

# AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE POSITIVE EFFECTS OF READING ENGLISH BOOKS ON WRITING SKILL OF ENGLISH MAJORED STUDENTS AT TAY DO UNIVERSITY

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## ABSTRACT

*This descriptive research presents the process of the study about “An investigation into the positive effects of reading English books on writing skill of English majored students at Tay Do University”. The participants of this study are students of English language classes at TDU. During the research, questionnaires and interviews are used as two instruments for data collection. The outcomes of the study point out the benefits and positive effects of reading English books on the writing learning of students majoring in English.*

**Keywords:** Reading, writing skill.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Rationale

Currently, English is the most used language in the world and is seen as an important tool to connect with people. Because of that, a lot of good learning materials of educational institutions and big universities are written in English. More than half of the web pages on the Internet are also written in English, such as newspapers, tools, and global online services. Just knowing this language will give you access to this endless source of information. This is one of the biggest benefits that shows how important it is to learn English. In Vietnam, English is included in the curriculum from elementary school, because it is really important for a developing country like Vietnam in the period of international integration.

There are four skills that any learner when learning a foreign language must learn: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Although listening and speaking are often emphasized more, we cannot deny the importance of writing. In fact, writing differs from speaking in the sense that writing can last a long time and can be read over and over again while the spoken form disappears unless it is recorded. Writing stimulates student to focus on appropriate language use, they can go through what they know in their mind or even consult the dictionary, grammar book and another reference (Harmer, 2004). These concepts are interdependent because ideas, feelings, emotions, and human interactions are expressed through these processes. Ling (2016) says that writing is a multiplex activity. When students learn writing English, it is possible for students as second language learners to find some problems in developing their ideas in writing or focusing their attention to write a paragraph which is the basic in writing

competence, also an essay. In addition, writing is not only important for developing students' academic performance, but it also contributes to their social and emotional development. Moreover, in this competitive world, writing is also one of the skills needed to stand out. Someone's inability to write well can affect their chances of finding a job in the future.

Oshima and Hogue (2007) explain that an academic writing needs a lot of study and practice in order to develop learners' writing skills. But Ibrahim (2006, p.2) pointed out that writing is a difficult skill for native and non-native speakers alike, for writers should make a balance between multiple issues such as content, organization, purpose, audience, vocabulary, punctuation, spelling and mechanics. Writing is inherently not an easy subject for many students majoring in English at Tay Do University. They often have difficulty in writing, especially for four reasons. First, lack of vocabulary is a big problem for them because they do not have enough vocabulary to express their ideas. Second, lack of grammar is a cause affecting students while a good writer needs to limit grammatical errors. In addition, lack of background knowledge is also a big obstacle when they do not have enough information related to what they want to mention so they cannot express their thoughts. Finally, students have difficulty on organizing ideas or idea arrangement because they do not know how to organize sentences in implementing texts.

To overcome the above difficulties, there are many methods to help students improve their writing skills. Among them, reading a lot of English books is one of the simplest and easiest ways to improve vocabulary, grammar structure, background knowledge and how to organize ideas. Reading is best defined as an interactive or socio-cognitive process that results in creating meaning from the printed text (Alderson, 1984). That points to reading and writing have a very close relationship with each other. Therefore, the researcher decides to carry out a study about: "An investigation into the positive effects of reading English books on writing skill of English majored students at Tay Do University".

### **1.2 Significance:**

This research aims to show English majors the benefits and positive effects of reading English books on writing skills. Through this research, they can realize that reading can help their writing level a lot and they can use this way to improve their writing skills.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Overview of writing**

#### **2.1.1 Definition of writing**

Communication is an important and necessary activity that takes place every day, it helps people interact and connect with each other. We often communicate by speaking and in addition, written language is also a way in which we can express our ideas, thoughts and feelings.

Writing is an ability that helps people put thoughts or meaningful message in written form. There are several different definitions of this word written by linguists. The definition comes from Harmer (2007:33), writing is an integral part of a larger activity where the focus is on something else such as language practice, acting out or speaking. On the other hand, writing is also a form of expressing language in the form of written media through the use of a set of punctuation marks or characters to express ideas. Some people consider that writing is difficult. Writing calls on the ability to create words and ideas out of yourself, but it also calls on the ability to criticize them in order to describe which ones to use.

Generally, writing is a way of expressing ideas to communicate with others. In writing, any ideas we put forward must be supported with specific reasons or details. Writing skill includes all the knowledge and abilities involved in expressing ideas through the written word. Through writing, we can express our thoughts or ideas on paper, make deals, persuade, negotiate and say what we feel. However, we do know that writing or learning to write especially a second language is more than simply "writing it down". This is one of the four basic skills that are very complex and difficult to learn. So, writing skill is one of the skills that need to be mastered in using a language because writing skill can be classified according to several approaches. Crème and Lea (1997) claim that different types of writing require different approaches.

Besides, based on the following statement of Brown (2003:335), written products are often the result of thinking, drafting and revising procedures that require specialized skills, skills that not every speaker develops naturally. We can conclude that the definition of writing as the process of inventing thoughts, ideas, and opinions and then finding ways express and arrange them into sentences or paragraphs with the intention of being used to communicate or convey something to others indirectly.

To summarize, it can be concluded that writing is a method of creating language from our own thoughts. By using script characters, we can share ideas, feelings or whatever exists in our mind.

#### **2.1.2 The importance of writing skill**

Even after hundreds of years, writing has always been an essential skill in our lives as it helps individuals to provide information, express thoughts, and warn others. In addition, writing is important because it helps to express one's personality, enhances communication, develop logical and persuasive thinking and reasoning skills.

Besides, writing helps give a person the opportunity to reflect on their ideas later on and re-evaluate them. There are things that are difficult for us to say, cannot draw, but it is easy to pick up a pen and write down our thoughts to explain. According to Walsh (2010), "Writing is important because it is used extensively in higher education and in the workplace. If students do not know how to express themselves in writing, they will not be able to communicate well with professors, employers, peers, or just about anyone else." Grabe & Kaplan (2014), writing is an important and effective skill for self-expression, communication, and information gathering.

In fact, writing is an important part of communication in everyday life. No matter who you are, studying or working in any field, there will be times when you have to use your writing skills. Irrespective of profession, everyone has to write letters to communicate with others, such as friendly emails, reports, job applications, announcements or messages. Besides, the ability to write also shows the level, thinking and understanding of each person. So, writing is a life skill and an essential job-related skill. Moreover, it equips you with communication and thinking skills. And writing not only expresses your thoughts but it also shows who you are and your education level.

In general, writing has an important role in our lives, especially for students, and there is no substitute for writing. As Klimova (2013) states that writing brings a lot of advantages to express one's personality, foster communication, develop thinking skills, make logical and persuasive arguments, make logical and persuasive arguments, give a person a chance to later reflect on his/her ideas and re-evaluate them, provide and receive feedback and prepare for school and employment.

## **2.2 Factors affecting writing skill**

Learning a second language as English is inherently not easy in all four basic skills. In which writing skill is also one of the important skills and causes many difficulties for English majored at Tay Do University. As Nunan (1989) argues that writing is an extremely difficult cognitive activity which requires the learner have control over various factors. In this research, the researcher would like to introduce four factors affecting writing skill that students face on.

### **2.2.1 Vocabulary**

Many researchers believe that vocabulary is one of the most important difficulties when learning a foreign language. In a way, the lack of vocabulary makes students become passive, timid and lack of confidence in the process of learning to write, even to learn to speak. So, for non-native English speakers, they face problems related to the meaning of new words, spelling, pronunciation, correct usage of words, guessing the meaning through grammar, etc. Therefore, learning vocabulary is really a difficult challenge. The reason may be that it is not like syntax and phonology, vocabulary also has no rules like grammar that students have to learn, self-improve and need patience and hard work.

Wilkins in Thorn bury (2002: 13) states that without grammar very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed. There by showing us that vocabulary plays an important role in learning any language, especially in writing. Without sufficient vocabulary, people cannot communicate and act out their ideas. It means that even if a person is good at grammar, it will be useless if they do not know a lot of vocabulary.

Vocabulary is also divided into many levels of words. According to Nation (2008:7) vocabulary can be divided into three or four levels largely on the basis of how often it occurs in the language and how widely it occurs. The first level is words with high frequency and frequently appearing in all contexts. The second level is academic words. The third level is the words in the profession or a certain field that you can do. The finally level is low frequency words that are rarely used. So the average level students often do not have enough knowledge or vocabulary to express their ideas which leads to their lack of confidence, anxiety and fear when writing something because they do not had enough vocabulary to explain what they were thinking.

In general, vocabulary is the most important component in learning to write in particular and any language in general. However, to write well, students need not only to use a lot of academic words but also to understand what they write and what other people will get. As a result, lack of vocabulary will make students unable to reason or express ideas when writing.

### **2.2.2 Grammar structure**

In addition to vocabulary, grammar is also an important factor affecting foreign language learning in general and writing in particular. Grammar plays an important role in writing by linking words together to provide information that helps the reader understand its meaning. It is also a structure that conveys the detailed meaning of the writer to the reader. According to Nunan (2003), grammar is generally thought to be a set of rules specifying the

correct ordering of words at the sentence level. It is a piece of very basic knowledge and an important tool for students to master English.

According to Harmer as cited in Cook (2001), learners who learn a language should learn some aspects of grammatical structure to obtain a competency in using a language that consists of verbs, adverbs, adjectives, and nouns and pronouns. Grammar is the most important factor in the success of writing and is also one of the most difficult parts of learning a foreign language. Just making a few basic grammar mistakes such as putting a period or comma in the wrong place or using tense incorrectly can make the reader misunderstand and the student's essay may fail immediately. In addition, without good grammar, students cannot understand the content of the text easily and messages, ideas or information will not be conveyed correctly and meaningfully. Without good or correct grammatical structure, it will lead to many misunderstandings.

Ammar Hussein (2017) reveals that the learners suffer from many types of difficulties such as grammatical, structural difficulties, as well as difficulties in using punctuation marks, definite and indefinite articles. According to Tynner (1987) "As verbs take different forms depending on tense and subjects they are used with, they create problems for second language writing students." So learners have a number of problems in their attempts to write in the second language. Also, there are many grammatical structures in English and this causes difficulty for learners to use them correctly. Furthermore, English structures are different from Vietnamese. Structure, which brings difficulty for students to use it proficiently. The mismatch between the two languages creates a big barrier for learners who make their first attempts to write in the target language.

In general, grammar is very important in writing. It makes each element of the text logically and logically connected or related. If students do not master grammar, they cannot communicate their ideas also. As Braganza (1998) says that by breaking the fundamental rules and grammar, the ideas become wrong, the sentences become erroneous and the author and the readers stand self-condemned.

### **2.2.3 Background knowledge**

A person's background knowledge, often called prior knowledge, is a collection of "abstracted residue" (Schallert, 2002, p. 557) that has been formed from all of life's experiences. Or we can say that background knowledge is the amount of information or knowledge that someone has about a particular subject area. It is gathered by the amount of experience someone has in life or the amount of knowledge they gain from studying, reading or listening.

Background knowledge is essential in life and is also a factor for a good article. In writing students need to have background knowledge in many aspects such as history, culture, society, customs, etc. If the background knowledge is poor, surely students cannot express good idea to make an essay that attracts readers. Because they lack of information on new topics. The reason may be that students rarely read documents, books, newspapers, etc. to enrich their knowledge on different topics in life. Therefore, they often make the reader feel bored because they do not convey the background knowledge in the areas of their articles.

According to Muhammad Fareed et al (2016), many students find it very challenging to get enough and significant sources of information. Lack of extensive reading will not help the students to write good sentences or paragraphs. This is because reading and writing are interrelated. If the students are not reading books or other reading materials, they are going to have a lack of ideas and vocabulary to write. Their brain neurons will be connected to each other to come out with good writing if they read more and connect the ideas with their prior knowledge. Foster (2015) explains that exposure to different reading materials can help the students to be aware with language awareness explained.

Thus, Applebee (1984) and Hillocks (1986) find that students tend to remember information that is in harmony with their prior knowledge and that they tend to default to prior knowledge when completing assignments. This might be one of the problems faced by first-year students when their instructors are asking them to replace existing knowledge with new knowledge that may run contrary to what they understand. It might be more effective for instructors to build upon the knowledge that students bring with them from high school rather than attempting to introduce new structures for the same concepts (O'Brien Moran, 2013).

Therefore, background knowledge is one of the important factors affecting writing skills because if students lack the necessary background knowledge to write, their writing cannot make connections and express themselves.

### **2.2.4 Idea arrangement**

Besides vocabulary, grammar and background knowledge, idea arrangement is also one of the factors affecting writing skills. In composition and speech, the organization is the arrangement ideas, incidents, evidence, or details in a perceptible order in a paragraph, essay, or speech.

That is also known as the elements' arrangement or disposition, as in classical rhetoric and one of the difficulties that students face when writing. As the raters in Freedman's (1979) study said that organization was the second most difficult construct to assess with the content construct being the most difficult. Most students often

make mistakes in the arrangement of their ideas in writing. They cannot distinguish between topic sentences and modifiers. So they cannot construct a coherent and logical paragraph. As Diana Hacker (2009) states that "Although paragraphs (and indeed whole essays) may be patterned in any number of ways, certain patterns of organization occur frequently, either alone or in combination: examples and illustrations, narration, description, process, comparison and contrast, analogy, cause and effect, classification and division, and definition. There is nothing particularly magical about these patterns (sometimes called methods of development). They simply reflect some of the ways in which we think." However, students do not know how to organize their essays logically and they usually make mistakes in organization. Often, raters complain "That the exact nature of the construct they assess remains uncertain." (Cummings et al. 2001:3).

Some students are influenced by their mother tongue, so they often translate sentences from Vietnamese into English in word by word and sentence by sentence fashion. Sometimes they write a lot but do not get high marks because in their writing there are many redundant, rambling and unnecessary sentences in the paragraph.

From that, it shows that the idea arrangement also plays a very important role in writing skills. However, there are many students who have difficulty in this when writing.

### **2.3 Definition of reading**

Reading is essential and serves as the foundation of learning, in any subject at school, whether it is English, literature, history, geography or even math. In everyday life, the need to read things like street signs or prescriptions is enough to prove that reading is an important life skill. Reading is also a highly complex skill that is prerequisite to success in many societies in which a great deal of information is communicated in written form.

There are many definitions of reading skills, but in general, reading is the act of looking at a series of written characters (letters, punctuation marks, symbols, etc.) and using the brain to convert them into words, sentences and paragraphs for understanding and convey something. This act can be silent (in our heads) or loud (so others can hear). According to Frank Smith (1982) "Reading as the process of interpretation and understanding of the contents. It means the reader will try to find the answers while they read the writings of the author not only read it out but also know the meaning of every word." Besides, Nuttal (1982:12) mentions "Reading as the meaningful interpretation of printed or written verbal symbols." In other words, reading is a means of acquiring language, communicating, and sharing information and ideas. It is a complex interaction between the text and the reader, shaped by the knowledge, experience, attitudes of the reader, and the language community.

From which we can assert that reading is also a good skill that both helps us absorb information and transmit information. The more you read, the more you understand, that's one thing that no one can deny. Especially from reading books. You will gain a lot of information and perspectives, which will help you open your mind and learn more about different topics.

### **2.4 The positive effects of reading English books on writing skill**

Books are the priceless friend of man. Reading books can help us understand more about new knowledge on our learning and development journey. Each book has a certain value when there are books that are the summary of humanity. When you read books, you will enrich yourself with more knowledge, know more new things, for example when you read literature books so that you will know how to empathize, share, pity and feel sorry for the fate of the world. the fate of the characters, knowing how to be indignant at the injustices and contradictions of the old society, etc. Reading books as well as traveling to discover new knowledge so that we know how to love and appreciate the small values in life.

Firstly, reading English books also has positive effects on English writing skills. Harl (2013) asserted that reading is acquiring meaning from a text while writing is process when meaning is produced. However, Moran and Billen (2014) stated on their research that both reading and writing are connecting because they have the same necessity goal. Besides, Mahyar (2012) has conducted study which reveals the influence of reading habit and the students' writing skill. This previous study revealed that the student with good reading habit shows good as well in their writing production. Thus, often reading English books is also a useful habit for English majored student at Tay Do University to improve their writing skills.

In addition, what we most easily realize is that through reading books, our vocabulary will be expanded much. And reading is the best way you can increase your vocabulary (and of course it has many other benefits too). Not necessarily for the sake of learning vocabulary, you may come across tons of new words that you can grasp the meaning of based on the context of the word. Besides, reading not only makes you know the words, but you can also feel them. Actually, most people who work as writers and journalists are usually avid readers. Therefore, when you read books regularly, you will hone new vocabulary as well as improve your ability to write more fluently without sometimes even realizing it yourself. The more we read, the more our vocabulary expands and becomes richer. Moreover, good titles are always carefully edited, so the structure and grammar are often used professionally, readers can learn a lot about writing as well as reasoning.

Secondly, besides the benefits of improving vocabulary, reading English books also helps us learn and strengthen English grammar. As we all know grammar is very important in writing and learning foreign languages because it contributes to the quality of your writing. Through reading many books, we will learn native speakers' writing style and help us reinforce your grammar, sentence structure, starting from sentences with simple grammar, then more complicated sentences (compound sentences, complex sentences, etc.). Through reading books, learning and memorizing grammar also becomes easier and more effective.

Thirdly, the most basic benefit of books is to help us to acquire knowledge. Through the ages, humans have undergone a long process of evolution and development, all of which are recorded in books. Books are considered as the cradle of knowledge, covering all areas of life. So reading is an effective way for us to open our minds and learn new things. Thanks to that, background knowledge will be built up gradually and more by reading books from which writing skills, interacting with people will also be improved, readers will be more open and attractive, this is also one of great benefits of reading book. The knowledge in the book is presented very succinctly, the logic is easy to understand and equally attractive to the readers. So, the more you read, the more knowledge you will gain and learn to express, tell logical stories, engage your audience with your thinking ability and impressive vocabulary. At the same time, writing skills are also significantly improved. According to (Krashen, 2004) "Reading is an excellent method to understand the message of a text or passage with regard to the development of comprehension, writing style, vocabulary, spelling and grammar."

Finally, when students read English books, we also learn how to think in English. The fact that words are repeated, the images we imagine will gradually ingrained in our brains and in the long run will increase the brain's reflexes, leading to when in a certain context, we will have the most natural thoughts in English without having to translate from Vietnamese to English. By reading books, students can also learn how to organize ideas in writing in a logical and logical way and that is one of the very important things to have a good essay. In fact, we can see that, through reading books, readers can activate to get more knowledge and tend to develop their critical thinking so that when writing can also be more logical. Because reading will affect their way of thinking and increase their high order of thinking. And the ability to write can be achieved through reading habits.

Based on the above information, we can see that reading books has significant effects on writing. And as Castellani (2001) says "The relationship between reading and writing has long been recognized, and it is agreed that reading and writing cannot be separated ". And we can affirm the positive effects that reading brings, so this is a good habit that each of us should make to lead a meaningful life.

## **2.5 Related studies**

There are related studies which have been done by the other researcher about the effects of reading on writing skill.

The interesting case study was conducted to investigate "Reading Habits and Its Effect on Academic Writing Skill: A Study of Master Degree Students" in 2018 of Journal Of English Language and Education (JELE). This study shows that through reading, they can get new information from the text. It can then be aggregated, evaluated, and implied as prior knowledge or supporting information in their writing. The aim of this study was to examine the reading habits of master's degree students and the effect of reading on their academic writing skills. Twenty masters from Sebelas Maret University, Indonesia were selected to participate in the study. The data collected through an electronic survey was analyzed qualitatively. Findings indicate that reading habits are critical to students' academic writing skills. Furthermore, the conclusion discussed the implications of the findings regarding teaching of advanced learners.

In 2017, Özgür Şen Bartan is an Assistant Professor of English at Kırıkkale University, has done a research "The Effects of Reading Short Stories in Improving Foreign Language Writing Skills". This is a 13-week study conducted in an elementary school. The purpose of this study was to investigate whether there were significant differences both in the pre-test writing performance of students taught through the Reading-Writing model and between the group not taught through the model. The results of the study indicate that the Reading to Writing model has a positive impact on students' short story writing skills in terms of language, content, organization, and communication achievement.

In 2019, Atayeva Merjen conducted research entitled "The impact of reading on students' writing ability". This study aimed to investigate how students' reading skills affect their academic writing. Fifty-two master's student in English Education at Ahmad Dahlan University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia participated in this correlational study. The results show that reading habits have a profound effect on students' academic writing skills. Reading and writing are essential to the success of their studies. Reading habits can enhance their knowledge and comprehension in their subject area, and movement also has a great impact on their writing ability.

Another study on "The Effect of Reading on Improving the Writing of EFL Students" was done by A.H.S. Hadis Habibi in 2015. This study was conducted to find out the impact of combining reading with efforts to improve

students' writing skills at EFL. This study, which selected 5 Iranian students, studied at an international school in Malaysia. Two research tools were used: a genre-specific corpus as the primary tool for assessing the writing proficiency of the participants, and two interviews as an additional tool to see EFL participants' views on the impact of reading on the development of writing skills. The results indicated that the participants' writing skills were significantly improved by integrating reading in the writing exercises. The findings of this study have helped students as well as teachers of English recognize the important role that reading plays for good writing in improving writing performance and motivating students to read simultaneously because in the past, reading and writing were taught separately and independently by some English teachers, so students, especially EFL learners, did not use their knowledge in both areas to improve their learning.

These previous study revealed that the students with good reading habit shows good as well in their writing production. Through reading books, readers can activate to get more knowledge and tend to develop their critical thinking so that when writing can also be more logical. Because reading will affect their way of thinking and increase their high order of thinking. And the ability to write can be achieved through reading habits.

### 3. SEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Research aims

This research was conducted to investigate the positive effects of reading English books on writing skill of English majored students at Tay Do University.

#### 3.2 Research questions

The research was required to answer the following question:

How does reading books help English majored students improve their writing skill?

#### 3.3 Research design

The research was conducted to find out the positive effects of reading English books on improving students' writing skills. The interview was used to collect data. The participants were 10 English majors from Tay Do University who were delivered paper interviews. This research was the combination of quantitative and qualitative research to show the positive effects of reading English books on writing skills.

#### 3.4 Research participants

The participants of this research were 10 English majored students at Tay Do University. They come from different areas, both rural and urban. The students' age is from 19 to 22. They speak Vietnamese as their mother tongue, and English is considered as their foreign language. They have been learning English at least for 10 years. They were given interviews to get information about the difficulties they face in the writing process and the positive effects of reading on writing ability.

#### 3.5 Research instruments

The instrument of this research was paper interview. It was used to collect the participants' ideas. With the aim of the research, the interview focused on finding out the factors affecting writing skill and the positive effects of reading on English writing.

#### Interview

The paper interview was designed to get specific information from English language majored students about four common factors influencing writing and the positive effects of reading English book on writing skills. It consists of 5 questions that focus on the main point. It is assessing whether writing is a difficult subject or not, what problems they face in writing, what they would do in that situation, and to see if reading has any benefit to their writing ability. In summary, the purpose of this tool is to find out the positive influence of reading on the improvement of writing skills of students majoring in English of Tay Do University.

#### 3.6 Procedure

In this part, the process of implementing the research is presented. The research was done within 12 weeks and the process was divided into 4 steps in the following table.

Duration (12 weeks)	Activities in the study process
Step 1: From the 1 <sup>st</sup> week to 3 <sup>rd</sup> week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Correcting the research topic</li> <li>- Submitting the framework of the research</li> <li>- Writing chapter 1, 2 and 3.</li> </ul>

<b>Step 2: From the 4<sup>th</sup> week to 6<sup>th</sup> week</b>	- Designing the questionnaire and interview
<b>Step 3: From the 7<sup>th</sup> week to 9<sup>th</sup> week</b>	- Delivering the questionnaire and interview to students to collect the data.
<b>Step 4: From the 10<sup>th</sup> week to 12<sup>th</sup> week</b>	- Analyzing the data collected from questionnaire and interview - Writing chapter 4 and 5 - Completing the paper

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

Writing is one of the essential skills when learning a second language like English. However, it is a skill that many students majoring in English often face with a lot of difficulty, it comes from the lack of vocabulary, grammar knowledge, background knowledge and idea arrangement. And reading is a useful method to overcome those problems.

##### 4.1 Vocabulary

Vocabulary is the most important factor to create an article because without vocabulary students will not be able to express any ideas. And reading is the best way for students to improve their vocabulary to have a good article. Thank for reading, students can study new words and also review old words.

##### 4.2 Grammatical knowledge

Many students have difficulty writing because of poor grammar. It takes them a long time to properly use the right tenses when there is a set of structural rules in the grammar. But through reading English books, students can recognize some grammatical structures such as tenses, sentences or clauses, so on.

##### 4.3 Background knowledge

Students also face many challenges to obtain complete and important information, and they can only do short essays because of their lack of knowledge about life. Reading English books helps students expand their understanding of general knowledge also contributes to a successful writing. Through reading books, they can acquire and improve their knowledge in many fields such as society, culture, health... from which they can write better.

##### 4.4 Idea arrangement

There are a lot of aspects that students usually face difficulties in idea arrangement such as logical arrangement of the paragraph or various patterns of organization. They are too hard to understand, dispose and handle so students always feel confused when using them. Besides, students cannot organize their essays logically and support their ideas with clear and connected statements to identify the topic. To overcome this difficulty, students can also learn to organize their ideas logically in academic writings from English books. Moreover, they can learn how to write foreigners to build their thinking into coherent and coherent paragraphs.

Conducting this study, the researchers hopes that English majors at Tay Do University can realize the positive effects of reading English books on their writing ability.

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