

Writing an Effective Academic Research Paper: Students' Perspectives and Challenges

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Abstract

Writing research papers can be a significant challenge for most English foreign language students at higher education. Being an effective academic writer needs more than writing for the sake of entertaining readers. Students have to take into account many features that are related directly to academic writing style. Features such as formality, objectivity, accuracy, complexity and precision are of great importance when writing an academic research paper. However, writing academically is one of the challenging tasks students face. Although they are aware of the existence of the aforementioned academic writing features, they are still confronted with some difficulties when writing a research paper. Such lack of familiarity with these features may hinder their writing productivity and efficacy. As a result, this paper aims at exploring students' perspectives and challenges towards writing effective academic research papers. It also attempts to foster students' awareness of using academic writing features to enhance their outcomes successfully at the university level. To obtain a better understanding of students' perspectives and challenges, a semistructured questionnaire will be administered to EFL Master students at the Department of English. University of Biskra. These participants are more familiar with research paper writing. Once the results are analyzed, discussed and interpreted, suggestions and recommendations will be presented for future research on issues that are relevant to this study and have not yet been thoroughly explored.

Key words: Academic Writing Style– Research paper – Features of Academic Writing – Students' Perspectives and Challenges.