

# A Study of English Writing Problems of Undergraduate Students of Faculty of Humanities at Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Nongkhai Campus, Thailand

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## Abstract

The purpose of this study were 1); to study the problems of English writing skill and 2); to seek the way to solve the problems of the English writing skill of Bachelor's Degree students, Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Nong Khai Campus. This study was conducted by the means of questionnaire which 70 questions for the 47 students Statistical devices used in the data analysis were frequencies, percentages, means and standard deviations.

The problems in English writing found that the students faced the most difficulties in English writing were grammar section, which were totaled rate at high levels ( $\bar{x} = 4.09$ , S.D. = 1.51). The ways to solve the problems, it found that the first section of the ways to solve the problems were spelling section, which were totaled rate at high levels ( $\bar{x} = 4.24$ , S.D. = 1.38).

According to the analysis of all the information above the researcher absolutely sure that those information were fact and both of the problems and

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the ways to solve the problems of English writing skill of the students would be one source for the future works of many researchers who need some of those information because English writing skill is also one of the very important in the world.

**Keywords:** Writing Skill, Bachelor's Degree students, Nong Khai Campus

## Introduction

English writing is very important for a communication of human beings in the world. About one hundred years ago many educated people learned and spoke French as well as they met people from other countries. Today most of people speak English when they meet foreigners (Sanjib Barua, 2017). English has become the new international language. There are plenty of people who speak English as a second language more than people who speak English as a first language. Especially, English is a global language that they used for communication all over the world. English is regarded as an international language used for economic, education and academic purposes also. English language is well known language in the world and it has long acquired the status of the world's lingua franca, with billions of native and Non-native speakers worldwide (Peeravudhi Thand, 2006).

Writing skill is one of the most important skills in English language. Learning English will be incomplete without writing skill. Writing is such an important learning too, because it help students to understand ideas and concepts better (Von Foo, 2007). Writing in English language seems to be the most difficult language skill for EFL learners to acquire in academic contexts. English writing skill is complex one that needs not only time and practice in order to produce but also an interaction of various skills and knowledge; Moreover, Heaton stated that writing skills are complex and difficult to teach. It requires skill from five main areas: grammatical knowledge, mechanical skill, treatment of content, stylistic skill and judgment skills.

Writing skills are an important part of communication. Correct grammar, punctuation and spelling are keys in written communications. The reader will form an opinion of the writer, the author, based on both the content and presentation, and errors are likely to lead them to form a negative impression. To know how to use correct punctuation and spelling are known as the mechanical skill. Furthermore, writers need not only an ability to think creatively, but also an ability to manipulate sentences and paragraph, The judgement skills are also required to produce proper writing in a given context for a particular audience. This ability can only be achieved through experience and practice. Therefore, it is impossible to expect English Non-native speakers to achieve these skills in a short time, (Heaton,1995, p. 135). Many students were never required to learn proper Grammar, Vocabulary, Spelling, Punctuation and Capitalization. These poor students come to think that “English” and “writing” are nothing but spelling and grammar. To them, writing means inevitable failure.

Good writing is sometimes they believe they will never be able to achieve, because they were not only identify good writing with proper Grammar, Vocabulary, Spelling, Punctuation and Capitalization. They also didn't have any knowledge about importance of writing skill. They often get low grade in the examination. In fact, students faced a lot of problems in writing about Grammar, Vocabulary, Spelling, Punctuation and Capitalization skill, punctuation and organization. They were also need more guidance and motivation in learning writing skill, (Robert Todd Carroll, 1990).

Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Nong Khai campus is one of the most important and beautiful place for the students who need learn English and it was taught for many years, but anyway there were still the problems of the students who learnt English language, they were faced the difficulties in there English skill, mostly in English writing skill, and they also tried to find the ways to solve those problems. According to nowadays, English writing is also the key to success in college and university. Most context of life (school, the

workplace, and the community) call for some level of writing skill, demands proficient writers can adapt their writing flexibly to the context in which it takes place. Otherwise, almost university required their students to get foreign language certificates for graduated qualification, and writing is the most complex form of language development. Writing is indispensable in these exams, (Sanjib Barua, 2017).

## **Objectives of Research**

1. To investigate English writing problems of Bachelor's Degree students in Faculty of Humanities at Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Nong Khai Campus.

2. To seek solution to the English writing problems of Bachelor's Degree students, Faculty of Humanities at Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Nong Khai Campus.

## **Research Methodology**

The researcher designed this work from quantitative research and explanation of the research which are concerned with the questionnaires and other information used methodically in the study. The base of collecting the data is focused on the questionnaires. Therefore, this present research is mainly focused on the Bachelor's degree students, Faculty of Humanities at MCU, Nong Khai Campus.

The main purpose of this research is to study the problems of English writing skill of undergraduate students of MCU, Nong Khai Campus, who are now studying English major. About methodology, it is mainly related to the element of observation, description and the analysis of data. That researcher has found from the study.

### Research design

The research is aimed at investigating the writing problems and some suggestions to help about the solution of English writing problems of Bachelor's degree students in faculty of Humanities at MCU, Nong Khai Campus. For 47 persons in the year of 2019-2020.

**Instrument**, the questionnaire targeted students and it consists of 70 questions. The students are asked to select from the following choices: 1) Strongly disagree, 2) Disagree, 3) fairly agree, 4) Agree, 5) strongly agree.

In this part, there are seven parts of questions and thirty-five sub-questions asking and seeking the way to solve the Problems in English writing skills, put “✓” in the box that matches their behavior when they write an essay or something.

There were seventy (70) questions which consist of 7 main parts such as: 1) grammar section 2) Vocabulary, 3) punctuation section, 4) spelling section, 5) planning/ pre- writing section, 6) drafting/ writing section, 7) revising/post-writing section.

**Data collection**, the data collecting information from the target group of the previous research study, consisting of the 47 students. By answering the questionnaire, the researcher make up the question and suggestions, opinions about ability of English writing skill.

**Data analysis**, in the present study, a range of statistical techniques such as frequencies, percentages, standard deviation, and mean is used. In addition program is used to analyze the data. Statistical package for the Social Science program was used in order to analyze the collected data by using descriptive statistics that were appropriate for each part of the questionnaire from Bachelor's Degree Students in Faculty of Humanities at MCU, Nong Khai Campus. For 47 people.

## Results of Research

Findings are the presented in response to the research question are as follows:

**Table 1:** Analysis of the Problems in English writing skills of Bachelor's Degree students Faculty of Humanities, at MCU, Nong Khai Campus.

No	Statements		$\bar{X}$	S.D	Levels
1	Grammar	Section	4.39	1.61	High
2	Spelling	Section	4.02	1.53	High
3	Punctuation	Section	4.12	1.56	High
4	Vocabulary	Section	3.76	1.63	Moderate
5	Planning	Section	4.02	1.48	High
6	Drafting	Section	4.28	1.43	High
7	Revising	Section	4.04	1.37	High
Total			4.09	1.51	High

From the study of the problems of English writing skill of the students, it found that the first section of the study was  $\bar{X} = 4.39$ , S.D. = 1.61. The result was indicated as high level of grammar section, following by spelling section was  $\bar{X} = 4.02$ , S.D. = 1.53, punctuation section was  $\bar{X} = 4.12$ , S.D = 1.56, vocabulary section was  $\bar{X} = 3.76$ , S.D. = 1.63, planning section was  $\bar{X} = 4.02$ , S.D = 1.48, drafting section was  $\bar{X} = 4.28$ , S.D. = 1.43, and revising section was  $\bar{X} = 4.04$ , S.D. = 1.37.

**Table 2:** Analysis of personal information of the way to solve the problems in English writing skills of Bachelor's Degree students, Faculty of Humanities at MCU, Nong Khai Campus.

No	Statements		$\bar{X}$	S.D	Levels
1	Grammar	Section	4.32	1.37	High
2	Spelling	Section	4.43	1.37	High
3	Punctuation.	Section	4.27	1.32	High

4	Vocabulary	Section	4.10	1.48	High
5	Planning	Section	4.03	1.43	High
6	Drafting	Section	4.01	1.36	High
7	Revising	Section	4.25	1.38	High
Total			4.20	1.38	High

From the ways to solve the problems, it found that the first section of the ways to solve the problems was  $\bar{X} = 4.32$ , S.D. = 1.37. The result was indicated as high level of grammar, following by spelling section was  $\bar{X} = 4.43$ , S.D. = 1.37, punctuation section was  $\bar{X} = 4.27$ , S.D. = 1.3, vocabulary section was  $\bar{X} = 4.10$ , S.D. = 1.48, planning section was  $\bar{X} = 4.3$ , S.D. = 1.43, drafting section  $\bar{X} = 4.01$ , S.D. = 1.36, and revising section was  $\bar{X} = 4.25$ , S.D. = 1.38.

## Conclusion and Discussion

According to this section, the researcher found the related research questions based on the research questions in order to achieve the objectives of the study, as mentioned in chapter one, this study had as its objectives to find out the following:

### A) To study the problems in English writing skills.

According to the grammar problems that the researcher found that most high level of the students faced the problems as they are boring with English grammar writing at  $\bar{X} = 4.64$ , very high level because they were not good at grammar, through the question the researcher could discuss and show the problems from the result of the question.

On the section of spelling the researcher found that the high of students faced the problems at  $\bar{X} = 4.55$ , at very high level, according to the spelling, students faced the problems the most, following by the problems when they write English letter, they were not spelling words correctly and they

didn't think that spelling is important for their works, those were all the problems when they spelled English words.

**B) To study of the ways to solve the problems in English writing skills.**

Spelling, It is one of the thing that the respondents had to practice more and more about spelling, respondents must know about how to write and spelling words.

According to the English writing student must do some draft before writing essay, respondents have to learn more about drafting their works in English writing, they should learn more about how to write topic sentence, paragraph and some main idea.

## **Suggestions for research**

After having conducted this research, the researcher found that the topic of research was undoubtedly interesting to propose for further study. Many respondent students are not aware of the importance of studying English writing skills.

1. The teachers should set easy grammar forms in order that the students could choose and use correct and easy grammar forms to write their works.

2. The teachers should also measure the effect of teachers' feedback and teaching style of writing skills.

3. Students should pay much attention to the recommendation which was given by teachers or researchers because it is important to improve their own performance and ability in writing process.

4. Further studies for a quantitative should be encouraged to an assignment or homework as much as possible.



5. Further studies for a quantitative should conduct on the positive attitude towards writing in English in order to encourage themselves to have good skills in writing process.

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