

**Investigating the difficulties of English writing skill encountered by Sudanese EFL undergraduates : A case study of 3<sup>rd</sup> year Student of English , College of Languages, Sudan University of Science & Technology.**

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**Abstract:**

The present paper is intended to study and scrutinize English language writing skill issues at the undergraduate level ,College of Languages, Sudan University Of Science and Technology. The purpose of this paper is to look into the most distinctive problems and to discover solutions that are related to writing skill process, and the reasons behind writing skill weakness of undergraduate of English Department . The researcher noticed that there are many factors which causes weakness and may refer to the learner, the appropriate curriculum, the study plan, the environment , the shortage of an equipped writing skill instructors , strategies and methods. The teachers responses about writing process that should be agree with sharpening the students memory. Improve the ability to understand and remote the students to expand their linguistic skill enable students to understand literary texts to allow students to become aware of how information is organized in English writing

This paper uses the descriptive analytical method to analyze the data. The population are undergraduate students, 3<sup>rd</sup> year, college of languages, Sudan University of Science and Technology.

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**Key words:** linguistic skill , students language & awareness, cultural knowledge.

**المستخلص:**

تهدف الورقة البحثية هذه إلى دراسة وفحص قضايا مهارة الكتابة باللغة الإنجليزية في المرحلة الجامعية- في كلية اللغات- جامعة السودان للعلوم والتكنولوجيا ، إن الغرض من هذه الدراسة هو البحث في معظم المشاكل المرتبطة بالكتابة وإيجاد حلول لها، ومعرفة الأسباب وراء ضعف الطلاب لهذه المهارة ، تمت ملاحظة أن هنالك عدة عوامل ربما تكون سببا في هذه المشكلة، على سبيل المثال، ربما يكون الدارس نفسه أو المنهج أو الخطة الدراسية أو البيئة الدراسية، أو نقص الأساتذة ذوي الكفاءة العالية، أحيانا قد تكون الإستراتيجيات المتبعة في مهارة الكتابة وطرق تدريسها . إذا ما هي الإجراءات التي يمكن أن تتخذ لمعالجة هذه المشكلة وإيجاد برامج علاجية يمكن بها التغلب على الصعوبات حتى يمكن الوصول إلى حلول جذرية من خلال برامج فعالة ؟ مع وضع في الإعتبار النتائج المرجوة من هذه الورقة البحثية،إستخدم الباحث في هذه الورقة منهج التحليل الوصفي . حيث كانت العينة طلاب المستوى الثالث بكلية اللغات بجامعة السودان للعلوم والتكنولوجيا .

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** المهارة اللغوية، لغة ووعي الطلاب، معرفة ثقافية.

**Introduction**

Writing skill is an important part of communication. Good writing allow the students to communicate their message

with clarity and ease to a far larger audience than through face- to- face or telephone conversations.

Writing will be defined ( as the symbolic representation of language through the use of graphic signs.) Unlike speech, it is a system that is not simply acquired, but has to be learned through sustained conscious effort. Not all languages have a written form and, even among people whose language has a well-established written system, there are large numbers of individuals who cannot use the system.

In terms of human development, writing is relatively recent phenomenon. We may be able to trace human attempts to represent information visually back to cave drawings made at least 20,000 years ago, Georg Yule (2010- 211) The study of language .Cambridge University Press.

One could argue that writing skill is one of the most important craft in composing any creative text so good. Generally speaking, novelists, playwrights and writers, generally speaking are trying their best to attract reader's attention inviting them to their subject adopting techniques of topic sentence, putting it in the correct order.

At the beginning, they give a general vision of the paragraph, in the middle giving examples, explanations and details to support their first opinions. They conclude it in an ending sentence i.e in the end of a passage or paragraph, they just give a summing up for what has been stated earlier .Besides, the writer gives simple words, sentences and avoiding complicated issues they may lead to ambiguity.

However, the writer always tries to use clear-cuts or direct ideas keeping out of figurative language or implied ideas giving or organizing his thoughts in a method more easily understood by the readers that enables the latter to follow the main ideas of the writer in conclusion.

There are many times when the learner asked to write something very specific. Whether this is to take notes of a conversation, write the minutes of a formal meeting, or prepare a report, all these types of writing require specific skills, and usually a particular style.

One skill that many people lack, especially in management and other professional environments is the ability to write in plain English. That is avoiding unnecessary jargon, industry specific buzzwords and clichés and keeping sentences short and concise.

It is well-known many more words in English are not pronounced the same way that they are written, or spelled. As a result, learners of second language particularly at university levels, commit more mistakes that arise out of confusion the sound patterns. As well the organization systems, (Phonology) and the absent of the interaction among phonology, syntax, morphological processes, psycholinguistics, and applied linguistics.

Correct grammar, punctuation and spelling are key in writing skill, the author, based on both the content and presentation, and errors are likely to lead them to form a negative impression.

### **1.1 Statement of the problem:**

The problems that face an English language Students of English Language have been experiencing performance regarding applications of what they were input about writing skills .The problems are implied in their outputs, the application of their early and fundamental bases of how to write .

Nowadays, no clear awareness towards solid and concrete knowledge shown to meet the demands of English that may cause weakness in writing skill .

Ellis and Tomlinson (1980), suggested some basic skills to be taught to learners so that they can write essays proficiently. Such sub skills include spelling, punctuation, linguistic skills as well as conventions of style.

There are some aspects responsible for the ongoing deterioration. These include social, cultural, pedagogical and motivation problems. It is axiomatic that cultural beliefs have a powerful effect on learners'. linguists and anthropologists have long recognized that the forms and uses of a given language reflect the values of the society in which the language is spoken. Linguistic competence alone is not enough for learners of a language to be competent in that language Krasner ,(1999). In fact , students cannot have a full grasp of the language unless they fully understand the cultural contexts in which that language operates. language learners have to realize or know, for instance, the culturally proper ways of addressing people, expressing gratitude, making requests, and agreeing or disagreeing with someone .Reyner (2001:57) stressed that “ many good teachers are adaptive rather than rigid in their approach to teaching undergraduate students and only loosely base their instruction on a given method “ . Teachers are no longer knowledge providers.

In view of the above, Alkhuli (1981) explains, “ Experience has shown that both teachers and students participating in this problem. In consequence ,if there is a leak in teaching system, this will cause leaks in the processes of teaching and learning” accordingly, teachers are disinclined to devote much time to handle those items which do not

constitute part of a related main problem. Students of English language should be encourage to write, quite independently, compositions which actually reflect their vocabulary repertoire and their innovative thinking . Cleve (1992) stressed the use of techniques such as guided controlled and free writing techniques in writing. The implication of this is that controlled expression is required to infuse into the learner the mastery of certain linguistic patterns desirable to generate a clear piece of writing free from all grammatical errors for instance . Malinowski (1991) , emphasized that composition writing is difficult skill to acquire, and recommended therefore, that teacher must use a variety of methods for teaching English language.

### 1.2 Review of literature:

Reviewing the contribution of some other researchers is important for having clear picture, which helps for giving suggestions and contributions. Therefore, the researcher in this part reviews the contributions of some other researchers in the area of English language teaching particularly writing skill, Kambal (1980) has explored the types of errors made by undergraduate students at the University of Khartoum in free composition. He demonstrates that students made errors in three major areas particularly writing skill. writing is a learnt skill. The other skills can be acquired. But students have to learn some devices to enable them write. Writing is standard. It uses standard and formal language. This fact makes it different and the most difficult skill. Good writing these criteria (Nunan. (1989.p35) Motivation & interest, Linguistic aspect, Clarity, Organization, Level of appropriation.

### 1.3 Importance of the paper:

The most important of this paper is to discuss writing skill as problems and solutions that face the students of English language. The chief difficulties in writing skill are lexical, i.e. words, collocations and fixed phrases.

\* The students should not admit to an English departments unless they pass an admission test in order to determine who is qualified.

\* An absolute remedial program must establish. The main of this program is to help students who are not proficient enough in English to qualify for admission to the department to attain a sufficiently high level of proficiency to make it possible for them to major to English.

\* Adopting suitable writing strategies for different kinds of writing skill.

\* Enhancing and developing student's competence and awareness by using the skills, techniques and procedures of writing process that may promote the student's ability of writing skill.

\* To draw attention towards writing skill students to a level of proficiency that will help them to be linguistically equipped in writing skill.

### 1.4 Objectives of the research:

This paper aims to :

\* Search for techniques to improve writing skill .

\* Find if writing is satisfactory to enhance English language?

\* Exploring and developing aspects of communicative competence?.

\* The main factors behind the students lowering standards of language proficiency.

\* Plans to correct language skill through right grammar, accurately spelling.

\* Improving writing skill at University level for students who take English as a main subject.

### 1.5 Reasons behind the students weakness:

There are many factors responsible for deterioration varied as we mentioned bellow: The majority of the students who are admitting in English language Department have very poor knowledge of English language.

\* The students are not motivated.

\* The students have very disturbing problems with English language skills.

\* The storage of equipped teachers for a correct teaching methods.

\* Socio-cultural factors responsible for the student lowering standards of language proficiency.

\* This deterioration of writing skill for the University students , this deterioration now does not augur well for any future intervention to stop the terribly deterioration standards of language proficiency amongst the undergraduate students.

\* Teaching process at the secondary schools, where these problems inherited , and was not surmounted late, when teachers at that stage were unsuccessful in to

Subjects:

Subjects of the study limited are to the students of level two who take English as a main subject, at college of languages at Sudan University Of Science and Technology.

### 1.6 Study Question :

This study discusses the difficulties that face students in their writing skill. The study will answer the salient following points and what the convenient solutions are.

- How far do the syllabuses and teaching methods affect the performance of students in their writing skill's tasks ?

- \* What are those expected solution/ Suggestions of bad or ill-done writing ?

- \* How students can participate in solving their humble performance of writing?

- \* Which of writing skills is the most difficult in applications?

- \* What can be done to increase students' poor motivation and interests?

## 2. Hypotheses of the study :

In this paper the following hypotheses have been tested:

- \*The teachers performance is affected negatively by factors such as; crowded classes, lack of teachers, training, irrelevant specialization, inconsistent syllabus and poor standard.

- \* The ability of students in writing is affected negatively.

- \* Most students do not have great deal with English language in terms of writing.

- \* Some writing skills represent difficulties in applications.

- \* Unqualified and unequipped staff plays a fundamental role in difficulties of applying writing applications and skill.

### 2.1 Methodology of the study:

This paper uses the descriptive analytical method to analyze the data. The population are undergraduate students, 3<sup>rd</sup> year, college of languages, Sudan University of Science and Technology.

### 2.2 Discussion:

The researcher used some solutions in order to overcome writing difficulties, according to researcher opinion he believe that writing should increase the student linguistic and students should

acquire enough competence and awareness.

### 2.3 Findings:

The teachers responses about writing process that should be agree with the following:

- \* Sharpened the students memory.

- \* Improve the ability to understand.

- \* Promote the students to expand their linguistic skills.

- \* Enable students to understand literary texts.

- \* Allow students to become aware about how information is organized in English writing texts.

- \* High correlation between teaching writing and improving the students' understanding.

### 2.4 Conclusion:

The undergraduate students at the college of languages , English department face many cruel problems in using writing skill , the salient question is what worsen the situation in this case ? The situation has become so challenging that it takes a relatively long time to introduce the proper remedy. In the present paper writing is thought of as means of enhancing students' competence and further to improve their communicative awareness.

### 2.5 Suggestion for further Studies:

The researcher thinks that the best way to manipulate the students their weakness

Is to carry out more researches , further researches on the correlation between language and culture also further researches on writing and reading are required in order to develop the students competence and awareness. Also the researcher suggests further studies are to design a significant study to see writing would be more useful.

## 2.6 Recommendations:

Putting into consideration the obtain result of this research, the researcher recommends the following :

- \* Writing questions should be given weight in the college tests and the examinations.
- \* Students should be provided with suitable writing rules and adequate practices to promote their ability in writing.
- \* English language should be taught by equipped teachers.
- \* Setting up realistic tasks, which are relevant to students life.
- \* Students should pay attention about the rules of writing in order to promote the cultural aspects.

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