

ASSESSING STUDENTS' ENGLISH PROFICIENCY THROUGH TOEFL TEST AT ANIMAL HUSBANDRY STUDENTS OF UNIKS

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Abstract: This research was conducted to find out the students' score in TOEFL test at Islamic University of Kuantan Singingi (UNIKS). The research design was the descriptive research. The population of this research was the fifth semester students at Animal Husbandry Program Study. The population was 18 students. The instrument used in this research was a multiple choice test which is consisted of three assessment sections namely, Listening Comprehension (section 1), Structure & Written Expression (section 2), and Reading Comprehension (section 3). Based the research data, students' score in TOEFL test was in elementary level. It was classified as the lowest level in TOEFL test. The students only reached the range around 310-420. There were six students who got score above 400. Only one student got the highest score 433 and one student got the lowest score of 317. There were about six students who scored below 400 to 350. Around six students who got a score below 350. The finding indicated that the students' had less experience in TOEFL and they lacked knowledge of grammar in English. In this case, students should have more practice and preparation before taking TOEFL test.

Keywords: Assessing, English Proficiency, TOEFL test

Abstrak: Penelitian ini dilakukan untuk mengetahui nilai siswa dalam tes TOEFL di Universitas Islam Kuantan Singingi (UNIKS). Desain penelitian adalah penelitian deskriptif. Populasi penelitian ini adalah mahasiswa semester lima pada Program Studi Peternakan. Populasinya adalah 18 siswa. Instrumen yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah tes pilihan ganda yang terdiri dari tiga sesi penilaian yaitu, Listening Comprehension (sesi 1), Structure & Written Expression (sesi 2), dan Reading Comprehension (sesi 3). Berdasarkan data penelitian, nilai siswa dalam tes TOEFL berada di level elementary. Hasil ini diklasifikasikan sebagai level terendah dalam tes TOEFL. Skor yang didapat oleh siswa hanya berkisar pada reng 310-420. Ada enam siswa yang mendapat nilai di atas 400. Hanya satu siswa yang mendapat nilai tertinggi dengan skor 433 dan satu siswa mendapat skor terendah yakni 317. Ada sekitar enam siswa yang mendapat skor di bawah 400 sampai 350. Sekitar enam siswa yang mendapat skor di bawah 350. Temuan ini menunjukkan bahwa siswa memiliki pengalaman yang sedikit dalam TOEFL dan mereka tidak memiliki pengetahuan tata bahasa dalam bahasa Inggris. Dalam hal ini, siswa hendanya memiliki lebih banyak latihan dan persiapan sebelum mengikuti tes TOEFL.

Kata Kunci: Penilaian, Kemahiran Bahasa Inggris, tes TOEFL

A. Introduction

TOEFL or Test of English as a Foreign Language is a standardized test that has significant impact for EFL students. The TOEFL test is a test that measure the English language proficiency of a non-native English speaker (Philips, 2001). This test is conducted to assess the abilities of listening, reading, speaking, and writing in English. Currently, the TOEFL test is widely used by universities, academic institutions, and companies around the world as a way to assess someone's English language proficiency. The TOEFL assesses students' English skills for academic tasks such as listening, reading, and writing in a university setting (Aulia, 2023). This test is not only used to register at the university but is also required if you want to work in government agencies, take care of licensing, companies, and also for scholarship registration (Fitria, 2021). Usually, institutions require TOEFL as one of the prerequisites for further education both domestically and internationally. Therefore, one must have a TOEFL score that acceptable the required standards.

Nowadays, everyone can take the TOEFL test both offline and online. The difference between offline and online tests lies in their implementation: online tests can be taken at home or anywhere as long as the environment is conducive, while offline tests are conducted in places provided by the institutions. According to Haliza, (2023), there are three types of TOEFL test. Firstly, TOEFL Paper Based Test (PBT) which is first introduced in 1964 and used until 1998 which is the first English proficiency test released by ETS (Educational Testing Service). This test is the use of paper question sheets and answer sheets. This test assesses listening, reading, and structure materials, and the duration is about 2-2.5 hours. Secondly, TOEFL Computer Based Test (CBT), which was used from 1998 to 2005. CBT-TOEFL tested listening, reading, writing, and structure, with a test duration of about 2-2.5 hours. Thirdly, TOEFL Internet Based Test (IBT) . IBT-TOEFL was first introduced in 2005. This type is still used today and is the latest version of the TOEFL test. IBT-TOEFL is the International TOEFL Test standard recognized globally and uses a computer and the internet as its testing platform. The content tested in this test includes listening, speaking, reading, and writing, with scores ranging from 0-120, and a test duration of about 4 hours. IBT-TOEFL test participants can take the test online.

TOEFL is an English placement test that tests your listening, structure and written expression, reading comprehension in English (Yugi & Ulian, 2022). TOEFL examines language skills that are tailored to the academic and professional fields. These fields are packaged and divided into sections. TOEFL test usually consists of three sections with 140 questions. TOEFL includes three aspects, namely (1) Listening Comprehension, (2) Structure and Written Expression, (3) Reading Comprehension. The TOEFL test always starts with Listening Comprehension consisting of Part A, B, and C, then followed by Structure and Written Expression consisting of Part A and B, and the last is Reading Comprehension. This test is a such complete test that is not easy for many students to master it.

In Islamic University of Kuantan Singingi, TOEFL test had been conducted every year. This TOEFL test was scheduled from academic institution that is one of requirements to get Degree of Education in Islamic University of Kuantan Singingi. A TOEFL certificate is more than just a piece of paper at Islamic University of Kuantan Singingi, it's a golden paper to get a graduation Early. Islamic University of Kuantan Singingi has established the standard criteria minimum, the university mandates a minimum TOEFL score of 400 for students . Unfortunately, there are still many students of Islamic University of Kuantan Singingi who cannot achieve that a minimum TOEFL standard. Based on the preliminary interview from Animal Husbandry students who had taken TOEFL test, it is found that the students faces difficulties to answer the TOEFL questions and they also lacked of knowledge of grammar in English.

To get a higher score on TOEFL is not an easy job. Therefore an effective way is needed to complete this test. According to Sofia et al, (2024), there are several ways that can be used in answering TOEFL questions. The first, in the listening comprehension section, students select the scanning approach. This approach is used to give a summary of the questions at a later time. The second, in structure and written expression section, students can use a variety of techniques to answer this question, including matching mismatching, word class identification, and subject-verb agreement discovery. Lastly, the reading comprehension section. In this section, students have many strategies for determining answers; read the question first, find the keywords, scan the passage and choose the easy ones.

TOEFL test gives a very crucial advantages for academic and non-academic purposes. It also creates more opportunities. There are several advantages for taking TOEFL test (studyabroad18.com, 2018). First, TOEFL score is the most preferred score. This test is considered as the best one in assessing English skills. It provides the scores more accurately compared to other tests which makes it easier for universities for decision making process in admissions. Second, more opportunities. More than 130 countries and more than 7500 universities and institutes depends on TOEFL scores for providing admissions, which means the test takers will get more opportunities as many universities accept TOEFL scores. Even the top universities in U.K, Australia and U.S prefer TOEFL scores as one of the eligibility

criterion. Third, measures skills academically. TOEFL test completely has academic English tests which make it necessary to demonstrate the English language skills which were learnt in classroom level. In this test you will be asked to read a passage aloud, listen to the lecture and provide response also in the form of reading and writing. All these reflect the classroom environment which tests your academic skills. Lastly, TOEFL creates experience in English. It will give the takers more sensational experience for prepare their selves to study or work abroad.

Finally, TOEFL test has a very good reputation in international levels and is recognized by top universities for its quality and one hundred percent academic accuracy testing techniques. This is the best choice for people in preparing for this test to know the difference it makes in our career officially.

B. Method

The researcher chose Descriptive method to analyse the data of this research in order that in-dept data about the students’ score in TOEFL can be known. It is stated that to draw the description of individual setting, analyse the data for themes or category and interpret personal and theoretical conclusion. In this research, descriptive research was used as the research method since descriptive research is the right choice when the purpose of the study is to identify characteristics, frequencies, trends, and categories ((Yugi & Ulian, 2022). Moreover, Travers (2001) further explains that this descriptive method is to analyse the data which have correlation with activities and human’s behaviour. Before doing the research we hate to concern why something happened, you need to understand how, when, and where it happened (McCombes, 2022).

To gather the data, it was decided that the location of the research was at Islamic University of Kuantan Singingi, Kuantan Singingi, Riau. The research started from September to November 2023. The subject of the research was all of the fifth semester students of Animal Husbandry students . After several observations during the teaching learning process took time , the researcher then chose a written test as the research instrument to collect data. This test is to analyze the students’ ability in TOEFL which can be seen through the result. The test consists of 140 items that consisted of three sections; Listening Comprehension, Structure and Written Expression, and Reading Comprehension. The researcher chose the multiple choice items. The test was inform of google form and it took for 120 minutes.

In collecting data, the researchers use conversion systems. The number of correct answer has a specific value. For example if the number correct is 43, the value after converted is 60 in section one, the number correct is 28, the value after converted is 52 in section two. The number correct is 37, the value after converted is 53 in section three. It can be seen as follow:

Table. 1 Example of Scoring TOEFL

Info	Listening	Structure	Reading
Correct Answer	43	28	37
Converted Score	60	52	53

(GoKampus, 2021)

From the table above it can be calculated the final score of TOEFL. It can be seen in the following table.

Table. 2 How to calculate TOEFL score

Correct Answer	Converted Value	
Section 1 :	43	60
Section 2 :	28	52
Section 3 :	37	53

Total value after converted	165
Multiple by 10 (ten)	1650 divide by 3 (three)
TOEFL Score	550

In the conversion table (DigitalEduka, 2024), the lowest/minimum TOEFL score is 217 if we are not able to answer any of them correctly. While the highest/maximum TOEFL score is 677. However, in the TOEFL test, which is interested in measuring the standard level or level of English proficiency required by a certain institution or party that requires a TOEFL certificate, there are 4 levels of recognized score levels, with a minimum score of 310. They are as follows.

Table. 3 TOEFL Score Level Classification

Score	Level Classification
310-420	Elementary level (E)
420-480	Low Intermediate level (LI)
480-520	High Intermediate level (HI)
480-520	Advanced level (A)

C. Findings

The data in this research is the final TOEFL test score of Animal Husbandry students of UNIKS based on three assessment sections, namely Listening Comprehension, Structure and Written Expression, and Reading Comprehension which has been converted.

Table. 4 Correct answer of TOEFL Test of Animal Husbandry Students

No	Initial	Listening	Structure & Written Expression	Reading Comprehension
1	AGK	16	12	10
2	ADP	9	12	8
3	APH	19	14	8
4	EAP	12	12	14
5	EBH	12	16	9
6	LSA	18	14	19
7	MRD	20	15	19
8	MIN	29	15	20
9	MIH	17	16	18
10	MHS	29	14	18
11	PDH	17	15	18
12	RGI	13	11	9
13	RKN	12	16	9
14	RJN	11	11	5
15	SGI	10	8	22
16	SPB	12	11	12
17	TSN	17	13	13
18	TNI	12	9	6

From the table above, it can be seen that in the listening section only two students got the highest score, with the correct number of 29, one student who got the lowest score 9. Meanwhile, in the second section of structure and written expression, three students who got the highest score were 16, and one student who got the lowest score was 8. In the last section of the reading comprehension, only one student got the highest score with a correct number of 22. In this session, only one student had 5 and one person got a score of 6.

Table. 5 TOEFL Converted Score of Animal Husbandry Students

No	Initial	Listening	Structure & Written Expression	Reading Comprehension	Toefl Score
1	AGK	41	36	30	357
2	ADP	32	36	28	320
3	APH	44	38	28	367
4	EAP	37	36	34	357
5	EBH	37	40	29	353
6	LSA	43	38	39	400
7	MRD	45	40	39	413
8	MIN	50	40	40	433
9	MIH	42	40	38	400
10	MHS	50	38	40	427
11	PDH	42	40	38	400
12	RGI	38	35	29	340
13	RKN	37	40	29	353
14	RJN	35	35	26	320
15	SGI	33	29	42	347
16	SPB	37	35	32	347
17	TSN	42	37	33	373
18	TNI	37	31	27	317

After being converted, the final results of the student's TOEFL score can be seen as shown in the table above. There were six students who got score above 400. Only one student got the highest score 433. While the lowest score was only achieved with a score of 317. This value is very low. There were about six students who scored below 400 to 350. The rest are around six students who got a score below 350. finally, the level of classification of students' TOEFL score can be calculated as follow:

Table. 6 TOEFL Score Level Classification of Animal Husbandry Students

No	Initial	Toefl Score	Level
1	AGK	357	E
2	ADP	320	E
3	APH	367	E
4	EAP	357	E
5	EBH	353	E
6	LSA	400	E
7	MRD	413	E
8	MIN	433	LI

9	MIH	400	E
10	MHS	427	LI
11	PDH	400	E
12	RGI	340	E
13	RKN	353	E
14	RJN	320	E
15	SGI	347	E
16	SPB	347	E
17	TSN	373	E
18	TNL	317	E

Based on the data from the table above, it can be classified that the level obtained by Animal Husbandry students of UNIKS only reached at the elementary level. This level is the lowest level in the classification of the TOEFL test. The students only reached the range around 310-420. In this research, only two students got the low intermediate level. From the explanation above, it can be concluded that students' abilities are still very low about the TOEFL test.

D. Conclusion

Based on the finding presented above, it can be drawn several conclusions of this research. First in the listening section, only two students got the highest score, with the correct number of 29, one student who got the lowest score 9. Second, in the structure and written expression, three students who got the highest score were 16, and one student who got the lowest score was 8. Third, in reading comprehension, only one student got the highest score with a correct number of 22. In this session, only one student had 5 and one person got a score of 6. Fourth, after being converted, there were six students who got score above 400. Only one student got the highest score 433. While the lowest score was only achieved with a score of 317. This value is very low. There were about six students who scored below 400 to 350. The rest are around six students who got a score below 350. Furthermore, it can be classified that the level obtained by Animal Husbandry students of UNIKS only reached at the elementary level (E). This level is the lowest level in the classification of the TOEFL test. The students only reached the range around 310-420. In this research, only two students got the low intermediate level (LI). From the explanation above, it can be concluded that students' abilities are still very low about the TOEFL test. Finally, students should increase their knowledge about TOEFL and do more practice in TOEFL class.

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