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## AN AVERAGE WORD LENGTH DYNAMICS IN “ARMY ANTS” BY A K RMANUJAN: A STYLOSTATISTICAL STUDY

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### **ABSTRACT:**

A. K. Ramanujan was a multifaceted and multitalented personality. He exposed the gap between real and the apparent, the external calmness and inner turbulence through his poetry. He is known for his unique style, creative use of words and word length. An average word length dynamics relates to his creativity. Words, which contributed mostly to increase or decrease of average length are identified and analysed statistically. A symmetrical distribution of word length and their inverse relationship to their frequency signify A. K. Ramanujan's strive for using simplest and shortest words to convey his message.

**Glossary:** Word, word length, statistics, frequency, creativity.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Attipat Krishnaswamy Ramanujan was a multifaceted personality, a scholar of Indian literature who wrote in English and Kannada and Tamil. His academic research ranges across five languages: Tamil, Kannada, Telgu, Sanskrit and English. He published his work on both classical and modern variants of these literature. Being a poet, a critic, a folklorist, a linguist and a translator, he occupies a prominent place in the cosmos of Indo-Anglian poetry. Also it has been observed that he remains as the 'living voice' in the world of literature especially of Indian Poetry as his works: **The Collected Essays**(2000), **The Collected Poems**(1995) were published posthumously. Besides one more Anthology of his critical essays, poems and interviews brought out by his editors entitled-**The Uncollected Poems and Prose: A. K. Ramanujan**. His literary genius was recognized and he was awarded the Padma

Shri in 1976 and the Mc Arthur scholarship in 1983. He was also elected Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1990. He was the recipient 'Gold Medal of the Tamil Writers' Association in 1969. The coveted 'Sahitya Academy Award' was bestowed upon him posthumously.

A. K. Ramanujan's poetic work encompasses the wide range of themes namely, nature, relations, love, politics, society, myths, history, religion, animals, time, death and so on. His poetry reflexes the emotional crisis between his native traditions and opposing forces of westernization; also it reflects the problems of bi-cultural and bi-lingual situation.

### **Ramanujan quotes:**

*English and my discipline give me my outer forms –linguistic, metrical, logical and other such ways of shaping my experiences and my first thirty years in India , my frequent visits and field trips, my personal and professional preoccupations with Kannada, Tamil , the classics and folklore give me my substance ,my 'inner' forms, images and symbols. They are continuous with each other and I no longer can tell what comes from where.*

Ramanujan's poetry evinces his deep concern towards the society and social issues. His animal poem suggests not only his love for animals but his desire to correlate their metaphorical significance with human society.

### **ARMY ANTS:**

In the **Army Ants** Ramanujan expresses his relations with society, his observations about its structure using animal world as a metaphor for it. He compares ant's community with human society and comments on the problems of destruction and untouchability in society. In the preface of the poem he quote from C. Judson Herrick, ***The Thinking Machine***

*The army ants not only make their houses but they are their houses, for of their own living bodies they form the whole complicated dwelling.(CP p.69)*

The ants inherit their aristocratic tastes. There are

*'separate apartments for the queen,  
Colonies for the various castes'(CP p.69),*

There are also the wild ants who model their society for their benefits. They use bodies of the dead ants as bricks to make their houses. The living young ants function as the bricks and the mortar of the house. They die without leaving any legend behind. The concluding lines create pathos

*And the work ,  
as they say, is the workman at last. (CP p.70)*

The worker ants symbolize the workers in the human society. Human being dreams to 'build a house', it is constructive as well as destructive thing because some of them destroy themselves to construct the new society. Thus Ramanujan sees the similarities between the human society and ants' society.

### **The Average Word length Dynamics in Army Ants:**

A word is a single meaningful element of speech or writing which can stand alone as a complete utterance or separated by spaces in written languages and by pause in speech. Word length means the number of bits in a word. In the present paper, the researcher has observed the number of letters used in a word.

A.K. Ramanujan's poetry is known for its brevity in style, he experiments with the words to create subtle effect by shifting swiftly in tone that reveals the different layers of meaning. He uses simplest and shortest words to convey his message. Ramanujan's creativity and simplicity have been measured statistically more specifically observing the word length.

To observe the average word length dynamics statistics is followed, data is analysed and measured, variables observed and visual display of the data is used to present frequency distributions so that the shape of the distribution can easily be seen. The statistics, Mode, Median and Mean is used for measuring Central Tendency.

***The measures of Spread*** –Variance, Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), Standard Deviation are used to observe Variability.

***The Measures of Shape*** –The statistics - Symmetric, Skewness and Kurtosis is used to describe the rise and drop of the distribution.

**A STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF AVERAGE WORD LENGTH IN ARMY ANTS:**

**Word length:**

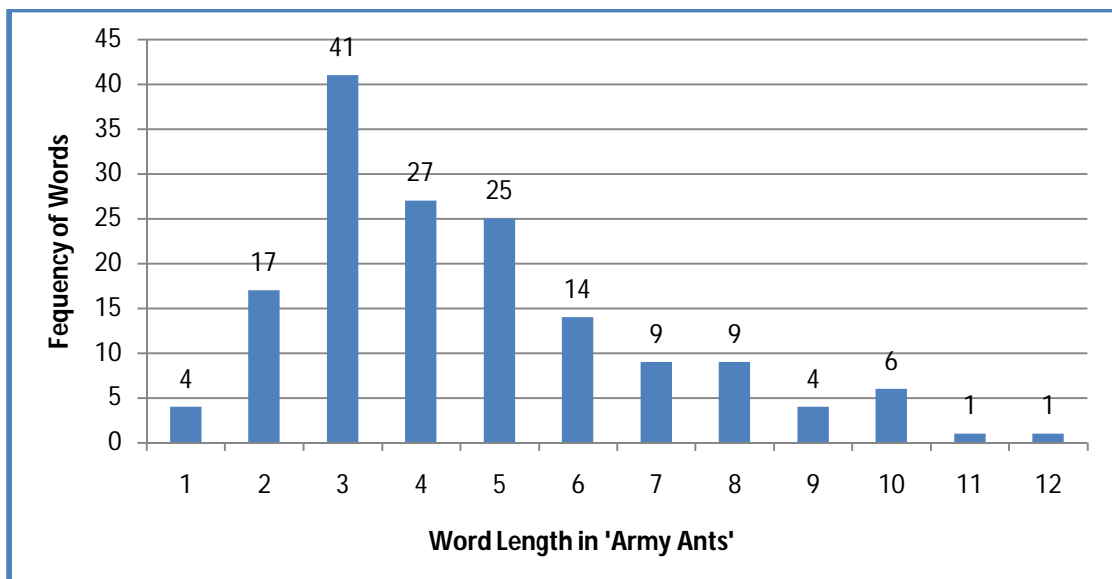
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 6 3 5 3 3 5 3 3 5 3 3 6 2 4 5 7 6 3 3 4 2 4 3 2 3 7 2 4

**Statistic 1:**

**Frequency Distribution of Word Length in "Army Ants"**

Valid	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	4	2.5	2.5	2.5
2	17	10.8	10.8	13.3
3	41	25.9	25.9	39.2
4	27	17.1	17.1	56.3
5	25	15.8	15.8	72.2
6	14	8.9	8.9	81.0
7	9	5.7	5.7	86.7
8	9	5.7	5.7	92.4
9	4	2.5	2.5	94.9
10	6	3.8	3.8	98.7
11	1	0.6	0.6	99.4
12	1	0.6	0.6	100
Total	158	100.00	100.00	-

**Frequency Distribution of Word Length in "Army Ants"**



**Statistics 2:****Center Value and Variation of Word Length in “Army Ants”**

N Valid	158
Missing	0
Mean	4.63
Median	4.13
Mode	3
Std. Deviation	2.281
Variance	5.202
Skewness	0.941
Std. Error Of Skewness	0.193
Kurtosis	0.444
Std. Error Of Kurtosis	0.384
Range	11
Minimum	1
Maximum	12

**Interpretation:**

- The mean, median and mode word length by SPSS are given as 4.63, 4.13 and 3 respectively
- The variations in word length are depicted by std. deviation and variance as 2.281 and 5.202 respectively.
- The measures of normality of the word length distribution are studied by Skewness and Kurtosis as 0.941 and 0.444 which are left skew and platykurtic.
- The important pattern of frequency distribution of the word length is 3, the modal value.

**CONCLUSION:**

A. K. Ramanujan was a genuine craftsman who never be satisfied with mere observation. His style is polished and refined. His choice of words is distinct. He prefers to be brief while expressing his emotions and communicating

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those with his readers. He has used the words of uniform length normally, hence there is a symmetrical distribution of word length in the poem. The length of words tends to have an inverse relationship to their frequency. Brevity, clarity and simplicity in expression of diction made him a great craftsman.

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