Gunning Fog Index of Linguistics and Mathematics Abstracts[1]

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Abstract

Gunning Fog Index (GFI) is commonly used to confirm how easy or difficult a text is to read. The index is influenced by the average sentences length and the percentage of words of three or more syllables. This research tries to describe the GFI of the Linguistics and Math abstracts. The abstracts obtained from academic writing articles which are published in the international academic journal indexed by Proquest. The result shows, in Linguistics abstracts, the average sentences length is 29.37 and the percentage of words of three or more syllables is 15.28 while in Math abstracts, the average sentences length is 21.25 and the percentage of words of three or more syllables is 18.19. As the result, the GFI of the Linguistics abstracts is higher than the Mathematics abstracts. The average of GFI of the Linguistics abstracts is 17.91 and the Mathematics abstract is 15.80.

Keywords: Gunning Fog Index, Linguistics, Math

Introduction

The easiness or the difficultness of a text is different from one text to another. A reader may assume that the text is difficult and the other is not because of the topic of the text or the genre of the text. Do you agree with that assumption?

The English text could be categorized into spoken and written text. Common people argue that spoken text is easier to understand than the written is. Do you agree with that argument? How to explain that the spoken text is easier to understand? To answer the question, this article tries to discuss how to measure the difficultness or the easiness of the English text.

Theoretical Framework

Text could be spoken or written text. Both of the types are complex. As Gerot and Wignell (1995:161)

> *"Spoken and written languages are both complex but in different ways. Spoken language tends to be complex grammatically and written language tends to be complex lexically. Spoken language tends to be grammatically intricate whereas written language tends to be lexically dense."*

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