

Relationship Between Students Performance in School Certificate English Language and Information Retrieval Course (GNS 104) at the Federal University of Technology, Akure

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Abstract: This study was designed to find out if there exist any significant relationship between the school certificate grade in English Language and the Federal University of Technology Akure Grade in GNS 104 Course, (Information Retrieval). The study was also to find out if the school certificate grade in English Language could be used to predict students' grade in GNS 104. A total of Two hundred and thirty-eight part one students of the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA) 2000/2001 session were used for the study. The data for the study consisted of the students' grades in English Certificate examination and the FUTA grades in GNS 104. The data was subjected to appropriate statistical procedures by finding the person's product moment correlation coefficient. The regression coefficient was also calculated. The result of the study showed that there is a very low relationship between the school certificate grades in English Language and FUTA grades in Information Retrieval Course (GNS 104). The result also showed that, the school certificate grade is a very weak predictor of the student's performances in the University Examinations. The implication of this study is that Nigerian Tertiary Institution should not rely much on the school certificate examination grade. They should rather rely more on the JAMB examination result or examination organized by individual University.

Key words: GNS 104, FUTA, statistical procedures, predictor, JAMB

INTRODUCTION

The problem of students' performances in English Language has constituted a vicious cycle. Virtually everybody has been expressing deep concern over the ever-increasing failure rate of students in English Language in the Senior Secondary School and Post secondary school examinations.

According to Adegbite^[1] several attempts have been made to study and suggest remedies for the situation, which has been attributed to several factors like Political, Economical, Social, Educational and Linguistic, among others. Liman^[2] averred that Examination Ethics are the moral principle laid down for the conduct of an examination. It is the moral correctness of an examination that is "University are to moderate the results of the students on programmes leading to awards of diploma in the College to ensure that things *** the standard required by the University (University of Botswana Calendar) Researches in English studies have shown that the performances of students in English Language are fast deteriorating in a corresponding manner to their level of achievement in formal education and if urgent steps are not taken, the future of our education is at stake. This is because researches and teachers have observed that the incessant poor performances of students in English Language simultaneously cause the general poor

performances of students in Education. This is because all the other subjects in the school from the primary school level to the University are learnt via the medium of English Language. According to them, the standard of education is falling because of the pupils' deficiencies in English Language, which in turn hinder their prospects of acquiring effective education^[3].

The Division of General Studies was established in our institutions of higher learning so as to expose students to disciplines other than their own. The course is designed to expose fresh students to information sources and systems, so as to encourage independent and life long learning among the students. The mistaken impression among political and academic leaders that somebody has to do is research the web for an information needs, is an example of this challenge. A large amount of Information is indeed, available on the web today, but it is an incoherent that, the quantity of scholar intellectual and anesthetic information available on the web is truly minimal when compared with what is available in a good library. To move forward, the myth that the web already provides the library environment must be eradicated. Besides, the purpose was also to ensure that students are well groomed in the areas considered to be pre-requisite to their major disciplines. Information Retrieval (GNS 104) is one of such courses at the Federal University of Technology, Akure.

Hypothesis: Based on the above observations, one is interested in finding out if there is relationship between the achievement of students in school certificates English and their University information Retrieval (GNS 104) result. Specifically, one is tempted to find out if the senior certificate result in English Language could be used as a predictor of the University Information Retrieval Course (GNS 104) grade. In order to find a solution to the above, the following hypotheses were generated. There is no significant relationship between the school certificate result in English Language and Students' performance in Information Retrieval (GNS 104) Course result in the University. Secondly is to find out if there is correlation between students' academic performance in school certificate English Language and their performance in Information Retrieval Course (GNS 104).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Students are admitted for Bachelor of Technology (B. Tech) degree at the Federal University of Technology, Akure, with at least a pass in English Language (i.e., P8 to A1) show in Table 1. This study therefore assumes a minimum qualification in English Language before a student could be allowed to pursue any degree in Technology.

The sample of the study consisted of 238 students comprising (141) male and ninety seven female students (97) who were admitted in 2000/2001 sessions to run various degree courses in Technology at the Federal University of Technology, Akure.

Measures used for the study:

- The school certificate grades in English Language denoted by x.
- The FUTA grades in GNS 104 (Information Retrieval) denoted by Y show in Table 2.

Analysis of data: For the purpose of accepting or rejecting the postulated hypothesis, the data collected were subjected to person's product moment correlation analysis^[4] for the different significant levels to ascertain any significant relationship existing between the school certificate grades and the University grades. The coefficient of correlation, r was thereafter converted to students-t-distribution so as to find out if there was a significant difference ($p < 0.05$) in the performances of students in the school certificate examination.

Table 1: The WAEC stanine scores and weights

Stained scores:	A1	A2	A3	C4	C5	C6	P7	P8	F9
Weights:	4.00	3.50	3.00	2.50	2.00	1.50	1.00	0.50	0.00

Table 2: FUTA Grade point average (GPA) rating scale

A	B	C	D	E	F
5.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	1.00	0.00

Table 3: Correlation between the school certificates result and students performance in information retrieval course (GNS 104) grades

	N	bd	Mean	Df	r
X	238	1.16	0.71	236	0.09
Y	238	1.17	2.56		

Table 4: Regression coefficient between academic achievement in school certificate and University Examinations in Information Retrieval Course (GNS 104)

	X	Y
X	1	
Y	0.078	1

Table 5: Student's test for comparison of performance of school certificate and the University Examinations GNS 104 Course

Variables	Sample size	X	S.D	Df	T _c	T _t	Result α
X	238	0.71	1.16	236	139	1.96	0.05
	238	2.56	1.17				

$p < 0.05$, Not significant at $\alpha = 0.05$

Finally, the regression coefficient was calculated so as to find out if school certificate result could be used to predict the University grades in information retrieval course (GNS 104).

DISCUSSION

Table 3 shows that the correlation coefficient, r, is 0.09. This is a very low value of r Adegbite^[1]. This is to say that the degree of relationship between the school certificate grade in English Language and the University grade in information retrieval is low. In order words, it does not necessarily follow that a student who does very well in English Language in school certificate examination may likely do well in University Information Retrieval Course (GNS 104) Course or vice-versa. This result could also be seen from Table 4 with a very low regression coefficient (0.078). A close look at Table 5 shown that the t-calculated (t_c) is 1.39 whereas the t-table (t_t) is 1.96. This means that there is no significant difference in the performances of students in English Language in school certificate examination and the University Information Retrieval Course cannot be used to predict the students' performance in the University grade in Information retrieval (GNS 104) retrieval course.

This may be as a result of examination malpractices which usually characterize the school certificate examinations. This probably accounts for why students in tertiary institutions cannot defend their school certificate grades in English Language.

CONCLUSION

The previous educational experience as measured by the grade in school certificate examination gave a low correlation. This means that the school certificate is a weak predictor of the University grade. This result is in agreement with the work of Kolawole^[5] when he found out that the best predictor of the college final grade is the college first year result while the school certificate grade is the worse predictor of the college final grade. This result is also in agreement with the work of Kolawole^[5] when he found out that the best predictor of the college final grade is the college first year result while the school certificate grade is the worse predictor of the college final grade. This result is also in agreement with the research of Adeyeye and Olojo^[6]. In a research on the predictive influence of mathematics on the academic achievement of Chemistry in a Nigerian Tertiary Institution. Adeyeye and Olojo^[6] also found out that the school certificate is a weak predictor of the college achievement performance.

RECOMMENDATION

It is hereby recommended that:

- English Language should continue to be a compulsory subject for admission into Nigerian Tertiary Institutions regardless any course that candidate might choose.
- Less emphasis should be placed on the students grade in English Language for admission Apart from the success of students in JAMB.

- Examination, each University should organize a test for admission seekers; as already implemented starting from this current academic session of 2006/2007 session.
- More emphasis should be placed on the students' performances in the University entrance test, which should varies from one University to another depending on their own modality.

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