

Teaching writing skills for professional purposes

Language is a complex entity. It cannot be learnt at once. The purpose of this paper is to illustrate the importance of writing skills in teaching English.

Writing is considered by students to be the least important skill in ESP learning. Written work serves to provide students with some tangible evidence that they are making progress in the language and this can satisfy a psychological need. Writing provides variety of classroom activities and can increase the amount of language contact through work that can be assigned out of class.

Writing involves more than just producing sentences. To be able to write some texts, students must be able to write a connected series of sentences which are grammatically and logically linked. Consequently, the students are trained to be aware of how we communicate through the written form and the ways in which the language system is used to express scientific facts and concepts. Students need to be shown that any piece of writing has a communicative purpose.

Many language teachers are aware of the fact that teaching writing is more difficult than teaching other language skills. When students write in English, they do not create the text themselves, they only translate their thoughts word for word from their native language into English. The area of teaching writing in a foreign language has been rather neglected.

In order to help the students develop the ability to express themselves in writing in English, it is necessary to teach them to use their imagination in writing. In the language classroom various writing tasks are used, which help students to brush up their knowledge of the three basic elements of all writing: words, sentences, and paragraphs.