

**A STUDY OF ERRORS ON THE USE OF TENSE AND
ASPECT IN FREE WRITING**

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

**By
Iwa Kumari Tiwari**

**Faculty of Education
Tribhuvan University
Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal
2007**

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2007

T.U. Registration No: 9-2-296-12-98

Date of Approval of Thesis

Proposal: 8th Ashad, 2064

2nd Year Exam Roll No: 280235/2062

Date of Submission: 1st Poush, 2064

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This is to certify Miss Iwa Kumari Tiwari has completed her M.Ed. thesis entitled "**A Study of Errors on The Use of Tense and Aspect in Free Writing**" under my guidance and supervision.

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To

**My parents Gurus/Gurumas
and elders whose blessing
is with me forever.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am extremely happy to express my sincere gratitude to my thesis guide **Mrs. Tapasi Bhattacharya**, Reader of the Department of English Language Education, T.U. for her constant guidance and suggestion to prepare this thesis.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to **Prof. Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi**, Professor of the Department of English Language Education and Chairperson of English and Other Foreign Languages Education Subject Committee. I would like to express my gratitude to **Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra**, Professor and Head of the Department of English Language Education, T.U. for proving suggestions and encouragement to carry out this research. I express my words of gratitude to **Dr. Tirth Raj Khaniya**, Professor of English Language Education. I am equally grateful to **Dr. Shishir Kumar Sthapit**, Professor of Department of English Education, T.U. for providing me with greater insights in the fields of Applied Linguistics. I am also grateful to **Dr. Shanti Basnyat**, Professor of the Department of English Education T.U. for her academic suggestions.

I would like to express my gratitude to **Mr. Vishnu Singh Rai**, **Dr. Bal Mukunda Bhandari**, **Dr. Anjana Bhattarai**, **Mrs. Saraswati Dawadi** and other respected Gurus in the department for their constructive ideas to prepare my thesis. Similarly I am grateful to **Ms. Madhavi Khanal**, for her kind cooperation to prepare this thesis.

I feel pleasure to express my special thanks to **Mr. Bhola Raj Panta** and **Mr. Mohan Tiwari** for their kind help and cooperation. My special thank goes to **Mrs. Naina G.C.**, Nature Computer Centre, Kirtipur for computer typing.

Iwa Kumari Tiwari

ABSTRACT

Tense and aspect play a vital role in one's writing, however most of the Nepali learners of English feel difficulty in using the tenses and aspects appropriately in their writing. The present study entitled "**Errors on the Use of Tense and Aspect in Free Writing**" aims at finding out errors particularly on the tense and aspect in free writing. To carry out the study, the researcher selected two colleges of Kathmandu district through judgmental sampling and 60 students, 30 from each college were selected randomly keeping in view on the equal number of boys and girls. The researcher used both primary and secondary sources of data. A set of subjective test item, consisting of three free writing questions, was the tool for data collection. The first item was letter writing, the second was essay writing and the third was news report writing. The errors in terms of tense and aspect were computed and analyzed as well. The major findings of the study are as follows:

Over generalization of the use of present continuous aspect of tense in most of the verbs, mother tongue interference, incomplete application of rules, ignorance of rule restriction, false concept hypothesized are the key factors to commit erroneous expressions. The most general and common cause to commit errors on wide range was found that the lack of knowledge in students to identify the time of action and use of the appropriate aspect of tense.

The study has been confined into four chapters dealing with the different dimensions of error analysis. Chapter one deals with introduction which consists of general background, writing skill, error analysis, literature review, objectives of the study, significance of the study along with their other required study areas.

Chapter two deals with the methodology. It consists of data, population of the study, sampling procedure, tools for data collection, process of data collection and limitations of the study.

Chapter three deals with analysis and interpretation of data in terms of total errors, test item wise errors in each college; a comparative overview of errors and classification of errors. Then errors in tense and aspects present the status of errors committed by the students in different tenses and aspects. Finally, the analysis of errors in tense and aspect system comprises three different categories of errors viz errors in subject-verb agreement, errors in verb form and errors in tense sequence.

Finally, chapter four deals with findings and recommendations for pedagogical implication along with some teaching suggestions.

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REFERENCES

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ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

Dr.	– Doctor
eg	– example gratia (for example)
etc	- etcetera
L1	- First Language
L2	- Second Language
ESL	- English as Second Language
EFL	-English as Foreign Language

S.No.	– Serial Number
&	- and
T.U.	-Tribhuvan University
%	- Percentage
Lg	– Language
ELT	– English Language Teaching
NESP	- National Education System Plan