

M.A. THESIS IN LINGUISTICS

**IMPORTANCE OF ORAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
WRITING IN GENRE APPROACH;  
IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING;  
A Case study on Selected secondary  
Schools from Elpitiya**

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## Abstract

This research 'Importance of Oral Activities for the Development of Writing in Genre Approach; In English Language Teaching', conducted as an action research is a partial fulfillment of the course content of MA Linguistics. The main objective of this research was to find out if the strategy instruction of pre writing activities designed as oral activities could be used to develop the writing skill of the EFL learners. aa

The low rate of achievement of the students of Elpitiya education zone for English at G.C.E.(O/L) supplied the background to the study. The low performance in writing was found to be the case behind this significant failure. A sample population of 170 students was selected out of grade 10 English as a Foreign Language learners (for they learn English only in a formal setting) of 5 schools in the zone representing different school types and locations for the study. The research hypothesis was writing skill of EFL learners be developed through oral activities designed as pre writing activities in genre approach if necessary feedback is provided. The instructional material and teaching –learning aids were prepared accordingly after a pre test conducted to assess the performance level of the students in the genres selected for the study. The intervention was carried over ten weeks from January 2015 and data of observations, sample texts produced and scores of students at pre and post tests were analyzed according to school type and location.

The data analysis revealed that the mean value of scores of students of all the schools had gone up after the intervention. The type 1C rural and semi urban schools had indicated an increase of mean value by 36% each while it was 100% in the type 2 remote and rural schools. In the type 2 semi urban school it was 25%.

According to the study, writing can be improved through oral practice of language specific to different genres irrespective of the location and school type. In addition, the linguistic competence of the EFL learners can also be developed through such activities. Therefore, oral practice of language in the classroom should be a major component in the teaching learning process of English language.