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Writing Club Established at the Faculty of Languages and Translation

Writing Club Chairman, Maani Majed Maani, encourages students to become actively involved in the extra-curricular activities offered by the Faculty of Languages and Translation. He said: "The success of Vision 2030 is totally dependent on our participation". Furthermore, he indicated, "We know that students are extremely busy preparing for their final exams at the moment, but we encourage them to use the vacation to write articles for submission during the course of next semester." For queries and suggestions, please feel free to contact.



would meet regularly, in and outside of the LEP, to plan and produce various articles. Students on other campuses would be encouraged to establish similar groups to participate in the activities of the Writing

Club. Teachers are highly encouraged to identify particularly talented individuals and forward their contact details to the club.

The management of the faculty's in-house, Mountain Top Academic Periodical has agreed to publish articles which the editorial team deemed

suitable. In order to facilitate and encourage students' endeavors to write with the aim to be published, they agreed to accept both fictional and non-fictional work. Prior to submission to the Mountain Top Academic Periodical, completed articles would be submitted to the Writing Club's email address: kkuftwriting@gmail.com, for previewing and assessment. Members noted that publishing writers' submissions were merely the beginning of a much more ambitious framework of envisaged activities. Writing competitions, writing for external publications, debates (under the auspices of the English Club), and audio-visual productions based on written material are but some of the broader, longer-term goals.

The Writing Club:

kkuftwriting@gmail.com

On the 27th October 2019, a small group of English undergraduates met in the Language Enhancement Program (LEP) to establish the "Writing Club". The core aim of the Writing Club, motivated and inspired by a group of students, was to develop a channel through which their skills, talents and creativity could be shared with a broader audience. Facilitating the growth and mastery of participants' English writing skills is another crucial component of the club's agenda. It was agreed that members

LEP Director, Dr. Charles Forman, Language Research Center Director, Mountain Top Academic Periodical Senior Editor, Dr. Ismail Alrefaai, lauded the initiative of the students. Dr. Forman reminded participants that history has shown that students who had participated in similar activities in the past, had achieved remarkable success in their job hunting quests, and in their subsequent careers. Dr. Alrefaai encouraged students to try their best to demonstrate their writing skills. He promised that deserving students would be given the full support of his team.

The students indicated that they wished to express their sincere gratitude to Dean, Dr. Abdullah Al-Melhi and senior management, for their encouragement and willingness to facilitate the establishment of the Writing Club.

They furthermore, excitedly, wish to mention that, even at this early stage of its existence, students are already close to finishing a number of, much anticipated,

articles. "We are aware that not all articles will be published, or win prizes, but the mere effort of students' to put their thoughts into print is a victory in itself," Chairman Maani noted.



Director of the Language Enhancement Program, Dr. Charles Forman with members of the Writing Club Committee: from left; Moath Asiri, Osama Asiri, Faisal Asiri and Omeer Al-Shahrani, with coordinator Azaad Hayat.

Author:

Maani Majed Maani, Faculty of Languages and Translation, Department of English, Level 6 Student

My Journey as a Self-Taught English Student

When I was younger, English was the most dreaded subject among my classmates. It made them anxious, and they did not understand how valuable it can be. They considered it to be silly, useless, too hard and just plain boring. Mine, however, was a different story. This is an attempt to summarize my journey as a self-taught English student.

I studied in a private elementary school for four years, which gave me a good push in the right direction and built a good foundation for me. But it was quite simple and I reached a dead-end at some point and stopped progressing at school. I then searched for other resources to continue my attempt at mastering the English language. Literature was one of the first sources of learning that attracted me. I was obsessed with reading. I read everything; novels, poetry, and even non-fiction. I was incredibly fascinated with the power of words. I always wondered how a word could succeed in sparking such vivid imagery in my mind and have such a powerful emotional impact on me. By middle school, I had already read many translated works by Charles Dickens, Ernest Hemingway, Jane Austen and many other classic authors. From this point on, I had



one central goal, to further accelerate the improvement of my English as much as possible. I yearned to be able to read equally well in both Arabic and English. I needed to have a broader library to read from. I faced many challenges. At first, reading was challenging because I didn't have an extensive vocabulary, and the books I chose were way too advanced for me. Determinedly, I switched my primary source

of learning. I used the internet to find a more accessible and better way. The internet wasn't a big part of my life at that point, but I quickly learned how beneficial it could be. I started listening to podcasts, watching videos and documentaries, and reading articles, which not only helped me improve my English but also

helped me gain more knowledge of the world. I grew and became more knowledgeable in many different subjects. I greedily consumed materials relating to philosophy, history, culture, art, and many other spheres of information. I grew and changed so much. I developed so many skills and became acutely aware of myself and others. Language helped me gain a sense of belonging in the world. It gave me a purpose.

I didn't have much support with self-study. I only had my bookshelf and the internet, but there was a bigger goal that kept me going. Something that helped me to be more determined and focused. I had a deep, enigmatic and growing passion. I loved what I was doing and wanted to do more. I wanted to reach out to people and show them my work. But I could not find a proper way to express myself adequately. As I tried to communicate with a broader audience, I prayed to find a suitable platform. And then, it happened, I found art. I painted every day throughout my high school years. Most of my paintings reflected my studies and research. It was informed by the knowledge I acquired. Years later, I was finally able to exhibit my work at a local art exhibition. This was an enormous milestone for me. I genuinely believe that most of my success was influenced by my passion for language.

Incorporating English into my typical daily life was probably the thing that impacted my language learning experience the most. I developed many habits to improve my writing. I have a journal that I write in every day. I write about my readings and discuss my opinions. I keep a separate section where I write down any new words that I learn, and I look up their meanings later. I sometimes take passages from Arabic books and translate

them to English to practice my translation skills, improve my grammar, spelling and vocabulary.

Now that I am in college, I feel compelled to understand the language on a deeper level and discuss the actual sociolinguistic aspects of it. Today, language controls everything around us from media and culture to technology and the economy. Language is the key to understand the rules of the world, and it helps us to be more aware. In this rapidly changing world, which is primarily determined by communication, it is essential to maximize our mastery of languages.

As English students, we act as an important bridge between our country and the rest of the world. However, it is essential to

emphasize that we need to be connected to our own culture and adopt it as our primary source of knowledge. We need to have great respect and appreciation for our native, Arabic language. No matter how much we progress in acquiring new foreign language skills, we must ensure never to replace our mother tongue. We must never forget that once upon a time, we were all children who only spoke in Arabic



Author:

Faisal "Park" Asiri, Faculty of Languages and Translation, Department of English, Level 2 Student

International Students Elated to Be at King Khalid University

The Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) always encouraged Muslims to acquire knowledge.

In my pursuit of knowledge, I continue to be inspired by his famous statement: "Seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave." When I decided to write about this topic, I felt happy, and at the same time, it was an excellent opportunity for me to improve my writing skills through practical experience.



Having an international student body is the aspiration of most universities around the world. King Khalid University is a higher education institution that possesses a vision to be ranked in the top 200 by 2030, and as a result, has international ambitions. The number of international students is one of the most important indicators that contribute to the international ranking of a university. At the moment, there are more than four hundred fifty-four international students from forty countries around the world. At least two hundred international applicants obtained admission to King Khalid University this year, and plans are in place to increase the number of

international students.

King Khalid University does not only receive international students but also provides excellent services, starting from the moment they arrive. It provides a convenient dormitory that contains a good restaurant, serving food at a low cost. Also included are sports facilities and walking places. It is evident from the description that the facilities provided to international students are very comfortable.

Furthermore, the university provides daily transportation for students during the week. It is a stroke of good luck to be an international student at King Khalid University, as said by many international scholarship students. Kalayesubula Yusuf



from Uganda said: "June 26, 2019, was a great moment in my life as I received confirmation of admission to King Khalid University. Till this moment, I still feel above the world. I, therefore, extend my sincere appreciation to the entire

administration of King Khalid University for this golden opportunity and promise not to disappoint."

Author:

Abdussalam Tahir Abdulmajid, Faculty of Languages and Translation, Department of English, Level 1 Student from Nigeria

The Language Enhancement Program (LEP): A Unique Opportunity to Accelerate Your English



FLT Web Administrator, Hassan Costello, with Hamad Al-Hababi, Muhammad Ali Al-Qahtani, and Daher Ali Abdi.

In 2013, after many years of trial and error, Dean, Dr. Abdullah Al Melhi, and IELTS Center Director, Abdul Rauf Khan, eventually succeeded in making the LEP a successful, permanent part of the Faculty of Languages and Translation at King Khalid University (KKU).

At the beginning of every academic year, new students are invited to make use of the chance to practice their English in a relaxed, informal environment. The Faculty of Languages and Translation may possibly be the only English Department to provide such a rare program in the Kingdom. Students can

visit the LEP in room A/3/1, situated next to the IELTS Center, on a daily basis. During this time, Dr. Charles Forman or Hassan Costello will be present to coordinate activities. These two-super helpful, highly experienced native-speakers, are always more than happy to assist students and visitors with any English related matters.

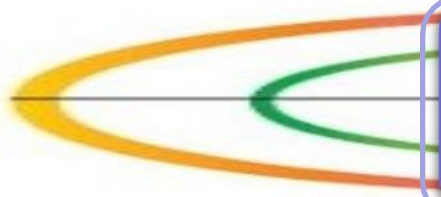
My friends and I always find the atmosphere to be extremely relaxing and positive, whenever we visit the center. Personally, I am of the opinion that all my English language skills have improved dramatically over the three semesters that I have attended the LEP. There can be no doubt that my rapid learning was largely due to the unselfish assistance rendered by Mr. Costello and Dr. Forman.

Another factor which led to the massive leap in my English level was the presence of the very enthusiastic, high-level English-speaking students frequenting the LEP. Many of us have become very close friends because of our regular conversations at the center.

In conclusion, I have absolutely no hesitation to implore my fellow English Department students to not miss out on this golden opportunity to hone and perfect their English.

Author:

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