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POSITION/FOCUS PAPER

Writing and L2 learning: Resources, self-regulation, and interactions

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Conceptualizations about the potential benefits of writing for learning a second language have centered on three perspectives in three dimensions. One perspective looks back to the knowledge that learners have and use from their first language, a second perspective elucidates what learners attend to while they compose, and the third perspective looks forward to developments that learners make progressively over time. Each perspective focuses at a micro-level, on cognitive and linguistic resources; at a processing level, on affordances, attention, and self-regulation; and at a macro-level, on interactions with other people and identities within discourse communities.