

ROLE OF TEACHERS' PERCEPTION IN STUDENTS' CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

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ABSTRACT

Every individual has his/her own perception while making use of communicative language, so is true about English, which is now recognized as a global language. Students write using their own perceptions and their write-up is marked by their teachers, who use their own perception. What are teachers' perceptions about their students' creative writing was enquired through this piece of work.

Key words: creativity, creative writing, creative writing skills, perception

INTRODUCTION

English is used as an official language in most of the countries. It has become global language for communication. There is great demand for English language in India also. The younger generation in India are convinced that English language will give them more opportunities for economic and career advancement. English has changed from the language of the west to language of the modern era. It is taught or is the medium of instruction in all professional arts & science colleges and Universities. English today is India's most important language of knowledge – one that empowers students to be not just consumers of knowledge with techniques alone and by themselves make possible but, more importantly, participants in the production of knowledge, which is mostly influenced by our perception.

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Definitions of key words

Creativity:

It is imagination or original ideas to create something; inventiveness. Turning new ideas into reality is also creativity. It can be defined as, “ Mental characteristic that allows a person to think outside of the box, which results in innovative or different approaches to a particular task.-www.businessdictionary.com/definition/creativity.html

Creative writing:

According to Wikipedia -Creative writing is any writing that goes outside the bounds of normal professional, journalistic, academic, or technical forms of literature, typically identified by an emphasis on narrative craft, character development, and the use of literary tropes or with various traditions of poetry and poetics.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creative_writing

Writing that is produced using wit, unusual style or in a new or novel way is creative writing.

Creative writing skills:

Talent, persistence, patience, imagination, ability to face criticism, technical ability are some of the skills that support creative writing. Creative writing skills are simply things which you need to know, things which you need to learn to have in your personality.
<http://www.writertreasure.com/creative-writing-skills/>

The writing skills that can be developed with practice using various supportive techniques, are creative writing skills.

Perception

When we receive information through our sense organs from our environment, we try to perceive it by responding to it and try to interact with our environment. For example while perceiving words, we consider them as single unit that is made up of small parts called letters. Their organization gives us some meaningful message. That is, we perceive an entire word and its specific meaning that we are able to use or we are able to find the word in dictionary.

Perception can be defined as our recognition and interpretation of sensory information. Perception also includes how we respond to the information. We can think of perception as a process where we take in sensory information from our environment and use that information in order to interact with our environment. Perception allows us to take the sensory information in and make it into something meaningful.

As noticed in www.writework.com/essay/role-perception-decision-making-process-essay, According to Robbins, S. (2005) "Perception is a process by which individuals organize and interpret their sensory impressions in order to give meaning to their environment". The role of perception in the decision-making process goes beyond the five senses (1) sight, (2) hearing, (3) smell, (4) taste, and (5) touch. The representation of perception in decision-making is based on a person's internal understanding and personal analysis of environmental observations combined with past experiences. Consequently, perception varies from one individual to the next. In creative writing which is the process of inventing or rather presenting our thoughts in an appealing way. We think critically and reshapes something known into something that is different and original. Each piece of writing has a purpose and is targeted at an audience. It is organized cohesively with a clear beginning, middle and an end. Attention is paid to choice of apt vocabulary, figurative use of language and style. Perception in simple words is-*The ability to regard, understand and interpret something.*

RATIONALE

While attending the workshops organized by Headquarters of CBSE focusing on various objectives, it was realized that based on teachers' perceptions about students' creative writing and deciding which aspect /element of creativity is expressed through students' writing. Writings of students is influenced by their own perceptions; it is then marked according to the teachers' perception. This eventually affects students' academic performance. It was thought appropriate to study teachers' perception about their students' creative writing, hence this effort. As stated by [Christopher Essex](#) in -ppt--While writing certainly should be enjoyable, and children should have opportunities to choose their own subjects and methods of writing, the importance of creative writing in developing children's cognitive and communication skills cannot be underestimated (Tompkins, 1982).

Present piece of work is also a part of my Ph.D. thesis.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

There were some researches on perceptions, but the one below was found to be more close to researchers' topic, hence the details.

Ahmed Abdalla Saeed Adam¹ &Yousif Omer Babiker (2015):The Role of Literature in Enhancing Creative Writing from Teachers' Perspectives. www.ccsenet.org/journal/index.php/ells/article/viewFile/42255/24734 · PDF file

This study investigated the impact of teaching literature on developing creative writing from teachers' perspectives. This study investigates to establish a theoretical approach to undergraduate creative writing development through teaching English literature. The study sample consists of fifty English language university teachers. The results show that teaching English literature can enhance students' creative writing of short stories, dramatic scenes and develop creative imagination. Teaching literature can also improve better use of literary techniques, figures of speech and literary elements in creative writing.

HYPOTHESIS

Teachers of CBSE and State Board schools have different perceptions about their students' creative writing.

OBJECTIVES

1. To compare Qualitatively the initiatives taken by C.B.S.E. and State Board affiliated schools with respect to imparting creative writing skills to the students
2. To compare Quantitatively the initiatives taken by C.B.S.E. and State Board affiliated schools with respect to imparting creative writing skills to the students

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A. Research Design

Single group, post- test survey design was used for this study.

B. Population and sample

There are many CBSE and State Board schools in Nagpur district. Of these ten CBSE and State Board schools were randomly used for the data collection from these schools' teachers. From these schools fifty teachers teaching English to classes IV to VIII were selected.

C. Data collection

Data was collected from teachers about their views/perceptions with regards to their own students' creative writing skills.

D. Tools used

Data was collected using structured interview of these teachers. Their answers were recorded in hard copies

E. Statistical Techniques

Data collected was analysed and interpreted using simple statistical techniques.

FINDINGS

Perception of the teachers from CBSE and State Board Schools vis-à-vis creative writing skills related aspects

Adequacy of resources for improving creative writing skills of students

- On the basis of study results, it is evident that most of the CBSE and State Board Schools of the study area do not possess adequate resources needed for improving creative writing skills of the students.

Taking students beyond class room for teaching creative writing

- In view of the study results, it is evident that most of the CBSE and State Board Schools of the study area do not allow going outside for improving creative writing skills of the students.

Development of school library with adequate literature of subjects

- On the basis of study results, it is evident that most of the CBSE and State Board Schools of the study area do not have developed school library with adequate literature of subjects for improving creative writing skills of the students.

Promoting use of new words, ideas and perceptions in writing

- In view of the study results, it is evident that most of the CBSE and State Board Schools of the study area do not promote use of new words, ideas and perceptions for improving creative writing skills of the students.

Providing computer help for imparting creative writing skills in students

- On the basis of study results, it is evident that most of the CBSE and State Board Schools of the study area do not promote use of new words, ideas and perceptions for improving creative writing skills of the students.

Use of internet for improving the vocabulary of students

- In view of the study results, it is evident that most of the CBSE and State Board Schools of the study area do not permit use of internet for improving vocabulary of the students.

Organizing Interclass competitions for improving creative writing

- On the basis of study results, it is evident that most of the CBSE and State Board Schools of the study area do not organize interclass competitions of creative writing for improving creative writing skills of the students.

Giving assignments to students regarding creative writing

- In view of the study results, it is evident that most of the CBSE and State Board Schools of the study area give assignments regarding creative writing for improving creative writing skills of the students.

Use of multimedia for imparting creative writing skills

- On the basis of the study results, it is evident that most of the CBSE and State Board Schools of the study area do not use multimedia for imparting creative writing or for improving creative writing skills of the students.

Encouragement given to students to participate in classroom debate

- In view of the study results, it is evident that most of the CBSE and State Board Schools of the study area encourage the students to participate in classroom debate for improving creative writing skills of the students.

Instant correction of mistakes of students

- On the basis of the study results, it is evident that most of the CBSE and State Board Schools of the study area correct the mistakes of the students for improving creative writing skills of the students.

Training program attended vis-à-vis creative writing

- In view of the study results, it is evident that most of the teachers of CBSE and State Board Schools from the study area have not attended any training program regarding creative writing skills improvements.

Sufficiency of textbooks for improving creative writing skills of students

- On the basis of the study results, it is evident that most of the CBSE and State Board Schools of the study area do not feel that only textbooks are sufficient for improving creative writing skills of the students.

View about role of media in improving creative writing skills of students

- In view of the study results, it is obvious that most of the teachers from CBSE and State Board Schools of the study area feel that media like magazines, T.V. and movies help in improving creative writing skills of the students.

Suggestions and Recommendation

- The role of reading habits in improving creative writing skills of the school going children should be studied in future investigations.
- The usefulness of technology such as internet, kindle, etc. in improving creative writing skills of the school going children should be studied.
- The schools should conduct activities like identification of training needs of teachers for improving their performance vis-à-vis creative writing skills.
- The course curriculum in CBSE as well as State Board schools should give adequate importance to improvement of creative writing skills of the students.
- The attitude of teachers with respect to teaching assignments in view of creative writing skills needs to be evaluated using a reliable and valid technique.
- The influence of literature from foreign authors on the improvement of creative writing skills of school going children should also be studied.
- Role of parents in the child's development in view of creative writing skills should be investigated.
- Similar studies should be carried out at other places to check the reliability of conclusions
- Teachers as well as parents should be educated regarding importance of creative writing skills.
- Schools, Charitable Trusts, Education Department of State and Central Government should organize various competitions to determine the creative writing skills of children
- The schoolteachers should be made aware of the potential use of creative writing skills in professional development of the students.

- Studies pertaining to financial aspects regarding the investment of schools in improving creative writing skills of the students should be carried out.
- The CBSE as well as State Board schools should carefully develop and implement training programs for improving creative writing skills of students.

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