

## GENERAL ILLUSTRATION OF UNDERSTANDING THE MAIN TYPES OF LANGUAGE TESTING

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### ABSTRACT

Testing plays an important and decisive role in various fields of society. It indicates the quality of mastering new knowledge and skills. Testing is used in different spheres for different purposes. For instance, in medicine, it is used to analyze the patient's health status. In driving, the test determines whether the examinee has sufficient knowledge to drive a car properly. In production, testing is necessary to clarify the product's compliance with the standards of need.

Moreover, it displays the quality of the knowledge which was conducted by the teacher. What is important the most is that testing indicates the appropriate field where the test takers are showing good ability. Furthermore, it motivates the test takers to continue to make progress. The article depicts four main types of language tests with the help of which the candidate's knowledge and ability is evaluated appropriately.

**Key words:** language testing, proficiency, achievement, diagnostic, measure, placement, progress.

### Introduction

In all educational programs, testing is a necessary process with the help of which you can find out the quality of knowledge and language acquisition skills. In addition, it is a key factor for the teacher to identify and improve gaps in the lessons that have been taught. The word test can be understood as a system of formalized tasks, based on the results of which one can judge the level of development of certain qualities of the test subject, as well as his knowledge, skills and abilities.

The language testing is distinguished relating to the method and purpose. These purposes of the tests involve the following types:

*Proficiency tests.* They are directed to measure the examinee's capability in a language, despite any training in that language. The content of the proficiency

tests is not based on the objectives of the language course that the examinee has enrolled. On the contrary, it is arranged to indicate what abilities the candidate is required to do in language in order to be considered proficient. One of the most wide-spread examples of such tests are undoubtedly, IELTS and TOEFL, which ascertain whether the candidate's level of English language proficiency in academic purposes or in a world of work.

In academic study, these tests are administered in order to ascertain whether an examinee has already gained the knowledge or skills on a particular course despite the fact that the course was not taken on a particular campus. The success at the proficiency tests can determine whether the examinee is able to earn academic credit in the subject, and indicates to the preparation for the success in subject's subsequent courses.

*Achievement tests.* As the name refers, achievement tests are aimed to establish the success of the group of students or individuals in achieving the objectives of any language course. Moreover, it indicates the success of the course in achieving the objectives as well. There are two kinds of achievement tests that are final achievement tests and progress achievement tests.

Final achievement tests refer to the tests that are taken at the end of the study course. Unlike proficiency tests, the substance of the achievement tests comprises directly the syllabus and the materials of the books that were used in the course. The results of the tests will determine whether the syllabus was designed properly and the materials of the books were chosen appropriately. In the worst case, it results in the misleading of the tests.

Progress achievement tests are arranged to measure the progress the students are making on a particular course. The best way of achieving the progress of the course is to settle a series of short-term objectives. They should advance to the final achievement tests based on the objectives of the course. When the syllabus and teaching correlate with the objectives, basing on short-terms objectives, progress tests will fit well with what has been taught.

*Diagnostic tests* refer to measure the candidate's level of language or the skill of the level in language before enrolling particular course. They help to determine what the candidates know or don't know. According to the results of the tests, the instructor then is able to choose the coursebook and materials which is appropriate to the students' level of language. Moreover, tests identify students' gaps in order to guide future instruction. Diagnostic tests differ from the other

types of tests in 2 main ways. Firstly, they are conducted before starting the course or before teaching on a particular course. Secondly, the content of the tests is not based on what has been taught in previous course. In many ways, diagnostic tests contain questions that focus on mainly vocabulary and grammar. As the purpose of the diagnostic tests is to put various levels on top, the questions will range from things beginners may be expected to know to the advanced level questions.

*Placement tests.* As the name suggests, placement tests are meant to place students to different groups appropriate to the level of their knowledge. They assure the students stay motivated in learning as they are placed according to the level of their knowledge and concentrate on learning in suitable environment. Seeing the distinction between the types of tests undoubtedly gives the instructor proper assessment over the abilities and knowledge on a particular language. On the other hand, appropriately chosen tests can motivate the examinee and the instructor to work on the gaps and consolidation.

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