

## HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS' THOUGHTS OF PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT: EFL CLASS FOCUS

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### ABSTRAK

*Performance Based Assessment (PBA) sudah sering dilakukan di tingkat Perguruan Tinggi. Misalnya dengan melakukan presentasi materi secara kelompok atau individu yang dipandu oleh dosen. Hal ini juga terkait dengan bagaimana siswa memiliki keterampilan komunikasi dan keterampilan pemecahan masalah abad 21. Siswa diperintahkan untuk mencari sendiri materi dan membuat tayangan slide sesuai tema atau saran guru. Dilanjutkan dengan penyampaian materi dan pembukaan sesi QnA. Namun demikian, kegiatan ini harus dievaluasi oleh semua pendidik ketika mereka memberikan penilaian semacam ini. Artikel ini dibuat sebagai sumber bahan evaluasi setiap guru terhadap PBA melalui persepsi siswa dengan menganalisisnya. Data diambil dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif melalui wawancara mendalam kepada Mahasiswa Bahasa Inggris di sebuah universitas di Bogor. Hasil menunjukkan beberapa kelebihan dan kekurangan melaksanakan PBA.*

**Kata kunci :** *Performance-Based Assessment, Perguruan Tinggi, Kelas Bahasa Inggris.*

### ABSTRACT

Performance-Based Assessment (PBA) has been conducted frequently in the level of Higher Education. For example, by doing group or individual materials presentation which is guided by the lecturers. It is also related on how students have communication skill and problem solving skill of 21<sup>st</sup> century. The students are commanded to look for the materials by themselves and create the slide shows based on the theme or teachers' suggestion. It is continued by presenting the materials and opening the QnA session. Nevertheless, this activity must be evaluated by all educators when they are giving this kind of assessment. This paper is made as sources for every teacher's evaluation through students' perception by analyzing them. The data is taken by using qualitative method through depth interview to English Education students of one university in Bogor. The results show some advantages and disadvantages of doing PBA.

**Keyword:** Performance-Based Assessment, Higher Education, EFL class.

### INTRODUCTION

As students who live in 21<sup>st</sup> century are suggested to master four capabilities (4C) which are communication, creativity, collaboration and also critical thinking. Communication skills mean that students must be able to share their own thoughts and discuss them with other people. They must have confidence and courage to convey anything through utterance in polite ways. It means that students are also able to keep giving respect in social life. For the second, creativity means on how people can make the things exciting (Jaelani & Umam, 2021). As an example, students are able to design their own slide shows to do assignment with matched colours, unique fonts, or transitions. The third is collaboration which is defined as the way students to learn the lesson in a classroom is working cooperatively.

Students can divide what they want to do to be some parts. Every part is hold by one person or some people. This means that students are trained to have the sense of responsibility. For example, a student become a secretary which has to write the important things to do in the group, a students become a treasurer which has to calculate income and outcome as need of doing the assignment. The last is critical thinking is on how students have capability to solve problems by their own ideas. Students will learn to face matters in real life. So that, they are not easy to give up and going to reach the goals.

Based on the capabilities above, this must be connected to the things in Education. An Education of curriculum 2013 train students to grow courage in themselves, then can train logical skills in solving a problem. There are

also some aspects to assess students' learning process in 2013 curriculum which are: 1.) knowledge; 2.) skill; 3.) attitude. These are also related to 4C of 21<sup>st</sup> century. Moved to Higher Education curriculum in Indonesia which is in Laws of Indonesian Republic number 12 year 2012 that Education must have student-centered principle with also notice harmony and balanced environment. So that, teachers must be able to choose assessment which is based on the suitable time and regulation.

Assessment is one of significant things in the parts of learning process. This activity asks the teachers to measure, collect, analyze, and translate students' abilities to any views (Murchan & Shiel, 2017). It is unfair when students are assigned to do the things which are not related and beneficial of the subject. So that, Performance-Based Assessment is able to make them all together.

Masrukan stated that Performance-Based Assessment (PBA) is defined as an assessment that allows students to express ideas individually or cooperatively based on the materials which they have comprehended previously by themselves and ruled by given themes (Zakaria & Amidi, 2020). It is also supported by When students are tested their driving skills, do not use multiple choice, it needs performance. When students are assigned to do PBA, students have completed the aspects of 2013 curriculum and higher education curriculum which gains 4 capabilities of 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Some studies have been implemented related to PBA in many times, such as PBA of grammar subject that is not by giving multiple choice because for making the students do not cheat others. It includes some activities: 1.) self-introduction paragraph; 2.) writing short diaries; 3.) writing a message 4.) reading stories; 5.) telling unexpected moments; 6.) short interviews (Lestari & Azizah, 2021), located in Hongkong secondary schools which explore the challenges of conducting PBA (Yan, 2020), a study in Mathematic Subject and self efficacy through PBA (Ghofur et al, 2021), and even in the level of teachers' competence need PBA to improve the quality of education (Efrilia, 2020).

The studies above indicate that PBA has been as calculated assessment to do. However, students' perspectives towards the application of PBA needs to be reflected. Has it been used well in learning process? Does it give benefit for students in the future? Does it

burden students?

This paper is created to do the research of students' thoughts when they do the PBA in higher education where one of PBA application that would like to be inspected is doing materials slide show presentation.

#### METHOD

Location of this study is done in one of universities in Bogor, Indonesia. This research is implemented by using Qualitative Method because this study focus on people's feeling which is hard if it is done with quantitative method. Qualitative research broadly refers to the category of research approaches that produce findings without relying on quantitative measurements or statistical analysis (Corbin & Strauss, 2015). This study takes an EFL class (English Education Department Students) as 10 students. The reason is based on researchers analysis, these students have an EFL class which apply PBA that is implemented weekly. They are divided to be some groups and look for the subject materials in internet. The way to get the data is by using interview list which is spread out through WhatsApp chatings because the condition is still pandemic and the university hasn't decided to help offline class. There are 5 questions that are answered by voice notes. Researcher type the result of interview and give it to every interviewee because to make the data is valid and researcher do not get misheard when listening to the voice note. It was taken started from December 8<sup>th</sup> up to December 10<sup>th</sup> of 2021.

In the data analysis process, the researcher applied narrative analysis which was followed by the following stages: 1) The Assembly Step, namely the data collected from interviews; 2) Categorized based on theme, namely grouping answers from respondents based on existing themes; and finally 3) Finishing Step, namely drawing conclusions. Below are the questions given to the interviewee:

Tabel 1 Interview Question List

No.	Questions
1.	What do you think about PBA application in EFL class?
2.	What advantages can you get from PBA?
3.	What disadvantages can you get from PBA?

4.	How do you solve problems in PBA?
5.	How do you prepare yourself to do PBA?

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### A. Advantages of PBA application

#### a. PBA encourages Collaborative Learning Strategies.

Collaborative learning is a process of gaining knowledge or expertise by learning cooperatively. To master the subject, students are asked to participate in creating the process of learning. So that, students are not just silent or listening to the lecturer (student-centered). Students are more active by every role that is divided in every group. They can complete the abilities each others.

*"I'd like when I do PBA because the assignment will be easier that finish it alone"*  
Excerpt A.

It is also supported by another interviewee:

*"Sometimes I don't understand directly when my lecturer explain about something because the language is too formal. I am shy to ask. So that, I prefer to ask my friend and they can explain in simple way with daily language"*  
Excerpt B.

Based on what the second interviewee stated before, it indicates that students learn something not just from the teachers (one direction), but also from friends of the same age.

Collaborative learning studies have been done for many times. For example, Collaborative learning that affects students' critical thinking (Warsah et al, 2021), online learners' attitude on Collaborative learning (Chatterjee & Correia, 2020), students' willingness on how they do Collaborative learning (Weinberger & Shonfeld, 2020)

#### b. PBA that is in form of materials presentation assignment improve students' speaking abilities.

It is said by one of interviewees:

*"I usually prepare what I want to say in some points on a paper before doing the presentation. I force myself to speak english in spite of being so difficult to do that"*  
Excerpt C.

This means that PBA also can boost students' engagement in speaking. A study that is done in one junior high school in Sabang, Aceh shows that role-play, picture describing,

interview and simulations as their teaching speaking methodologies which have positive effects (Gani & Marhaban, 2021). Role-play and picture is one of the application of PBA that uses speaking ability in it. Also a study revealed that building up speaking ability is by practicing regularly (Indah & Putra, 2016). Presentation is done regularly every week.

#### Students' awareness in learning is increased

*"When I must do presentation next week, I must prepare the materials based on the part given in the group. I'll do my best for my part. So that, I really understand when I can learn it by myself. It is different when the lecturers just speak and speak, I would feel so sleepy"*  
Excerpt D.

It means that PBA that applies student-centered make the students have independence of learning. It would be beneficial for them when they face social life problem that they must try to resolve it. They will not always depend on others as learners. The studies of students' awareness are in variety which is not just about education in a classroom such as young generation towards nutrition (Desantiago, 2020), gender stereotypes (Shepherd, 2021), winter sports (Eski et al, 2020).

#### c. PBA encourages HOTS (High Order Thinking Skill)

*"When doing presentation, I don't just present what I have prepared before. At QnA session, my group is asked to answer audiences' questions"*. Excerpt E

*"Qn A session is the most challenging time in presentation. Sometimes, I can't directly answer it because it needs time to discuss"*.  
Excerpt F

This means PBA is able to improve students' High Order Thinking Skill through answer audiences' question. A finding of a research shows that by doing questioning techniques is able to develop High Order Thinking Skill (Singh, 2020). It also depends on question that is given when usually lecturers will give questions that the contains more difficult questions.

### B. Disadvantages of PBA application

#### a. Teachers' feedback is sometimes unfair

*"I think the score must be fair. Although the learning system is by working in group, I hope that the score is different for every student."*

*Every student has own capability and seriousness*" Excerpt G

*"The environment is less supportive, such as teachers who are less responsive, less innovator in the classroom so that the delivery of the material is just that and may not develop student creativity"*. Excerpt H

From the answers above, teachers' feedback participate on how PBA is effective to do in a classroom. Teachers are able to divide the scoring system to be 2 parts (individual score and group score) that is explained before the assessment. The individual has higher value than group score. This is more fair. Teachers also correct what students convey in presentation because sometimes what students have comprehend is false. By giving feedback, students feel appreciated on their hardwork. Students who is always given teachers' feedback when they are learning are more aware of learning goals (Vattøy & Smith, 2019).

#### **b. Students' behaviour is also sometimes problematic**

*"The thing I dislike of doing presentation is when I am grouped with people who are less of care and busy with their own business"* Excerpt I

*"I ever finished presentation assignment by myself with my own ideas when my partners just let anything flow"* Excerpt J

A study also support this statements that social factors such as interaction with partners and lecturers give impact of students' involvement or affect their PBA (Qureshi et al, 2021). This is why teachers do not just assess students from the view of knowledge or skills, but also from the view of attitude. Teachers are able to ask the students submit the job-desk of every student and checking their comprehension based on the divided part of group of leaners.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The application of PBA in the form of doing presentation in EFL class has advantages and disadvantages. However, it fits the situation of sophisticated era which students will need that in the future. So that, teachers are asked to maximize the advantages of PBA application and minimize the disadvantages of PBA application through the solutions which has

been criticized in this paper.

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