

EVALUATION, TESTING, AND ASSESSMENT

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Abstract: The present article explores the ways in which evaluation, testing, and assessment are vital to education. Assessment is critical to understanding the strengths and needs of individual students. When delivered effectively, assessment outcomes can inform curriculum design and make learning more targeted and meaningful for each student.

Key words: testing, evaluation, assessment, EFL (English as a Foreign Language), ESL (English as a second language).

The role of assessment, testing and evaluation has grown greatly over the past few decades. The part of assessment that comes in the form of tests alone is almost unbelievably large. There are also the non-assessments that are carried out by teachers, such as term papers, in-class essays, systematic observations of student projects, and other similar assessments that are a routine part of directing learning. The total involvement of educators in data collection is enormous and challenging.

Caroline Clapham has mentioned that language assessment plays a pivotal role in applied linguistics, operationalizing its theories and supplying its researchers with data for their analysis of language knowledge or use [1, p. 148].

Beyond this, we have to talk about testing and evaluation. Testing is a set of specified, uniform tasks to be performed by students, these tasks being an appropriate sample from the knowledge or skills in a broader field of content. From the number

of tasks done correctly in the sample, the teacher makes an assumption of how the student will perform in the total field.

Language Testing provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and information between people working in the fields of first and second language testing and assessment. This includes researchers and practitioners in EFL and ESL testing, and assessment in language acquisition and language pathology. In addition, special attention is focused on issues of testing theory, experimental investigations, and the following up of practical implications.

Language teachers regularly use tests to help diagnose student strengths and weaknesses, to assess student progress, and to assist in evaluating student achievement. Language tests are also frequently used as sources of information in evaluating the effectiveness of different approaches to language teaching. As sources of feedback on learning and teaching, language tests can thus provide useful input into the process of language teaching [2, p. 3].

Evaluating English Language Teaching develops a sound theoretical basis for and practical skills in the planning and implementation of language education curricula. It familiarizes students with various research methods and instruments most commonly used for the investigation and evaluation of classroom settings and enables students to develop practical skills in designing and carrying out an evaluation project in an EFL/ESL classroom context.

We have to mention about the trends in Language Testing and Assessment. This component provides students with the opportunity to develop an understanding of assessment and validation processes in language program evaluation. It is intended to provide insight into the theories of assessment, language test validation, and evaluation of professional practice in language education. Through illustrative case studies, students develop the critical skills to enable them to plan and undertake assessment and to justify their own position and approach.

Evaluation is a determination of the worth or value of an event, object, or individual in terms of a specified criterion. Educators evaluate student progress by comparing student performance to the criteria of success based on instructional

objectives. They evaluate a program in terms of how well students progress compared to how they might do in an alternative program.

Thus, testing, evaluation, and assessment have an important function for both students and teachers. Our main task is to find out what works and what doesn't work as well. Educational assessment seeks to determine just how well students are learning and is an integral part of our quest for improved education.

REFERENCES

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