# Sudan University of Science & Technology College of Graduate Studies & Scientific Research



Problems of Teaching Writing Skill to Beginners in EFL: A Case Study of Sudanese Basic Level Schools Pupils مشكلات تدريس مهارة الكتابة الـمبتدئين في الغة الانجليزية: دراسة حالة تلاميذ مدارس مرحلة الأساس السودانية

A Thesis Submitted in partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of M. A in ELT

By:

Rawda Bashir Abdallah

**Supervisor:** 

Dr. Salaheldin Adam Ahmed Eldouma

# October 2011

# **Dedication**

I dedicate this research to my parents' to my children and my husband with love.

# **Acknowledgments**

I would like to express my deep gratitute and profound thanks to my supervisor, Dr. Salaheldin Adam Ahmed Eldouma, Who has keenly supervised this work.

I am also very grateful to the English language staff at Sudan University of Science and Technology and other Sudanese Universities who taught us the courses and lent us support throughout the programme. My thanks are also due to my family for encouraging me to pursue postgraduate studies. My thanks are also extended to my friends for sharing their experiences during and after the programme courses.

#### **ABSTRACT**

This study is an attempt to investigate the problem of teaching writing skills in Sudanese basic level in the areas such as grammar, vocabulary, punctuation marks, spelling and the syllabus.

The study surveyed teacher's experiences and attitudes and pupils abilities in writing.. The study also examined whether the mother tongue interference affects writing negatively and the quality and adequacy of writing activities in SPINE series.

Forty teachers and sixty basic school pupils from Karary locality participated in this study. Four instruments were used for data collection: a questionnaire was conducted for teachers, while two writing tests for the pupils, textbooks analysis and classroom observations were also used in this research.

The findings of this study showed pupils were weak in writing English due to the poor and inadequate writing activities provided in the textbooks, in addition to the lack of vocabulary, large classes and that little emphasis was given to the teaching of writing.

Moreover, most of teachers are not motivated and do not exert efforts to encourage learners to write good topics.

The study recommended that there is a need for further reviewing of the writing activities in SPINE and incorporation of authentic materials particularly material for developing writing skills. Spelling should also be given more emphasis while teaching writing.

### ملخص الدراسة

حاولت هذه الدراسة است قصاء مشكلات تدريس مهارة الكتابة لدى تلاميذ مرحلة الأساس السودانية مثل مشكلات في المواضع النحوية والذخيرة اللغوية والإملاء وعلامات الترقيم ومحتوى الم قررات الدراسية.

شملت الدراسة أيضاً آراء الأساتذة حول تدريس مهارة الكتابة في مرحلة الأساس. كما بحثت الدراسة ما إذا كان للغة الأم تأثيراً سالباً على تطوير مهارة الكتابة، ومدى كفاية الأنشطة الخاصة بالكتابة في كتب اللغة الانجليزية المعروفة بسلسلة SPINE.

است قصت الدراسة أربعون أستاذاً و ستون تلميذاً في هذه الدراسة من مرحلة الأساس بمحلية كرري. استخدمت الباحثة أربعة أدوات لجمع البيانات لاستبيان الأساتذة واختباران في الكتابة للتلاميذ، تحليل محتوى م قررات اللغة الانجليزية بمرحلة الأساس بجانب الملاحظة الصفية.

أظهرت نتائج هذه الدراسة ضعف التلاميذ في مهارة الكتابة باللغة الانجليزية ويعزى ذلك الى ضعف و قلة أنشطة الكتابة في الم قرر وعدم وجود مواد مأخوذة من بيئة التلاميذ لتدريس الكتابة بالإضافة إلى ضعف الذخيرة اللغوية وحجم الفصول وعدم التركيز على تدريس الكتابة. كما أوصت الدراسة بالاهتمام بتدريس الإملاء وعلامات الترقيم وإجراء بعض التعديلات في أنشطة الكتابة في سلسلة SPINE وذلك بإدخال مواد من بيئة التلاميذ لتعمل على تطوير مهارة الكتابة.

## TABLE OF CONTENT

Content	Page	
Dedication	I	
Acknowledgments	II	
Abstract	III	
Abstract ( Arabic)	IV	
Table of contents	V	
List of Tables	VIII	
CHAPTER ONE:ITRODUCTION		
1-1 Overview	1	
1-2 Statement of the Problem	2	
1-3 Objective of the Study	3	
1-4 Research Questions	4	
1-5 Research Hypotheses	4	
1-6 Significance of the Study	4	
1-7 Research Methodology	7	
CHAPTER TWO: THE THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND		
PREVIOUS STUDIES		
2-0 Introduction	6	
2-1 Definition of writing	6	
2-2 Learning how to write	8	
2.3 The Nature of Writing	9	
2-4 Features of Written English	9	
2-5 Types of Writing	10	
2-6 The Importance of Writing	11	
2-7 The Qualities of Good Writing	12	
2-8 The Difficulty of Writing	13	
2-9 The writing Process	16	
2.10 Writing as a process and as a product	16	
2-11-Taxonomy Areas of the Study	19	
2-12 Reasons for Teaching Writing	28	
2-13 Planning for Writing	29	
2-14 Successful Writing	29	
2-15The Common Causes of Errors and their Theories	29	
2-16 Facilitating Writing	32	
2-17 Teaching of Writing in SPINE	33	
2-18 Previous Studies	33	
CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY		
3-1 Introduction	35	
3-2 The Population of the study	35	

3-3The sample of the study	35	
3-4 Reliability and Validity	35	
3- 5 Reliability and validity of the Questionnaire	36	
3-6 Tools of Data collection and procedures	37	
3-7 Pilot Study	38	
CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS RESULTS AND		
DISCUSSION		
4-1 Introduction	39	
4-2 Analysis of the teachers' Questionnaire	43	
4.3 The pupils' Responses to the Test	49	
4-4 Textbook Analysis	49	
4-5 Classroom observations	52	
4-6 Summary	53	
CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, COCLUSION AND		
RECOMMENDATIONS		
5.1 Introduction	55	
5.2 Summary of major findings	55	
5.3 Conclusion	56	
5.4 Recommendations	57	
BIBILOGRAPHY	58	
APPENDICES	62	

## LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
3-1 The statistical reliability and validity of the pre-test	36
sample about the study questionnaire	
4-1 Results of writing Test (1)	39
4-2 Results of writing Test (2)	39
4-3 writing errors	42
4-4 Teaching writing	44
4-5 Writing Syllabus	46
4-6 mother tongue and writing	48
Checklist of Classroom Observations	63