

TYPES OF TESTS USED IN TEACHING ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND THEIR ROLE IN ASSESSMENT

Sarimsokov Sirojiddin Shoyzokovich
Scientific supervisor, teacher of SamSIFL

Risqulova Dilnur
Master student of SamSIFL

ABSTRAKT

Tests which are used during the period of teaching English language are deemed to be pivotal in terms of assessment process. Understanding the different types of testing, the kinds of results they provide, and how they complement one another will help parents use this information in the best way to help their children learn. In this paper there are some discussions about types of testing, namely, diagnostic testing, formative testing, benchmark testing, and summative testing.

Key words: assessment, diagnostic testing, formative testing, benchmark testing, summative testing,

Introduction

What is testing?

What is testing in education? As it is said that almost everyone has experienced testing during his or her life such as grammar tests, driving license test, educational background tests. Tests are typically used to examine a person's knowledge of something and determine what the person knows or has learned. It measures the level of skill or knowledge that has been reached. An assessment device or procedure in which a sample of test taker behavior in a particular domain is collected and evaluated and scored using a standardized procedure (The Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing, 1999).

In educational settings, tests are specifically designed to evoke specific behaviors that help make inferences about various traits that people may possess. A measuring

instrument or tool has been developed to obtain the sample. This includes systematic data collection using specially designed tools to enable informed decisions about material selection, teaching strategies and learner learning outcomes.

Types of Testing

There are mainly four types of testing today — diagnostic, formative, benchmark, and summative. What purpose are they used today? How should parents use them and interpret the feedback from them? We can have such questions when we hear about them.

1. Diagnostic Testing

This type of test is used to diagnose what students do and don't know. Diagnostic tests are usually taken at the beginning of a new educational stage when students start studying a new unit. Tests contain topics that will be taught to students in future lessons. Teachers typically use information from diagnostic tests to guide what and how to teach. For example, one plans to spend more time on the skills students struggled with most on diagnostic tests. Conversely, if a student performs exceptionally well in a particular section, they may be able to cover that content faster in class. Students do not have to master all the information on the diagnostic test

Diagnostic testing can be a helpful tool for parents.

2. Formative Testing

This type of test is used to measure student learning in class. This is used during lectures and is intended to give students an opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of the material, as in the clock activity example above. These informal, low risk tests are ongoing and student performance on formative tests tends to improve as classes progress.

3. Benchmark Testing

This exam verifies that students have mastered the content-related units. Benchmark tests are administered during or after the classroom, focusing on a section

of the material and covering some or all of what has been taught up to that point. Assessment is intended to let teachers know if students understand the material.

4. Summative Testing

This test is used at the end of the academic year or course as a checkpoint to assess how well students have learned overall. This type of test is similar to a benchmark test, but instead of covering one unit, it cumulatively covers everything a student has done in her year.

Since summative tests cover the full range of concepts for a given grade level, they are not able to assess any one concept deeply. So, the feedback is not nearly as rich or constructive as feedback from a diagnostic or formative test. Instead, these tests serve as a final check that students learned what was expected of them in a given unit.

According to Keith Taylor when we train as English language teachers, testing is often one of the parts of the job that doesn't get much attention. She showed four main types of test in English Language Teaching, namely, informal testing, progress testing, diagnostic and placement testing, proficiency and selection tests.

Conclusion

To get a holistic view of children's academic performance, we need to balance four different types of tests. Each type of tests differs based on its purpose, timing, scope of competency, and student expectations. Each type provides important feedback, but the real value lies in bringing all this data together. Diagnostic tests can assess what students already know and what they need to learn in the next unit.

Formative testing helps teachers and parents monitor student progress on a daily basis. Benchmark tests can be used as an early indicator of whether a student has achieved the lesson objectives and can help parents and teachers double-check concepts that students may have trouble with. Ideally, teachers and parents should know how well students have learned the material at the beginning of summative assessment. A wrap-up test provides that final confirmation.

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