



A Case Study on Libyan Learners' Written Discourse in Al Mergeeb University

Ramadan Ahmed Shalbag

Lecturer, English Department, College of Education, Al Mergeeb University (Libya)

ramshalbag@gmail.com

Abstract

This study aimed at investigating some of the difficulties that fourth year university students at the College of Education in Al Mergeeb University, face when forming sentences in English in paragraph writing. Teachers as well as examiners frequently complain about students' failure to write in sentences in English especially when students are asked to write sequential sentences in English at a level higher than the sentence, thus, an analytical study was made in order to find and analyze the students' mistakes and provide solutions to such mistakes.

The findings of the study showed that grammar and spelling constituted great problems for the students. However, there was no significant difference between vocabulary and style. The percentage of the difficulty was 55% for vocabulary, and 53% for style. For cohesion, coherence and punctuation, the percentage was the same, 40% for each.

The researcher reached to a result that these difficulties were due to the following: the interference of the first language or negative transfer; the lack of exposure; the inappropriate language teaching methodology and learning strategies.