A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF WRITTEN CORRECTIVE FEEDBACK RESEARCH IN ESL/EFL CONTEXTS

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KEY TERMS

Written Corrective Feedback (WCF):

It refers to different forms of feedback for improving learners' L2 writing skills.

WHAT CAN I LEARN FROM THIS SECONDARY RESEARCH?

What are the different types of WCF, writing tasks, and errors investigated in research?

WHAT EVIDENCE IS SUMMARISED?

A total of **41** WCF primary studies have been identified and analysed in this review

WHAT DOES IT FIND?

- **Different types of WCF include:**
  a) Direct/indirect (coded) WCF
  b) Focused (selective)/unfocused (comprehensive)WCF
  c) Metalinguistic WCF (metalinguistic explanation)
  d) Synchronous/asynchronous WCF
  e) Dynamic WCF Computer-generated WCF
  f) Alternative WCF (e.g., peer WCF)

- **Writing tasks investigated in WCF research include:**
  a) Sentence writing,
  b) Paragraph writing,
  c) Short writing (e.g., picture descriptions)
  d) Essays (e.g., argumentative essays)

- **Writing genres researched are:**
  a) Narrative writing,
  b) Business writing,
  c) Informal letters,
  d) Autobiographical writing,
  e) Personal writing

- **Grammatical features that WCF research has focused on:**
  a) The functional use of definite and indefinite articles (a, an, the)
  b) Hypothetical conditionals
  c) The past tense
  d) Prepositions
  e) Weak verbs
  f) Sentence-level errors
  g) Noun ending
  h) Wrong words

- Regardless of types, WCF can have positive effects on learners' acquisition of some linguistic features in writing. Such effects can be long-term

HOW CAN I USE THE FINDINGS IN MY TEACHING?

- Teachers' WCF strategies should be dependent on learners' needs and curricular expectations

- Teachers are advised to learn about different types of WCF so as to employ the most appropriate feedback strategy

- Teachers are advised to provide WCF that increases learners' linguistic awareness in addition to correcting their errors, for example, by incorporating metalinguistic explanations

- It is better to follow up on WCF provided in future writing tasks so that learners' awareness of linguistic errors is increased

- Technology plays an increasingly important role in WCF because it can help increase scalability of WCF strategies.