

Development of a Rating Scale for Elementary EFL Writing

Authors : Mohammed S. Assiri

Abstract : In EFL programs, rating scales used in writing assessment are often constructed by intuition. Intuition-based scales tend to provide inaccurate and divisive ratings of learners' writing performance. Hence, following an empirical approach, this study attempted to develop a rating scale for elementary-level writing at an EFL program in Saudi Arabia. Towards this goal, 98 students' essays were scored and then coded using comprehensive taxonomy of writing constructs and their measures. An automatic linear modeling was run to find out which measures would best predict essay scores. A nonparametric ANOVA, the Kruskal-Wallis test, was then used to determine which measures could best differentiate among scoring levels. Findings indicated that there were certain measures that could serve as either good predictors of essay scores or differentiators among scoring levels, or both. The main conclusion was that a rating scale can be empirically developed using predictive and discriminative statistical tests.

Keywords : analytic scoring, rating scales, writing assessment, writing constructs, writing performance

Conference Title : ICFLTAL 2015 : International Conference on Foreign Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics

Conference Location : London, United Kingdom

Conference Dates : January 19-20, 2015