

Conclusions



CHAPTER = IV

CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Features of the text investigated

As we have stated there is no theory about features of authentic text as against fabricated materials. Therefore, the foregoing study was an attempt to discover differences between native speaker language and the Indian writers' fabricated materials.

We analysed the responses given by native speaker experts in the previous chapter. From this analysis, it was discovered that a number of striking differences occurred in their responses. The following are the most notable ones.

1. The original fabricated text was found to deviate more in respect of content words than in respect of structure words. Only twenty-six percent of content words supplied by native speaker experts were exact replacements. Although another twenty-four percent were synonyms the percentage of rephrasing was over fifty percent.
2. In the case of structure words, it was found that sixty-four percent of the responses were exact replacements. However, alternative responses within the grammatical class were very striking. The alternatives revealed a number of interesting features such as the

point of view of the narrator or the speaker in the story.

3. Responses by way of rephrasing were very high and varied in the case of content words. These revealed a number of features.

a) Sometimes the original text seemed to be monotonous because of the repetition of certain items. This impression is based on the variety of responses of native speakers. For examples, the repetition of cow-boy over and over again.

b) Sometimes there seemed to be problems of collocations in the original text. For example ?decide a dispute.

c) The use of certain words like wonderstruck, throbbing in the original which none of the native speakers could guess also point to the unnatural selection of certain items.

d) The predicative adjectives sure and certain in the original occur several paragraphs apart and all the native speakers have supplied the same item either sure or certain. The motivation for using these two different words in the original was clearly to illustrate the use of predicative adjectives afraid/sure/certain. This has been stated at the head of the lesson as a teaching point.



4. The responses to the structure words indicate the differences between the original text and the native speakers treatment of point of view and conceptualization. For example, in the original text the determiner the is most common among the eleven determiners for which alternative responses were supplied. The original appears to be neutral while the responses in terms of possessives and demonstratives like Vikramaditya's, this and that make the narrative more real.

Another striking alternative item is when and while. The native speakers' response indicates that the distinction made in the original is not quite clear or necessary.

This item also has been mentioned as a teaching point at the head of the lesson.

6. So of all the features that appear to be unnatural in the original, it is interesting to note that the most striking are the two teaching points.
7. Among the items rephrased by native speakers some are replacement structure words for content words and vice-versa. For example, the use of to instead of reached the following sentence:

Thus the news of the little judge spread from village to village and town to town and finally reached the capital of Malwa.
to

4.2 Possible features of fabricated materials:

From this very limited study of one fabricated ELT text, it would appear that the following features are likely to be found in a fabricated text written by an Indian.

1. Repetition of lexical items both content words and structure words which makes the text monotonous.
2. Occurrences of unlikely or less likely collocations especially verb-noun collocations.
3. Choice of lexical items both content words and structure words which tend to be neutral and therefore fail to convey conviction. This is perhaps the result of the writers' interest in the language he wants to illustrate rather than the story he is trying to tell.
4. Unacceptable language use from the point of view a native speakers.

4.3 Topics for further work:

In this work we have not been able to study the discourse features as revealed in each or any of the native speaker respondents individually or as a whole. In other words it would have been more revealing if we could do a case study of at least one respondent.

Case study or studies of cloze form responses of individuals is likely to throw more light on this problem. This may be undertaken by the present researcher or others in future.

Replication of this study with different types of text is necessary to reinforce or refine the findings of this work.

APPENDIX A

Trial form with every 7th word deleted

N.B. Figures in brackets against underlined items show blank Nos.

The Judgement Seat of Vikramaditya

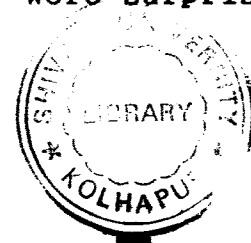
Many centuries ago Ujjain was the richest and most famous city in India. It was the capital of Vikramaditya's kingdom.

King Vikramaditya was a very wise, learned(1) and just ruler. He was also a(2) very famous judge. Even now people say(3) that there has been no judge like(4) him. He never made an error of(5) judgement. Everyone who brought a dispute before(6) him for judgement went away satisfied: the(7) man who lost the case and the(8) man who won it.

Hundreds of years(9) after the death of Vikramaditya his palace(10) and other great buildings fell into ruins(11), and a jungle grew there. The cow-boys(12) from the neighbouring villages grazed their cows(13) there.

One day two cow-boys were playing(14) marbles in the jungle while a third(15) boy was sitting on a green mound(16). The two cow-boys started fighting. While they(17) were quarrelling the third was still sitting(18) on the green mound. He saw them(19) quarrelling and called out to them. "Stop(20) fighting there. Bring your dispute to me(21). I will decide it".

The cow-boys stopped(22) fighting. They were surprised to



hear these(23) words. They went to him and told(24) him the cause of their fighting.

The(25) boy who was sitting on the green(26) mound listened to them. Then he decided(27) the case very wisely. Both the boys(28) were surprised but they were satisfied too(29).

Since that day the cow-boys always took(30) their quarrels to this cow-boy. He sat(31) on the green mound and settled their(32) disputes. He never made a mistake.

The(33) villagers heard about the cow-boy who sat(34) on the mound and gave judgement. One(35) day they came to the green mound(36) and were surprised because the cow-boy, indeed(37), spoke very wisely. They brought their disputes(38) to the little cow-boy judge. He sat(39) on the mound and settled their disputes(40) wisely.

Thus the news of the little(41) judge spread from village to village and(42) town to town, and finally reached the(43) capital of Malwa.

King Bhoj of Malwa(44) was wonderstruck when he heard about the(45) cow-boy judge. The jungle area was a(46) part of his kingdom. So he called(47) the learned men of his court and (48) said, "The cow-boy sits on a green(49) mound and decides the disputes of the(50) people. He makes no mistake in his(51) judgement. What may be the reason?

A(52) wise old man in the court said(53) "O King! the Great King Vikramaditya once(54) lived and ruled where the

jungle has(55) grown now. The seat of Vikramaditya must(56) be under that mound. The voice is(57) the voice of the cow-boy, but the(58) mind is the mind of Vikramaditya, which(59) speaks through the boy's lips".

King Bhoj and(60) others agreed with the wise old man (61) King Bhoj longed to be just and(62) wise like the Great Vikramaditya,. "Let's dig(63) deep into the ground", he said, "to(64) see if Vikramaditya's judgement seat is there"(65).

He sent many workmen to the mound(66). They dug deep into the ground and(67) found a slab of black marble.

The(68) slab of black marble was supported by(69) twenty-five angels carved in the same stone(70). Their wings were spread. It was the(71) judgement seat of Vikramaditya. The men dug(72) it out and carried it to the(73) King. The people were watching it while(74) it was being carried to the King's(75) palace, where it was placed in a(76) big hall.

The King's heart was throbbing(77) with excitement when he saw the throne(78) placed in the hall. He said, "Now(79) I'm sure that I'll never make a(80) mistake of judgement." Bhoj stood in front(81) of the throne and prayed to the(82) spirit of Vikramaditya.

When he touched the(83) marble, one of the angels said, "King!(84) Have you never wished to conquer the(85) territory of any other king? Do you(86) think you are worthy of sitting on(87) the judgement seat of Vikramaditya?"

The King(88) was trembling with fear when the angel(89) spoke. He thought for a moment and(90) said, "I'm afraid I'm not".

"Fast and(91) pray for three days then", said the(92) angel and flew away.

The King fasted(93) and prayed for three days and then (94) came to sit on the seat. But(95) another angel asked, "O King! Are you(96) worthy of sitting on the seat? Have(97) you never desired to acquire someone else's(98) wealth?

The King thought for a while(99) and said, "Yes, I have, I'm not(100) worthy of sitting on the seat".

"Then(101) fast and pray for another three days(102) said the angel and flew away.

Ninety six days(103) passed in this way and during this (104) period twenty four angels flew away. Each(105) of the angels asked the King a(106) few questions. Everytime the King answered that(107) he was not worthy of sitting on(108) the seat.

At last only one angel(109) was left. The King thought that the(110) last angel would allow him to sit(111) on the seat.

But the last angel(112) asked, "O King! Is your heart as(113) pure as that of the cow-boy who(114) sat on the mound?"

The King thought(115) for a while and said, "No, it (116)

is not. I realize that I'm still (117) not worthy".

The angel heard the King's (118) reply and flew away carrying the slab (119) of marble on his head.

The King (120) became very sad. Then the wise old(121) man who had spoken earlier, tried to(122) comfort the King and said, "O King!(123) Do not be down-cast. I'm certain that(124) no king on earth can sit on the throne. The little cow-boy could sit on it because his heart was pure".

Table showing the list of content words in the trial form with every 7th word deleted:

Sr. No.	Blank No.	7th word	Sr. No.	Blank No.	7th word
1	1	learned	29	61	man
2	3	say	30	63	dig
3	9	years	31	66	mound
4	10	palace	32	70	stone
5	11	ruins	33	72	dug
6	12	cow-boys	34	75	King
7	13	cows	35	77	throbbing
8	14	playing	36	78	throne
9	16	mound	37	79	Now
10	18	sitting	38	81	front
11	20	Stop	39	84	King
12	22	stopped	40	88	King
13	24	told	41	89	angel
14	26	green	42	93	fasted



15	27	decided	43	98	else's
16	28	boys	44	99	while
17	30	took	45	102	days
18	31	sat	46	103	days
19	34	sat	47	109	angel
20	36	mound	48	111	sit
21	38	disputes	49	112	angel
22	39	sat	50	115	thought
23	40	disputes	51	117	still
24	41	little	52	118	King's
25	44	Malwa	53	119	slab
26	47	called	54	120	King
27	49	green	55	121	old
28	53	said	56	123	King

Table showing the list of structure words in the trial form with every 7th word deleted:

Sr. No.	Blank No.	7th word	Sr. No.	Blank No.	7th word
1	2	a	35	65	there
2	4	like	36	67	and
3	5	of	37	68	The
4	6	before	38	69	by
5	7	the	39	71	the
6	8	the	40	73	the
7	15	third	41	74	while
8	17	they	42	76	a

9	19	them	43	80	a
10	21	me	44	82	the
11	23	these	45	83	the
12	25	The	46	85	the
13	29	too	47	86	you
14	32	their	48	87	on
15	33	The	49	90	and
16	35	One	50	91	and
17	37	indeed	51	92	the
18	42	and	52	94	then
19	43	the	53	95	But
20	45	the	54	96	you
21	46	a	55	97	Have
22	48	and	56	100	not
23	50	the	57	101	Then
24	51	his	58	104	this
25	52	A	59	105	Each
26	54	once	60	106	a
27	55	has	61	107	that
28	56	must	62	108	on
29	57	is	63	110	the
30	58	the	64	113	as
31	59	which	65	114	who
32	60	and	66	116	it
33	62	and	67	122	to
34	64	to	68	124	that

APPENDIX B

Final form with every 5th word deleted

(N.B. Figures in brackets against underlined items show blank Nos.)

The Judgement Seat of Vikramaditya

Many centuries ago Ujjain was the richest and most famous city in India. It was the capital of Vikramaditya's kingdom.

King Vikramaditya was a very(1) wise, learned and just ruler(2). He was also a very(3) famous judge. Even now people(4) say that there has been(5) no judge like him. He(6) never made an error of(7) judgement. Everyone who brought a(8) dispute before him for judgement(9) went away satisfied: the man(10) who lost the case and(11) the man who won it(12).

Hundreds of years after the(13) death of Vikramaditya his palace(14) and other great buildings fell(15) into ruins, and a jungle(16) grew there. The cow-boys from(17) the neighbouring villages grazed their(19) cows there.

One day two(19) cow-boys were playing marbles in(20) the jungle while a third boy(21) was sitting on a(22) green mound. The two cow-boys(23) started fighting. While they were(24) quarrelling the third was still(25) sitting on the green mound(26). He saw them quarrelling and(27) called out to them. "Stop(28) fighting there. Bring your dispute(29) to me. I will decide(30) it."

The cow-boys stopped fighting(31). They were surprised to hear(32) these words. They went to(33) him and told him the (34) cause of their fighting.

The(35) boy who was sitting on(36) the green mound listened to(37) them. Then he decided the(38) case very wisely. Both the(39) boys were surprised but they(40) were satisfied too.

Since that(41) day the cow-boys always took(42) their quarrels to this cow-boy(43). He sat on the green(44) mound and settled their disputes(45). He never made a mistake(46).

The villagers heard about the(47) cow-boy who sat on the(48) mound and gave judgement. One(49) day they came to the(50) green mound and were surprised(51) because the cow-boy, indeed, spoke(52) very wisely. They brought their(53) disputes to the little cow-boy(54) judge. He sat on the(55) mound and settled their disputes(56) wisely.

Thus the news of(57) the little judge spread from(58) village to village and town(59) to town, and finally reached (60) the capital of Malwa.

King(61) Bhoj of Malwa was wonderstruck(62) when he heard about the(63) cow-boy judge. The jungle area(64) was a part of his(65) kingdom. So he called the(66) learned men of his court(67) and said, "The cow-boy sits(68) on a green mound and(69) decides the disputes of the(70) people. He makes no mistake(71) in his judgement. What may(72) be the reason?"

A wise(73) old man in the court(74) said, "O King! the Great(75) King Vikramaditya once lived and(76) ruled where the jungle has(77) grown now. The seat of(78) Vikramaditya must be under that(79) mound. The voice is the(80) voice of the cowboy, but(81) the mind is the mind(82) of Vikramaditya which speaks through(83) the boy's lips.

King Bhoj and(84) others agreed with the(85) wise old man. King Bhoj longed(86) to be just and(87) wise like the Great Vikramaditya. "Let's(88) dig deep into the(89) ground." he said, "to see(90) if Vikramaditya's judgement seat is(91) there."

He sent many workmen(92) to the mound. They dug(93) deep into the ground and(94) found a slab of black(95) marble.

The slab of black(96) marble was supported by twenty-five angels(97) carved in the same(98) stone. Their wings were spread(99). It was the judgement seat(100) of Vikramaditya. The men dug(101) it out and carried it(102) to the King. The people(103) were watching it while(104) it was being carried to the(105) King's palace, where it was(106) placed in a big hall(107).

The King's heart was throbbing(108) with excitement when he saw(109) the throne placed in the(110) hall. He said, "Now I'm sure(111) that I'll never make(112) a mistake of judgement. Bhoj stood(113) in front of the throne(114) and prayed to the spirit(115) of Vikramaditya.

When he touch(116) the marble, one of the(117) angels said, "King! Have you(118) never wished to conquer the(119) territory of any other king(120)? Do you think you are(121) worthy of sitting on the(122) Judgement Seat of Vikramaditya?"

The(123) King was trembling with fear(124) when the angel spoke. He(125) thought for a moment and(126) said, "I'm afraid I'm not(127)."

"Fast and pray for(128) three days then," said the angel(129) and flew away.

The King(130) fasted and prayed for three(131) days and then came to(132) sit on the seat. But(133) another angel asked. "O King(134)! Are you worthy of sitting(135) on the seat. "Have you(136) never desired to acquire someone(137) else's wealth?"

The King thought(138) for a while and said(139), "Yes, I have. I'm not(140) worthy of sitting on the(141) seat."

"Then fast and pray(142) for another three days," said (143) the angel and flew away(144).

Ninety six days passed in(145) this way and during this (146) period twenty four angels flew(147) away. Each of the angels(148) asked the King a few(149) questions. Every time the King answered(150) that he was not worthy(151) of sitting on the seat(152).

At last only one angel(153) was left. The King thought

(154) that the last angel would(155) allow him to sit on(156) the seat.

But the last(157) angel asked, "O King! Is(158) your heart as pure as(159) that of the cow-boy who(160) sat on the mound?"

The(161) King thought for a while(162) and said, "No, it is(163) not. I realize that I'm(164) still not worthy."

The angel(165) heard the King's reply and(166) flew away carrying the slab(167) of marble on his head(168).

The King became very sad(169). Then the wise old man (170) who had spoken earlier tried(171) to comfort the King and (172) said, "O King! Do not(173) be downcast. I'm certain(174) that no king on earth can sit on the throne. The little cow-boy could sit on it because his heart was pure."

Table showing the list of content words in the final form with every 5th word deleted

Sr. No.	Blank No.	5th word	Sr. No.	Blank No.	5th word
1	2	ruler	44	97	angels
2	4	people	45	98	same
3	9	judgement	46	99	spread
4	10	man	47	100	seat
5	14	palace	48	101	dug
6	15	fell	49	103	people
7	16	jungle	50	107	hall
8	21	boy	51	108	throbbing
9	23	cow-boys	52	109	saw
10	25	still	53	111	sure
11	26	mound	54	112	make
12	28	Stop	55	113	stood
13	29	dispute	56	114	throne
14	30	decide	57	115	spirit
15	31	fighting	58	116	touched
16	32	hear	59	120	King
17	42	took	60	124	fear
18	43	cow-boy	61	129	angel
19	44	green	62	130	King
20	45	disputes	63	134	King
21	46	mistake	64	135	sitting
22	51	surprised	65	138	thought
23	52	spoke	66	139	said
24	54	cow-boy	67	142	pray

25	56	disputes	68	143	said
26	59	town	69	147	flew
27	60	reached	70	148	angels
28	61	King	71	149	few
29	62	wonderstruck	72	150	answered
30	64	area	73	151	worthy
31	67	court	74	152	seat
32	68	sits	75	153	angel
33	71	mistake	76	154	thought
34	73	wise	77	157	last
35	74	court	78	162	while
36	75	Great	79	165	angel
37	82	mind	80	167	slab
38	86	longed	81	168	head
39	90	see	82	169	sad
40	92	workmen	83	170	man
41	93	dug	84	171	tried
42	95	black	85	174	certain
43	96	black			

Table showing the list of structure words in the final form with every 5th word deleted

Sr. No.	Blank No.	5th word	Sr. No.	Blank No.	5th word
1	1	very	46	83	through
2	3	very	47	84	and
3	5	been	48	85	the
4	6	He	49	87	and
5	7	of	50	88	Let's
6	8	a	51	89	the
7	11	and	52	91	is
8	12	it	53	94	and
9	13	the	54	102	it
10	17	from	55	104	while
11	18	their	56	105	the
12	19	two	57	106	was
13	20	in	58	110	the
14	22	a	59	117	the
15	24	were	60	118	you
16	27	and	61	119	the
17	33	to	62	121	are
18	34	the	63	122	the
19	35	The	64	123	The
20	36	on	65	125	He
21	37	to	66	126	and
22	38	the	67	127	not
23	39	the	68	128	for
24	40	they	69	131	three

25	41	that	70	132	to
26	47	the	71	133	But
27	48	the	72	136	you
28	49	One	73	137	someone
29	50	the	74	140	not
30	53	their	75	141	the
31	55	the	76	144	away
32	57	of	77	145	in
33	58	from	78	146	this
34	63	the	79	155	would
35	65	his	80	156	on
36	66	the	81	158	Is
37	69	and	82	159	as
38	70	the	83	160	who
39	72	may	84	161	The
40	76	and	85	163	is
41	77	has	86	164	I'm
42	78	of	87	166	and
43	79	that	88	172	and
44	80	the	89	173	not
45	81	but			

APPENDIX C

List of native speaker informants and copy of the covering letter

1. Mrs. Sylvia Chalker
23 Southwood Lawn Road,
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2. Mr. Gerry Knowles
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10. Prof. Geoffrey Leech
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and Modern English
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11. Richard Ellis
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12. Prof. Christopher Brumfit
School of Education
University of Southampton
Southampton. U.K.

March 1993.

Dear

One of my research students Miss Prabhavati Patil working for her M.Phil degree is investigating the 'naturalness' of language in fabricated ELT materials as compared to authentic materials. She has decided to use the cloze technique for the purpose.

Accordingly she has prepared a cloze form of a fabricated ELT passage and would like to collect native speakers' responses by way of completion of gaps. She hopes to verify her hypothesis on the basis of these responses.

I request you kindly to spare some time to help her with your valuable response.

Obviously this is not a test of your English language ability; but a test of the soundness of the text as such.

So, unlike in a standard cloze test, you are free to put a ϕ in a gap or otherwise comment on any impossible situation that leaves you without a satisfactory response.

I am sure you will take a little time out of your busy schedule and complete the form and send it early.

It would be nice if you could respond before the end of April, as she has to meet deadlines.

Looking forward to receiving your response.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

(S.V. Shastri)
Professor of English