Utilizing Technology as an Assessment Tool in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (EFL) In Indonesia; Challenge and strategy

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ABSTRACT

Technology has changed the way how teacher teaches students in classroom and it also impact to the way how teacher assessed students in learning, and a wide of technologies has developed the ability of teachers' assessment in classroom. The present study is aimed to analyze the utilizing of technology in assessing student's English language, and find out some challenges that the teacher found in using technology in learning, and proposed strategy to deal with technology as assessment tool in teaching EFL. The case study that occurred in a private institution in Tangerang showed that the utilizing technology in assessing student's learning impact to student' improvement in language skills, because they can check the feedback of teachers directly and they use the digital tool wherever. The kind of assessment that was used in school is quite effective to be used to measure student's understanding in learning language.

Keywords: Technology, Assessment tool, EFL, Teacher's strategy..

1. INTRODUCTION

Today, technology provided many resources for learning and it is utilized to assist teacher in conducting activity in the classroom. In line with issues, technology gives impact to the way how teacher managed learning activity at classroom and it can be used to raise student's motivation in learning. To learn language has some effort to transmute the ability of students into more creative and actively design to deliver material with flexible time and physically touch in classroom [1] and it allow teacher to design the teaching material with appropriate platform that can be used as a tool in teaching. There are many platforms that can assist teaching to conduct the classroom activity, such as, the use of *Youtube, Telegram, Whatsapp*, etc. Indeed, recent technologies has spread use in whole activity in teaching, the use of smartphone and gadget that has been used generally and its available of browsing the material through the Internet or other social media that can greatly useful for the students. Due to this, the utilizing the technology and learning platform impact to the students' achievement in learning and the implementation of platforms in classroom activity raise students' motivation in learning, such as using Video Blogging, YouTube, Telegram, WhatsApp and Video Podcast [2].

There are many platforms that can be utilized by teacher to assist teaching process in the classroom, either in online or offline session, these platforms are used not only to help student understand the material easily but it is used to help teacher in assessing the language that the students have learnt. one of the platforms that is used in teaching English is vodcast (video podcast) which is used to assess students' language skill in learning, WhatsApp is also used by teacher to assess student's writing, it can be seen that the students actively involve to write in the platform using the target language.

The use of technology in school can create teachers' awareness on technology and teaching preparation which impact to student's motivation in learning. Teacher is expected to imply the technology in teaching to ease and assist students' understanding the material shared and explained in the classroom, the teacher can provide the quizzes to improve students' vocabulary, video- blogging for student's speaking or podcast for raising students' listening skills and many others.

Levy (2010) cited in Bahrani [3] has identified five levels of technology that can support teaching activities in the classroom (pp.16–17) which includes the physical level of the technology (mobile phone, laptop, etc), the management level that enable the administration and the tracking of language course, the application level which show processing software, email, etc. and the resource level which includes to the authentic material such as digital newspaper, finally the technology provides the tools for improving the ability in language.

Utilizing technology to asses language in classroom shows the teaching design that has been prepared by teacher and it affect to students' interest in learning, in line with the assessment in classroom, Angelo [4] described the characteristic of classroom assessment which focus on observing and improving learning (learner-centered), concern on the teacher as a guide to gain information through the assessment, also the assessment must be useful to improve self-assessment skills, in addition. The assessment has formative forms which improve the quality of students learning and context- specific which showed the assessment technique that appropriate with the subject materials also the on-going process which measure the classroom activity among teachers and students.

Technology can be a tool to measure students' assessment in learning language, the successful assessment must be highly authentic, valid and reliable to be used in assessing students' development in learning [3], [5] There are many platforms technology that be used in assessing language learning, it can be appropriate with student's need in learning. They are:

a.   Podcast

Podcast is utilized for practicing and improving listening comprehension of students, the students can use podcast by listening to the podcast that provided and they listen carefully to what the podcast played. In other hand, the students can make their own podcast by recording their voices and uploaded then they can access to their record and listen to the record, students are expected to make self-assessment based on their hearing then the students can provide the better English.

b.   Chat

Today, chat is one important media that can be used to deliver messages between speaker and interlocuter or listener. The use of chat in teaching can provide students' skill in writing and other language skills. Many sites in social media or internet offer free online chatting service which can be pedagogically valuable for language learning as well as language assessment.

c.   Mobile Phone

Utilizing mobile phones as one media in conducting online learning impact teaching and learning activity either in offline or online situation, doing mobile phone is adaptable to assist students' learning when the teacher conducts the classroom virtually and it can produce a good writing for students when they use the devices appropriately, the students can use it for writing messages, making a note and also doing communication among speakers and other interlocutors.

d.   Interview and role play

They are like to be traditional strategy in learning, but this strategy impact to students' achievement in learning language, in this term, the students can do role play and make interview session with another people to improve their speaking activity and raise their listening comprehension. However, the point is that the students can choose a topic and interview other students about anything around them. If the interview is recorded by a camera or a mobile phone, and it used technology to record or take documentation of the activity. it can be viewed and assessed later by the teacher. However, the teacher can encourage the students to listen to the recorded interview and rerecord it if they find their problems before they give it to the teacher.

There are many researcher who has already involve technology in assessing student's learning, they were focus on how one platform can be used in conducting teaching and assessing learning, but still limit the researcher who try to expand the challenge and strategy to use the technology in assessing language, therefore to fill this gap, the researcher is intended to examine the utilization of technology as assessment tool in teaching English as a foreign language in a private school Tangerang- Banten which try to answer the following research questions namely 1) what are the platform that was used in assessing language? What challenge that the teacher found in using the technology as assessment tool in learning English?

2. METHOD

The study was carried to expand the description about the utilizing of technology as assessment tool in teaching English. This case was conducted in a private senior high school in Tangerang, the participant of the study are 2 English teacher and 20 students who are learning English at grade XI. The teacher was graduated from strata 1 of English Department in one university in Indonesia, they have been teaching at school for 10 years, they use technology to assist them teaching, provide materials to students and assess student's learning through the technology. The students are from grade XI of a private school in Tangerang- Banten, these students are familiar with technology and they are allowed and facilitated by parents to have smart phone as media to communicate, learn also practice the language. This study is aimed to analyze how the technology is used in assessing learners, find out the challenges and strategy in using the technology in

student's assessment. To get data, the researcher used questionnaire, interview and also classroom observation to enhance the data and find the appropriate data that relate to research questions. In doing research, the researcher used the platform in teaching as pedagogical media and it is used to assess student's improvement in learning.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The findings of this study will be explained in two discussion which relate to 1) technology used in language assessment, and 2) challenge of using technology in language assessment. The explanation of each discussion is below.

 a.   Technology used in language assessment

The technology assist teacher in assessing learner's ability in learning, after they have acquired the languages and practices, the teachers use some strategy to assess the learners' language, and the researcher found that the teacher in a private school at Tangerang used several technologies in assessing students' language.

No	Platform	Language skill	Strength
1	Video Blogging	Speaking	+ self confidence + more fluently
2	Padlet	Writing	+ more creative +productive
3	Podcast	Listening	+better accent +good understanding
4	WhatsApp	Writing	+ productive + better writing
5	Telegram	Reading	+ more fluently +interesting +Joyful

Pigure 1. platform that used in language assessment.

- Video blogging is one pedagogical medium that can help students to improve speaking skills because watching video blogging can add new vocabulary, and help improving pronunciation and fluency.

- The use of Padlet in learning encourage students' motivation and raise their confidence in writing. The students are eager in doing practice after see the padlet and they can keep practice in writing due to the use of this tool.

- The third platform that is used to assess student's language is podcast, podcast is one media that can be used in teaching and assessing learners' language, the podcast

requires the students to be more active and creative in using the languages and they are having more time to review their language use. [7]

Platform	Video blogging			Paddlet			Podcast			WhatsApp			Telegram		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	4
Fluently	√			√			√					√			√
Understanding		√		√				√				√			√
Grammatical		√		√				√				√	√		
Confidence		√			√			√				√			√

Figure 2: The use of technology in teaching

From the table above, the researcher found that the utilizing technology in language assessment arise students' motivation in learning, those platforms impact the flexibility in measuring the language skill of students in learning language which consists of speaking, writing, listening and writing. The participant is very confident in using these platforms to measure students 'language ability, but some of the participants still have difficulty understanding the content and they have only a little experience in grammar.

- WhatsApp

WhatsApp is one pedagogical media that can be used to assist students' writing, in this media, the students write the sentences and paragraph then the teacher gives feedback or constructive correction for students to improve students' writing skill. the use of WhatsApp can encourage students' ability in writing. [8]

- Telegram

Telegram is a multi-platform messaging service founded by Russian entrepreneur Pavel Durov [9] This kind of media impact to students' writing skill and reading, this term provide many articles that can be used to read and it can also use to assists students' writing skill.

b. Challenge of use the technology in language assessment.

Technology can be one of the helping tools for teacher in conducting the classroom activity, raise students' motivation in learning, improve student's confidence in speaking and develop another language skill. On other hand, the researcher also found the

challenge of using the technology in assessing the students' language, such as the difficulty of operating the devices to conduct the language assessment towards the students and teacher[10]. The internet connection while using the devices impact the result and score of students in usin g the technology as a tool of learning. In addition, the accent and intonation of a speaker who speaks faster and unable to followed by the respondents, and seeing this disadvantage can be utilized by the teacher to facilitate them in understanding the context earlier then the students will know how well the topic that they will se.

In addition, the strategy to the challenge that has found by teacher in implementing the technology in language assessment are:

- To utilize the technology in teaching more often

- Train utilizing technology in assessing learners' language

- Provide time to do hybrid learning

The use of technology in teaching provide teachers more chances in doing the teaching practically, and deal with student's need, because students are familiar with the technology and teacher did the same.

The platforms that are used in teaching create teacher more creatively to design the teaching preparation and material joyfully and it enable students identify the topic easily, the platform that can be used in teaching such as video blogging, podcast and Edmodo, etc.

The challenges in utilizing technology according to students could be solved by understanding digital literacy to get the information and use the technology as teaching and learning assistance in classroom activity. To enhance students' ability in learning, students can use many activities that relate to technology use [11], for example; watching video blogging, doing podcast, making interaction with the speaker, understand the communication, write in WhatsApp or Edmodo and do many language activities in some application enable students to enjoy learning.

Technology grows rapidly and it runs quickly to be improved and affect whole teaching and learning activity. The use of media can enrich the vocabulary of students and introduce cultural resources for every region and nation that they seek, helping them to increase knowledge in terms of pronunciation, and improving the ability to understand English language in general. Thus, according to the students, they will continue to use video blogging to enrich their knowledge related to speaking skills.

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CONCLUSION

Technology is giving impact to the way how teacher assess the student's learning, it is used to help teacher conducted the class, assessing students' language, and teaching device. There are many platforms that can be used in teaching, such as YouTube, Telegram, Podcast, Video blogging, etc. they are the platforms that can be used as pedagogical media to improve students' learning.

The teacher must have the ability to design appropriate media to enhance students' motivation in learning and facilitate them in the intuition among society, therefore, video blogging can be one media that can be used by the teacher in raising students' confidence and improving students' skill in language.

This article found only a limit scope in how the technology assist teacher in doing assessment on student's learning, and this study is still general in describing about many platforms in using assessment tool. Hopefully, it can give another insight of the next researcher to give a broader view and investigation on how the technology can be used as teaching assistance in more specific perspectives.

AUTHOR'S CONTRIBUTION

The author contribute this study to the teacher who does teaching, design material to students, prepare appropriate assessment form for measuring students' ability in learning. Teacher with a good preparation will produce better output for students, and this study give new insight for the teachers to prepare the teaching tool in assessing students' ability. This finding has informed that teacher must deal with technology, and utilize the technology to assist teaching activity in classroom, technology gives many impact for teacher in conducting materials, assessing students' language skill.

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