

TREATMENT OF ERROR

in Second Language
Student Writing

DANA R. FERRIS



Michigan Series on Teaching Multilingual Writers

Series Editors: Diane Belcher and Jun Liu

Contents

Series Foreword by Diane Belcher and Jun Liu ix

Preface xi

Introduction 1

1. Why Is Error Treatment Necessary for L2 Writers? 3

A brief history: treatment of error in L2 writing instruction

Second language acquisition research and implications for accuracy in L2 writing

Arguments against error correction

Arguments for error correction and teaching editing strategies

2. Perspectives on Error Correction in L2 Writing 10

Review of previous research on error correction: synthesis and critical analysis

Where are we now? What do we know? What do we still need to discover through primary research?

3. Preparing L2 Writing Teachers to Treat Student Error 38

Specific types of grammar knowledge needed to help writers

How teachers can prepare and practice their skills

Resources for teachers: building a library of materials for error correction and grammar instruction

4. Responding to Student Errors: Issues and Strategies 49

Which errors should be corrected?

When should error feedback be provided?

How should teachers give their error feedback?

How can teachers help students to process and utilize error feedback effectively?

How can ESL writing teachers use their time wisely and avoid burnout in giving error feedback?

5. Beyond Error Correction: Teaching Grammar and Self-Editing Strategies to L2 Student Writers 77

Raising student awareness about the importance of accuracy and self-editing

Teaching editing strategies

Providing instruction through grammar minilessons (including specific recommendations about available texts and materials)

Holding students accountable and helping them to track progress

Appendixes

Appendix to Chapter 3 111

Appendix A to Chapter 4 113

Appendix B to Chapter 4 117

Appendix C to Chapter 4 121

Appendix D to Chapter 4 124

Appendix A to Chapter 5 131

Appendix B to Chapter 5 133

Appendix C to Chapter 5 135

Appendix D to Chapter 5 138

Appendix E to Chapter 5 141

Notes 145

References 147