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The Convergence of the Cognitive and the Linguistic Faculties of Reading, Thinking, and Writing in Producing Effective Academic Work

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Abstract

In academic research, producing a piece of writing is a long process basically based on a researcher's intellectual ability, critical thinking, and linguistic skillfulness developed from reading, thinking, and writing; however, these skills need to reach a level of convergence to produce an effective academic work. Theoretically speaking, reading can develop mature cognition that forms linguistic faculties that cover processing language, the analytical thinking skills, and building background knowledge as Wellman (1974) states, "Reading is sequentially and developmentally dependent on the fundamental foundation of logical thought process." All these cognitive faculties constitute better comprehension in decoding language that improves the level of thinking. Practically speaking, the experience of reading and the enhancement of thought are invested in writing that shows the connection between the two skills. Writing reflects the argumentative literacy (Gerald Graff 2003) which is characterizing and using valid arguments. Here, a researcher may realize the parallels between reading and writing; nevertheless, lack of high or consistent correlation may occur. This is traced in transferring knowledge from reading and applying it in writing. In one's thesis, writing about literary criticism imposes this convergence of the mentioned skills, since it has required composing a text out of collection of data, analysis, and criticism to discuss the studied thesis. The successful convergence of these skills requires the use of methodological strategies such as planning, drafting and revising (Louise Rosenblatt 1978). Valuing the process of connecting thinking, reading and writing, which influence each other, results in effective performance in producing academic work.

Key words: Cognition, Literature, Critical thinking, Linguistic faculties, Argumentative literacy, Methodological strategies.