styles of the learners of Bangladesh? 2. What are the teachers' perceptions  
154 about these preferred styles? 3. What should be the appropriate mode of classroom teaching-learning practices  
155 on the basis of the learners' preferred learning styles and the teachers' perceptions?

156 A kinesthetic learner learns better through experiential learning, that is, through total physical involvement  
157 with a learning situation such as role-play, holding dialogues, moving around, etc. whereas a tactile learner likes  
158 to learn through 'hands-on' experiences such as taking notes, building models or doing laboratory experiments.  
159 V.

### 160 **5 Methodology**

161 The study has made a questionnaire survey based on existing learning style instruments in order to determine  
162 the learning style preferences of Bangladeshi learners at the secondary level. For this purpose 100 students of  
163 twelfth class from three colleges of main stream education situated in the district of Mymensingh were taken as  
164 respondents. Of these three colleges, one was a government college and two were non-government ones. Since the  
165 number of the non-government colleges is larger than that of the government colleges in Bangladesh, two non-

## **13 E) GROUP-PREFERRING VS. INDIVIDUAL-PREFERRING**

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166 government colleges were taken against one government college. The study also interviewed 8 English teachers  
167 from the same institutions in order to know their perceptions regarding their students' learning style preferences.

168 The questionnaire that was used in this survey consisted of 16 questions written in English. In order to  
169 capture the responses of the respondents, a Likert scale with five options (strongly agree, agree, undecided,  
170 disagree, strongly disagree) indicating the extent of their agreement or disagreement with the statements of the  
171 questionnaire was used. To indicate the result of each statement of the questionnaire, the Mean score of the  
172 respondents' responses on the statement has been worked out. In this respect, strongly agree = 5, agree = 4,  
173 undecided = 3, disagree = 2 and strongly disagree = 1 point or points have been counted as the values of the  
174 responses. The Mean scores above 4 are regarded as 'very high', above 3 but below 4 as 'high', above 2 but below  
175 3 as 'low' and below 2 as 'very low' preferences.

### **176 6 VI.**

### **177 7 Presentation of the Results**

### **178 8 VII.**

### **179 9 Analysis of the Results**

180 Though in the questionnaire the statements representing different learning styles have been presented randomly to  
181 avoid any bias from the respondents, the results of these statements have been analyzed and discussed in pair or in  
182 their dichotomous relationships as per the requirement of this study. a) Field-Dependent Vs. Field-Independent

183 The results show that the EFL learners of Bangladesh at the higher secondary level are more field-independent  
184 than field-dependent. They are more inclined to learn something part by part or step by step, that is,  
185 concentrating on the individual parts of it (Statement no. 12, Mean 4.2) rather than as a whole (Statement  
186 no. 16, Mean 3.22). The result does not go with the popular belief that the learners of Bangladesh (as Asian  
187 learners) happen to be mostly fielddependent. However, the Mean score 3.22 in favour of field-dependent style  
188 of learning indicates that their preference for this style is also significant. The results actually signify that both  
189 kind of learning styles are preferred by the Bangladeshi learners.

### **190 10 b) Reflective Vs. Impulsive**

191 The statement nos. 14 and 7 are concerned with the reflective and the impulsive styles of learning. The Mean  
192 score 4.36 of the statement no. 14 indicates that the respondents are highly reflective learners as they have very  
193 high preference for the style of thinking something critically or guessing something cautiously while learning  
194 English. However, the Mean score 3.22 of the statement no. 7 indicates that they are also to some extent  
195 impulsive learners as they remarkably prefer to make swift response to any query or guess anything quickly while  
196 they are engaged in learning.

### **197 11 c) Auditory Vs. Visual**

198 The statement nos. 5, 8 and 11 represent the auditory and the visual styles of learning. The results of these  
199 statements show that the EFL learners of the country are highly auditory ones. They have very high preference  
200 for learning English through their sense of hearing, that is, by hearing teacher's lecture, or by listening to others  
201 or audio tapes, etc. (Statement no. 5, Mean score 4.1). As to visual learning or learning through the sense  
202 of sight, the result indicates that when they have high preference for reading texts or teachers' writings on the  
203 whiteboards (statement no. 8, Mean 3.74), their preference for watching TV is not so high (statement no. 11,  
204 Mean 3.18).

### **205 12 d) Kinesthetic and Tactile**

206 The statements which are concerned with the kinesthetic and the tactile learning styles are nos. 1, 2 and 13. The  
207 results of these statements project that the learners under the study have high preferences for both the kinesthetic  
208 and the tactile learning styles. As to the kinesthetic style, it is seen that they very much like to learn through  
209 role-playing or holding dialogues for conversation skills, all of which are the examples of experiential learning  
210 (statement no.1, Mean score 3.72). Regarding the tactile leaning style, it is seen that the learners highly like to  
211 learn by taking notes or by doing problem-solving activities through writing, which can be treated as hands-on  
212 experience (statement nos. 13 and 3, Mean scores 4.52 and 3.34).

### **213 13 e) Group-Preferring vs. Individual-Preferring**

214 To compare the group-preferring style with the individual-preferring one, it is found that the learners of the  
215 country have a greater degree of choice for the group-preferring style than for the individual-preferring one. The  
216 Mean score of the statement no. 2 representing their choice for learning in groups is 3.74 whereas the Mean score  
217 of the statement no. 6 representing individual learning is only 3.06. Their greater choice for group learning also  
218 indicates that they are more extrovert than introvert.

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## 219 14 f) Inductive Vs. Deductive

220 To consider the learners' preferences between inductive and deductive processes of learning, it is found that  
221 their preference for deductive process is a little higher than their preference for inductive process with respect  
222 to learning grammar. The Mean score of the statement no, 15 representing the deductive process is 3.7 and the  
223 Mean score of the statement no. 9 representing the inductive process is 3.62. That is, the learners of Bangladesh  
224 have a little bit greater tendency to move from generalizations to instances rather than to move from instances to  
225 generalizations. g) Authority-Oriented Vs. Communicative Lastly, it is found that the learners under this study  
226 prefer the authority-oriented learning style over the communicative learning style. Their preference for learning  
227 under the control of their teachers and also for having things explained or getting errors corrected by them is  
228 very high (Statement no. 10, Mean 4.62) though their preference for learning through talking and sharing with  
229 one another, being free from teacher's control, is also remarkable (Statement no. 4, Mean 3.6).

## 230 15 VIII.

## 231 16 Teachers' Perceptions about

### 232 Learners' Preferences

233 It has already been mentioned that 10 English language teachers of the same educational institutes where  
234 learners' questionnaire survey was done were interviewed to know their perceptions about learners' preferences.  
235 The teachers were very cordial and cooperative about their interviews, and expressed their views and opinions  
236 freely. Though they ratified some critical about some others of them.

237 About learners' greater degree of preference for field-independent learning style over fielddependent learning  
238 style, they opined that this very preference of learners was useful and effective for their context. In a context  
239 like theirs where learners did not have sufficient exposure to English inside and outside the classroom, the global  
240 approach, that is, the fielddependent learning would not happen to be as effective as the field-independent learning  
241 would be. In such a context an analytical approach where learners would go step by step coming to grip with  
242 the meanings of every small part of a text would be more effective for language learning.

243 Teachers also expressed positive views on learners' higher preference for the deductive process of learning of  
244 grammatical rules. Justifying the deductive process, they argued that in a context like Bangladesh where English  
245 was taught as a foreign language, learners badly needed to learn the discrete grammatical rules through deductive  
246 process that they could make sentences by using those rules.

247 However, most of the teachers were found critical of the greater degree of learners' preferences for kinesthetic  
248 and group-preferring styles of learning. They opined that their preferences for kinesthetic or for group-preferring  
249 styles were not practical in their context. They asserted that they had many sorts of limitations in terms of  
250 class size, class duration, teaching-learning aids, compulsion to complete the syllabus, etc., which happened to  
251 create barriers to the practice of the activities relating to these styles. "It is not possible to arrange role-plays,  
252 dialogues, group work, etc. everyday. It not only consumes the valuable time fixed for the class but also creates  
253 a hazardous situation in the class", four teachers commented. Besides, their learners would lose, some of them  
254 claimed, their interest in these activities within a few days if they were allowed to continue doing them for some  
255 consecutive days.

256 However, two teachers out of eight appreciated the learners' high preference for activities like role-play, group  
257 work, pair work, etc. "We have contextual limitations for the activities, but we must appreciate our students  
258 for their choices. After all, these activities help students enhance their fluency", they opined.

## 259 17 IX.

### 260 Comments and Suggestions for Pedagogical Practices

261 Another significant point is the conflicts between learners' preferences and teachers' perceptions in some  
262 cases. These conflicts between them have to be traced into the cultural change of their society as well as into  
263 the differences of their practical experiences. The culture of a society does not stand still, and, therefore, the  
264 culture of Bangladeshi society is getting changed from generation to generation. Over the last few decades the  
265 unprecedented explosion of science and technology has turned the whole world into a global village, facilitating  
266 the intercultural and international communications among the people of the world. As a result, like many other  
267 countries of the world the cultural change of Bangladesh has also taken place very rapidly. Very distinctive marks  
268 of this change are noticed in the cultural behaviour and patterns of the people of two generations of the country  
269 over the last twenty years. That is why, the learners who are the representatives of the new generations differ  
270 from their teachers who are the representatives of the old generation in many respects including some aspects of  
271 learning styles.

272 However, when teachers are practical in some cases because of their long teaching experiences, learners happen  
273 to be impractical and fanciful owing to the lack of their experiences. They know better than their learners  
274 about what type of classroom practices would be practical and effective under the hard realities of a context.  
275 Obviously, in case of any conflict between learners' preferences and teachers' perceptions or preferences, it is  
276 teachers' perceptions or preferences that deserve priority.

277 It is needless to say that the overall results of the present study have significant implications for the of the  
278 preferences of their learners, they were found With respect to their high preference for authority-oriented style over  
279 communicative style, all the teachers passed positive comments. They opined that the learners of their country  
280 were culturally dependent on their teachers, and, therefore, they would be at a loss if teachers withdrew their  
281 guidance. "Besides," some of them commented, "teachers have better knowledge and experience, and, therefore,  
282 when they guide their learners and correct their errors, they learn better." With respect to their learners' high  
283 preference for communicative style, most of them remarked, "They have claimed this preference as a fashion.  
284 Practically, they are not found eager to talk in the class. Very often we need to compel them to talk." One of  
285 the significant points of the results is that the learners under the study aggregate do not show any negative  
286 tendency towards any particular style. They show positive tendency towards almost all categories of learning  
287 styles. The differences are found only in respect of the degree of their preferences. That is, the degree of learners'  
288 preference for one style is found higher than that for another style when the results of two styles are compared  
289 with each other. Obviously, the highest priority should be given to those styles for which they have the highest  
290 degree of preferences.

291 pedagogical decisions about ELT in Bangladesh. In this regard, the following suggestions are made: 1. Teacher-  
292 fronted classroom would be appropriate for teaching English in Bangladesh as learners here like to learn under  
293 the guidance of teachers, hearing their lectures. 2. Teachers need to explain the learning items as much as  
294 possible and correct learners' errors then and there. 3. Learners' higher preferences for the fieldindependent and  
295 reflective styles of learning over the field-dependent and impulsive styles signify that any approach facilitating  
296 rote-learning should be avoided. Instead, analytical, discovery-oriented and meaning-searching approach should  
297 be emphasized. A reflective learner requires patience from the teacher, and, therefore, he must allow his student  
298 sufficient time to come up with his/her responses. 4. The textbooks here should provide sufficient amount of  
299 reading texts to cater to learners' preference for reading. Besides, the textbooks should be so designed as to  
300 accommodate both the inductive and the deductive processes of learning, with emphasis on the deductive one.  
301 5. Taking learners' preferences for the auditory and the visual styles into account, modern teachinglearning aids  
302 like audio tape, television, multimedia, etc. can be pragmatically utilized. This will bring variety, excitement  
303 and entertainment in the class.

304 7. Teachers need to diversify their teaching styles and techniques to meet learners' varied needs and preferences.  
305 ??r (1996, 216) argues that activities in class should be varied, and a varied lesson plan is more likely to cater to  
306 a wide range of learning styles and strategies. 8. Training programmes should be arranged for teachers to make  
307 them aware of the different kinds of learning style preferences of learners so that they can take proper measures  
308 to address them.

309 Besides, any wrong perception of them regarding learning styles or strategies has to be dispelled through these  
310 programmes. 9. Counseling should be provided to students to make them aware of their individual preferences of  
311 styles so that they can properly enjoy the act of learning and make better achievements. If any preference of them  
312 conflicts with that of their teachers' preference or perception, they need to be motivated to adjust themselves  
313 with the preference of the teachers. 10. Programmes like seminars, workshops or social classes should be arranged  
314 to build up good rapports between teachers and learners.

315 X.

## 316 18 Conclusion

317 The EFL learners of Bangladesh have their own learning style preferences based on their own cultural orientation  
318 as well as on their cognitive and psychological make-up. Though in some exceptional cases these preferences  
319 of them conflict with the perceptions of their teachers owing to their generationgap, in all other cases they are  
320 found harmonious with teachers' perceptions. Teachers are found critical especially of their learners' preferences  
321 regarding kinesthetic and communicative styles as they do not consider these styles practical in the contextual  
322 realities of the country. With these exceptions, they express their positive views regarding the state of their  
323 learners' preferences for other kinds of learning styles.

324 Among the highly preferred styles of the learners, the most remarkable are the fieldindependent, reflective,  
325 auditory and authority-oriented styles of learning. However, for effective teaching and learning this harmony  
326 between learners' preferences and teachers' perceptions is not enough unless the teachers become aware of these  
327 preferences of their learners and take necessary measures accordingly. Similarly, learners also need to be aware  
328 of all of these of their own preferences so that they can learn in accordance with their preferred learning styles  
329 and make their learning effective and joyful.

## 330 19 Considering various kinds of contextual

331 constraints and practical problems with respect to the activities such as role-play, group work, pair work, etc.,  
332 belonging to kinesthetic style, these activities can be kept limited though learners have high preferences for them.  
333 However, in respect of learners' preference for tactile learning style, modern technology like computer can prove  
334 as a very vital teaching-learning aid in Bangladeshi context. Learners can have hands-on experience by using  
335 computer for the purpose of learning English. Referring to the importance of computer, Moharrer (2012) states

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336 that through technology like computer learners can transform abstract materials into visual or auditory content  
337 and can get authentic and real experiences.

## 19 CONSIDERING VARIOUS KINDS OF CONTEXTUAL

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	Statements	Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
1.	I prefer to learn by role-playing, holding dialogues with others for conversational skills, etc., in the class.	30%	42%	10%	6%	12%	3%
2.	I like to learn with others or in group in the class	38%	34%	4%	12%	12%	3%
3.	I like to learn by doing problem-solving activities or exercises and thereby involving myself in writing.	24%	30%	14%	20%	12%	3%
4.	I prefer to learn in a free environment, by talking and sharing with others in the class.	24%	48%	2%	14%	14%	3%
5.	I learn better when I listen to lectures, someone's utterances, audio tapes, etc.	48%	32%	10%	4%	4%	4%
6.	I like to learn individually rather than in group..	16%	32%	10%	28%	12%	3%
7.	While learning, I like to guess anything quickly, without bothering about right or wrong.	28%	6%	16%	40%	30%	3%
8.	I learn better when I read something or when teachers write on the whiteboard in the class.	22%	48%	14%	14%	2%	3%
9.	I like to read some text and then discover the grammatical rules that have been used in it.	34%	34%	4%	16%	12%	3%
10.	I like my teacher to guide me, correct my errors and explain my lessons.	74%	22%	0%	2%	0%	4%
11.	I like to learn by watching TV, films, etc.	24%	36%	6%	6%	24%	3%
12.	When I learn a lesson, I like to learn it step by step, concentrating on its parts.	60%	26%	0%	2%	12%	4%
13.	While reading something, or hearing teacher's lecture or any discussion, I like to take notes.	70%	16%	10%	4%	0%	4%
14.	While learning, I like to guess anything cautiously and think critically, without making any hurry.	58%	24%	14%	4%	0%	4%
15.	I like to learn the grammatical rules before I see their uses in texts or in examples.	21%	11%	7%	6%	3%	3%
16.	When I learn a lesson, I like to learn it as a whole, without bothering about its parts.	15%	10%	5%	10%	11%	3%

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