

ABSTRACT

This study seeks to find out whether the quality of students' writing improves substantially through collaboration. It is to gain an understanding into how collaborative work can aid the learning and teaching of writing in a typical Malaysian classroom. Moreover, the need to engage with others is an essential element for maintaining motivation in learning.

The research methodology utilises an experimental approach. First, a pre-test was conducted in which subjects composed an essay individually. Next, the pre-test was followed by intervention in which subjects were familiarised with the steps involved in collaborative work. Finally, subjects were required to write essays using the steps in collaborative work in a post-test.

A comparison was made between essays from the pre-test and post-test according to the marking criteria designed by the Malaysian Examinations Syndicate which include content, vocabulary, language and mechanics. Subjects were also observed during the post-test. At the end of the post-test, questionnaires were administered to the subjects.

Observation of subjects during the post-test revealed that they carried out the steps in collaborative work. Analyses of subjects' pre-test and post-test essays revealed that when collaborative work was carried out carefully, it could promote students' writing. Changes were made to the content and subjects did well in vocabulary. Language and mechanics registered mixed results. Analyses of subjects' responses to the questionnaire showed that the majority of subjects liked working in a group and valued the comments from their friends. Most of them gave positive remarks for preferring collaborative work in writing.

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengenalpasti sama ada teknik kolaborasi boleh membantu meningkatkan penulisan Bahasa Inggeris di kalangan para pelajar. Ini adalah untuk mengkaji bagaimana kolaborasi memperkasa pengajaran dan pembelajaran penulisan Bahasa Inggeris dalam konteks negara kita.

Kaedah kajian yang digunakan bersifat eksperimen. Pertama, subjek-subjek menulis karangan secara individu. Seterusnya, subjek-subjek didedahkan kepada langkah-langkah kolaborasi dalam penulisan berserta dengan latihan supaya mereka dapat mengaplikasikan langkah-langkah tersebut dengan berkesan. Akhir sekali, subjek-subjek dikehendaki menulis karangan dengan mengaplikasikan langkah-langkah kolaborasi yang telah mereka pelajari.

Perbandingan dibuat antara karangan-karangan yang ditulis secara individu dengan karangan-karangan yang ditulis mengikut langkah-langkah kolaborasi dalam penulisan. Perbandingan ini merangkumi aspek-aspek seperti isi kandungan, perbendaharaan kata, bahasa dan mekanik penulisan. Subjek-subjek juga diperhatikan semasa mereka menulis karangan mengikut langkah-langkah kolaborasi dalam penulisan. Selepas subjek-subjek melengkapkan karangan dengan menggunakan kaedah kolaborasi dalam penulisan, subjek-subjek perlu menjawab senarai soalan tentang kolaborasi dalam penulisan.

Keputusan daripada pemerhatian menunjukkan subjek-subjek berjaya melaksanakan langkah-langkah kolaborasi dalam penulisan. Analisis perbandingan hasil penulisan para pelajar menunjukkan bahawa penulisan mereka dapat ditingkatkan sekiranya kaedah kolaborasi dalam penulisan diaplikasikan dengan cermat. Subjek-subjek dalam kajian ini menunjukkan peningkatan dalam aspek isi kandungan dan perbendaharaan

kata. Aspek bahasa dan mekanik penulisan mencatat keputusan positif dan negatif. Analisis senarai soalan menunjukkan kebanyakan subjek gemar bekerjasama dalam kumpulan dan mereka menghargai ulasan daripada rakan-rakan mereka. Kebanyakan subjek juga sependapat dalam memberi kata-kata positif untuk memilih kolaborasi dalam penulisan.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My utmost gratitude goes especially to my supervisors Prof. Madya Dr. Mullai Arunachalam, Dr. Surinderpal Kaur and Dr. Tam Shu Sim for helping to shape the topic of this research, reading the drafts and providing invaluable feedback. I wish to thank my beloved husband, Daniel Ong, and my family for their endless love, support and encouragement. I also wish to express my appreciation to everyone who has helped in making this study possible.