A Study of Organizational Problems Faced by Pakistani Student Writers

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Abstract: The present study is concerned with the writing problems faced by Pakistani writers while writing an essay or any other kind of text. This study focuses on how, why, when and where the Pakistani students face problems to write or construct an essay in English language. The researchers have used questionnaire and especially viva voce questions. The analysis of finding has brought about the conclusion that the student writers face numerous problems to organize their essays. A comprehensive discussion is presented in this research work.

Keywords: Organizational Problems, TEFL, Classroom instructions and observations

1. Introduction

In the class room or out of the class room, the student writers have to face various problems to write piece of prose in English language. It has become a burning question to tackle all the emerging problems for the accomplishment of a prose work. Though a lot of work has been done on making the student writers learn the appropriate way to complete their work regarding writing essay or any other piece of prose, unfathomable effort is still to be done to make the work up to the mark. Being foreign learners, Pakistani students have to face many English exams to meet the standards and level of the language. In this domain, the teachers of those student writers have to burn midnight oil to make their students capable for the task. In some cases there are a few student writers with a vast experience of essay writing since their birth as they are used to going English medium institutions. Despite this, the student writers suffer from countless issues in accordance with their proficiency.

In Pakistan, no authentic, up to the mark and easily accessible work has been done on Organizational Problems. This study covers all the areas regarding issues in composing any piece of prose. This study shall prove helpful for those who face problems to write an essay. It highlights not only the problems faced by the student writers in essay writing but also in all the walks of literary and prose work. As many teachers of student writers with learning difficulty of English have noted, acquiring the writing skill seems to be more laborious and more demanding than acquiring the other language skills. (Zheng, Y 1999). Most of the student writers face difficulties while using cohesive devices in their writings. Some important cohesive devices are:

1. Substitution
2. Ellipsis
3. Reference
4. Conjunction
5. Lexical cohesion

The accurate usage of these devices in essay writing adorns the approach of the writer to make his writing ornamented.

Explanation of Key Terms:
1) Substitution: In order to avoid repeating the same word several times in one paragraph it is replaced most often by one, do or so. I told you so long time ago.
2) Ellipsis: It is very similar to substitution; it replaces a phrase by a gap. It is omission of noun, verb, or clause on the assumption that it is understood from the linguistic context.
3) Reference: The use of words which do not have their own meanings, such as pronouns and articles.
4) Conjunction: Specifies the relationship between clauses or sentences. E.g Moreover, because, but etc.
5) Lexical cohesion: Denotes links between words which carry meaning: verbs, nouns and adjectives

2. Literature Review

Language is an expression what we have in our mind. Language is the unique possession of man. Without language human civilization would have remained impossible. It is present everywhere, in our thoughts, dreams, in our prayers, and meditations and our relations and rituals. Language comprises of two skills, receptive skills, reading and listening, productive skills, speaking and writing. Writing plays a significant role in expressing the different school of thoughts, philosophy, literature and pearls of wisdom through revealed books. So in four communicative skills writing does its prominent position. The Pakistani students have great spark to produce master piece literary compositions through their writing skills but they face severe problems when they pen down any article in English. They do not get into the depth of writing to paint the picture of any topic through their writing skills actually, writing captures the picture of any situation forever and ever, it demands some extraordinary skills of expression. It is the characteristics of a good writer to take the readers into the valley of that specific and particular theme which he wants to create through his pen.

Writing skills play an important role in learning foreign language. Writing is most important skill of language from other skills of language (writing, reading, speaking and listening). In the purpose of well communication in foreign language, students should get good competence in writing skill. When students learn language they realize the
importance of writing skills. It is considered by Students that explanation of meaning, definitions, pronunciation and grammatical functions are boring, because the way of its presentation. In this case scenario, language learners do not get any support from their teacher in order to improve their writing skills.

Learning writing is the most challenging area in all the areas of language. Learning writing skill is much focused because it is considered very powerful and deep learning type from others skills. When someone expressed oneself to other people, he uses to function the ideas through thinking process, and then he is needed source to express what he has functioned in his mind. There are mainly two ways to express one’s thoughts that are writing or speaking. Accurate Writing skill is much important for a student for successful career. Writing is an important and essential way of communication. Sorry to say, this essential skill has been ignored these days. There are many teaching and learning methods through students can achieve effective writing skills.

In this research, the researcher tried to show the significance of the different punctuation marks which have been developed to help learners make up for the lack of voice infonation and body language in written communication. The punctuation carries meaning and expresses relationships between ideas; thus it is important to choose the punctuation mark that best expresses the relationship learners have in mind.

Both sentences are commands, but the first sentence would be correct only in a society where people eat human flesh. Oshima, 1991. “So wrong use of punctuation marks is a distinctive indicator of unclear in texts” Writing has always been an important phenomenon in learning and teaching a language, but sometimes, countless mistakes are to be seen in the text: all made by Pakistani writers in a flow of writing. If the use of cohesive devices is ensured and this is adorned with the correct preposition, punctuation and writing devices, the whole text shall look like a diamond in the mine. Countless research papers have been stopped just because of their organizational problems written by Pakistani writers. We can take the example of a Arab student having written a document with various errors of cohesive devices. It has been brought to light that Yemini and Moroccan student writers have also various problems in organizing their sentences of English language. Having reviewed, it has been brought to light that there are a large number of organizational problems. No study till now has aptly discussed and concluded and brought about solutions to all the problems that Pakistani writers have to face while writing an essay or any other document.

The current research and study of organizational problems faced by Pakistani writer’s highlights that how Pakistani writers make mistakes in their writings. This research shall also enable the viewers to compare with those researches which have been conducted before on the same topic.

3. Data Analysis

The analysis comprising twenty sample papers of graduate level have been taken from examination department of Punjab Group of Colleges, Pattoki Campus. Having made thorough analysis of the sample papers, following findings have been brought to light:

Frequency of Substitution

In order to avoid the repetition of the same word this activity is brought under practice such as so and pronouns etc.

1) “Liaquat Ali Khan says to Americans they spiritually towards independence”
2) “The poet says in this poem, the poet is not vague. The poet is very comprehensive in this poem”
3) “The Muslims and Hindus had been living together for centuries, there would have living perpetually under minority.”

Frequency of Reference

The use of words which do not have their own meanings such as there, it etc.

1) “The poet says, raining is falling.” It
2) “Liaquat Ali Khan says many problems are in Pakistan” there
3) “Liaquat Ali Khan says, still countless issues are in Pakistan.” there

Frequency of Verb

A verb is an action word. It is an integral part any kind of a sentence.

1) “Liaquat Ali Khan explain the true meaning.”
2) “Leisure write by Davies”
3) “The poet say what is this life”
4) “The poet compare this poem.”
5) “The poet say we have no time,”
6) “The Muslims did not believed in Priesthood.”
7) “Their height is same and they worn same clothes.”
8) “They tells about George”
9) Hemingway tell us about things.”
10) “In lunch room George come to their them”

Frequency of Syntax:

Syntax is part and parcel of the organization of sentences in EFL writing for Pakistani student writers. Syntax means systematical order or arrangement of words in a sentence.

1) “Beauty dance means the dancing who girl”
2) “Liaqut Ali Khan’s speech by delivered Kansas.”
3) Many reasons has to creation of separate countrys”
4) “He tells how maintain Pakistanis it.”
5) “The line have been taken him the poem leisure by write.”
6) “The simile of girl at playing her face”
7) “The Muslims would have been only a change of masters”

Frequency of Capitalization:

Capitalization is one of the important figures in the organization of sentences. It brings about charm and beauty in the written text. Classification among certain things in a
text is made through capitalization. It has been found in the text of under discussion going students of PGC, as follows:
1) “there” out look towards life
2) “in the absence of partition”
3) “between british and india”
4) “in this poem the poet lays stress”
5) “This text on liaqut Ali Khan’s speech”
6) “They want to kill ole”

Frequency of conjunction:
Conjunction specifies the relationship between clauses and sentences, e.g., moreover, but, because, etc.

- “The Pakistanis must maintain it while how they can keep pace.”
- “The Muslims whereas believed in equality.”
- “In four major sections because the Muslims believed in equality.”
- “In this poem but the poet says”

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Devices</th>
<th>Frequencies</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Substitution</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>08.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Verb</td>
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<td>17.64%</td>
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<td>Conjunction</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>14.70%</td>
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</tbody>
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4. Findings and Conclusion

Findings
Errors committed regarding cohesive devices are as follows:
1) Frequencies committed regarding substitution are Minimum found in the sample papers as just 08.82% of the whole.
2) Frequencies committed regarding Verb are Maximum found in the sample papers as 29.41% of the whole.

Causes of the errors
- Ineffective usage of cohesive devices.
- Lack of teacher’s interest as well as parents of the students.
- Ineffective educational system.
- Obsession of co-curricular activities.
- Untrained and nonprofessional teachers.
- Excess of privatization in education department.
- EFL learning thought to be a hard nut to crack.
- Weakness in basics of EFL.
- Lack of conceptual study.
- Abundance of cramming just to enhance the ratio of results.
- Recruitment of shirkers in the department.
- No writing practices.
- The obsession of descriptivism instead of prescriptivism.
- Lack of stimulation on the part of both parents and teachers.
- Thought to be burden and boring.
- No coaching regarding grammar and syntactic structure.
- Most of the institutions ‘no attention towards organization of words in the sentences.

- Lack of interest of the government towards this issue.
- Health, economic and proficiency issues.

Suggestions:
- Professional and trained teachers should be recruited.
- Students must be psychologically urged and stimulated.
- All shirkers should be terminated.
- Special workshops and training centers must be set up for the improvement.
- The government should itself take particular interest in this major issue.
- The institutions and teachers should be adorned with the modern facilities so that they may be able to meet the modern trend and criteria.
- The parents of the student writers should be made aware of the new demands of the time and every day increasing validity of correct writing.
- In the institutions, drills on daily basis should regularly be arranged for the students for their better understanding and more practice.
- Audio video aids are very much beneficial for the betterment.
- Student counseling should be declared necessary to ward off mistake made by them during their writing, the trainer should make them learn by pointing out each and every mistake for the permanent eradication of mistakes made by them.
- There should be no ambiguity while teaching the students, ever thing should be cleared for better understanding.
- The lectures should be enlivened for the interest of the students.

5. Conclusion

It is said that face is index of mind; likewise writing is the exposure of writer’s ability and proficiency. Good writing always exercises a healthy influence upon the reader’s. Good writing is necessary for impression to examinational view point in particular and to the reader in general. It has been brought out through this research that Pakistani student writers commit a lot of mistakes while writing EFL. If the students observe all cohesive devices and organizational rules of EFL, they shall make good not only in the society among student writers but also the examiners shall award them maximum marks. In this way, the ratio of failures shall not only reduce but also the writer shall earn popularity as good writer.

References

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Author Profile

Muhammad Aqeel is a Pakistani who belongs Rajput Family, Province Punjab, District Multan Tehsil Shujabad Village Sikanderabad. He is a Traffic Warden in City Traffic Police Multan since 2007. But he continues his education with zeal and zest. He completed his M.A in Political Science from Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan, B. Ed from Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad and M.A in English from Institute of Southern Punjab with distinction. And now he is a student of M. Phil in linguistics at Lahore Leads University, Lahore. His keen interest for the cultural, social, economical and educational development of his nation with the help of his pen argue him to write in International Journals for the welfare and prosperity of all human beings of this mortal world. Before this his article is also published in European Academic Research Vol.II Issue 6 September 2014 ISSN 2286-4822. His field of interest is Applied Linguistics.

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