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The Role of Feedback in Improving Students' Writing Competence

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Annotation. This article examines the critical role of feedback in developing students' writing competence. Writing is a multifaceted skill requiring grammatical knowledge, lexical range, and the ability to organize ideas coherently. Feedback, whether from teachers or peers, provides learners with targeted guidance, identifies errors, and motivates revision. Based on my observations as an educator, students who receive structured and constructive feedback demonstrate significant improvement in sentence variety, coherence, and clarity of argumentation. The article discusses corrective, formative, and peer feedback and highlights effective strategies for integrating feedback into writing instruction. Findings indicate that systematic feedback enhances learners' autonomy, confidence, and critical thinking skills, ultimately improving overall writing performance.

Аннотация. В статье рассматривается важная роль обратной связи в развитии письменной компетенции студентов. Письмо — это многогранный навык, требующий знания грамматики, словарного запаса и умения структурировать идеи. Обратная связь, как от преподавателей, так и от сверстников, обеспечивает учащихся целевым руководством, выявляет ошибки и мотивирует к исправлению. На основе моего опыта работы с учениками видно, что студенты, получающие структурированную и конструктивную обратную связь, значительно улучшают разнообразие предложений, связность и ясность аргументации. В статье обсуждаются корректирующая, формирующая и обратная связь от сверстников, а также эффективные стратегии их интеграции в обучение письму. Систематическая обратная связь способствует развитию самостоятельности, уверенности и критического мышления учащихся, улучшая их общие письменные навыки.

Key words : feedback, writing competence, corrective feedback, formative feedback, peer feedback, student autonomy, writing improvement.
Ключевые слова: обратная связь, письменная компетенция, корректирующая обратная связь, формирующая обратная связь,

обратная связь от сверстников, самостоятельность учащихся, улучшение письма.

Introduction: Writing is one of the most essential skills in language learning. It allows students to communicate ideas effectively, demonstrate their understanding of subject matter, and develop critical thinking. However, writing competence is not innate; it requires consistent practice, guidance, and effective feedback. Many students struggle with grammatical errors, poor paragraph structure, and inadequate argumentation, which reduce the clarity and impact of their texts. From my experience as an educator, feedback serves as a bridge between students' current performance and the expected standard. It helps them recognize mistakes, reflect on errors, and apply corrective measures. Feedback is also an essential tool for motivation: students who receive constructive guidance are more likely to revise and improve their work. This article explores types of feedback, their advantages, effective strategies, and practical classroom applications for improving students' writing competence.

1. **Types of Feedback**

Feedback can be categorized into three main types, each contributing differently to writing improvement:

- **Corrective Feedback:** Corrective feedback targets linguistic errors, including grammar, spelling, punctuation, and word choice. According to Ferris (2018), such feedback helps students internalize correct language usage and gradually reduces recurrent mistakes. In my classroom, when I provide sentence-level corrections with explanations, students show noticeable improvement in their written accuracy within a few weeks. For example, one student initially struggled with verb tenses, but after receiving detailed corrective feedback, her use of past and present tenses became accurate and consistent.

- **Formative Feedback:** Formative feedback is given during the writing process rather than after completion. It encourages students to think critically, revise drafts, and improve coherence. My observations indicate that students who receive formative feedback are more willing to rewrite their essays, enhance paragraph organization, and provide more detailed examples to support arguments. This type of feedback promotes reflective learning and long-term skill development.

- **Peer Feedback:** Peer feedback involves students reviewing each other's work, which enhances engagement, responsibility, and critical thinking. In my classes, peer feedback sessions have led to surprising improvements: students often notice structural weaknesses or unclear

arguments in their peers' work that they later correct in their own writing. This method fosters collaborative learning and encourages students to critically evaluate writing, a skill that is transferable to self-assessment.

2. **Benefits of Feedback**
   - **Improved Accuracy:** Feedback highlights recurring mistakes and offers guidance for correction, leading to more accurate grammar, punctuation, and vocabulary.
   - **Enhanced Organization and Coherence:** Guidance on paragraphing, transitions, and argumentation helps students structure essays logically and maintain a smooth flow of ideas.
   - **Motivation and Engagement:** Students feel valued and encouraged when teachers acknowledge strengths alongside weaknesses. Constructive comments boost motivation to revise and improve work.
   - **Development of Self-Regulation:** Continuous feedback teaches students to monitor their writing, reflect on errors, and independently apply corrections. Over time, students develop autonomy and critical thinking skills.

3. **Effective Feedback Strategies**
   - **Specificity:** Feedback should clearly indicate errors and suggest improvements. For example, rather than saying "improve your introduction," teachers can suggest adding a hook or stating a thesis more explicitly.
   - **Balanced Approach:** Highlighting both strengths and weaknesses ensures motivation while directing attention to areas for improvement.
   - **Timeliness:** Immediate feedback is more effective because students can apply corrections while the writing task is still relevant.
   - **Interactive Feedback:** Encouraging dialogue allows students to ask questions, clarify misunderstandings, and better internalize corrections.

4. **Classroom Examples and Personal Insights**

In my experience, a combination of corrective, formative, and peer feedback produces the most significant improvements. For instance, one student struggled with coherence between paragraphs. Through guided formative feedback and peer review, the student gradually learned to use linking words effectively and create a logical flow. Another student showed dramatic improvement in vocabulary after receiving specific suggestions and synonyms

from both peers and teacher feedback. These examples demonstrate that feedback is not merely corrective; it is instructive, motivational, and developmental.

Conclusion: Feedback is an essential component in developing students' writing competence. It improves grammatical accuracy, vocabulary use, coherence, and argumentation, while fostering motivation, autonomy, and critical thinking. My teaching experience confirms that structured, regular, and constructive feedback leads to remarkable progress in students' writing skills. Implementing feedback systematically in the classroom ensures that students can recognize mistakes, revise effectively, and develop into confident, independent writers.

Recommendations:

1. Combine corrective, formative, and peer feedback to address linguistic accuracy, coherence, and engagement.
2. Provide feedback that is specific, balanced, and constructive to maintain motivation.
3. Include peer feedback exercises to enhance critical thinking and collaborative learning.
4. Deliver feedback promptly to maximize effectiveness in revisions.
5. Encourage interactive discussions about feedback for deeper comprehension.
6. Conduct regular teacher training to refine feedback strategies and improve their impact on student writing.
7. Integrate feedback consistently across all writing tasks to promote continuous improvement.

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