WAYS TO IMPROVE LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

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Abstract. To evaluate and track each students' growth and improvement, teachers should know assessment systems and how to apply them during lesson. There are 4 main grading methods that each teacher should be aware of. Developing language assessment systems is crucial for enhancing the quality of education. By integrating technology, adopting formative and communicative practices, and focusing on competencies, assessment can become more effective, meaningful and easy to use during lesson. These improvements will help learners develop real language skills and succeed in a globalized world.

Keywords. Language assessment, student proficiency, standardized testing, SAT, ACT, IELTS, formative assessment, summative assessment, surface-level memorization, performance based tests, appropriate levelled courses.

Language assessment systems are an essential part of modern education. They are used to evaluate students' proficiency in different language skills such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing. However, traditional assessment methods often rely heavily on standardized testing and memorization, which may not accurately

reflect real-life language use. In its turn what is standardized testing? Here are some explanations what does it mean and what kind of character it holds. *Standardized testing* is a method of assessment where all test-takers answer the same questions in a consistent manner, allowing for objective comparison of performance. These tests—often about multiple-choice or short-answer questions—are used for accountability, school evaluation, and student placement. Common examples include the **SAT**, **ACT**, **IELTS**, and state-mandated tests. Key aspects of standardized testing;

- ✓ **Consistency:** The questions, testing conditions, and scoring procedures are uniform for everyone, limiting subjectivity.
- ✓ **Purpose:** They are used to measure student achievement, help teachers to track student results, inform teacher evaluations, identify learning gaps, and inform school accountability (e.g., funding or promotion decisions).

Types: Primarily *achievement tests* (what was learned) and *aptitude tests* (potential for future success).

In today's world, improving language assessment systems has become a major focus in educational reform. Modern education requires assessment systems that are found fair, flexible, and capable of measuring practical language skills. The key assessment methods in teaching are:1. *formative assessment* (daily progress monitoring) 2. *summative assessment* (end-of-course exams) 3.*performance-based tasks* (real-world simulations), and 4.*placement tests*.

Formative assessment is an ongoing, low-stakes process used during instruction to monitor student learning and provide immediate, actionable feedback. This type of assessment emphasizes continuous learning and progress. Teachers can assess students through class activities, quizzes, presentations, and group work while observing their performance. Formative assessment helps identify students' both strengths and weaknesses during the learning process. It allows teachers to adjust their teaching methods and provide personalized support. This approach also reduces stress for students, as they are evaluated over time rather than in a single exam. Continuous evaluation encourages learners to stay engaged and motivated towards subject or lesson. It also promotes deeper understanding rather than surface-level memorization and help to create long lasting information. Purposes of using formative assessment during class :

- ✓ **Purpose:** To improve learning in real-time rather than simply grading it.
- ✓ **Timing:** Conducted during the learning process, not at the end to improve proficiency.
- ✓ **Feedback:** Provides specific, actionable feedback to students on their progress and how to improve, show them ways to improve in where they are failing and guides them towards growth.
- ✓ **Flexibility:** Can be formal or informal, often ungraded

Summative assessment evaluates student learning, skill acquisition, and academic achievement at the conclusion of a defined instructional period, such as a project, unit, or course. These high-stakes assessments are designed to measure mastery of learning standards, typically resulting in a final grade or grade-level proficiency. Key characteristics of summative method:

- **Timing:** Conducted at the end of a learning unit or course.
- **Purpose:** Evaluates cumulative learning and effectiveness of instruction.
- **Stakes:** High-stakes, often heavily weighted toward a final grad

Performance based tests measure how well students can use language in real-life situations. For example, role plays, discussions, and problem-solving tasks can

be used to assess speaking and listening skills. For example, role plays can be used in institutions, schools or colleges during lesson. That helps learner to learn both how to use language appropriately and overcome over fear. Competency-based assessment is another effective approach. It measures learners' ability to perform specific tasks rather than just recalling information by force. This method aligns with real-world language use and prepares students for practical later life communication. By focusing on competencies, assessment becomes more meaningful and relevant. Students are encouraged to apply their knowledge in authentic contexts, which improves their overall language proficiency.

A placement test is an assessment designed to measure a student's current knowledge, skills, and proficiency in subjects like **foreign languages**. These tests are primarily used by educational institutions to assign students to appropriate-levelled courses—such as remedial or advanced classes—that match their ability.

Despite these improvements, there are several challenges in

implementing modern assessment systems. These include lack of teacher training, some of them are not fully aware of teaching assessments and how to use them in time, limited resources, and resistance to change. Teachers may need additional support and professional development effectively use new assessment methods. To address these challenges, governments and educational institutions should invest in training programs and infrastructure to give enough information.

Collaboration between educators, policymakers, and technology developers is also essential. One of the most effective ways to improve language assessment systems is by integrating technology. Digital tools such as online testing platforms, mobile applications, and artificial intelligence can provide more accurate and efficient evaluation methods. For example, computer-based tests can include interactive listening and speaking tasks, which are difficult to assess in traditional paper-based exams. Technology also allows for instant feedback. Students can quickly understand their mistakes and improve their performance. Additionally, *automated scoring systems* can reduce human bias and increase reliability in assessment. Online platforms also enable remote assessment, making education more accessible for students in different locations. However, it is important to ensure equal access to technology for all learners. Without proper infrastructure, the benefits of digital assessment may not reach everyone. To conclude, improving language assessment systems is crucial for enhancing the quality of education. By integrating technology, adopting formative and communicative approaches, and focusing on competencies, assessment can become more effective and meaningful. These improvements will help learners develop real language skills and succeed in a globalized world.

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