GRAMMATICAL PROFICIENCY IN SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

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

> Submitted by Yogindra Prasad Timsina

Faculty of Education Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur Kathmandu, Nepal 2010

GRAMMATICAL PROFICIENCY IN SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

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

> Submitted By Yogindra Prasad Timsina Faculty of Education Tribhuvan University, Kiritipur Kathmandu, Nepal 2010

TU Reg. No.: 9-1-9-814-98 Second Year Examination Roll No.: 280568/065 Date of Approval of the Thesis Proposal: 2066-10-17 Date of Submission: 2067-04-

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

This is to certify that **Mr. Yogindra Prasad Timsina** has prepared this thesis entitled **"Grammatical Proficiency in Subject-Verb Agreement: Bhutanese Vs Nepalese Students"** under my guidance and supervision.

I recommend the thesis for acceptance.

Date: 2067-04-21

Mr. Bhesh Raj Pokhrel Teaching Assistant Department of English Education Faculty of Education TU, Kirtipur, Kathmandu

RECOMMENDATION FOR EVALUATION

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

Signature

Chairperson

Member

Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra Professor and Head Department of English Education TU., Kirtipur

Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi Professor Department of English Education TU., Kirtipur

Mr. Bhesh Raj Pokhrel (Guide)

Teaching Assistant Department of English Education TU., Kirtipur Member

Date: 2067-04-21

EVALUATION AND APPROVAL

This proposal has been evaluated and approved by the following 'Thesis Evaluation and Approval Committee'.

Signature

.....

Chairman

Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra

Professor and Head Department of English Education T.U., Kirtipur

Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi

Professor Department of English Education Chairperson English and Other Foreign Languages Education Subject Committee TU., Kirtipur

Mr. Bhesh Raj Pokhrel (Guide)

Teaching Assistant Department of English Education T.U., Kirtipur Member

.....

Member

Date: 2067-04-21

DECLARATION

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

Date: 2067-04-21

Yogindra Prasad Timsina

Dedication

Dedicated

То

My beloved parents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my thesis supervisor **Mr. Bhesh Raj Pokhrel**, Teaching Assistant at the Department of English Education, University Campus, T.U., Kirtipur, whose continuous feedback, invaluable suggestions and precious comments inspired me to complete the thesis. I am deeply indebted to him for his continuous advice, encouragement and cooperation.

My sincere gratitude goes to **Prof. Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra**, Head of the Department of English Education for his valuable suggestions and inspiration. Similarly, I would like to extend deep sense of profound gratitude to my honorable Guru **Prof. Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi**, Chairperson of English and Other Foreign Languages, Education Subject Committee, for his invaluable support, inspiration and encouragement while writing this thesis.

Likewise, I am extremely grateful to Prof. Dr. Tirth Raj Khaniya, Prof. Dr. Govinda Raj Bhattarai, Prof. Dr. Anju Giri, Dr. Anjana Bhattarai, Dr. Bal Mukundra Bhandari, Mr. Vishnu Singh Rai, Dr. Laxmi Bahadur Maharjan, Mrs. Saraswati Dawadi, Mr. Prem Phyak, Mrs. Madhu Neupane, Mrs. Hima Rawal and all others who directly or indirectly helped me in writing thesis.

My special thanks go to the principals and teachers of Shree Annapunra Higher Secondary School, Pathari, Morang, Shree New Horizon Academy, Sanishare, Morang, Shree Global Educational Academy, Damak, Jhapa and Marigold Academy, Beldangi, Jhapa for their help in the course of data collection. I would like to thank all the students of these institutions who gave their active participation and keen interest while the test was administered. My thanks also go to all the friends and senior brothers **Punya**, **Tulasi** and **Balaram** who encouraged and helped me to complete this work on time.

Finally, I would like to thank **Mr. Gokarna Prasad Aryal** for his right suggestions and cooperation in the computer work.

Date: 2067-04-21

Yogindra Prasad Timsina

ABSTRACT

This present research work entitled "Grammatical Proficiency in Subject-Verb Agreement: Bhutanese Vs Nepalese Students" was carried out with the main objective of finding out the proficiency of the Bhutanese and Nepalese students in Subject-Verb Agreement. Altogether four schools of Morang and Jhapa districts were purposively selected. Among of them two were from Bhutanese refugee camps and two from Nepalese private boarding schools of Jhapa and Morang districts. Twenty five students were selected randomly from each of these schools. Fifty students represented the Bhutanese group and remaining fifty from the Nepalese group. That is, in total 100 students were the population of my study. A test which was prepared to evaluate the students' proficiency in Subject-Verb Agreement was administered on those students. The test consisted of four types of different subjective and objective test items. After the administration of the test, the answer sheets were collected from the students. The duration of time of the test was one and half hour consisting of the 50 full marks. Their proficiency was compared in terms of the marks they scored. From the analysis of the data, Nepalese students' proficiency was found better than the Bhutanese students in Subject-Verb Agreement.

This study consists of four chapters. The first chapter deals with introduction, general background, review of the related literature, objectives of the study and significance of the study. Similarly, the second chapter deals with the population of the study, tools for data collection, the process of data collection and limitations of the study. The third chapter deals with the analysis and interpretation of the data. Some Statistical tools such as average score and percentage have been used to analyze the marks obtained by the students. The last chapter encompasses the findings and recommendations made after the analysis of data. References and appendices have been included at the end of the thesis.

Х

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page No.

Declaration	i
Recommendation for Acceptance	ii
Recommendation for Evaluation	
Evaluation and Approval	iv
Dedication	V
Acknowledgements	vi
Abstract	viii
Table of Contents	ix
List of Tables	xii
List of Abbreviations	xiii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1-24
1.1 General Background	1
1.1.1 Methods and Approaches to Teaching Grammar	4
1.1.1.1 Methods of Language Teaching	4
1.1.1.2 Different Approaches to Teaching Grammar	8
1.1.2 Grammatical Proficiency	10
1.1.3 Subject-Verb Agreement	10
1.1.3.1 Subject:	11
1.1.3.2 Verb	11
1.1.3.3 Agreement	12
1.1.3.4 Copula	13
1.1.3.5 Determiner	13
1.1.4 Identification of Subject	13

1.1.4.1 Position	14
1.1.4.2 Concord	14
1.1.4.3 Passivization	15
1.1.4.4 Repetition in Tag Question	15
1.1.5 Rules of Subject-Verb Agreement	15
1.1.6 Bhutanese Refugee Students	18
1.1.7 Nepalese Students	19
1.2 Review of Related Literature	20
1.3 Objectives of the Study	23
1.4 Significance of the Study	23
CHAPTER-TWO: METHODOLOGY	25-28
2.1 Sources of Data	25
2.1.1 Primary Sources of Data	25
2.1.2 Secondary Sources of Data	25
2.2 Population of the Study	25
2.3 Sampling Procedure	25
2.4 Tools for data collection	26
2.5 Process of Data Collection	27
2.6 Limitations of the Study	28
CHAPTER-THREE: ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION	29-42
3.1 Analysis of Total Proficiency	30
3.2 Group wise Presentation of the Proficiency of Subject-Verb	
Agreement	32

3.2.1 Proficiency of Subject-Verb Agreement in 'Selecting	
Verbs with Subject'	32
3.2.2 Proficiency of Subject-Verb Agreement in 'Filling in the Gaps'	34
3.2.3 Proficiency of Subject-Verb Agreement in True/ False Sentences	35
3.2.4 Proficiency in Selecting Subjects with Verbs	36
3.2.5 Proficiency of Bhutanese and Nepalese Students in Free Writing	38
3.2.6 Comparison of the Proficiency of Subject-Verb Agreement	39
3.2.7 Item wise Analysis of Subject-Verb Agreement Proficiency in Total	40
CHAPTER-FOUR: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	43-46
4.1 Findings	43
4.2 Recommendations	44
REFERENCES	

LIST OF TABLES

Table No. 1: Sampling Technique	26
Table No. 2: Tools Used in the Study	27
Table No. 3: Five Point Scale	29
Table No. 4: Total Proficiency of Bhutanese and Nepalese Students in Subject-Verb-Agreement	30
Table No. 5: Proficiency of Subject-Verb Agreement in 'Selecting Verbs with Subject'	32
Table No. 6: Proficiency of Subject-Verb Agreement in 'Filling in the Gaps'	34
Table No. 7: Proficiency of Subject-Verb Agreement in Selecting True/	
False Sentences	35
Table No. 8: Proficiency of Subject-Verb Agreement in Selecting	
Subjects with Verbs	37
Table No. 9: Proficiency Bhutanese and Nepalese Students in Free	
Writing Sections	38
Table No. 10: Proficiency of Subject-Verb Agreement: Bhutanese Vs	
Nepalese Students	39
Table No. 11: Item wise Analysis of Proficiency in Subject-Verb-	
Agreement	41

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

GTM	Grammar Translation Method
DM	Direct Method
ALM	Audio Lingual Method
СМ	Communicative Method
CLT	Communicative Language Teaching
A.D.	Anno Dominio
UNO	United Nations Organization
T.U.	Tribhuvan University
V.D.C.	Village Development Committee
M.Ed.	Master in Education
ELT	English Language Teaching
Bh. Sts.	Bhutanese Students
Nep. Sts.	Nepalese Students
OUP	Oxford University Press
etc.	etcetera
eg.	For example
S.L.C.	School Leaving Certificate
B.S.	Bikram Sambat
S.N.	Serial Number
P.M.	Pass Marks
et al.	and others