A Cognitive Analysis of the Relationships between Chinese EFL Writers' Strategy Use and Writing Achievement Performance

Shih-Chieh Chien

University of Cambridge

The purpose of this study was to explore writing strategy use in Chinese EFL student writers in relation to their achievement in L2 (English) writing. This research takes a cognitive approach to the process of writing in a second language as a skilled performance in production. A total of 40 Chinese EFL student writers in Taiwan partook in this study. The

progress as writers, people must actively set, and then regulate and monitor their own progress towards those cognitive goals associated with writing; this process is re

find you cannot write naturally, let me know straight away. If not, keep writing until I inform you the time to stop. (originally in Chinese)

After this explanation to the students, they were invited to raise concerns and questions about the procedure. Then they had around one hour to practice think-aloud on a mock topic on the computer. In the practice writing session, I was able t

study, I found the categories could not accommodate all the

With respect to the analysis of audio-taped student interviews, all the data were thematically analyzed based on planning, drafting and reviewing, and were translated into English by me.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Concurrent Think-aloud Protocol Data

The think-aloud protocol data uncovered how the students monitor and focus their attention of strategy in different a

Table 2 Paire In the present study, all the students reported that the essay they had wriha

students, there was much less back and forth movement in the texts. Their developing texts did not appear to create opportunities. They did not give sufficient examples to strengthen the argument in their essays. For example, Linda said "I thought each point could be elaborated in more depth and width. I did not clearly indicate some things. I felt I did not achi

lingered

REFERENCES

- Alamargot, D. and Chanquoy, L. (2001). Through the models of writing. Boston, Dordrencht, New York, Kluwer Academic Publishers.
- Armengol-Castells, L. (2001). Text-generating Strategies of Three Multilingual Writers: A Protocol-based Study. anguage wareness , 2, 91-106.
- Arndt, V. (1987). Six writers in search of a text: A protocol based study of L1 and L2 writing. Tournal , 4, 257-267.
- Bereiter, C. and Scarmadalia, M. (1987). The sychology of Written omposition New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- Braaksma, M.A.H., Rijlaarsdam, G., Van den Bergh, H., and Van Hout Wolters, B.H.A.M. (2004). Observational learning and its effects on the orchestration of writing processes. ognition and nstruction , 1, 1-36.
- Chanquoy, Lucile and Alamargot, Denis (2002). Working memory and writing: Model evolution and research assessment. nnee sychologique , 363-398.
- Cumming, A. (1989). Writing expertise and second language proficiency. anguage earning , 81-141.
- Emig, J. (1971). The omposing rocesses of Twelfth raders. Urbana, Ill.: NCTE.
- Ericsson, K. A. (1998). Protocol Analysis. In W. Bechtel & G. Graham (Eds.), companion to cognitive science (pp. 425-432). Oxford, UK: Blackwell.
- Ericsson, K. A. and Simon, H. A. (1993). rotocol nalysis, (revised edition), MIT, Cambridge.
- Eysenack, M. and Keane, M. (2005). ognitive sychology (5th edition), Hove: Psychology Press.
- Field, J. (2004). sycholinguistics the ey oncepts. London: Routledge.
- Flavell, J. (1979). Metacognition and cognitive monitoring: a new area of cognitive-developmental inquiry. merican sychologist , 109-118.
- Flower, L. S. and Hayes, J. R. (1981). A cognitive process theory of writing. ollege omposition and ommunication (4), 365-387.

e

Graham, S., and Harris, K. R. (2000). The role of self-regulation and transcription skills

r c

ti

- Kongpun, S. (1992) omposing rocesses of Thai igh School Students rotocol nalysis. Dissertation Abstracts International 54/11: 4018A.
- Liu, C. K. (1999). Identifying the writing processes a college student has to undergo: The generating model. roceedings of the Sixteenth onference on nglish Teaching and earning in the Republic of hina. 40-53.
- Manchon, R. M., Mu2005, L. & Roca de Larios, J. (2005). Using concurrent protocols

Zamel, V. (1983). The composing processes of advanced ESL students: Six case studies. T S Quarterly , 165-187.

APPENDIX

The Think-aloud Protocol Coding Scheme

Reading

1. RP Reading the Prompt

Reading the prompt refers to the act of reading or rereading the writing prompt.

Planning

2. FP Formulating the Position

Formulating the position refers to the mental activity of expressing the intention to take the position in whether to agree/disagree.

Example: "I must agree that people nowadays can learn more information and learn it more quickly with the help of technology." (Jane)

3. IW Interpreting

review process. Evaluative comments and revising behaviors usually follow the process of reading one's own text.

12. EV Evaluating the written text
Evaluating the writte