

ABSTRACT

This research project is based on an analysis of test scores from previous levels of English language soldier candidates attending ESFORSE, whereby poor performance especially in the writing skills was established. In order to solve this issue, a problem tree was designed for identification of causes and effects that in turn resulted in the setting of the independent (Collaborative Learning) and dependent (Writing skill) variables. Afterwards, a variables matrix was defined to establish the relationship between both variables and then the general and specific objectives of this research were set up; in this sense, the Theoretical Framework describes on Collaborative Learning and writing skills in detail. At the end of this element, the hypotheses were formulated. This research used a descriptive, of field and quasi-experimental design; at the beginning of this study, a pre-test was applied to two groups; the experimental group comprised 32 candidates, and the control group comprised also 32, they were evaluated on writing skills in a real situation before the application of the Collaborative Learning Approach. Throughout the execution of this project, 4 activities were carried out with the experimental group. After that, a post-test was applied to both groups at the end of the research, and then the writing skill was scored by using a holistic rating procedure that included content, organization, grammar, vocabulary, and mechanics for their assessment. Then, the statistical procedure T-student was used to prove the hypotheses. The analysis of the post-test results with respect to the experimental group showed an improvement not only in sense of responsibility towards tasks, but also in improving motivation and interest about the process of learning the English language, especially the writing skill. Finally, as a result of this study, a proposal was formulated in order to share this experience with ESFORSE's teachers.

KEY WORDS:

- **COLLABORATIVE LEARNING**
- **COLLABORATIVE WRITING**
- **LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT**
- **WRITING IMPROVEMENT**
- **WRITING QUALITY**