

Office of the Chief Public Relations Officer  
Jamia Millia Islamia

Press Release

**Lecture on 'Mother Tongue and English' by Professor Chaise LaDousa**

New Delhi: July 24, 2026

The Department of Educational Studies, Faculty of Education, Jamia Millia Islamia, through its Post-Graduate Education Association (PGEA) in collaboration with DES Theory-Practice Connect, organized a Lecture on the theme "Mother Tongue and English" on 23 July 2026 at 11:40 a.m. in the Seminar Hall, Department of Educational Studies.

The lecture aimed to provide students, research scholars, and faculty members with a deeper understanding of the relationship between mother tongue education and English language learning in multilingual societies and within the framework of contemporary educational policies. It also sought to promote meaningful academic dialogue on language, identity, equity, and educational opportunities in the Indian context.

The programme commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Mr. Taj Mohammad, Research Scholar, followed by a warm welcome address delivered by Mr. Azhar Ahmad, M.Ed. student. In his welcome address, he highlighted the significance of the topic, which advocates the use of the mother tongue as the medium of instruction promoting multilingualism.

The keynote lecture was delivered by Professor Chaise LaDousa, Chair and Professor of Anthropology and Director of Educational Studies at Hamilton College, New York, USA. Professor LaDousa is an internationally acclaimed scholar whose research focuses on language, education, social class, and political economy, supported by extensive ethnographic fieldwork in North India.

In his highly engaging lecture, Professor LaDousa emphasized that language is much more than a medium of communication; it is closely connected with identity, culture, social mobility, and educational experiences. Drawing upon his long-term ethnographic research in India, he explained how the perceived divide between the mother tongue and English often reflects broader social aspirations and inequalities rather than linguistic realities. He argued that multilingualism should be viewed as an educational asset rather than a challenge and encouraged educators to create learning environments where students' home languages are respected and meaningfully integrated into classroom practices. His lecture stimulated thoughtful reflection on the role of language in promoting inclusive, equitable, and quality education.

The programme was further enriched by the Special Remarks delivered by Professor Arshad Ikram Ahmad, Former Head, Department of Educational Studies. Professor

Ahmad highlighted the indispensable role of the mother tongue in cognitive development, conceptual understanding, and emotional growth. Referring to his extensive contributions to language education, multilingual instructional materials, and curriculum development, he emphasized the need to strengthen Indian languages while recognizing the country's rich linguistic diversity. He appreciated the relevance of the lecture and stressed the importance of implementing multilingual pedagogies in teacher education.

The session was chaired by Professor Aejaaz Masih, Professor and Head, Department of Educational Studies. In his presidential remarks, Professor Masih appreciated the insightful deliberations and observed that language education should not be viewed as a competition between the mother tongue and English, but rather as a complementary process that enriches learners intellectually, socially, and culturally. Reflecting on India's linguistic diversity, he remarked that defining one's mother tongue is often a complex task in the Indian context. Drawing from his own experiences with Urdu and the influence of regional languages, he highlighted the dynamic and evolving nature of language.

The lecture witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members, research scholars, and students of the Department of Educational Studies and IASE. The interactive question-and-answer session reflected the participants' keen interest in issues related to multilingualism, the role of the mother tongue, regional languages, and language policy. Professor LaDousa responded to the questions with remarkable clarity and scholarly insight, making the interaction highly engaging and intellectually stimulating.

The programme concluded with a formal Vote of Thanks proposed by Dr. Afaque Nadeem Khan, Convenor of the programme. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to Professor Chaise LaDousa for his inspiring and thought-provoking lecture, Professor Aejaaz Masih for graciously chairing the session and for his chair's remark, and Professor Arshad Ikram Ahmad for his valuable insights and special remarks. He also acknowledged the support of the faculty members, students, and the organizing team. Special appreciation was extended to Dr. Md. Jawaid Hussain, Convenor of DES Theory-Practice Connect, whose meticulous planning and constant support contributed significantly to the successful organization of the programme. The programme was efficiently compered by Ms. Afrin Fatima and Mr. Azhar Ahmad.

The Extension Lecture successfully provided a vibrant academic platform for critical reflection on the relationship between the mother tongue and English in contemporary education. It reinforced the importance of multilingualism, linguistic diversity, and inclusive educational practices while encouraging participants to view language as a bridge that connects cultures, communities, knowledge systems, and opportunities. The programme concluded on a highly positive note, leaving participants with valuable insights into the educational, social, and cultural significance of language in building an inclusive and equitable society.

Prof. Saima Saeed  
Chief Public Relations Officer













**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL STUDIES  
FACULTY OF EDUCATION, JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA**

**Post-Graduate Education Association (PGEA)**

*in collaboration with*

**DES Theory-Practice Connect**

*invites you to attend a Special Lecture on*

**MOTHER TONGUE AND ENGLISH**



**Speaker: Prof. CHAISE LADOUSA**

*Chair & Professor of Anthropology*

*Director of Education Studies at Hamilton College, New York*

Chaise LaDousa's research focuses on language, education, and political economy, with extensive fieldwork in North India examining the role of language in schooling and social class. He has also studied expressive culture and the significance of play and fun in higher education in the United States. LaDousa is the author of *Hindi is Our Ground, English is Our Sky: Education, Language, and Social Class in Contemporary India (2014)* and *Signs of Play: Faith, Race, and Sex in a College Town (2011)*, in addition to numerous scholarly articles.



**Special Remarks: Prof. ARSHAD IKRAM AHMAD**

*Professor of Education & Former Head, Department of Educational Studies*

Arshad Ikram Ahmad has had a distinguished academic and professional career spanning school education, teacher education, and higher education. His areas of interest include Language Education and the Sociology of Education. A multilingual scholar, he has extensive experience in developing and editing educational materials in Hindi, Urdu, and English. His contributions include the development of trilingual dictionaries in collaboration with the Department of Languages, NCERT, and English textbooks for Bihar State Board schools.



**Chair: Prof. AEJAZ MASIH**

*Professor of Education & Head, Department of Educational Studies*

Aejaz Masih specialises in Curriculum Studies and Research Methodology. He is the author of three research-based books on curriculum studies and has published numerous research articles in leading journals of education. For over thirty-five years, he has taught research methodology at the M.A. (Education), M.Ed., M.Phil., and Ph.D. levels, mentoring generations of students and researchers. He has also been invited to deliver lectures and conduct workshops on various aspects of research methodology at universities and premier research institutions across India.

**CONVENORS**

**Dr. Afaque Nadeem Khan**

*Advisor;*

PGEA, DES

**Dr. Md. Jawaid Hussain**

*Convener;*

DES Theory-Practice Connect



**THURSDAY**  
23 JULY 2026



**TIME**  
11:40 AM



**VENUE**  
SEMINAR ROOM, DES

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