

Evaluation of Communicative Performance and Proficiency of English as A Foreign Language (EFL) Learners: Basis for The Development of Communicative Assessment Tool and Instructional Materials

Neliza Cayaban, Rizal Dapat

Adamson University, Philippines

Abstract

This study evaluated the performance and proficiency of English as Foreign Language (EFL) learners who are incoming or continuing students of the Graduate School, in terms of grammar and vocabulary, speaking, and writing skills of the EFL learners enrolled in any of the following programs: the 120 – hour EFL course (grammar and vocabulary, writing, and speaking); public speaking and technical writing courses. The gradual progress of the EFL learners from poor performance in grammar and vocabulary diagnostic test to proficient in the summative test shows the gradual transition of the EFL learners from the traditional teaching of grammar and vocabulary to communicative teaching. Based on the overall performance and proficiency of the EFL learners in public speaking, they are described as developing speakers. While each class demonstrated differing levels of proficiency and varied strengths and weaknesses in their speaking skills, when viewed holistically, it demonstrates their average performance. The poor performance and proficiency of the EFL learners in academic writing indicates that generally, they have difficulty in writing essays. However, their performance and proficiency in technical writing indicates that they are proficient writers which clearly shows that there has been a remarkable progress in the EFL learners as beginning writers in academic writing to developing writers in technical writing. They have developed their proficiency as evidenced by writing a research proposal or concept necessary for their thesis writing course in Graduate School. Therefore, this study recommends the development of communicative assessment tools and instructional materials for EFL learners.

Keywords: English as a Foreign Language (EFL); English proficiency; communicative assessments; communicative performance; instructional materials