

ERRORS IN THE USE OF PUNCTUATION

**A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education
in Partial Fulfilment for the Master's Degree in Education**

Submitted By

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Faculty of Education

Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur

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DEDICATION

Dedicated
to my parents

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.

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This study is not the product of my sole effort. Many persons contributed a lot while completing this work. I managed to complete this work by the help of constructive guidance of my thesis guide **Mrs. Hima Rawal**, Teaching Assistant, Department of English Education . I am greatly indebted to her whose comments and suggestions have shaped to bring out this thesis in this form.

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ABSTRACT

This research entitled '**Errors in the Use of Punctuation**' was carried out to find out and compare the frequency of punctuation errors of eleventh graders in terms of their competence over punctuation marks and schooling background. It mainly focused on finding out errors in the use of punctuation marks in writing. In order to find out the frequency of errors of girls and boys fifty percent from English background and fifty percent from non English background students were given guided and free writing test items. In the selection of the students of different colleges and campuses, the researcher used random sampling and quota sampling procedure. The researcher found that female students committed more errors than male students. Likewise, students from non English background during schooling period committed more errors than students from English background.

This thesis consists of four chapters. The first chapter introduces the topic 'Punctuation marks' in detail with various types of punctuation marks and the short history of it. The second chapter deals with the methodology of the research. It includes sources of data collections tools and sampling procedures. This chapter also presents the limitations of the research, too. The third chapter deals with the analysis and interpretation of the collected data. It presents the mean score ratings of the frequency of errors committed by students of eleventh grade and PCL first year. The fourth chapter presents the findings and recommendation.

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LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

OALD	:	Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary
AEE	:	American Encyclopedia of Education
CA	:	Contrastive analysis
EA	:	Error analysis
F	:	Female
M	:	Male
>	:	Greater than
<	:	Less than
E	:	Students from English Background
N.E	:	Students from Non-English Background
F.E	:	Female students from English Background
F. N.E	:	Female students from Non-English Background
M.E	:	Male students from English Background
M.N.E	:	Male students from Non-English Background