

**AN APPRAISAL OF SUBJECTIVE MARKING IN
ENGLISH
A CASE STUDY OF TWELVE GRADE STUDENTS**

**A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Language
Education University Campus, Kirtipur
In Partial Fulfilment for Master's Degree in Education
(Specialization of English Education)**

**By
Shraddha Aryal**

**Faculty of Education
Tribhuvan University
Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal**

2007

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my parents and spouse, who even under a very difficult situation, devoted a great span of their lives in making me what I am now.

Shraddha Aryal

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ABSTRACT

In this thesis, an attempt has been made to determine the extent of variations in marking subjective answers by different examiners. The study was carried out in two steps. In the first step, a test was administered to an examinee, and in the second step, the elicited answers were distributed to the eighty different examiners for marking.

In order to collect the relevant data, a grade twelve questionpaper, it's a marking scheme and a photocopy of real answerbook of compulsory English of the examination of year 2007 needed. The informants were requested to mark the answerbook strictly following the marking scheme on the basis of their perception.

After collecting the scores given to each item by each informant were recorded to analyze and interpret the data.

The main findings of the study were:

- Native speakers of English are more lenient than Non-native speakers of English.
- Male examiners are found to be more lenient than female examiners.
- Non-native female examiners are found to be less lenient than native female examiners.
- Native male examiners are more lenient than non-native male examiners.
- Australian, American, New Zealanders and British examiners are more lenient to less lenient respectively.

The thesis consists of five chapters.

Chapter one introduces the study in terms of general backgrounds, review of related literature, objectives, significance, fundamentals of marking of study and the terms and their meanings.

Chapter two is concerned with methodology applied to carry out the research work.

Chapter three presents the analysis and interpretation of data. While analyzing the data attempt has been made to compare the marks assigned by different groups of informants to find out which group of informants is relatively more or less lenient in the marking of a language test. The examiners include native and non-native speakers of English. Their scores are presented in the following comparative firms:

- Native vs. non-native
- Male vs. female
- Native male vs. non-native male
- Native female vs. non-native female
- British vs. American vs. New Zealander vs. Australian

Chapter four discusses the findings of this study.

On the basis of the findings, some recommendations are made for improvement of grade 12 examination system.

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