LIBYA

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN SEBHA:
TEACHING ESSAY WRITING TO EFL
USING CRITICAL THINKING WHILE
INVESTIGATING THE IMPORTANCE OF

Focus on applied linguistics

A final project submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor in English Language with a

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Writing is a process of doing and thinking.

1.1. Introduction
critcal thinking.

Students do not have a clear idea about writing an essay. Writing an essay requires motivation and critical thinking. Critical thinking is developed in Writing in English in general. Critics argue that essay writing will discourage students and decrease their motivation. Essay writing is a great chance for students to write good and creative essays in English. There are many EFL students who have problems in writing essays in English. Many EFL teachers in the English department of Sebrah do great efforts to develop the skills and knowledge necessary for writing essays.
1.3 Significant of the Research
I. A. Research Question

The main research question is "Do the students of Faculty of Art in

Sub-research questions are:

1. Is critical thinking teaching helpful in developing students' ways of thinking critically while writing English essays?"
I.5. Hypotheses of the Research

General

improve their level not only in writing but also in English learning in critical thinking in writing classes that would help the students to have good writing quality. It was also assumed that if teachers use critically will improve the students' level in terms of creation and thinking. The researchers assumed that teaching essay writing by thinking

1.5. Hypotheses of the Research

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Pharr and Buscemi, 2005).

Literally "attempt," figuratively, it means "exursion" or "exploration." Literally, the word "essay" means "construction of his writings," most likely from the Latin word for "construction." Montaigne's "Essay" is a collection of his writings, most of which were written on a single subject. The French word "essay" means "literary form." Montaigne's essays are a collection of his writings, most of which were written on a single subject. He was a brilliant writer and thinker, and his essays are remarkably good reading. For the writer who wants to learn more about the world and writing about it, his essays have been invaluable. Original, the word "essay" goes back in history 400 years to Michel de Montaigne, a lawyer who developed his life to observing education. Originally, the essay is a well-established genre in higher education. There is no doubt that the essay is a well-established genre in higher education. The writer clearly explains key ideas in your subject area, and that you can explain them clearly fully grasping the key ideas in your subject area, and that you can explain them clearly fully grasping the key ideas in your subject area.

An essay is a piece of writing which discusses ideas and concepts in a clear order. It is a chance to demonstrate to your tutor that you have a good understanding of the topic.

An essay is an attempt to combine factual data and compare to existing experts' theories (Aryani, 2016, p. 63). An essay is a product of academic writing where a writer should combine factual data and compare to existing experts' theories (Aryani, 2016) believed that "An essay is a product of academic writing where a writer should combine factual data and compare to existing experts' theories (Aryani, 2016, p. 63)."

2.1 Definition of essay

2.1. Essay writing

REVIEW OF LITERATURE
write an extremely qua
need to pay full attention to the process below which explains how to
However, Bailey (2003) argued that to learn writing, the students
the essay writing as a final draft (Younes and Alblahawi, 2015, p. 7).
how to formulate ideas, develop and analyze them before displaying
performance such as content and vocabulary including elements of
that those three aspects are potential in
paragraph organization, language use, and mechanics. For the reasons
that writing needs huge effort as well as practicing it in terms of
and Fritsiani, 2017, p. 113). Younes and Alblahawi (2015) also claimed
ideas, putting them together and revising them finally editing (Aryani
grammar, imagination and thought, exploring major and supporting
essay seems never very easy. It requires an ability of assessing a good
According to Aryani and Fritsiana (2017), to write a good English

2.1.2 Teaching Essay Writing
Influencing the writing of final judgment. Final essay

7) Read the essay thoroughly, edit, and rewrite the essay

6) Write introductory, body, and concluding paragraphs

5) Arrange an appropriate paragraph organization

4) Combine and compare theories among experts

3) Quote only relevant theory from experts — among experts

2) Choose only relevant sources to the essay topic

1) Comprehend the concept of the essay — every essay has its own
Students challenges were related to poor vocabulary challenges. Some of the challenges regarding to teaching essay writing. Some of the students, who are proficient in English, find some of the reading articles difficult. Some of the students, who are not as proficient in English, struggle with writing. Ariyani and Fitriana (2017) claimed that EFL teachers need some training on how to improve their students' writing skills. Similarly, Grossmann (2009) argued that students who are proficient in English can produce better writing than those whose first language is different. However, students who are proficient in English do not necessarily produce better essays. It is possible to write good essays while knowing the production of their mother tongue and English. Writing essays is derived from the difference in cultural backgrounds. Ariyani (2016) pointed out that "The biggest challenge while essay writing is..."
claimed that that English language are the main reasons behind such a difficulty. He found that the lack reading and the writing practice into the Whi with the inability to perform this knowledge into appropriate contexts. Writing Jack the linguistic knowledge of the target language alone difficulties in both linguistic and performance. That is to say, there difficulties in their writing. He found that these learners have difficulties in their writing. He mentioned some problems related to writing essays as he interviewed thirty (30) Iranian EFL students concerning various. "Hemmati (2002) mentioned some problems related to writing essays. (Arvand and Hafiznejad 2017, p. 119). Creativity while writing essays. (Arvand and Hafiznejad 2017, p. 119). Importantly, the EFL teachers admitted that their students lack the terms of sentence structure and grammar. They also have low ability in developing ideas in essays. MoreMoreover, students have low motivation in making composition. They also the students have poor basic knowledge of writing, in
2.2.1. Definition and Importance of Critical Thinking

2.2. Critical Thinking for Teaching Essay Writing
thinking, which is
definitions exclude creative thinking. Further, Kuhn important elements of critical
thinking focusing on tasks, people, or beliefs. It is important to note that both
critical thinking is the skill of argument, while Ennis (1993) described it as reflective
viewed (1661) to take in all the angles and weigh up evidence on every side. Kuhn (1661) viewed
deductive-like skills of persistence to examine and re-examine an argument, in order
dependent-problem solving, analyzing, testing and exploring. Critical thinking requires
questioning, problems, analyzing, testing and exploring. Critical thinking processes
devised at anytime and in any context. Critical thinking is a general term that
Willingham (2007) stated that critical thinking is not a set of skills that can be
developed at anytime and in any context. There is a burgeoning literature about what critical thinking is. For example,
Critical thinking has become a very important educational goal over the last two
the sense of awareness and their critical thinking in terms of coherence. An essay nothing to do with the core of the essay. Such an activity builds on learners recommended that teachers may design some activities where students are exposed to gives positive results in terms of clarity and unity. Belkhir & Benyelles (2007) also implicitly conscience in their writing. The continuous use of this approach in groups the teachers' emphasis is to make them express their ideas at the same time developing required and needs to be done within group members. Within the Process Approach, expanded and are relevant to the topic. Alternatively, the constitution of the essay is to encourage critical thinking by opening a debate to calculate which ideas need to be next step is to give students information about the structure of a good essay. The first Belkhir & Benyelles (2007) argued that while teaching how to write an essay, the first

In order to achieve a sense of creativity, relateness, effectiveness and efficiency of ideas,

2.2. Teaching essay writing by

Critical thinking
General and can be applied throughout all disciplines. Disagreed and believed that there are critical thinking skills that are (Curriculum. On the other hand, Paice one (1968) and Siegel (1988)
curriculum. On the other hand, Paice one (1968) and Siegel (1988) must be a holistic and integrated component of the classroom curriculum. Critical thinking instruction is not effective when taught in isolation. It is argued that critical thinking is not a separate subject. He suggested that critical thinking cannot be taught as an isolated discipline. McPeck (1861), for example, believed that critical thinking skills need to be taught within the context of a discipline, not as a separate subject. McPeck’s (1981, 1990, Nosich, 2005; Paul, 2005) agreed that critical thinking is best taught as a general skill applied to all disciplines or as a skill used in a particular discipline. Theories in the field, including those of Risks are divided into two groups regarding whether critical thinking is best taught as a general skill applied to all disciplines or as a

2.3. Ways of teaching critical thinking
 viewed attitudes or dispositions as very
### . In view of critical thinking, there is a noticeable lack of consensus
important of critical thinking, there is a noticeable lack of consensus
mentioned above, despite the widespread recognition of the
inductive and deductive logic and synthesis in order to evaluate. As
analyzing and understanding it. All these processes require
the problem-solving process, clarifying and focusing on the problem
associated assumptions and then determining the intended outcome of
thinking, since evaluation involves identifying a problem and its
thinking, since evaluation involves identifying a problem and its
they also viewed the ability to evaluate as necessary for critical
argument and analyses for problem solving and decision making.
believe or do based on the mechanism such as conducting conceptual
tinking "skills by using reasoning and logic focusing on what to
Pihlers & Soden (2001) believed that students need to have "good
conceptualized as a type of argument with an explicitly social
3.1 Introduction

METHODOLOGY
also were collected from different sources like book, ELT journals and websites. It is predominantly based on numerical data. The data “quantitative research includes any research based on primary or secondary data.” According to Brown and Rodgers (2014) quantitative is structured. The methodology of this research is quantitative because the researchers used mainly a questionnaire to collect the data from the participants. The questionnaire consisted of questions designed by the researchers to know the students’ opinions and their opinion of the researchers. In essay writing, Ahmed (2015) said that how their level and problems in essay writing. The researchers used mainly a questionnaire to collect the data from the participants. The questionnaire included questions designed by the researchers to know the students’ opinions and their opinion of the researchers. Therefore, the researchers used mainly a questionnaire to collect the data from the participants.
Given in follow ed table:

between 19 to 21 years. More details about the participants were
only two males and the others are females. Their ages vary
third semester were girls while in the fourth semester there is
this study is fewer than females because all the students in the
in this study. Moreover, the number of participants from males
problems that affected the process of collecting the data
Questionnaire because Sebha city had some
distributing the questionnaire because Sebha city had some
every because most of the students were absent in the time of
study writing and essay writing. The number of participants is
participants from the third and fourth semester because they
department in Faculty of art, Sebha, Libya. There were 20
The participants of this study were chosen from the English

3.3. Participants and Location
and recommendations related to this study.

Finally, the researchers conducted and gave some suggestions to answer the research questions of the research. This process took about one semester and this process took about one week. The data the researchers gave the questionnaire to the selected time. The researchers gave the questionnaire to the selected relevant literature. This process took about three weeks. At the same time, the researchers started to collect information from different sources by reading books, EFL journals and even websites. So as a second step, the researchers started to collect information from different sources by reading the English department. Most of the students are not good writers. The researchers noticed common problems amongst EFL students in writing. Firstly, the researchers choose the topic according to their interest.

3.4 The Procedure
4.1. Analysis of the Questionnaire

DISCUSSIONS

ANALYSES, FINDINGS AND
| Location | Total | No. Gender | Number | Semester | 8 Females | 2 Males | 20 Females | 0 Males | 10 Females | 10 Fourth Semester | 10 Third Semester | 10 Art | 10 Libya | 10 Sepha |
topics in English. Students believed that the positive development and learning on how to think
own biases and understanding their multiple perspectives.

identifying their
academic level in writing in general as that will help to engage them with issues of
5. Most of the students believe that thinking critically is essential to develop their
their ways and language proficiency while writing English essays.
4. Most of the students strongly agreed that thinking critically is essential to develop
critical thinking
3. Most of the students also agree that they do not know exactly the meaning of
skills.
2. The majority of the students agree that they do not have good critical thinking
1. Most of the students have problems in writing essays in English.

After the analysis of the questionnaire, the researchers found the following:

4.2 Findings of the questionnaire
described critical thinking as the
critical thinking is important and
concluding the ideas with each other. Carter, Bishop, and Krawitz
classes as it helps to develop the students’ ways while writing by
websites, it is believed that critical thinking is essential in writing
essay. After collecting the data from the books, journals, and ELT
教学 helpful in developing students’ ways of writing English
answer to the main questions. The first question is “Is critical thinking
the exact meaning of critical? However, the researchers also aimed to
findings also revealed that most of the students do not even know
main strategy to develop their own ways while writing essays. The
was found that most of the students do not use critical thinking as a
critically while writing English essays.” After collecting the data, it
Research Question: “Do the students of faculty of art in Sepha think
The current research aimed mainly to answer the following main

4.3. Discussion
process of collecting information, analyzing it in different ways, and evaluating the objective of gaining understanding, solving a problem, or making a decision. Rankin (1999) confirmed this, saying that good searchers must show the ability to evaluate critically the information they are The second sub-research question was "what are the ways for teaching essay writing by thinking critically?". This question was answered in the Literature review. This study collected many views and arguments from different linguists about the different ways of teaching critical thinking in ELT classes. For example, Cooper (1995) believed that putting students in group learning situations is the best way to foster critical thinking. Cooper (1995) also clarified "In properly structured cooperative learning environments, students perform more of the active, critical thinking with continuous support and feedback from other students and the teacher." To conclude this section, the researchers would believe that successful writing class should depend on the development of critical thinking through the learner’s interest or expertise and through collaborative writing activities. looking for to apply their judgment to the search process. thinking
effectively.

to investigate other techniques and skills to teach essay writing more
writers and vice versa. To end up, it must be said that there is a need
better thinkers. They would enable the students to become better

The findings showed that if teachers help the students to become
thinking for EFL students is necessary especially in writing classes.

helping students develop into critical thinkers. Developing critical

Paul & Elder, 2006; Inhail, 2017) clearly stressed the importance of
Facione & Facione, 2007; Moore, 2004; Milundenburg & Berge, 2000;

tolerating ambiguity. Many researchers such as (Brookfield, 1987;

avoiding over-simplification, considering other interpretations, and

analyzing assumptions and biases, avoiding emotional reasoning,

The study showed that students’ essay writing can be developed if

5.1 Conclusion

RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSION
general. They also need to improve their level while writing essays and in writing in essay. That will help in developing their own writing strategies and skills. It is recommended that EL students master the concept of how they can develop their own writing strategies and skills. That will help in enhancing their writing abilities. It is recommended that EFL teachers should give students more chances and time to write in different topics in order to enhance their critical thinking and ways of thinking. It is recommended that EFL teachers should help their students to know writing skills. It is recommended that EFL teachers should help their students to think critically while teaching essay writing. It is recommended that EFL teachers should encourage their students. Following: In light of the results of the study, the researchers recommend the following:

5.2. Recommendations
References
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