

Conference Abstract

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Study Writing

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This presentation will report on the results of a pilot study that I am currently conducting with four students enrolled in the study writing class at A.I.S. Though this study, I am attempting to identify strategies and processes that second language (L2) learners use when engaged in summarizing and synthesizing academic texts in order to better understand the relationship and connections between the skills of reading and writing in an academic setting.

The presentation will begin with a brief description of our current understanding of reading-writing relations. Then, I will give a description of the study writing course, the subjects involved in this study, and the research methodology used. The bulk of the time will be spent presenting the findings of the study, which will highlight the strategies and processes used in academic writing tasks as well as evidence found in the study concerning connections between reading and writing.

At this time it is difficult to anticipate exactly what the results of the study will be in order to clarify the content of the presentation; however, I expect to find results that corroborate current research evidence. Current research suggests that L2 proficiency is related to L2 reading and writing abilities, which abilities relate to the successful production of summaries and syntheses. Also, higher first language (L1) summarizing abilities and experience is related with higher summarizing abilities in the L2. Therefore, my study will look at the relationships between L1 academic writing experience, L2 proficiency, and L2 academic writing success.

This presentation will be of particular interest to conference attendees interested in L2 writing, but it will also be of interest to teachers who have L2 learners in their classes. Because a large percentage of classroom marks, and consequently class grades, are awarded based on student writing, teachers interested in the success of their L2 students will need to better understand L2 writers and the processes and strategies they use.