ANALYSIS OF MULTIPLE CHOICE TESTS: A CASE OF DISTRACTORS A PRACTICAL STUDY

Submitted to: The Department of English Language Education Faculty of Education Tribhuvan University Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal

> In the partial fulfillment for the Master's Degree In English Language Education 2006

By: Man Bahadur Khatri M.Ed. (English)

Faculty of Education Tribhuvan University Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal 2006

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RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

This is certified that **Mr. Man Bahadur Khatri** has prepared the dissertation entitled "**Analysis** of **Multiple Choice Tests : A Case of Distractors**" under my guidance and supervision.

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DEDICATED TO

MY PARANTS, TEACHERS AND ESPICALLY TO MY LATE BROTHER KHADAK K.C.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Examination is such a thing that nobody can escape from it. Almost all of us find examination unfriendly and frightening. We relate it with several ills. But, examinations can be made less frightening, if not loving. Yet, exams can be made good or standard with tremendous potential to push a learner to work hard.

So, this work has come out as the outcome of my M.Ed thesis focusing, basically on the improvement of multiple choice objective test items via distractor analysis. Since, the multiple-choice objective test items are the ones used remarkably in important exams like: M.B.B.S entrance, nursing entrance, public service commissions, TOEFL, IELTS and other academic exams.

I've received useful inputs from different sources while working for this study. And, every student owes a debt to his predecessors, to his teachers, and to his colleagues; I gratefully acknowledge my deep indebtedness to all of these. I'd like to record with gratitude the contribution made by my thesis supervisor **Prof Dr. Tirth Raj Khaniya.** In addition, I wish to express my particular thanks to **Prof Dr. Shisir Kumar Sthapit**, Prof of English language education and **Prof. Dr. Sathi Basnyat** and **Prof. Dr. Jay Raj Awasthi** for their invaluable suggestions to complete this work.

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Man Bahadur Khatri Date: 24th, February 2007

ABSTRACT

The present dissertation entitled the "Analysis of Multiple Choice Tests: A case of Distractors" aims at determining the quality of distractors of the multiple choice objective test items.

To be specific, the study is concentrated to analyze the power of Distractors of the Multiple Choice Objective question of B. Ed. English i.e. courses of linguistics, of the year 2061 and 2062 B.S. on the one hand.

The researcher himself was involved in the experimental study for the purpose of carrying out the research.

For the study, the researcher utilized 40 M.C. objective test itemssss of B. Ed. linguistics courses of both the TU and PU in the years 2062/63 B.S. The test items were administrated to the 40 sampled students of M.Ed. English 1st year studying under TU and PU. The data were analyzed and interpreted to fix the statistical identity and quality of power of distractors of the M.C. objective tests.

It was found that the perfect distractors were null and the highest percentage was covered by poor distractors in both the universities. The higher percentage of Good and Moderate distractors can be considered standard type but they are also miserable condition in both the universities.

On the other hand the questionnaires were prepared by the researcher and visited to the COE to find out the measures implemented by both the universities to improve M.C. objective test items.

But, both the Boards of examination were unknown about such types of research and experiment. According to them, they haven't heard, seen and done any such type of research till that time. The researcher found that they were keen interested to heap the guilties to others' head and hide their face from the responsibilities. This all showed that, there was the lack of professionalism in both the boards of examination.

This Thesis work consists of four chapters. The **First chapter** is an introductory chapter. It includes the general background, review of related literature, objectives of the study and significance of the study.

The **Second chapter** deals with methodology; how the research was carried out. It includes sources of data (Primary and secondary), population of study, sample population of the study, tools for data collection, process of data collections and limitation of the study.

The **Chapter Three** deals with the analysis and interpretation of the data. This chapter has been divided into two sections. The first section utilizes ways of determining the power of Distractors of multiple choice objective tests based on the test performance. This section is the core of the study. The second section of this chapter deals with the comparison of COEs of T.U. and P.U.

The **Final chapter (i.e. Fourth chapter)** deals with the findings and recommendation of the study. Lastly this chapter is followed by references and appendices.

Abbreviations and Symbols

| Ed. | Education |
|--------|---|
| P. U. | Purbanchal University |
| T. U. | Tribhuvan University |
| M.C. | Multiple Choice |
| Obj. | Objective |
| T/F | True/False |
| COE | Controller of Examination |
| i.e | That is |
| ELBS | English language Book Society |
| TOEFL | Test of English as a Foreign Language |
| NESP | National Education System Plan |
| IELTS | International English Language testing system |
| MBBS | Bachelor in medicine and Bachelor in surgery |
| Q/A | Question Answer |
| B.Ed. | Bachelor in Education |
| M.Ed | Master in Education |
| S.L.C. | Schools leaving Certificate |
| OALD | Oxford Advanced learner Dictionary |
| Ect | Et cetera |

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