

## Introducing the Benefits of Learning TOEFL at Twelfth Grade of SMA Teladan Pematang Siantar: A Socialization

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### Abstract

*This study aims to conduct socialization regarding the introduction and benefits of TOEFL to grade XII students at Teladan High School in Pematang Siantar. This service activity was held a day on December 14, 2023. The implementation was carried out by the lecture and training method. Lectures and training in the form of material delivery on TOEFL and its benefits in the world of education. This research was conducted at Teladan High School Pematang Siantar involving 38 students of class XII MIPA 4. This socialization implementation consisted of three sessions, namely giving pre-test questionnaires about the TOEFL test, lecture sessions or explanations of socialization materials about the TOEFL test, and discussion sessions and giving post-tests to test students' understanding of socialization materials. The results of this socialization activity showed that students who participated in the initial socialization were not familiar with TOEFL and had never heard of it before. However, after gaining knowledge about TOEFL through socialization, their understanding increased and they were very enthusiastic. Post-test results showed a significant improvement until 30% in student scores if compared to pre-test*

### Keywords:

Benefits  
Introduction  
Learning  
TOEFL  
Socialization

### Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk melakukan sosialisasi mengenai pengenalan dan manfaat TOEFL pada siswa kelas XII SMA Teladan Pematangsiantar. Kegiatan pengabdian ini dilaksanakan pada suatu hari pada tanggal 14 Desember 2023. Dilaksanakan dengan metode ceramah dan pelatihan. Perkuliahan dan pelatihan terdiri dari penyampaian materi tentang TOEFL dan manfaatnya dalam dunia pendidikan. Penelitian ini dilakukan di SMA Teladan Pematangsiantar dengan melibatkan 38 siswa kelas tes untuk menguji pemahaman siswa terhadap materi sosialisasi. Hasil dari kegiatan sosialisasi ini menunjukkan bahwa mahasiswa yang mengikuti sosialisasi awal belum mengenal TOEFL dan belum pernah mendengarnya sebelumnya. Namun setelah mendapatkan pengetahuan tentang TOEFL melalui sosialisasi, pemahaman mereka meningkat dan mereka sangat antusias. Hasil post-test menunjukkan adanya peningkatan nilai siswa yang signifikan hingga 30% jika dibandingkan dengan pre-test

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

English is a language that is still in use and is growing nowadays. It is not uncommon for English to be considered an international language that must be understood among many people. The statement is also supported by Crystal (2000) which states that English is a global language. Many countries do not use native English, adopting English as their second language. Not only because English is the oldest language which resulted in English becoming an international language. This is undeniable by the good impact that some countries who study English in the field of information, technology and innovation want to achieve. In his study Parnami (2023), stated that the use of English as a means of communication between professionals in the transportation industry in helping to strengthen relationships, namely to realize business relationships and facilitate knowledge exchange and innovation. No wonder why Indonesia is one of the countries whose curriculum has placed English as a subject that must be studied by students.

TOEFL itself is one of the tests used to test and measure how deep a person's English skills are. According to Angzie (2020), TOEFL itself stands for Test of English As A Foreign Language which is a test that aims to measure a person's English proficiency without having to follow the teaching and learning process first. A Statement by Kusuma (2020), he also stated that one of the references to measure a person's English proficiency is to carry out an English test such as TOEFL. TOEFL is a language test used to measure English proficiency in reading, writing, listening and speaking skills.

As Prasetyono (2018) said in his book *The Best Guide Book Of TOEFL preparation*, that TOEFL PBT (Paper Based Test) there are 4 tests in English skills starting from Reading Comprehension skills consisting of 50 questions with a time of 30-40 minutes which form the question to understand scientific reading. Then there is Listening Comprehension with a total of 50 items and an implementation time of 40 minutes. This test measures how capable a person is in hearing and understanding sounds and information in them. And the last one is Structure and Written Expression. With the total of question are 40 questions and a processing time of 25 minutes. In this test, it will be tested how high is the level of one's understanding of grammar writing.

Utami & Primansyah (2018) stated that the most suitable level for the initial introduction of TOEFL is Senior High School Level. This is because the high school level is the top level of education before going to the university level. That way the purpose and introduction of TOEFL is more about and useful for high school students. SMA Teladan is one of the schools that strongly emphasizes its students to understand and master English. And in accordance with the applicable curriculum, there are 4 skills in English that must be mastered, namely listening, speaking, reading and writing. For this reason, to hone and open students' thinking about the importance of mastering these 4 skills can be supported by providing knowledge about TOEFL (Pyle Michael 2002). In addition, many students have not heard about TOEFL and there are still many of them who do not know widely about the usefulness of TOEFL. So many of them are not considered well about TOEFL is an English test, and do not know well about the implications of TOEFL are useful for education and career.

Based on the above problems, the team of students from Universitas HKBP Nommensen Pematangsiantar decided to carry out TOEFL introduction activities to high school students at SMA Teladan Pematang Siantar. This activity aims to introduce the importance of TOEFL to high school students and how important the TOEFL Test is in several areas of their dreams. With this socialization, it is expected that Exemplary High School students are motivated to optimize their Potential in English so that their goals can be achieved.

**2. METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION**

This service activity was held a day on December 14, 2023. The implementation was carried out by the lecture and training method. Lectures and training in the form of material delivery on TOEFL and its benefits in the world of education. The mechanism or phase that will be held in this socialization program is as follows



**Figure 1.** The procedure of the implementing the socialization program

#### **A. Phase 1. Preparation**

In this phase it is carried out in 1 week. The preparation are as follows: a) election and observation the schools that will be carried out on socialization activities. The implementing team chose a high school level because it was considered more suitable to get the socialization of the introduction of this TOEFL b) coordination and ask permission with the principal of the school for the implementation of socialization. c) determine the time of the implementation of the socialization to be carried out. d. preparing the socialization material to be implemented prepare tools that will be used for socialization

#### **B. Phase 2. Implementation**

The implementation phase of this socialization will be carried out in the form transferring knowledge about TOEFL to the target group, namely high school students with the total 38 students. One of our teams, will explain the socialization material in the form of the Definition of TOEFL, the type of TOEFL, the use of TOEFL, the strategy facing the TOEFL matter, and some examples of TOEFL test.

#### **C. Phase 3. Evaluation**

This program will be held with 2 evaluations, namely pre evaluation (Pre-test) and post evaluation (Post Test). Pre-Test in the form of a questionnaire question about the basic knowledge of TOEFL will be provided at the beginning before conducting the program implementation. Pre-test is to measure students' understanding before the material is presented. And Post-test in the form of questionnaire questions will be given to students after completing socialization activities. Pre-test aims to determine the achievements that have been obtained by students after listening to exposure on TOEFL topics. The purpose of the pre-test and post-test is to find out whether the socialization activities carried out are achieved. Besides that, after the presentation of the material there was also a question and answer session to expand and deepen the knowledge of students regarding TOEFL. Students are given the opportunity to ask for their purely about TOEFL and the implementing team will try to explain the answers related to the question given right

#### **D. Phase 4. Final Report**

At the last phase, the implementing team will compile the report of this program in the form of a journal that is the results of the socialization activities that have been carried out. This report aims to be evidence that there has been an implementation of socialization program of TOEFL introduction at SMA Teladan Pematang Siantar.

### **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

After the presentation of the material is carried out in accordance with the predetermined systematic phase. The following are the discussion and the results obtained immediately following the TOEFL introduction socialization program.

#### **A. Phase 1. Preparation**

- a) Discussion conducted by the implementing team to select the target school for the introduction of TOEFL socialization which Teladan High School became the target school for the implementation of the Socialization of the introduction of TOEFL.
- b) Request permission from the principal to support socialization activities to be held at Teladan High School Pematang Siantar.
- c) Preparation the time for the implementation of the decided TOEFL socialization will be held on December 14, 2023.
- d) The preparation of the material to be presented is in the form of understanding TOEFL, the importance of mastering TOEFL, the types of TOEFL, TOEFL preparation and strategy tips of TOEFL and provided some examples of TOEFL test.
- e) Preparation of tools that will be used in the exposure of materials, such as LCD, laptops and etc.

#### **B. Phase 2. Implementation**

At this implementation phase, the presenter presented face-to-face TOEFL introduction topic material.

## a) Introduction TOEFL.

In this material, students are invited to understand TOEFL from its basics. The implementation team confirmed to students that TOEFL is a standardized test designed to measure the English proficiency who is not a native English speaker. The skills that will be measured are reading comprehension, writing comprehension, listening comprehension and speaking comprehension which is the type of IBT Test (Internet Based Test). Then, ability of Listening, Structure and written expression, and reading in the type of TOEFL PBT (Paper Based Test). While on the type of CBT Test (Computer Based Test) Listening, structure and written expression, Reading and Writing.

## b) The benefits of TOEFL

At this stage of the discussion, the students are very enthusiastic about listening because we emphasize to them that mastering TOEFL can make it easier for them to achieve their dreams. As for the benefits that we convey such as TOEFL being the entrance ticket for foreign universities, getting domestic and foreign scholarships because TOEFL itself is often used as a condition for scholarships. Become a work permit both abroad and domestically. Opportunities in establishing intercultural communication and professional networks.

## c) Additional preparation materials

The addition material that given are tips and strategies to facing the TOEFL exam. In this part, the implementing team provides some preparation to deal with TOEFL, but in addition the researchers emphasize some more definite preparation such as taking tutoring in the field of TOEFL. Then we advised them to read the TOEFL test book and exercise by use the TOEFL question book.



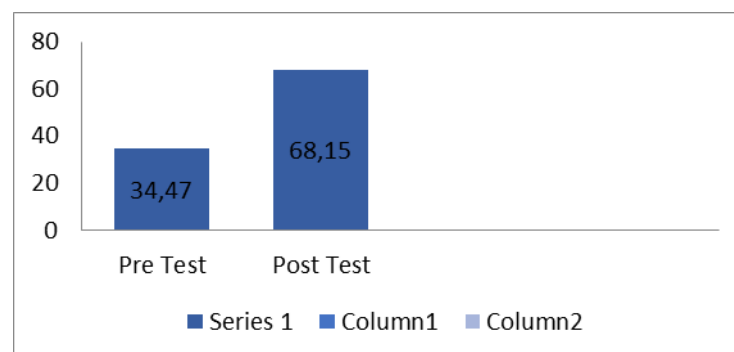
**Figure 2.** Participants who participated in socialization activity



**Figure 3.** Irma Turnip as the presenter in presenting Introduction of TOEFL

### C. Phase 3. Evaluation

For the results of the implementation of the TOEFL introduction program at Teladan High School students. The implementing team conducts a pre-test and post-test evaluation for the comparison of the knowledge and the success of the socialization that has been done. The form of questions given to students is the question of the basic knowledge about TOEFL. After the score data are calculated. Then the average obtained from the results of the pre-test is 34.47. This shows that exemplary high school students have not yet understood the TOEFL. However, after the explanation of the TOEFL introduction was given, the implementing team gave a post-test to measure students' understanding after hearing exposure. The calculation results showed the average post-test reached 68.15. This clearly shows that their understanding improves after getting exposure regarding the introduction of TOEFL.



**Figure 4.** Pre-Test and Post-Test chart comparison

From the chart above, we can see the changes in the value obtained by the participants before the socialization implemented and after the socialization is implemented. Before getting material exposure about TOEFL, participants can only answer correctly questions given around 2-3 questions. Whereas after getting an explanation about TOEFL they can answer questions correctly up to 7-8 questions. This certainly shows that the socialization carried out is well running and successful.

Therefore, at the end of the session there was a question and answer session related to the material that had been delivered. In the question and answer session the participants asked many questions that were in accordance with the material that had been delivered, namely as follows: (1) What is the difference in TOEFL ITP and TOEFL PBT?, (2) How much does it cost to follow the TOEFL? (3) How long does the TOEFL certificate apply? From these questions the team answered the questions given well.



**Figure 5.** The presenter gave direction to filling the test

#### **D. Phase 4. Final Report**

The researchers compiled this article as a final report, in which this article contains all the activities that have been carried out during the socialization activities.

#### **E. Challenges in Implementing the TOEFL socialization**

The challenge that the team face during the process of socialization the Introduction of TOEFL are as follows:

- 1) The absence of basic knowledge about TOEFL was viewed by all participants of the socialization which resulted in the difficulty of understanding the explanation of the material provided. This is seen when the implementing team asks questions at a glance about the material to be given but they are unable to provide the right answer.
- 2) The implementation of inappropriate socialization time (while a remedial situation after the semester exam) resulted in several socialization participants a little less focused on the presentation of matter.
- 3) The limitations of LCD Projector as a tool used made the socialization participants unable to see well the material displayed through special LCD Projector when they were carrying out the pretest and the test post.

#### **F. Steps to overcome the challenges**

- 1) To overcome the shortcomings of students about their basic knowledge of TOEFL, the implementation team gives the presentation of the material clearly and provides an opportunity for the participants of the socialization to ask the things they don't or less understand.
- 2) The implementing team tried to request that the socialization participants can give their focus on the presentation of the material and carry out a pleasant exposure technique so that they can focus on the presenter.
- 3) Presenter read the material shown then explain it and read each question from the pretest and the test post.

### **4. CONCLUSION**

After the implementation of the socialization activity on December 14, 2023, that was carried out by English students from Universitas HKBP Nommensen Pematangsiantar with the participants all students of class XII MIPA 4, we found that this socialization was well received by all participants. Because this socialization has the purpose to introduce and explain the benefits of TOEFL in the world of education and work and provide tips and strategies in dealing with the TOEFL exam. So that socialization participants get an understanding of the meaning of TOEFL, the importance of TOEFL, test formats, improving English language skills, and mastering test strategies, so that socialization participants are expected to feel more prepared and confident when facing the TOEFL test and achieve satisfactory results.

During the socialization activities, the socialization participants showed great enthusiasm. They pay good and earnest attention. This can be seen from the increase in the results of the Pre-Test to Post-Test. The initial average results of the Pre-Test only showed about 34.47, while the average results of the Post-Test



increased to 68.15. Based on that, it can be concluded that this socialization activity was successfully socialized well to students of class XII MIPA 4 at SMA Teladan High School Pematang Siantar.

## 5. THANK YOU NOTE

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