# INVESTIGATING THE EFFECT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE ON CHEMISTRY AND MATHEMATICS ON THE FINAL YEAR STUDENTS' OF FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, ZARIA

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## Abstract

*The study attempts to investigate the effect of English Language on Chemistry and. The results of graduating students 2017/2018 academic session of Federal College of Education (FCT) Zaria who combined Chemistry and were sampled to find out the effect of English language on chemistry*

**Keywords**
*English and Communication Skills, Academic Performance, Achievement.*

## INTRODUCTION

The important role of English in Nigeria gives it a central position in the school curriculum as a core subject and a medium of instruction. Without it there will be little or no education above the elementary level Tiffen, (1970). English is very important in Nigerian educational system, it has been the form of formal communication in Nigeria. Students intending to reach the peak of their career need to have proper knowledge of both spoken and written English. Students who have problems in general English usage may likely not do well academically (Aina, 2013).

Therefore learners

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*and . The sampled results of general English and communication skills, chemistry and Mathematics were analysed using ANOVA and Pearson product moment correlation coefficient. From the findings it was discovered that there was strong correlation between students' performance in chemistry and, while English language had no significant influence on the students' performance in chemistry and. Recommendations were also provided in line with the research findings.*

must be taught the English language skills necessary for academic pursuits. Especially they need it for many scientific processes such as laboratory reports, experimentation, collection of data, making inferences, description and so on.

Research has shown that academic performance in science is positively related to students' proficiency in English language (Aina, 2013). This indicates that English language is very important to the science students, unfortunately, the performance of students in English has been deteriorating and this has equally affected all other subject in the curriculum (Ajalie, 2007). Since English Language is very important component in the continuum of proper literacy, it need to be treated in such a way that enables students better communicate themselves effectively in the Language.

Of particular concern to this study are the poor performance of students at both secondary and tertiary levels, (Abubakar, 2005) affirm, that the matter is so serious because of the effect that English has on all the other subjects of the curriculum, as the main language of instruction.

In addition, government gives more emphasis to science oriented subjects even when English is the medium through which all these sciences are taught and acquired. Adesanoye (1994) opines that, English language proficiency among tertiary level students even graduate can be rated very

as very low, English teachers are themselves baffled by the inability of learners to express themselves in clear and simple English which can be a setback in science subjects. Consequently government and other stakeholders are lamenting and concern over the students' academic performance especially in relation to academic standard. This is because academic performance is vital to the development of any nation, the crucial role English plays in Nigeria education Notwithstanding, students' academic performance in Nigeria is not encouraging most especially in English Language.

In view of the foregoing, this study intends to investigate the effect of English Language in Academic performance of final year NCE students in Chemistry and Mathematics. The main objective of the study is to find out the influence of English Language of final year NCE Students' academic performance in Chemistry and Mathematics. The study will also find out the relationship between students' performance in Chemistry and Mathematics.

## Methodology

A descriptive survey decision was used in the study. Results of thirty-two students' offering Chemistry and Mathematics were collected and analysed. They were the only final year students' 2017/2018 academic session who combined Chemistry with Mathematics. However, all the final year students of Federal College of Education, Zaria formed the population for the study, sampled population were students that combined chemistry and Mathematics. The scores of the students in English, Chemistry and Mathematics were used as the instruments for the study. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) and Pearson product correlation co-efficient were employed to analyse result, this is because it can be used to determine the degree of relations between two set of variance (Okoro, 2002).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Qa.     A: is there any significant relationship in the final year NCE students' academic performance in English, Chemistry and Mathematics?

Table I: Shows the Statistical representation of relationship between the students' academic performance, English, Chemistry and Mathematics.

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Table I Relationship between academic performance of final year NCE students in English, Chemistry and Mathematics

|  | Squares | Df | Means square | F | Significance |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Between groups | 1782.977 | 30 | 64.05 |  |  |
| Within groups | 51.000 | 2 | 550.005 | 12682.05 |  |
|  | 1818.977 | 32 |  |  |  |

Table 1, shows the calculated value of f is less than the table (Scal < Fab) this means that there is no significant influence of English Language on students' academic performance in chemistry and Mathematics is hereby returned.

Table 2 shows the correlation between Chemistry and Mathematics.

Table 2: Correlation between Chemistry and Mathematics

| Physics | Chemistry | Mathematics |
|---|---|---|
| N | 32 | 32 |
| Mathematics | 0.594 | 1 |
| N | 32 | 32 |

Table 2. shows that correlation coefficient between chemistry and Mathematics is 0.594 implying a positive correlation between chemistry and Mathematics.

## DISCUSSIONS

From the study there was no significant relationship of English language on students' academic performance in chemistry and Mathematics. The finding of this study reveals that there is no significant influence of English Language of final year NCE students' academic performance in Chemistry and Mathematics.

However, the findings is not in conformity with earlier claim of Aina (2013) who assert that students who does not perform well in general English and

communication skill may likely not do well academically. Secondly, the findings also disagree with the general belief that English Language has direct effect on all other subjects of the curriculum, being the language of Institution.

Nevertheless, the findings of the study also revealed a positive correlation between Chemistry and Mathematics. By implicating any student who does well in Chemistry may equally do well in Mathematics because they are significantly related.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

From the findings of the study, it was established that there was no significant influence of English language on students' academic performance in Chemistry and Mathematics when combined as a course of study. The study also shows a significant relationship between Chemistry and Mathematics. In view of the above conclusion, the following recommendations were suggested.

- Government should place less emphasis on English language in our schools as a medium of instruction, instead our Nigerian Language be paired in our schools to complaining English language that is foreign to students.
- NCE students should always be properly guided in choosing course combination as they may have an effect on their academic performance.
- Many countries in the world that have advanced technologically and scientifically are not using English Language as medium of instruction. Therefore our indigenous Languages be encourage in our schools.

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