

(Summary of Minor Research Project)

The Study of English Vocabulary on BA I Students of Kamla Nehru Mahavidyalaya

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Abstract

The present minor research focuses on the spelling mistakes of the undergraduate students. The researcher has undertaken the vocabulary test on 100 students of BA I and dictated them to write down very common day today most frequently used words. Researcher checked the spelling mistakes and analyzed those words statistically. It is learnt that their spelling mistakes are terrible, which teacher normally ignores but it exposes our imperfect education and valuation system.

Key Words:-

1. The Study: - The study means to check the basic knowledge of English vocabulary and its uses by vocabulary test.
 2. English Vocabulary: - English vocabulary means acquaintance of very common words from day today life.
 3. BA I students:- students who have passed HSC or 12th level equivalent examination from any recognized board and then admitted to First Year / Bachelor of Arts (BA I) in Kamla Nehru Mahavidyalaya as an undergraduate. Here, 100 students had taken for present research.
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Introduction

One of the most underestimated predicaments of teaching an English language is ignoring a vocabulary power of student. In fact, it is pre-assumed that after qualifying the 12th or HSC examination or having underwent through at least 7 to 12 years of English language based education, we assume that the students of B.A.I have at least basic vocabulary power. Hence, our way of teaching changes, we start giving them content based education or lecture based explanation. But, researcher found that there is a huge fatal flaw in their specific development. Although, we provide a quantity based education but we fail to evaluate the quality based education.

Hence, researcher felt, it is requirement to undertake the study to learn the ground reality of our student's vocabulary power on statistical basis. There is a need to search for the specific area where our students are lagged behind. On that basis, one can provide better practice how to overcome the problem.

Objectives of Research

1. To know the actual power of vocabulary of BAI students.
2. To study which are the specific area where students are failed to express.
3. To bring out the certain statistical conclusion on the basis of vocabulary examination.
4. To study the frequency of spelling mistake.

Research Design and Methodology

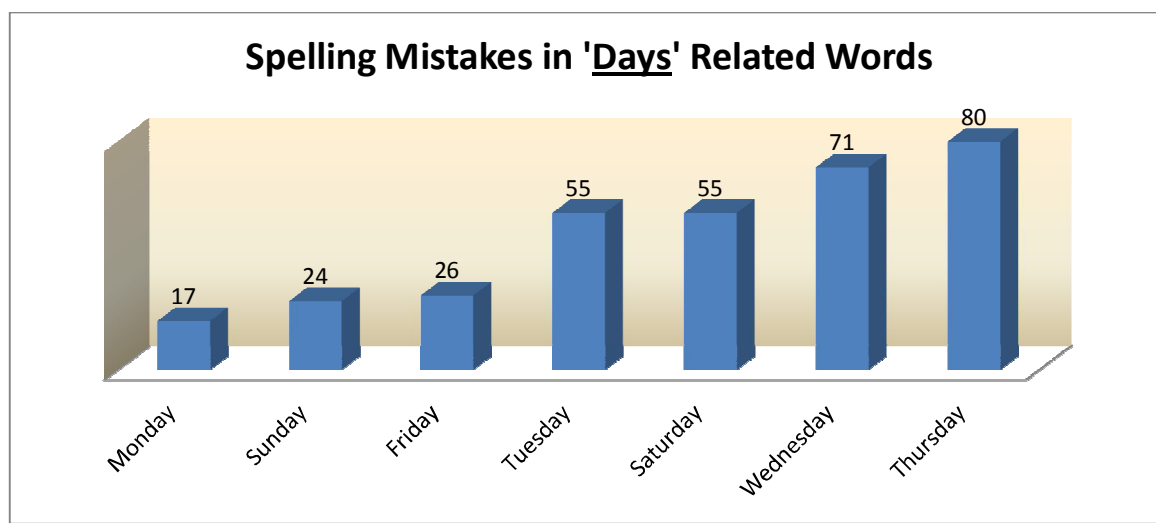
Researcher studied the Maharashtra Education Board Course design from 1st to 12th class, he has specifically focus on English vocabulary. For that researcher collected all prescribed and recommended books for class 1st to 12th. After thorough study researcher derived commonly used words, which are basic, most simple and normally use in day today life, hence, it is expected that everybody can write down the correct spelling of the said words.

Researcher had taken 100 students for said project, selected on the random sample basis. Researcher with the help of Audio-Mike and Amplifier pronounced the words and students were given the specific time to write down. Students were provided the separate sheet to write down the words pronounced by researcher. It was expected that students should note down the pronounced spelling genuinely. On the basis of Answer sheet (response sheet) provided to students research has come with the following analysis.

Data Analysis

As per the spelling mistake score of every student, Researcher has categorized the score in following groups.

1. DAYS:-

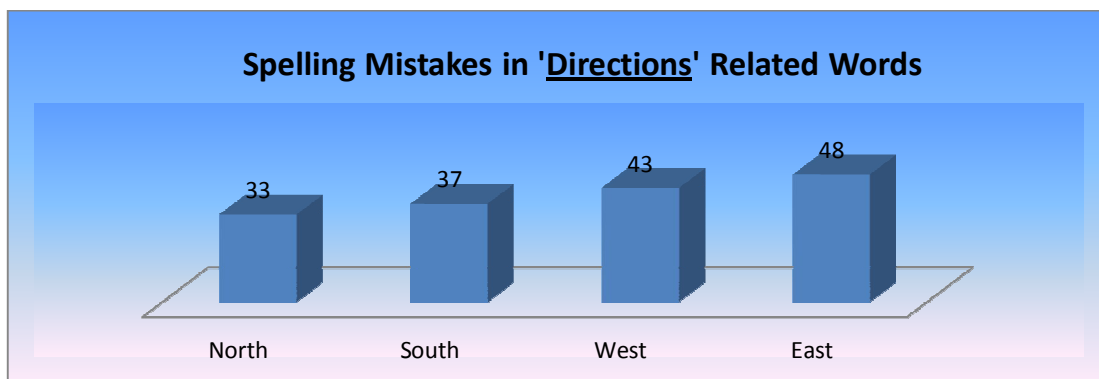


1.1 Graph showing the spelling mistakes in 'day' related words.

According to Graph No [1.1] 'Thursday' is most difficult spelling for maximum student, total 80% students committed mistakes. It is followed by, 71% for 'Wednesday', 55% for 'Saturday' and 'Tuesday', 'Friday' and 'Sunday' are also misspelt by 26% and 24% students respectively.

Only easier spelling in days category is 'Monday' which is misspelt by only 17% of students.

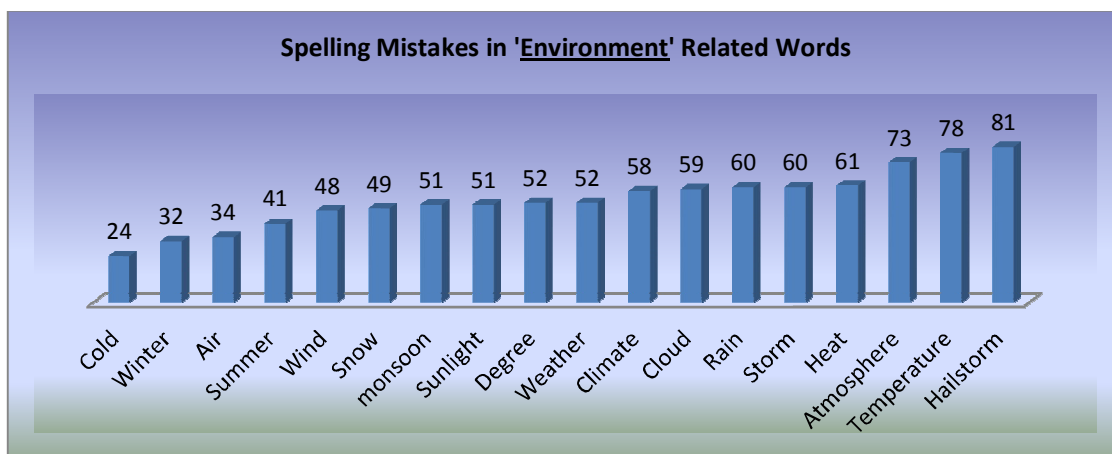
2. Direction:-



1.2 Graph showing the spelling mistakes in 'Direction' related words.

As per graph No [1.2] 48% of students are unable to write the correct spelling of 'East' followed by 43% for 'West', 37% for 'South' and 33% for 'North'. In direction, 'East' is most difficulty and 'North' is easier for them.

3. SEASON:-



1.3 Graph showing the spelling mistakes in 'Environment' related words.

In this category, the ‘environment’ related words have been pronounced for students. Out of that following result has been brought out. As per graph No [1.3] the easier word for students is ‘cold’ with only 24% students committed the spelling mistakes. Whereas, the most difficult words in this category are ‘hailstorm’; 81%, ‘temperature’; 78%, and ‘atmosphere’; 73%, other average mistaken words are Monsoon, Heat. The most uncomfortable words for students is ‘hailstorm’ which is misspelt by 81% of student. The most simple word is ‘cold’, which is also misspelt by 24% of students.

4. FRUITS:-



1.4 Graph showing the spelling mistakes in ‘Fruits’ related words.

Under the topic of ‘fruits’, total 11 words have been selected to check the correction level of spelling mistake.

As per Graph No [1.4] The most difficult word for students is ‘ guava’ 97% students misspelt it, followed by ‘strawberry’, 91%, ‘Custard Apple’, 82% ‘sugarcane’, 80% . Average mistakes are ‘coconut 47%, Berry 54%, Lime 54%. The easier word for student is ‘lime’ which is misspelt by only 5% students.

5. FOOD:-

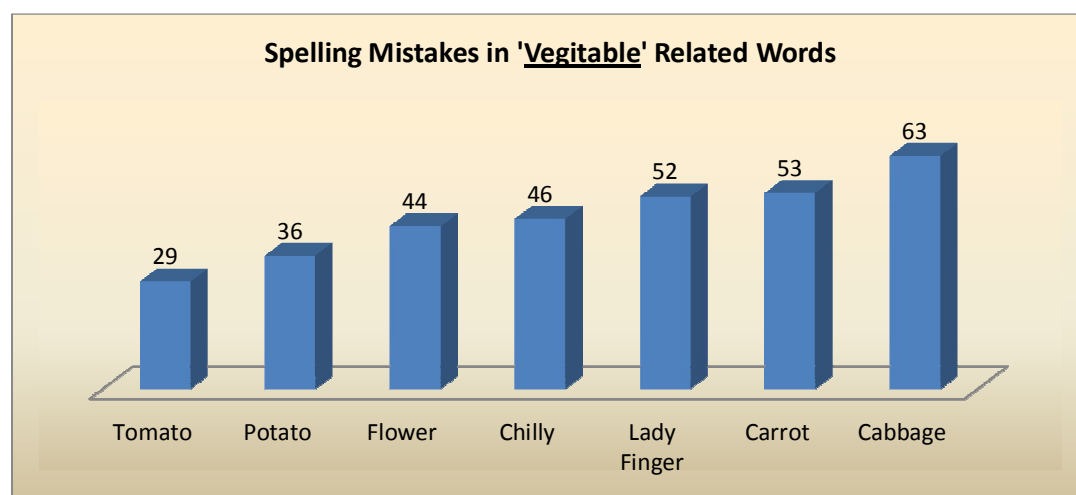


1.5 Graph showing the spelling mistakes in 'Food' related words.

Under the title 'food', total 9 words have been selected. According to Graph no [1.5] out of nine words the most difficult words for student is 'Biscuit' only 21% of students respond it correctly. 'Meal' followed after that, total 78% students make mistakes while attempting it.

It seems very strange that still 39% & 32% students could not able to write down the spelling of successfully 'Tea' and 'Sugar' respectively. 'Bread' and 'Cream' are common day to day words but still 55% can able to attempt it correctly.

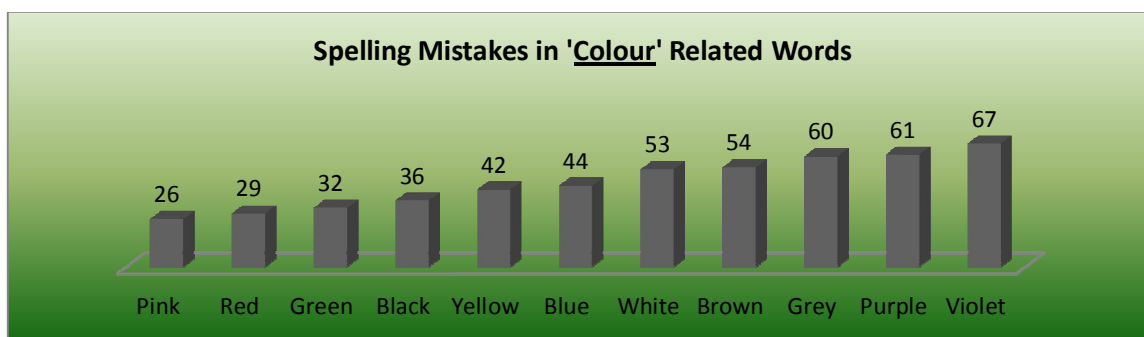
6. VEGETABLE:-



1.6 Graph showing the spelling mistakes in 'vegetable' related words.

According to graph [1.6] under the title vegetable, 'Cabbage' become most difficult word 63% students failed to write it correctly apart from this 'carrot'; 53% , 'Lady finger' 52%, 'chilly' 46% are the percent of misspelt, only 'Tomato' and 'Potato' gave 29% and 36% mistakes.

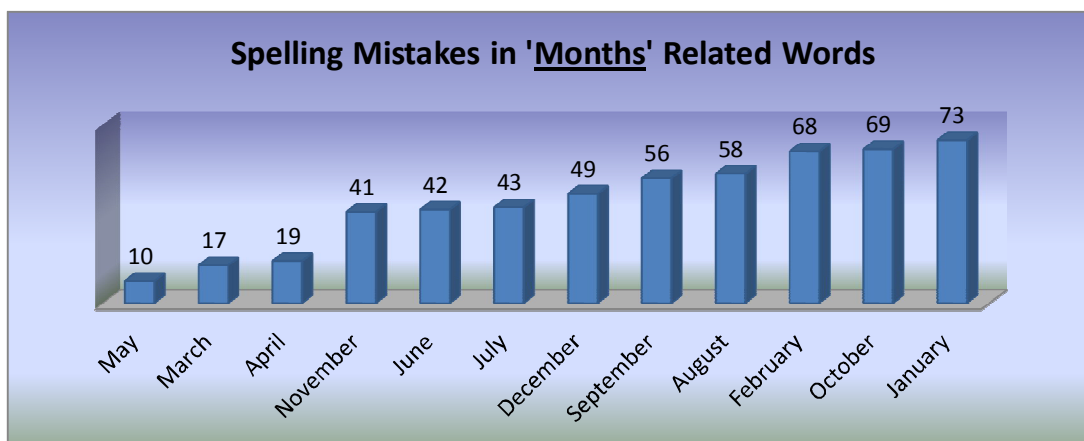
7. Colour:-



1.7 Graph showing the spelling mistakes in 'colour' related words.

According to graph No [1.7] under the title of colours, following results have come out. The most difficult words for students are 'violet'; 67% percent of students fail to attempt it correctly. Then it is followed by 'Grey'; 60%, 'Pink'; 61%, 'Brown'; 54%, 'white'; 53%, Blue'; 44%, 'Yellow'; 42%, are percentages of mistakes. The easier words for them in this category are 'Pink', 'Red', 'Green', with 26%, 29%, and 32% mistakes.

8. Months:-



1.8 Graph showing the spelling mistakes in 'months' related words.

Under the title of months, researcher has tried to find out the specific words which are most difficult for students. The result was shocking, according to graph no [1.8] the most difficult words is 'January'; 73%, 'October'; 69%, 'February'; 68%, 'August', 58%, 'September'; 56%, 'December'; 49%, 'July'; 43%, 'June'; 42% and 'November'; 41% are some more difficult words. The only satisfaction is that there are very few words like 'May', 'March' and 'April' with 10%, 17%, and 19%, of mistakes respectively.

Findings/ Conclusion

After above statistical analysis the main conclusions are as under:

- 1] The maximum spelling mistakes show that there is fatal flaw in our primary level education system, where no doubt, everything has been taught but not fairly exercised.
- 2] Even after completion 12th years of school curriculum, there are students who are unable to write the common spelling. It shows that at primary and Higher school level when students ignore their little mistake, at same teacher also starts giving excuses to their students for spelling mistakes.
- 3] The basic reason of committing the spelling mistakes is less practice, in our education system, exercised is not properly followed, students do not complete their assignment by their own but either copy it from others or they ignore it.
- 4] Repetition is a basic law of imitation, whatever we learn, it is a part and parcel of our listening ability and utilization of that symbol which means the 'repetition' of same words again and again, but our students either complete their homework only for the sake of completion. Hence, they never utilize and repeat the words; the last chance of their repetition is final examination, where they anyhow managed to cross the step. Hence, the basic development remains unfulfilled.
- 4] To remember or memorizing the particular words, one needs to adopt the size or form of words, it is a kind of sub-conscious activity or mental practice. As we practice more and more the size or form of particular words absorb by our mind, and whenever we misspelt the spelling, it compels us to review, that is a mental ability which gradually develop in learning process.
- 5] Once our mind has adopted certain words as a symbol, having particular spelling, we start to retrieve the same, even it is correct or wrong. The problem is in 'err and learn method' students themselves never realize their mistakes, in this situation, it is necessary that teacher should point out their mistakes, but the mass classes have brought entire scenario into worse level, once students commits the mistake he adopts it. It continues till somebody points out them. At the end at UG level whenever they expose instead of improvement, they lose the confidence.

6. Thus, it is because our students are not serious in writing and reading, they touch the worse level when we ignore and forgive their mistaken.

7. The words like 'daughter', 58%, 'nephew'; 58% 'Niece'; 58% are also misspelt because of less practice and less use.

8. As the researcher shows, students ignore the mistake and we teacher forgive them and end result, it culminates into the imperfection.

10. Even our students get good marks in examination and they pass it comfortably still the mistakes expose the shortcomings of our valuation system.

11. Our education system focus on quantity, bulk of writing, thus perfectness is ignored.

12. The spelling like 'Twelve'; 75% 'fourteen'; 63% 'Nineteen'; 68, 'corer'; misspelt due to confusion, they can be written with the base form, so they misspelt, for e.g. 'fourteen' - four- = fourteen / Nineteen =Nine=Nineteen, core, - crore, etc.

13. Words like 'Guava' is difficult to pronounce, so it has been misspelt by of 91% of students. As we use the 'Apple' in our day today life even if we don't eat apple regularly but many students wrote down it properly to 26% but the fruit 'Guava' is local common fruit but students never, use the words 'Guava' instead they call 'i # j t k v e # n', etc. so unused words is highly misspelt.

14. 'Strawberry' is imported fruit, hence although local students have known the words but they never use it in citing the example, hence they misspelt such words [strawberry- 85%]

15. Among colours 'purple' is highly misspelt word to 61% of students, the common cause is we use common colour in writing like white, black, pink, red, etc, but we are reluctant to remember and write down the word like 'purple'.

16. The words which are not usually used in our day today life are highly misspelt for Ex. 'Guava';- 91% 'strawberry';- 85%, 'Custard Apple'; 82%, 'wholesaler';-84% 'Galaxy'; 82%, 'Hailstorm'; But there are words which are normally used in our day today life but student never focus on the words, hence, there are spelling mistake for eg- 'Thursday';-80%, 'sugarcane'; 80% , 'discipline'; 79%. 'Quality';-79%

17. It seems that although we learn to pronounce the words but use of short form ultimately makes our students imperfect. For e.g. we use so many time mon-sun, Jan to Dec, but most of the time we never write complete spelling of above words. Hence, the words like, 'Thursday'; 80%, 'Wednesday'; 71% 'January';-73%, 'February'; 'Sep'; 'oct'; Mostly misspelt by student. Exam= examination= 59%

Suggestions:

Researcher has pondered over the imperfection of spelling mistakes committed by students. He realized the predicament and tried to overcome the problem with the help of following method.

- 1] After just overlooking the handwriting of students, researcher sorted out some 53 students out of 100. Then, they were asked them to submit assignment of handwriting.
- 2] Those who were very poor in spelling, researcher directed them to make the sentence of every wrong word and submit it.
- 3] Researcher took practice on every word for 5 minutes at the beginning of every period daily. The purpose is to improve the span of eye to acquaint the words. Students should visualize the word and memorize it. Students are asked to write down the words check the mistake by their own. That method was quite useful for improvement.
- 4] Researcher has given the special attention to average students and asked them to submit stories assignment where they had to read very short simple English stories. Once it was completed they were asked to check the spelling with original story.
- 5] Researcher has developed 'The Vocabulary Based Module'. On the basis of that researcher follows the practice of examining the every new batch, Researcher tries to identify the slow learners and advance learners on the basis of the vocabulary module. This practice has been very successfully applied to identify the students and their basic difficulty.
- 6] Every year researcher compares the score of vocabulary based percentage with the result of Final year University Examination. It is found that, those students were able to pass BA I examination comfortably who got good score in Vocabulary Test. Thus, this module is very helpful to identify the students at very beginning of session and suggest them the remedial measures.