

The Students' Perception on the Use of Computer-Based Test in English

National Examination

A Skripsi

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Approval Sheet

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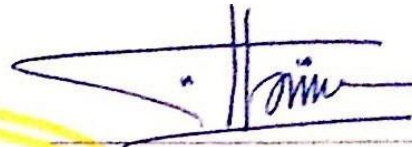
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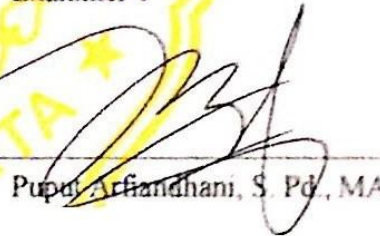
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Abstract

The computer-based test in Indonesian National Examination may affect the students' performance in the test since it has just been implemented in 2015. The computer-based test is used as the new technique in order to help the students in the test, so the test can measure the students' knowledge with the accurate result. The objectives of this research were to investigate the challenges faced by the students in the use of computer-based test and to discuss the strategies used by the students to face the challenges in the use of the computer-based test. Then the researcher applied descriptive qualitative as the research design. The researcher interviewed six participants of a private university in Yogyakarta. Those six participants were from different senior high school and different region. There were six participants including four students from A accredited senior high school and two students from B accredited senior high school. The first finding was about the challenges faced by the students in the use of the computer-based test in English National Examination. The challenges included the insufficient facilities to conduct the computer-based test, the examination's schedule, the time management, and the lack of simulation. The second finding was about the strategies used by the students to face the challenges in the use of the computer-based test. The strategies were the strategies to face the facilities challenges, strategies to manage time better, and strategies to prepare the examination well. Therefore, all of the participants have a positive feeling towards the use of the computer-based test.

Keywords : English National Examination, computer-based test, assessment, standardized test.

Background of the Research

National Examination is one of the assessments which is used to measure the students' knowledge of the specific lesson. This examination is used by Indonesia Minister of Education and Culture to measure and analyze the students' achievement in order to know the students' understanding of the particular knowledge. In addition, since the Indonesia Minister of Education and Culture use National Examination as the evaluation standard, the result of National Examination becomes the determination for students to graduate. Moreover, the National Examination result becomes one of the requirements for students to continue their study to the college. Also, National Examination result can be used to find a job. Hence, the implementation of National Examination as the evaluation standard in Indonesia is very important.

Indonesia Minister of Education and Culture recommends some high schools to conduct the National Examination using computer-based test since 2015 (Jamiludin, Darnawati, & Uke, 2017). The computer-based test aims to ease especially for the students. The use of computer in the National Examination eases the students in answering the questions. The use of computer-based test is believed to decrease cheating among the students because it gives various questions for each student.

In addition, the use of computer-based test is believed in assessing the students accurately, and it aims to ease the students. However, students become more stressfull in using computer-based test (Jamiludin et al., 2017). The steps in doing the examination are still complicated since they are required to enter the username and the password given by the school. When the students have not

connected to the server, they cannot do the examination. That way, it will make the students become panic. Therefore, it will affect the students during the test.

Methodology

The researcher applied qualitative research approach to discover the students' perception on the use of the computer-based test in English national examination. The research revealed an in-depth understanding on the use of the computer-based test in English national examination. The researcher conducted this research in a private university in Yogyakarta. There were some reasons that the researcher chose a place to be research setting. Firstly, the university provided a lot of students from different senior high schools, so it could ease the researcher to select the participants. Besides, the researcher believed that the researcher could gather more data from the students from different high schools. Secondly, the university was very accessible for the researcher to gather the data.

The participants of this research were six private university students in Yogyakarta batch 2018, and they had graduated from an A or B accredited senior high schools since May 2018. The researcher used pseudonym to name the participants in order to keep the participants' confidentiality. Those six participants are Mawar, Melati, Bunga, Arum, Sekar, and Mayang. There were four participants who graduated from an A accredited senior high schools, Mawar, Melati, Sekar, and Mayang. They come from different regency and they had graduated from different senior high school. So, they faced different challenges and strategies in using computer-based test in English national examination. Moreover, there were two participants who graduated from a B accredited senior high schools, Bunga and Arum.

The researcher used interview as the data collection technique for this research. Cohen et al. (2011) stated that interview is used to discuss the participants' interpretations of word and to express how the participants regard the situations. There were some procedures to gather the data. The first step was designing the interview by making interview guidelines. The interview guidelines were created by the researcher so that the researcher could bring it into line with the purposes of the research. Secondly, the researcher contacted the participants through the WhatsApp. Then, the researcher explained to the participants about the interview. The third step was making the schedule about the date of the interview with the participants. In conducting the interview, the researcher brought interview guidelines, a mobile phone, book and pen. The researcher used interview guidelines to guide the researcher in asking the question to the participants. Then the researcher used a mobile phone to record the participants' answer in the interview. For the reason, it eased the researcher to remember the answer and make the interview transcript. Likewise, the researcher also used book and pen to take a note when the researcher got something important or to note the questions which had been answered by the participants. Moreover, the researcher used Indonesian language in conducting the interview.

Then the researcher transcribe the interview result. After transcribing the interview results in the Microsoft Word, the researcher did member checking to check the validity of the interview. The researcher did member checking by showing the interview transcript for six participants to cross-check. After doing member checking, the researcher did coding.

Findings and Discussion

Challenges Faced by the Students in the Use of Computer-Based Test in English National Examination

The researcher found many challenges faced by the participants in conducting the computer-based test. They found the challenges in using computer-based test such as the insufficient facilities to conduct the computer-based test, the examinations' schedule, the time management, and the lack of simulation. Furthermore, the discussion about the findings is presented in the following paragraphs.

Insufficient facilities to conduct the computer-based test. Based on the interview result, the participants faced the challenges about the facilities. The participants of the research stated that the insufficient facilities used in conducting the computer-based test in English National Examination becomes the largest challenges which were faced by them. The challenges in the insufficient facilities included less number of the computer, less equipment for listening section, unstable electricity, lack of compatible computer, and unstable connection.

The examinations' schedule. Another challenge faced by the participants was the division of the examination. So, the examination was divided into three sessions. Muna et al. (2010) said that the school did not have sufficient computer for the students. So, the schools divide the students into three sessions in implementing computer-based test. Therefore, the division of three sessions did not support the students in conducting the test because it appeared unfairness for some students.

The time management. The students' difficulty in managing the time also became the challenge which was found in this research. Based on the interview result, the finding showed that the participants were difficult to manage the time in conducting computer-based test because they could not mark the main idea or the important points in the computer. It needed more time to understand the long paragraph of the items because students were not allowed to scrawl the point in the computer.

The lack of simulation. Based on the interview result, there was also challenge before the due of the computer-based test. Here, the lack of simulation became the challenge for the participants. This challenge affected the students in conducting the test because there was lack of simulation in using computer-based test. The students were not familiar with the test. So, they were not be able to conduct the test well.

Strategies Used by the Students to Face the Challenges in the Use of Computer-Based Test

Based on the interview results, three strategies to face the challenges in conducting computer-based test were found. Those three strategies were strategies to face the facilities challenges, strategies to manage time better, and strategies to prepare the examination well. The discussion of the strategies is presented in the following paragraphs.

Strategies to face the facilities challenges. This research found some challenges about the facilities which had been mentioned in the discussion of the challenges in using computer-based test. Then, the strategies to face the facilities

challenges were the technical strategy and non-technical strategy. In the technical strategy, the students checked their tools first and confirmed to the invigilator when they faced a problem. Moreover, they are learning and preparing for the computer. Based on the interview result, the non-technical strategy appeared from the students' feeling. To anticipate the challenges about the facilities, the students should manage their feeling to be not panic. The challenges which appeared during the test can disturb the students' concentration. So, this strategy was used by the participants when they faced a problem.

Strategies to manage time better. To face the challenges of the time management, manage time better became the good strategy for the students to finish the test well. The students had to divide the time as the strategy to manage time better. So, the students had to decide how many minutes were needed to finish one item. It will help the students to finish all the items on time. Terzis (2011) said that the important factor in conducting computer-based test is the time. That way, there must be a good technique to manage the time during the test.

Strategies to prepare the examination well. These strategies were found to face the challenge of the lack of simulation. Based on the interview result, the students had to learn and join simulation of examination. Moreover, the students had to update their knowledge of the technology especially for the computer use. Muna et al. (2018) stated that teacher had to train the students about the computer-based test three times in order to help the students to prepare the test.

The findings showed that the participants of this research believed that the use of computer-based test is good as the technique in implementing English

national examination. However they still faced the problems in implementing the test. So, they have to find strategies to face the challenges. The strategies used by the students helped them to face the challenges.

Conclusion

The general objective of this research is to investigate the students' perception in the use of computer-based test in English National Examination. Then, the researcher divided the objective to be more specific. The objective of this research was divided into two parts, to investigate the challenges faced by the students in the use of computer-based test in English National Examination and to discuss the strategies used by the students to face the challenges in the use of computer-based test in English National Examination.

To sum up, the consideration for using computer-based test in the National Examination for measure the students' knowledge were taken because the use of computer-based test got positive responses. Then, the challenges in using computer-based test which were found in this research were dominantly based on the schools' facilities in conducting the test. The strategies of using computer-based test which were found in this research were effective to face some challenges faced by the students in the use of computer-based test. Therefore, the use of computer-based test in English National Examination was recommended because it can give positive responses. However, in the implementation was still needed a good preparation.

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