

A study of 'An English Miscellany' prescribed for S.Y.B.A.class

SYNOPSIS

This dissertation presents an assessment of 'An English Miscellany' which is prescribed as a textbook for the teaching of English as a compulsory subject at the second year of the three year degree course in Arts. The assessment is made on the basis of certain criteria evolved in the course of the last twenty years by people and institutions concerned with production of ELT materials for the teaching of English in India.

The dissertation falls into three chapters. The first Chapter gives an outline of the position of English in India, objectives of teaching English and the Shivaji University undergraduate English curriculum. The second Chapter discusses the criteria of construction/assessment of text materials and investigates the book under study. The analysis is carried out under three heads: vocabulary content, syntactic complexities and the type of writing. The vocabulary content is assessed by computing the conventional 'difficulty index.' The syntactic complexities are assessed on the basis of the length of sentences, the number and type of clauses in sentences— independent, dependent— finite and non-finite clauses. The model followed is that of Quirk et al's 'A Grammar of Contemporary English (1972). Some fourteen very complex sentences have been analysed with the help of tree diagrams. The type of writing is analysed in terms of the genre of writing, the type of prose, style, theme and treatment.

On the basis of the results of analysis certain observations as to the difficulty level of the book are offered in the third Chapter. Some pedagogical implications of the findings of my investigation are also suggested here.