

**AN INVESTIGATION OF
THE COMPREHENSION OF LITERARY TEXTS
BY MYANMAR TERTIARY LEVEL STUDENTS**

PhD DISSERTATION

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ABSTRACT

English specialization students study English language as well as English literature. They study literary texts throughout the required years of academic studies. After gaining their B.A or B.A. (Honours) degree, they continue studying literary texts as part of their literary studies in their M.A. classes. Due to the experience gained from studying literary texts, they come to comprehend these texts to a certain extent. However, it is seen that they still have difficulties in comprehension in some areas. Thus, it is necessary to investigate how and how much they comprehend the literary texts they have to study in their M.A. classes. In this research, first year M.A. students' comprehension of four short stories from the module: Thematic Studies 1 is assessed in four main areas: linguistic competence, literary awareness, cultural awareness and general world knowledge. A questionnaire is set for each story and given to 72 First Year M.A. students. Then, the scores that students gained in each area and the possible causes for the choice of wrong responses are examined. According to the data analyzed, it is discovered that the research subjects still encounter difficulties in almost all the areas, although they have had experience of studying literary texts for several years as undergraduate students. Based on the findings of the research, pedagogic implications are drawn and suggestions are made in order to improve the students' comprehension skills.