Abstract 03

An Analysis of the Contribution of Information and Communication Technology towards the Improvement of the Writing Skills of Second Language Learners

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In the last few years, the focus on information and technology has been increasing dramatically. Information and communication technology has a profound effect on almost all the spheres and its influence and effects on education are noticeably decisive. Language teaching and learning through the internet is remarkable with the opportunities provided by the online resources, network services, and educational software. Moreover, the advances and increasing use of technology have paved way for the most significant changes in the genres of written communication in language use. Most of the undergraduates at University of Jaffna are often unable to produce language in written form and to comprehend the written instructions in their exam papers. Their lack of accuracy and fluency in language usage have resulted in numerous systematic and non-systematic errors which are to be found in their writing. This affects the academic progress of the enrolled learners and results in grave consequences like fossilization in their interlanguage where they are unable to move further in the process of learning their second language. Lack of access to internet and computer, technological devices, resources, network services and educational programmes for writing is the sole reason for such problems in countries like Sri Lanka. This paper, in its mixed method approach, tries to analyse how online tools and services are now increasingly becoming essential and how the students should be encouraged and motivated to use online discourses to develop their writing skills. The students are divided into two groups – control and experimental and through an intervention the conclusion will be drawn out. The research attempts to find out the ways to encourage students to express their learning difficulties freely and improve their skills through technology.

Key words: Accuracy, Fluency, Proficiency, Scaffold, Technology