

Republic of Sudan
Sudan University of Science and Technology
College of Graduate & Scientific Studies
Faculty of Education

***EVALUATING STUDENTS' ABILITIES IN USING
ENGLISH PREPOSITIONS IN WRITING***

***(A Case Study at Sudan University of Science and Technology faculty of
Education English Language Department 3rd Year Students)***

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***A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment for the Requirements of
M.Ed. in English Language Teaching***

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Translation of Qouran

***In the name of Allah , the Entirely Merciful, the
Especially Gracious***

***They said: “Glory be to you we have no
knowledge except what you have taught us.
Verily, it is you, the All-knower, the All-Wise”.***

Surah 2 Al-Baqarah verse (32)

Dedication

To my family,

To my friends.

Acknowledgement

Praise be to Allah, Lord of the world. Blessing and Peace of Allah be upon Prophet Mohammed, his family and his companions.

Definitely, no work of value could be accomplished without the help of Allah, hence countless thank to Allah. I wish to express my thank to those who helped me in any way to achieve this work which without them help it couldn't seem to be complete, my special and sincere thanks are due to my supervisor Dr. Sayed Hassan Arbab for invaluable assistance, great guidance and beneficial advice. I would like to extend my gratitude to; Dr. Salah Aldouma, Dr. Al Tayp Elzaki, Dr. Muntasir Hassan, Mr. Hassan Mahil, Mr. Abd Elkreem Mohammed, Mr. Sami Balla for their contribution in suggesting ideas, and active support. I am also thankful to the University of Sudan of Science & Technology for giving me this opportunity to continue my higher education.

Abstract

*This study aims to evaluate University students' abilities in using prepositions in their English writing, it focuses on recognizing the underlying reasons of students' place and time prepositional errors and it also attempts to offer recommendations to overcome students' difficulties of misusing prepositions. However, in order to achieve the research purpose, the tools of data collection were a test for students and a questionnaire for lecturers. **The population of this study were lecturers and students of Sudan University of Science and Technology. The sample of the study consisted of forty two students from the third level of Sudan University of Science and Technology, specialized in English language, faculty of Education, and twenty five lecturers also who teach English as a foreign language. The researcher adopted a descriptive method to analyze the data obtained. The findings revealed that the students encounter some difficulties in using place and time prepositions while writing, and they are also unable to distinguish between the preposition and the prepositional adverb. The findings were discussed in the light of the hypotheses and relevant literature. As solutions to overcome these difficulties the researcher recommends the following:***

1. **Teachers should raise students' awareness of the importance of prepositions in writing.**
2. **Teachers should adopt effective and modern techniques in teaching prepositions.**
3. **Expand the space allocated for prepositions in the syllabus.**

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