

AN ANALYSIS OF THE COMPONENTS THAT ENHANCE THE ABILITY OF WRITING SKILLS OF ENGINEERING STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

Writing ability happens to be the need of the hour as it caters to the performance of the students in exams and gives form to his /her expressions through his own usage of words. Exams may not be an exact platform to analyse their writing ability as many times the content is a reciprocation of memorised content. Writing skill has to be established through content based teaching that gives an insight about the very task Writing and later on it has to be emphasised through task based approaches that would enable them to learn the nuances of writing practically. This paper focuses the important aspects that would take the private writing of a learner to public viewing by moulding his reciprocation of thought process in words.

KEYWORDS: Professional Writing, Communication, Vocabulary, Reflection, Research

INTRODUCTION

English is an international language, used in vivid countries both as a native and as a second or foreign language. It is the interim part of education system and taught from the school level to the higher education level in almost every country on this earth. It is an extensive and vibrant language spoken by over 300 million people as their native language. Millions more speak it as an additional language.

LSRW is the four most important components of English. Writing well is fairly a modest sounding acquirement needed for all Genres of life, Business, Research, Journalism, Politics, and Media .Writing is sometimes compared to another form of Communication – Broadcasting. Similar to Radio, writing has three Elements – Transmitter, Signal or Message and receiver. The added factor could be that writing often suffers from ‘Interference’ .In ‘Glossary of Education’ [ref – 1], writing is described as a skill that enables an individual to write lucidly, coherently and grammatically, or to handwrite legibly with ease and speed(Journal Writing. retrieved from: www.about.com). According to HRSDC’S originally proposed definition, ‘writing skills are those needed to compose meaningful text of sentence length or longer , communicating ideas, messages and information in understandable words and language for a variety of audiences.’

Since writing is for communication the writer needs to keep the reader in mind. The task is not quite easy as intense writing task would become a private thinking and the writer has often to force out self from this absorption. Usage of technical jargons or political terms has to be involved only after scanning the category of the audience. The pitfalls faced by a writer are clichés, vogue words and mixed metaphor trap. The most trusted myth of writing is that complex or very

delicate ideas have to be expressed through difficult words or convoluted Grammar. The grandiose of writing is believed to be read more impressively when long sentences and abstract nouns are involved rather than straight forward simple writing. Writing for a particular purpose is a private activity but a public service. It may be a report, an article or a protest letter, the intention is the same, the writing becomes the reading material of someone else. Our private words 'go public'. Writing for a professional; cause is an art for many, a painful; affliction for few and a mode of living for the rest. Writings are outcomes of experience, imagination or painstaking research. Every attempt of writing for a particular purpose may face a writer's block, Inspiration dries up, unable to pivot a central idea or not able to give word to their thoughts. Professional writing is conveniently possible only if two basic techniques are adapted: reflection and research. Reflection is task that would require time to stop and think. We need to Contemplate on the idea to be shared, the people involved in reading the content and the actual idea to be passed on or shared. An article on Politics or a Business notification or propaganda through media is registration of ideas among a great multitude. It is always advisable to ensure or double check that the content intended to be shared is genuine and voiced in the right tone. Any writing intended for public reading should have a reflective approach. The Grammar and the style adopted have to be appropriate. The tone of the content should neither be authoritative or dull. The writer's personality or personal views should not intrude the text. A good article be it for a political base; Business report or media voicing has to have a crisp objectivity.

The language English has a rich vocabulary which has a good range of variety and precision. The variety of synonyms would help the writer to present an effective expression and enables them to avoid ambiguity. [ref – 2] Kathleen and Kitao (1996) commented that the basic idea of communicative competence remains the ability to use language appropriately, both receptively and productively, in real situations. The precision of words shoulders the need of the writer to pick on the exact word to be used. For e.g. to capture the idea of a serene and saintly kind of happiness the word 'beatific' can be used. To express exaggerated or unstable kind of happiness 'euphoric' can be used and 'exultant' would express the joy of triumphant celebration. The cautions to be observed while writing are to avoid bad repetitions. Placing word in the right position is equally important to selecting the appropriate word. The length of a sentence is very important in making the sentence readable. Professional writing can be more successful when it is shaded with 'unliterary' style even for complex subject matters. Often Business writing would involve lengthy sentence that holds within an extremely long and independent phrase and at times an entire sentence that could very well stand as a separate sentence on its own. To break this practice it is better to follow the simple strategy 'one idea per sentence'. It does not mean to make sentence content dull or unimpressive but focuses on the fact that a sentence should not be overloaded with too many ideas. The complexity of a complicated sentence is that it turns out to be a non sequitor, meaning to be a sentence containing two or more unrelated ideas. Structuring a sentence is something crucial to transfer the content written to the reader in the expected form. Most of the business or journalistic writing piles up content in complex or compound – complex sentences one after the other without inserting the fresh, sharp and bright simple sentences.

Just as the sentence contains one idea in all its fullness, so the paragraph should embrace a distinct episode, Winston Churchill – My Early Life. Paragraph divides a piece of writing in appealing way. The traditional rule is that a paragraph should have a single theme or topic. The sentences in a paragraph need to be arranged in the most effective order. It should either be chronological or logical. The links between sentences should be reinforced to appreciate the style of writing. Link words like then, finally, therefore or however are used to draw the continuity of the sentences. These sign post words help paragraphs to get interlinked. Care should be taken that sentences are linked with a concrete reason.

Lengthy paragraphs should not be a form of long windedness, the needless repetition of information. Tautology and Pleonasm are the two terms knitted to long windedness. Tautology is the repetition of ideas in different words, e.g. pair off in two, 7.30 p.m. in the evening. Pleonasm is an expanded version where the content is over elaborated e.g. null and void, and over and done with.

Writing is an art that has to keep the attention of the reader on high with continuity of relevance, clarity and content. Variety has to be included in writing to dispel monotony. Variety of words keeps the reader's interest alive. Figurative speech can be used like seasoning just to engage the reader's interest. The Purpose of Writing for a particular genre like business or Journalism is not to be artistic but to be effective. Business writing tailor cuts its form to a formal and unemotional style where clarity of idea weighs equal to presentation of ideas.

CONCLUSIONS

The students need to be given an open platform to exercise their writing ability. A personal diary or experience, an personal idea on paper in their own words at a great level of relaxation that does not put them under a stress of being evaluated or graded would help them utilise all the concepts heard regarding writing skill. Be it writing a review or an essay or the interpretation of a picture, of every three writing task one should be an open task that is not shaded with any phobia of being graded for the internals. Such activities would bring out the private writing of a student to public viewing and improvisation

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