

A Socialization on the Insights of TOEFL to Students of SMK GKPI 2 Pematang Siantar

Mega Silvia Sitompul¹, Dian Melati Siagian², Entika Cintami Siahaan³, Rahelian Gratia Simangunsong⁴, Carolina Carolina⁵, Herman Herman⁶, Anita Sitanggang⁷, Ridwin Purba⁸

^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7}Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, Universitas HKBP Nommensen Pematangsiantar, Indonesia

⁸Program Studi Program Profesi Guru, Universitas Simalungun, Indonesia

megsitompul12@gmail.com¹, diansiagian002@gmail.com², entikacintamy27@gmail.com³,
raheliangratia@gmail.com⁴, carolinasiahaan2020@gmail.com⁵, herman@uhn.ac.id⁶,
anitasitanggang2019@gmail.com⁷, purbaridwin61@gmail.com⁸

Abstract

This community service aims to introduce and provide new knowledge, understanding and insights to the students at SMK GKPI 2 Pematang Siantar about TOEFL. There were 25 participants in the socialization activity, consisting of students from class in the lecture session, the researchers gave the participants the opportunity to ask question about the material that had been explained and provided. The lecture session is a session where the researcher provides material regarding TOEFL, namely: understanding TOEFL, types of TOEFL, benefits and uses of TOEFL, how to access free TOEFL practice, TOEFL test costs and places as well as tips and tricks for doing TOEFL test questions quickly and easily via PowerPoint. Meanwhile, the discussion session is a question and answer session between participants and researchers regarding the material that has been presented during the socialization activity. The result obtained from the socialization activity are: (1) participants gain new knowledge and insight about the importance of TOEFL, such as what is TOEFL; types of TOEFL; benefits and use of TOEFL; TOEFL test and location; tips and trick for answer TOEFL question quickly and correctly, (2) the participants were very enthusiastic to take part in this socialization activity.

Kata Kunci:

Sosialisasi
SMK
Tantangan
TOEFL

Abstrak

Pengabdian masyarakat ini bertujuan untuk memperkenalkan dan memberikan pengetahuan, pemahaman dan wawasan baru kepada siswa-siswi SMK GKPI 2 Pematangsiantar tentang TOEFL. Peserta dalam kegiatan sosialisasi ini berjumlah 25 orang, terdiri dari mahasiswa angkatan pada sesi perkuliahan, peneliti memberikan kesempatan kepada peserta untuk bertanya mengenai materi yang telah dijelaskan dan diberikan. Sesi ceramah merupakan sesi dimana peneliti memberikan materi mengenai TOEFL yaitu: pengertian TOEFL, jenis-jenis TOEFL, manfaat dan kegunaan TOEFL, cara mengakses latihan TOEFL gratis, biaya dan tempat tes TOEFL serta tips dan trik mengerjakan TOEFL soal tes dengan cepat dan mudah melalui Powerpoint. Sedangkan sesi diskusi merupakan sesi tanya jawab antara peserta dan peneliti mengenai materi yang telah disampaikan selama kegiatan sosialisasi. Hasil yang diperoleh dari kegiatan sosialisasi ini adalah: (1) peserta mendapatkan pengetahuan dan wawasan baru tentang pentingnya TOEFL, seperti apa itu TOEFL; jenis TOEFL; manfaat dan kegunaan TOEFL; Tes TOEFL dan lokasi; tips dan trik menjawab soal TOEFL dengan cepat dan benar, (2) peserta sangat antusias mengikuti kegiatan sosialisasi ini

Corresponding Author:

Herman Herman
Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan
Universitas HKBP Nommensen Pematangsiantar
Email: herman@uhnnp.ac.id

1. INTRODUCTION

Communication is an activity carried out by humans in general and has a very important role. As social creatures, humans need communication as a tool to exchange information with fellow humans so that good relationships between humans can be established. Communication is not only limited to spoken words but can be through feelings, facial expressions and body language, but language plays a major role in communication. Therefore, to communicate, language is needed as a reliable and effective communication tool in living together in a society that can be used in everyday life. Language is a message that is usually conveyed in the form of expression as a communication tool in various specific activities (Noermanzah, 2017:2).

English is an international language used by all people in the world to communicate. English is one of the languages used as a universal communication tool on an international scale. According to Pangestika et al (2017), English is one of the languages studied throughout the world because English is an international language that covers all global aspects. English plays a very important role in communication and the international arena as a tool or intermediary for conveying opinions, information or ideas.

TOEFL is an acronym for Test of English as a Foreign Language which acts as a measuring tool to prove a person's English language skills which is standardized and designed by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) which is an organization originating from New Jersey, United States. One reference for measuring English language proficiency is through various English language tests that are commonly used in the form of TOEFL, although it does not rule out the possibility of other forms of English language proficiency tests such as TOEIC and IELTS (Kusuma, 2020). TOEFL consists of 3 types, namely Paper – Based Test (PBT), Computer – Based Test (CBT) and IBT (Internet – Based Test) which measure listening, reading and writing and structure expression abilities. This is supported by the opinion of Prasetyono (2018) who states that TOEFL tests four skills in English, namely the listening comprehension skill which consists of 50 questions, the reading comprehension skill which contains 50 questions and the structure and written expression skill which consists of 40 questions.

In Indonesia, TOEFL plays a very important role in education and employment. The role of TOEFL is proven by making TOEFL one of the requirements for entering universities, both public and private; TOEFL is also used as one of the graduation requirements for final year students with a minimum score requirement by the University; TOEFL is used as a requirement to obtain scholarships at home and abroad. Apart from that, TOEFL is used as a requirement for applying for jobs in several agencies which can be an added value for applicants, especially in international companies.

Based on the description above, high school and vocational school levels are the most suitable periods for initial introduction to TOEFL because this period is the most appropriate time to introduce, invite, teach about English language mastery, especially through TOEFL (Utami & Pirmansyah, 2018).

Based on the problems above, the researcher wishes to carry out community service activities regarding the socialization of the importance of TOEFL to vocational school students with the aim of introducing and providing knowledge and inviting students to be interested in studying TOEFL which is used to test English language skills that have been previously understood and mastered. , especially through TOEFL, especially for vocational school students who wish to continue to work on the international stage.

2. METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION

This research used a model and method for implementing outreach, namely a model of Community Service activities which are carried out only for outreach activities to target audiences which are carried out in the form of outreach which consists of two sessions, namely a lecture session and a discussion session. The lecture session is a session where the researcher provides material regarding TOEFL, namely: understanding TOEFL, types of TOEFL, benefits and uses of TOEFL, how to access free TOEFL practice, TOEFL test costs and places as well as tips and tricks for doing TOEFL test questions quickly and easily via Powerpoint. Meanwhile, the discussion session is a question and answer session between participants and researchers regarding the material that has been presented during the socialization activity. The data in this research was obtained directly by researchers through field activities with observations during ongoing outreach activities.

The aim of this socialization is to introduce the importance of TOEFL to students at the school. This socialization activity was carried out on December 8 2023 at SMK GKPI 2 Pematang Siantar by several speakers such as Mega Silvia Sitompul, Dian Melati Siagian, Entika Cintami Siahaan, Rahelian Gratia Simangunsong and Carolina. The participants in this socialization activity were 25 class X students who were students from SMK GKPI 2 Pematang Siantar.

Phase 1. Preparation

The first phase or stage of this research contains several procedures that must be carried out before socialization is held, for example:

1. Coordinate with the course lecturer regarding the preparations that need to be made before the socialization is held
2. Ask permission and discuss with the Principal of SMK GKPI 2 Pematang Siantar about the socialization activities
3. Coordinate with the English teacher at SMK GKPI 2 Pematang Siantar to identify participants who can participate in the socialization activities
4. Prepare the tools and materials needed for the socialization activity to facilitate the activity

Phase 2. Implementation

The second phase or stage of this research was to present material to 25 students from SMK GKPI 2 Pematang Siantar who took part in this socialization activity where this activity was about socialization and discussion about the importance of TOEFL for Vocational High Schools.

Phase 3. Evaluation

The third phase or stage of this research is to provide opportunities for students who take part in the socialization for question and answer sessions and discussions regarding obstacles and things that are not understood about the material in the socialization and researchers discuss together to provide solutions to the obstacles encountered. faced by participants in a question and answer session.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Researchers found several results obtained after carrying out this socialization activity on the importance of TOEFL. This socialization activity was carried out one day, namely on December 8 2023 in one of the classrooms at the SMK GKPI 2 Pematang Siantar school. The results obtained are:

1. Participants gain new experience and knowledge about the importance of TOEFL, such as: what is TOEFL, types of TOEFL, benefits and uses of TOEFL, TOEFL test costs and places, tips and tricks for doing TOEFL questions quickly and correctly.
2. The participants participated in the socialization with enthusiasm which could be seen from the enthusiasm of the participants during the discussion and question and answer sessions during the socialization activities.
3. The Challenges in Disseminating the Importance of TOEFL

In disseminating the importance of TOEFL, researchers have several challenges in carrying out the dissemination and the challenges students face in understanding and studying TOEFL. The first challenge for researchers is chosen the place of socialization. The second challenge faced by students in understanding and studying TOEFL is the lack of motivation within students to learn English. If the environment it does not support students to improve their English skills, how a student will understand dan learn of TOEFL. Another challenge is the students doesn't have a friend to study This is a common occurrence, where when someone wants to learn they don't have friends to exchange ideas and support each other.

The Solutions to solve challenges

The challenges of researchers can be resolved by conducting discussions with the researchers in chosen a place for socialization and coordinate with the school. The challenges for students in understand and stud TOEFL can be resolved by choosing the right environment and friends who can exchange ideas, support each other and have the same intention in learning, as well as broad thinking, so that students understand and study TOEFL well.



Picture 1. Self-introduction by speakers and students in a classroom



Picture 2. Presentation about TOEFL by one of the speakers



Picture 3. Question and Answer (QnA) session after Presentation



Picture 4. Ending session with speakers and students' documentation

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results obtained from these socialization activities, it can be concluded that the implementation of these socialization activities went very smoothly and well with the support and assistance of the parties involved, namely all parties from the school starting from the principal, teachers, staff and staff, as well as all students. welcome this socialization activity. Apart from that, class participant's ability in English.

By carrying out socialization activities like this, researchers suggest and hope that this kind of socialization activities can continue continuously and also provide TOEFL training so that participants remain consistent in their enthusiasm for studying TOEFL so that students can know their English language skills directly.

5. THANK YOU NOTE

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