

## **IMPROVING THE ASSESSMENT OF WRITTEN LANGUAGE SKILLS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL LEARNERS USING TRADITIONAL AND MODERN APPROACHES**

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This paper explores assessment methodologies applicable to evaluating the written communication of 5th–7th grade students within the framework of Uzbekistan's ongoing educational reforms. Emphasizing both psychological and linguistic development, the study highlights effective assessment strategies, including rubric-based evaluations, self and peer-assessment, and digital tools. It demonstrates how traditional and modern approaches can be harmonized to support students' academic writing growth while fostering creativity and critical thinking. The research provides actionable recommendations for educators aiming to improve formative and summative assessments aligned with global educational trends.

**Annotation:** This research examines the methods of assessing the written skills of 5th to 7th-grade students by analyzing traditional, modern, and digital assessment strategies. It focuses on the importance of coherence, grammar, structure, and vocabulary in students' writing. The study incorporates both theoretical and practical insights, including the role of motivation, memory, and feedback in writing development. The author advocates for rubric-based assessment combined with peer and self-evaluation, concluding that effective written skill evaluation can significantly improve educational outcomes in primary schools.

**Keywords:** writing assessment, rubrics, peer assessment, primary education, student writing development, digital tools, coherence, linguistic skills

**Аннотация:** Данное исследование посвящено методам оценки письменных навыков учащихся 5–7 классов. В работе рассматриваются как традиционные, так и современные подходы, включая цифровые инструменты и самооценку. Особое внимание уделяется связности текста, грамматике, структуре и лексике. В теоретической части раскрываются психологические аспекты письма, такие как внимание, мотивация и память. В практической части предлагаются рекомендации по использованию рубрик и обратной связи. Автор

приходит к выводу, что комбинированная оценка способствует более глубокому развитию письменной речи учащихся.

**Ключевые слова:** оценка письма, рубрики, самооценка, начальное образование, развитие письма, цифровые технологии, связность, языковые навыки.

**Annotatsiya:** Mazkur tadqiqot 5–7-sinf o‘quvchilarining yozma nutq ko‘nikmalarini baholash uslublarini tahlil qiladi. Ishda an’anaviy va zamonaviy yondashuvlar, shu jumladan raqamli vositalar, o‘zaro va o‘z-o‘zini baholash metodlari ko‘rib chiqilgan. Yozuvdagi bog‘liqlik, grammatik to‘g‘rilik, tuzilma va lug‘at boyligiga alohida e‘tibor qaratilgan. Tadqiqotda motivatsiya, xotira va fikr jarayonining yozishga ta’siri ochib berilgan. Muallif yozma nutqni samarali baholashda rubrikalarga asoslangan yondashuvni qo‘llashni tavsiya etadi va bu orqali o‘quvchilarning yozuv ko‘nikmalari yanada rivojlanishini ta’kidlaydi.

**Kalit so‘zlar:** yozuvni baholash, rubrika, o‘z-o‘zini baholash, boshlang‘ich ta’lim, yozuv rivoji, raqamli texnologiyalar, bog‘liqlik, til ko‘nikmalari

With the global shift in education towards competency-based learning, the assessment of language skills, especially writing, has garnered significant attention. In Uzbekistan, recent educational reforms have emphasized not only the acquisition of grammatical knowledge but also the development of communication, creativity, and critical thinking. The ability to write coherently and purposefully is central to language learning. This article explores effective strategies for assessing the written skills of students in grades 5 to 7, focusing on both theoretical frameworks and classroom applications.

### **Understanding Writing Skills in Grades 5–7**

Students in the 5th to 7th grades are at a crucial stage of cognitive and linguistic development. They transition from basic sentence construction to developing short essays, narratives, and opinion-based texts. At this stage, assessing their writing requires consideration of grammar, coherence, vocabulary usage, punctuation, and overall structure.

Moreover, psychological elements such as motivation, memory, and attention play a vital role in their writing performance. As such, any assessment method must not only evaluate the final product but also support students’ development throughout the writing process.

### **Traditional and Modern Approaches to Assessment**

Traditional methods of evaluating writing include teacher-centered grading focused on grammatical accuracy and structure. While these methods provide a foundation, they often overlook creativity, effort, and individual progress.

Modern approaches recommend the use of rubrics that detail criteria such as organization, language use, content relevance, and mechanics. Rubrics make assessment transparent and can be used in self and peer evaluations. Moreover, digital platforms such as Google Docs and educational apps allow teachers to provide real-time feedback, track revisions, and promote collaborative writing.

### **Incorporating Formative Assessment**

Formative assessment is crucial for young learners. It includes continuous monitoring of students' writing progress through journal entries, paragraph writing, and creative storytelling. Teachers can offer constructive feedback that guides learners rather than penalizing them for mistakes.

Another useful tool is the "writing portfolio," which allows students to collect and reflect on their writing samples over time. This method fosters self-assessment skills and increases learners' awareness of their own development.

### **Challenges in Writing Assessment**

Despite the benefits of modern methods, teachers face several challenges, including large class sizes, time constraints, and limited resources for digital tools. In addition, standardized exams often emphasize grammar and spelling over content and structure, which may skew teachers' assessment priorities.

It is also important to consider students' individual differences in learning pace, language background, and cognitive style. Therefore, assessments must be flexible, inclusive, and designed to motivate learners rather than discourage them.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

Effective assessment of written skills in grades 5–7 requires a balanced combination of traditional and innovative approaches. Teachers should employ rubrics, integrate self and peer assessments, and use portfolios to track long-term progress. Additionally, assessments should support the development of critical thinking, creativity, and confidence in writing.

Professional development programs for teachers on writing assessment and the integration of digital tools are also essential. Through such improvements, we can ensure that the evaluation of writing skills becomes a meaningful part of language education and a tool for empowering young learners.

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