

The problems facing secondary school students in composition writing

(A case study of PortSudan locality)
difficulty students when writing a composition.

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Abstract

This study aimed at investigating the problems that face secondary school students in composition writing in PortSudan Town. The study looked at the problems that face the students when they write a composition and try to resolve them. The researcher adopted the descriptive analytical method since it fits the aim and nature of the study. To put this methodology in reality, the researcher used the questionnaire test as an instrument to attain the goal of the investigation. The research resulted in the following: Students in the secondary schools level in PortSudan town were unable to master the composition writing skill. The students failed to master any of the skills of writing. The research suggested the following recommendations: Students should be given considerable practices in composition writing, since practice makes perfect.

Students should be given sufficient and efficient exercises on the of composition writing skills. Teachers must instill the confidence in their students, and expand their awareness of different kinds of writing.

المستخلص

هدفت هذه الدراسة إلى التعرف على مشاكل كتابة التعبير باللغة الإنجليزية والتي تواجه طلاب مدارس المرحلة الثانوية في مدينة بورتسودان. وتتبع الدراسة المشاكل التي تواجه الطلاب عندما يرغبون في أداء موضوع إنشائي باللغة الإنجليزية ، ومحاولة علاج هذه المشاكل. اتبع الباحث المنهج الوصفي التحليلي، لأنه يتلاءم مع أهدافه وطبيعته . ولوضع هذه المنهجية ضمن واقع المشكلة ، استخدم الباحث أسلوب الاستبانة والاختبار لتحقيق وإثبات الهدف من الدراسة .توصل البحث لحزمة من النتائج نورد أهمها فيما يأتي : طلاب المدارس في المرحلة الثانوية في مدينة بورتسودان غير قادرين على أن يكونوا متقنين لمهارة كتابة التعبير الإنجليزي. أثبت الطلاب فشلهم في إجابة أي نوع من مهارات كتابة التعبير الإنجليزي. كما توصلت الدراسة إلى التوصيات التالية: ضرورة إعطاء الطلاب تدريبات مكثفة في كتابة الإنشاء الإنجليزي ، حيث أن كثرة التدريبات تجعلهم قادرين على إتقان هذه المهارة. العمل على زيادة جرعات التمارين الوافية والفعالة على مهارة كتابة الانشاء الانجليزي. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، يجب على المعلمين غرس الثقة في طلابهم، وتوسيع مداركهم حول مهارة كتابة الانشاء الانجليزي .

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the following conclusions were made:

- Most secondary school students have difficulty applying some writing techniques because they do not know what those techniques are about due to the fact that these students did not have a previous explanation about them.
- Students of secondary school generally write a composition without any idea about organizing their ideas, even in their mother tongue.
- Some English teachers give an extra time and concentration to grammar, meanwhile, neglecting composition writing.
- The majority of the secondary school students lack a rich vocabulary which is wrong.
- Some old English teachers who have their own experiences in teaching say that the main problem for students in organizing their piece of writing is that; students do not usually read and this is the reason why they cannot organize their ideas because they do not know what to write about.
- Students' writing quality is close to the superficial way in which English composition is taught, as well as the lack of practice, few time invested studying this subject and the deficient methodology applied.
- Students lack most of writing techniques. This is due to the lack of information about them and the need for practice and explanation, as well as the difficult structure of such technique for the level of English of these students.
- Students will never learn how to write a good composition unless they try many times to do so since practice makes perfect.
- The main cause of committing mistakes by students is their pre-feeling of committing mistakes writing errors which, after all, is very common because there is an English proverb that says:
"Even Homer sometimes nods"
- The majority of the students give more care to grammar, but little one to composition writing, so they seldom write a composition; consequently, they are not skillful at writing a composition as they are so in grammar.

- The present teaching situation at our school nowadays, goes in the same direction drawn by the traditional methods of teaching.
- Most students lack the ability of self-expression in English.
- Students at the literary section, are weaker in writing a composition than those students at scientific branch.

5.2 Recommendations

In the light of the results mentioned above, the researcher suggested the following recommendations for both; students and teachers in order to solve some, if not all, of the problems facing students when writing a composition:

To students:

- Students must apply the writing techniques by practicing them a lot so that they can be able to write good compositions.
- Students must read their pieces of writings (composition) many times before delivering any composition in order to clarify their ideas about the message they want to send to the reader and correct some possible mistakes.
- Students should, or are advised to, attend English conversation clubs so that they can enrich their vocabulary, knowledge and fluency to better organize their ideas at the moment of writing a composition about a specific topic.
- Students do not have to be afraid or shy to ask any question to their teacher because he / she is the one who can help them a lot to understand the different topics and clarify doubts.
- Students are also advised to read a lot of English books, on different issues so that they can enrich their vocabulary; consequently, they become better at writing composition.
- Students must look for more extra information in magazines, books, newspapers or even the internet when finding the explanation of a specific topic was not clear enough as there is a lot of teaching material and websites related to writing that will be very helpful and useful to them.
- Students should try to make peer reviews with their classmates. That is a great method of sharing perspectives to correct the mistakes.
- To Teachers:

- English language teachers ought to devote more time to a composition writing.
- It is preferable that English teachers devote, for instance, two periods at the beginning of each school year for explaining the main points about writing a good piece of writing (a paragraph, a composition , a letter or so).
- Language teachers should be patient and tolerant with their students. They should always bear in mind that a good and successful teacher is like a candle which consumes itself to light the way for others.
- Good and experienced teachers of English, should be nominated by the school administration to teach for the literary section.
- English composition teachers must encourage their students to read at least two books per a month so that they can be able to enrich their vocabulary and knowledge about different topics.
- English teachers must oblige their students to write paragraphs of a specific number of words as a weekly or daily exercise so that they can practice writing skill a lot.
- English language teachers should always try to encourage and motivate their students to work in groups and / or pairs to develop their writing skills.
- English language teachers should frequently give their students exercises to tackle the weakness of their performance.
- English language teachers should adopt creative methods in order to develop writing skill of their students since it is considered as the most important language skill.