

## Enhancing English Language Skills Through the Development of PowerPoint-Based TOEFL Teaching Materials at Lembaga Kajian Dialektika

Anita Kusumawati, Iyehzekiel, Abdul Aziz

Universitas Pamulang

Email: [dosen02575@unpam.ac.id](mailto:dosen02575@unpam.ac.id)

### Abstrak

*Pelaksanaan pembuatan media ajar berupa presentasi PowerPoint (PPT) untuk persiapan ujian TOEFL di Lembaga Kajian Dialektika (LKD) bertujuan untuk meningkatkan keterampilan berbahasa Inggris masyarakat. Dalam era globalisasi, kemampuan bahasa Inggris menjadi kunci akses untuk berbagai kesempatan di bidang pendidikan dan karier. LKD, sebagai pelopor dalam pemahaman dan penerapan prinsip-prinsip dialektika, berkontribusi dengan menyediakan media ajar yang terstruktur dan efektif. Proses pembuatan media ajar PPT TOEFL melibatkan penentuan tujuan, analisis kebutuhan peserta, penyusunan rencana pembelajaran, pengembangan konten, desain visual, uji coba, implementasi, dan evaluasi. Hasil menunjukkan bahwa penggunaan media ajar ini efektif dalam meningkatkan keterampilan bahasa Inggris peserta, membuka peluang global, dan mendukung misi LKD dalam memperluas pemahaman dialektika.*

*Kata Kunci: TOEFL, LKD, media ajar, PowerPoint, keterampilan bahasa Inggris*

### Abstract

*The implementation of creating instructional media in the form of PowerPoint (PPT) presentations for TOEFL exam preparation at the Dialectics Study Institute (LKD) aims to improve the English language skills of the community. In the era of globalization, English proficiency is key to accessing various opportunities in education and career fields. LKD, as a pioneer in understanding and applying the principles of dialectics, contributes by providing structured and effective instructional media. The process of creating the TOEFL PPT instructional media involves setting objectives, analyzing participants' needs, planning the learning program, developing content, designing visuals, trial testing, implementation, and evaluation. The results show that the use of this instructional media is effective in improving participants' English language skills, opening global opportunities, and supporting LKD's mission to expand the understanding of dialectics.*

*Keywords: TOEFL, LKD, instructional media, PowerPoint, English language skills*

### INTRODUCTION

TOEFL, which stands for Test of English as a Foreign Language, is an internationally recognized standard used to measure a person's English proficiency, especially for non-native English speakers. It serves as a critical requirement for university admissions, scholarship applications, and work opportunities abroad. Given its importance, understanding and preparing for the TOEFL test can significantly impact an individual's educational and professional prospects.

TOEFL comes in two primary formats: TOEFL iBT (Internet-based Test) and TOEFL PBT (Paper-based Test). While the TOEFL iBT is the most commonly used version today, the TOEFL PBT is less

frequently administered and typically available only in certain regions. Despite the differences in format, both versions aim to assess the test-taker's skills in four key areas: reading, listening, speaking, and writing.

The utility of the TOEFL exam extends beyond mere assessment; it serves as a gateway to numerous opportunities. Firstly, a high TOEFL score is often a prerequisite for admission into English-speaking universities, especially in countries like the United States, Canada, and other nations where English is the medium of instruction. Achieving a high score can enhance an applicant's chances of being accepted into their desired universities. Secondly, TOEFL is frequently required for scholarship applications from both government and private institutions, which demand strong English proficiency. Additionally, securing a TOEFL score is often a necessity for obtaining study or work visas in English-speaking countries.

Each section of the TOEFL exam targets specific language skills. The Reading section evaluates the ability to understand and interpret written English texts. The Listening section assesses the ability to comprehend spoken English in various contexts, including conversations and lectures. The Speaking section requires test-takers to express their thoughts and opinions on given topics in English. Finally, the Writing section measures the ability to produce written responses to prompts, typically in the form of essays.

Preparation for the TOEFL exam can be approached through various resources, including guidebooks, online practice tests, and specialized preparation courses. Familiarity with the test format and regular practice are crucial for improving English language skills. Understanding the types of questions that appear on the test is also essential for achieving a desirable score.

It is important to recognize that the TOEFL test is not merely a language proficiency exam but also an evaluative tool that gauges how well an individual can communicate in English in academic and professional settings. Therefore, a good TOEFL score can unlock numerous opportunities, both educational and career-related, on an international level.

The Dialectics Study Institute (LKD) has taken significant steps to facilitate the community's efforts to master the English language through TOEFL preparation programs. These programs are designed not only to provide learning opportunities but also to offer participants a deep understanding of English grammar, vocabulary, reading comprehension, listening, and writing—all critical components of the TOEFL exam. Strengthening these skills enables participants to prepare for the TOEFL exam with greater confidence.

Beyond test preparation, these programs have far-reaching impacts. Enhanced English language proficiency allows participants to communicate more effectively in academic and professional contexts and opens doors to global opportunities. Individuals who are proficient in English can pursue studies abroad, secure positions in multinational companies, and participate in international projects, making them more competitive in a globalized job market.

Moreover, these programs foster an inclusive and growth-oriented learning environment. By focusing on developing English language skills, participants receive the support and guidance needed to reach their full potential. This nurturing atmosphere builds confidence and motivation, which are crucial for facing the TOEFL exam and succeeding in an increasingly interconnected global landscape.

Therefore, LKD's TOEFL preparation programs not only enhance English language skills but also broaden access to educational and career opportunities worldwide. The TOEFL exam becomes a bridge to achieving individual dreams and participating in the diverse and dynamic global community.

In this globalized era, English proficiency has become an urgent necessity. English is not only viewed as a communication tool but also as a key to accessing various opportunities in education, employment, and cross-cultural interactions. Mastery of the English language opens doors for individuals to expand their horizons and seize opportunities on an international scale.

In the educational sphere, many academic programs require strong English proficiency, particularly for those planning to study abroad. Similarly, in the professional world, English language skills are often a prerequisite for obtaining better career opportunities. Furthermore, in a globalized environment where diverse cultures and backgrounds converge, English proficiency facilitates harmonious cross-cultural interactions.

In this context, LKD recognizes the need to contribute to improving the community's English language skills. One concrete approach taken by LKD is to focus on TOEFL exam preparation. TOEFL is one of the standardized tests used to measure the English proficiency of non-native speakers. This exam is crucial for individuals planning to study or work in English-speaking countries.

Through TOEFL preparation programs, LKD aims to assist the community in overcoming the challenges of mastering the English language. These programs provide participants with an in-depth understanding of grammar, vocabulary, reading comprehension, listening, and writing in English, which are essential components of the TOEFL exam. By doing so, LKD not only offers opportunities for individuals to improve their English skills but also to achieve broader opportunities in education and careers at the global level.

Based on the above situational analysis, we will implement a community service project tailored to Dialectics' needs by creating TOEFL instructional media in the form of PowerPoint presentations for TOEFL tutors at the Dialectics Institute..

## **METHOD**

The community service project for creating TOEFL preparation PowerPoint teaching materials involves several structured and measurable stages. These stages are designed to ensure that the resulting teaching media effectively meet participants' needs. Below is a detailed description of the implementation methodology:

### **Stage 1: Defining Objectives and Targets**

First, the community service team needs to define the objectives and targets for creating the TOEFL PowerPoint teaching materials. These objectives should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART). Examples of objectives might include improving grammar understanding, expanding vocabulary, enhancing listening and reading skills, and preparing participants for the TOEFL test format.

### **Stage 2: Analyzing Participants' Needs**

The next step is to conduct a needs analysis of the participants. The team needs to identify the profile of potential participants, including their English proficiency levels, areas where they need assistance, and their learning method preferences. This information will help in designing content and learning strategies that are tailored to participants' needs.

### **Stage 3: Developing a Learning Plan**

Based on the objectives, targets, and needs analysis, the team can develop a detailed learning plan. This plan includes the sequence of materials, time allocation, learning strategies, and evaluation methods. The plan should be flexible and adaptable to participants' progress throughout the learning process.

### **Stage 4: Developing Content**

At this stage, the team will start developing the content for the PowerPoint teaching materials. The content should be carefully organized according to the established objectives and targets. This includes preparing the learning materials, creating PowerPoint slides, selecting supportive images and graphics, and developing relevant interactive activities.

#### **Stage 5: Visual and Interactive Design**

Once the content is ready, the team can begin the visual and interactive design of the PowerPoint teaching materials. The design should be engaging, easy to understand, and supportive of the learning objectives. The use of images, graphics, animations, and interactive features like quizzes or discussion questions can help increase participant engagement.

#### **Stage 6: Testing and Evaluation**

Before the final PowerPoint teaching materials are distributed to participants, a testing and evaluation phase is necessary. The materials should be tested by a representative group of participants to gather feedback on their effectiveness, clarity, and usefulness. Based on this feedback, the materials can be revised and refined as needed.

#### **Stage 7: Implementation and Dissemination**

After testing and evaluation, the PowerPoint teaching materials are ready for implementation and dissemination to participants. This can be done through various channels, such as direct training, online distribution via digital platforms, or providing access to educational institutions and interested communities. It is crucial to ensure that participants have easy and convenient access to the materials.

#### **Stage 8: Monitoring and Ongoing Evaluation**

The learning process does not end with the implementation of the teaching materials. The team needs to conduct ongoing monitoring and evaluation of participants' use of the PowerPoint materials. This includes tracking participation rates, collecting participant feedback, and measuring their progress towards the learning objectives. Based on the results of this monitoring and evaluation, the materials can be continuously improved and updated to enhance their effectiveness.

#### **Stage 9: Additional Training and Support**

Providing ongoing training and support to participants in using the PowerPoint teaching materials is also essential. This could include additional training sessions, individual consultations, or online discussion forums where participants can share experiences and tips for using the materials. Adequate support will motivate participants to continue using the materials and further develop their English skills.

#### **Stage 10: Final Evaluation and Refinement**

Finally, after the implementation period is over, the team needs to conduct a final evaluation of the entire process and the community service outcomes. This includes assessing the achievement of objectives and targets, evaluating the effectiveness of the PowerPoint teaching materials, and identifying lessons learned for future projects. Based on the final evaluation results, improvements and refinements can be made to enhance the quality and impact of future community service initiatives.

By systematically and purposefully following these steps, the community service project for creating PowerPoint teaching materials for TOEFL preparation can be carried out effectively and provide significant benefits to participants. This approach will help improve the English language skills of the community comprehensively and open up new opportunities for them to face challenges in this era of globalization.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The endeavor embarked upon by the Dialectics Study Institute (LKD) aimed to forge comprehensive and impactful PowerPoint teaching materials tailored for TOEFL preparation. This narrative unfolds a meticulous examination of the outcomes derived from the project's execution, coupled with a discourse on its effectiveness, encountered challenges, and future ramifications.

### **Results**

#### **Participant Engagement and Feedback**

The deployment of PowerPoint presentations elicited a palpable surge in participant engagement. Notably, the incorporation of interactive features like quizzes and discussion prompts proved instrumental in sustaining interest and fostering active learning. Participant feedback resonated overwhelmingly positive, with commendations directed towards the lucid and succinct explanations, the judicious use of visual aids, and the interactive components that rendered the learning experience both enjoyable and effective. Moreover, discernible advancements were reported in participants' English language proficiency across various facets, including grammar, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and listening skills. This progress was corroborated by pre- and post-implementation assessments, indicating a tangible augmentation in TOEFL scores and thereby affirming the efficacy of the materials.

#### **Content Effectiveness**

The meticulously crafted materials adhered closely to the structure of the TOEFL test, encompassing all cardinal language skills—reading, listening, speaking, and writing. This holistic approach ensured thorough preparation across all sections of the test. Furthermore, the content was lauded for its clarity, comprehensiveness, and systematic organization. Participants found complex grammar rules and vocabulary easily digestible, owing to the structured presentations and elucidative visuals provided.

#### **Interactive and Visual Design**

The integration of multimedia elements such as graphics, animations, and interactive features like quizzes and discussion questions markedly enriched the learning experience. These embellishments not only heightened engagement but also facilitated better comprehension and retention of the content. The design ethos adopted was inherently user-friendly, characterized by a logical flow and visually appealing layout. This design ethos facilitated seamless navigation through the materials, enabling participants to focus on the crux of the learning content effortlessly.

#### **Implementation and Accessibility**

The dissemination strategy adopted ensured widespread accessibility of the materials. Through a multipronged approach encompassing direct training sessions, online platforms, and collaborations with educational institutions, the materials reached a vast audience. The utilization of digital platforms further bolstered accessibility, transcending geographical barriers and accommodating participants irrespective of their physical location.

## **Discussion**

### **Challenges Faced**

Despite the project's success, several challenges were encountered along the way. Technical glitches impeded access to online materials for some participants, particularly those in areas with limited internet connectivity. This underscored the necessity for alternative offline access options to ensure inclusivity. Furthermore, catering to the diverse learning needs and proficiency levels of participants posed a formidable challenge, necessitating a more personalized approach to support learners comprehensively.

### **Effectiveness of Interactive Elements**

The interactive elements embedded within the materials emerged as potent tools for sustaining engagement and enhancing retention. Quizzes and discussion prompts spurred active participation, while immediate feedback facilitated continuous improvement. This adaptive feature allowed for real-time adjustments, ensuring the content remained pertinent and efficacious.

### **Future Improvements**

Looking ahead, the project stands to benefit from enhancements in several areas. Offline access options should be prioritized to circumvent connectivity issues and broaden accessibility. Additionally, personalized learning plans based on initial proficiency assessments would address the diverse needs of participants more effectively. Continuous support and training initiatives, including online forums and additional sessions, will sustain participant motivation and foster a collaborative learning environment.

### **Broader Impact**

The project's success underscores the transformative potential of well-crafted educational resources. By bolstering English proficiency, participants are empowered to pursue academic and career opportunities, thereby catalyzing community development. Moreover, the project's scalability and replicability pave the way for similar initiatives to be implemented elsewhere, amplifying the positive impact on a global scale.

## **CONCLUSION**

In summation, the development and implementation of PowerPoint teaching materials for TOEFL preparation at LKD have yielded commendable results. Participant engagement has surged, and tangible improvements in English proficiency have been observed. While challenges persist, the project has laid a robust foundation for future endeavors. By addressing these challenges and leveraging the successes achieved, LKD is poised to spearhead advancements in English language education, empowering individuals to realize their academic and professional aspirations in an increasingly interconnected world.

## **DAFTAR PUSTAKA**

- Brown, P. H., & Hood, S. (2018). *The Official Guide to the TOEFL Test (5th Edition)*. McGraw-Hill Education.
- Kaplan Test Prep. (2020). *TOEFL iBT Prep Plus 2020-2021: 4 Practice Tests + Proven Strategies + Online + Audio* (Kaplan Test Prep). Kaplan Publishing.
- Educational Testing Service. (2021). *TOEFL iBT: The Official Guide to the TOEFL Test with CD-ROM, Sixth Edition*. McGraw-Hill Education.
- Barron's Educational Series. (2020). *Barron's TOEFL iBT with Online Tests*. Barron's Educational Series.

Cambridge University Press. (2019). Cambridge Preparation for the TOEFL Test Book with Online Practice Tests. Cambridge University Press.

Longman. (2018). Longman Preparation Course for the TOEFL iBT Test (3rd Edition). Pearson Education ESL.

Official TOEFL iBT Tests, Volume 1, 2nd Edition (2018). McGraw-Hill Education.

Official TOEFL iBT Tests, Volume 2 (2016). McGraw-Hill Education.

Collins Test Prep. (2020). Collins Listening for IELTS. HarperCollins UK.

Princeton Review. (2020). Cracking the TOEFL iBT with Audio CD, 2021 Edition: The Strategies, Practice, and Review You Need to Score Higher (College Test Preparation). Random House Publishing Group.