

Professor Halliday! Thank you for your contributions to the world of linguistics, and for showing us all that language means. You showed us the beauty of language.



Professor Halliday, a linguistic giant, a brilliant mind, a remarkable man, a person so inspirational, full of the milk of human kindness, an amazing soul and a vibrant spirit has left all of us in grief. We are humbled to be able to associate ourselves and our motherland with Halliday, as he had personal links with this country through his wife Ruqaiya Hasan. We, Pakistanis, culturally regard him as a 'son-in-law', an esteemed relationship, and therefore his departure generates a sense of immense loss for us. Therefore, Pakistan, more than the world condoles his departure, as he, out of the very few geniuses related to the country, has passed away. I feel so lucky and special for having been alive during his lifetime. He met several of us in Pakistan, many times, during his visits to the country of his beloved wife. While interacting with Pakistani teachers, he showed great interest, and understanding of our context of teaching and learning, in the memorable conferences organized by the Society of Pakistan English Language Teachers (SPELT) and seminars organized by other institutions, in which he participated during his visits. We feel proud and happy that he loved and enjoyed Pakistani food and music and graced many musical evenings with his presence. Although, he is no longer with us, a strong influence of his contributions in the field of Systemic Functional Linguistics will continue to be felt by all of us in the years to come.

Prof. Halliday and his wife Prof. Hasan dreamed of enabling Pakistani scholars to use SFL as a resource for teaching and learning, as well as research purposes-- not only in English, but in languages used in Pakistan. Visualizing the dream, Hasan was in the process of devising a course for Pakistani English teachers in consultation with Halliday. Unfortunately, she did not get time to see it being finalized! But Halliday must have had some satisfaction when he gave his blessings for the **Ruqaiya Hasan Memorial Online Course entitled "Introduction to SFL for Pakistani Teachers"** which was launched in Feb 2017 from the SPELT Platform, in co-operation with ASFLA . The web hosting for the course is being done from the Halliday Centre for the Intelligent Use of Languages, City University of Hong Kong. The second phase of the course has started in March 2018. It aims to prepare a small cadre of teachers to cascade this knowledge further to teachers in Pakistan. Dr. Carmel Cloran, the course instructor, has been

very generous in giving her precious time to prepare a ground for the germination of SFL in Pakistan, in memory of Hasan and, now, also of Halliday.

On behalf of all the members of SPELT/ SFL Pakistan, associated with Prof. Halliday, let me offer our deepest condolences and extend an expression of profound sorrow to his family and friends all over the world.

May his soul rest in eternal peace!!!

Sincerely

Dr. Fauzia Janjua

SFL Key Learner for “Ruqaiya Hasan Online SFL Course for Pakistani Teachers”