TOEFL PREDICTION ONLINE TEST IN COVID-19 PANDEMIC ERA

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Abstract

As negotiate the short-term and long-term effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, it has utterly disturbed our everyday lives and made it difficult to prepare for the future. Employees in every field are worried about their job security, parents are juggling homeschooling and child care difficulties, and people of all ages are postponing and canceling milestone events such as birthdays, anniversaries, and weddings. Students are concerned about graduations and the shift to online curricula, while prospective undergraduate students are curious about how this would effect such a pivotal stage in their life – applying to and graduating from universities. one of the solutions offer is online test. The purpose of this research is to know students' perception on their opportunities and challanges in using online test in Covid-19 pandemic era. This study was a descriptive and use a mixed method consisted of quantitative and qualitative data. The sample of this study is the students from Binaniaga University who will have their thesis trial for 2020/2021 academic year. The results of this study showed that there are many students have difficulties in using online test. They have challanges on how to operate the online software, their lack of gadgets or supporting equipments, and also problem of online connection. It also proved that online test can be an alternative media to be held since there are also a number of students who got decent scores regarding of challanges mention before. There are 30 students from 242 students who face challanges in taking online test. But there are also 10 students who got excellent scores on the online test.

Keywords: online test, Covid-19 pandemic, cultural change

1. Introduction

TOEFL is a test that assesses non-native English speakers' ability to communicate in English by assessing their writing, reading, listening, and speaking skills. It's natural to be nervous about studying for the exams, yet TOEFL is a useful test in the long run. Everyone's career depends heavily on their ability to communicate in English. The TOEFL exam focuses on using English in real-life situations.

Since 1963, the TOEFL has been used by scholarship selection committees from governments, universities, and institutions such as Fulbright, the Agency for International Development, AMIDEAST, and the Latin American Scholarship Program as a standard measure of candidates' English proficiency. Some professional licensing and certification bodies also use the TOEFL score to evaluate English proficiency. Admissions committees at more than 4,500 colleges and universities in the United States, Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, and many other countries around the world require foreign applicants to submit TOEFL scores along with transcripts and recommendations for consideration for admission. (Pamela, 2013: 16).

The global Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact on educational systems all across the world, making it more difficult for pupils to plan for the future. While some students have postponed their plans, others have jumped at the chance to take advantage of the greater opportunities and higher admission prospects at top colleges that this unique situation may provide. This

case also affecting how TOEFL taken. Students take online TOEFL test. Authors also had some experiences in taking online TOEFL which became one of background in doing this research.

On this research, authors got some help from an institution which given TOEFL prediction online test, www.lingkarujian.com, to gather data of 242 students from Binaniaga University who will have their thesis trial for 2020/2021 academic year.

Figure 1. TOEFL Prediction Online Test conducted by lingkarujian.com for Universitas Binaniaga Indonesia

2. Methods

The types of research carried out in this study are mixed between quantitative and qualitative descriptive. Authors used quantitative to count and qualitative descriptive to explain the result. Descriptive research is generally carried out with the main objective, that is to describe systematically the facts and characteristics of the object or subject researched precisely. In recent developments, research methods. Description Alternative: Many researchers also do descriptive because of two reasons. First, from empirical observations indicate that most of the research reports were carried out in descriptive form. Second, descriptive

methods are very useful for get a variety of problems related to the field of education and human behavior.

The research methodology used by the authors was descriptive qualitative research because this research requires development of English material. the development model had tobe developed on three models: procedural, conceptual, and theoretical (Creswell, 2013).

1) Data Analysis Techniques

Data analysis or data processing is a more detailed and in-depth form of analysis that also discusses a theme or subject matter. Where in this analysis, the focus of research and discussion, although directed at certain fields or aspects, is the discrepancy of phenomena which is the central theme of the research problem (Hinrichs et al., 2017).

First, authors conducted the TOEFL prediction online test by giving PPT guidance on how to enter the website (www.lingkarujian.com) and login using their test account to do the test. Next, authors held a Zoom meeting to explain what is TOEFL prediction online test used for and how to do the online test remotely from home. Then, the result of the test counted quantitatively and presented in chart. Last, problems found would be delivered by test participants using Whatsapp to the test proctors.

Figure 2. Zoom Meeting Conducted by www.lingkarujian.com (go to https://youtu.be/X_zM8Fmq3Fo for full video)

2) Data Resource

Data are raw materials that need to be processed to produce information, both qualitative and quantitative data that show facts. On the other hand, data is material information about the object of learning something. Data can be found by observation, interviews, documentation, and so on, data from analyzing supporting factors (Flyvbjerg, 2006).

3) Object Research

The object of research in this study were 242 students from Binaniaga University who will have their thesis trial for 2020/2021 academic year.

4) Research Approaches

The research approach used in this research is a qualitative approach. As for what is meant by qualitative research, namely research that intends to understand the phenomena of what the research subject is experiencing in a holistic manner, and by means of descriptions in the form of words and language, in a special natural context and by utilizing various scientific methods. The type of research approach is descriptive. Descriptive research is research that seeks to address existing problem solutions based on result data (Tracy, 2010).

3. Results

There are several results found from the research as they are opportunities and challanges in holding TOEFL prediction online test.
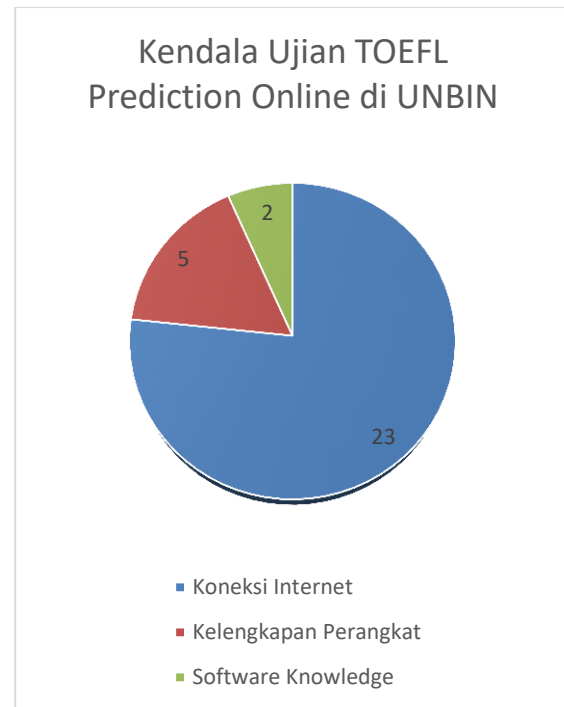

Figure 3. Problems Occured on TOEFL Prediction Online Test in Universitas Binaniaga Indonesia

Opportunities:

1) Students can do the TOEFL predicton online test from their home which means they could reduce the risk of infected by COVID-19 due they don't have to go to the test venue. Students which having isolation can also do the test remotely from their isolation place as long as they have the proper device and stable connection.

2) The result of the TOEFL predicton online test could be instantly received because it is already fixed by the system. the test participants can download their test result right after they have done the test.

Figure 4. Instant Test Result from Test Participant (downloadable)

3) The TOEFL predicton online test has cheaper cost than paper based test.

4) TOEFL predicton online test is more secure since it has its own database on the web. It can save up to million bytes of data from test participants.

Challanges:

1) TOEFL predicton online test needs a stable internet connection. It makes some of test participants got some issues about internet connection since Indonesia hasn't got this equally for its own people.

Figure 5. One of Test Participants who had Problem Connection

2) Test equipment such as laptop/PC and updated browser also became one of the problems faced by test participants to take TOEFL predicton online test from their home. Some of them didn't have working supporting tools to do the TOEFL predicton online test.

Figure 6. One of Test Participants who had Test Equipment Problem

3) Lacking of internet and software knowledge from the test participants is also one of the challanges of conducting TOEFL predicton online test. Eventhough the institution (www.lingkarujian.com) had already shared the test procedures on how test participants do the test and also held Zoom meeting to guide them to do the test but still there were some participants failed to perform TOEFL predicton online test because of lacking in internet and software knowledge.

Figure 7. One of Test Participants who was lacking in software knowledge

4. Conclusion

TOEFL predicton online test is one of solution for students to do the TOEFL test on COVID-19 pandemic era since it is enable to student operate and perform it from home. The results of the research are also indicated that there are several opportunities and challanges from TOEFL predicton online test. These opportunities and challanges are also part of cultural changes that happened because of COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, with some modification and treatment TOEFL predicton online test can be fully optimize and widely used.

Figure 8. Page from www.lingkarujian.com

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