

Grammar Proficiency Level of First-Year College Students of Pangasinan State University

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Abstract - Learning how to speak English language gives us confidence in expressing ourselves and gives us competitive advantage. The study analyzed the grammar proficiency level among 100 first year college students of Pangasinan State University. Descriptive method was used in the study. Survey questionnaire supported and verified the information gathered.

Findings revealed that majority of the respondents are male, aged 16 who use Tagalog as a medium of communication at home, whose residence is within Pangasinan. The respondents are competent in S-V agreement, parallelism and gerund. Profiles of the respondents have significant relationship with regard to their grammar competency.

As a result, the respondents already developed the fundamental knowledge and understanding in the topic and needed minimal assistance for mastery. With regard to the relationship, the following were concluded: As to Subject and Verb Agreement, male and young respondents have more knowledge on the items; As to Parallelism, male respondents have more knowledge; As to Gerund, older respondents have more knowledge. Thus, an enrichment material prepared by the researchers is recommended to help students master grammar.

Keywords – Grammar Proficiency – First Year College Students – Pangasinan State University

INTRODUCTION

English Language has grown as the primary language for international communication and as medium of instruction in academic world hence, English is widely known as the international language. Most countries with progressive economic status like the United States of America have attested this certainty. The country's fluency in English is often coined to this concept, however, despite the country's supremacy in economy, there is emergence of flaws in the usage of the English language. Americans are known for having intermittent but perceivable English grammatical errors often times (Philippine Star, 2008).

Understanding the limitations and insufficiency of students on some areas in grammar is one measure to find possible solutions to the problem hence the need for this study gains much stronger ground and basis.

This present study can be very useful to promote awareness of the most considered grammatical errors that are committed. The study can be an additional instrument in establishing guidelines for proper usage of English. Students will come to realize that clear understanding and adequate exercises on various aspects of grammar may help enhance their proficiency in the correct use of language.

It is in this light that the researcher came up with an Enrichment Material for learning grammar entitled: "Enrichment Material on Grammar for College". The areas of grammar covered in this enrichment material are the following: Subject and Verb Agreement, Parallelism, Gerund, Run-On Sentence, Dangling Modifiers, and Tone of Language.

The author hopes that the contents of the Enrichment material and the manner they are presented will improve the learners' interests

and skills in achieving good grammar in writing. The researcher, therefore, expects that this material can address the need for a simple and useful guide in improving the correct use of language through good grammar.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study utilized the descriptive method of research. One Hundred PSU San Carlos Students are taken as respondents.

Grammar Competency of the Respondents

Grammar Competency	# of Item	Mean Score	%	C	Rank
Subject and Verb Agreement	15	11.41	76.07	C	1
Parallelism	15	10.28	68.53		3
Gerund	15	10.37	69.13		2
Run On Sentence	15	9.57	63.8		5
Dangling and Misplaced Modifiers	15	10.18	67.87		4
Tone of Language	15	9.55	63.67	C	6
Total	90	61.36	68.17	Competent	

Level of Competency (IC) Legend: Highly Competent (80% - 100%); Competent (60% - 79%); Moderately Competent (40% - 59%); Slightly Competent (20% - 39%); Not Competent (1%-19%)

The table showed the overall grammar competency of the respondents. Results were

arranged from highest to lowest based on their percentages.

Findings revealed that the respondents are highly competent on subject and verb agreement with percentage of 76.07%. Further, they are competent on Gerund, Parallelism, Dangling and Misplaced Modifiers, Run On Sentence and Tone of Language with percentages of 69.13%, 67.87%, 63.8% and 63.67% respectively.

Overall, the respondents are competent on these areas as manifested by a percentage of 68.17% and a mean score of 61.36%.

Summary of the Correlation between the Profile of the Respondents and their Grammar Competency

Area in grammar	Profile				
	Sex	Age	Language Spoken	Residence	Course
Subject and Verb Agreement	-	-			
Parallelism	-				
Gerund		+			
Run On Sentence		-			
Dangling and Misplaced Modifiers	-				
Tone of Language					

Legend: + (Positive correlation) and - (Negative correlation)

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on the thorough review and analyses, the following are therefore concluded: Majority of the respondents are male, aged 16 years old who use Filipino as a medium of communication at home, whose residence is within Pangasinan with a percentage of 92%, and are enrolled in Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA); The respondents are competent in grammar as to subject and verb agreement, parallelism, gerund, run-on-sentence, dangling modifier, and tone of language. Thus, the respondents have developed the fundamental knowledge, skills and core understandings and need minimal assistance and constant practice to master grammar; The profiles of the respondents have significant relationship with regard to their grammar competency as to subject and verb agreement, parallelism, gerund, run-on-sentence, dangling modifier, and tone of language. Thus, as to S-V agreement, male and young respondents have more knowledge on the items; As to Parallelism, male respondents have more knowledge; As to Gerund, older respondents have more knowledge; As to Run-On Sentence, the older respondents have more knowledge; As to Dangling and Misplaced Modifier, male respondents have more knowledge; and as to Tone of Language, younger respondents who live in Pangasinan have more knowledge.

In the light of the conclusions, the following recommendations are hereby suggested: A follow up research is hereby recommended to deal on the following areas namely: properties of verbs such as tenses (simple and complex tenses), kinds (transitive, intransitive, regular and irregular verbs), voice (active and passive voices) and mood. English instructors should conduct a semestral evaluation on the grammar competency of the students. The enrichment material entitled "Enrichment Material on Grammar for College" prepared by the researcher is hereby recommended to help students master grammar.

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