

A STUDY ON THE USE OF PUNCTUATION MARKS

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

**Submitted by
Dev Raj Awasthi**

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

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that to the best of my knowledge this thesis is original; no part of it was earlier submitted for the candidature of research degree to any university.

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Dev Raj Awasthi

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

This is to certify that **Mr. Dev Raj Awasthi** has prepared this thesis entitled **A Study on the Use of Punctuation Marks** under my guidance and supervision.

I recommend this thesis for acceptance.

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DEDICATION

**Dedicated
to
my parents**

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The present research work is not the product of my sole effort. Different personalities helped me a lot while completing this work. First of all, I am highly indebted to my thesis supervisor as well as my teacher **Dr. Tapasi Bhattacharya**, Reader, Department of English Education, T.U., Kirtipur for her continuous supervision with regular inspiration, encouragement and insightful suggestions throughout the study. Actually, I have no words to extend my sincere gratitude for her patience, strong co-operation, proper guidance and invaluable suggestions that gave me a kind of inspiration to bring out this thesis in this form.

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Date: 2068 - 02 - 05

Dev Raj Awasthi

ABSTRACT

The present research entitled '**A Study on the Use of Punctuation Marks**' was carried out to find out total, correct and erroneous use of punctuation marks and compare boys and girls in terms of the use of punctuation marks. It mainly focused on finding out the proficiency of the students in the use of punctuation marks in writing. In order to fulfill these objectives, eighty students (40 boys and 40 girls) from four different public schools of Baitadi district were given test items related to the guided writing. In the selection of schools and students, the researcher used judgmental non-random sampling procedure and simple random sampling procedure respectively. The researcher found that fullstop has the highest frequency (i.e. 34.42%) and slash has the lowest frequency (i.e. 1.02%) of the total use.

This thesis consists of four chapters. The first chapter introduces, language and parole, speech and writing, writing, mechanics of writing, punctuation marks in detail with various types and functions, error analysis, review of literature, objectives, etc. under different headings and sub-headings. The second chapter deals with methodology of the research. It includes sources of data collection, tools, sampling procedures, etc. The third chapter deals with the analysis and interpretation of the collected data. It presents the frequency of total, correct and erroneous use of punctuation under different sub-headings. The fourth chapter deals with the major findings and recommendations. Except these, different supportive materials such as references, research tool, marking scheme and tables which were used during the research are presented in the appendices section of the thesis.

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LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

e.g.	:	For Example
etc.	:	Et Cetera (and other similar things)
et. al.	:	et. alli/allia (and other people)
CU	:	Correct Use
EU	:	Erroneous Use
TU	:	Total Use
i.e.	:	That is
>	:	Greater than
<	:	Less than
=	:	Equal to
ELT	:	English Language Teaching
OUP	:	Oxford University Press
M	:	Male
F	:	Female
EA	:	Error Analysis
L ₂	:	Second Language
p.	:	Page
CUP	:	Cambridge University Press
%	:	Percentage
NCED	:	National Centre for Educational Development
L1	;	First Language

