

HEADWAY TEST AS AN ALTERNATIVE ONLINE ENGLISH PROFICIENCY TEST : INDONESIAN EFL TEACHERS' PERCEPTION

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ABSTRAK

Hampir sebagian besar proses belajar mengajar telah menggunakan metode daring sejak pandemi Covid 19 terjadi. Hal ini juga terjadi pada pengujian bahasa. Pengujian bahasa harus juga dilakukan secara daring untuk mencegah penyebaran Covid 19. Memberikan pengujian kelancaran Bahasa Inggris secara daring adalah salah satu contohnya. HeadWay Test adalah salah satu pengujian kelancaran Bahasa Inggris yang dibuat untuk menjawab kebutuhan ini. Sebenarnya, HeadWay Test telah digunakan sebagai pengujian bahasa sejak 2010. Hal tersebut terjadi sebelum pandemi terjadi. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian kualitatif. Penelitian ini mendeskripsikan persepsi guru dalam menggunakan HeadWay Test. Penelitian ini mengundang 58 guru Bahasa Inggris dari MGMP Bahasa Inggris Kalimantan Selatan sebagai partisipan. Pertama-tama mereka diberikan HeadWay Test. Kemudian, peneliti memberikan angket kepada mereka. Ada 12 pertanyaan untuk dijawab dalam angket tersebut. Pertanyaan tersebut tentang apa persepsi mereka setelah menggunakan HeadWay Test. Secara umum, hasil dari angket menunjukkan bahwa mereka mempunyai persepsi yang baik terhadap HeadWay Test. Mereka menyatakan bahwa Headway Test dapat digunakan sebagai alternative dari Uji Kelancaran Bahasa Inggris secara daring.

Kata kunci : Uji Kelancaran Bahasa Inggris secara daring, HeadWay Test, Persepsi

ABSTRACT

Teaching learning process mostly has used online method since Covid-19 pandemic. It happens also in language assessment. Language assessment must be given by online to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Giving online English Proficiency Test is one of the examples. HeadWay Test is as one of English Proficiency Tests designed to answer this needs. Actually, HeadWay Test has been used for language assessment since 2010. It was before this pandemic happens. This research is qualitative research. It describes teachers' perception of the using of online HeadWay Test. It invited 58 English teachers from teacher association in South Kalimantan as the participants. In this case, they were given online HeadWay Test firstly. Then, the researcher gave them the questionnaires. There were 12 questions to answer in the questionnaire. The question asked about what their perception after they took online Headway Test. Generally, the result of this questionnaire showed that they have good perception of online HeadWay Test. They claimed that online HeadWay Test can be used as an alternative of online English Proficiency Test.

Keywords : Online English Proficiency Test, HeadWay Test, Perception.

classroom, also gives an idea to have online English language testing.

INTRODUCTION

Generally, the outcome of English language classroom is to know the students' achievement of the subject in teaching learning process. Here, we will know how good the students' understand and how good the students' implementation of the subject given. There are some techniques to measure the students' achievement in teaching learning process. One of them is by giving a test. A test is one of procedure to assess the students' in teaching learning process. Today, classroom-learning assessments are regarded as both formative (developmental) and summative (final); both of the types above are appropriate to use in online learning (Sewell *et al.*, 2020). So the teacher can organize them in online language testing for his class. Facilitate online language testing for the class is appropriate with this pandemic situation.

According to Brown and Abeywickrama (2019) English language testing is a method of measuring a person's ability, knowledge or performance in a given domain. There are three aspects in his theory, first, the method in language test must provide an appropriate technique and procedures. By providing an appropriate technique and procedure in a set of the test, it will guarantee the qualified test. Second, the test must be mentioned on what competency being measured. So the test developer should decide what English competency will be measured. And the last the test developer must know the background of the test taker. By knowing the test taker's background, it can determine the level of difficulty of the test. All of the criteria above must be fulfill in English language testing.

During Covid-19 pandemic, teaching learning process has been transformed into an online mode (Murtiningsih, 2020). There is no face to face classroom anymore. Teaching learning process must be done online by using internet connection. Sigh and Thurman (2019) stated that online teaching and learning is a teaching learning process that can be facilitated by synchronous or asynchronous. It can be done by using different devices such as mobile phones, laptops, etc. with internet access. Transferring face to face classroom classically to this online

The implementation of online English language assessment is supported by Learning Management system (LMS). Learning Management system is a software application that provides the framework to handles all aspects of the learning process. It uses computer technology to operate it. The using of computer technology in language testing is known as CALT.

Computer-assisted language testing (CALT) employs computer applications for eliciting and evaluating test takers' performance in a second language (Suvorov & Hegelheimer, 2014). CALT facilitates English language testing through online in this Covid-19 pandemic. CALT doesn't only give English test but also give scoring as the result of the test.

By adopting CALT system, English language testing can be done everywhere, everytime synchronously or asynchronously in this Covid-19 pandemic.

Facilitating language testing by using CALT also needs support good computer skill from the test taker. The test taker must have ability and confidence to operate computer technology well (Aljaraidah & Al Baine. 2019). The requirements above will give impact on the fluency on doing online language testing. When the test taker has good computer skill, it will help him doing the test fluency. He doesn't have any obstacle in finishing online language testing. His ability about computer literate can support him when doing online language testing.

Futhermore Paschal & Mkulu (2020) added that online learning will be success when the students have good digital skills, availability technologies and also good internet connection. In this statement, internet connection is also the one supporting factor to run online language testing. Internet connection must be prepared well before doing online language testing. It can be served by having good Wifi or good internet quota fee in the device. The fluency of internet connection can help the test taker does the online language testing well. The test taker won't get any obstacle when the internet connection is good. So the computer literate and internet connection need to prepare well. It will guarantee that the test will go smoothly.

Since English becomes one of international language, there is a need to measure English proficiency for non native speaker by giving English Proficiency Test. It is a trend to give online English proficiency test in this Covid-19 pandemic. Online English proficiency test is given to avoid the spreading of Covid-19. by facilitating CALT in this pandemic era. There are some English proficiency test that is given by online. One of them is HeadWay test. HeadWay Test is one of English proficiency test which is developed by a private institution in Indonesia. HeadWay test has been used for some education institution in Indonesia. There are more than 30.451 HeadWay test taker now

This research was done to know Indonesian EFL teachers' perception on HeadWay Test after they took HeadWay Test. Investigating EFL teachers' perception on HeadWay Test is important to know. It will give information how effectiveness of HeadWay Test as Online English proficiency test for the test takers.

Human is unique. Every human has self perception to face an object. They have different perception with other person because they see and judge something based on their thinking and their feeling. According to Robbins and Judge. (2013) perception is a process by which individuals organize and interpret their sensory impression in order to give meaning to their environment. Because of perception relates to somebody to process his individuals organize and interpret, so someones' perception about something may be different with other people. Mirazna & Hikmah. (2019) indded that Perceptions also include how to respond to the information, information something meaningful. So perception can be given by giving any response to any information.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research is qualitative research. This research invited 58 EFL Indonesian teachers to join in HeadWay Test by zoom meeting. To conduct the research firstly, the researcher gave HeadWay Test as online English proficiency test to them. They must do the test for an hour and submit the test after

finish directly. After they did the test, then the researcher gave online survey to answer. The survey was distributed by google form directly to them. The survey asked about their experience when they did HeadWay Test. There were 12 questions to ask in the survey. The result of their responses are described in the discussion below.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Their Interest To Use Headway Test As One Of Test Of English Proficiency Test

The introducing of HeadWay test as test of English proficiency test is interesting for some Indonesian EFL teachers. There are 58 EFL Indonesian teachers join as the participant for this research. All of the participants agree that They want to know their English proficiency by using HeadWay test. It is shown by the chart below

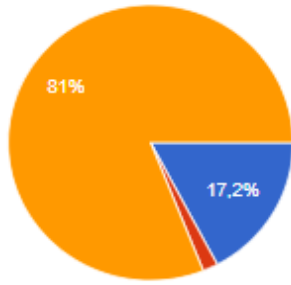


Picture 1: Their interest on HeadWay Test

100 % participants join in the research claimed that they were interested in knowing their English proficiency by using HeadWay test

2. The Device Which Was Used For Doing The Test

HeadWay test uses Computer-assisted language testing (CALT). This system is used in HeadWay test to facilitate language testing during Covid 19 pandemic. One of supporting system in doing the test is the using of device during the test. The result of the research showed 81% participants used laptop, 17,2% used smartphone and the rest used tablet

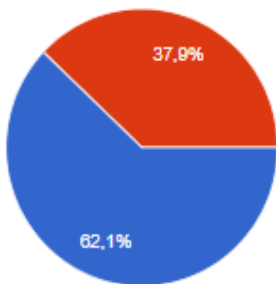


Picture 2: The device using on doing HeadWay Test

The device selection for the test was their preference but it is one of the factor to support them when they did online English proficiency test. So before the test, the researcher has told them to check whether their device doing well or not and asked them to refresh the device first before using it.

3. Kinds Of Internet Connection To Support Their Work When Doing The Test

It was online language testing. It really needed internet connection to support. In this case, the participants may use wifi or internet quota fee for their device. But they must be sure that the connection will go smoothly during the test. There were 62,1% participants used wifi and 37,9% used internet quota fee for their device



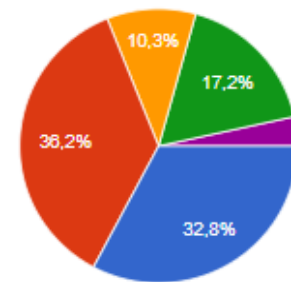
Picture 3: Kinds of Internet connection used

4. Internet Connection Work

The using of internet connection had influence on online language testing. Good internet connection will support the run of the test. In the other hands, when the internet connection is not stabile or not good, there will be a problem in finishing the test. That's why internet connection working during the test needed to ask. The result shown that 38,2% participants claimed that they had good and smooth internet connection, 32,8% claimed that their internet connection was so

so, 17,2% claimed that there was a trouble in the middle of the test, 10,3% claimed that their internet connection was good enough and smooth. The rest claimed that they had a trouble in internet connection and ever log out from the link test.

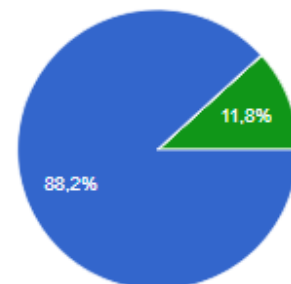
The internet connection work doesn't stand on alone, but it also has connection to the device and area. Both of them are influence the stabilize of internet connection. The chart below explains more of the result



Picture 4: Internet connection work

5. The Important Thing Of ICT (Information Computer Technology) To Support Language Testing.

88,2% participants agreed that ICT is important to support language testing and only 11,8% answered that ICT maybe important to support language testing. It is shown by the chart below



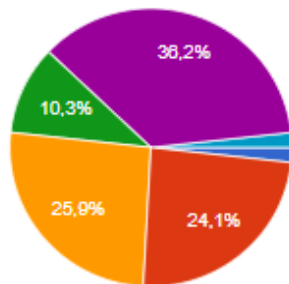
Picture 5: ICT in supporting language testing

The using of ICT in language testing is known as Computer-assisted language testing (CALT). It is supported language testing to asses English proficiency. CALT is really helpful in this modern area. CALT accommodates the number of participants , the place, the time in language testing. The large number of participants isn't a problem anymore. CALT can cover the implementation of the test until the scoring. The place where

the participants did the test isn't a problem anymore. By the having good synergy between CALT, internet connection and the device, the language testing can run well.

6. The Teachers' Perception On Listening Questions

Listening is one of English language skills. Listening is also tested in HeadWay test. There are 50 questions in listening section of HeadWay test. The questions are divided into 15 numbers of photographs, 20 numbers of question and response, and 15 numbers of short dialogue. All of the questions in listening section must be finished in 40 minutes. The teachers' perception for listening section showed that 6,25% claimed that listening section is so easy, 36,2% claimed that listening section is difficult, 24,1% claimed that listening section is easy, 25,9% claimed that listening section is easy enough, 10,3% claimed that listening section is so so, and other claimed that listening section is very difficult.

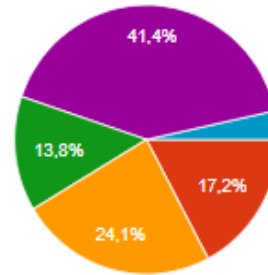


Picture 6: Teachers' perception on Listening section

7. The Teachers' Perception In Reading Questions

As well as listening, reading is also one of English language skill. Reading is tested in HeadWay test. There are 50 numbers in reading section of HeadWay Test. The questions are divided into 20 numbers of incomplete sentence, 15 numbers of incomplete paragraph and 15 numbers of reading reading comprehension. The teachers' perception of reading section showed that 41,4% claimed that reading section is difficult,24,1% claimed that reading section is easy enough,17,2% claimed that reading section is easy,13,8% claimed that reading section is so so, and other thought that reading section is very

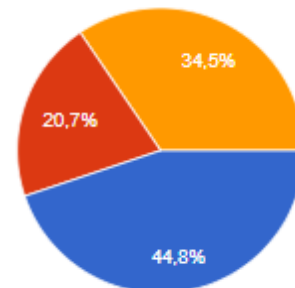
difficult. For more clearly, it describes on the chart below



Picture 7: Teachers' perception on Reading Section

8. Time Allocation In The Test

HeadWay test gives time allocation 60 minutes for finishing 100 numbers. All numbers are multiple choice. The investigating of the relationship between time allocation and number of question of HeadWay test showed that 44,8% participants thought that the time allocation is appropriate with the number of question, 34,5% participants thought that the time wasn't enough and needed more time to finish the test, 20,7% claimed that the time was so so to finish the test.

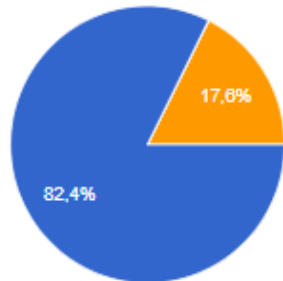


Picture 8: Time allocation in the test

9. The Attendance Of Headway Test To Meet The Needs Of Language Testing Nowadays

HeadWay test comes to offer English Proficiency Test. Headway test serves the test taker by using online mode in English proficiency test. Combining between language testing and CALT is appropriate in this globalization. It also answers the challenge of language testing in this Covid 19 pandemic. The statement above is supported also by the participants. There

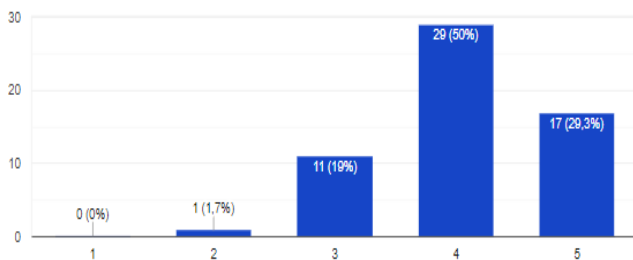
were 82,4% participants said that HeadWay test has met with the technology need nowadays, 17,85% said that HeadWay test uses technology in the test and none of them claimed that Headway test doesn't use the technology at all



Picture 9: HeadWay Test meets the needs of language testing

10. The Teachers' Satisfaction After Doing The Test (From Registration Until Submitting The Answer)

Doing online HeadWay test as English proficiency test is a new experience for them. They were really lucky teacher because they can get success to finish the test and know the score of their English proficiency test in free of charge. The chart below showed about their satisfaction of the test

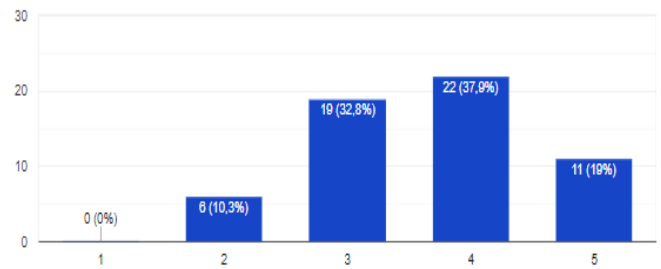


Picture 10: The teachers' satisfaction after doing HeadWay Test

It showed that more than 50% participants are satisfaction join in HeadWay test.

11. Headway Test Comes To Their School

As English proficiency test, HeadWay test wants to offer its service to schools. It was asked to the participants, and the result as follow



Picture 11: HeadWay test comes to their school

It describes that more than 50% participants agreed if HeadWay test comes to their institution. It seems that the teachers really appreciate to HeadWay Test as one on English Proficiency test. They believe on HeadWay test in supporting their students' English proficiency test.

12. The Need To Have Headway Preparation Class Before Having Headway Post Test

The result of the survey above explained that some of the participants thought if listening and reading test were difficult. They thought that having preparation test first before they have Headway post test is better. They thought that having HeadWay preparation class is a need. It can help the test taker to understand the test more. This idea is also supported by the result of the survey that showed 100% participants agree if they need HeadWay preparation class first before having HeadWay post test



Picture 12 : The need to have HeadWay Preparation Class before having HeadWay Post Test

CONCLUSION

The supporting of technology in language testing is a need in this globalization, especially in this covid-19 pandemic. HeadWay Test as one of online English proficiency test comes to

give an alternative of language testing. The result of the research showed that HeadWay test able to answer the need of technology in language testing. HeadWay test doesn't only facilitate the test with appropriate section of the test, but also serves the test with CALT. As the result, more than 50% participants of the research are satisfied after doing the test and very welcome if HeadWay test comes to their school.

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