

Abstract

Title: The Effect of a Proposed Program Based on the Needs of Pre Stage Underachievers in English on Developing Some of their Writing Skills

Author: Kareema Mohammad Abdul Azeez

Supervisors: Late professor. Atta Taha Zidan
Professor Ragaa Ahmed Eid
Professor Mohammad Farouk Ali
Dr. Mona Ahmed Abd El Tawab.

The present study investigated the effect of a program based on the needs of prep stage underachievers in English on developing some of their writing skills. Sample of the study included thirty-two third year prep underachievers in writing at Manshat Abdel Mageed prep school for boys and girls, Etas directorate, Fayoum. Students' writing needs were assessed using a writing diagnostic test and a teacher questionnaire prepared by the researcher. Results of the needs assessment tools showed that the study sample had serious grammar, vocabulary, and paragraph writing problems. So, they were given direct instruction in these specific skills through the study program. They were engaged in mini-lessons and modeling, shared writing, guided writing, interactive writing and collaborative writing sessions where they were assisted by the teacher and their peers to practice writing sentences and paragraphs. Students' writing performance was assessed using a pre-post writing test. Results of the study showed a clear enhancement in the following writing skills and sub-skills arranged in order of development: (1) *using crafting* skills including organization of ideas; use of transitions; use of grammar; use of vocabulary; and sentence combining; (2) *using authoring*

skills including content and ideas, providing a topic with a main idea sentence and a concluding sentence, and language clarity, and (3) *using mechanics of writing* including spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.

Key words: writing, writing difficulties, writing needs, writing underachievers, direct instruction in writing, strategy training, skills training.