



*Journal of Advances and
Scholarly Researches in
Allied Education*

*Vol. VIII, Issue No. XVI,
Oct-2014, ISSN 2230-7540*

**ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TEST FOR HIGHER
SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN GUJRAT**

AN
INTERNATIONALLY
INDEXED PEER
REVIEWED &
REFEREED JOURNAL

English Proficiency Test for Higher Secondary School Students in Gujrat

Sanchayeta Roy¹ Dr. Rajesh Sharma²

¹Ph.D Research Scholar, Department of Education, Calorx Teachers' University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India

²Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Kadi Sarva Vishwavidyalaya, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

Abstract – Now- a- days, it is essential having a good command over English language and its proficiency. If we look over the students of higher secondary class regarding the said skill, then we find many questions and problems about the efficiency & proficiency of English language and the basic skills of this language. According to my point of view the major problem of the said students is that English language is only a school subject language and not their mother language or routine language and also not an operational too. Here, the investigator tries to find out the other ways of this problem via this study.

Keywords: English Language, Higher Secondary Students, Proficiency, Skill.

----- X -----

INTRODUCTION

English is a West Germanic language that developed in England during the Anglo Saxon Era. English is major language especially in the UK and in the US. Hence, today in world we have British English and American English having their own unique styles of accent and spellings. Indian education system has adopted British English, because of British colonial rule in India during pre-independence era. Indian English also has its own style and uniqueness. In the present study, I refer to the English language taught to the Higher Secondary students who follow the syllabus of Gujarat State Education Board of schools in Ahmedabad city. English language proficiency of the students of Gujarat is always under question. I thought over it and decided to investigate the level of their proficiency in English language.

The Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary defines test in the following ways:

- (1) The means by which the presence, quality, or genuineness of anything is determined; a means of trial.
- (2) The trial of the quality of something: to put to the test.
- (3) A particular process or method for trying or assessing.
- (4) A set of questions, problems, or the like, used as a means of evaluating the abilities,

aptitudes, skills, or performance of an individual or group; examination.

In the present study, I conduct a test in order to evaluate the English proficiency of Higher Secondary school students. In the present study, I refer to the students who study in 11th and 12th standard and follow the syllabus of Gujarat State Education Board of Schools.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

Construction and Standardization of English Language Proficiency test for Higher Secondary School Students

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To construct and standardize English language proficiency test for higher secondary school students.
2. To investigate the significance of difference in English language proficiency between subgroups based on standard, area, sex, stream and medium of instruction.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

English Language Proficiency Test

For present study, the term means a research tool designed to measure the English language proficiency which comprises of components like

vocabulary, grammar in use, reading comprehension, and written expression and which tests the ability of the students to comprehend text, to use English language correctly and effectively with proper selection of words and better way of expression.

RESEARCH METHOD OF THE STUDY

Survey method was used. Scores were obtained on the test. So, it also becomes a quantitative method. In addition, norms are also established. Hence, it becomes a Normative Study.

SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

For present study, sample was selected via stratified random sampling. The state of Gujarat was divided into five zones namely North Gujarat, South Gujarat, Central Gujarat, Saurashtra and Kacchh. Districts, tehsils, schools and students were selected randomly. The sample consisted of 2225 students.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY TEST

I decided to frame the test having four language components namely Grammar in Use, Reading Comprehension, Expression, Vocabulary. After referring various tests, I made first draft of the test. After pre-piloting and receiving the suggestions of experts, piloting of the study was carried out. After item analysis proper items were selected in the final form of the test. There were 70 items in the final form which are classified in the following table.

Final Form of the Test:

Component	No. of items
Grammar in Use	30
Reading Comprehension	10
Expression	17
Vocabulary	13

Collection of Data

I visited the schools personally and the data was collected from the selected sample.

Statistical Techniques

For descriptive analysis of the data mean, median were computed. Skewness and kurtosis were found out and the C.R of skewness and kurtosis were also computed. For inferential statistics t- test and F- test were used.

Reliability, Validity and Norms

Reliability

Reliability was obtained via Test-Retest Method and Split-half Method. Thus, the reliability quotient via different methods is found in the range of 0.81 to 0.90 which is high and positive. So, it can be said that the test is reliable.

Validity of the Test

Face validity, content validity, construct validity, content validity, construct validity were found quite good. The concurrent validity was found in the range of 0.76 to 0.89.

Factor Analysis

Factor analysis through principle component method was established. Two common components were found. One is Comprehension Ability and the other is Verbal Ability. Score plot was derived.

FINDINGS

The findings of the study are as follows.

1. The average English Language Proficiency of the students of Gujarat found on the test is 27.37 (39.1%) which is very low.
2. Students of standard XI score higher than the students of standard XII.
3. Students of urban area score higher than the students of rural area.
4. Female students score higher than their male counterparts.
5. Students of Commerce stream score higher than the students of Arts stream and the students of Science stream score higher than the students of Commerce stream.
6. Students of English medium score higher than the students of Gujarati medium.
7. Same findings were found with reference to different components of the test.

CONCLUSION:

English is spoken by one out of every six people in the world. It is the primary language of the United States, Australia and the U.K. It still holds the position of an official language for India. English Proficiency Test evaluates the proficiency in English among the Higher Secondary school students of English medium. These studies will give direction to the teachers to use appropriate methods of teaching English.

REFERENCES:

1. Acharya, M.D. (2005). Effectiveness of Games, Work-card and Self-Instructional Material on English Language Learning. Rajkot: Saurashtra University..
2. Agarwal, J.C. (1966). Educational Research. New Delhi: Arya Book Depot.
3. Agarwal, L.P. (2005). Modern Education Research. New Delhi: Dominant Publishers & Distributors.
4. Ahmen, J.H. (1966). Testing in Education. New Delhi: Prentice Hall of India Pvt. Ltd.
5. Bahri, Harder (1985). Definitional Dictionary of Linguistic Terms. New Delhi: National Publishing House
6. Best, John W.& Kahan, James V. (2005). Research in Education (Ninth Edition). New Delhi: Pearson Education (Singapore) Pvt. Ltd., Indian Branch
7. Buch, M.B. (1983-87), Fourth Survey of Research in Education. New Delhi. National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi.
8. Fifth Survey of Educational Research (1988-92) New Delhi. National Council of Educational Research and Training.
9. Dave, J.D. (1995). An Inquiry into the Effectiveness of the Communicative, Structural, Conventional Approaches to English Language Teaching at Secondary Level. Rajkot: Saurashtra University.