



## The Role of Assessment in Language Teaching

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**Abstract:** Assessment is an essential component of the learning process. Curriculum and instruction are tightly intertwined. Assessment is a continuing process that informs instruction, leads students' next actions, and verifies progress and accomplishment as instructors and students work to fulfill curriculum goals. Teachers use a variety of strategies and tactics for classroom assessment, tailoring them to the assessment purpose and needs of individual students.

**Keywords:** Formative assessment, creativity, principles of testing, feedback, washback, frequent and competent feedback.

### Introduction.

Language learning assessment serves one of two purposes: measuring learners' ability without reference to a language course, or measuring the extent to which they have fulfilled the aims of a specific learning program. It is customary to distinguish between formative and summative evaluation within the latter role. Formative assessment occurs during the course of learning to offer learners with feedback on their progress and to alert the instructor to any areas of the course that may need to be adjusted; it is also known as 'evaluation for learning.' Summative assessment occurs at the end of the course and aims to quantify overall learning accomplishment; it is also known as 'evaluation of learning.'

The assessment is one of the main factors in the teaching process. The fairness of assessing plays a pivotal role in the learning process. As an English tutor, I should know how to test my students, modern principles of assessing, types of testing, and other important information. Bain, Ballantyne, Mills, & Lester (2002) emphasized that the traditional way of assessment limits the creativity of teachers. Black and William (1998) believes that formative assessment supports students learning process. They also argue that the classroom assessment must be diagnostic and formative. Harlen (2005) stressed that formative assessment must provide feedback not only for students but also teachers.

### The importance of choosing appropriate assessment tools.

Every teacher should ask himself, "How can I use modern technologies and assessment principles in the classroom?". According to Brown (2010), multiple-choice questions are time-consuming and easy to cheat. Another disadvantage of this type of assessment is limited feedback for students' errors. They can't get proper feedback for their academic development. Black and William (1998) stressed that using formative assessment is the best way to get relevant information about student needs.

Using differentiated assessment has an impact on improving student knowledge. Asking students whether they have any questions to clarify something they do not understand or we may ask students to take notes about what they comprehend from the lesson. In addition, teacher can give descriptive and motivational feedback to improve their confidence based on their results. There are two reasons

for the failure of students from the given assessment. First, the course has not been taught adequately, or the teacher might use an inappropriate assessment that may not be applicable for students. Implementing various types of assessment increase the effectiveness of lessons as students may get better results on one type of assessment rather than another.

### **Creating Student-Friendly Assessments.**

As an English teacher, we should consider all the criteria of the assessment process. We must prepare assessment questions according to the principles of Brown (2004). The diagnostic test is one of the best types of testing to diagnose learners' needs. Professional teachers should prepare well-designed materials to evaluate students' knowledge. Pre-test and post-test is also a good way to get better performance in the academic teaching process. Pre-tests allow students to know the format of the test. Multiple choice or short-answer can be used for specific purposes, such as to evaluate students' general ability.

A classroom atmosphere is very important for learners to study and improve their skills. Differentiating between content and language objectives help teachers to save their time and power. We should know that objectives of the subject can be achieved by creating well-designed and valid assessment tools. Providing descriptive and motivational feedback is one of the best ways to improve students' performance. Giving clear feedback to students improve their performance in the classroom (Baughin, Brod, Page, 2002).

### **Conclusion.**

In summary, the assessment helps the teachers to make a meaningful learning process for their learners. Students can be motivated to improve their academic performance. Besides, the learners can join to evaluate their friends' work to improve the interactive process of the classroom. Thomas R.Guskey (2011) suggested that comprehensive assessments allow teachers to get the complete picture of the learners' ability and skills. Teachers should work hard to apply appropriate types of assessment.

According to research and experience, student learning is best assisted when certain components are present:

1. Clear learning objectives guide instruction and evaluation.
2. Instruction and evaluation are tailored to the requirements of the students.
3. Students are involved participate in the learning process.

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