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***Exploring NUL Students' Syntactic Complexity through the use of Adverbial
clause of Purpose***

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Abstract: The present paper explores the usage of the adverbial clause of purpose as a syntactic complexity measure among the National University of Lesotho (NUL) students. The research subjects were NUL fourth year students across the seven faculties namely the Faculty of Agriculture (FOA), the Faculty of Education (FOE), the Faculty of Health Sciences (FOHS), the Faculty of Humanities (FOH), the Faculty of Law (FOL), the Faculty of Social Sciences (FOSS) and the Faculty of Science and Technology (FOST). Data was collected from their past examination papers (2016/2017). This study employed the interpretive paradigm and has analysed the data qualitatively. The study has also employed the descriptive and case study designs. The students' continuous writing was the focus of this study since Transformational Generative Grammar (TGG) and Cognitive Grammar (CG) are the theoretical frameworks which is the basis of the present study and therefore require continuous writing. The findings of the present study reveal that NUL students have a reasonably high level of syntactic complexity in their writing as shown by how they used adverbial clause of purpose. The study therefore concludes that NUL students have a reasonably high level of syntactic complexity demonstrated by how they used the adverbial clause of purpose.

Keywords: Syntactic complexity, Content analysis, General complex sentences

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