

## Developing the Writing Skills: Driving towards Evolution by Innovation

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### Abstract

There are many online tools like a text editor, syntax correction software, grammar and spelling checker etc. When these tools are used individually, they are not of much help to the students in improving their writing skills. Five basic steps of the writing process: pre writing, drafting, revising, proof reading and publishing, are rarely found in the same tool. Analysis of the written sentence correctly on different level: spelling, syntax and grammar, is important for improving the writing skills. According to François Mangenot<sup>1</sup> (1996 :65), « la production écrite est une activité cognitive complexe, aboutissant presque toujours, chez les apprentis-scripteurs, à une *surcharge cognitive* », the written assignment is a complex cognitive activity for the apprentice-writer which leads to the cognitive overload.

This paper presents a website, Scrib+ (<http://scribplus.ovh.org/>) designed for educational purpose by "Laboratoire de linguistique et didactique des langues étrangères et maternelles" (LIDILEM) (<http://w3.u-grenoble3.fr/lidilem/labo/web/presentation.php>). Scrib+ is like a shell which can be filled with different languages for improving the writing skills in that particular language. It helps the students to automatically generate a text by answering a chain of interlinked questions (these questions are designed and framed in advance using the same site, by the professors), the latter defining the logical structure of the target text. For the optimal benefit and exploitation of this site, collaboration between the professors and students is prerequisite. Series of questions based on one theme developed by the professor appears on the screen as writing prompts. With each prompt 4 different types of help can be provided in the form of an image, link towards a relevant website, a sample text written by the professor or suggestions. Scrib+ breaks down the process of writing a dialogue into manageable chunks, making the task easier for the students. It also creates a link between the text present on the web, the sample text provided by the professor and the text generated by the student.

Further, Scrib+ also helps the students in saving and submitting the task online for the professors to assess it. The professors after correcting the work can send it back to the students, removing the hassles of communication through emails. The students also have an access to the inbuilt forum for holding discussions and posting their final text for critics from the peers. In short, Scrib+ also serves as a social site.

The present target group consists of students, learning French at high school faculties or universities or in private institutions. The students using Scrib+ should have minimum A2 level according to CECR.

### References

[1]MANGENOT F, *Les aides logicielles à l'écriture*, 1996, CNDP, Page 65