

Assessment of Lexical Richness of Short Oral Productions: A Comparative Study

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Abstract

Lexical Richness (LR) is measured by calculating the Types of words to Tokens used ratio. Over time, different scholars have vouched for different methods to compute Lexical Richness. 100 students in 2 select Government schools in India were tested in oral tasks. Their speeches were transcribed and analyzed on two open source Softwares: Word Cruncher and TextElixir and compares two formulae; i) The Moving Average Type-Token Ratio, and ii) Index of Guiraud. MATTR uses non-overlapping segments of the text whereas Index of Guiraud modifies the length of text by trying to uniformize the length of speech using root values of the text length. The comparison between these two measures is to examine which of them is more independent of text length. The results show that MATTR is a better predictor of students' Lexical Richness in short oral productions. This paper adds to the new literature in computing ways to calculate LR.

Keywords: Guiraud, MATTR, oral tasks, TextElixir, WordCruncher