

Toward an Integrated Approach to Writing Instruction

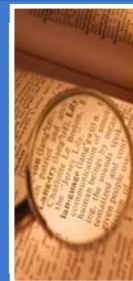
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Language in Education & Assessment Seminar Series

Speaker

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Abstract

Over the last four decades, various approaches to the teaching of writing have been proposed, each focusing on a different aspect of writing, such as sentence, paragraph, process, and genre features. The application of these approaches has been limited, however, because teachers and researchers have often argued in favor of one pedagogy over another as if those approaches are mutually exclusive. The conflict is due largely to the lack of thorough understanding of the nature of each pedagogy as well as the historical and theoretical circumstances in which they arose. Furthermore, as I will argue, none of the pedagogical approaches takes into account the social context of writing adequately.

In this presentation, I will first provide an overview of the various pedagogical approaches proposed in the literature and explain how and why they all fail to account for the social context of writing. I will then discuss how these various pedagogical approaches can be more fully integrated into the social context of written interaction. Finally, I will discuss some general pedagogical implications that arise from our understanding of an integrated approach to writing instruction.

Dr Paul Kei Matsuda is Associate Professor of English and Director of Composition at the University of New Hampshire, where he teaches various writing courses as well as graduate courses in rhetoric, composition and applied linguistics. He is founding chair of the Symposium on Second Language Writing and series editor of the Parlor Press Series on Second Language Writing. He has edited 5 books and 3 special journal issues on second language writing, and his publications appear in journals and edited collections in both applied linguistics and composition studies. His current research interests include voice in academic writing and the implications of language differences on L1 and L2 writing instruction. URL: <http://matsuda.jslw.org/>

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