

Testing and Evaluation in English as a Second Language: University of Kelaniya

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Testing is a formal measurement of someone's knowledge or ability and evaluation is a general assessment of someone's knowledge and/or ability. Language tests can provide evidence of learning and instruction and hence feedback on the effectiveness of the teaching programs.

The purpose of this research is to observe the progress of the first year Commerce and Management (2003 / 2004 batch) students, in learning English as a Second Language within the period of their first semester. The hypothesis of this study is that there are some **Nominal Scales** (e.g. educational background, membership in a particular language class) which act as deciding factors of their progress. There were about 425 students in this batch and they had been grouped into eleven classes to follow "English for Business Communication" course. A sample of test scores from the Placement Test (Test 1) and the End of First Semester Test (Test 2) of this course was taken.

This paper attempts to focus on a description of the two test scores graphically and statistically. In this respect a **Correlation Analysis** will be done to examine how the scores on two tests compared with regard to range of marks. Moreover, an analysis on how far the Nominal Scales act as the deciding factors of the students' progress will also be discussed.

At the conclusion of this investigation, a clear picture of how the students performed on the tests would be obtained in order to analyze the reasons for the students' progress. Moreover, necessary steps could be taken to enhance the students' competence and performance in learning English as a Second Language.

Reference - Brown, J.D. (1996). *Testing in Language Programs*. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall Regents.