Toefl Result of Politeknik Harapan Bersama Tegal Student's Majoring Mechanical Engineering

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Abstract

This research was done to see students' TOEFL score especially for fifth semester of Politeknik Harapan Bersama Tegal majoring Mechanical Engineering. Descriptive design using quantitative approach was chosen by the researcher. The sample is 45 students of Mechanical Engineering Study Program. The TOEFL test was used as research instrument. Descriptive statistics was used as data analysis technique, mean and percentage. The result of this research showed that student obtained problems in getting a TOEFL score with an average score 424 which was still at the basic proficiency category. The researcher found that the highest problem received by the students is listening section where student obtained correct answers only 23.7%. The students obtained the lowest score is in the short conversation with the percentage 31.27%. Then the structure and written expression, students obtained average score lowest in structure with a percentage 30.6%.

Keywords: *TOEFL, proficiency test, descriptive design, ESP*

Introduction

The Vision of Politeknik Harapan Bersama Tegal is to become a national standard Polytechnic and have a global perspective based on vocational education in 2020 and one of its missions is to enhance national and international cooperation in the development of science, research and technology. Regarding this matter, as a study program under the authority of Politeknik Harapan Bersama to support the success of the institution's vision and mission, it is important to equip students by providing TOEFL training and tests. This test is often used by several institutions and companies in selecting employees to find out one's understanding of English. So it is important for study programs to provide the TOEFL test so that students are ready to face the requirement of work, which is now famous for the term 4.0 industrial era.

As a graduate of mechanical study program that faces a professional 4.0 industrial era, graduates of mechanical engineering study program should have good English skill. If the they have good English skill, it will help them to improve the quality of their work. Beside as communication tool, several sources majoring in mechanical engineering come from abroad, they also use English so it needs to understand the translation properly and correctly.

English skills possessed by a person must be measured clearly. One measurement can be done by doing a test. The test which is generally known to be one of the parameters of English language skills is TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language). At present, TOEFL is used generally in many educational institutions as an instrument for assessing English language skills. Starting in 2015 until now, Mechanical Engineering study program at Politeknik Harapan Bersama has collaborated with the TOEFL organizer from Yogyakarta named BLTI (Batavia Language Training Institution). The TOEFL test should be followed as a requirement for students to take the Final Examination (TA), it takes in the 6th semester, in the implementation of the test it does not set certain graduation standards for students of mechanical study program. It is expected that students get a minimum score of 400. If there are students whose score below 400 then we give advice to take more test. So that when they pass study, the certificate can be attached as a provision to apply for a job. In accordance with the demands of the company or agency in the 4.0 era.

Based on the results of the TOEFL Prediction Test that was held by the Mechanical Engineering Study Program of Politeknik Harapan Bersama Tegal in collaboration with BLTI (Batavia Language Training) Yogyakarta, it was found that there were still many students of mechanical engineering study program who generally had not managed to meet a minimum score of 400 as a DIII non-language student standard English. Unlike students from English study programs who are familiar in learning English and usually they get minimum score of 450. So, intensive and serious TOEFL Test exercises are needed for students from non-English majors. Before carrying out the TOEFL TEST, students of the Mechanical Engineering study program have received 3-4 meetings for training material that is often tested in TOEFL such as Listening, Structure and Written Expression and Reading Comprehension. In addition, they have also completed courses which are supporting components in the ability of the TOEFL Test namely English 1 and English 2 as part of Mechanical Engineering subject.

TOEFL scores from internal organizer of Mechanical Engineering Study Program Politeknik Harapan Bersama and BLTI (Batavia Language Training Institution) Yogyakarta) as external organizer has only provide

information about the scores obtained from Listening, Structure and Written Expression, and Reading Comprehension. The values of each aspect are accumulated and divided into final values. Under these conditions, both the participant and the test organizer only know the final value of the TOEFL. While the description of the capabilities of each aspect cannot be comprehensively identified. Even though information like this will be very beneficial for all parties, both the organizers and the test participants.

According to Brown test is a method used to measure the ability, knowledge or appearance of a person according to the field being tested. Another opinion from Arikunto which states that one of the objectives of holding an assessment is as a diagnostic tool for student weaknesses and the causes of these weaknesses so that ways can be found to overcome them. Based on the statement, the TOEFL Test should have a positive impact on improving the quality of learning, especially the English language subject in the Mechanical Engineering Study Program of Politeknik Harapan Bersama.

The description of the abilities of each aspect tested on the TOEFL can be a source of solutions to the problem of learning English as additional subject in the Mechanical Engineering Study Program in particular and the Politeknik Harapan Bersama Tegal environment in general.

Research on the description of English language skills is still rare. So far, studies have not been found that attempt to present information about the description of the TOEFL score, especially for students of mechanical engineering courses. The description of the TOEFL score of the sixth semester students is very important to be known by the test organizers because this can be used as a reflection material for the process of teaching and learning activities in English so far. For this reason, it is considered very necessary to present a study that can provide detailed information about the description of TOEFL scores of the sixth semester students at Mechanical Engineering study program of Politeknik Harapan Bersama.

Review of Literature

1. Definition of TOEFL

According to Brown, the test proficiency in the field of language is not limited to just one discussion, curriculum or skill, but the test includes the overall ability. Generally, the proficieny test consists of multiple choice items that are in accordance with standard test of grammar, vocabulary, reading and listening comprehension skills. One of the standardized tests proficiency according to Brown is the TOEFL test produced by ETS

(Educational Testing Service) which has been used by thousands of tertiary institutions in the United States. According to Orybund, TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) is a standard test of English as a foreign language to test one's ability in terms of mastering English. There are a number of abilities tested in this test, namely the ability to understand oral text (Listening Comprehension), the ability to understand the structure and expression of the written model (Structure and Written Expression) relating to English grammar and reading comprehension ability.

2. Use of TOEFL

According to Orybund, TOEFL is used as one of the prerequisites for study abroad, especially countries that use English as the language of instruction. TOEFL is also usually a requirement for continuing undergraduate and postgraduate studies in the country. Even now undergraduate students at various well-known universities in Indonesia are also required to have a certain TOEFL score as one of their graduation requirements. TOEFL also began to be used in the work as a part of recruitment procedure or career advancement. TOEFL is widely used to measure one's English proficiency in an academic context. Moreover, the popularity of the TOEFL is supported by its very standardized nature so that it can be used universally.

3. Types of TOEFL

There are three types of TOEFL issued by ETS (English Testing Service) as a language proficiency test namely Paper Based Test (PBT), Computer Based Test (CBT), and Internet Based Test (IBT). Paper Based Test or PBT-TOEFL is a form of TOEFL Test that was first issued by ETS. The working system in this type of test is to use sheets of question paper and answer sheets which must be filled with 2B pencil. The material tested is Listening, Structure, and Reading with a score range of 217 - 677. The time available to complete this test is 2 - 2.5 hours.

CBT-TOEFL is the second form replacing PBT TOEFL, in this test system no longer uses paper, but directly using a computer. All questions use software and each question is answered or done directly on the computer. CBT was first introduced in 1998. But in some Asian countries, especially Indonesia, most government and private institutions still allow the use of PBT as the International TOEFL Test standard.

The material tested in the CBT-TOEFL type test is generally the same as the material tested in the previous types such as Listening, Structure,

Reading and Writing. The scoring system is also slightly different from the previous type. The range of scores on the CBT-TOEFL is 0 - 300 and the length of time available to complete this test is 2 - 2.5 hours.

IBT-TOEFL is the most recent form of TOEFL Test which is also known as the Next Generation TOEFL. ETS issued the latest TOEFL Test form since 2005. In Indonesia, test in this form came into effect since 2006 as the International TOEFL or Test standard recognized in the world. (implementation system) IBT-TOEFLTest uses the internet. Test participants directly will be connected on-line with ETS and answer test questions also online. Test material tested is Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing. Test time is 4 hours with the iBT-TOEFL score range is 0 - 120.

4. Main Skill Components in TOEFL PBT

The TOEFL component in the Paper Based Test format includes three aspects, namely listening comprehension, structure and written expression, and reading comprehension. These aspects will be tested in the test material, where the number of items is different. The problem in the listening section (number) is a number of 50 items consisting of three parts. The first part is a short dialogue (Short Conversation) and continued with the second part in the form of a conversation (Longer Conversation). The last part of this aspect is the Lectures or Talks. The next aspect of the TOEFL Test is the Structure and Written Expression. In this section there are 40 items consisting of two parts. The first part is to choose the answer that fits the rules while the second part is to recognize the wrong English rules (error recognition). The final aspect of the TOEFL test series is Reading Comprehension. In this aspect there are fifty questions scattered in several texts. At this stage participants are required to answer each question based on available text.

5. Components of Skill Supporting TOEFL PBT

In each main skill component there are of course some supporting skills. Philips divides the TOEFL PBT support skill. For the listening aspect there are nine support skills that must be mastered, namely restatement, negatives, suggestion, passivves, who and where, agreement, the question (part B), the topic, the order of the answer, the question (part C), the topic part C) and the order of the answer (part C). The second test section is Structure and Written Expression. At this stage the test participants are required to master several skills from the 25 support skills identified by Philips. The twenty-five skills identified by Phillip are Subjects and Verb, present participle, object preposition, past participle, coordinate connectors, adverb clause connectors, non clause connectors, noun clause connectors /

subjects, adjective clause connectors / agreement, agreement after prepositional phrases , agreement after exression of quantity, agreement after certain words, parallel structure with coordinate conjunctions, parallel structure with paired conjuntions, past participle after have, Present Participles or Past Participants After Be, Verbs After Modals, Singular And Plural Nouns, Countable And Uncountable Nouns, Subject And Object Pronouns In the final test phase, namely reading comprehension, Philips describes four skills that must, at least, be mastered by test participants, possessives, pronoun references, adjectives and adverbs, and adjectives after linking verb. In Reading Comprehension aspect, there are six skills in the Reading Comprehension section. These six skills are main idea questions, stated detailed questions, unstated detail questions, implied detail questions, vocabulary in context questions, and where questions.

6. Allocation of TOEFL PBT Time

The allocation of time available to Toefl Test participants is 2 hours to 2.5 hours divided into 35 minutes of listening, 25 minutes of structure and written expression and 55 minutes of reading comprehension.)

7. TOEFL Assessment

The initial stage of giving the TOEFL score on the PBT TOEFL is to convert the correct answer from the three parts of the TOEFL Test. Furthermore, the total amount is converted into three parts with the session 1 + session 2 + session 3 which is then divided by three results. Then the division results are multiplied by 10 so that the final result is obtained from the test.

8. Interpretation of TOEFL Value

TOEFL PBT score that has been obtained then needs to be interpreted to determine the level of achievement of each score. The interpretation of the TOEFL PBT score is based on interval scores which are divided into four levels. The first level is the elementary level with a score range 310-420. The second level is low intermediate level has a score range between 420-480. The next level is the high intermediate level with a score range between 480-520. While the advanced level has a score range between 525-677

Method

The design of this study is descriptive. This study will describe the TOEFL scores of students of the Mechanical Engineering Study Program of Harapan Bersama Tegal. This research was carried out using a quantitative approach. The population in this study were all sixth semester students of

Mechanical Engineering study program 2017/2018 academic year. The population is 119 people. The sample in this study was 45 students. The instrument used in this study is an English proficiency test in the form Test of English as a Foreign Language or it has known as the TOEFL.

The test is in the form of multiple choices. In the test, there are 50 questions for Listening Comprehension, 40 questions for Structure and Written Expression, and 50 questions for Reading Comprehension. So that the total number is 140 questions. The allocation time for questions for Listening is approximately 35 minutes, for Structure and Written Expression is 25 minutes, and Reading Comprehension is 55 minutes. So the total allocation of test time is 115 minutes. The data in this study is a score. So the data will be analyzed using a quantitative approach. Data analysis is done using statistics.

The statistical formula to be used is average and percentage. The average is used to get a general description of the TOEFL scores obtained by all students as test participants. While the percentage is used to find out more specific information related to the value that has been obtained by students.

Result and Discussion

The average value of students in the TOEFL test conducted during this study was 424. The distribution of student proficiency levels showed that 73.25% of students could be categorized as the basic level, 20.56% were at the lower middle level, and 2.70% were at upper secondary level. Unfortunately, none of the students involved in this study can be categorized as proficient. For students who are the subject of this research, the number of correct answers based on each part varies. The percentage of correct answers for the listening section is the lowest, which is 23.7% while the highest position is found in the structure and written expression section, the percentage reaches 30.6%. The percentage of correct answers for the reading section occupies the second position, which is 25%.

The listening section the distribution of correct answers is classified into 3 parts: short conversation, longer conversation, and talks. The percentage of correct answers for each part was 31.27%, 37.66% and 39.5%. Meanwhile, for the part of the distribution structure the correct answers are distinguished by two parts, they are structure (completion) and written expression (error recognition). The percentage of correct answers for each part is 31.50% and 39.72%.

Conclusion

The analysis of data was obtained during the research process directs the researcher to understand the TOEFL score of the fifth semester students of Mechanical Engineering study program clearly. In this case, there are several important points that can be described in this study. The first point is the highest score of TOEFL is 490 and the lowest score is 343 with an average score of 424. This fact proves that the TOEFL score of the majority of students is still at the elementary level.

The second point proves that the biggest obstacle for students in working on TOEFL is to listen. However, in other sections such as structure and written expression and reading, the level of mastery of material by students is still low. In the listening section, the most difficult aspect got by students is the short dialogue. Even so, there are other parts that also become obstacles for students. The structure and written expression section, the part that becomes the most serious obstacle for students is the structure (completion). This can be seen from the low student achievement in this section. Overall it can be concluded that students still experience difficulties in the structure and written expression section.

Looking at the standards of values and difficulties that students get during the test, students can be advised to study hard using English media both audio and visual, especially those relating to the academic context. For that reason, English lecturer can make this research as one of the considerations in improving the quality standard in English language courses. Besides being oriented to English for Specific Purpose (ESP) because polytechnic lecture based on specific competency, it is also necessary to prepare English language skills for preparation of TOEFL Test, such as Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing as well as supporting competence in English language skills such as Grammar and Vocabulary so that the students will be ready to take TOEFL Test with a better score.

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