

Teachers and Students' Perception Towards the Textbook: "New Generation English"

Bina Lamichhane
(Assistant Lecturer, UMC)

Abstract

This research article entitled, Teachers and Students' Perception Towards the Textbook: "New Generation English" attempts to analyse the textbook 'New Generation English' which was designed and edited by E.L.T experts of the department of English Education T.U. namely Awasthi, J.R. Bhattarai, G.R, and Khaniya T.R. This English textbook has been introduced for the students of three year Bachelor's degree in education (B.Ed) to meet the needs of Nepalese learners of English. It is an integrated course aimed at developing general proficiency in the English language with special emphasis on developing reading and writing skills. The objectives of this research study are to examine the quality of the poems in terms of their physical and linguistic features and to analyze the poems included in "New Generation English" in terms of language and their appropriateness for the target groups. Questionnaires and interviews were the major tools used to collect the necessary data. The sample population consisted of 10 subject teachers who have been experienced for at least a year and forty students who are studying B.Ed second year from different campuses affiliated to T.U. Regarding the organization of text and exercises and texts, 75 % of students were found satisfied and 25 % of students were found dissatisfied. Regarding the relevancy of the texts, Out of the 10 teachers 6 agreed 2 disagreed and 2 remained neutral. It was found that 60 % of the teachers and 65 % of the students agreed on the topic.

Keywords: Analysis, Appropriateness, Perception, Satisfaction

Introduction

The textbook 'New Generation English' is designed and edited by E.L.T experts of the department of English Education T.U. namely Awasthi, J.R. Bhattarai, G.R, and Khaniya T.R. New Generation English has been introduced for the students of three year Bachelor's degree in education (B.Ed) to meet the needs of Nepalese learners of English. It is an integrated course aimed at developing general proficiency in the English language with special emphasis on developing reading and writing skills. This is a general course in the English language for the first year students of three year Bachelor in Education (B.Ed). The textbook includes stories, essays, poems, and informative passages on contemporary and critical issues. The course also includes a glossary, vocabulary, reading and writing components. Vocabulary covers words from different academic fields. The vocabulary section has exercises on the vocabulary items in the passages. Different types of exercises are included in this section to increase the student's vocabulary level. The glossary section draws a list of difficult words from each of the reading texts with their contextual dictionary meanings.

Similarly, the reading component deals with a wide variety of carefully selected materials. They include informative passages on contemporary and critical issues like 'Inclusive Education' by Khaniya, T.R. Likewise Reading stands for the intensive reading of the texts for their full understanding. The answer questions given in the text require not only factual answers but also answers that demand critical thinking on the part of the students. In the same way, a large variety of writing exercises like letter writing, essay writing etc are also included in the text.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this research study are as follows:

- i. To examine the quality of the poems in terms of their physical and linguistic features.

- ii. To analyze the poems included in "New Generation English" in terms of language and their appropriateness for the target groups.
- iii. To provide pedagogical implications.

Methodology

The study was based on both primary and secondary sources of data. The researcher's knowledge and experience in the relevant field as well as the subject teachers who have been teaching the textbook under study and the students of B.Ed. second year from different campuses of T.U. in Morang district were the Primary sources of data. The researcher also consulted different books, journals, previous research studies and so on. More specifically the following were the secondary sources of the study.

The sample population consisted of 10 subject teachers who have been experienced for at least a year and forty students who are studying B.Ed second year from different campuses affiliated to T.U. Those teachers and students were selected by using a judgmental / purposive sampling procedure. The researcher used questionnaires and interviews to collect the data from the teachers and the students.

Analysis of the Poems Included in "New Generation English" According to the Collected Data

The gained results from both the teachers and students regarding the poems included in the proposed text are described under the following subtopics:

- I) Language
 - II) Sufficiency
 - III) Appropriateness
 - IV) Organization of text and exercises
 - V) Relevancy
- I) Language

Language is a prime concern in the course of analyzing a poem. The recommended book 'New General English' involves eight poems written by the

poets of the East and the West. Some of the poems like 'Do Not Say' by Mohamad Bin Haji Salleh, Gitanjali 22 by R.N. Tagore, 'Buddha's Wife' by Ruth Silcock Pearson etc. are culturally dominated poems. It is clearer to us that the culture varies from society to society. So, the language differs in these poems 'Do Not Say' is the poem filled with the Malaysian local dialects and 'Buddha's Wife' has illusions from the Hindu, Muslim and Christian religions. So, a variety of languages have been used in the poems.

The appropriateness of the language used in the poem is the prime matter of this research. In this sub topic, the researcher found whether the language used in the poems is appropriate according to the level, culture, interest and standard of the students or not. So by observing the questionnaires, the researcher can present the views of the interviewees. Out of the 10 interviewees, 6 agreed that the language used in the poems is appropriate for learners of different interests in different social situations. Similarly, 4 interviewees disagreed that the language used in the poems is not appropriate according to the level and context of the students.

Similarly, out of the forty students, 21 agreed that the language is appropriate to enhance the language skills of the students. Likewise, 19 students disagreed on the topic. This appropriateness of language can be more clarified from the following table:

Table No. 1: Appropriateness of Language

Teachers						
S. N.	Agreed	Percentage	Disagreed	Percentage	Uncertain	Percentage
1	6	60	4	40	-	-

Table No. 1.1 : Appropriateness of Language

Students				
S.N.	Agreed	Percentage	Disagreed	Percentage
1	21	52.5	19	47.5

In these above given tables, the appropriateness of the language in the poems included in the recommended book is highlighted. The tables show that 60 percent of the teachers and 52.5 percent of the students agreed on the appropriateness of the language used in the poems. Only 40 percent of the teachers and 47.5 percent of the students disagreed on it.

II) Sufficiency

Poetry is the leading genre of literature. Unlike drama, short stories, novels, and films, it has a long history in English literature. So, to deal with the subtitle 'sufficiency' is appropriate to analyze the poems of the text.

Under the sub-title 'sufficiency', the researcher tried to analyze the text related exercises, their reading materials, the sufficient number of poems according to the level of students, selection and relation of the text with the four language skills, availability of the teacher's books etc are sufficient in the proposed text or not. Out of the 10 teachers, only 2 teachers agreed that such materials and exercises are sufficient in the text. Six teachers disagreed that the texts, exercises, reading materials etc. are sufficient. Similarly, 2 teachers remained neutral. They chose the option uncertainly.

Similarly, out of the forty students only 16 agreed that the materials are not sufficient according to the level of the students. Likewise, 24 students disagree that the exercise texts, and reading materials are sufficient according to the level, and standard of the students. The following table clarifies the sufficiency of the texts, exercises, and other teaching learning materials:

Table No. 2 : Sufficiency

S. N.	Teachers					
	Agreed	Percentage	Disagreed	Percentage	Uncertain	Percentage
1	2	20%	6	60%	2	20%

Table No. 2.1 : Sufficiency

S.N.	Students			
	Agreed	Percentage	Disagreed	Percentage
1	16	40%	24	60%

These given tables highlight whether the exercises, reading materials, number of poems according to the level etc. are sufficient in the recommended text or not. Among the interviewed teachers, 20 percent agreed and 60 percent disagreed and 20 percent remained neutral. Similarly, among the 40 interviewed students, 40 percent agreed and 60 percent disagreed on the topic.

From the above analysis, we should form a conclusion that the texts, exercises, reading materials, teaching materials etc. are not sufficiently included in the proposed text.

III. Appropriateness

Under this subtitle 'Appropriateness' the researcher analyzed the recommended text in terms of given poems, grading of the poems, their motivation to the students, facilitating students learning process, speaking materials, language in different social situations, comprehension of the text, their organization etc. which should be appropriate according to the level of the students. Among the 10 teachers 5 agreed, 3 disagreed and 2 teachers remained neutral on the appropriateness of these different aspects of the texts.

Similarly, out of the 40 students, 25 students agreed on the appropriateness of the text in terms of these mentioned aspects. It is more vivid to present the data in the following table:

Table No. 3 : Appropriateness

S.N.	Teachers					
	Agreed	%	Disagreed	%	Uncertain	%
1	5	50	3	30	2	20

Table No. 3.1 : Appropriateness

S.N.	Students			
	Agreed	%	Disagreed	%
1	25	62.5	15	37.5

These given tables show that the proposed poems are appropriate according to the given texts, materials, exercises, their grading for the 50 percent of the teachers who were interviewed with the questionnaire. Only 30 percent of the teachers disagreed on the subject matter whereas 20 percent of the teacher remained neutral.

In the same way, out of the 40 students, 25 agreed on the appropriateness of the poems included in New Generation English in terms of the exercises, interest and level of the students. Similarly, 15 students disagreed on it. In percentage, 62.5 percent of the students agreed and 37.5 percent of the students disagreed.

So, from the analysis of the above data, it is concluded that the given poems, their exercises, their language are appropriate for the level and interest of the students because more than 50 percent of the teachers and students agreed on it.

IV. Organization of the Texts and Exercises

Well organization of the texts, exercises, vocabulary, skills developing activities are unavoidable aspects of a textbook. In the subtitle 'Organization of the Texts and Exercises' the researcher analyzed the connection / relation between the given texts (poems) and the exercises. Further, the researcher also analyzed the grading of the texts and exercises according to the level and interest of the students, the organization of the reading, writing, speaking and listening materials in the given texts. The whole outcome is measured in terms of the questionnaires prepared for the teachers and students.

Among the 10 experienced teachers of Morang district, 6 teachers agreed on the topic, 3 teachers disagreed and only 1 remained neutral. Similarly, out of the 40 interviewed students, 30 students agreed and only 10

students disagreed. The data of agreed and disagreed can be presented in the following table:

Table No. 4 : Organization of the Text and Exercises

S.N.	Teachers					
	Agreed	%	Disagreed	%	Uncertain	Uncertain
1	6	60%	3	30%	1	10%

Table No. 4.1 : Organization of the Text and Exercises

S.N.	Students				
	Agreed	Agreed %	Disagreed	Disagreed %	
1	30	75	10	25%	

These given tables present the views of both the teachers and students regarding the organization of the texts and exercises in the proposed poems. Out of 10 teachers, 6 teachers agreed that the proposed texts have good organization between the texts and given exercises. The tables show that the texts and given exercises are concerned with the language skills and are apt to enhance these skills to the students 60 percent of the teachers agreed on it 30 percent teachers disagreed on it whereas 10 percent of the teachers remained neutral.

Likewise, the table of the students shows that out of the 40 students, 30 students agreed that the texts and the exercises are well organized. Only 10 students out of 40 disagreed. Hence the agreed percentage of the students is 75 and disagreed percentage of the students is 25.

V. Relevancy

The task of the researcher in this subtitle "Relevancy" was to find out whether, the poems included in 'New Generation English' are relevant according to the level, standard, interest, socio-cultural, background of the students or not. The major concern under the subtitle was whether the given poems were relevant to the students need or not. The given poems are

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 adaptable in terms of Nepali culture or not was also another factor of this research.

To find out the relevancy of the texts, 10 teachers and 40 students as mentioned in chapter 2 were interviewed with the help of the questionnaires. Out of the 10 teachers 6 agreed 2 disagreed and 2 remained neutral.

Similarly, out of the 40 students, 26 agreed and 14 students disagreed. The major factor for disagreeing can be that though the poems meet the level of the students, they depict the culture of other countries too. For example, the poem 'Do Not Say is all about Malaysia and its rustic people.

The following table shows the data of agreed and disagreed teachers and students in terms of the relevancy of the given texts and exercises:

Table No. 5 : Relevancy

S.N.	Teacher's					
	Agreed	%	Disagreed	%	Uncertain	Uncertain
1	6	60%	2	20%	2	20%

Table No. 5.1 : Relevancy

S.N.	Student					
	Agreed	Agreed %	Disagreed	Disagreed %		
1	26	65%	14	35%		

The given tables clarify that the given poems, exercises, vocabulary in the textbook 'New Generation English' are appropriate. It is because the table shows that 60 percent of the teachers and 65 percent of the students agreed on the topic. Similarly, 20 percent of the teachers and 35 percent of the students disagreed that the exercises are fully relevant to texts and they are according to the needs and interests of the students.

Findings and Conclusion

The main purpose of this research study was to analyze the physical aspects as well as appropriateness of the poems included in the textbook 'New English Generations'. The poems included in the textbook are analyzed in

terms of their appropriateness to the target group. On the basis of the questionnaires prepared separately for the students and teachers, the poems were analyzed dividing specially into the five subtitles: Language, Relevancy, Appropriateness, Organization of the text and Exercise and Relevancy. Regarding the organization of text and exercises and texts, 75 % students were found satisfied and 25 % of students were found dissatisfied. Regarding relevancy of the texts, out of the 10 teachers, 6 agreed 2 disagreed and 2 remained neutral. It was found that 60 percent of the teachers and 65 percent of the students agreed on the topic. Similarly, 20 percent of the teachers and 35 percent of the students disagreed that the exercises are fully relevant to texts and they are according to the needs and interests of the students. In terms of the findings, it is concluded that a higher percentage of the teachers and students are satisfied with the textbook The New Generation and its textual features.

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