A STUDY ON THE PROBLEMS FACED BY SLOW LEARNERS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education In the Partial Fulfilment for the Master of Education in English

> Submitted by Khagendra Prasad Pathak

Faculty of Education

Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur

Kathmandu, Nepal

2012

A STUDY ON THE PROBLEMS FACED BY SLOW LEARNERS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education In the Partial Fulfilment for the Master of Education in English

Submitted by Khagendra Prasad Pathak

Faculty of Education
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur
Kathmandu, Nepal
2012

T.U. Regd. No: 9-2-290-25-2004 Date of Approval of the

Second Year Examination Thesis Proposal: 30-03-2012

Roll No.: 280520/066 Date of Submission: 07-09-2012

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

This is to certify that Mr. **Khagendra Prasad Pathak** has prepared this thesis entitled **A Study on the Problems Faced by Slow Learners in English Language Classes** under my guidance and supervision.

I recommend	this	thesis	for	acceptance.
-------------	------	--------	-----	-------------

Date: 07-09-2012	
	Dr. Laxmi Bahadur Maharjan (Guide)
	Reader
	Department of English Education

Faculty of Education, T.U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal

RECOMMENDATION FOR EVALUATION

This thesis has been recommended for evaluation from the following **Research Guidance Committee:**

	Signature
Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra	
Professor and Head	Chairperson
Department of English Education	
Chairperson	
English and Other Foreign Languages	
Education Subject Committee	
T.U., Kirtipur	
Dr. Laxmi Bahadur Maharjan (Guide)	
Reader	Member
Department of English Education	
T.U., Kirtipur	
Mr. Raj Narayan Yadav	
Reader	Member
Department of English Education	
T.U., Kirtipur	

Date: 07-09-2012

EVALUATION AND APPROVAL

This thesis has been evaluated and approved by the following thesis

Evaluation and Approval Committee:

	Signature
Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra	
Professor and Head	Chairperson
Department of English Education	
Chairperson	
English and Other Foreign Languages	
Education Subject Committee	
T.U., Kirtipur	
Dr. Laxmi Bahadur Maharjan (Guide)	
Reader	Member
Department of English Education	
T.U., Kirtipur	
Dr. Anjana Bhattarai	
Reader	Member
Department of English Education	
T.U., Kirtipur	
Date: 07-09-2012	

DECLARATION

	Khagendra Prasad Pathak
Date: 07-09-2012	
university.	
of it was earlier submitted for the candidature	of research degree to any
I hereby declare that to the best of my knowle	edge this thesis is original; no part

DEDICATION

Dedicated

to

My Late Father Kishan Lal Pathak

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, I would like to extend my gratitude and honour to my guide **Dr. Laxmi Bahadur Maharjan**, Reader, Department of English Education, T.U.

Kirtipur, who guided me throughout my study. This thesis would remain incomplete without his invaluable suggestions, instructions and proper guidance.

Similarly, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to **Professor Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra,** Head of the Department of English Education, T.U.,
Kirtipur, Chairperson of English and Other Foreign Languages, Education
Subject Committee, who encouraged me to improve my work giving a lot of suggestions and inspiration.

I also acknowledge **Dr. Anjana Bhattarai**, Reader, Department of English Education, for her assistance to complete this thesis. In addition, I would like to express my thanks to **Mr. Raj Narayan Yadav** and all the other faculty members of Department of English Education, for their continuous encouragement to accomplish this work.

Likewise, my sincere thanks goes to **Mrs. Madhavi Khanal,** Librarian of the Department of English Education, T.U. for providing necessary materials as well as kind cooperation.

In the same way, I would like to extend appreciation and thanks to **Mr. Purna Bahadur Ale**, Principal of Apollo International Academy, Subidhanagar. I am equally indebted to the Principals of Laboratory Higher Secondary School, Kirtipur and Jubilant Higher Secondary School, Kalimati who assisted me with the students for data collection. Similarly, my sincere thanks goes to all the students and teachers who spent their invaluable time and efforts in course of

data collection. I must record my appreciation to those authors whose works have been cited here. Likewise, I would like to thank my whole family members for their all kinds of support and encouragement to me to accomplish this task.

Furthermore, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my wife, **Kalpana Khanal Pathak** for her continuous assistance while carrying out this research,

Bhanja **Madhav Pandey** for helping me in need and my three years old son **Keshar Pathak** being silent at the time of carrying out this research.

Finally, I would like to thank **Mr. Durka Man Maharjan** of Durka Computer System, Kirtipur, Nayabazar for his computer work.

August, 2012

Khagendra Prasad Pathak

ABSTRACT

The present thesis entitled "A Study on the Problems Faced by Slow Learners in English Language Classes" has been carried out to find out the problems faced by slow learners in English language classes. Regarding the methodology, both primary and secondary sources of data were used while carrying out this research. Eighty-one lower secondary and secondary level students and twelve English language teachers from three different private schools of the Kathmandu district and twelve English language teacher were non-randomly and purposively sampled out for the study. I used questionnaire for data collection. It was found that slow learners faced problems because of lack of support from their parents and teachers. It was also found that the causes of slow learning were deprivation from the opportunities of learning, literacy of parents and well treatment of teachers. It has been recommended that slow learner are provided with special trainings to better facilitate in their learning.

This thesis consists of four chapters. The first chapter is an introductory chapter which includes general background, review of the related literature, objectives and significance of the study. The second chapter is methodology which includes sources of data, population of the study, sampling procedure, tools and process of data collection and limitations of the study. Chapter three deals with analysis and interpretations of data. Likewise, the fourth chapter deals with the findings and recommendations of the study followed by references and appendices.

TABLE OF CONTENT

		Page No.
Decl	laration	i
Reco	ommendation for Acceptance	ii
Reco	ommendation for Evaluation	iii
Eval	uation and Approval	iv
Dedi	ication	v
Ackn	nowledgements	vi-vii
Abst	ract	viii
Tabl	e of Content	ix-x
List	of Tables	xi-xii
List	of Symbols & Abbreviations	xiii
CHA	APTER-ONE: INTRODUCTION	1-23
1.1	General Background	1
	1.1.1 Historical Background of ELT in Nepal	3
	1.1.2 An Introduction to Slow Learners	6
	1.1.3 Slow Learners in My Study	8
	1.1.4 Types of Slow Learners	10
	1.1.5 Characteristics of Slow Learners	12
	1.1.6 Causes of Slow Learners	14
	1.1.7 Factors Affecting Language Learning	19
1.2.	Review of Related Literature	20
1.3	Objectives of the Study	23
1.4.	Significance of the Study	23
CHA	APTER-TWO: METHODOLOGY	24-2
2.1	Sources of Data	24
	2.1.1 Primary Sources of Data	24
	2.1.2 Secondary Sources of Data	24

2.2	Population of Study	24	
2.3	Sampling Procedure	25	
2.4	Tools for Data Collection	25	
2.5	Process of Data Collection	25	
2.6	Limitations of the Study	26	
СНА	PTER-THREE: ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DA	TA 27-59	
3.1	Problems of English in General	27	
3.2	Barriers of Teaching Methods and Materials	33	
3.3	Hindrances Towards School Environment and Behaviours of Their		
	Friends	41	
3.4	Obstructions of Family Background and Society	48	
3.5	Analysis of the Teachers Responses	54	
СНА	APTER-FOUR: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	60-64	
4.1	Findings	60	
4.2	Recommendations	62	
REF	ERENCES	65-67	
APP	ENDICES		

LIST OF TABLES

			Page No.
Table No. 1	:	Necessity of Teaching English	28
Table No. 2	:	Students' Interest in English	28
Table No. 3	:	Need of English	28
Table No. 4	:	Presentation of Pictures and Illustrations	29
Table No. 5	:	Working with Friends	29
Table No. 6	:	Usefulness of Self-Practice	30
Table No. 7	:	Help of English	30
Table No. 8	:	Sufficiency of Exercises	31
Table No. 9	:	Necessity of English	31
Table No. 10	:	Teaching Style	34
Table No. 11	:	Classroom Interactions	34
Table No. 12	:	Teacher's Role	35
Table No. 13	:	Use of Additional Materials	35
Table No. 14	:	Caring Students	36
Table No. 15	:	Speaking English	36
Table No. 16	:	Organization of Extra-Curricular Activities	37
Table No. 17	:	Availability of Library Facility	38
Table No. 18	:	Reference Materials	38
Table No. 19	:	Patience of Teachers'	39
Table No. 20	:	Interests in Reading Newspaper	39
Table No. 21	:	Usefulness of Reading Newspaper	40
Table No. 22	:	Peace in School Environment	41
Table No. 23	:	Favour of Environment	41
Table No. 24	:	Students Participation in Classroom	42
Table No. 25	:	Facility of Furniture	42

Table No. 26	:	Attitude of Students	43
Table No. 27	:	Use of English Language	43
Table No. 28	:	Treatment Upon Errors	44
Table No. 29	:	Inspiration for Learning	44
Table No. 30	:	Provisions of Recreations	45
Table No. 31	:	Usefulness of Good Behaviours	45
Table No. 32	:	School Environment a Hamper	46
Table No. 33	:	Friends' Cooperation	46
Table No. 34	:	Types of Family	48
Table No. 35	:	Accompaniment of Parents	49
Table No. 36	:	Family Members Help	49
Table No. 37	:	Sharing Problems	50
Table No. 38	:	Status of Society	50
Table No. 39	:	Societal Environment	51
Table No. 40	:	Educational Status of Society	51
Table No. 41	:	Interactions with Society	52
Table No. 42	:	Preference of English	52
Table No. 43	:	Parent's Treatment upon Children	55
Table No. 44	:	Role of Teachers in Motivating Students	55
Table No. 45	:	Parent's Consciousness	55

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

% – Percentage

A.D. – Anno Domini

B.S. – Bikram Sambat

Dr. – Doctor

E.g. – (Example, Gratia) for example

ELT – English Language Teaching

et al. – And other people or thing (from Latin' et alii)

Etc. – Etcetera

i.e. – that is

IQ – Intelligence Quotient

Lg. – Language

M.Ed. – Master in Education

NELTA – Nepal English Language Teachers Association

NESP – National Education System Plan

NNEC – Nepal National Education Commission

No. – Number

p. – Page

Prof. – Professor

Pvt. Ltd. – Private Limited

Reg. – Registration

S.L.C. – School Leaving Certificate

T.U. – Tribhuvan University

T.V. – Television

UNO – United Nations Organization

viz. – Namely

Vol. – Volume

PABSON – Private and Boarding School Organization in Nepal