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Mapping IIUM Students' English Language Writing Proficiency to CEFR

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Abstract

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Abstract

The goal of this research was to determine the English language writing skills of the International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM) graduating undergraduates based on two linguistic levels; the IIUM English Proficiency Test (EPT) and the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), based on two descriptors: IIUM 's EPT descriptor, and CEFR 's 'General linguistic range' descriptor (Council of Europe, 2001, p 110). The EPT results show that the majority (48 %) of the English language writing skills of IIUM undergraduates were in Band 6, while Band 5.5, Band 5 and

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Band 4, respectively, ranked 31.3%, 4.9% and 0.4%. On the other hand, Band 8, Band 7 and Band 6.5 were attained by 0.2%, 2.4% and 12.2% of undergraduates. A significant proportion of IIUM undergraduates (46.3 %) were found to be at Level B2 + when assessed against the CEFR scale for the 'General linguistic range.' At the same time, 2.2%, 12.4%, 33.9 and 5.2% of students were at Level C2, C1, B2, B1 +, respectively. The results also showed that a mere 0.2% was at Level B1. This research also showed that despite some inaccuracies and improper uses, IIUM students could write effectively and understand and use reasonably complicated language , particularly in familiar situations. Based on the CEFR scale for 'General linguistic range', the results of this study show that IIUM graduating undergraduates could clearly articulate themselves in their writing . © Universiti Putra Malaysia Press.

Author keywords

CEFR ; English placement test; Second language ; Writing proficiency

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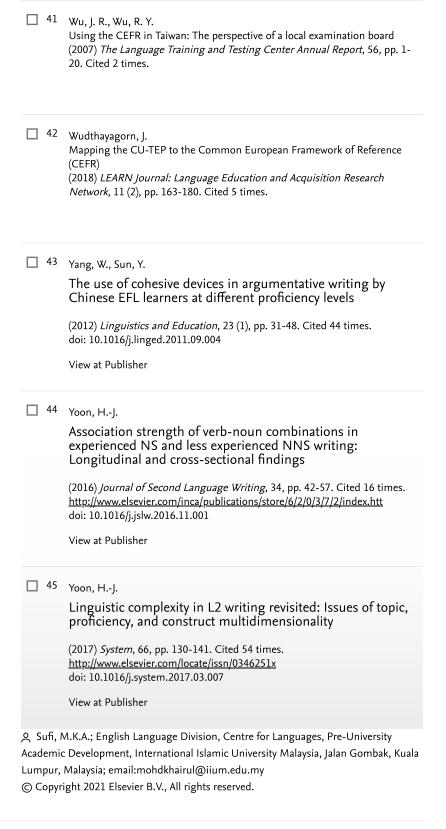doi: 10.17576/gema-2014-1401-02

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