

LANGUAGE USED IN LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

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

By

Kausila Gaire

Faculty of Education

Trbhuvan University

Kiritpur, Kathmandu Nepal

2007

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ABSTRACT

This study entitled "A Study of Language Used in Letters to The Editor" attempts to present the sentences in terms of structure (sentence constructions), aspects and language functions.

The objectives of this study were to find out characteristics of language used in letters to the editor on the basis of sentence constructions, aspects and the language functions found in the letters to the editor.

For the collection of the data the researcher collected three newspapers viz. 'The Kathmandu Post', 'The Rising Nepal' and 'The Himalayan Times'. From those newspapers, the researchers selected twenty letters from each using non-random judgemental sampling procedure and observation was the main tool. Altogether there were sixty issues from all the newspapers. All the selected sentences were categorized under different constructions, aspects as well as language functions. Among them, passive constructions, perfective aspects and suggesting functions were found to be used as the most frequent among all. And imperative constructions, perfective progressive aspects, the function of congratulating, directing, clarifying were the least frequent ones.

The thesis consists of four chapters. The first chapter introduces the study in terms of general background, review of the related literature, objectives of the study, significance of the study and definition of the terms.

The second chapter deals with the methodology adopted for the study, under which the sources of the data, process of data collection and limitations of the study are presented. In the process of data collection, the researcher made the observation table and categorized all the sample sentences.

The third chapter presents the analysis and interpretation of the collected data. While analysing all the sentences found were categorized under different constructions, aspects and functions.

The fourth chapter presents the recommendations and the pedagogical implications. The last chapter is followed by appendices.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

A	: Adverbial
Adj.P	: Adjective Phrase
Adv. P	: Adverb Phrase
Aux.	: Auxiliary
BO	: Benefactive Object
CD	: Central Determiner
Cf.	: Compare (for Latin <i>confer</i>)
Det	: Determiner
DO	: Direct Object
e.g.	: For example
H	: Head
IO	: Indirect Object
i.e.	: that is (for Latin <i>exempli gratia</i>)
N	: Noun
NP	: Noun Phrase
OA	: Object Attribute
P	: Predicator

PC	: Predicator Complement
Post D.	: Post Determiner
PostM.	: Post Modifier
PrepP.	: Prepositional Phrase
PreM.	: Pre Modifier
SA	: Subject Attribute
S	: Subject
Viz.	: Namely (For Latin <i>videlicet</i>)