

## ABSTRACT

This project is concerned with increasing trainee teacher's awareness of how teaching behaviour may be examined, analysed and then practised with a view to improving the verbal behaviour.

The trainee was the unit in a sample of trainee teachers taken from Church Teacher's College. A sample of thirty trainees was selected at random and divided into two groups, experimental and control, fifteen trainees each.

A combination of variables to compose a "training package" was effective in teaching a variety of verbal behaviours to trainee teachers in the experimental group. This training package included oral and written instructions, modelling of teaching skills, trainee's self-scoring, verbal feedback and graphic feedback.

The trainee was observed in regular classroom sessions and the use that was made of the following five major categories for analysing classroom verbal behaviour was recorded. These categories are, teacher-initiated talk, teacher response, pupil - initiated talk, pupil response and other.

The presentation and analysis of data included information about the verbal behaviour of each trainee teacher, as well as information about the verbal behaviour of both experimental and control groups and the differences between the means was compared and subjected to a t test.

The analysis of the results suggests that the "training package" was effective in teaching a variety of verbal behaviours to the experimental trainee teachers. It was effective in helping the trainees to consciously control their verbal behaviour and this improved considerably.

The results confirm the view that classroom behaviour can be submitted to systematic inquiry and that it can be identified and acquired by the trainee teacher.

This project is important because the results serve to focus attention on the behavioural aspects of teaching and in particular verbal behaviour. This aspect of teaching must be emphasized if the effectiveness of teacher training is to improve.

The contribution which this project makes to teacher training is to suggest a method of assessing classroom verbal behaviour and a training package that would be effective in teaching a variety of verbal behaviours to teacher-trainees.