

Flexiquiz

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Submission date: 10-Jun-2023 12:02PM (UTC+0700)

Submission ID: 2112945625

File name: 2980-6841-1-PB.pdf (241.92K)

Word count: 2272

Character count: 11900

Creating an Online Quiz Learning Media Using Flexiquiz to Practice Essential Vocabulary for the TOEFL

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Abstract

The objectives of this research are (1) to explain a tutorial in creating Flexiquiz web application to essential vocabulary learning for the TOEFL, (2) to explain the Flexiquiz web application to essential vocabulary learning for the TOEFL as a learning strategy in combining the user manual with the web application for online learning, (3) to know users' responses towards the online TOEFL quiz in essential vocabulary learning using Flexiquiz web application. This study is a qualitative research type and it is categorized as descriptive research because it is aimed to describe a learning strategy using Flexiquiz web application that can be manifested as materials integration. The practice questions that are available in Flexiquiz web application are taken from a book entitled "Barron's: Essential Word for the TOEFL". It means that the writer joined between the book with the Flexiquiz web application. The data gathered in this study are a questionnaire and a test result using Flexiquiz. The results of this study expose that the users of the Flexiquiz web application have interest to use Flexiquiz web application as online strategy to learn. Two features of Flexiquiz web application that can improve learning in vocabulary are; Grading and Review Answer. The conclusion can be drawn in this study shows the result that online learning using Flexiquiz web application is interesting, fun and easy.

Key words: *essential vocabulary, online test, online learning.*

Introduction

Language can be used as a method of communicating ideas, emotions, and desires by mean of a system of voluntarily produced symbols (Edward Sapir, 1921:3). Language is a cultural product that is

partially unique and reflective to general properties of the human mind. ⁵ TOEFL is an English language examination which is often taken by students who study English and want to study overseas specifically in

English speaking countries. TOEFL is an abbreviation of 'Test of English as a Foreign Language'. It is the test that evaluates the ability of an individual to use and understand English in an academic setting. The test is required not only to study at a university but also can be used to apply for a job in particular companies that require the TOEFL test that reflects their English Competence. Therefore, learning TOEFL Test is one of the important things to study it. There are three language skills tested in the TOEFL paper-based; listening, structure, and reading. There is not a specific vocabulary section in the TOEFL but people who take the test should understand and be able to use a large number of words to do well in all sections of the test.

Some learners face difficulties when facing the test and "vocabulary has traditionally been one of the language component measured in language test." Furthermore, Thornburry (2002:13) states "without grammar, very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary, nothing can be conveyed". That statement reminds us that vocabulary is an important component in language that has to be mastered. Thornburry also said (in

Mofaref Alqahtani:2015) that ²teaching words is a crucial aspect in learning a language as languages are based on words. It means that in teaching vocabulary, as a teacher has to consider about the language used to communicate to other with choosing the appropriate words. Meanwhile, ²teaching vocabulary is one of the most discussed parts of teaching English as a foreign language (Mofareh: 2015). In words, vocabulary is a crucial language component to be mastered by English learners to comprehend any context in a text or communication. The author came up with an idea to combine two ways in learning vocabulary specifies for the TOEFL test. The combination is undertaken by taking the essential vocabulary that exists on the test are taken from a book, ESSENTIAL WORDS FOR THE TOEFL, from Barron's The Leader in Test Preparation and cultivate the vocabularies with a web application, The Flexiquiz, available on <https://www.flexiquiz.com/>. It is believed that the combination of the web application can help learners to enhance vocabulary mastery for the TOEFL test preparation. Therefore, anyone who takes a TOEFL can use

Flexiquiz web application as a media in learning essential English vocabulary for the TOEFL.

This research focuses on how to create essential vocabulary using the Flexiquiz web application as an online test generator that will automatically mark and grade quizzes, create, send and start analyzing the results of a test.

Review of the Related Theories

The writer found some of the research related to this research in a different setting. The first, the journal was written by LIU Shuang and LIU Jin-xia: 2015, entitled The Application of Games in English Vocabulary In Kindergartens. It explains how to use games to teach English vocabulary in a fun way. Additionally, Shuang and Jin-xia explain the first important point is the characteristics of using a game in English Vocabulary. The characteristics itself have a purpose to make a form of activity, the purpose is to trigger students' interest, to make students participate in the activities actively, and finally to complete the goal that teachers set and teachers have to consider the teaching purposes. Always controlling the situation is a key factor in the process

The web application can be accessed anywhere and anytime using both devices; a gadget of the users and a laptop. This study also tries to find out users' responses in learning the essential TOEFL vocabularies using Flexiquiz web application.

of the game. Not only focusing on the entertainment game, but also its educational meaning to the students. Another important part is that the teachers should not ignore the learning activities of the students. Therefore, by using the games, teachers have to pay close attention to the aim of the games that combines with teaching and learning activities.

The difference between those two mentioned previous studies and this research is that learners who use the Flexiquiz web application to learn vocabulary for the TOEFL are autonomous. Teacher's presence does not exist, instead, they rely on themselves to run the web application for studying.

According to Hornby (1983: 1425) vocabulary is the total number of words that make up a language. Besides, Thornbury (2002:10) said

that "Vocabulary is a number of words which is connected to the idea. It means that vocabulary cannot be separated from the relation of language, word meaning, extending word use, the word combination and grammar of the word". It also emphasizes that in order to understand the language, we have to master vocabulary first. Hence, in order to be able to speak English, we have to master vocabularies as much as we can. Not only that, to make us be able to listen and read in English, mastering vocabulary is a must to understand the meaning of the text. According to Sondang Manik and May Christiani (2016) said that in teaching students the teacher should teach the students to recognize and understand the word in multiple contexts. For example; use the word in their speaking and writing; connect the word to their own lives and offer

Research Methodology

This study uses a descriptive qualitative research. Ary et al (2010: 426) stated, "The research design is the researcher's plan of how to go ahead to gain an understanding of some group or some phenomenon in

examples of its correct and incorrect use; understand subtle shades in the word's meaning, and generate effective contexts to help others understand the word. The past decade has seen the rapid development in using mobiles phones in vocabulary teaching and the focus has been on the role of these devices in teaching vocabulary to L2 learners (Ahmet Basal, Selahattin Yilmaz, Asli Tanriverdi, & Lutfiye Sari:2016).

It is true that there are teachers who use 'cutting edge' technology, but the majority of teachers still teach in the traditional manner (Solanki D. Shyamlee:2012). However, there are many opportunities for learners to get more practical ways of using technology for studying essential vocabulary which is one of them using Flexiquiz web application.

⁴ its context". According to Bogdan and Taylor cited by Lexy J. Moloeng

(2010:4) Qualitative method is "a research procedure that obtains descriptive data in written or spoken form from the people and their behavior which is being observed."

The purpose of the study is to figure out and describe a situation that occurs during the process of learning using the web app.

Five of thirty units of "Essential Word for the TOEFL" done by ten respondents as the subject of the research, they are users of the online learning using Flexiquiz web application. After completing the five units, the respondents fill out the questionnaire and the result of the submitted questionnaires elaborated as the figured out phenomenon.

In this study, the researcher uses notes taking as one of the instrument and another instrument is a questioner. The questioner has about the users' responses in using Flexiquiz web application in learning essential vocabulary for the TOEFL. The users answer the question form provided by the researcher.

³ Data Reduction, According to Mathew B. Miles and A. Michael Huberman (1994: 10) "Data reduction refers to the process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, and transforming the data that appear in written-up field notes or transcription". In this research, the gathered data that are collected from

notes and questionnaire are elaborated based on the research statements.

Findings and Discussion

The finding of this research is a manual book of a Flexiquiz web application for the essential vocabulary learning for the TOEFL. The second is a learning strategy from the combination of the learning materials of the essential words of the TOEFL and the web app that can be applied.

The researcher also participated to be the test creator as also be called operator. The operator explains that not only on how to use Flexiquiz web application but also to get access to the link of the quiz. The questions were taken from the “Essential Words for the TOEFL” by Steven. J Matthiesen and cultivated with the web application. It is suggested that the learners have to learn

that book in the first place then practicing the vocabulary using Flexiquiz afterward.

Related to the questionnaire result, the respondents informed about features which can improve their vocabulary learning are Grading and Review Answer. Grading shows the test result directly after completing the test. While Review Answer feature enables learners to know if the questions

answered are correct or incorrect. By doing so, the learners can see the result of the test by clicking the Review Answer to see the correct answer. The respondents state that both of the features really help them to understand more vocabulary. In addition, they do not only learn the meaning but also the classes’ of a word.

Applying online learning using Flexiquiz web application helps the learners learn easily. They can get access to the link of the material anywhere. They only need to have an email to use it. The learners mentioned that the questions of the quiz can be set at random so that it helps them to trigger their mind in memorizing the vocabulary when studying the verbs using the web app.

Conclusion

The manual book for learners who want to test their vocabulary for the TOEFL is available to support the learners to learn autonomously and can be accessed on A learning strategy that is proposed in this research can be employed by learners in studying the TOEFL book and then practicing the vocabulary learned using Flexiquiz created by the operator. The features of Flexiquiz web application that can

improve the learners' vocabulary are the Grading and Review Answer.

Suggestions are made for the operator for the quiz creator and the learners. An operator needs to be an autonomous learner to explore video tutorials on www.youtube.com in creating a quiz using Flexiquiz if he/she is inexperienced toward the web application. For the Learners as the users, they need to be autonomous learners when learning with technology because they must enable themselves to do the quiz without teachers' presence.

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