

EXPLORING THE MOST COMMON TYPES OF WRITING PROBLEMS AMONG ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND TRANSLATION MAJOR SOPHOMORE FEMALE STUDENTS AT TABUK UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

Learning and developing writing skills are considered a difficult task. Academic writing requires conscious effort and much practice in organization, language use and writing mechanics. There are many factors affecting undergraduate academic writing performance in ESL, like content, vocabulary, composing, developing, and analyzing ideas. Producing an organized, neat and error-free piece of writing has always been the life-long dream and the ambition of all ESL students. The purpose of this study is to explore the most common types of writing problems among English language and translation major sophomore female students at Tabuk University. The study was conducted in the Department of English and Translation at Tabuk University. Forty students participated in this study; they were asked to give a sample of their own writing modules and to answer a questionnaire about what they think the reasons behind the types of writing problems they face when they write in English. The data revealed that there are different types of writing problems among English language and translation major sophomore female students at Tabuk University. The findings of the study showed that most language problems which manifested themselves in the students' writing were as follows: 1- grammatical problems in the field of tenses, prepositions, syntactic, subject – verb agreement and the use of articles. 2-Punctuation problems at the level of the absence, the misuse or the addition of punctuation marks.3- Spelling problems in the field of substitution, omission, addition, disordering, segmentation and unrecognizable words. The findings also revealed the reasons behind students' writing weaknesses from their perspectives.

Keywords: English –Major Undergraduate, Writing, Writing Problems.