

SUMMARY

UNIVERSIDAD DE LAS FUERZAS ARMADAS ESPE set an exam called First Certificate in English, which stands for FCE, ordered by Ministerio de Educacion on December of 2012, in order to know the proficiency English level the students had, and therefore decided to keep running the career or not.

The FCE exam consists of 5 papers, and the listening one was the lowest of all according the students' results. A survey was done in order to know which characteristic of the listening the students were having more difficulty with by relating discourse and the listening skill, since they are co-related; discourse as the independent variable and the listening skill as the dependent one, owing to the fact that the grade of the performance depends on the listener's level towards a listening task. Discourse research was based on Beaugrande's theory called Standards of Textuality, consisting of 7 types of discourse which are present in any kind of conversation; Informativity was the lowest, and Intentionality being the second the lowest.

Having a low sense of Informativity it could affect parts 2 and 4 of the listening skill; this characteristic had to deal with specific information throughout the listening. Intentionality dealt with Feeling, Attitude, Opinion, Purpose, Gist and Detail, therefore it covers all the 4 parts of the listening skill, with a high 62.5 percentage of the listening paper.

These flaws could have a reliable solution, which the University was interested in, since the FCE had become the official exam to evaluate the students' English performance.