

A B S T R A C T

This study is concerned with the achievement, in written English, of Grade 7 pupils drawn from ten Jamaican non-selective schools. It has investigated the abilities of some of these pupils, as displayed in a written English Language test. The implications of the findings are also considered.

The aims of the study are set out in the opening chapter where there is also a discussion of the background to English Language teaching in Jamaica. Attention is paid to the linguistic environment of the pupils, and in particular to the nature of the Jamaican Language continuum. In Chapter 2, there is a discussion of previous research relevant to the present study. This is followed in Chapter 3, by a description of the procedures of investigation. The next five chapters contain the interpretation of the data. There are discussions of differences and similarities based on statistical analyses of the tests. Chapter 9 is devoted to item analyses to determine the pupils' performance in individual test items in section one of the English Language test. In Chapter 10 the characteristics of the pupils' writing as revealed in written composition, are discussed and compared with those revealed by the item analyses. In the final chapter, the implications of the investigation are considered, and suggestions made for the teaching of English in Jamaican Schools, up to Grade 7.