WRITTEN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY OF STUDENTS

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The quality of education is always manifested in the students’ performance. As such it becomes essential for every educational institution to exert the best efforts in order to accomplish the quality it aims to pursue.

One of the challenges that the school faces is the error of pupils in writing. There are so many consequences brought about by limited English language proficiency and academic achievement. School dropout rates are a primary concern. Lower academic achievement and socioeconomic status are consistently linked to dropping out of school. Students tend to have low grades and test scores because of their inadequate English language. As a result, they are the ones as well so most likely drop out of school. Meanwhile the dramatic increase of English language learner population also shows indication of students with limited English language proficiency. They also revealed difficulties with academic achievement. It has been also reflected in the assessments as it determine the proficiency in language of pupils as well as monitor the development of their language skills.

Schools need to address this problem because writing is one of the most important macro skills that should not be neglected. Undoubtedly, writing is very essential. It is both a physical and mental activity. It is a man’s ability to express himself in words or other symbols for the purpose of communication. Thus, writing is an indispensable skill of every learner that will carry him through the demands of time.

The moment children learn how to write marks the beginning of opportunities that could await them. From then on, they can express their beliefs down in a journal. They can write a letter to a friend narrating their experiences. Also they can create a
story that comes from their creative minds. Despite the basic rules on grammar to follow in writing, it is their creativity that is appreciated. More so, one has to consider the process of writing.

There are series of steps to follow in the writing process in order to craft a complete piece of writing. Educators have found that by focusing on the process of writing, almost everyone learns to write successfully and acquire good writing skills. Hence, the ability to follow certain rules, to apply correct grammar, and to make use of good command of language avoids someone to be poor in writing.

In school, pupils begin to write words, sentences, and paragraph. Negligence of this practice in the classroom by the teachers often makes most of the learners not able to answer written tests and to express their ideas in written form. In the process of learning, writing serves as one of the most important skills that a pupil must learn. Thus, writing practice is an important activity in most of the subjects taught.

In the Philippines, English plays a very important role in the lives of every Filipino learner despite the implementation of the Bilingual Policy.

As supported by the Department of Education, one of the primary goals of schools is to teach the students how to write. Teachers as important factors provide them with worthwhile writing tests and activities along with some trainings and seminars related to it in order to enhance students’ writing skill.

Teachers’ role is a very important aspect in the teaching-learning process, therefore, teachers should not stop from looking and discovering ways in enhancing the students’ abilities in writing.

From a long time, problems in writing have been the focus of many researches. All of which were seeking to improve teaching methods and develop outcomes. Primary and higher education systems put writing skills at the core of its business
process and dedicate a major part of the educational process to keep those skills up to standard. But still, issues had not been resolved so language educators were still in the compulsion of finding solutions to resolve the many problems with writing.

A student who finds trouble in writing, likewise finds difficulties in terms of proper grammar usage, convention techniques, correct punctuation, capitalization, spelling and other basic and initiating aspects of writing. It is also an unpleasant piece of work for both teachers and learners in classes.

According to Adams and Keene (2000), cited in Al-Khasawneh (2010), today English, as the means of instruction, makes a strong contribution to education and students’ efficiencies in communication are on top of institutional demands. Learners are expected to master content areas which are all taught in English, such as mathematics, social studies, science, and business. Such conditions have increased the profound need of teaching and learning English that can help all students cope with their academic tasks successfully. Hence, in order to handle academic tasks, students need to do their best to write proficiently.

References

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