



A STUDY OF LINGUISTIC SKILLS AMONG STATE BOARD STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

Language is an inseparable part of human society. Human civilization has been possible only through language. It is through language only that humanity has come out of the stone age and has developed science art and technology in a big way. The purpose of the study was to measure the linguistic skills among the State Board students of Amravati District of Maharashtra State. The sample of 800 students selected randomly from the 10 State Board Schools of Amravati District. Data collected by descriptive survey method. Reading and writing test developed by researcher as a tool for data collection. Mean, S.D. and 't' value were used to analyse the data. The study concluded that most of the female, urban and Std. Xth students have better linguistic skills than the male, rural and Std. IXth students of state board schools.

KEYWORDS:

*human society ,
Human civilization , science art
and technology .*

INTRODUCTION

Language is an essential part of human life. Besides it is a means of communication and social control. According to O. Jepserson "Language is a set of human habits the purpose of which is to give expression to thoughts and feelings". Bloch and Trager defined language as a system of arbitrary vocal symbols by means of which a social group operates. The speech is the language. Language endows man with his humanity. Isocrates stated that, we are not better gifted than the animals. Many of them are fleetier or stronger or otherwise

better than we. But because we are endowed with the power of persuading one another and explaining our thoughts. We were not only reclaimed from bestial ways of living but come together and founded states and established laws and invented acts. It is speech and language that enabled us to perfect almost everything we have achieved in the way of civilization. One view about language is that, language not only a means of communication and a vehicle of thought, but a creative power, the formative element in our experience inextricably involved in our interpretation of reality. English Language is holding a place of prestige in our country. English language is spoken and understood all over the globe. It has got international importance. It is the first language in UK, USA,



Canada and Australia and second language is Africa, Russia, France and India. Advanced studies in the field of science, medicine, engineering and technology as well as excellent literature of the world is in English language. English is being highly developed language mirrors to us everything in the true sense about different facets of life political, social, religious, cultural, agricultural etc. English plays an important role in industrial and commercial life of the country English assist us for our inter cultural understanding inside the country.

Learning a foreign language is learning a new set of skills. The four skills of language are a set of four capabilities that allow an individual to comprehend and produce spoken language for proper and effective interpersonal communication. These skills are listening, speaking, reading and writing. Listening and speaking are primary and reading and writing are secondary skills.

Reading is a receptive or passive skill as it requires us to use our eyes and brain to comprehend the written equivalent of spoken language. Reading is a process of looking at a written or printed symbol and translating it into an appropriate sound. Dr. West suggested the reading should be given the key place in the total scheme of teaching English as a foreign language. Reading is important in English language because Reading indicate towards knowing of the language. It helps in knowing world's news and important information through print media and it is a source of recreation. It is a good source of self education. In the words of W.S. Gray, Reading is a form of experience, Reading bring us in contact with the minds of great authors, with the written account of their experiences, their recorded lives and the advancement made by them in various fields. Reading gives learner a full control over words and patterns which they come across during the process of speaking.

Writing is productive or active skill as it requires us to use our hands and brain to produce the written symbols that represent our spoken language. Writing is a form of communication that allows students to put their feelings and ideas on paper, to organize their knowledge and beliefs into convincing arguments and to convey meaning through well constructed text. Writing skill is of immense important skill in language learning. According to Bacon "Reading maketh a full man, conference a ready man and writing an exact man." In the words of Bell "Writing is a tool used to enable us to express what is in our mind and for some people is almost as important as speech." Emphasizing the importance of writing Mahatma Gandhi says "Fair and legible hand – writing makes a man perfect in all walks of life."

Reading and writing are intimately connected and that one cannot easily be taught without the other. Hirvela (2004) provides a convincing rationale for including reading as an integral component of the writing. So the investigator made an attempt to study the linguistic skills (Reading and writing) of State Board students.

OBJECTIVES

- ❖ To study the linguistic skills (reading and writing) among the State Board students.
- ❖ To compare the linguistic skills (reading and writing) of Male and Female state board students.
- ❖ To compare the linguistic skills (reading and writing) of Urban and Rural state board students.
- ❖ To compare the linguistic skills (reading and writing) of Std. Xth and Std. IXth state board students.

HYPOTHESES

- ❖ There is a poor linguistic skills (reading and writing) among the state board students.
- ❖ There is no significant difference between the linguistic skills of male and female state board students.
- ❖ There is no significant difference between the linguistic skills of urban and rural state board students.
- ❖ There is no significant difference between the linguistic skills of Std. Xth and Std. IXth state board students.

METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on a survey method particularly the descriptive survey research method.

POPULATION

All the State Board students (Std. IXth and Std. Xth) in Amravati district of Maharashtra (India) comprised the population of the study.

SAMPLE AND SAMPLING

The researcher selected 800 students of 10 State Board Schools of Amravati district through random sampling technique. The sample profile is given in Table 1.

Table 1 Sample Profile

	Std. IX		Std. X		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Urban	100	100	100	100	400
Rural	100	100	100	100	400
Total	200	200	200	200	800

Tool

Reading and writing tests were developed by the researcher. Reading test comprised of 5 questions based on different dimensions to assess correct pronunciation, stress and intonation, pace of reading, proper pause and awareness of punctuations while reading prose as well as reading poem with appropriate rhythm, use of dictionary, reading advertisement with comprehension and forming logical sequences of the sentence while reading.

Writing test comprised 4 questions, assessing proper punctuation marks, use of capital letters, correct spelling, neatness and speed as well as the ability of students to write about themselves creative writing and writing formal and informal letters.

Reliability of reading and writing test was measured by test retest method. Reliability co-efficient was found to be 0.76.

Statistical Techniques

Both descriptive and inferential statistics were employed for analysis of data. The descriptive statistics such as Mean and S.D. were used.

Inferential statistics such as 't' test was employed 't' value was calculated to know the significant difference between linguistic skills of Male and Female students, Urban and Rural students and Std. IXth and Std. Xth students of State Board schools.

Analysis of the Data

Testing of Ho₁

There is poor linguistic skills (reading and writing) among the state Board students.

Table 2 : Showing the linguistic skills among state board students

Variable	Level	Std. IX th Students (400)	Std. X th Students (400)	Male Students (400)	Female Students (400)	Urban Students (400)	Rural Students (400)
Linguistic skills	Excellent	131	199	120	210	251	79
		32.75 %	49.75 %	30 %	52.5 %	62.75 %	19.75 %
	Good	220	178	226	172	141	257
		55 %	44.5 %	56.5 %	43 %	35.25 %	64.25 %
	Average	49	23	54	18	8	64
		12.25 %	5.75 %	13.5 %	4.5 %	2 %	16 %
Poor	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	-	-	-	-	-	-	

From the table 2 it is observed that most of the Std. Xth students, female students and urban students are excellent in linguistic skills while most of the Std. IXth students, male students and rural students are good in total linguistic skills.

Most of the state board students have good and excellent linguistic skills. Hence H_{01} is rejected.

Testing of H_{02}

Table 3 : Showing the significance of difference between linguistic skills of Male and Female state board students

Sample (students)	Number	Mean	S.D.	't' value	Level of significance
Male	400	27.17	6.028	8.20	0.05 Significant
Female	400	30.78	6.290		

Table 3 shows that at 798 df. 0.05 level of significance the calculated 't' value is 8.20 which is more than the table value 1.96.

Therefore it is inferred that there is significant difference between linguistic skills of male and female state board students. Hence H_{02} is rejected.

It is concluded that Female students have better linguistic skills than male students of state board.

Testing of H_{03}

Table 4 : Showing the significance of difference between the linguistic skills of Urban and Rural State Board students.

Sample (students)	Number	Mean	S.D.	't' value	Level of significance
Urban	400	32.22	5.62	16.64	0.05 Significant
Rural	400	25.73	5.44		

Table 4 shows that at 798 df 0.05 level of significance the calculated 't' value is 16.64 which is more than the table value 1.96.

Therefore, it is inferred that there is significant difference between the linguistic skills of urban and rural students of state board. Hence H_{03} is rejected.

It is concluded that urban students have much better linguistic skills than the rural students of State Board.

Testing of Ho₄**Table 5 : Showing the significance of difference between the linguistic skills of Std. Xth and Std. IXth of State Board students.**

Sample students	Number	Mean	S.D.	't' value	Level of significance
Std. X	400	30.19	6.25	5.40	0.05 Significant
Std. IX	400	27.76	6.35		

Table 5 shows that at 798 df 0.05 level of significance the calculated 't' value is 5.40 which is more than the table value 1.96.

Therefore it is inferred that there is significant difference between the linguistic skills of Std. Xth and Std. IXth state boards students. Hence Ho₄ is rejected.

It is concluded that both Std. Xth students have better linguistic skills than the Std. IXth students of State Board.

CONCLUSIONS

- Most of the Std. Xth students, female students and urban students are excellent in linguistic skills.
- Most of the Std. IXth students, Male students and rural students are good in total linguistic skills.
- Female students have better linguistic skills than male students of state Board.
- Urban students have better linguistic skills than rural students of state Board.
- Students Std. Xth students have better linguistic skills than Std. IXth students of State Board.

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