# A STUDY ON TESTING READING COMPREHENSION : A PLACE OF SUBJECTIVE AND OBJECTIVE TESTS

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

> By Bhupendra Kumar K.C. M.Ed. Second Year

Faculty of Education Tribhuvan University Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal 2007

## A STUDY ON TESTING READING COMPREHENSION : A PLACE OF SUBJECTIVE AND OBJECTIVE TESTS

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

> By Bhupendra Kumar K.C.

Faculty of Education Tribhuvan University Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal 2007

T.U. Regd. No.: 9-1-57-29-98Date of Approval of theCampus Roll No.: 452/2060/061Thesis Proposal: 2063/08/27Second Year Exam Roll No.: 280160/2062Thesis Submission Date: 2064/09/11

#### **RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCEPTANCE**

This is to certify that **Mr. Bhupendra Kumar K.C.** has prepared the thesis entitled "A Study on Testing Reading Comprehension : A Place of Subjective and Objective Tests" under my guidance and supervision.

I recommend this thesis for acceptance.

Date : <u>2064/09/11</u>\_\_\_

Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi Professor (Guide) Department of English Education Faculty of Education Tribhuvan University Kirtipur

# **RECOMMENDATION FOR EVALUATION**

This thesis has been recommended for evaluation by the following Research guidance committee.

Dr. Chandreshwor Mishra	
Reader and Head	Member
Department of English Education	
Tribhuvan University	
Kirtipur	
Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi (Guide)	
Professor	Chair Person
Department of English Education	
Tribhuvan University	
Kirtipur	
Mr. Bal Krishna Sharma	
Lecturer	Member
Department of English Education	
Tribhuvan University	
Kirtipur	

Date : 2064/09/13

# **EVALUATION AND APPROVAL**

This thesis has been evaluated and approved by the following Thesis Evaluation Committee.

Dr. Chandreshwor Mishra	
Reader and Head	Chair Person
Department of English Education	
Tribhuvan University	
Kirtipur	
Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi (Guide)	
Professor and Chairperson,	Member
English and Other Foreign Languages	
Education Subject Committee	
Tribhuvan University	
Kirtipur	
Dr. Anjana Bhattarai	
Lecturer	Member
Department of English Education	
Tribhuvan University	
Kirtipur	

Date : <u>2064/09/17</u>

# DEDICATED

To my parents.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and the heartiest honour to my venerable thesis supervisor and my respectable Guru, **Prof. Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi**, for his kind supervision, sincere guidance, loving attitude, invaluable suggestions from the time of preparing research proposal to the completion of the thesis up to its final form. Without his cooperation and sincere guidance, I would never have been able to complete this thesis.

I am ever grateful to my respectable teachers and members of the guidance committee, **Dr. Chandreshwor Mishra**, Reader and Head of the Department of English Education and **Mr. Bal Krishna Sharma**, Lecturer at the Department of English Education.

Similarly, my heartfelt gratitude goes to my respectable teachers Prof. Dr. Shanti Basnyat, Prof. Dr. Tirth Raj Khaniya, Prof. Dr. Govinda Raj Bhattarai, Dr. Anjana Bhattarai, Dr. Bal Mukunda Bhandari, Ms. Tapasi Bhattacharya and Mr. Prem Bahadur Phyak who encouraged and helped me to carry out this research work.

Likewise, I would like to thank those who directly or indirectly helped me to carry out this research.

Finally, my special thank goes to **Mr. Buddha Ratna Tandukar** of Alternative Communication Center, Kirtipur for his typing and printing of the thesis to bring out it in its present form.

Date: 2064/09/10

#### Bhupendra Kumar K.C.

#### ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out to find out the place of subjective and objective tests in testing reading comprehension. For this purpose, one hundred twenty students of class ten studying in different secondary schools in Surkhet District were selected. Out of them, sixty students were taken from the four public secondary schools, fifteen from each school and sixty from the four private secondary schools, fifteen from each, through the stratified random sampling procedure.

The piloted test - items were the tools of collecting primary data. It is a kind of cross-sectional study. After conducting the test in the selected schools, the raw scores were tabulated and presented for further analysis through the simple statistical tools, like, percentage and mean (average). They were further interpreted through tables as per the set objective of the study.

The findings of the study have shown that the average performance of the students in objective test in both types of reading texts viz. seen as well as unseen texts was better than that of the subjective test as a whole. Similarly, the students of private schools have shown better performance in both tests, in both kinds of reading texts, than the students of public schools.

This thesis consists of altogether four chapters. Chapter one introduces the study with its general background i.e. teaching and testing, testing of language skills, reading and reading comprehension, subjective and objective test, testing reading comprehension, review of related literature, objectives of the study, significance of the study.

VI

Similarly, chapter two deals with the methodology of the study. It comprises of sources of data, population of the study, tools and process of data collection and limitations of the study.

Chapter three deals with the analysis and interpretation of the data using different tables, percentage followed with description as well.

Chapter four consists of summary, findings and pedagogical implications of the study.

Eventually, references and appendices are given. The appendix section includes research tools and other information.

# CONTENTS

**Error! Bookmark not defined.** 

Recommendation for Acceptance	Ι
Recommendation for Evaluation	II
Evaluation and Approval	III
Dedication	IV
Acknowledgements	V
Abstract	VI-VII
List of Abbreviations	VIII
Contents	IX-XI
List of Tables	XII

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION Error! Bookmark not defined.-17

- 1.1 General Background
- Teaching and Testing Testing Language Skills 1.1.1 **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 1.1.2 **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Reading and Reading ComprehensionError! Bookmark not 1.1.3 defined.
- 1.1.4 Subjective and Objective Tests **Error! Bookmark not** defined.
- 1.1.5 Testing Reading Comprehension **Error! Bookmark not** defined.
- **Review of Related Literature** 1.2 **Error! Bookmark not** defined.
- Objectives of the Study 1.3 **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Significance of the Study Error! Bookmark not defined. 1.4
- Definition of Specific Terms Error! Bookmark not defined. 1.5

## CHAPTER TWO: METHODOLOGY Error! Bookmark not defined.-21

- 2.1 Sources of Data **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 2.1.1 Primary Sources of Data **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 2.1.2 Secondary Sources of Data Error! Bookmark not defined.
- 2.2 Sample Population and Sampling Procedure **Error!** Bookmark not defined.
- 2.3 Tools for Data Collection Error! Bookmark not defined.
- Criteria for Checking Subjective Answer Error! Bookmark 2.3.1 not defined.
- The Process of Data Collection 2.4 **Error! Bookmark not** defined.
- Pilot Study **Error! Bookmark not defined.** 2.5

2.6 Limitations of the Study **Error! Bookmark not defined.** 

CHAPTER THREE: ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION Error! Bookmark not defined.-38

- 3.1 Analysis of Average Performance Error! Bookmark not defined.
- 3.1.1 School Wise Performance in Objective Tests Error! Bookmark not defined.
- 3.1.2 School Wise Performance in Subjective Tests Error! Bookmark not defined.
- 3.1.3 Combined Performance in Objective and Subjective Tests **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 3.2 School Wise Performance in Objective and Subjective Tests **Tror! Bookmark not defined.**
- 3.2.1 The Performance of Objective Tests IX uts of Shikhar Ma. Vi. in **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 3.2.2 The Performance of the Students of Shikhar Ma. Vi. in Subjective Tests Error! Bookmark not defined.
- 3.2.3 The Performance of the Students of Nepal Rastriya Ma. Vi. in Objective Tests Error! Bookmark not defined.
- 3.2.4 The Performance of the Students of Nepal Rastriya Ma. Vi. in Subjective Tests Error! Bookmark not defined.
- 3.2.5 The Performance of the Students of Amar Jyoti Higher Secondary School in Objective Tests **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 3.2.6 The Performance of the Students of Amar Jyoti Higher Secondary School in Subjective Tests **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 3.2.7 The Performance of the Students of Shiva Ma. Vi. in Objective Tests Error! Bookmark not defined.
- 3.2.8 The Performance of Students of Shiva Ma. Vi. in Subjective Tests Error! Bookmark not defined.
- 3.2.9 The Performance of the Students of Elite Secondary Boarding School in Objective Tests Error! Bookmark not defined.
- 3.2.10 The Performance of the Students of Elite Secondary Boarding School in Subjective Tests **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 3.2.11 The Performance of the Students of Usha Balvatika Boarding School in Objective Tests Error! Bookmark not defined.

The Performance of the Students of Usha Balvatika 3.2.12 Boarding School in Subjective Tests Error! Bookmark not defined. 3.2.13 The Performance of the Students of Supreme Academy in **Objective Tests Error! Bookmark not defined.** 3.2.14 The Performance of the Students of Supreme Academy in Subjective Tests **Error! Bookmark not defined.** The Performance of the Students of Egar Bridge 3.2.15 Secondary Boarding School in Objective Tests **Error!** Bookmark not defined. The Performance of the Students of Egar Bridge 3.2.16 Secondary Boarding School in Subjective Tests **Error! Bookmark not defined.** 3.3 The Performance of the Students of Public and Private Schools in Objective and Subjective Tests in Seen and **Unseen Reading Texts** Error! Bookmark not defined. The Performance in Objective and Subjective Tests in 3.3.1 Seen and Unseen Reading Texts of the students of the **Private Schools** Error! Bookmark not defined. 3.3.2 The Performance of the Students of the Private Schools in Seen and Unseen Reading Texts in Objective Tests **Error! Bookmark not defined.** The Performance of the Students of the Private Schools in 3.3.3 Х Subjective Tests in Se seen Reading Texts Error! **Bookmark not define...** The Total Performance of the Students of the Public 3.3.4 Schools in Objective and Subjective Tests in Seen and **Unseen Reading Texts Error! Bookmark not defined.** 3.3.5 The Performance of the Students of the Public Schools in Seen and Unseen Reading Texts in Objective Tests **Error!** Bookmark not defined. The Performance of the Students of the Public Schools in 3.3.6 Seen and Unseen Reading Texts in Subjective Tests Error! Bookmark not defined. **CHAPTER FOUR: SUMMARY, FINDINGS AND** 

PEDAGOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

Error!

#### Bookmark not defined.-43

4.1	Summary	Error! Bookmark not defined.
4.2	Findings	Error! Bookmark not defined.
4.3	Pedagogical Implications	Error! Bookmark not defined.

#### REFERENCES

44-47

# APPENDICES

Appendix A: List of Schools	48
Appendix B: Comprehension Passages	49-67
Appendix C: School Wise Percentage of Raw Scores of Individual	
Student in Objective and Subjective Tests	68-75
Appendix D: List of Statistical Formula and their Symbols used in	
Analysis and Interpretation of Data	76
Appendix E: Sample Answer Sheets	77

48-77

# LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: The Average Performance of the Students in Objective TestsError! Bookmark not defined.
Table 2: The Average Performance of the Students in Subjective TestsError! Bookmark not defined.
Table 3: School Wise Average Performance in Combined form in
Objective and Subjective Tests Error! Bookmark not defined.
Table 4: The Average Performance in Objective Test   Error! Bookmark
not defined.
Table 5: The Average Performance in Subjective Test Error! Bookmark
not defined.
Table 6: The Average Performance in Objective Test Error! Bookmark
not defined.
Table 7: The Average Performance in Subjective Test Error! Bookmark
not defined.
Table 8: The Average Performance in Objective Test Error! Bookmark
not defined.
Table 9: The Average Performance in Subjective Test Error! Bookmark   act defined Action 1
not defined.
Table 10: The Average Performance in Objective Test Error! Bookmark   not defined
<b>not defined.</b> Table 11: The Average Performance in Subjective Test <b>Error!</b>
Table 11: The Average Performance in Subjective TestError!Bookmark not defined.
Table 12: The Average Performance in Objective Test Error! Bookmark
not defined.
Table 13: The Average Performance in Subjective TestError!
Bookmark not defined.
Table 14: The Average Performance in Objective Test Error! Bookmark
not defined.
Table 15: The Average Performance in Subjective TestError!
Bookmark not defined.
Table 16: The Average Performance in Objective Test Error! Bookmark
not defined.
Table 17: The Average Performance in Subjective TestError!
Bookmark not defined.
Table 18: The Average Performance in Objective Test Error! Bookmark
not defined.
Table 19: The Average Performance in Subjective TestError!
Bookmark not defined.

- Table 20: The Combined Average Performance of the Students of Public and Private Schools in Seen and Unseen Reading Texts **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 21: The Average Performance of the Students of Private Schools<br/>in Objective and Subjective Tests in Seen and Unseen<br/>Reading TextsError! Bookmark not defined.
- Table 22: The Average Performance of the Students of the Private Schools in Objective Tests in TM and NTM **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Table 23: The Average Performance of the Students of the Private Schools in Subjective Tests in TM and NTMError! Bookmark not defined.
- Table 24: The Total Average Performance of the Students of Public<br/>Schools in TM and NTMError! Bookmark not defined.
- Table 25: The Average Performance of the Students of Public Schoolsin TM and NTMError! Bookmark not defined.
- Table 26: The Average Performance of the Students of the Public<br/>Schools in TM and NTMError! Bookmark not defined.

# LIST ( $$_{\rm XII}$$ EVIATIONS

- DEO : District Education Office
- Dr. : Doctor
- EFL : English as a Foreign Language
- ELT : English Language Teaching
- ESL : English as a Second Language
- etc : Etcetera
- F.M. : Full Marks
- i.e. : That is to say

LSWR	:	Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing
No.	:	Number
NTBRMs	:	Non-Text Book Reading Materials
NTMs	:	Non-Text Materials
O.M.	:	Obtained Marks
Prof.	:	Professor
S.N.	:	Serial Number
TBRMs	:	Text Book Reading Materials
TMs	:	Text Materials

VIII

VIII