

READABILITY OF BIOLOGY TEXTBOOKS AND STUDENTS' ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN EKITI STATE NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated the readability of Biology textbooks and students' academic performance in Senior Secondary Schools in Ekiti State Nigeria. The study was designed to find out how readability of Biology textbooks could enhance better academic performance of students' in Senior Secondary Schools. Survey type of descriptive research design was used for the study. The sample consisted of 215 Senior Secondary School students who were selected from five Senior Secondary Schools in the state. Multistage random sampling technique was used in selecting the schools from both urban and rural centres in the state. The research instruments used were cloze test and Biology Achievement Test. The reliability coefficient of 0.79 was obtained with the use of Kuder-Richardson formula KR21. The instruments were administered and data collected were analyzed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation and t-test statistics. The results revealed that readability of Biology textbooks had significant influence on students' academic performance. Location (urban or rural) has no significant influence on readability of Biology textbooks. No significant difference was found between the academic performance of male and female students who used the selected Biology textbooks. The result however revealed a significant difference in the performance of students who used the two different selected Biology textbooks. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that the Biology teachers should be guided with readability level and content coverage in the selection and recommendation of textbooks. Authors of Biology textbooks should be provided with feedbacks on the suitability and readability of the Biology books so that they can revise the texts in circulation with appropriate language, dictions, diagrams, pictures and local examples that will make their published materials highly readable to the target class of readers. The curriculum planners and evaluation unit of the Ministry of Education should be conversant with the determination of readability level of Biology textbooks to be used in schools and be so guided in their recommendations.

Keywords: Readability, suitability, performance, cloze test.