

THE EFFECT OF E-FEEDBACK VIA WIKIS ON ESL STUDENTS' L2 WRITING ANXIETY LEVEL**Halimatussaadiyah Iksan*****Huzaina Abdul Halim**

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This study explores the effect of feedback on ESL students' L2 writing anxiety level. The study was conducted using a quantitative method, specifically using experimental research where students are divided into 2 groups, the control and experimental group. 30 students were randomly chosen to be involved in the study, equally distributed in the 2 Groups. Over a span of 12 weeks, students in both groups completed 4 writing tasks in triads. Students in the control group are given feedback traditionally using face-to-face interaction while students in the experimental group used wiki as their e-feedback. To measure students' writing anxiety, an instrument called SLWAI (Second Language Writing Anxiety Inventory) were given twice to both groups, once at the beginning of the semester and once at the end. The study found that students experienced low L2 writing anxiety, and while both face-to-face feedback and e-feedbacks are effective in lowering students' anxiety level, e-feedback proved to be more effective in lowering students' L2 writing anxiety level.

Keywords: *Writing Anxiety, Collaborative Writing, E-Feedback, Feedback, Wikis*

INTRODUCTION

Writing anxiety can be defined as the fear of the writing process that supersedes the potential gain from the ability to write (Thompson, 1980). Native, L2 (Second Language) and FL (Foreign Language) learners alike have all experienced writing anxiety, one way or another, during their writing activities.

Writing activities can be difficult, especially when students are expected to work individually, put under a time constraint and evaluated based on their writing. These deprive the students of the opportunity to revise and proofread their writing and they have to make do with what they have written in a short amount of time. Over the years, learners may find writing to be vexing, and develop an anxiety towards any activity that potentially requires some amount of writing (Daly & Miller, 1975).

A similar case is observed in Malaysia in most language writing classes regardless of level of education where writing activities centre on the objective of having the written product, rather than the process of writing itself. In a study by Rezaei and Jafari (2014), for instance, students reported that writing activity in class is treated as a means to get good marks. Furthermore, the study also found that teachers are seen as authoritative figures and the purpose of writing has shifted from being learner-centred to teacher-centred, while the objective of writing is to please the teacher. This is in contrast with the process approach, where students should be given a chance to revise and edit their writing before

submitting the final product (Graham & Perin, 2007). As a result, learners suffer 'distress associated with writing' and develop a strong distaste for the process (Madigan et al, 1996).

Some instructors recognise the need for collaborative writing where students are given more opportunities to assist each other in a process called scaffolding, as L2 learners are encouraged to pool their resources, co-construct new grammatical and lexical knowledge and solve problems collaboratively during peer feedback (Dobao, 2012; Kim & McDonough, 2008; Shehadeh, 2011; Storch, 2005; Storch & Wigglesworth, 2007; Swain & Lapkin, 1998). However, traditional peer feedback can also be problematic as some students may not be able to participate well in face-to-face interaction. For instance, face-to-face interaction may induce anxiety as students may not be as honest as they would like in fear of judgments by their peers (Guardado & Shi, 2007).

Having online peer feedback or e-feedback is found to be more beneficial as it is able to overcome some of the obstacles that learners face in traditional peer feedback. For instance, peer feedback in forum or online discussion boards provides a less threatening environment, which in turn encourages more participation compared to traditional face-to-face feedback (Braine, 2004). ESL students are less intimidated to provide feedback in English with peers who share the same mother tongue (Jones et al., 2006). Hence, they are able to participate more during peer feedback sessions and get more information on how to improve their writing.

Though research pertaining to the role of online peer feedback in collaborative writing and its effects on ESL students' writing performance are abundant, studies relating the effect of e-feedback in collaborative writing on students' writing anxiety are still very much wanting in nature.

The principle aims of this research are to answer the following research questions:

1. To find out the students' writing anxiety level
2. To find out the effects of traditional feedback and e-feedback via Wiki on ESL students' writing anxiety level
3. To investigate the difference (if any) of the use of traditional feedback and e-feedback on the students' writing anxiety level.

To answer these questions, the research proceeds under the following hypotheses:

1. Null Hypothesis:

$H_0: \mu_1 = \mu_2$

- a) There is no significant difference between the intra-groups' pre-test and post-test mean scores of writing anxiety for both groups using e-feedback (experimental group) and traditional feedback (control group).
- b) There is no significant difference between the inter-groups' mean scores of writing anxiety among students using (experimental group) and traditional feedback (control group).

2. Alternative Hypothesis

$H_1: \mu_1 \neq \mu_2$

- a) There is a significant difference between the intra-groups' pre-test and post-test mean scores of writing anxiety for both groups using e-feedback (experiment group) and traditional feedback (control group).
- b) There is a significant difference between the inter-groups' mean scores of writing anxiety among students using e-feedback (experiment group) and traditional feedback (control group).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Writing Anxiety

Dysthe (2007) states that writing "involves much more than being able to communicate what you already know". Thompson (1980) defines writing anxiety as the feeling of apprehension towards any activities involving writing that surpasses the possible achievement that could be gained from the learners' capacity to write.

Various research over the years have proven that there is a consistent finding that FL and L2 writing anxiety have adverse effects on learners' ability and performance in writing in FL and L2 (Qashoa, 2014; Reio et al., 2014; Choi, 2013; Woodrow, 2011). Students find writing activities to be worrisome and associate negative feelings with the events. For example, a study done by Woodrow (2011) found that there is a negative relationship between ESL writing anxiety and students' performance in writing, which means that students with high apprehension score worse in a written task. This is supported by Martinez, Kock and Cass (2011) where it is found that students with higher GPA reported a lower level of writing anxiety compared to students with lower GPA.

From a psychodynamic perspective, Houp (2009) posits that writing anxiety may stem from student's early experiences, referring to a case study of Lana, where her sociocultural background plays a huge significance on her written products. Research by Elias, Akmaliah & Mahyuddin (2005), on the contrary, suggests that rather than focusing on the topic of writing activity, writing anxiety may not be related to content, but rather due to excessive emphasis on superficial errors in spelling and grammar. This is supported by the findings of Zhang (2011) and later Rezaei and Jafari (2014) where it was found that students fear writing activities due to linguistic difficulty.

In the case of writing anxiety among adolescents, research has found that the adolescent population has suffered from a serious lack of attention to its writing needs in L2 (Harklau, 2001; Wald 1987). However, in the past few years, L2 writing anxiety has gained considerable interest among researchers in an Asian setting, such as studies done by Cheng (2004) among Chinese ESL students, Qashoa (2014) among students in the UAE and by Choi (2013) among students in Korea. However, from various research done from demographically diverse locations, it can be concluded that they share a similarity where all studies have shown consistently pessimistic findings of the overall predicament of adolescent L2 learners and writers.

This is mainly related to the fact that adolescent stage is a period of life when many learners are likely to be at the peak of their sensitivity regarding issues about their identities (Harklau, 2001) and peer relations (Heller, Calderon and Medrich, 2003). It is a phase where teenagers no longer look primarily to parents for social and psychological support, like children usually do, but are not mature enough to have a clear sense of individual identity to use in handling daily problems and conflicts, like adults usually do.

In the literature concerning factors affecting L2 learners' writing anxiety, sources of writing anxiety have been detected to stem from an individual's writing ability, the degree of preparation to complete the writing task, the fear of being assessed and judged on the basis of writing tasks, and the mixed messages students receive from their teachers (Qashoa, 2014; Rezaei & Jafari, 2014; Choi, 2013). These sources are of high importance to achieve a better understanding of writing anxiety. It is a possibility stated in the literature that students who suffer from writing anxiety are not skilful writers and their anxiety level reflects their awareness of this problem. These students may avoid writing and writing instruction, thus neglecting chances to improve their writing skills.

A writer's self-esteem is also one of the factors that could affect his or her writing in L2, along with other factors like personality measures and an individual's expectation of success in writing (Rezaei and Jafari, 2014; Cheng, 2001). There is also a correlation between writing apprehension with writing context. In a study involving 399 undergraduates, Daly and his colleagues found five factors in writing

situations that led to writing anxiety and apprehension. These five factors are conspicuousness, high evaluation, ambiguity, novelty, and a history of poor experiences in a similar situation (Daly and Hailey, 1984). This research also found that highly apprehensive writers tend to react more anxiously than those with low writing apprehension levels.

From research by Blanton (1987), she added that ESL learner's writing anxiety can also be caused by the fact that they treat every act of writing as a test, thus denying themselves the psychological and intellectual "space" to work with the written language. Similarly, in a study among Iranian L2 learners, Rezaei and Jafari (2014) found that students' writing do not reflect their voices, but rather as a means to get good marks. In their case, the students treat their teacher as an authoritative figure as they are in charge of assessing the written product. Thus, satisfying their perceived expectation of the teacher is more important than writing based on their personal opinion.

This could be contributed to the fact that most writing activities done in school setting did little to allow the students the opportunity to make amendments to their written text (Graham and Perin, 2007). This is in contrast with other writing approach that allows for amendments like the Process Approach of writing, and writing process involves multiple stages like 1) Prewriting 2) Drafting 3) Revising 4) Editing 5) Publishing (Li et al, 2012; Lam, 2007). These stages are important as they help students to select subjects, collect information, organize their thoughts, compose and revise their written work (Li et al, 2012; Gage, 1986). Not being able to make changes may affect the students' confidence in writing thus contributing to their increasing level of anxiety while writing in English.

From the various aforementioned studies found on writing anxiety, it can be concluded that there are many factors involved contributing to ESL learners' aversion and negative experience towards the L2 writing process. Even though some research provide contradicting results, all agree that writing anxiety poses debilitating effects on students' writing performance, academic results and confidence in the process itself, among others. Thus, the need for effective strategies to ease students' negative perception and experience in a writing class cannot be undermined as instructors and learners alike need to find ways to ensure better and less threatening environment can be achieved in a writing class.

Collaborative Writing

Through the lens of sociocultural theory, learning is treated as a socially-situated activity. Vygotsky (1978) suggests that higher cognitive functions appear first on the social, intermental plane, followed by the psychological intramental plane. Here, learners, or novices co-construct knowledge and learn from more capable individuals, or experts, such as instructors or more competent peers. More recent research in the field posit that since no two learners are the same, they are able to interchange between the role of both novices and experts (Storch, 2002; Ohta 2000, 2001; Swain & Lapkin, 1998); and by pooling their resources and knowledge together, they are able to achieve a level of performance beyond their individual level of competence (Ohta, 2001).

Numerous studies have proven that collaborative writing is beneficial to the students' writing. For instance, Yarrow & Topping (2001) found that it contributes to the overall improvement of the written product as it allows the exchange of thoughts and ideas between peers (Topping, Smith, Swanson & Elliot, 2000) and it enables a learner to be involved in reflection, critical thinking, shared understanding, long term retention of the learned material (Phielix, Prins & Kirshner, 2010; Storch, 2005).

Collaborative writing also mediates L2 learning as learners engage in what is known as "collaborative dialogue", which is an interaction that occurs between learners when they work together to solve linguistic problems (Kim and McDonough, 2008; Lapkin, Swain, & Smith, 2002; Storch, 2002; Swain, Brooks, & Tocalli-Beller, 2002; Swain & Lapkin, 1998, 2002). These dialogues occur in what is known as Language Related Episodes (LREs), which is "any part of a dialogue where the students talk about the language they are producing, question their language use, or correct themselves or others" (Swain & Lapkin, 1998, p. 326).

As learners collaborate to solve grammatical and lexical difficulties, collaborative dialogue found in LREs constitutes an example of languaging, which is “a means to mediate cognition” (Swain & Watanabe, 2012, p.96). A close analysis on the LREs found that students are able to reach correct solutions to their language-related problems and co-construct new knowledge together with their peers or members in a small group (Storch, 2007; Leaser, 2004; Williams, 2001; Swain & Lapkin, 1998, 2002). However, a study by Dobao and Blum (2013) found that compared to individual and ESL learners working in dyads, ESL learners working in groups prove to be the most effective as they are able to engage in more LREs and have a higher percentage of correctly resolved LREs compared to the others. Thus, their written product is also observed to be more accurate compared to the rest.

In relation to writing anxiety, since collaborative writing and the use of LREs provide an environment where learners can help each other to co-create and provide opportunities for languaging (Swain & Watanabe, 2012), this could help learners who suffer difficulty in their vocabulary or grammar. This in turn may help learners who find these language barriers as a source for their writing anxiety to be able to overcome their fear and work with their peers to write in groups.

Peer Feedback and Online Peer Feedback

The benefits of peer feedback are well documented through several research (Choi, 2013; Dobao and Blum, 2013; Dobao, 2012; Yang, 2010). For instance, in a study involving 75 university students, Choi (2013) found that in comparison between the group that only has teacher feedback and the group that has an integration of teacher-peer-feedback, the latter group shows significantly better improvement in their composition skills. On the other hand, though results from Dobao and Blum (2013) show contradictory results, most students benefit from the comments made by their friends and use them to improve their vocabulary and grammar correction. A study by Yang (2010) revealed that among 95 undergraduate students involved in the study, students found that peer reviews help them more compared to self-review. Peer reviews help them in seeing their written product from others' perspective thus motivating macro-level amendments in terms of drafting, organization and style compared to self-review which results in microlevel amendments in grammar correction.

With the advent of the internet and Web 2.0, more and more researchers are interested on the effects of online peer-feedback as compared to the face-to-face interaction in traditional peer-feedback. It was found that online feedback or e-feedback is more advantageous as learners are able to solve language-related problems through interaction, negotiation, arguments or by presenting ideas that are not face-to-face, and learners are encouraged to participate in an interaction between peers online (Woo & Reeves, 2007). Similarly, from an observation by DiGiovanni & Nagaswami (2001), students in precollege writing class participating in online peer feedback are comfortable and remained on task. Findings from other research also support this as e-feedback provides interactive textual exchange and greater student participation (Jones et al., 2006; Strenski, Feagin & Singer, 2005; Tuzi, 2004).

In terms of revision, a study by Jones et al. (2006) found that online feedback in forums generated more response on global concerns on content and the process of writing compared to traditional mode which focuses on textual issue such as grammar, style and vocabulary. Other research produce findings where students not only benefit from content editing, but also word choice whereby they suggest that peer e-feedback using Microsoft Word or other programs designed specifically for writing produced more concrete and revision-oriented comments than traditional oral or dissertation-based feedback (Liu & Sadler, 2003; Hewett, 2000). In a similar vein, Tuzi (2004) in his study also found that online context provide learners with more flexibility in macro-level revisions as they are allowed to add in new information and amend structures at clause, sentence and paragraph level.

In addition, students who still find participating in discussion apprehensive also profited from peer e-feedback. For instance, Matsumura and Hann (2004) reported that students who do not post their own drafts online due to having high computer anxiety also benefited from reading other classmates' drafts and feedbacks. This helps instructors to understand that students who do not actively contribute and participate in online tasks are also able to benefit from others' inputs.

In an online context, being deprived of cues like facial and body gestures typically present in traditional face-to-face feedback demands learners to learn how to be sensitive to the audience's needs and follow a clear and informative style when they are writing their feedback (Breuch & Racine, 2000). This enables learners to write balanced comments with an increased awareness. Furthermore, with the anonymity that forum provides, students are able to make critical comments on each other's writings (Guardado & Shi, 2007).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study employs a quantitative research design. The present study involves 30 ESL university students in a local university in Malaysia equally divided into 2 groups, namely control and experimental group. At the beginning of the semester, students from both groups were briefed on the objective of the research and the tasks that they would have to complete throughout the research period. To ensure the quality and effectiveness of the feedback, students need to have a proper training before giving feedbacks to others. This will help them to be more mindful of the types of feedback they will produce, and how to use the feedbacks to improve their composition (Yang, 2010). To gauge students' L2 writing anxiety level at the time, an instrument called the SLWAI (Second Language Writing Anxiety Inventory) by Cheng (2004) was distributed. The inventory consists of 22 items and is chosen because compared to other instruments to test L2 writing anxiety, this one has the best internal consistency of Cronbach alpha coefficient of .91 (Cheng, 2004). The score from the test is considered as a pre-test, or a benchmark upon which the effectiveness of the treatment is based.

Over a span of a semester (3 months or 12 weeks), students from both groups were given similar writing tasks involving 4 different types of essays (see Appendix B-D) in compliant with the university's course requirement. Both groups were given 10 days for the completion of each writing task, where 3 days were used for the planning and composing of the essay by the members of the group and another 7 days for the feedback by the peers. Students worked collaboratively in a triad.

Participants in the control group completed all the writing stages (planning, discussing, composing the essay and proofreading intra-group) in class and retrieve feedbacks from their peers in the classroom. On the contrary, participants in the experimental group discussed and plan their work in class, but publish their works asynchronously online using Wikispace as a medium. The peers in the latter group then posted their feedback on each of the group's page. Throughout the process, the tutor acts as a facilitator to monitor exchanges both in class and in online environment to ensure active participation by students; and gives feedback when the situation demands for it.

At the end of the semester, a post-test of the same SLWAI instrument is again distributed to students from both groups. The results of both pre-test and post-test are then compared to answer the abovementioned research questions.

DATA ANALYSIS

Data analysis for this study is divided into 2 stages, using SPSS software (Statistical Package for Social Science), as per recommended by Field & Hole (2003). The first stage uses descriptive statistics using mean and standard deviation to answer research question 1.

To answer research question 2 and 3, inferential statistics are used. For research question 2, data from control and experiment group is compared internally within its own pre and post-test group results using paired sample t-test. On the other hand, to answer research question 3, data from pre and post-test results are compared across both groups using ANCOVA (Analysis of co-variant). ANCOVA is used in this research as noted by Vogt (1999); it is more robust compared to other statistical analysis like ANOVA as it is able to show a relationship between two dependant variables by statistically omitting a control variable.

Descriptive Statistics

(RQ1): Students' writing anxiety level for both experimental and control group.

Table1

L2 Writing Anxiety for Control Group and Experimental Group

	Subsections	n	Writing Anxiety Level	
			M	SD
Control Group	Cognitive	15	3.58	.6
	Somatic	15	3.13	.47
	Avoidance Behaviour	15	2.46	.48
	Overall Mean	15	3.08	.43
Experimental Group	Cognitive	15	3.14	.47
	Somatic	15	2.90	.86
	Avoidance Behaviour	15	2.50	.78
	Overall Mean	15	2.86	.59

Note. The maximum mean score is 5

In analysing the data to know the level of L2 writing anxiety among the students, the items are divided into three subsections as posited by Cheng (2004), namely cognitive (item 1, 3, 7, 9, 14, 17, 20, 21), somatic (item 2, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 19) and avoidance behaviour (item 4, 5, 10, 12, 16, 18, 22).

From the control group, the highest form of anxiety experienced by students is cognitive anxiety (M= 3.58, SD= 0.6) followed by Somatic anxiety (M=3.13, SD=0.47), while the lowest of the three subsections is Avoidance Behaviour (M=2.46, SD=0.48)

In total, the mean of overall L2 writing anxiety for students in the control group is 3.08 with standard deviation of 0.43; which reflects that students have moderately low writing anxiety level.

On the other hand, the highest form of anxiety experienced by students in the experimental group is cognitive anxiety (M= 3.14, SD= 0.47) followed by Somatic anxiety (M=2.9, SD=0.86), while the lowest of the three subsections is Avoidance Behaviour (M=2.50, SD=0.78).

Overall, students' writing anxiety falls on the average of 2.86 with standard deviation of .59; which means that similar to the control group, students have moderately low writing anxiety level. Comparing between the two groups, students in the control group has a slightly higher writing anxiety level.

Inferential statistics

(RQ2): Effect of traditional feedback and e-feedback via Wiki on ESL students' writing anxiety level

The hypotheses for paired t-test are as below:

1. Null Hypothesis:

H₀: $\mu_1 = \mu_2$

- a. There is no significant difference between the pre-test and post-test mean scores of writing anxiety for both groups using e-feedback (experimental group) and traditional feedback (control group).

2. Alternative Hypothesis

H₁: $\mu_1 \neq \mu_2$

- a. There is a significant difference between the pre-test and post-test mean scores of writing anxiety for both groups using e-feedback (experimental group) and traditional feedback (control group).

Table 2

Descriptive statistics and Paired Sample T-test Result for Control and Experimental Group

Group	Pre-test		Post-test		n	95% CI for Mean Difference	r	t	df
	M	SD	M	SD					
Control	77.13	12.22	70.27	14.06	15	4.79, 8.95	.97*	7.08*	14
Experimental	78.6	16.63	65.33	16.08	15	10.51, 16.02	.95*	10.32*	14

* p = .000

A paired sample t-test was conducted to evaluate the impact of e-feedback (through traditional and wikis for control and experimental group, respectively) on students' writing anxiety level.

For control group, there was a statistically significant decrease in students' scores from Pre-test ($M=77.13$, $SD=12.22$) to Post-test ($M=70.27$, $SD=14.06$), $t(14) = 7.08$, $p < .05$ (two-tailed). The mean decrease in writing anxiety scores was 6.86 with a 100% confidence interval ranging from 4.79 to 8.95.

For experimental group, there was a statistically significant decrease in students' scores from Pre-test ($M=78.6$, $SD=16.63$) to Post-test ($M=65.33$, $SD=16.08$), $t(14) = 10.32$, $p < .05$ (two-tailed). The mean decrease in writing anxiety scores was 13.27 with a 100% confidence interval ranging from 10.51 to 16.02.

These results reject the null hypotheses, thus it can be concluded that the use of feedback, be it traditional or through wikis, does have an effect in students' writing anxiety level. Specifically, this study suggests that when students are given a chance to give and receive feedbacks (through any of the two mediums aforementioned); to and from their peers, their writing anxiety level decreases.

(RQ3): Is there any difference between the use of traditional feedback and e-feedback on the students' writing anxiety level?

The hypotheses for ANCOVA are as below:

- 1. Null Hypothesis:

H₀: $\mu_1 = \mu_2$

- a. There is no significant difference between the mean scores of writing anxiety among students using (experimental group) and traditional feedback (control group).

- 2. Alternative Hypothesis:

H₁: $\mu_1 \neq \mu_2$

- a. There is a significant difference between the mean scores of writing anxiety among students using e-feedback (experimental group) and traditional feedback (control group).

Table 3
ANCOVA Results and Descriptive Statistics for Writing Anxiety Scores by Pre-test result and Group

	Writing Anxiety scores			
	Observed Mean	Adjusted Mean	SD	n
Control	70.27	70.99 ^a	14.06	15
Experiment	65.33	64.61 ^a	16.08	15
Source	SS	df	MS	F
Pre-test scores	5842.21	1	5842.21	289.93*
Group	304.95	1	304.95	15.13*
Error	544.06	27	201.15	

Note. $R^2 = .92$, $Adj. R^2 = .91$.

a. Covariates appearing in the model are evaluated at the following values: Pre-test = 77.8668.

* $p = .001$

An ANCOVA test was conducted to determine whether there is any statistically significant difference between the two types of feedbacks on students' L2 writing anxiety by controlling the pre-test scores (between subjects factor: group (control, experiment); covariate: pre-test scores). The results found that there is a statistically significant difference between the two on students' L2 writing anxiety level after controlling for the pre-test scores, $F(1, 27)=15.13$, $p=.001$.

Both the observed and adjusted means show that students in the experiment group experienced less L2 writing anxiety compared to those in the control group. All results reject the null hypothesis and show that even though both feedback types are able to lower students' L2 writing anxiety level, e-feedback is comparatively better in doing so than traditional feedback.

DISCUSSION

The current study acknowledges the use of feedback in a collaborative setting to help lower students' L2 writing anxiety level. This answers the gap whereby there is no present study yet that caters to the strategy of lowering students' L2 writing anxiety through the use of feedback. Though there are studies (Choi, 2013; Dobao and Blum, 2013; Dobao, 2012, Yang, 2010) on how feedback is important to draw students' attention on necessary amendments needed, studies on how these specifically affect students' writing anxiety is still inadequate. Thus, this study modestly adds to the existing literature that the use of feedback in a collaborative setting to help lowers students' L2 writing anxiety level. Comparing between traditional feedback (where learners receive response through face-to-face interaction) with that of e-feedback (where learners receive response asynchronously through online medium, in this case, Wikispace), it was found that the use of e-feedback is more beneficial to help lessens students' writing anxiety.

This finding can be further implemented in educational setting. Though technology has come a long way to accommodate people in a lot of daily activities, assessment method and educational reform are still very much wanting to keep up with the present advancement. Language learning still follows the existing literature and teachers and learners alike cannot escape from having writing tasks and assessment as part of their curricula in school. As writing contributes to a huge percentage of students' grade, it can be deduced that the issue of students experiencing L2 writing anxiety will persist. Hence, since writing activities remain significant in assessing students' language performance in the foreseeable future, the best that teachers can do is to use the technology to assist students in their writing tasks.

In this instance, the present study suggests the use of Wikispace as a medium for collaborative works among students. Rather than using conventional feedback in the classroom, teachers can explore other media especially those created with helping students write collaboratively in mind. Online media like blogs, forum, *wikis* and application such as Google Doc help students tremendously as they provide various functions for language revisions. Moreover, since these sites and application has a built-in

autocorrect function that checks students' spelling and sentence structure, students can focus more on the content of the essay itself rather than the language technicality. This is further supported by Jones et al. (2006) that found online feedback in forums generated more response on global concerns on content and the process of writing compared to traditional mode which focuses on textual issue such as grammar, style and vocabulary.

For learners, since online writing allows them to asynchronously edit their work whenever and wherever they are, granted that they are logged on to the site, it should come as a huge consideration. Since online writing provides anonymity, flexibility and more autonomy for the learners to co-create their contents (Leuf and Cunnigham, 2001; Choy and Ng, 2007), students will no longer have to be heavily reliant on instructors to enhance their writing skill. Furthermore, since online collaborative writing allows the students to benefit from e-feedbacks from their peers and rewrite their composition, learner with apprehension of writing under time constraint and writing individually do not have to worry.

CONCLUSION

The research has demonstrated that when students are given an opportunity to compose in a group where they are able to utilise their peer's feedbacks to improve their writing, students are able to flourish. We are able to observe a more active participation during the process of composition and students are observed to be more mindful in giving and receiving feedback to and from their peers. In this sense, both mediums used-be it through traditional face-to-face interaction, or through the use of wikis- have proven to be effective in lowering students' feelings of anxiety. Even though students who benefitted from e-feedback through wikis have shown lower writing anxiety in their post-test results, teachers may consider either one of the methods during writing class as feedbacks encouraged a more productive lesson and students are able to utilise responses not only from their teacher, but also their friends to enhance their written products. Furthermore, since feedbacks allow learners to actively get assistance from others, it could help lower their feelings of isolation thus lowering their personal feelings of aversion that they may have towards the writing process.

However, since this study only evaluates data from quantitative measure, the precise reasons and mechanism in which feedback and e-feedback are able to lower students' L2 writing anxiety cannot be explicitly explained. As such, perhaps future research could explore on this topic not only through quantitative lens, but also via qualitative measures so as richer data could be gleaned.

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**APPENDIX A:
INSTRUMENT**

I am a University of Malaya postgraduate student carrying out a survey entitled:
"The effects of E-Feedback in Wiki on ESL students' Writing Anxiety Level"
Your participation and response is very much appreciated. Please note that all your personal information in this study will remain confidential and are used for research purposes only.

SECTION A: PERSONAL DETAILS

<p>1. Name:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Highest English qualification and grade before enrolling in the foundation programme:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SPM, Grade: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> IELTS, Band: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> TOEFL, Score: _____</p>
<p>2. Age:</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>7. First Language:</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>3. Gender:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Male</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Female</p>	<p>8. Your perceived English language Proficiency:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Beginner</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Advance</p>
<p>4. Nationality:</p>	

SECTION B: Second Language Writing Anxiety Inventory (SLWAI) by Cheng (2004)

Read the statements below very carefully. Tick (/) one choice of answer for each statement. As the findings of this test are going to be used in for research, I kindly request you be honest while answering the questions. Rest assured that your response is confidential and please do not leave any question unanswered.

1	2	3	4	5
I strongly disagree	I disagree	I have no strong feelings either way	I agree	I strongly agree

	SD 1	D 2	NF 3	A 4	SA 5
1. While writing in English, I am not nervous at all.					
2. I feel my heart pounding when I write English compositions under time constraint					
3. While writing English compositions, I feel worried and uneasy if I know they will be evaluated.					
4. I often choose to write down my thoughts in English.					
5. I usually do my best to avoid writing English compositions.					
6. My mind often goes blank when I start to work on an English composition.					
7. I don't worry that my English compositions are a lot worse than others.					
8. I tremble or perspire when I write English compositions under time pressure.					
9. If my English composition is to be evaluated, I would worry about getting a very poor grade.					
10. I do my best to avoid situations in which I have to write in English.					
11. My thoughts become jumbled when I write English compositions under time constraint.					
12. Unless I have no choice, I would not use English to write compositions.					
13. I often feel panic when I write English compositions under time constraint.					
14. I am afraid that the other students would deride my English composition if they read it.					
15. I freeze up when unexpectedly asked to write English compositions.					
16. I would do my best to excuse myself if asked to write English compositions.					
17. I don't worry at all about what other people would think of my English compositions.					
18. I usually seek every possible chance to write English compositions outside of class.					
19. I usually feel my whole body rigid and tense when write English compositions.					
20. I am afraid of my English composition being chosen as a sample for discussion in class					
21. I am not afraid at all that my English compositions would be rated as very poor.					
22. Whenever possible, I would use English to write compositions					

**APPENDIX B:
WRITING TASKS**

Topic	Writing Tasks
<p>Short story: "My Friend Luke" by Fernando Sorrentino</p>	<p>Narrative Essay:</p> <p>The short story "My Friend Luke" by Fernando Sorrentino follows the character of "Luke" who is emasculated in his daily life and how the only empowering moment in his life is when he is on the bus ride. Pick one theme in the short story and create a new story on the theme. With your group members, compose an essay of about 350 words.</p>
<p>Poem: "Caged Bird" by Maya Angelou</p>	<p>Opinion Essay:</p> <p>In the poem, Angelou wrote about the theme of "racism" and "discrimination", and the crippling effects they bring to the society. In your opinion, why does racism exist and even still practiced by Some people? With your group members, compose an essay of about 350 words.</p>
<p>Short story: "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" by James Thurber</p>	<p>Argumentative Essay:</p> <p>From the short story of "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty", the readers are exposed on the multifaceted nature of human beings. What is the ideal man like? Argue whether Walter fit or deviate from these "ideal" male qualities? With your group members, compose an essay of about 350 words.</p>
<p>Poem: "All the World's a Stage" by William Shakespeare</p>	<p>Compare and Contrast Essay:</p> <p>In this poem, Shakespeare highlights the seven stages of life and how one differs in characteristics in each stage. Compare and Contrast these stages with the current life stages. Are there any marked similarities and differences? What are they? With your group members, compose an essay of about 350 words.</p>

APPENDIX C:

NARRATIVE ESSAY: PEER EVALUATION FORM:

	3	2	1	0
INTRODUCTION Background/History Thesis Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well-developed introduction engages the reader and creates interest. Thesis is clear and focused. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction creates interest. Thesis clearly states the position. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction is satisfactory Thesis states the position. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background details are a random collection of information, unclear, or not related to the topic. Thesis is vague or unclear, or no thesis present.
CONCLUSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conclusion is interesting and reflects the thesis closely. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conclusion effectively reflects the topic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conclusion is recognizable and ties up almost all loose ends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conclusion has no relevance to the topic.
<p>Does the introductory paragraph provide the background of the story? Is the last line in the conclusion and introduction related? Does it include the lesson learned and refer to the narrated incident?</p> <p>SUGGESTIONS:</p>				
MAIN POINTS Body Paragraphs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The narrative is developed with a consistent and effective point-of-view, showing the story in detail. Use of dialogues and imageries to help readers visualise the narration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The narrative shows events from the author's point of view using some details. Use of some imagery to help narration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The narrative shows the events, but may lack details. Lacking of imagery to help narration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The narrative is undeveloped, and tells rather than shows, the story. No imagery used, or most imagery used are out of place and adds to confusion.
<p>Is there a discussion of who or what influenced the writer's ethical development? Does the narrative fully explain the incident from the writer's point of view? Does the narrative show, not tell, the story as it unfolds?</p> <p>SUGGESTIONS:</p>				

<p>ORGANIZATION Structure Transitions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logical progression of ideas with a clear structure that enhances the thesis. • Transitions are skillfully used to move from one idea to the next. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logical progression of ideas. • Transitions are present equally throughout essay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization is clear. • Transitions are present. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No discernable organization. • Transitions are not present.
<p>Does the narrative use a consistent chronological progression? Can you identify transitions between ideas within the paragraphs? SUGGESTIONS:</p>				
<p>STYLE Sentence flow, variety Diction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is smooth, skillful, coherent. • Sentences are strong and expressive with varied structure. • Diction is consistent and words well chosen. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is clear and sentences have varied structure. • Diction is consistent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is clear, but sentences may lack variety. • Diction is appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is confusing, hard to follow. • Contains fragments and/or run-on sentences. • Inappropriate diction.
<p>Is there variety in sentence structures? Does the writing flow smoothly and clearly? Is the word choice appropriate? Highlight any slang or colloquialisms. SUGGESTIONS:</p>				
<p>MECHANICS Spelling, punctuation, capitalization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Punctuation, spelling, capitalization are correct. • No errors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Punctuation, spelling, capitalization are generally correct, with few errors. (1-2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A few errors in punctuation, spelling, capitalization. (3-4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distracting errors in punctuation, spelling, capitalization.
<p>Are there spelling, punctuation and capitalization errors that distract? SUGGESTIONS:</p>				

APPENDIX D: ESSAY GUIDELINE

	3	2	1	0
INTRODUCTION Background/History Thesis Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concise Title • Well-developed introduction engages the reader and creates interest. • Thesis clearly states the objective of essay and the 3 main points succinctly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concise Title • Introduction creates interest. • Thesis states the objective of essay and the 3 main points succinctly in separate sentences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title is present, but may be confusing • Introduction is satisfactory • Thesis states the objective of the essay but did not include the 3 main points. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Title • Background details are a random collection of information, unclear, or not related to the topic. • Thesis is vague or unclear, or no thesis present.
CONCLUSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong concluding statement that begs readers to think further • Restatement of thesis statement reflects the thesis closely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear concluding statement • Clear restatement of thesis statement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conclusion is recognizable and ties up almost all loose ends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conclusion has no relevance to the topic or presence of introduction of new ideas in the concluding paragraph.
<p>Does the introductory paragraph make you as a reader interested to read further? Does the thesis statement tell you the overview of the essay? Is the last line in the conclusion and introduction related?</p> <p>SUGGESTIONS:</p>				
MAIN POINTS Body Paragraphs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear and well written Topic Sentences. • Supporting details are well elaborated, closely relevant with the topic sentence. • Evidence from text and sufficient analysis are given. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic Sentences are present. • Supporting details are elaborated with relation to the topic sentence. • Lacking of textual evidence and analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some form of topic sentence can be seen. • Supporting details are not well elaborated • Lacking textual evidence with some attempt at analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No topic sentence, • Lacking supporting details or too many main points introduced in one paragraph, each without good supporting details given.

<p>Can you locate topic sentences in each paragraph easily? Are the writers able to treat the topic maturely? SUGGESTIONS:</p>				
<p>ORGANIZATION Structure Transitions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logical progression of ideas with a clear structure that enhances the thesis. Transitions are skillfully used to move from one idea to the next. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logical progression of ideas. Transitions are present equally throughout essay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization is clear. Transitions are present. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No discernable organization. Transitions are not present.
<p>Is there a seamless transition from one point to the next? SUGGESTIONS:</p>				
<p>STYLE Sentence flow, variety Diction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing is smooth, skilful, and coherent. Sentences are strong and expressive with varied structure. Diction is consistent and words well chosen. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing is clear and sentences have varied structure. Diction is consistent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing is clear, but sentences may lack variety. Diction is appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing is confusing, hard to follow. Contains fragments and/or run-on sentences. Inappropriate diction.
<p>Is there variety in sentence structures? Does the writing flow smoothly and clearly? Is the word choice appropriate? Do the writers use sophisticated word choices? SUGGESTIONS:</p>				
<p>MECHANICS Spelling, punctuation, capitalization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punctuation, spelling, capitalization are correct. No errors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punctuation, spelling, capitalization are generally correct, with few errors. (1-2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A few errors in punctuation, spelling, capitalization. (3-4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distracting errors in punctuation, spelling, capitalization.
<p>Are there spelling, punctuation and capitalization errors that distract? SUGGESTIONS:</p>				