



The Effects of Training in Learning Strategies of Writing in Improving Student's writing Skills: Hawassa University Students in Focus

Dr. Zeleke Arficho Ayele¹

¹Hawassa University, P. O. Box 05, Hawassa Ethiopia

Abstract

This research was mainly an experimental study intended to examine the effects of training in the learning strategies of writing in improving students' writing skills with regard to discussing relevant contents, organizing contents appropriately, and using accurate grammar, appropriate vocabulary and correct mechanics. To this end, the selected freshman program students of Hawassa University were randomly assigned to the experimental and the control groups. Students in the experimental group were taught lessons of the 'Basic Writing Skills' course with training in the learning strategies of writing, whereas those in the control group were taught the lessons without training in the learning strategies of writing.

Data were collected mainly through writing skills tests. Independent-Samples T Test which was computed for the pre-test revealed that the students who were assigned to the experimental and the control groups had similar writing skills with regard to discussing relevant contents, organizing contents appropriately, and using accurate grammar, appropriate vocabulary and correct mechanics (t -values < 1.56 , p -values $> .122$). The Independent-Samples T Test computed for the post-test, however, demonstrated that the students in the experimental group significantly outperformed the students in the control group on each of the aspects of writing (t -values > 2.50 , p -values $< .014$). As revealed through the interview held with selected students of the experimental group, students in this group could significantly surpass students in the control group because the training benefited the students in the experimental group to learn the role of the strategies to improve their writing skills and it improved their belief about taking on more responsibility for their own learning of writing, and thus they continued to use the strategies appropriately when they carried out writing tasks in and outside class.

Based on the findings, a recommendation has been made that writing tasks/activities should be introduced in the context of training in the learning strategies of writing. As a result, students could improve their writing skills by using the strategies appropriately and by taking on more responsibility for their own learning of writing. Moreover, it has been recommended that studies could be conducted on other issues as to training in the learning strategies of writing.

Keywords: Learning strategies; Writing skills; incineration; writing techniques.