EXTENDED ABSTRACT
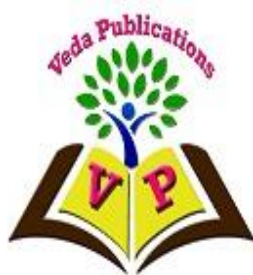
INVESTIGATING DIFFICULTIES FACED BY IRAQI POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITY OF BABYLON IN WRITING ACADEMIC ASSIGNMENTS

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ABSTRACT

Academic discourse has its own style of writing that requires certain skills or even some experiences. It is a requirement for every student to learn academic writing in the university as all the written projects there will be assessed to measure their progress in learning and understanding. Academic writing should be formal, organized, accurate, referenced, and clear, in a way that can be read and understood readily by readers. Postgraduate students faced many difficulties largely because of numerous writing assignments they have to do in a short period of time. Due to this, students tend to rely on the online academic services whereby they become dependent on it. Some of the problem faced by students in writing is losing the ability to organize or build block structure, choosing appropriate words, presenting clear idea without confusion and ambiguity, using appropriate formal style. Therefore, this study aims to explore the academic writing difficulties faced by Iraqi postgraduate students at the University of Babylon. It also tries to provide possible solutions that may help postgraduate students in the area of academic writing. Adding to that, this paper tries to answer the question `which aspect of their writing practice do the students find most challenging`. A questionnaire will be used to collect data; two questions will be given (open and closed questions). Samples will be taken from the University of Babylon and they are master and Ph.D. students.

Keywords: *Academic Writing, Iraqi Postgraduate Students, University of Babylon.*