

Abstract

The study investigated the difficulties of developing the writing skill in English as a second language by rural clerical and religious formees. Data was collected to determine the level of the English writing skill with special focus on the use of verb forms, tenses, and modal verbs at various stages of the programme. The findings indicated that the level of competency in the language and the writing skills were poor at the beginning yet, at the end of the programme, the sample group had reached a satisfactory level. The main factors identified were the lack of exposure and lack of facilities in receiving a foundation. Many internal and external factors had contributed towards the writing skills. Exposure to the language, lack of facilities, support and opportunities to use the language, the absence of the right foundation to the language, the lack of opportunity to read, listen and speak the language, were some of the external factors. Motivation, confidence, the formees' state of mind and the right disposition, lack of vocabulary, difficulty in spelling, prepositions and articles, the confusion in the verb forms were some of the internal factors. Therefore, it is recommended that exposure to the language with an English only environment be given to help develop all the language skills. Theory and practical application grammar lessons logically taught with comparisons help formees gain competence in the writing. Hence, the right methodology in teaching and the feedback is undoubtedly a major contributing factor for the development of the language as well as the second language writing skill.

Keywords: Second Language, Writing skills, Language Competency, Verb Forms, English only Environment.