



Effective Strategy of TOEFL Socialization for Students at SMK HKBP Pematangsiantar: Preparing Their Academic and Professional Future

Lonatasya Sevari Nainggolan¹, Damaris Sihaloho², Miranda Sinaga³, Yeni Simanjuntak⁴, Ria Angelina Saragih⁵, Yanti Kristina Sinaga^{6*}, Muktar Bahrudin Panjaitan⁷, Juli Antasari Br Sinaga⁸

^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8} Universitas HKBP Nommensen Pematangsiantar, Pematangsiantar, Indonesia

✉ Corresponding author: yanti.sinaga@uhnp.ac.id

Abstract

Community service (PKM) is an activity that provides knowledge and skills to the community. The aim of this socialization activity is to introduce and provide knowledge and insight to HKBP Pematangsiantar Vocational School students about the TOEFL test. On December 6, 2023, 23 class XI TKR-1 students took the TOEFL test. To carry out this socialization, there are three stages: preparation, implementation, and evaluation. The socialization material presented is about how to get to know Toefl, the purpose of Toefl, the use of Toefl, and displays several examples of Toefl questions. The students of Class In addition, this socialization can increase students' desire to learn English more seriously. The results of the implementation of the Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL) socialization provide participants with knowledge, understanding, and encouragement to take it. This shows how important the TOEFL is and how it should be administered to prepare students for their academic and professional futures.

Key Words: TOEFL, Socialization, Vocational School

Abstrak

Pengabdian kepada masyarakat (PKM) adalah kegiatan yang memberikan pengetahuan dan keterampilan kepada masyarakat. Tujuan dari kegiatan sosialisasi ini adalah untuk mengenalkan dan memberikan pengetahuan dan wawasan kepada siswa SMK HKBP Pematangsiantar tentang tes TOEFL. Pada tanggal 06 Desember 2023, 23 siswa kelas XI TKR-1 menghadiri tes TOEFL. Untuk melaksanakan sosialisasi ini, ada tiga tahap: persiapan, pelaksanaan, dan evaluasi. Materi sosialisasi yang disampaikan adalah tentang cara mengenalkan Toefl, tujuan Toefl, kegunaan Toefl, dan menampilkan beberapa contoh soal Toefl. Para siswa Kelas XI TKR-1 SMK HKBP Pematangsiantar sangat tertarik dengan kegiatan ini karena mereka adalah siswa SMK yang harus meningkatkan kemampuan bahasa Inggris mereka sesuai dengan pekerjaan mereka. Selain itu, sosialisasi ini dapat meningkatkan keinginan siswa untuk belajar bahasa Inggris dengan lebih serius. Hasil dari pelaksanaan sosialisasi Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL) memberi peserta pengetahuan, pemahaman, dan dorongan untuk mengikutinya. Ini menunjukkan betapa pentingnya TOEFL dan bagaimana TOEFL harus diatur untuk mempersiapkan siswa untuk masa depan akademik dan profesional mereka.

Kata Kunci : TOEFL, Sosialisasi, Sekolah Kejuruan

Article info:

Received 6 Februari 2024; Accepted 5 Maret 2024; Published 30 Juni 2024

INTRODUCTION

English is a language that is used as a medium of communication and as the as the first international language used to interact with people around the world. English is a communication language that is no longer heard in the world of education. In addition to producing graduates who have expertise in their fields, vocational schools are also required to produce graduates who master various skills. One of the skills that has an important role in various fields is foreign language skills, especially English. In line with ETS (2009:1) which states that test preparation means building the skills needed to achieve success in career and life. Therefore, vocational schools or institutions at the same level as secondary schools should implement additional programs that can support English language skills for students who will later become graduates who are expected to be able to communicate or understand the use of English properly. One of the programs that can be implemented to improve and understand students' English skills is by conducting training and tests. One of the tests to measure English proficiency that is recognized nationally and internationally is TOEFL (Test of English as Foreign Language).

According to Sukur (2013), TOEFL is one type of standardized test to test a person's one's English language ability as an absolute requirement for continuing education to a higher level in almost all universities in the world. The higher one's TOEFL score, the better one's English skills. Therefore, learning to understand and master the skills in doing TOEFL is very important as part of an effort to appear as an individual who has English language skills. As one of the tests used to measure English proficiency, TOEFL is used to measure a person's level of proficiency in using English. Thus TOEFL is a very appropriate program used as a tool to measure and improve the English language skills of students at SMK HKBP PEMATANGSIANTAR.

SMK HKBP Pematangsiantar is one of the leading vocational schools in Pematangsiantar City. The school has five expertise programs consisting of:

- TBSM (*Teknik Bisnis Sepeda Motor / Motorcycle Business Engineering*)
- TKR (*Teknik Kendaraan Ringan / Light Vehicle Engineering*)
- TP (*Teknik Mesin / Machining Engineering*)
- TKJ (*Teknik Komputer Jaringan / Computer Network Engineering*)
- TITL (*Teknik Instalasi Tenaga Listrik / Electrical Power Installation Engineering*).

The Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL) has never been conducted at SMK HKBP PEMATANGSIANTAR. Therefore, students are very unfamiliar and do not know the importance of the Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL). The importance of organizing socialization about the implementation of the Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL) is due to the following factors:

1. Many students know what the toefl test is.
2. Lack of understanding of high school students about the Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL) and its implementation.
3. Lack of knowledge of the benefits of the Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL).
4. There is a need to improve students' English language skills as a supporting ability.

METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION

The socialization of the implementation of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) in the classroom of SMK HKBP PEMATANGSIANTAR took place for one day, on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, with the participants of class XI TKR-1, which had 23 students in one class. The implementers of this community service project are 7th Semester English

Education students enrolled in the TOEFL of Proficiency course, which is conducted through presentations by organizers or resource persons and conversations.

This socialization activity consists of numerous stages, including:

1. Preparation

- Preparing a letter of authorization signed by the lecturer in charge of the course in order to request permission from the principal of SMK HKBP PEMATANGSIANTAR to conduct socialization activities at SMK HKBP PEMATANGSIANTAR class XI TKR-1, which had a total of 23 students.
- Preparing socializing materials for delivery.
- Creating tools to accompany socialization presentations.

2. Implementation

- Opening the socialization by saying thank you for giving the opportunity to conduct socialization and then introducing students and teachers in the class.
- Started presenting or explaining TOEFL to students in class XI TKR-1 SMK HKBP Pematangsiantar using the prepared materials.

3. Evaluation:

- Conduct a question-and-answer session about the provided topic.
- The speaker requests replies or opinions from pupils.
- The speaker concluded the socialization presentation.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

A. FINDING

The following is a comprehensive list of the socialization activities we carried out.

1. Preparation

- At this point, the team discussed with the principal authorization to conduct socialization activities at SMK HKBP Pematangsiantar for students in class XI TKR-1 for one lesson hour, or 45 minutes.
- Preparing tools and resources such as PowerPoint, Infocus, laptops, and so on to ensure that socialization activities operate easily and effectively.

2. Implementation

- The speaker begins by expressing gratitude for the opportunity to mingle and introduces students and teachers.
- After that the speaker delivered material related to TOEFL, namely the definition of TOEFL, the function of the TOEFL test, the importance of TOEFL for students, the skills that will be tested, examples of questions for each skill and also the length of time to work on the questions.

3. Evaluation.

- Question and answer session; during this session, numerous students asked the speaker questions about the content that had been delivered that they had not understood and wanted to learn more about the TOEFL test, and they provided answers.
- After that, the speaker concluded the socialization by thanking the teachers and students who had participated in the activities.

B. DISCUSSION

An effective TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) socialization strategy for students of SMK HKBP Pematangsiantar involves a multifaceted approach that aims to prepare students for their academic and professional futures. The goal of this plan is to ensure that

students have the requisite English language competency to not only meet the standards of higher education, both locally and globally, but also improve their employability in the global workforce.

The benefits of this socialization exercise are as follows: students learn more about the TOEFL test. Through this socialization, students know and understand what the tests for the TOEFL is, how it works, and how essential it is for the future, the types of questions on the TOEFL test, the amount of questions tested on the TOEFL test, and the duration and processing time of TOEFL questions.

Furthermore, TOEFL socialization might help enhance SMK HKBP Pematangsiantar students' interest and motivation in English because they are already aware of the value of English language abilities as well as the TOEFL exam. This socialization can also enhance students motivation to study English more seriously. They are already aware that the TOEFL exam is a prerequisite for the academic and professional careers they intend to pursue in the future.



Figure 1. The Presenters presented the materials



Figure 2. Presenters, Teacher and Students after socialization

1. Impact on Vocational High School Students

TOEFL socializing can help Vocational High School students prepare for their academic and professional careers. TOEFL is an international standardized test that measures English ability and is regarded as an important benchmark for students seeking to advance their studies or enter a more globalized job.

The TOEFL socialization program at SMK HKBP Pematangsiantar might help students improve their overall English language skills. Students who prepare for the TOEFL test will be encouraged to enhance their English listening, reading, and writing skills. This is not only

advantageous for the TOEFL exam, but it will also prepare students for success in academic and professional settings that require good English skills.

2. Challenges in Socialization Activities

After making presentations with the participants, there were various obstacles reflected in this activity, including:

1. Some pupils in class XI TKR-1 had no idea what the TOEFL test was.
2. Some students became bored because they were uninterested in the socialization materials given.

3. Steps to Overcome Challenges

1. The speaker presented TOEFL slowly and clearly so that students could grasp and learn more about it.
2. The speaker attempted to remind students that TOEFL is critical for their future professions and is one of the problems they will be confronting from now on.

CONCLUSION

Based on the activities of public service on the socialization of the implementation of TOEFL, it can be concluded as follows:

1. This socialization was arranged to improve the knowledge of students at HKBP PAMATANGSIANTAR SMK, in particular 11th grade TKR-1, about the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and its procedures and administration.
2. A Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) test should be organized to prepare students for their academic and professional futures.
3. Students and presenters work effectively together to carry out these socializing activities until they are completed successfully.

REFERENCES

- Dewi, I. I., Darna, & Suprato, D. (2015). The Changes of Students' TOEFL Score After One Year Learning English Foreign Language (EFI) in Indonesian Context." *Journal of Edupres* 1 (2011)
- ETS. (2009). *The Official Guide to the TOEFL Test*. USA: The Mc Graw-Hill Companies.
- Farnsworth, T. (2013). Effect of Targeted Test Preparation on Scores of Two Tests of Oral English as a Second Language. *TESOL Quarterly*, 47(1), 148-156.
- Halim, A. (2019). Upaya peningkatan pengetahuan dan pemahaman tentang TOEFL di era Revolusi Industri 4.0 bagi siswa SMA di Samarinda. *Jurnal Pesut : Pengabdian Untuk Kesejahteraan Umat*, 1(2), 65-72.
- Herman, H., Silalahi, D. E., Sinaga, Y. K., and Silaban, G. C. (2023). An analysis on students' difficulties in learning TOEFL at seventh semester of Universitas HKBP Nommensen Pematangsiantar. *Ideas: Jurnal Pendidikan, Sosial, dan Budaya*, 9(3), 805-812. <https://doi.org/10.32884/ideas.v9i3.1391>
- Irmayani, I., & Sudirman, A. M. (2019). Implementasi Aplikasi Tes TOEFL Berbasis Desktop. *Prosiding Semantik*, 2(1), 169-174.
- Manurung, S. M., Purba, I. P., Sitinjak, L. T. S., Aryani, N., Herman, H., Sinaga, Y. K., Sinurat, B., & Batubara, J. (2023). Sosialisasi Pengenalan TOEFL Sebagai Persiapan Studi Lanjut Pada Siswa-Siswi SMAN 4 Pematang Siantar. *IKHLAS: Jurnal Pengabdian Dosen Dan Mahasiswa*, 2(3), 7-14. Retrieved from <https://ejournal.indrainstitute.id/index.php/ikhlas/article/view/675>

- Nainggolan, A. M., Nababan, D. L., Lubis, S. R., Sitingjak, E. R., Tumanggor, E. A. P., & Herman, H. (2023). The Necessity of TOEFL for Beginner Level: A Socialization. *Pengabdian Masyarakat Sumber Daya Unggul*, 1(4), 172–177. <https://doi.org/10.37985/pmsdu.v1i4.302>
- Sidabalok, F. Y., Alhamdi, B., Sidabutar, R., Damanik, D. B., & Kristiani, T. N., Herman, H., & Panggabean, E. S. (2023). Socialization on Introduction of TOEFL To Improve English Skills At SMK Negeri 1 Siantar. *Pengabdian Masyarakat Sumber Daya Unggul*, 1(4), 196–200. <https://doi.org/10.37985/pmsdu.v1i4.315>
- Silaban, L. P. ., Simanjuntak, G. W. ., Manurung, A. O. P. ., Herman, H., Sirait, J., Batubara, J. ., & Niswa, K. . (2023). Sharing Pengetahuan dan Informasi Terhadap Pentingnya TOEFL Untuk Siswa-Siswi SMAN 4 Pematang Siantar. *IKHLAS: Jurnal Pengabdian Dosen Dan Mahasiswa*, 2(3), 1–6. Retrieved from <https://ejournal.indrainstitute.id/index.php/ikhlas/article/view/678>
- Simatupang, G. E., Purba, T. M., Sihombing, C. R., & Herman, H. (2023). Sosialisasi Pengenalan TOEFL Sebagai Penunjang Karir Masa Depan Di Kelas XI IPA SMA YPUS Mandoge Asahan. *Pengabdian Masyarakat Sumber Daya Unggul*, 1(4), 200–203. <https://doi.org/10.37985/pmsdu.v1i4.316>
- Sinambela, R., Turnip, A. N., Turnip, G., Simanungkalit, H., & Herman, H. (2023). SOSIALISASI Pengenalan Dan Manfaat Fungsi Toefl Pada Siswa SMA Negeri 5 Pematangsiantar. *Jurnal Solutif: Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat*, 1(2), 79–91. <https://doi.org/10.61692/solutif.v1i2.93>
- Sukur, S. G. (2013). *Magic trick TOEFL ITP: magic trick menyelesaikan soal-soal TOEFL ITP ala sang pakar*. Yogyakarta: Kalarana Press.
- Sutisno, A. & Sulmi, M. (2021). Implementation of Problem-Based Learning Model in TOEFL Preparation Program at Khairun University. *ELS Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities*, Vol. 4 No. 4; 424-430.