

CHALLENGES IN WRITING SKILLS

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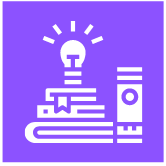
Abstract:

The focus of this article, namely, what kind of challenges we face during the writing. There are mentioned some problems and challenges which is need to understand and avoid doing these mistakes. The article seeks the ways of the improving our writing skills and finding solutions to the given obstacles.

Keywords: writing skill, challenges, unconventional grammar, motivation, failure.

Writing is one of the most popular ways to express emotions and thoughts. Through people who write take time and can express their emotions clearly. Also, writing assignments widely used during language practice for learning foreign languages. However, students of all Levels face many challenges when writing any assignment. Although writing is one of the best ways expressing thoughts, students often fail to understand or convey meaning to the reader through their written assignments. Tirumalesh (1991) suggested some reasons why people have limited knowledge about English writing. Lack of proficiency in the language, large classes, unqualified teachers, unmotivated novices, lack of resources became the part of the etiology. From his point of view, the problem can be solved by mobilizing more materials or by an appropriate use of the existing resources [4].

Writing skill is one of the important and difficult part of learning English. In this part, we can share and express our opinions, emotions and ideas through writing. As we are doing writing tasks, our physical and mental activities will work. Writing is a natural rule in the formation, study and development of any language. Writing is considered the most difficult skill for learners. In learning English as a foreign language, there is no an exception. Students often find it difficult to write texts even in their own language. For English writing, these difficulties seem much greater. This issue has been a widely discussed topic of

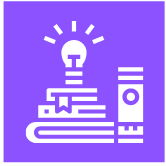


linguists and foreign language researchers around the world. This takes a lot of time to think and reflect on the subject. This requires a writer analysis and classification of any data. After this, the difficult process requires the right language for the writers to turn these ideas into a holistic and coherent speech. Ur (1996) pointed out that the purpose and principle of writing skill is to express ideas and convey the message to the reader. Moreover, the writers should be aware of some formal aspects such as, neat hand writing, correct spelling, proper use of punctuation and vocabulary and acceptable grammar. These aspects are needed because in higher standards of language are usually demanded in writing than in speech. He also mentioned that more careful construction, more precise and varied vocabulary, more correctness of expression is also the important aspects of writing. When a student submits a piece of original writing then the most important thing is to see whether the ideas and events presented there is interesting and significant or not. The writer should organize his thoughts and ideas and present them through his writing in a way so that the readers can read that easily and feel pleased to read that. However, one of the problems in teaching writing is maintaining a fair balance between content and forms [5].

When it comes to the accomplishing of the writing assignment, a student goes through several stages of despair and has to clear some obstacles on the way to an excellent paper. These are the most frequent problems that any writer can face on all steps of the writing process:

1. No clue on how to start the text.
2. Searching for compelling arguments.
3. Getting rid of clichéd words.
4. How to find the right tone for the audience?
5. What if I fail?
6. Proper formatting of the quotes.
7. Time management [6].

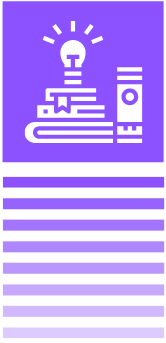
The main reasons why we face on these challenges in writing: these are poor vocabulary, grammar problems, lack of proficiency in the language and critical thinking. Writing also includes punctuation problems and using capital letters. The worth challenge is wasting the time. You sit for some time, without ideas, not knowing how to start the first sentence of the essay. Sometimes, students do not know the standard structure of the essay and the need for a clear



statement. It always appears when a student has not organized a plan before starting their essay. Another common challenge is students forget about avoiding plagiarism. Learners tend to take information only with the help of the Internet, limiting themselves with online sources. In addition, they believe in any unreliable resources. Many students struggling with writing essays forget about proper formatting of the citations and then get into trouble. The important thing is never to be afraid of failing because after failure, everybody will begin practicing more and working on themselves harder than before and there will definitely be success.

The ability to write does not come naturally but requires regular study and practice. This means that, in order to develop writing skills, learners need to spend time practicing writing and reading a lot of documents. The process of learning to write English as a foreign language is often affected by factors such as lack of motivation, limited reading activities and the influence of the mother tongue. Many studies have shown that in all learning activities, motivation is always considered necessary to make success. In this view, Harmer (2006a) points out that people involved in language teaching often say that students who want to learn will succeed whatever circumstances in which they study. They succeed despite using methods which experts consider unsatisfactory. In the phase of such a phenomenon, it seems reasonable to suggest that the motivation that students bring to class is the biggest simple factor affecting their success [2]. It shows that motivation is one of the simple factors but has a great influence on the success of learners. When there is good motivation for learning, learners will achieve their learning goals easily and find writing activities more interesting and meaningful. Reading is a very useful tool in helping learners improve their writing ability because the reading process helps learners gain access to content written by others.

Extend reading activities in English are also the subject to be suggested. It is clear that reading and writing always have close and complementary relationships. Therefore, in order to develop effective writing skills, students need to expand their reading comprehension activities. By reading comprehension of documents, texts or newspapers in English, students will be able to both improve their vocabulary and grammar knowledge and learn more ways to express their ideas. At the same time, through reading, students' knowledge about related fields is also expanded, since then, students will not

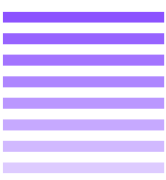


spend much time brainstorming, seeking ideas for the writing task [1]. It took some of our time to motivate the students. Later on the small group activities really developed a competitive spirit among the students. We prepared the learning objectives for our lessons and understood our students' learning styles and started implementing successfully and encouraged to students to practice writing as a skill. We used instructional scaffolding in learning process to promote deeper level of learning. The support, that has been given, tailored to the needs of the students with a goal to help the students achieving his or her learning goals.

10 tips to help you improve your English writing skills:

1. Write in English every day.
2. Ask someone to check your writing.
3. Improve your vocabulary.
4. Use a dictionary.
5. Check your writing carefully.
6. Write about different topics.
7. Do your homework.
8. Write to your friends.
9. Write a blog.
10. Do not be afraid to make mistakes [3].

In conclusion, I can say that it is better, if students' writing performance is valued based on the correct use of grammatical rules, they focus more on this aspect. They believe that if they can produce a writing piece without any grammatical error then they are good in writing. On the other hand, some of the students thought that they are bad in terms of organizing the information. Some students thought they are not good in creative writing because they are much used to in controlled writing and some of the students thought they face problems while doing translation due to the differences in sentence structures between the two languages. The three main groups of solutions are proposed including solutions for students to raise awareness of the role of writing and the importance of writing skills for their own learning and work in the future, solutions for the lecturers to improve teaching methods and diversify learning activities to attract students to study and improve writing skills and solutions for the curriculum and teaching materials.



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