

The Role of Writing Skill in Foreign Language Fluency

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Abstract: This article presents the importance of enhancing writing skill for achieving fluency in language learning. It emphasizes some clear explanations and illustrates several examples why learners of foreign language, as well as English should pay attention to develop their writing skill as much as possible in order to reach language proficiency.

Keywords: writing skill, productive skills, receptive skills, language proficiency, communication, writing fluency.

Introduction

While learning any kind of alien language, learners have to acquire four language skills equally to explain their thoughts and ideas fluently and accurately in it which shows the initial purpose of learning it. But, the gaining process of the skills differs from each other a bit as reading and listening are receptive skills, writing and speaking are productive ones. It means that, in earlier stages of learning learners read some texts, stories or simple sentences to improve their vocabulary, listen some audios, music to prepare their ears to take information in another language which are already ready in the language to get. Unlike them, speaking and writing skills demand learners to produce something their own in the target language. They can be in the form of speech, talk, letter, essay and etc. So, in this article, we will discuss the necessity of writing skill in achieving foreign language fluency.

What is writing?

Simply, writing is explanation of your ideas or feelings in the written form using correct word choice, spelling, grammar, coherence and so on. According to Harris, Roy (2000) Writing is a neuropsychological activity that involves cognitive and physical processes as well as the use of writing systems to arrange and convert human thoughts into enduring human language representations. A writing system is dependent on many of the same semantic elements as the language it represents, such as lexicon and syntax, with the addition of a phonology and morphological system. Nonetheless, written language can acquire traits that are unique from those seen in spoken language².

In addition to this, Roz Ivanevic (2004) examined writing and classified writing concepts as follows:

- ✓ Writing is a talent.
- ✓ Writing is an expression of creativity.
- ✓ Writing is a procedure.
- ✓ Writing is the creation of a text type.
- ✓ Writing is a group activity.
- ✓ Writing is a sociopolitical endeavor³.

Marielle Zagada(2019) points out that most individuals study a language with the intention of speaking it, but writing is rarely considered because it does not aid in communication. However, no amount of

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² Harris, Roy (2000). *Rethinking Writing*. Bloomington IN: Indiana University Press.

³ Roz Ivanevic (2004) The conception of writing



listening or reading will allow you to completely create your linguistic structure. If you truly want to be fluent in a language, you should strive to speak, listen, read, and write in it as well⁴.

We totally agree with the writer. Because, nowadays most jobs require knowing any foreign language, especially English as it is becoming an international language. To interact with other nations or access to the world English is considered an essential tool. So, here the problem is that , communication doesn't always take place orally, practicing writing is needed when you send official letters to your partners who are from other country, draft a contract, offer an proposal in written form to your foreign colleagues and etc [7].

Besides that, in her article, M. Zagada (2019) lists some reasons why writing is crucial in language learning:

➤ **It enables you to organize and fine-tune your thoughts.**

Writing is a considerably slower procedure that allows you to arrange your thoughts more thoroughly before structuring your phrases. When writing, you can digest your words methodically, perhaps even looking them up first before putting them to paper or a digital document. You may also learn new vocabulary, spellings, and pronunciations as you go. When you're finished, you may go back and edit what you've written if necessary[8].

➤ **It provides you with a "hard copy" of your progress.**

Practice makes perfect, and this is especially true in writing. Who doesn't make errors, right? That is why, when learning a language, you should write as much as possible. So that you may analyze your weak and strong aspects as you proceed through your language learning journey. Because if you don't pay attention to your mistakes, you're more likely to make them with your speaking abilities. As a result, think of writing as a tool for not just applying your information, but also for constantly improving your vocabulary and sentence structure. You may also use it to sharpen your reading abilities![11]

➤ **It aids in the retention of what you've learnt.**

With so many words, phrases, and regulations in a language, it might be difficult to remember them all. However, several studies have shown that writing is beneficial in storing information since putting what you've learned into practice is vital for consolidating it in your mind, as practice generates new neural connections in the brain. When we write, we invest considerable thought into assessing and organizing the material that we receive. That process is what helps concepts stick more securely in our memories, resulting in better memory. As a result, if you write in your target language on a regular basis, you will be less likely to forget what you've learned[10].

➤ **It can also help you improve your communication abilities.**

According to a 2015 study on the link between writing and speaking, learners who can generate academic language in writing may readily transfer the argumentation abilities to speaking skills. So, if you improve your writing abilities in a new language, you will improve your speaking skills as well. It's a win-win situation!⁵

Methods

So, we have illustrated above, writing is an essential part of language proficiency. What about writing fluency itself? What can we do to enhance our writing ability. Most researchers state their findings to the matter in their research works. For instance, Jennifer Sax (2020) mentions that writing fluency, like any ability, takes time and practice, and even experienced writers strive to enhance their fluency. They may wish to improve their ability to write more meaningful and descriptive paragraphs, or they may wish to improve their ability to construct a complicated storyline. There are various strategies authors may use to improve their writing fluency[9]:

⁴ M.Zagada "The importance of writing in language learning, 2019. Blogs

⁵ M.Zagada "The importance of writing in language learning, 2019. Blogs



- Recognize your own talents and shortcomings. Writing does not come naturally to everyone, thus it is critical for authors to understand where they thrive and where they struggle. Reviewing prior works of writing and spotting recurrent patterns of mistake helps authors with concrete examples of abilities to improve.
- Work with a writer who specializes in this field. Following the identification of areas of strength and weakness, it is critical to collaborate with a writer. Tutors and professors may give a variety of tactics as well as real-time, constructive critique. Furthermore, these materials can assist a writer in developing critical abilities through targeted, disciplined practice.
- Write, write, and write some more. Many pupils only write when they are assigned a school activity, which might stymie growth. Writing fluency necessitates consistent practice, therefore writers must put pen to paper on a regular basis. It is essential to write every day, whether it is in a diary, a letter, or utilizing daily writing prompt books⁶.

Conclusion

As the global workplace requires us to enhance our communication skills, we should pay special attention to our writing talents, as writing is the medium through which communication is delivered more than any other sort of media. Creating well is a talent that will carry you far in the profession, partially because it is rather rare in many locations because writing particular sorts of papers requires tremendous expertise. So, while you learn a new language, keep in mind that honing your writing abilities will most certainly pay off in the long run. Writing proficiently in a global language or two gives every professional an added advantage. Strengthening your writing involves a lifetime of study, consciousness, and revising. The capacity (and humility) to edit one's own work is one of the attributes of a successful writer. Your writing may be excellent in its initial draft, but understanding that it can always be improved is what makes it great. But I don't believe in "excellent" and "poor" authors. There are just authors. Some people enhance their writing skills. Some people do not.

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⁶ Jennifer Sax.2020. *What is Writing Fluency and Why is it Important?* Blogs

