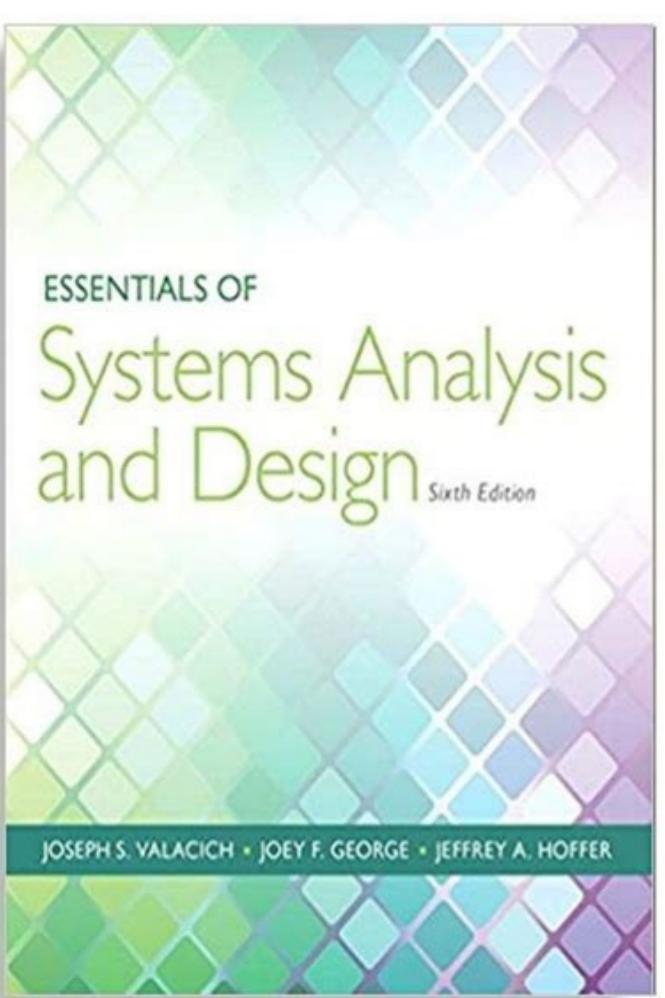


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#### EFL Textbook Evaluation: An Analysis of Readability and Vocabulary Profiler of Four Corners Book Series

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##### Abstract

This study aimed to investigate whether there is any significant relationship between the readability and vocabulary profile including the most frequent words (K1 words) and academic word list (AWL) of reading passages of Four Corners series which were EFL textbooks. To determine the readability of the texts, the Flesch-Kincaid (1975) readability test was used, while the texts' academic word list and most frequent words which were the indicators of vocabulary profiler were calculated by Cobb's (2002) vocabulary profiler test. In order to analyze the data obtained Pearson Product-Moment correlation coefficients were exploited. With respect to the relationship between readability and most frequent words, there was no significant correlation between readability and K1 words. This means that whatever the text is more difficult, the number of K1 words does not change while it was thought if the text is more difficult the number of K1 words is lower. Concerning the relationship between readability and academic word list, no significant correlation between readability and academic word list was observed, either. In other words, the readability of these texts is not due to their academic word list. It can be concluded that some other factors such as sentence length, syntactic complexity, and learners' background knowledge might contribute to the difficulty of the texts.

**Keywords:** Vocabulary, reading comprehension, readability, word frequency, K1 words, Academic Word List

##### Introduction

In the field of language learning, vocabulary knowledge has been equated with success in second language (SL) or foreign language (FL) learning with respect to different language skills in a large number of studies (Saville-Troike, 1984; Nation & Meara, 2002; Laufer & Goldstein, 2004; to name a few). Accordingly, the importance of vocabulary knowledge has been emphasized and vocabulary has been considered as one of the most essential components of language learning. Several studies in second language (L2) have indicated that vocabulary knowledge is one of the best predictors of reading ability and the capability to obtain new details from texts (Read, 2000; Nation, 2001; Qian, 2002).

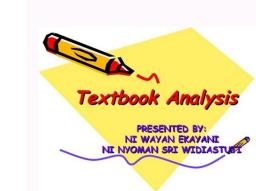
Hu and Nation (2000) and Schmitt (2000) also hold the opinion that the amount of familiar and unfamiliar vocabulary is one of the most significant elements in discerning the compilation of a text. Likewise, Stahl (2003) maintained that the relationship between vocabulary and reading comprehension is a "robust" one and that vocabulary knowledge has constantly been the "foremost predictor of text difficulty" (p. 241). In this line, Alderson (2000, p.35) stated that "coping with unknown words affects comprehension and reduces reading enjoyment. Vocabulary knowledge is in fact the only and the best predictor of reading comprehension".

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Харків – 2006



## TEXTBOOK ANALYSIS ON COLLEGE ACADEMIC WRITING

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**Abstract:** When no specific materials are available particularly on EFL writing courses, the selection and use of a textbook are of great priority. For this reason, this article analyzes a textbook on college academic writing in an EFL context-Indonesia. In this analysis, I employed the in-depth method using the three phases of the textbook analysis, concerning the three main features of the textbook: (1) goal and organization, (2) contents-inputs, models, and exercises, and (3) the suitability of the textbook viewed from aims, beliefs about writing, the roles of the teacher, the role of the students, and the roles of the textbook as a whole. The extent to which the selected textbook reflected the recent views of the teaching and learning of writing skill was also investigated. The results show that the author echoed his clear goal and organization. The contents of the textbook regarding the inputs, models, exercises, and writing assignments reflected the features of academic writing required for college students.

**Key words:** academic writing, process writing, text function

The status of writing in language teaching has accelerated tremendously since 30 years ago. In the teaching of writing, the sequence of activities typically involves: (1) familiarization: learners study grammar and vocabulary, usually through a text; (2) controlled writing: learners imitate given patterns, often from substitution tables; (3) guided writing: learners manipulate model texts; and (4) free writing: learners employ the patterns they have developed to write a letter, a paragraph, an essay, and the like (Richards, 2002). Writing in a second or foreign language is regarded as one of the most difficult skills for a learner to master, particularly in free academic writing. The difficulty is due to the need to generate and organize ideas using an appropriate choice of vocabulary, sentence, and paragraph organization and to turn such ideas into a readable text (Richards and Renandya, 2002).

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Textbook Examples Applied Longitudinal Data Analysis: Modeling Change and Event Occurrenceby Judith D. Singer and John B. Willett. This is one of the books available for loan from IDRE Stats Books for Loan (see Statistics Books for ... The Maximum Power Transfer Theorem is not so much a means of analysis as it is an aid to system design. Simply stated, the maximum amount of power will be dissipated by a load resistance when that load resistance is equal to the Thevenin/Norton resistance of the network supplying the power. If the load resistance is lower or higher than the Thevenin/Norton

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