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Teaching Different Types of Writing of English as a Foreign Language

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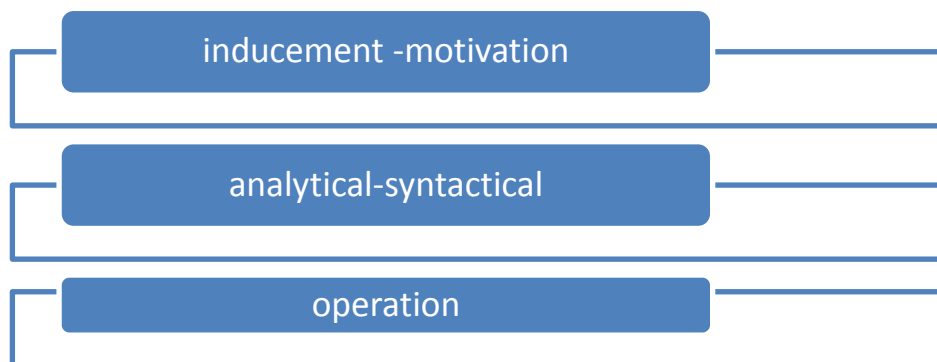
ABSTRACT

This article deals with teaching writing skills to the students of foreign departments. The objective of this article is to discuss the effectiveness of teaching different types of writing in English classes. This will help students to understand the meaning of the things which they read essays, short stories, texts, novels and so on. In addition, by teaching the basic types of writing, students can write formal and informal letters, e-mails, invitations and essays on communicative needs. All processes of teaching writing motivate students to learn variety of techniques, express their ideas in writing.

Keywords: process of writing, types of writing, expository, descriptive, narrative, persuasive, creative.

Writing is one of the important skills in teaching English. Writing is a complex communicative activity. It helps to communicate in the written form with the help of graphical symbols. Writing is a type of speech activity as <<a communicative skill to encode, store and send messages with help of written symbols>>[5]. Writing is characterized by the three-phase structure (see 1-picture).

1 –picture Three –phase structure of writing[1].



Under the first phase the motive appears as an intention to communicate. The author's message has an intention to inform somebody.

In the second phase an utterance is formed and pronounced: the necessary words for producing the utterance are selected, within a set of sentences, subjective area of indicators is distributed, the predicate or a key part of the idea organization between sentences is defined.

The third phase of writing is decoding of the idea with the help of graphical symbols [1].

The process of teaching writing is organized according to a three-phase framework: pre-writing, while-writing and post- writing.

Pre –writing- schemata activation, motivation for writing, preparation for the language, familiarization with the format of the target text.

While-writing – thesis development, writing from notes, ending up with a given phrase, proceeding from a given beginning phrase, following plan, following a format and register, solving-problem.

Post –writing – reflection on spelling and reasoning errors, sharing the writing with the classmates, redrafting, peer editing [5].

The goal of teaching writing is to teach production of written texts which students can write in the mother tongue. To produce the written text students should master mechanics of writing. That's why, in domestic methodology the two types of writing are distinguished:

1) mechanics of writing (handwriting, spelling, punctuation);

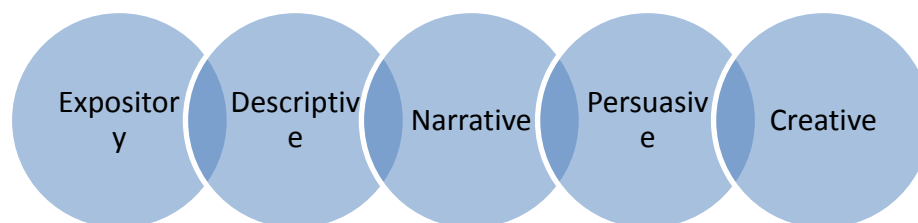
2) process of expressing ideas in a graphical form[1].

Like many other aspects of English language teaching, the type of writing we get students to do will depend on their age, interests and level. We can get beginner to write simple poems, but we probably will not give them an extended report on town planning to do. When we set tasks for elementary students, we will make sure that the students have or can get enough language to complete the task. Such students can write a simple story but they are not equipped to create a complex narrative, It 's all a question of what language the students have at their command and what can be achieved with this language.

In general, however, we will try to get students writing in a number of common everyday styles. These will include writing postcards, letters of various kinds, filling in forms such as job applications, writing narrative compositions, reports, newspaper and magazine articles. We may also want to have students write such text types as dialogues, playscripts, advertisements, or poems if we think these will motivate them [2].

The effective way of teaching writing is teaching of different types writing. That's why it helps students to understand the meaning of the things which the read and why they were written. So, there are five main types of writing [see 2- picture].

2-picture The main types of writing.



“Expository” means that intended to explain or describe something. The purpose of the expository writing style is to enlighten or instruct. In other words, it means to present an idea or relevant discussion that helps explain or analyze information. Some of the most common examples of expository writing include scientific reports, academic essays and magazine articles [8].

There are the following types of expository writing

1. **Problem and solution** (as the name suggests, you identify the problem, provide details about it to explain it and suggest a solution to tackle it. You have to justify the solution with sufficient data and propose ways to implement those solutions.)
2. **Cause and effect** (it conveys why something happened and how will it impact something. The outcomes suggested can be either true or hypothetical but the author should validate them).
3. **Compare and contrast** (in this type of expository writing, the writer compares the similarities and contrasts the difference between the two subjects. This is only possible when subjects belong to the same category. For example, a comparative study between indoor and outdoor stadiums)
4. **Definition and classification** (it provides a complete description of a subject, elaborating on the meaning, types and examples. It includes terms that have concrete meaning as well as abstract meanings.
5. **How to \process** (this type of writing is instructive and tells the reader about a task and how to do it. The reader may also include step-by-step instruction for easier understanding. Cook books and user manuals are ideal examples of expository writing[8].

The sample essay for problem and solution [4].

The use of phones, tablets and other devices when people walking in public is causing concern among many commentators. What dangers may arise whe people focus on such devices when talking in the street? How could these problems be reduced?

Band 9 Modul Essay

As hand-held devices become almost universal in our society, the number of accidents related to their use is increasing accordingly, in addition to various social dangers. I will outline two such risks, and also two possible counter-measures we could take.

Firstly, the greatest danger is surely the possibility of people failing to pay attention to their surroundings when they use such items while walking along pavements, public areas and streets. By diverting all their attention onto their device, the users may bump into other people, fall over uneven surfaces or even step into traffic lanes, with potentially fatal results. A number of deaths among teenagers in the UK, for example, is attributable to this cause each year. A second problem must be the rather anti-social nature of people focusing all their thoughts on a device, to the exclusion of others around them, who may need help or guidance as much as basic courtesy. The increasingly impolite atmosphere in many public spaces may well be connected to this phenomenon.

Turning to possible solutions, it would be helpful to see a joint initiative

Between the authorities and mobile phone producers to raise public awareness of these risks. Such a programme could take many forms, ranging from advertising to dedicated classes into schools and colleges, and could be aimed at both the problem of accidents and the unsociable nature of excessive device usage,

which would make it very cost-effective. A further solution may be to install warning mechanisms on these devices, which detect when traffic or obstacles are nearby, so that the user does not walk blindly into danger. Such systems already exist in cars to alert drivers to impending trouble or the need to change direction.

Overall, the dangers in this situation are both physical and social. Potential remedies may involve better education, and also enhanced danger detection along the lines already used successfully in motor vehicles.

(321 words)

Descriptive writing is a literary device in which the author uses details to paint a picture with their words. Students can describe people, places, objects, and events through the use of suitable details.

Descriptive writing may use similes to make something seem more familiar or more creative. Similies make ideas easier to understand, and they can also express feelings. Similies are often used in literature and poetry. Look at the famous examples below:

The sun was like a glowing ball of fire.-Shakespeare

My love is like red,red rose.- Robert Burns

I was young and easy ...and happy as the grass was green.-Dylan Thomas [7]

Narrative writing –description is a fundamental element in a text even when it includes images as in the case of picture books since this is not only limited to describing the features or physical attributes of a person, animal or object, a description can go beyond. [6]

Narrative writing usually has a series of characters and is often written in first person narration which is where the story is narrated from the point of view of one person, although it can be done with more. The narrative text will also always feature a beginning, middle and end [11].

An example of personal narrative writing.

Silhouetted against a golden moon, which grew larger each moment, was a big, oddly lop-sided creature, which was coming in Harry's direction. He stood very still and watched it sink lower. For a moment, he hesitated with his hand on the latch of the window, deciding whether he should slam it shut, but the strange creature soared over a streetlight of Privet Drive, and then Harry, who had realized what it was, jumped aside.

(taken from the book *Harry Potter and the prisoner of Azkaban*, written by J K Rowling)

Persuasive writing is a form of non – fiction writing that is written to persuade a reader of a belief, opinion or idea. Persuasive writing is a written form of an oral debate and can be a fun and interesting style of writing for students to practice.

Persuasive texts feature different types of language. The different methods used in persuasive writing at this level usually are: imperative verbs, alliteration, facts, opinions, rhetorical questions, and repetition. For students, persuasive writing can be a great way of expressing their views and opinions on a subject. Practising persuasive writing using persuasive writing devices is a great way to find out what your students are passionate about and give them the opportunity to do research on subjects that they are interested in [9].

Examples of persuasive writing

- **Newspaper columns** – Newspapers articles are a common way that writers can express their opinions and beliefs in a position of authority.
- **Advertising campaigns** – an organized course of action to promote a product or service. For example:TV adverts
- **Reviews** – a great way to express on opinion on a product or experience.
- **Essays** – Essays are examples of longer writing that set out an argument or opinion in the opening paragraph.
- **Speeches**- There have been many famous examples of persuasive speeches throughout history. Speeches can be on anything the writer is passionate about and often include hyperbolic speech and emotive language to hook the reader or audience[9].

This is an example taken from a cover letter handed to a prospective employer.

I am sending you a copy of my CV in order to apply for the managerial position which you advertised in the local newspaper. You will find that I have exceptional abilities when it comes to this type of role and my past experience will further demonstrate this.

In my previous post, I successfully managed a team of twenty people whose efforts under my guidance, brought the company into new financial heights.

I am capable and willing to expand my knowledge through training and applied learning. I think you will find that there is no-one more qualified for this position than me[11].

Creative writing is a form of writing that goes beyond the traditional realms of normal, professional, academic or technical forms of writing. Typically, it can be identified by an emphasis on narrative craft, focusing on elements such as character development, narrative and plot, infusing its structure with imagination, invention and story.

Creative writing comes in many forms, encompassing a number of genres and styles. There are a lots of different types of creative writing, which can be categorized as fiction or non –fiction. Some of the most popular being:

- Biographies
- Fiction, novels, short stories
- Speeches
- Poetry
- Playwriting
- Personal writing [10]

In conclusion, It is important to teach students different types of writing. That's why, it will help to develop students' writing skill, enrich their vocabulary and spelling. And also it will be easy to explain writing structures through teaching types of writing as expository, descriptive, narrative, persuasive, creative. Through

learning types of writing students can express their ideas or convey feeling or information accurately and fluently.

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