

## Understanding Development and Proficiency in Writing

Quantitative corpus research on written language development has expanded rapidly in recent years, assisted by the ever-increasing power and accessibility of software capable of reliably analysing huge collections of learner writing. For this work to reach its full potential, it is important that researchers have a strong understanding of its methodological foundations and of the existing empirical evidence base on which it can build. This book provides the most comprehensive discussion to date of research in this area. Covering both first- and second-language learning contexts, it sets out a coherent theoretical framework and systematically reviews studies published over the last seventy years in order to establish what such research has taught us about written language development, what it hasn't taught us, and what we should do next. Timely and original, this is an essential reference work for academic researchers and students of first- and second-language writing.

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# Understanding Development and Proficiency in Writing

## *Quantitative Corpus Linguistic Approaches*

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CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
 978-1-108-47762-8 — Understanding Development and Proficiency in Writing  
 Philip Durrant, Mark Brenchley, Lee McCallum  
 Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,  
 New Delhi – 110025, India

79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108477628](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108477628)

DOI: 10.1017/9781108770101

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First published 2021

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

Names: Durrant, Philip, 1976– author. | Brenchley, Mark, 1981– author. | McCallum, Lee, 1989– author.

Title: Understanding development and proficiency in writing : quantitative corpus linguistic approaches / Philip Durrant, University of Exeter ; Mark Brenchley, Cambridge Assessment English ; Lee McCallum, University of Exeter.

Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, [2021] | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2020046968 (print) | LCCN 2020046969 (ebook) | ISBN 9781108477628 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108770101 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: English language – Rhetoric – Study and teaching – Evaluation. | English language – Study and teaching – Evaluation. | Corpora (Linguistics) | Computational linguistics.

Classification: LCC PE1404 .D865 2021 (print) | LCC PE1404 (ebook) | DDC 420.1/88–dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020046968>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020046969>

ISBN 978-1-108-47762-8 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-108-72580-4 Paperback

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## Acknowledgements

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We have benefitted from the help of many people in writing this book. We would like to thank especially all those who were involved in the Growth in Grammar project, particularly our collaborators, Debra Myhill, Rebecca Clarkson, and Victorina González-Díaz. We would also like to thank the schools, teachers, and children whose generous participation made the project possible, as well as the transcribers and annotators whose work was essential in creating the corpus. The project was financially supported by the Economic and Social Research Council (9ES/M00967X/1) and by the University of Exeter, where it was conducted.

We owe special thanks also to Bethany Gray, Kris Kyle, Jim Milton, Magali Paquot, and Anna Siyanova-Chanturia, who read and commented on aspects of the manuscript and whose advice has strengthened the final book considerably. Thanks also to the excellent editorial team at Cambridge University Press – in particular, Becky Taylor, Izzie Collins, Josh Penney, Jayavel Radhakrishnan, and Andrew Kerr-Jarrett.

Finally, we are above all grateful for the love and inexhaustible patience of our families: Ayça, Alona, Max, and Mauro. This book would not have been possible without you.