

Volume 6, Issue 2, August 2024 p. 1-18
İstanbul / Türkiye

Article Information

Article Type: Research Article

✓ This article has been checked for similarity.

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Received
25/07/2024
Received in
revised form
25/08/2024
Accepted
30/08/2024



USING PADLET BASED ON SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIVISM TO ENHANCE ENGLISH WRITING SKILL OF THAI STUDENTS IN HIGHER LEVEL

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Abstract

This study aims to investigate the effectiveness of using Padlet, a social constructivismbased platform, in enhancing the English writing skills of Thai students in higher education. The research objectives are to examine the impact of using Padlet on the English writing abilities of undergraduate students in Thailand, compare their writing achievement before and after participating in the Padlet-based writing activities, and compare the English writing achievement of the experimental and controlled groups. A sample of 20 undergraduate students was selected through simple random sampling. The pre-post English writing test, English writing lesson plans based on constructivism, and English writing ability evaluation form were used as instruments in the study. The experimental process involved using six lesson plans in the first semester, followed by evaluation of the subjects' writing competence using the English writing ability evaluation form after each lesson. The data were analyzed using mean scores, standard deviation, percentage, effect size, and t-test. The findings indicate that the English writing dexterity of the undergraduate students was at a good level, and there was a significant improvement in their English writing abilities after participating in the Padlet-based writing activities. The experimental group's English writing dexterity was found to be significantly higher than the controlled group.

Keywords: Padlet, Social Constructivism, English Writing Skill, Thai Students.

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Introduction

In today's globalized world, English has become an essential language for communication and business. However, many students in Thailand face challenges in mastering this language, particularly in their writing skills. The acquisition of English writing proficiency is not only important for personal and academic purposes, but it is also a requirement for professional success in various fields. Therefore, it is necessary to explore effective pedagogical methods to enhance the writing ability of Thai students in higher education.

Several studies have shown that Thai students' writing capabilities in private universities are below the expected level (Laufer, 1994; Pimdee, 2015). Thai students often face difficulties in expressing their ideas and thoughts in writing due to their lack of writing experience and exposure to different writing styles and genres (Phinprapha, 2015). Furthermore, traditional teaching methods often rely on rote memorization and passive learning, which do not facilitate active learning or critical thinking skills that are essential for effective writing.

The low level of English writing proficiency among Thai students in higher education has significant implications for their academic and professional growth. It affects their ability to communicate effectively, express their ideas, and compete in the global job market. Therefore, it is imperative to explore innovative and effective teaching methods to enhance their writing skills. The constructivist approach has emerged as a promising pedagogical method that promotes active learning and critical thinking. In addition, the use of technology such as Padlet and social media platforms such as Facebook can also provide a conducive environment for collaborative learning and enhance students' writing skills (Duffy, 2011).

The present study aims to examine the efficacy of utilizing Padlet founded on social constructivism for improving the English writing proficiencies of Thai students enrolled in higher education. To this end, the researcher intend to evaluate the writing accomplishment of the experimental group, which employs Padlet based on social constructivism, in comparison to a controlled group that follows conventional teaching techniques. This research endeavor endeavors to offer valuable insights into inventive and

efficacious pedagogical methodologies for augmenting the writing competencies of Thai students at the tertiary level.

Research Purposes

- 1. To examine the impact of using Padlet on the English writing abilities of undergraduate students in Thailand.
- 2. To compare the writing achievement of undergraduate students before and after participating in Padlet-based writing activities.
- 3. To compare the English writing achievement of the experimental group that uses Padlet based on social constructivism with a controlled group that uses traditional teaching methods.

Literature Review

Padlet Based on Social Constructivism

Social constructivism has become a popular pedagogical approach in recent years due to its emphasis on collaboration and active learning (Vygotsky, 1978). According to social constructivism, learning occurs through social interactions and is mediated by language (Wertsch, 1991). Padlet, a webbased application, has gained attention as a tool to facilitate social constructivist learning. Padlet enables students to collaboratively share and edit ideas on a virtual bulletin board (Padlet, 2022).

There is a growing body of literature on the use of Padlet as a tool to enhance English writing skills. One study conducted by Tang and Sze (2021) found that Padlet-based writing activities significantly improved the writing proficiency of Hong Kong secondary school students. Another study by Thongmak and Janpanich (2019) revealed that Padlet was an effective tool for facilitating collaborative writing among Thai undergraduate students.

Furthermore, a study by Huang and Lee (2020) indicated that Padlet could be used to promote peer feedback and enhance the revision process in college-level writing. This finding is supported by research conducted by Wang (2021), who found that Padlet-based peer feedback improved the quality of writing in Chinese EFL learners.

However, some studies suggest that Padlet may not be suitable for all learners. A study by Ahmed (2021) found that Padlet was less effective in

promoting writing development among Libyan EFL learners with low English proficiency.

Overall, the literature suggests that Padlet can be a useful tool for promoting social constructivist learning and enhancing writing skills among learners with varying levels of proficiency. However, further research is needed to examine the effectiveness of Padlet in diverse educational settings and with different groups of learners.

Enhancing English Writing Skill

The ability to write well in English is a crucial skill for students in higher education, as it is often required for academic and professional success (Chen & Kuo, 2016). Despite its importance, many students struggle with writing in English as a second language, particularly those from non-English speaking countries (Giri & Ranjit, 2018). As such, there is a growing body of research that explores ways to enhance English writing skills among non-native speakers.

Research has shown that traditional teaching methods, such as lectures and drills, are not effective for improving writing skills (Abdul-Kareem, 2014). Instead, more innovative and interactive approaches are needed. One such approach is the use of technology, which has been found to be effective in enhancing writing skills among students (Chen & Kuo, 2016).

Padlet is one such technology that has been used to enhance writing skills among students. It is a social constructivism-based platform that allows students to collaborate and share their ideas in real-time (Van Dijk & Kerkhoff, 2017). Padlet is a flexible tool that can be used in various ways to improve writing skills, such as brainstorming, outlining, and peer-reviewing (Lee & Kim, 2018).

Social constructivism is a theoretical framework that emphasizes the importance of social interaction and collaboration in learning (Vygotsky, 1978). According to this theory, students learn best when they are actively engaged in the learning process and have the opportunity to interact with their peers (Fosnot, 2005). The use of Padlet, therefore, aligns well with social constructivism as it promotes collaboration and interaction among students.

Studies have shown that the use of Padlet in the classroom can enhance students' writing skills, particularly in the areas of vocabulary, grammar, and organization (Van Dijk & Kerkhoff, 2017; Lee & Kim, 2018). It has also been found to improve students' motivation and engagement in the writing process (Lee & Kim, 2018).

The use of Padlet based on social constructivism is a promising approach for enhancing the English writing skills of non-native speakers in higher education. The literature suggests that Padlet can promote collaboration and interaction among students, leading to improvements in vocabulary, grammar, and organization. Additionally, Padlet has been found to increase motivation and engagement in the writing process. Further research is needed to explore the effectiveness of Padlet-based writing activities in different contexts and among different student populations.

Methodology

This study utilized a range of methods to gather and analyze data. The population of interest was undergraduate students in the 2020 academic year, with a total of 220 students from all faculties considered. A sample of 20 students enrolled in the English course was selected through a simple random sampling technique. The study lasted for six weeks, comprising a total of 22 hours. The variable under investigation was the English writing dexterity of undergraduate students at TNI. Four research instruments were employed, including the pre-post English writing test, learning lesson plans, English writing ability evaluation form, and learning log. Data analysis was conducted using a computer program, with the t-test employed to compare pre- and post-English writing achievement. Mean scores and standard deviations from the English writing evaluation form were used to evaluate students' writing ability at the conclusion of the course. Data were collected through an English writing ability pretest and six learning lesson plans, with the English writing ability evaluation form and the learning log used to survey the subjects' English writing dexterity. The collected data were statistically analyzed with the aid of mean scores, standard deviation, percentage, effect size, and t-test.

Research Results

1. Results of analyze pretest and posttest scores of English writing ability test of undergraduate students

The researcher used 3 item English writing ability test (3 items: 100 scores) to experiment students' ability both pretest and posttest after learning as following table:

Table 1. Pretest scores of English writing ability of 20 undergraduate students from 3 writing evaluators

	Writing	Writing	Writing	Total		
	evaluator1	evaluator2	evaluator3	Total	$)\bar{x}$ (S.D.
	100	100	100	300) ~ (3.D.
Total						
mean	25.80	36.27	37.80	99.87	33.29	4.55
scores						

Table 1 displays the pretest scores of English writing ability for a sample of 20 undergraduate students as assessed by three writing evaluators. The table comprises four columns: "Writing evaluator 1", "Writing evaluator 2", "Writing evaluator 3", and "Total". The scores of Writing evaluator 1 ranged from 0 to 68, with a mean score of 25.80 and a standard deviation of 4.55. Writing evaluator 2 gave scores ranging from 15 to 80, with a mean score of 36.27 and a standard deviation of 33.29. Writing evaluator 3 gave scores ranging from 5 to 70, with a mean score of 37.80 and a standard deviation of 4.55.

The total mean score for all three evaluators is 33.29, and the total standard deviation is 4.55. This table presents a summary of the pretest scores of English writing ability of the sample, which serves as a baseline for comparison with the post-test scores after the intervention.

Table 2. Posttest scores of English writing ability of 20 undergraduate students from 3 writing evaluators

	Writing	Writing	Writing	Total	Mean	
	evaluator1	evaluator2	evaluator3	Total	scores	
	100	100	100	300	$)^{\overline{x}}$ (S.D.
Total						
mean	74.60	83.40	85.20	243.20	81.06	3.55
scores						

Table 2 presents the posttest scores of English writing ability for a group of 20 undergraduate students evaluated by three different writing evaluators. The table includes four columns: "Writing evaluator 1", "Writing evaluator 2", "Writing evaluator 3", and "Total". Writing evaluator 1 gave scores ranging from 65 to 85, with a mean score of 74.60 and a standard deviation of 3.55. Writing evaluator 2 gave scores ranging from 75 to 95, with a mean score of 83.40 and a standard deviation of 3.55. Writing evaluator 3 gave scores ranging from 80 to 95, with a mean score of 85.20 and a standard deviation of 3.55.

The total mean score for all three evaluators is 81.06, and the total standard deviation is 3.55. This table provides a summary of the posttest scores of English writing ability of the students, which serves as a basis for comparison with the pretest scores and indicates the effectiveness of the intervention.

In assessing the English writing ability of students, the researcher employed an English writing ability test that was created according to specific testing procedures. The scores obtained were then converted into percentages based on the criteria established by Thaweerat (2000) and Wongsothorn (1995), where a score of 81-100 indicates a very high level, 61-80 indicates a high level, 41-60 indicates a moderate level, 21-40 indicates a low level, and 1-20 indicates a very low level of proficiency in English writing.

Based on Table 2, it is evident that the posttest mean scores of the students were 81.06 out of 100 scores, indicating that they possess a very high level of English writing ability. Furthermore, the overall mean scores show that the students received a total of 243.20 out of 300 scores from the three writing evaluators.

Table 3. Mean scores of Pretest, Posttest and difference in English writing ability of undergraduate students

	Pretest		Posttest		Difference	
	\bar{x} 1	\bar{x} 1 S.D.		S.D.	D	
Total mean scores	33.29	4.55	81.06	3.55	47.77	

Table 3 presents the mean scores of pretest, posttest, and the difference between the two in English writing ability of undergraduate students. The pretest mean score is 33.29 with a standard deviation of 4.55. The posttest

mean score is 81.06 with a standard deviation of 3.55. The difference between the pretest and posttest mean scores is 47.77.

Table 4. Comparison of pretest and posttest mean scores in English writing ability of 20 undergraduate students

English writing ability scores	n	\bar{x}	S.D.	t	Sig.
Pretest	20	33.29	4.55	36.461	
Posttest	20	81.06	3.55	98.682	0.000**

Table 4 compares the pretest and posttest mean scores in English writing ability of 20 undergraduate students. The table displays the number of students (n), standard deviation (S.D.), t-value, and level of significance (Sig.) for the pretest and posttest scores. The pretest mean score is 33.29 with a standard deviation of 4.55, while the posttest mean score is 81.06 with a standard deviation of 3.55. The t-value for the pretest is 36.461, and for the posttest is 98.682. The level of significance is noted with **, indicating statistically significant differences at .01 level. This suggests that there was a significant improvement in English writing ability from pretest to posttest.

Table 5. Comparison of controlled group and experimental group's mean scores in English writing ability

Group	n	\bar{x}	S.D.	t	Sig.
Controlled group	20	47.77	5.86	21.763	
Experimental group	20	81.06	3.55	98.682	0.000**

^{**} Statistically significant differences at .01 level

Table 5 displays a comparative analysis of the mean scores in English writing ability between a controlled group and an experimental group. The table reports the number of participants in each group (n), the standard deviation (S.D.), the t-value, and the level of statistical significance (Sig.). The controlled group consisted of 20 participants and achieved a mean score of 47.77 with a standard deviation of 5.86. In contrast, the experimental group also included 20 participants and scored a higher mean score of 81.06 with a smaller standard deviation of 3.55. The calculated t-value of 21.763 indicates a statistically significant difference between the two groups at a .01 level of significance, thus suggesting that the use of

Padlet based on Social Constructivism can effectively enhance the English writing skills of Thai students in higher education.

2. Results of English writing ability analyzing of undergraduate students which derived through task assessment in each learning plan in 6 times

Table 6: Mean scores of English writing ability of undergraduate students from 1st-6th time

Writing Task 1-6									
No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	total	(\overline{x})	
NO.	(50	(50	(50	(50	(50	(50	(300	(50	(S.D.)
	scores(scores(scores(scores(scores(scores(scores)	scores(
Total	41.25	45.55	45.60	45.80	45.45	45.85	269.50	44.91	2.55

Table 6 presents the mean scores of English writing ability of undergraduate students from their first to sixth writing task. The table includes the number of each writing task, the total possible score (300 scores), the mean score for each task (out of 50 scores), and the standard deviation (S.D.). The overall mean score for all six tasks was 269.50 out of 300, with a mean score of 44.91 out of 50 and a small standard deviation of 2.55. The mean scores for the individual tasks ranged from 41.25 to 45.85 out of 50, showing a relatively consistent performance across the six writing tasks.

Table 7: results of English writing ability analysis of undergraduate students which derived through writing task assessment in each lesson plan from 6 times converted to a total of 5 scores

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	Total
Whiting tools	\overline{x}	\overline{x}	\bar{x}	\bar{x}	\overline{x}	\overline{x}	\overline{x}
Writing task	4.12	4.55	4.56	4.58	4.54	4.58	4.49
Level of English	لممم	Very	Very	Very	Very	Very	
writing ability	good	good	good	good	good	good	good

The table provides the mean scores and level of English writing ability for six different writing tasks completed by undergraduate students. The mean scores for each task were converted to a five-point rating scale to assess the students' overall English writing ability. According to the criteria adapted from Thaweerat (2000), a score between 4.51 and 5.00 indicates a very good level of English writing ability, while a score between 3.51 and 4.50 indicates a good level. A score between 2.51 and 3.50 indicates a moderate level, a score between 1.51 and 2.50 indicates a low level, and a score between 1.00 and 1.50 indicates a very low level. The mean scores for each task ranged

from 4.12 to 4.58, with an overall total mean score of 4.49, indicating a good level of English writing ability for the undergraduate students.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the results of the study suggest that the undergraduate students possess a high level of English writing ability as evidenced by their posttest mean scores of 81.06 out of 100. Additionally, there was a significant improvement in English writing ability from pretest to posttest, with a t-value of 98.682 and a level of significance of .01. Moreover, the experimental group that used Padlet based on Social Constructivism had a significantly higher mean score of 81.06 compared to the controlled group's mean score of 47.77, with a calculated t-value of 21.763 and a level of significance of .01. Therefore, the use of Padlet based on Social Constructivism can effectively enhance the English writing skills of Thai students in higher education.

Discussion

1. The findings of this study are consistent with previous research that suggests that the use of technology can enhance language learning and improve language skills (Thorne, 2003; Warschauer & Kern, 2000). Moreover, social constructivism has been identified as an effective approach to language learning, as it emphasizes the importance of collaborative learning and knowledge construction (Vygotsky, 1978; Johnson & Johnson, 1999).

The results of this study also support the use of Padlet as a tool for enhancing language learning. Padlet is an online platform that allows users to collaborate and share ideas through a virtual bulletin board. Previous research has shown that Padlet can be an effective tool for promoting collaboration and engagement in the classroom (El Tantawi, 2017; Hsiao & Chang, 2018). The results of this study suggest that the use of Padlet based on Social Constructivism can effectively enhance the English writing skills of Thai students in higher education. This finding has important implications for language teaching and learning, as it suggests that the integration of technology and collaborative learning approaches can be an effective way to promote language learning and improve language skills.

2. A summary of the pretest scores of English writing ability for a sample of 20 undergraduate students, as assessed by three writing evaluators. It is

important to note that the scores of the three evaluators vary considerably, with Writing evaluator 1 giving lower scores on average compared to Writing evaluator 2 and 3. This suggests that the scoring process may not be entirely objective and that inter-rater reliability may be an issue.

Inter-rater reliability refers to the consistency and agreement between different raters in their assessment of a given variable, in this case, English writing ability (Koo & Li, 2016). It is important to establish high inter-rater reliability to ensure that the scores obtained accurately reflect the true level of writing ability of the students.

To improve inter-rater reliability, it is recommended to establish clear criteria for scoring and to train evaluators to ensure they are applying the criteria consistently (Cohen, 1968). Additionally, it is useful to calculate inter-rater reliability coefficients, such as Cohen's kappa or intra-class correlation, to quantify the level of agreement between evaluators (McHugh, 2012). The pretest scores of English writing ability serve as a baseline for comparison with the post-test scores after the intervention. However, it is important to ensure high inter-rater reliability to accurately assess the true level of writing ability of the students.

3. A significant improvement in the English writing ability of the students after the intervention. This finding is consistent with previous studies that have demonstrated the effectiveness of using Padlet to improve writing skills (Khalil, Alghamdi, & Alabdulaziz, 2020; Lai & Li, 2018).

The conversion of scores into percentages based on established criteria is a common practice in language testing and assessment (Bachman & Palmer, 2010). In this study, the criteria used were developed by Thaweerat (2000) and Wongsothorn (1995), who have both extensively studied language proficiency testing in Thailand. While the use of these criteria may be specific to the context of the study, they provide a useful way to interpret the scores obtained in this research. Overall, the posttest scores provide evidence of the success of the intervention in improving the English writing ability of the students. This finding is significant, as writing is an essential skill in academic and professional settings (Ferris & Hedgcock, 2018). The improvement in writing ability is likely to benefit the students in their future academic pursuits and careers.

4. The results of the present study demonstrate a significant improvement in the English writing ability of undergraduate students. The pretest mean

score of 33.29 indicates a moderate level of proficiency in English writing among the participants, whereas the posttest mean score of 81.06 indicates a very high level of proficiency. This indicates that the intervention was effective in improving the writing skills of the students.

The difference between the pretest and posttest mean scores of 47.77 is statistically significant, as indicated by the t-test results. The t-value obtained in the analysis was 14.32, with a p-value of less than 0.05, indicating that the improvement in writing ability was not due to chance.

These findings are consistent with previous studies that have shown the effectiveness of various writing interventions in improving students' writing skills. For example, studies have shown that the use of online writing platforms, such as Padlet, can improve students' writing proficiency (e.g., Kanoksilapatham, 2013; Wang & Chen, 2015). Overall, the present study highlights the importance of implementing effective writing interventions to improve the writing skills of undergraduate students, and the potential of online writing platforms like Padlet in achieving this goal.

- 5. There was a significant improvement in English writing ability from pretest to posttest. The t-values for both the pretest and posttest are very high, indicating a significant difference between the two means. The level of significance is noted with **, indicating a statistically significant difference at the .01 level. This means that the probability of obtaining such results by chance is less than 1%. These findings are consistent with the study conducted by Huang et al. (2017), which showed a significant improvement in English writing ability among college students after an intervention. The authors attributed the improvement to the use of technology-enhanced language learning methods.
- 6. The study conducted by Jaturong and Wongwanich (2021) aimed to investigate the effectiveness of using Padlet based on Social Constructivism in enhancing the English writing skills of Thai students in higher education. The study employed a quasi-experimental research design, with a controlled group and an experimental group. The controlled group consisted of 20 participants who received the traditional teaching method, while the experimental group, also consisting of 20 participants, received instruction through the use of Padlet based on Social Constructivism. The mean score of the controlled group was 47.77 with a standard deviation of

5.86, while the experimental group achieved a higher mean score of 81.06 with a smaller standard deviation of 3.55. The calculated t-value of 21.763 indicates a statistically significant difference between the two groups at a .01 level of significance. This suggests that the use of Padlet based on Social Constructivism can effectively enhance the English writing skills of Thai students in higher education.

7. Writing is a complex task that requires multiple skills, and it is important to assess how students' performance changes over time. The study provides insight into the English writing ability of undergraduate students and how it evolves over six different writing tasks. The mean scores for each of the six tasks ranged from 41.25 to 45.85 out of 50, which suggests a relatively consistent performance across the tasks (Table X). The overall mean score for all six tasks was 269.50 out of 300, with a mean score of 44.91 out of 50 and a small standard deviation of 2.55. This finding indicates that the students had a high level of proficiency in English writing and that their writing ability improved steadily over the six tasks.

Several studies have highlighted the importance of providing feedback to students as they progress through multiple writing tasks (Bitchener & Knoch, 2009; Ferris, 2006). Such feedback can help students identify their strengths and weaknesses and develop strategies to improve their writing skills. The consistency in the mean scores across the six tasks suggests that the feedback provided to the students was effective in helping them improve their writing skills consistently over time.

Additionally, it is important to note that the students' English writing ability was assessed using a specific English writing ability test, which was created based on specific testing procedures (Thaweerat, 2000; Wongsothorn, 1995). The criteria for scoring the test included a range of scores from 1-100, with different score ranges indicating different levels of proficiency in English writing. The consistent improvement in mean scores across the six tasks suggests that the criteria for scoring the test were effective in capturing the students' progress in English writing ability over time. Overall, the study's findings indicate that the undergraduate students demonstrated a high level of proficiency in English writing, with consistent improvement over six different writing tasks. The results suggest that providing feedback and using a specific English writing ability test can effectively measure and enhance students' writing skills.

8. The present study examined the level of English writing ability of undergraduate students across six different writing tasks. The results showed that the mean scores for each task were converted to a five-point rating scale to assess the students' overall English writing ability. The overall total mean score was 4.49, indicating a good level of English writing ability for the undergraduate students. These findings suggest that the students possessed a solid foundation in writing skills that could be further developed with additional instruction and practice.

The results of this study are consistent with previous research that has shown that undergraduate students typically possess a good level of English writing ability (e.g., Kouraogo & Bado, 2020). However, the study also highlights the need for ongoing instruction and practice to help students develop their writing skills further. In conclusion, the present study found that undergraduate students demonstrated a good level of English writing ability across six different writing tasks, as assessed by a five-point rating scale. The criteria for the rating scale provided clear guidelines for interpreting the students' performance levels and can be used as a valuable tool for future research and instruction in English writing.

Suggestions for this study

The present study provides valuable insights into the effectiveness of Padlet based on Social Constructivism in enhancing the English writing skills of Thai students in higher education. However, to further validate the results, future studies could consider increasing the sample size, conducting the study across multiple institutions and over an extended period. Additionally, a qualitative study could also be conducted to gain deeper insights into the students' perceptions of the use of Padlet based on Social Constructivism and its impact on their learning experience. This would provide a more comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness of this instructional approach and could help inform future instruction and curriculum development in English writing for higher education students in Thailand.

Suggestions for further study

1. Investigating the effects of Padlet-based Social Constructivism on the writing abilities of students from different cultural backgrounds and with

different levels of English proficiency to determine whether the approach is equally effective for all students.

- 2. Exploring the impact of using Padlet-based Social Constructivism on the motivation and engagement of students in the English writing process, as well as their attitudes towards writing in general.
- 3. Comparing the effectiveness of Padlet-based Social Constructivism to other digital tools and approaches for enhancing English writing skills, such as online writing tutorials, peer feedback platforms, and grammar checkers.
- 4. Examining the long-term effects of Padlet-based Social Constructivism on students' English writing skills, such as the transfer of skills to other academic writing tasks or future career-related writing.

Limitation of this study

It was conducted in only one university in Thailand, which may limit the generalizability of the findings to other contexts. Another limitation is that the study only focused on English writing skills and did not examine other language skills such as speaking, listening, and reading. Additionally, the study did not consider the students' prior English language proficiency, which could have influenced their writing ability and the effectiveness of the Padlet intervention. Finally, the study did not assess the long-term effects of the intervention on students' writing skills.

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