

**A STUDY ON THE PRONUNCIATION PROFICIENCY OF
THE STUDENTS OF GRADE FIVE**

**A Dissertation Submitted to the Central Department of English Language
Education, University Campus, Kirtipur, in Partial Fulfillment of the
Master's Degree in Education
(Specialization in English Language Education)**

By

Kamal Raj Devkota

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

2006

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RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

This is to certify that Mr. Kamal Raj Devkota has prepared the dissertation entitled "**A Study on the Pronunciation proficiency of the Students of Grade Five**" under my guidance and supervision.

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**This Dissertation is
Dedicated
to
My Respected Guru
Late Khadak Bahadur K.C.**

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ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this study was to find out the pronunciation proficiency of the students of grade five at segmental and lexical level. Similarly, the study was focused to compare their pronunciation ability in terms of text, sex, linguistic background, medium of instruction, school and to point out some pedagogical implications of the findings of the study.

To accomplish this task, the researcher selected the most frequent hundred lexical items from the textbook of grade four published by JEMC. Then, he prepared two sets of test items. Set A consisted of the list of selected hundred lexical items in isolation and set B consisted the same words in sentential contexts. The sentences were also extracted from the same textbook. As the sample population, he selected 64 students of grade five from eight different schools (4 English medium and 4 Nepali medium) of Kathmandu on the basis of stratified random sampling method focussing on their sex and linguistic background. After the selection of sample population, he administered the test on it. He recorded the students' pronunciation of both sets of test items and transcribed them. He checked their pronunciation in terms of the Received Pronunciation version extracted from the CD of Oxford Advanced learner's Dictionary (7th ed.) and scored the correct ones and calculated the scores as the data for the study. He used different statistical tools like mean, standard deviation, t-test etc. to carry out analysis and interpretation in terms of the aforementioned variables.

From the analysis, the researcher found that the students' overall pronunciation proficiency is 51.53%. Students have shown better performance in words in sentential context in comparison to words in isolation, however, the level of difference between them was found

insignificant. Furthermore, TBNS in term of linguistic background, female students in terms of sex, English medium students in terms of medium of instruction were found to be more proficient than their opponent groups. However, except English-Nepali medium schools, TBNS-IANS, Male-female distinction was found insignificant. From the analysis in terms of word types, monosyllabic words were found easier to the students in comparison to others. English fricatives were found more difficult to the Nepali learners in comparison to others.

This research work comprises four chapters. Chapter one consists of general background, review of the related literature, objectives and significance of the study.

Chapter two deals with the methodology adopted to carry out this study. This chapter incorporates sources of data, population of the study, sample population, sampling procedure, tools for data collection and limitation of the study.

Chapter three consists of analysis and interpretation of the data. Analysis of data has been carried out in terms of text, sex, linguistic-background and medium of instruction. For that different statistical tools like mean, standard deviation, t-test, percentile etc have been used.

Chapter four deals with the findings and recommendations of the study.

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ABBREVIATION

%	:	Percentage
RP.	:	Received Pronunciation
Stdev.:		Standard deviation
S.N	:	Serial Number
e.g.	:	For example (from Latin exampleigratia)
CD	:	Compact Disk
ed	:	Edition
JEMC:		Janak Educational Material Centre
L2	:	Second Language
VIZ	:	Namely
PHSS:		Paropakar Higher Secondary School
BKSS:		Bal Kumari Secondary School
JSS	:	Janasewa Secondary School
MHSS:		Mangal Higher Secondary School
CA	:	Creative Academy
HHSS:		Hill-Town Higher Secondary School
GNA	:	Green Field National Academy
NGBS:		Mount Glory Boarding School
Stdev	:	Standard deviation
IANS	:	Indo-Aryan Native Speakers
TBNS:		Tibeto-Burman Native Speakers
AOA	:	Age of Arrival