

## ABSTRACT

ANNA. A Study on the Phrase Length of the Subject and on that of the Predicator in Relation to the Difficulty Level.

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The ability to determine the difficulty level of a text in teaching languages is very important to make it suitable to with the level. Among other aspects, such as, word level, the difficulty of a text can be seen from the sentences composing the text. There are two obligatory elements in a sentence that can be observed, namely, the subject and the predicator. Since the amount of information contained in a sentence may be reflected in number of words building up the phrases, it is possible that the length of the subject and of the predicator phrases can influence the difficulty of a text.

This study was intended to find out whether the length of the subject and of the predicator phrases were related. For this purpose, two major hypotheses were stated. The first was (1) the length of the subject phrase of the elementary, of the intermediate and of the advanced level were different. More specifically, it was to find out that (1.1) the subject phrase of the advanced level was longer than that of the intermediate level and (1.2) the subject phrase of the intermediate level was longer than that of the elementary level. The second hypothesis was (2) the length of the predicator phrase of the elementary, of the intermediate and of the advanced level were different. Specifically, it was to find out that (2.1) the predicator phrase of the advanced level was longer than that of the intermediate level and (2.2) the predicator phrase of the intermediate level was longer than that of the elementary level.

This research was an analytical survey. It employed the stratified sampling. The sample consisted of 100 subject and 100 predicator phrases from each level. The hypotheses were tested using Kruskal-Wallis H test at the significance of .05. ( $P$  value  $< .05$ ).

The results of the computation showed that (1) the length of the subject phrase of the elementary, of the

intermediate and of the advanced level were different ( $P = .00 < .05$ ); (1.1) the subject phrase of the advanced level was longer than that of the intermediate level ( $P = .02 < .05$ ), (1.2) the subject phrase of the intermediate level was longer than that of the elementary level ( $P = .00 < .05$ ). The results of the computation of the predicator were (2) the length of the predicator phrase of the elementary, of the intermediate and of the advanced level were different ( $P = .00 < .05$ ); (2.1) the predicator phrase of the advanced level was the same or not longer than that of the intermediate level ( $P = .16 > .05$ ), (2.2) the predicator phrase of the intermediate level was longer than that of the elementary level ( $P = .01 < .05$ ).

A conclusion can be drawn that the length of the subject phrase of the elementary, of the intermediate and of the advanced level are different, whereas the length of the predicator phrase is different only between the elementary and the intermediate level.

Since it appears that the difficulty level of a text may be reflected in the length of the subject and in that of the predicator phrases, it is possible that the length of the subject and of the predicator phrase may be used for determining the difficulty level of a text. So, it is suggested that material writers or teachers also consider the phrase length in developing and deciding teaching materials. The subject phrase of the advanced level is longer than that of the intermediate and the intermediate is longer than that of the elementary. For the predicator, the phrase length of the intermediate level is longer than that of the elementary, whereas the intermediate and the advanced level are the same.