Improving Language Preparatory School Students` Writing Skills through Process Approach

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Abstract

An increasing number of studies has been conducted about the approaches to improve learners` writing in an Academic Writing course. However, no approach stood out as the most efficient one. In this respect, process based approach and product based approach were compared in this study. The study was conducted on language preparatory school students at a prestigious private university in Erbil over 17 weeks. Simple random sampling method was employed to choose the sample from the population. Experimental and control group students were equal as 20. Experimental group students took instructions based on the steps of process approach, whereas control group students followed the steps of product approach. Each student was required to write about 8 topics regardless of being in control or experimental group. The students took two exams as pretest and posttest to make comparisons through SPSS 23. Independent samples t test p value was measured as .004 which was significant. Also, paired samples t test p value was .000 which was also highly significant in experimental group. These results reveal that the students who followed a process based approach instruction outperformed the students who got a product approach based instruction. Similarly, the questionnaire and interview analysis as a part of qualitative data uncovered that the students` satisfaction rate was higher once they followed a process based approach writing instruction. Findings of this study suggest that process approach can be integrated into Academic Writing curriculums without having any hesitation.

Keywords: Academic Writing, Process Approach, Product Approach

Introduction

Writing skill can affect people`s lives in many ways during their academic studies and professional careers, so its importance has been emphasized by stakeholders of education. Writing has been regarded as a means to convert ideas into a written format, so verbal expressions can be transcribed to use as a reference once needed. (Graham et al., 2013). Thanks to its numerous advantages in people`s lives, writing instruction starts as early as possible to have a solid background in the following years. It is also assumed that

once learners have had a self-confidence in writing at an early age, this confidence can be transferred to other skills, so each skill supports others to have a mutual benefit (Schoonen, 2019). On the other hand, it is not uncommon that people need to develop their writing skills as long as they live. To illustrate it, students are required to respond questions in a written format if there are some open ended questions. Additionally, most interviews include a writing section to measure job seekers` writing skill. In addition to writing on paper, writing online has been getting more popularity thanks to the advancement in technology. Teachers could not cover lessons on campus during Covid 19, so they lectured online and wanted the students to hand in their assignments through online learning management systems or email (Serin, 2022). Moreover, social media platforms have an irreplaceable place in people`s lives. Sharing a post and leaving a comment have been completed through writing, so it is nearly impossible to convey the meaning clearly on social media platforms without having basic writing skills (Galvin & Greenhow, 2020). Otherwise, some communication problems can arise. Furthermore, unsatisfied customers can send an email to the headquarter of a company to get their assistance. After that, residents send an email to the mayors or governors if they have a suggestion about any issues. These reflections of writing in people`s lives suggest that writing skill deserves a special emphasis to master.

Product, process and genre based approach have been employed in Academic Writing courses globally. Each one has its advocates and critics. Initially, product based approach preceded others as a traditional approach to learn by imitation through sample texts. It requires learners to be familiar with the model text, write in a controlled and independent way. Its ultimate goal is related to improving accuracy (Ghufron, 2016). In other words, students are exposed to a model text at first. In the next steps, they learn how to write independently so that they can try to write in an error-free format which can increase the stress of the learners.

Subsequently, process approach has arisen to emphasize the value of learning steps in writing rather than imitating the model text. In process approach, the learners have been required to follow certain steps ranging from prewriting to publishing. The advocates of process approach state that multiple drafts through brainstorming, reviews, feedbacks and creativity are essential points in process writing (Kara & Abdulrahman, 2022; Curtis, 2001). They postulate that mastering writing requires learners to go through certain steps, so only imitating the model text can have adverse effects. These steps should be followed in an order to get the highest benefit.

Genre based approach has arisen recently to emphasize the value of writing for social purposes. In other words, essays, reports, summaries have been studied in detail if genre based approach has been employed (Gomez, 2017). To illustrate, some students need a certain score in IELTS to be granted a scholarship abroad. In this exam, the test takers are required to write independently or summarize the graphs. The topics are chosen from

the real life phenomena, so social side of the writing has been emphasized through this exam. Likewise, TOEFL, PTE and SAT Writing sections put much emphasis on writing accordingly. Genre approach has certain stages like other approaches. Hyland (2008) has classified it within 5 phases which are reaching a conclusion on the context, analyzing and trying to imitate the sample text, writing in cooperation with other students and making comparisons. To illustrate it, communicative purpose about the genre has been set in context phase. Teachers analyze the text clearly to direct students in modeling step. In the collaborative learning phase, learners have negotiations to revise and reshape accordingly. In independent learning period, they complete their works under the supervision of their teachers. In the last step, they figure out how to compare and contrast their written works with other genres.

Literature Review

This section was designed to provide brief historical overview and some published articles about each approach.

Product, Process and Genre Based Approaches

Three types of approaches have been used extensively in Academic Writing courses globally. Product approach used to be employed initially prior to process and genre approaches. It is basically based on rewriting a similar work based on the model text. Grammatical accuracy and coherence are fundamental goals in product approach (O` Brien, 2004). Modeling has been seen as a necessary component of writing flawlessly. There has been an ongoing controversy about whether it allows learners to write better or not. Some scholars (Durga & Rao, 2018) argue that it is practical and beneficial to write a similar one based on the model, whereas others (Cope & Kalantziz, 2014) postulate that it offers no benefit in the long run. The same controversy is prevalent about the published articles as well. To illustrate it, Kara and Abdulrahman (2022) conducted a study on language preparatory school students in Iraq to measure whether product approach yields better results on students` writing achievements. Their study disclosed that product approach was beneficial to increase students` success in an Academic Writing course. On the other hand, one more study was carried out by Kadmiry (2021) about the effects of product and process approach on Moroccan EFL students. The study revealed that product approach failed to improve students` writing. In other words, she postulates that process approach is more beneficial to master writing.

Process approach has a good reputation on many people`s minds to extend the learning and writing period. It has certain steps which can be basically explained as prewriting, drafting, revising, evaluating and publishing. Matsuda (2003) argues that

process approach is similar to learning how to write mother tongue. He argues that learning how to write a foreign language in a process can yield better results as in L1. Likewise, Myless (2002) argues that process approach allows learners to get valuable feedback from their classmates and teachers, so learners can learn not only from their teachers but also from their classmates. There are numerous published studies to measure the effects of process approach in Academic Writing courses. To name a few, Pacello (2019) carried a study on college students in the USA to compare process approach with product one. His study uncovered that process approach was more helpful to increase students` success in writing courses. On the other hand, Graham and Sandmel (2011) carried out a study with 29 students ranging from grade 1 to 12 on process approach in the USA. Their study revealed that process approach had no effect to increase their marks in writing classes.

In the 1990s, the genre-based approach arose to emphasize the social function of language learning process. (Badger & White, 2000). Through a brief analysis, it is obvious that Vygotsky`s collaborative learning and Bruner`s scaffolding views are at the heart of genre based approach (Hyland, 2007). Composing ideas step by step, examining the sample and multiple revisions after getting valuable feedbacks are core elements in genre based approach. Purposes, structures and language features of the genres have been emphasized in genre approach. Genre based writing lessons emphasize using authentic materials such as essays, reports and summaries, each topic can be correlated with learners` social lives. Yildiz (2020) and Celik (2017) concede the idea that authentic materials increase students` enthusiasm in writing classes, so genres should be related to their interests. There is a wealth of research on genre approach with different findings. To name a few, Ahn (2012) conducted a study on Australian primary school students to measure the effects of genre approach through writing essays and reports. His study revealed that genre based approach increased students` success in writing classes. Also, the students` self-confidence and enthusiasm were boosted accordingly. Rashtchi et al. (2019) conducted a study on university students which revealed that students` success rate increased dramatically when they were exposed to genre approach. On the other hand, the same success could not be achieved in other groups which were exposed to either product or process approach.

Research Questions

Two research questions were addressed in this study which can be seen clearly below.

- Is process based approach more effective than product based approach to increase students` writing scores?
- Do students` opinion change towards process approach after finalizing the study?

Methodology

Research Design

Quantitative and qualitative instruments were used in harmony in this study to compare the findings as a part of mixed method research design. Additionally, concurrent triangulation design was employed to figure out similarities and differences between each instruments (Hashemi & Babaii, 2013). The data were collected through SPSS 23., a questionnaire and an interview and analyzed accordingly.

Research Process

This study was carried out in 6 steps, all of which can be clearly observed in Figure 1 and will be explained in detail in the following sections.
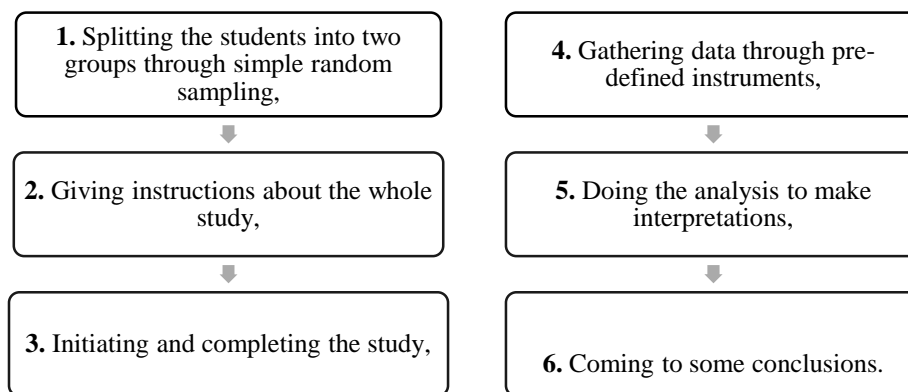
1. Splitting the students into two groups through simple random sampling,	**4.** Gathering data through pre-defined instruments,
2. Giving instructions about the whole study,	**5.** Doing the analysis to make interpretations,
3. Initiating and completing the study,	**6.** Coming to some conclusions.

Figure 1: Stages of the study

As can be seen clearly in Figure 1, the stages of study were planned meticulously to gather more reliable results.

Setting

This study was carried out at a well-known international university located in Erbil, Iraq. The university has 5000 students and language of instruction is completely English, so this university was chosen on purpose to measure the effects of writing approaches in an Academic Writing course. The students of the university hold the opinion that they can find a job easily once they master English upon graduation. In addition, the university has a diverse community with its 500 international students who moved to Erbil to get a degree. Apart from offering a welcoming international environment, its success has been

confirmed by Webometrics ranking (2021) which reveals that it is one of the best private universities in Iraq. The university has a good reputation for these reasons.

Participants

In this study, simple random sampling method was used to choose sample from the population. 40 students of the same university were chosen to represent the population. 16 female and 24 male language preparatory school students joined the study. The students were placed in this unit of the university because they wanted to sharpen their skills in English throughout the year. Otherwise, they had some hesitations about adapting to lessons in their departments. These students took core courses ranging from Main Course, to Academic Writing as 24 hours per week. Additionally, they were required to make a weekly presentation about a certain story. Regarding writing skill, 3 lessons were reserved weekly for Academic Writing course. The academic year continued for 32 weeks which were arranged from starter to proficiency level as the weeks went by. They started as a basic user of English and completed as a proficient English user if they followed the instructions on a daily basis. In terms of writing, they wrote each task twice because the instructor allowed learners to get some lessons from their mistakes in their first attempt. It is quite clear that the students received education with proven strategies to learn English.

Sampling Procedure

In this study, the population included all the students who enrolled in language preparatory school at a private university in Erbil-Iraq in 2021-2022 Academic Year. There were 100 students who were classified in 5 classes in total. Simple random sampling method was used to choose sample from the population as each member had an equal chance to be selected through simple random sampling method (Acharya et al., 2013). Students from 24 different departments ranging from civil engineering to medical analysis were prevalent in this study. The students in this study were separated from other classes, so the topics were written, and exams were taken according to the schedule.

Instruments

In this study, students` learning rate in writing was measured twice in week 1 and 17 which accounted for pretest and posttest respectively. Unique topics were asked in these exams to notice students` creativity. Otherwise, they could memorize the sample ones which could affect the reliability of the exam results.

 In addition to 2 separate writing exams, the questionnaire and interview were directed to students to get their genuine opinions. The exams were analyzed through SPSS 23, while the questionnaire was analyzed by converting Likert scale items into percentages

and precise numbers. Finally, the recordings of the interview were classified through MAXODO software program, and notable ones were inserted into the article. Internal consistency was determined by Cronbach`s alpha reliability test which was calculated as .82. Brown (2002) states that Cronbach alpha should be higher than 0.7 to show internal consistency which was met in our study.

Randomly given writing topics to the students were as follows:
1. What are some reasons to travel?
2. What matters most to you in your life?
3. How would you spend if you had 5 million dollars?
4. How will be the life in 2050s?
5. Are you in favor of or against the internet?
6. Do you prefer e-books or traditional paper-based ones?
7. What can be done to save the environment?

Although the study lasted for 17 weeks, the students studied these writing topics for 14 weeks. The remaining 3 weeks were reserved to have a workshop about each writing approach and conduct pre-test and post-test exams without having any conflicts with regular writing topics.

Procedure

This study was conducted in 2021-2022 academic year and was finalized within 17 weeks. Each student took 3 hours of instruction weekly to sharpen their skills in writing during the year.

Students in experimental group followed a process approach to improve their skills in an Academic Writing course. Their main emphasis was on uncovering their creativity each passing day. In this regard, they followed this cycle for each writing topic:
- They stimulated their creativity by brainstorming in pre-writing stage.
- They wrote multiple drafts to be revised by their peers or instructor. They proofread to revise considering the feedback.
- They updated their essays considering feedbacks.
- Students handed in their essays.
- Teacher provided valuable feedback about common mistakes to eliminate them in the following weeks.

On the other hand, students in control group adopted a totally different approach which was named as product approach to improve their writing skills. Their ultimate goal was to imitate sample texts by making necessary changes. In this regard, they followed this cycle for each writing topic:

- They exploited the model texts by focusing on significant words and expressions in pre-writing stage.
- They composed their ideas in their minds before writing the essay.
- They wrote a similar essay to be evaluated by the instructor.

As can be seen clearly, process approach puts special emphasis on improvement in time, whereas product approach is strict to see error-free essays as a final product.

Sample Lessons about Each Approach Respectively

A Regular Sequence of Process Based Approach
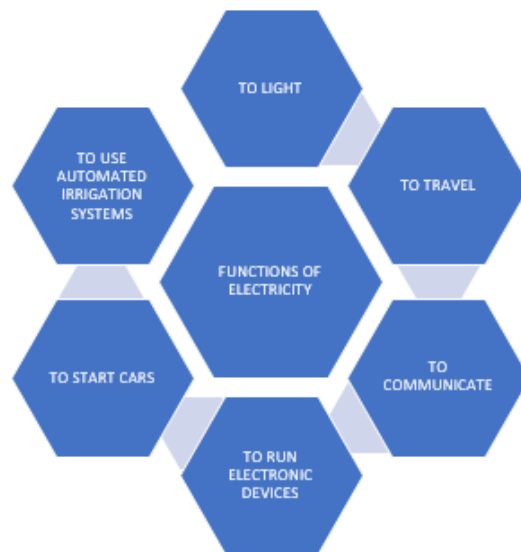Figure 2 shows a sample brainstorming process on introducing yourself topic.

Figure 2: A Sample brainstorming activity

As can be seen clearly in Figure 2, brainstorming activity allows learners to capture their attention and be familiar with the topic.

First Draft

Electricity is one of the most important invention ADD S TO INVENTION of all time. Some people use electricity to operate electric trains, while others used REMOVE D FROM USE it to wash their cars with an electric pressure washer. In my opinion, electricity is needed to run electronic devices, light houses and activate automated irrigation systems.

To begin with, electronic devices are so importance WRONG WORD CHOICE, ADD AN ADJECTIVE, NOT A NOUN in our lives. All electronic devices work by electrical STUDY THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRICITY. For example, we need electricity to wash our dirty clothes, iron we WE OUR OUR? clothes before go GO OR GOING? to a university or a party, wash our dirty dishes and charging REMOVE ING FROM CHARGING our mobile phones or laptops. For instance, I could not submitted USE BASE FORM AFTER COULD NOT, SO DELETE ED FROM SUBMIT my science project on time via email next week NEXT WEEK OR LAST WEEK? because I went to the summer house where there was no electricity for 3 hours. All in all, electronic devices will only work by electricity.

Secondly, electricity is needed every time to lighted DELETE ED FROM LIGHT our houses. When we light our houses, we can chatted AFTER CAN USE BASED FORM, SO DELETE -ED with our parents, siblings. Additionally, we can read a book easily in IN OR AT? night as if it was daytime. Also, we can studied AFTER CAN USE BASED FORM, SO DELETE -ED more to learn better ADD A FULL STOP BEFORE FOR EXAMPLE OR USE BETWEEN TWO COMMAS For example, I read books to get more informations INFORMATION IS UNCOUNTABLE! every night. I cannot read a book at night if there is no light at home. All in all, having light are IS OR ARE? possible with electricity.

ADD PARAGRAPH 4 TO INTRODUCE YOUR 3RD REASON

As a result, electricity is so importance WRONG WORD CHOICE, ADD AN ADJECTIVE, NOT A NOUN to run our electronic devices and light our houses. I hope everyone in the world can has HAVE OR HAS a chance to have electricity incessantly regardless of live LIVE OR LIVING? in a developed, developing or underdeveloped country.

Teacher`s Feedback: Consider my feedbacks before writing one more time.

Peer Feedback Period: The students came together with their classmates to correct their mistakes and write a better one. After peer- feedback, the student made necessary changes to write a better essay.

Final Draft

Electricity is one of the most important inventions of all time. Some people use electricity to operate electric trains, while others use it to wash their cars with an electric pressure washer. In my opinion, electricity is needed to run electronic devices and light houses.

To begin with, electronic devices are so essential in our lives. All electronic devices work by electricity. For example, we need electricity to wash our dirty clothes, iron our clothes before going to a university or a party, wash our dirty dishes and charge our

mobile phones or laptops. For instance, I could not submit my science project on time via email yesterday because I went to the summer house where there was no electricity for 3 hours. All in all, electronic devices will only work by electricity.

Secondly, electricity is needed every time to light our houses. When we light our houses, we can chat with our parents, siblings. Additionally, we can read a book easily at night as if it was daytime. Also, we can study more to learn better. For example, I read books to get more information every night. I cannot read a book at night if there is no light at home. All in all, having light is possible with electricity.

Finally, electricity has made automated irrigation systems possible. It was so troublesome and expensive to water the farms by fuel, but now automated irrigation systems are so convenient to water efficiently. Pressing the button is enough to complete the irrigation. Apart from being convenient, it is environmentally friendly. Farmers do not pollute the air any longer while watering their farms. In addition, the crops grow faster by this system because the amount of water has been set automatically which reduces excess water. For example, we have been using automated irrigation system for 4 years. We have reduced the number of workers and equipment thanks to this system. Now only one person can arrange time, amount and intervals of irrigation. As it is clear, automated irrigation system has a lot of pluses for farmers.

As a result, electricity is so important to run our electronic devices, light our houses and keep using automated irrigation systems. I hope everyone in the world can have a chance to have electricity incessantly regardless of living in a developed, developing or underdeveloped country.

Teacher`s Feedback: It is error-free. Congratulations.

A Regular Sequence of Product Based Approach with a Sample One
Model Text

Electricity is one of the best inventions of all time for mankind. It helped people to remove darkness. Some people use it to cool their houses, while others want to use it to run TV. In my opinion, electricity is so important to run electronic devices/ appliances, travel and start modern irrigation systems on the farm.

To begin with, electronic devices can only run by electricity. We need electricity to run hair dryer, electric cooker, air conditioner, TV, PC and blender. Also, we need electricity to keep using our refrigerator, dishwasher or washing machine. Life will be meaningless without running them by electricity. All in all, having electricity means running electronic devices/ appliances for me.

Secondly, technology and science have developed a lot, so we have electric cars nowadays. Electric cars like Tesla Model S can go up to 500 km with one charge. Once we charge them by electricity, we will not pollute the air by fuel. Also, we can save money when we only charge them. It costs only around 5 dollars to charge your electric car fully.

Once we travel cheaper, we can visit different places, learn about different cultures and work for a company in another city. For example, I have bought a Tesla recently. I have saved around 300 dollars in a month when I stop going to a gas station to buy fuel. In conclusion, having electricity offers a lot of advantages by charging our electric cars.

Finally, modern irrigation systems have advanced a lot recently. In the past, people needed to use fuel to water their fruit and vegetables, but now there are automated systems to irrigate. The system works when we press the start button. This system is more efficient and environmentally friendly because it is cheaper, safer and better to remove air pollution from our lives. Also, the crops will grow much more when this system works flawlessly. For example, we have set a system on our farm to irrigate by electricity. Now we can arrange time, amount and intervals of irrigation according to our needs. As it is clear, automated irrigation system offers a lot of advantages to farmers.

As a result, I use electricity to operate electronic devices/appliances, go to different places by electric cars and initiate modern irrigation systems. My life will be a nightmare if I have no electricity.

Key Words to Highlight

Inventions, remove darkness, electronic devices, electric cars, modern irrigation systems,

The Order of Writing

Paragraph 1: A general information about the importance of electricity, different opinions, your opinion and three reasons of support.

Paragraph 2: Topic sentence about reason 1, supporting sentences, exemplification, a concluding sentence.

Paragraph 3: Topic sentence about reason 2, supporting sentences, exemplification, a concluding sentence.

Paragraph 4: Topic sentence about reason 3, supporting sentences, exemplification, a concluding sentence.

Paragraph 5: Paraphrasing your reasons one more time and emphasizing your point with a catchy expression.

Student`s First Written Product

Electricity is one of the best inventions of all time for mankind. It helped people to remove darkness. Some people use it to charge their mobile phones, while others want to use it to keep running security cameras around their houses. From my point of view,

electricity is so significant to cool houses and run washing machines and use modern irrigation systems.

To being with, electricity is a must to operating air conditioners and electricity fans. Air conditioners and electric fans keep run by electricity. When we use them, we can working, study and relax as much as we can. In the other hand, we will swear and feel irritated if air conditioners and fans do not work because of power outages. Also, our performance and mood can be affect adversely when there is no system to cool especially in summer. For example, I had an exam scheduled last week. I studied for a while. Then, the power is off instantly, so I could not keep studying. I left the house and hung out with my friends. When the results announced, it turned out that I am the worst student in the class. The power outage affect my marks in a negative way. As it is clear, electricity is need a lot to use cooling systems effectively.

Secondly, washing machines can only work by electrical. We need to washing our clothes regularly to wear them in a hygienic way. When the power was off, we cannot operate them. This problem can cause many problems in our social life. Additional, we cannot ironing our clothes when there was a power outage. As it is clear, washing machines and irons need electric to operate.

Finally, modern irrigation systems have advanced a lot recently. In the past, people needed to use fuel to water their fruit and vegetables, but now there are automated systems to irrigate. The system works when we press the start button. This system is more efficient and environmentally friendly because it is cheaper, safer and better to remove air pollution from our lives. Also, the crops will grow much more when this system works flawlessly. For example, we have set a system on our farm to irrigate by electricity. Now we can arrange time, amount and intervals of irrigation according to our needs. As it is clear, automated irrigation system offers a lot of advantages to farmers.

As a result, I use electricity to cool the house and use the washing machine, run automated systems to water. It will pose many problems if I have no electricity.

Teacher`s Feedback

Electricity is one of the best inventions of all time for mankind. It helped people to remove darkness. Some people use it to charge their mobile phones, while others want to use it to keep running security cameras around their houses. From my point of view, electricity is so significant to cool houses and REMOVE AND AND ADD COMMA run washing machines and use modern irrigation systems.

To being BEING OR BEGIN? with, electricity is a must to operating REMOVE ING air conditioners and electricity STUDY THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ELECTRICITY AND ELECTRIC fans. Air conditioners and electric fans keep KEEP VERB+ ING run by electricity. When we use them, we can AFTER CAN USE BASE FORM working, study and relax as much as we can. In IN OR ON? the other hand, we

will swear SWEAR OR SWEAT? and feel irritated if air conditioners and fans do not work because of power outages. Also, our performance and mood can be affect STUDY THE RULES OF PASSIVE VOICE adversely when there is no system to cool especially in summer. For example, I had an exam scheduled last week. I studied for a while. Then, the power is IS OR WAS? off instantly, so I could not keep studying. I left the house and hung out with my friends. When the results CONVERT IT INTO A PASSIVE VOICE announced, it turned out that I am AM OR WAS? the worst student in the class. The power outage CONVERT TO PAST SIMPLE affect my marks in a negative way. As it is clear, electricity is need CONVERT IT INTO A PASSIVE VOICE a lot to use cooling systems effectively.

Secondly, washing machines can only work by electrical STUDY THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRICITY. We need to washing WASHING OR WASH our clothes regularly to wear them in a hygienic way. When the power was WAS OR IS – STUDY RULES OF TENSE HARMONY off, we cannot operate them. This problem can cause many problems in our social life. Additional, ADDITIONAL OR ADDITIONALLY we cannot ironing CANNOT + BASE – NO ING our clothes when there was WAS OR IS a power outage. As it is clear, washing machines and irons need electric to operate. YOU WROTE ONLY WASHING MACHINE IN PARAGRAPH 1, BUT INCLUDED IRONS IN THIS PARAGRAPH. ONLY SUPPORT THE REASON YOU MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH 1!

Finally, modern irrigation systems have advanced a lot recently. In the past, people needed to use fuel to water their fruit and vegetables, but now there are automated systems to irrigate. The system works when we press the start button. This system is more efficient and environmentally friendly because it is cheaper, safer and better to remove air pollution from our lives. Also, the crops will grow much more when this system works flawlessly. For example, we have set a system on our farm to irrigate by electricity. Now we can arrange time, amount and intervals of irrigation according to our needs. As it is clear, automated irrigation system offers a lot of advantages to farmers. IT WAS COPIED AND PASTED FROM THE SAMPLE ONE. MAKE NECESSARY CHANGES!

As a result, I use electricity to cool the house, use the washing machine and run automated systems to water. It will pose many problems if I have no electricity. THIS PARAGRAPH IS FLAWLESS.

A Thorough Comment: Study the differences between electricity, electrical and electric, learn the rules of tense harmony, grasp the reasons of support and study tips of paraphrasing. The rest is awesome. Keep writing to be better.

Student`s Error-free Writing Attempt

Electricity is one of the best inventions of all time for mankind. It helped people

to remove darkness. Some people use it to charge their mobile phones, while others want to use it to keep running security cameras around their houses. From my point of view, electricity is so significant to cool houses, run washing machines and use modern irrigation systems.

To begin with, electricity is a must to operate air conditioners and electric   fans. Air conditioners and electric fans keep   running by electricity. When we use them, we can work, study and relax as much as we can. On the other hand, we will sweat and feel irritated if air conditioners and fans do not work because of power outages. Also, our performance and mood can be affected adversely when there is no system to cool especially in summer. For example, I had an exam scheduled last week. I studied for a while. Then, the power was off instantly, so I could not keep studying. I left the house and hung out with my friends. When the results were announced, it turned out that I was the worst student in the class. The power outage affected my marks in a negative way. As it is clear, electricity is needed a lot to use cooling systems effectively.

Secondly, washing machines can only work by electricity. We need to wash our clothes regularly to wear them in a hygienic way. When the power is off, we cannot operate the washing machine. This problem can cause many problems in our social life. We can miss some events for this reason. For example, I could not wash my trousers and shirts last week, so I could not attend my uncle`s wedding ceremony. I felt ashamed to go there with dirty clothes. As it is clear, washing machines need electricity to operate.

Finally, modern irrigation systems have been improved a lot recently. In the past, people watered their fruit and vegetables with fuel-run machines which polluted the air dramatically, but now there are automated systems to irrigate through electricity. The system works when we press the start button. This system is more efficient and environmentally friendly because it is cheaper, safer and better to remove air pollution from our lives. Also, the farmers can yield better crops which can flourish in a short time. For example, we have set a system on our farm to irrigate by electricity. Now we can modify time, amount and intervals of irrigation according to our wishes. As it is clear, automated irrigation system offers a lot of pluses to farmers.

As a result, I use electricity to cool the house, use the washing machine and run automated systems to water. It will pose many problems if I have no electricity.

Data Analysis

Quantiative data were analyzed through two SPSS measurement tests which were independent samples and paired samples ones. Independent samples t test has been used extensively to make a comparison between two sets of data (Rochon et al., 2012). On the other hand, paired samples t test has been used widely to measure each group within itself by comparing pre-test and post-test results (Derrick et al., 2017). In other words, it is used to compare each group`s difference within itself.

Apart from quantitative data, qualitative data were collected through the questionnaire and the interview. Qualitative data were gathered to conduct triangulation which meant that whether the results of quantitative data were compatible with the results of qualitative data.

Findings

The findings of the study were classified in 3 categories as the analysis of a questionnaire, the independent samples t test and paired samples t test. The detailed analysis can be seen below for each category.

The items in questionnaire and detailed analysis were presented in Table 1.

Table 1: The analysis of the questionnaire

ITEMS	Mean	Strongly Agree %	f	Agree %	f	Neutral %	f	Disagree %	f	Strongly Disagree %	f
1. Our writing lessons were so engaging.	3,27	25%	10	25%	10	20 %	8	13%	5	17 %	7
2. I assume that writing affects my success in other skills including speaking, reading and listening.	3,45	45 %	18	8 %	3	17 %	7	8 %	3	22 %	9
3. I am satisfied with my instructor`s overall planning in writing classes.	4,45	55 %	22	35 %	14	10 %	4	0 %	0	0 %	0
4. I notice that process approach is more helpful than other approaches.	4,35	72 %	29	15 %	6	0%	0	0%	0	13%	5
5. I think that product approach has affected my writing success more significantly than other approaches.	2,50	13 %	5	17 %	7	17%	7	13%	5	40 %	16
6. If a new opportunity arose, I would be in a group to take process approach based writing instruction.	4,70	70 %	28	30 %	12	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	0
7. If I were granted one more opportunity, I would choose being in a group to receive product approach based writing instruction.	2,37	7 %	3	17 %	7	13%	5	30%	12	33 %	13
8. This study was so significant in terms of changing my attitude towards approaches in an Academic Writing course.	4,47	48 %	19	52 %	21	0%	0	0 %	0	0 %	0

When item 1 was analyzed about whether the lessons were engaging or not, the mean score was recorded as 3,27 which was not significant. Only 10 students (25 %) chose strongly agree. Likewise, only 10 students (25 %) chose agree option. On the other hand, 8 students (20 %) chose neutral; 5 students (13 %) chose disagree; 7 students (17 %) chose strongly disagree. This finding reveals that more efforts are needed to vary the type of engaging activities in the lesson to capture students` attention.

When item 2 was investigated about the correlation between writing and other core skills in English, the mean score was recorded as 3,45 which was not significant. Only 18 students (45 %) chose strongly agree. Likewise, only 3 students (8 %) chose agree option. On the other hand, 7 students (17 %) chose neutral; 3 students (8 %) chose disagree; 9 students (22 %) chose strongly disagree. This finding reveals that more than half of the students could not find a correlation between writing and other fundamental skills in English.

When item 3 was investigated about the efforts of the instructor, the mean score was recorded as 4,45 which was highly significant. 22 students (55 %) chose strongly agree option. Likewise, 14 students (35 %) chose agree option. In contrast, only 4 students (10 %) chose neutral. On the other hand, no student clicked on disagree or strongly disagree option which was seen as a sign of appreciation. This finding reveals that the instructor`s efforts were highly appreciated by the greatest number of students.

When item 4 was analyzed thoroughly about the opinion of students on the effects of process approach, the mean score was recorded as 4,35 which was highly significant. 29 students (72 %) chose strongly agree option. Likewise, 6 students (15 %) chose agree option. In contrast, no student clicked on neither neutral or disagree. On the other hand, 5 students (13 %) chose strongly disagree option which deserved special emphasis. This finding reveals that process approach was highly appreciated except 5 students.

Once item 5 about students` opinion on the effects of product approach was examined in detail, the mean score was recorded as 2,50 which was far from being significant. Only 5 students (13 %) chose strongly agree. Likewise, only 7 (17 %) students chose agree option. On the other hand, 7 (17 %), 5 (13 %), 16 (40 %) students chose neutral, disagree or strongly disagree options respectively. This finding uncovers that product approach did not capture most students` attention in a positive way at all.

When item 6 was investigated about the will of the students on process approach for a future study, the mean score was recorded as 4,70 which was the highest one in this questionnaire. 28 students (70 %) chose strongly agree option. Likewise, 12 students (30 %) chose agree option. On the other hand, no student clicked on neutral, disagree or strongly disagree option which was seen as a sign of taking side with process approach. This finding reveals that process approach had more advocates than product approach.

When item 7 was analyzed about the will of the students on product approach for a future study, the mean score was recorded as 2,37 which was the least one in the

questionnaire. Only 3 (7 %) students chose strongly agree. Likewise, only 7 students (17 %) clicked on agree. In contrast, 5 (13 %), 12 (30 %), (33 %) 13 students chose neutral, disagree or strongly agree respectively which validated that product approach was supported by the least number of students. This finding reveals that product approach lost its popularity for each passing day.

When item 8 about students` attitude towards approaches in Academic Writing course was investigated in detail, the mean score was 4,47 which was quite significant. 19 students (48 %) chose strongly agree. Likewise, 21 students (52 %) chose agree option. In contrast, no student chose neutral, disagree or strongly disagree option. This finding reveals that the students considered this period as fruitful to be familiar with each approach and change their attitudes towards these approaches.

Considering all 8 items in the questionnaire, some conclusions can be reached. To begin with, students need more motivational items to increase their engagement in writing classes. Also, they could not find strong correlations between writing and other skills. Moreover, they were so satisfied with the instructor`s dedication. Furthermore, process approach period was more fruitful compared to product approach, so most students wanted to be a part of the group which would take process approach instruction in the future. Finally, the students regarded this period as productive because they had a chance to be knowledgeable about two different approaches during the study.

Independent samples t test analysis was illustrated in Table 2.

Table 2: Independent Samples T Test Analysis

Variables	Groups	N	Mean	SD	t	df	Sig
Pre-test	Experimental Group	20	58.25	8.156	-.460	38	648
Pre-test	Control Group	20	59.50	9.018			
Pre-test	Experimental Group	20	77	8.013	3.095	38	.004
Pre-test	Control Group	20	67.75	10.696			

Note. $P < 0.05$

Table 2 displays the results of independent samples t test based on pre-test and post-test. When pre-test results were analyzed, it was seen that there was no significant difference since $p = 648$ was higher than 0.05. On the other hand, a significant difference was noticed when post- test results were analyzed. Post-test results show that $p = .004$ was less than 0.05, so we can conclude that null hypothesis which argues that there was no significant difference between each treatment was rejected. Alternative hypothesis which claims that there was a significant difference between each treatment was accepted. These results uncover that process approach yielded better results to increase students` success.

Paired Samples T Test Analysis in Each Group

Paired samples t test analysis in experimental group was illustrated in Table 3.

Table 3: Paired Samples T Test Analysis in Experimental Group

Paired Samples Test								
	Paired Differences							
				95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	Lower	Upper	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Experimental Group Pre- test Post-test	-18.750	11.456	2.562	-24.112	-13.388	-7.319	19	.000

Paired samples test was run to measure whether there was a significant difference in each group separately by comparing means of pre-test and post-test. Paired samples t test results in Table 3 show that p = .000 was less than 0.05, so there was a highly significant difference between each treatment in experimental group. Additionally, mean score, standard deviation, standard error mean, t value and df were observed as -18600, 11.321, 2.264, -8.215 and 24 respectively. These figures were also in line with observed significant difference between pre-test and post-test in terms of experimental group.

Paired samples t test analysis in control group was illustrated in Table 4.

Table 4: Paired Samples T Test Analysis in Control Group

Paired Samples Test								
	Paired Differences							
				95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	Lower	Upper	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Control Group Pre-test Post-test	-8.250	16.325	3.650	-15.890	-.610	-2.260	19	.036

The same procedure was conducted in control group as well. Paired samples t test

results in Table 4 show that p = .036 was higher than 0.05, so there was not a significant difference between each treatment in control group. Additionally, mean score, standard deviation, standard error mean, t value and df were observed as -8.250, 16.325, 3.650, -2.260 and 19 respectively. These figures were also in line with the slight increase between pre-test and post-test in terms of control group.

Discussion, Conclusion and Recommendations

Two prominent writing approaches were compared in this study through quantitative and qualitative data collection tools. Based on the gathered data, it was disclosed that the students who were in experimental group with process approach outperformed in all instruments including findings of independent samples t test, paired samples t test, the questionnaire and the interview. To illustrate it, a notable difference was noticed in independent samples t test with a .004 p value. Likewise, a significant difference was noticed with a .000 p value in paired samples t test. Additionally, the questionnaire analysis confirmed that process approach was appreciated by more students during the study and for the further studies. In contrast, there was a negative trend in terms of product approach considering students` genuine opinions. One more point to emphasize was that students need more activities to have engaging classes. Likewise, they need more proofs to see more correlations between writing and other skills.

Apart from exams, students appreciated the instructor`s efforts to provide valuable feedback which was in line with previous studies (Kara & Abdulrahman, 2022; Westmacott, 2017). In addition to SPSS analysis and the questionnaire, some notable points were uncovered through the interview which would be explored in detail below:

I used to have some prejudices against process approach prior to this study. However, I overcame them during this study. We wrote multiple drafts before writing the actual one. Also, our drafts were revised by our friends and instructor multiple times which was a very informative process for me. It was like completing a puzzle for me. Now, I am hopeful about writing 5 paragraph essays with my increased self-confidence thanks to this study. (Student Z)

We joined two workshops before the study, so we were familiar with both approaches. I was so confused which one to choose. Now, I see that being a student to take process approach instruction was the most sensible decision for me. I learned how to improve my writing step by step and write a well-organized essay ultimately. (Student L)

We joined the group with my best friend although we were in a different category. My friend took part in product approach, whereas I joined process approach group. At first, my friend told me that it was very easy to imitate the essay with a model one. Later, he understood that it slowed down his creativity to write his own novel ideas. On the other hand, I learned by trial and error in a welcoming atmosphere. Now, I can assure that process approach is the best one I have ever known in terms of writing. (Student E)

I represented control group with product approach instruction in this study. We only studied once and tried to rewrite a similar one without having much background information. I had difficulty combining different structures in an essay, so sometimes my mood was bad. On the other hand, my friends in experimental group did not write in a rush. Conversely, they learned all details in one stage until they get their self-confidence. Later, they were in stage 2, 3, and 4, so this atmosphere affected their psychology and motivation positively. (Student J)

I was familiar with all types of writing approaches as a part of my teaching career. I think process approach fits perfectly for language preparatory school students with its advantages. For example, some students stopped learning when they could not write in a product approach instruction. On the other hand, the students progressed slow by slow, but they realized their goals to write nearly perfectly at the end through process approach. Being in a rush does not ensure success. As a result, process approach instruction offers a lot to write with an increasing enthusiasm and success rate. (The instructor)

This study had some limitations as well. The first point was that females were less than male students. Only the students in language preparatory school were chosen as the population. The students who are studying in different units of the university could be integrated into the study. Furthermore, the groups were evaluated as a single unit. The effects of gender, socio-economic status, background information, allotted time for writing in a typical day could be examined to measure whether there was a correlation between these criteria and their overall score.

Some recommendations can be made related to this study to the stakeholders of education. Academic Writing instructors, administrators of language learning and teaching centers can consider integrating process-based approach into their curriculum. Additionally, instructors can guide students on how to uncover their potential through process-based approach. Process based approach allows learners to learn through their mobile phones or laptops for further study as suggested by Kara, (2020). Also, students and teachers can have some online meetings through Zoom, Microsoft Team, Google Meet, Go to Meeting, Cisco. Considering students` requests to break the monotony and devising novel ways to increase students` motivation, online feedback from the peers or teachers can increase students` success rates tremendously.

Finally, some recommendations can be made for researchers. This study was conducted on language preparatory school students within 17 weeks which can be regarded shorter to get more reliable results. The period could be extended to 24 or 32 weeks to monitor them more closely. Also, students who are studying in other stages of the university could be welcomed for further studies. Another point was about the chosen genre which was about writing essays. Other types of writing works such as reports, paragraphs, emails, complaint letters, summaries could be studied in further studies. Finally, students` progress can be evaluated for internationally accepted exams such as IELTS or TOEFL in

further studies.

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