

COMMUNICATIVE LANGUAGE TESTING

By Riski Fiprinita, M.Pd.¹

Tulisan ini membahas tentang model penilaian yang komunikatif. Komunikatif maksudnya dilakukan untuk menguji kemampuan komunikatif siswa; yakni kemampuan siswa secara integritas. Kemampuan siswa yang diuji terkait dengan kemampuan menulis, membaca, mendengarkan, dan berbicara yang dikaitkan dengan kehidupan keseharian. Selain itu dalam tulisan ini juga diberikan contoh penilaian komunikatif. Diharapkan tulisan ini dapat memberikan ide dan masukan bagi para pengajar, khususnya bahasa Inggris.

INTRODUCTION

Language has an important role in the development of students' intellectuality, social and emotinal and also the key for learning all of the subjects. Language is not only as a kowledge but also as a away to appropriate ideas, feelings, to communicate, etc. English is one of the languages in the world as international language. It is a tool of communication in written and spoken.

Indonesia placed English as a foreign language, it is studied by the students in courses, schools or universities. For the third class of SMA students, it has been studied for more than 5 years, or even 7 – 10 years, but in fact the students still get difficulties in using it in their daily life, written or spoken.

To solve that problems our government try to make the curriculum of education become more communicative ways. The ability of the students in English is hoped will increase by this program. The students should have the ability in listening, speaking, reading and writing integratedly.

To know the achievements of the students or to assess the students ability after learning English teachers do tests or evaluations. And this paper will try to describe about measurement, test and evaluation, kinds of test, communicative test, and the contribution of the test itself.

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MEASUREMENT, TEST and EVALUATION

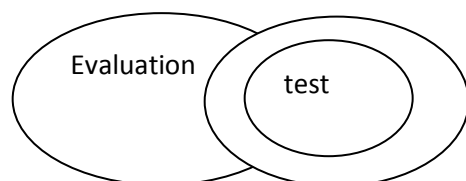
The terms of measurement is often used synonymously with evaluation and test, they may refer to the same activity. When we are asked for an evaluation of an individual's language proficiency, for example, we are frequently given a test score.

Measurement in the social sciences is the process of quantifying the characteristics of person according to explicit procedures and rules.² This definition includes three features; they are quantification, characteristics and explicit rules and procedures.

Based on Carroll in Bachman³ test is a designed of procedure to elicit certain behavior from which one can make inferences about certain characteristics of an individual. Test is a measurement instrument designed to elicit a specific sample of individual's behavior, a specific behavior.

Evaluation is the systematic gathering of information for the purpose of making decisions (Weiss in Bachman⁴). One aspect of evaluation is the collection of reliable and relevant information.

The relationship of the three terms above is seen in the figure below :



Not all measures are tests, not all tests are evaluative and not all evaluation involves either measurement or tests.

KINDS OF TEST

Test is a kind of measurement that elicit a certain behaviour, so the teacher can use test to know the certain behaviour of their students in learning activities. Why we

² Bachman, Lyle F. *Fundamental Considerations in Language Testing*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2000. p. 18.

³ *ibid.* p. 20.

⁴ *ibid.* p. 22

should do the test ? The test is done to know what the students have achieved, to provide an information about the achievement of groups of learners. The purposes of testing have been discussed by Hughes, 1989 : 7; they are

- to measure language proficiency regardless of any language courses that candidates may have followed
- to discover how far students have achieved the objectives of a course of study
- to diagnose students' strengths and weaknesses, to identify what they know and what they do not know
- to assist placement of students by identifying the stage or part of a teaching programme most appropriate to their ability⁵.

So test is important to know the students' achievement in teaching learning process.

There are four types of test that will be explained in this paper, it is based on Hughes, they are *proficiency tests*, *achievement tests*, *diagnostic tests*, and *placement tests*⁶. *Proficiency tests* are the tests which is designed to measure people's ability in a language regardless of any training they may had in that language. It is based on a specification of what candidates have to be able to do in the language in order to be considered proficient, it is not based on the contents of the course. Proficient means having command of language for a particular purpose, for example TOEFL.

Achievement tests are contrast to proficiency tests. It is based on language courses, the purpose is to establish how successful individual students, groups of students, or the courses themselves have been in achieving objectives. Achievement test is to know the ability or how far the students comprehension to the courses given. There are two kinds of achievement tests : final achievement tests and progress achievement tests. Final achievement tests are the test that administered at the end of the semester, at the end of a course of study. The content should be based directly on course of syllabus or on the books and other materials. Whereas progress achievement tests are intended to measure the progress that students are making. The progress is towards the achievement of course objectives, so the tests should relate to objectives.

⁵Hughes, Arthur. *Testing for Language Teachers*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1989. p. 7.

⁶*Ibid.* p. 9-13.

The third kind of test is *diagnostic tests*, it is used to identify students' strengths and weaknesses. The tests are intended primarily to ascertain what further teaching is necessary. The teacher should analyse samples of a student's performance in writing or speaking in order to know the students' ability which respect to grammatical structures, for example.

The last is *placement tests* that intended to provide information which will help to place students at the stage of teaching programme most appropriate to their abilities. The placement tests depend on the identification of the key features at different levels of teaching in the institution.

The test that will be done by the writer here is achievement test, final achievement test that will be taken by the third class of SMA at the first semester.

COMMUNICATIVE LANGUAGE TESTING

Communicative language tests have no clear-cut definition⁷⁸. Maybe we can say that communicative language test means we want to test communicative ability and what should be tested. Communicative language testing should be more integrative and less discrete point; more direct and less indirect; and more criterion referenced and less norm referenced. We should do the test the ability integratedly, directly and in norm referenced.

There are four skills that should be tested in learning process; they are reading, writing, speaking and listening. These four skills should taught to the students integratedly. The students must have these skills if they want to get success in learning English.

In testing language communicatively, the writer should make the test with the principles of validity and reliability. Test become valid is when the writer tests what she/he wants to be tested⁹. For example if she/he wants to test about reading, he/she should give reading test. There are three kinds of validity; content validity, criterion

⁷Hughes, Arthur. *Testing English for University Students. Hongkong: Modern English Publications and the British Council. 1988. p. 5.*

⁸Op. Cit. Hughes. Testing for..., p. 5.

⁹Weir, Cyril J. *Communicative Language Testing*. New York: Prentice Hall. 1993. p. 19.

validity and construct validity. Reliability is connected with taking enough samples of a students' work¹⁰. The writer should make the test based on the samples of learning/courses. Reliability and validity have the relationship each other. Reliability without validity is pointless. Bachman¹¹ stated that he had pointed out that reliability is a requirement for validity. There are three approaches to estimating reliability; Internal consistency, stability and equivalence¹². Internal Consistency estimates are concerned primarily with sources of error from within the test and scoring procedures, while stability estimates indicate how consistent test scores are over time, and equivalence estimates provide an indication of the extent to which scores on alternate forms of a test are equivalence.¹³ The estimates of reliability that these approaches yield are called reliability coefficients.

“In testing communicative language ability, we are evaluating samples of performance, in a specific language contexts of use, created under particular test constrains, for what they can tell us about a candidate's communicative capacity or language ability”¹⁴. Communicative Language Testing should evaluate the performance of learners; it is about their communicative competence and their ability. In addition, A communicative test tests competences other than grammatical; its tests ability to meet target language needs; it tests performance in a range of situations; it test for particular objectives; and it controls, as all test must, for the necessary requirements or reliability and feasibility.¹⁵ Testing communicatively means not to test grammar; it is based on situation and ability. Communicative language testing should be valid and reliable, it should be done in a communicative ways. Test what should be tested, test the ability integratedly.

There are some different approaches to communicative language testing; the aspects are: “the fragmentation of now communicative language testing, i.e. the

¹⁰*Ibid. p. 20.*

¹¹Bachman, Lyle F. *Ibid. p. 238.*

¹²*Ibid. p. 172.*

¹³*Ibid.*

¹⁴Weir. Op. Cit. p. 7.

¹⁵Hughes, Arthur. Testing ... p. 6.

integrative approach; the need for authentic language use; the requirement of a needs analysis; the return to system (linguistics); and the return to system (pragmatics).”¹⁶ The integrated approach is not new; it is by adding parts of a test (not just testing grammar, but grammar and phonology), and by using texts for reading and listening comprehension. The test should be integrative; testing the aspects in a same time.

Then, authentic approach means the test has attracted interest because it incorporates real life material. The needs of analysis approach means the test not just only for speculations, it is based on needs of learners. Next, the return to system (linguistics) means a systematic structural approach using grammar as the basis for syllabus and test specification, a different kind of systematic approach. The last, the return to system (pragmatic), it is about how people communicate information about facts and feelings to other people, or how they merely express themselves and their feelings through the use of language.

Achievement tests of communicative language teaching may reflect directly the devices used in teaching, but proficiency tests of communicative language teaching are much more concerned with overall language control towards which a communicative language teaching programme has been aiming.

The characteristics of communicative test based on Weir¹⁷ are realistic context (the tasks should be appropriate to the candidates), relevant information gap (process information in real life), inter-subjectivity (the tasks should involve language receivers and language producers), scope for development of activity by the candidates (the teaks should give candidates the chance to assert the communicative independence and creative), allowance for self monitoring by candidates (allow the candidates to use their discourse processing strategies), processing of appropriately sized input (size and input should be normally), and normal time constraints operative (under time normal constraints).

Below are the examples of the communicative test.

¹⁶*Ibid.* p. 9.

¹⁷ Weir. *Op.cit.* p.38 – 39.

CONTRIBUTION OF TEST : FINAL ACHIEVEMENT TEST

Subject : English
 Test : Formative
 Class : XII IPA/IPS
 Semester : I
 Time : 90 minutes

Choose the best answer to each question from the alternatives given !

Part I

Question 1 - 5

Directions :

For each question, you will see a picture in your test book and you will hear a question followed by five statements. The question and the statements will be spoken two times. They will not be printed in your test book, so you must listen carefully to understand what the speaker says.

When you hear the question and five statements look at picture in your test book and choose the statement that best describes what you see in the picture. Find the number of the question and choose your answer. Look at the sample below.

Voice :

Look at the picture !

What is the girl doing ?

- a. She is watering the flower
- b. She is planting the flower
- c. She is cutting the flower
- d. She is putting the flower
- e. She is cleaning the flower

Sample answer

- | | | | | |
|--------------|---|----|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | E |
| | | or | | |
| ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |

1. Voice : (2 times)

What are they doing ?

- a. Andi and Ahmad are playing the game in warnet Global
- b. Andi and Ahmad are sitting on the chair in Warnet Global
- c. Andi and Ahmad are finding information in Warnet Global
- d. Andi and Ahmad are looking the picture in the computer

e. Andi and Ahmad are talking in front of the computer

2. Voice :

What was Andika doing ?

- a. He was singing
- b. He was playing guitar
- c. He was dancing and singing
- d. He was playing a guitar and singing a song
- e. He was playing a violin and singing a song.

3. Voice : (2 times)

- a. shift
- b. sheet
- c. sheep
- d. shape
- e. ship

4. Voice : (2 times)

- a. painting the fence
- b. counting the fence
- c. jumping the fence
- d. washing the fence
- e. breaking the fence

5. Voice :

- a. A cat is under the table playing the ball
- b. A vase is under the table
- c. A cat is playing ball on the table
- d. A table is under the cat
- e. A book is in the table

Part II**Question 6 – 8****Direction :**

In this part of the test, you will hear 2 conversations. They will be spoken two times. After you hear a conversation and the questions about it, read the five possible answers and decide which one would be the best answer to the questions you have heard.

6. Voice : (2 times)

Rann : Sorry, do you know how do I get the bus to Lubuk Buaya ?

Vanny : You walk over there and at that traffic light turn right. At that side stop the city bus.

What did Rann ask about ?

- a. How to get a bus
- b. How to get a taxi
- c. How fat to walk
- d. How to get to the shopping center
- e. How to shop at the market

7. Voice : (2 times)

Sandra : What is our topic to day, Rin ?

Rindra : Biology. Do you like it ?

Sandra : Ofcourse. It is my favourite.

Where did the conversation taking place ?

- a. At a coffee shop
- b. Wait for the bus
- c. Ask Sandra's office
- d. At the police station
- e. At a college

8. Voice : (2 times)

Ratih : Hello, how is life, Bob ?

Bob : Hi. I'm fine. Would you like to join with us to movies ?

Rendra : Yea Ratih. Let's join. It's a nice film.

What is their relationship ?

- a. They are visitors
- b. They are guests
- c. They are colleagues
- d. They are officers
- e. They are friends

Part III

Question 9 - 10

Direction :

In this part of this test, you will hear the conversation. You will hear it two times. After you hear a conversation choose the correct answer to complete the conversation.

9. Voice : When did he first come here ?

- a. As he did.
- b. yes, he did
- c. if he wanted to
- d. Two years ago
- e. Since two years

10. Voice : I'm very tired.

- a. You like your job
- b. You'll be promoted
- c. You must work hard
- d. You have a lot to do
- e. You should take a rest

This is the end of listening test.

Text 1

Read the following text to answer questions 11 and 12 !

There are five requirements for a student who wishes to become a chemist. One is that he possesses greater than average aptitude for learning. Another is that he possesses a good working knowledge of mathematics. Still another is that he enjoys applying his knowledge to some problems or others. In addition, he should be curious about things – about what causes natural phenomena and about how things are put together, how they work, and why. Finally, he must be enthusiastic.

11. What is the topic of the passage ?
- A chemist student
 - How to become a chemist
 - Requirements to become a chemist student
 - The application of chemist in solving problems
 - The importance of processing good knowledge of mathematics
12. Which of the following requirements is not mentioned in the passage ?
- Have curiosity about how things are formed / made.
 - Have a good knowledge of mathematics
 - Have great natural ability in learning
 - Have a strong interest in chemistry
 - Have done many experiments

Text 2

Read the following text to answer question 13 and 14 !

Sleep has been described as one of the physiological needs. Most animals must sleep in order to stay alive as well as to retain their normal capacities for doing other things. Many animals, including man, the birds, and some domestic animals, take one long period of sleep each day. Other animals, such as the rat, cat, and human babies, sleep more often, alternating a few hours of sleep with a few hours of waking. In any case, whether the periods of sleep is long or short they always fall into some kind of rhythm or cycle of sleep and waking.

13. What is the main idea of the passage ?
- Sleep is important for human beings and animals
 - Man and birds sleep longer than rats and human babies
 - Rats, cats, and human babies have more sleeping hours than waking hours.
 - Animals need sleep to avoid losing their capacities for doing their activities.

- e. There is a kind of rhythm or cycle of sleep and waking in man and animal's life.

14. Which statement is not true according to the text ?

- a. Men and animals need sleep.
 b. Animals sleep longer than men.
 c. Sleep can keep living things alive.
 d. Some animals sleep more often than men.
 e. There is a kind of rhythm of cycle of sleep and waking.

Text 3

Read the following text to answer question 15 and 16 !

What's Inside

- Ba'asyir to be taken to court next month *page 3*
- Govt. mulls taking over neglected land *page 4*
- Berbak National park in critical state *page 5*
- Indonesia can significantly increase tax revenue *page 6*
- Only 14 % of busway passengers used to drive *page 8*
- Kofi Annan hails progress in East Timor *page 9*
- Ferguson looks to Smith to brighten up Dinamo *page 10*
- Govt to install 3,500 more fixed lines in rural areas *page 13*
- Viagra abuse may increase spread of STDs *page 17*

15. This index tells us about ... in a newspaper.

- a. Articles
 b. Information
 c. Announcement
 d. Editorials
 e. Headlines

16. "Govt. mulls taking over neglected land page 4."

The underlined word means.....

- a. Farmed
 b. Fertilized

- c. Ignored
- d. Forbidden
- e. Forgiven

Text 4

Read the following text to answer the question 17 and 18 !

Pelabuhan Ratu –Harbour of the Queen– is on the south coast of Java near Sukabumi. It has many stories about Nyi Roro Kidul, the queen of the South Sea. You can see the beautiful sunset and the sparkling lamps of fishermen’s boats. It’s fantastic. On special days the fishermen hold ritual ceremonies. They throw sacrifices to the sea for Nyi Roro Kidul. At this beautiful beach you can water ski, sunbathe, make sand palaces or even have a coconut drink. There is also a fish market that sells many kinds of fish.

17. The paragraph mainly talks about
- a. The queen of the South Sea
 - b. The fantastic fishermen’s boats
 - c. Pelabuhan Ratu
 - d. Ritual ceremonies
 - e. A fish market
18. “You can see the beautiful sunset and the sparkling lamps of fishermen’s boats.”
 The underlined word means
- a. making a beautiful loght
 - b. taking a flash light
 - c. sending out flashes of light
 - d. giving a quick reaction
 - e. looking for the flash light

Text 5

Read the following taxt for the question 19 and 20 !

The death rete from one from of colon cancer could be reduced by one-third through the use of a newly developed two-drug treatment. After removal of cancerous tumers, this drug therapy involves levamisole, used to de- worm animals, and 5- fluorouracil (5-FU), a cancer drug. Levamisole stimulate systim, while 5-FU kills cancer cells that have srrread outside the colon.

19. The paragraph above tells us about ...
- Colon cancer caused by cancerous tumors
 - The treatment of colon cancer needs levamisole.
 - Two kind of drugs against colon cancer
 - The immune system is stimulated by levamisole
 - The death of colon cancer sufferer couldn't be reduced.
20. "This drug therapy involves levamisole.
The underlined word means.....
- needs
 - includes
 - hopes
 - requires
 - consists
21. Ana : "Did you know Desy Ratna sari's address?"
Rani : " Sorry, I didn't know. I wish I _____"
- know
 - will know
 - knew
 - want to
 - had known
22. The acids, salt, and vitamins that fruit furnish are very helpful _____ a
balanced
and healthful diet.
- to keep
 - they keep
 - keeping
 - for keeping
 - kept
23. _____ near airports must be very unpleasant and uncomfortable.

- a. live
 - b. be lived
 - c. living
 - d. they lived
 - e. they are living
24. The farmers in this lack means of transport to move their product to the market. _____ vital role in the region's development has been neglected by the local government.
- a. their
 - b. the market's
 - c. its
 - d. the farmers
 - e. the government
25. I met my uncle this morning when I _____ for the bus.
- a. am waiting
 - b. wait
 - c. waited
 - d. was waiting
 - e. have waited
26. The man _____ brother is a doctor painted the back door.
- a. who
 - b. whom
 - c. whose
 - d. where
 - e. why
27. Mother : Kiki, please help me.
Kiki : _____ mom.?
- a. How are you
 - b. How do you do

- c. What can I do for you
- d. What are you doing
- e. What are you going to do

28. Kimmy : Why do you look so sad ?

Rina : Didn't you hear the news last night ? The earthquake has killed
 Thousands of people in my village, Jogjakarta.

Kimmy : Oh, I am sorry to hear that.

From the dialogue we know that the second speaker expresses his.....

- a. fear
- b. sadness
- c. apology
- d. surprise
- e. sympathy

29. Anna : What about your trip last week ?

Agung: Hm, _____. The service was good.

- a. I felt disappointed with it.
- b. I was very sorry with it.
- c. I felt satisfied with it
- d. I was very unpleasant with it
- e. I felt good.

30.

1. A team must try for a goal within 30 seconds after processing the ball
2. Players are not allowed to leave the court without permission
3. Each team may have up to ten players
4. Only five of them may play at the same time
5. The ball may be thrown but it must not be carried or kicked

The best arrangement of sentences is _____

- a. 3 – 5 – 1 – 4 – 2
- b. 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5

- c. 3 – 1 – 4 – 2 – 5
- d. 3 – 2 – 4 – 5 – 1
- e. 3 – 4 – 2 – 5 – 1

31. Billy : Have you bought a new motorcycle?

Tommy : If I had enough money, I would have bought it.

From the dialogue we know that _____

- a. Tommy had enough money to buy a motorcycle
- b. Billy asks Tom to find enough money to buy a motorcycle
- c. Tommy want to buy a new motorcycle
- d. Tommy did't have enough money to buy a motorcycle
- e. Billy borrows money to Tom to buy a motorcycle

32. Rani : Where is your car ? I want to go somewhere with you.

Roni : Sorry, It by my father now.

- a. was used
- b. was being used
- c. is used
- d. is being used
- e. will be used

33. Yudi said to the foreigner, "I knew Bali".

Yudi said to the foreigner _____

- a. whether he know Bali
- b. Yudi know Bali
- c. Whether he had known Bali
- d. Where is Bali
- e. That he had known Bali

34. He likes Borobudur temple better than Prambanan temple and _____

- a. neither does I
- b. I didn't either
- c. Neither did I

- d. I do too
 - e. I don't either
35. He didn't know anything about it _____
- a. and I did so
 - b. either did I
 - c. and so did I
 - d. and I did too
 - e. neither did I

The following incomplete paragraph is for questions no 36 to 38. Fill in the blank spaces with suitable words.

Few people(36) telegrams or telexes nowadays. The world of communications has(37) from telephone to current internet. The ...(38) change has been in the mobile phone products.

36. a. mail
b. send
c. write
d. inform
e. operate
37. a. began
b. used
c. survived
d. continued
e. progressed
38. a. biggest
b. greatest
c. widest
d. highest
e. earliest

Read the following sentences and answer the questions.

39. Smoke can cause damage to a child's learning ability

The underlined word has similar meaning to.....

- a. destruction
- b. suffering
- c. harm
- d. injury
- e. loss

40. Every people has their ownto solve the pollution problem in this

area. a. contribution

b. contribute

c. contributive

d. contributory

e. contributor

The Keys :

1. A	11. B	21. E	31. D
2. C	12. E	22. A	32. D
3. E	13. A	23. C	33. E
4. A	14. B	24. A	34. D
5. A	15. E	25. D	35. E
6. A	16. C	26. C	36. B
7. E	17. C	27. C	37. D
8. E	18. C	28. E	38. B
9. D	19. D	29. C	39. C
10. E	20. B	30. D	40. A

HOW TO SCORE

To score this test the writer will use the formula :

Numbers of correct answer

----- X 100

Number of items

So, the students will get score 100 for all of the items they can answer correctly.

CONCLUSION

Test for Senior High school at the first semester needs to pay more attention, because they are prepared to be succeed in the Last Evaluation of their school. The lowest mark that should be got by the students in this era of education is 4.25 point for each subjects. So, English is as one subject that should be taken in the final examination should be taught more communicative. Test that should be given also in communicative ways.

This paper gives the final achievement test, to get the information of the students whether they have been achieved in their language ability. So, the teacher can give enrichment or even the reviewing of the lesson for next semester.

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