

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Context

English is becoming a key subject in every country, whether in schools or at universities. In various industries, such as education, technology, communication, and tourism. English has become a communication language. In the educational environment, for example, some schools provide English lessons. Students should know and learn English because it has become a foreign language.

English is also significant because it is necessary for students to obtain future employment. Most institutions offer English classes to help their students be well equipped for their future careers. Students in education, particularly in English education, should study English to help their education, future career, and work. English can help students navigate the global marketplace.

English colleges offer examinations to assess students' English proficiency. TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) is a crucial test that can assess a student's English skills. TOEFL is one of the examinations used to predict and assess students' English skills. The TOEFL test will tell students whether their English proficiency is good or bad. Students will learn the greatest score for specific skills by taking the TOEFL test. The TOEFL test includes three skills that might help students learn more about English. There are three types of understanding: listening

comprehension, structure and written expression, and reading comprehension. These three abilities are critical for students learning the English language.

TOEFL is a comprehensive English language examination that helps colleges and universities in the United States, Canada, and other parts of The world make admission decisions.¹ It is also used by some organizations to certify professionals to practice their vacation both in the United States and abroad.² TOEFL is an acronym for the test of English as a Foreign Language, which was first used in 1963, by an educational testing service (ETS) in the United States to create and develop the first generation of toefl. TOEFL is an English language test.

Initially, the TOEFL was aimed only at measuring the language skills of people around New Jersey who would continue their education to higher levels. And TOEFL continues to be the standard test of English at the international level of developments of the time proving that toefl is the most fundamental test. It is not uncommon for some international or national companies spread across the country to use TOEFL scores as one of their recruitment conditions.

TOEFL is a standardized test that measures a person's ability to speak English without being directly linked to the learning process of teaching. The test is useful to measure the English language skills of a

¹ Steven J. Matthiesen, *Essential Words for the TOEFL* (Simon and Schuster, 2017).

² Matthiesen.

person who is going to work or study in a destination country with English as the official language or to pursue higher education. In general, TOEFL aims to evaluate the ability to write, read, and listen in English.

TOEFL is now utilized to obtain scholarships for further study in English-speaking nations. TOEFL is often utilized to apply for jobs. The reliance on TOEFL has reached the point that the majority of domestic universities require it as part of their graduation requirements. This requirement was imposed by university authorities because they believe TOEFL can assess students' aptitude and talents to interpret English in academic assignments.³

It is not easy to obtain a high TOEFL score. Although students from different study programs have taught English classes, students from the English Language Education study program have taught a variety of courses that help students improve their English skills, such as Grammar, Writing, and Listening. However, students must prepare for the TOEFL test well in advance; having strong preparation prior to the TOEFL test is essential. The purpose of TOEFL test preparation is to assist students in understanding how to properly prepare for the test and in developing the English language abilities required for success on the test.

³ Jonathan Aliponga, 'Reading Journal: Its Benefits for Extensive Reading', *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science* 3, no. 12 (2013): 74.

One of the hurdles for students in the TOEFL test is a lack of awareness about the TOEFL test and a lack of preparation.⁴ Based on the researcher conversation with several students of English teaching learning program that have experienced taking TOEFL test, they mostly agreed that structure and written expression become the most difficult section of the TOEFL test. On average, they said that they didn't understand the material about grammar, they didn't even understand the meaning of the questions, and also didn't have any strategies or skill that's why structure and written expression were the most difficult sections for them. The duration of the test, the sorts of English abilities that will be tested, the types of questions that frequently emerge, and the strategies that must be followed in order to answer the questions properly and fast are all general aspects that students need to know about the test. Students who are familiar with some of these strategies will be able to take the test smoothly and with satisfactory scores. On the other hand, research conducted by Yeasy Agustina Sari, Suhono, Suryawahyuni Latief, and Umar Al Faruq A. Hasyim shows that the Structure and Written Expression section of TOEFL is the most difficult section faced by students among the other two sections (listening and reading comprehension).⁵

⁴ Rivi Antoni, 'An Analysis on 6th Semester Students' TOEFL Experience at English Department of Teachers Training and Education Faculty of Pasir Pengaraian University', *Edu Research* 3, no. 1 (2014): 9–10.

⁵ Yeasy Agustina Sari, Suryawahyuni Latief, and A. Hasyim Umar Al Faruq, 'Student Difficulties on Structure and Written Expression Section of TOEFL in Higher Education at Metro City', *Curricula: Journal of Teaching and Learning* 6, no. 1 (2021): 38.

Based on what has just been mentioned, it is possible to deduce that structure and written expression can be challenging and complicated when the students lacks understanding and unfamiliar with the strategies in the structure and written expression section. As a result, the researcher is eager to undertake research on “Students’ Strategies in Completing Structure and written expression Section of TOEFL Test at the sixth Semester Students of Academic Year 2022-2023 English Teaching Learning Program of State Islamic Institute (IAIN) Madura.”

B. Research Focus

The focus of the research contains details of questions about the scope or topics to be uncovered or explored in the research. The research focus is an outline of research observations, so that the observation and analysis of research results is more directed.

Therefore, indicators are used so that there is no discussion that is too broad and in the end it is not in accordance with what is the research title. Then the focus of research is:

What is the skill used by students in completing Structure and written expression Section of TOEFL test?

C. Research Objectives

The goal of research is to solve problems. As a result, this part includes a description of the purposes of the study. Its material is closely related to the specified research problems. The purpose of the given research objective is to understand problem resolution in research. That

would be the answer to the research problem question. Based on the research challenges listed above, the writer can define the study's research purpose, which is:

To know about the skill used by students in completing Toefl Structure and written expression Section of TOEFL test.

D. Significance of Study

Some persons are expected to benefit from this research:

- a. For students: This study is hopefully beneficial to students in their learning English. Students are expected to have a variety of skill in answering TOEFL specifically on the structure and written expression sections. And also this will help them to become more aware of how important mastery of structure matter is especially on the most difficult items. Then it will prevent them from making mistakes during the completion of the structure test, thus they can minimize the mistakes.
- b. For lecturer: The researcher hope this will inform English lecturers to be more alert to difficult subjects and ensure that students are taught clearly about them, especially to English students.

E. Definition of Keyterm

1. Skill

Skill is an ability to do something. Skill is also the same as ability, expertise, capability, competence and many others. In Deborah Phillips' book entitled Longman preparation course for the TOEFL test, it is stated that skills can help to implement several strategies in the

structure and written expression section.⁶ Therefore skill can be used as a strategy implementation in the completing structure and written expression section.

2. Structure and Written expression

Structure is a component of the TOEFL section test, which is divided into two parts: structure and written expression. This segment takes 25 minutes to complete with 40 questions. Question 1-15 are incomplete sentences, whereas questions 16-40 are highlighted words or phrases that must be changed to form the right sentence. The structure section's goal is to examine pupils' knowledge of grammatical rules.

3. TOEFL

TOEFL is an internationally standard English test. International students frequently use the TOEFL as a standardized test. According to Pamela, the TOEFL have been utilized by government scholarship, university, and agency selection panels since 1963.⁷

4. Test

A test is a series of questions designed to assess someone's aptitude. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, a test is a method of determining what people understands or what someone or something

⁶ Deborah Phillips, *Longman Preparation Course for the TOEFL Test* (New York: Pearson Education, 2003), 97.

⁷ Pamela J. Sharpe, Ph.D, *How to Prepare for the TOEFL IBT*, 12th ed. (United States of America: Boston Public Library, 2006), 10, https://openlibrary.org/works/OL2966944W/TOEFL_iBT._Internet-Based_Test?edition=ia%3Abarronshowtoprep00shar.

can do through questions or practical tasks. A test is classified into two types: a set of questions used to assess an individual's or group's knowledge, skill, intelligence, or capacities, and a method used to identify a substance. In a nutshell, the exam is defined in terms of its aim.