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TOEFL Preparation Training to Increase English Proficiency of Senior High School Teachers

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Abstract

This study aimed to describe the implementation of the TOEFL preparation to some of the Senior High School Teachers to support the English Proficiency of Senior High School Teachers. This program focused on the skill of reading, listening, writing and speaking. English skills, especially TOEFL should always be sharpened so that teachers can improve language competence, as stock in teaching and equip themselves in the ability to speak English. In addition, schools often get visits from various countries, among others from Japan, Korea, and Germany to conduct research and exchange of students. In addition to have academic ability also has good English skills, namely: reading, listening, writing, and speaking. The teachers agree that this kind of event is supposed to be conducted frequently to increase the teachers ability of English skill especially in doing the TOEFL Test.

Key words : TOEFL, English Proficiency, Teacher

INTRODUCTION

The reality of the teaching experience of the teachers feels faced with many obstacles in teaching because of lack of knowledge and skills of English in teaching and communicating. The problem faced is that schools do not have training programs to improve the quality of teachers in teaching, including language upgrading programs. The ability of English language skills must be sharpened so that teachers can improve language competence, as a provision in the teaching and equip themselves in the English language proficiency. In addition, this school often get visits from various countries, among others from Japan, Korea, and Germany to conduct research and exchange students. With so many visits from other countries that require teachers other than good language skills, namely: reading, listening, writing, and speaking. Furthermore, the absence of Language Laboratory facilities inhibit the process of learning to teach English so that teachers demand more creative in teaching materials that should be implemented in Language Laboratory.

The development of the era requires teachers to be more creative in implementing the process of language learning in the classroom. Density of teaching activities and lack of training in teachers so that researchers see the need for training in teachers to support the improvement of self-ability in teaching and English proficiency. Ability of English skills should always be honed so that teachers can improve the competence to support teaching activities to students. Teachers still feel burdens teaching too hard, where full week full-time learning activities are Monday to Saturday so this affects the lack of time and opportunities for teachers in developing self-specific language proficiency.

Besides, teachers feel they still face many obstacles in teaching because of lack of knowledge and skills. Language Laboratory is also indispensable in teaching and learning process especially on Listening material. The absence of Language Laboratory facilities is very hampering the process of learning to teach English so that teachers demand more creative in teaching materials that should be implemented in the Language Laboratory.

Some high schools do not have a program to improve the quality of teachers in teaching, especially language improvement. The ability of English skills should always be sharpened so that teachers can improve self-competence and improve the competence of teaching when providing material to students.

Based on the description of the situation analysis and partner problems, the limited ability of teachers in providing materials to students can be overcome by improving the quality and potential of teachers as educators, especially in improving language skills that require basic skills about speaking, listening, reading and writing. So there should be an activity or training that can improve the skills and abilities of teachers in English so that teachers are more qualified in teaching their students.

Human resources in schools are closely related to school institutions, so it is appropriate that institutions are also doing a lot of improvements. Improvements made related to the administration of learning, improving the quality of teachers and basic training in English language communication this as an effort to improve the quality of teachers. Qualified teachers and supported by adequate facilities and infrastructure to improve the quality of teaching and learning in Senior High School. Given the level of Senior High School is the determinant for higher education studies that will be pursued by students after graduating from senior high school.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TOEFL PREPARATION TRAINING

During the implementation of training, the trainers and all of the audience give a serious attention to the understanding of new language skills and knowledge related to the TOEFL strategy. The training is divided into several sessions, which provides training on TOEFL English, as it provides basic TOEFL skills for teachers on the basics of English means covering structure, reading and listening for the mastery of TOEFL matters. Then ask if any material is not understood. Teachers also take advantage of opportunities to share issues about English material difficulties. Furthermore, the teachers who have been trained and then given the practice of TOEFL so they can solve the problem of English after knowing the strategies they have learned. The training materials provided are TOEFL definitions i.e. TOEFL is standardized test of English. To do well on this test, we need to improve our understanding of the subject matter of the TOEFL test. Appropriate language skills and test-taking strategies.

The part of TOEFL preparation is divided into three part:

- The first is Listening session : listening session is demonstrate the ability to understand spoken English. Senior High School teacher must listen to many types of passages on a recording and answer to multiple choice questions.
- The second is Structure and written expression session : structure and written expression is demonstrate the ability to understand English grammar. Here Senior High School teacher must either choose the correct way to complete sentences or investigate errors in sentences.
- The third is Reading comprehension session : reading session is demonstrate the ability to master written English. Senior High School teacher answer questions about the ideas and the meanings of words in reading.

TRAINING OF TOEFL TO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

Before the training undertaken, first speaker explained the meaning TOEFL and function, then continued diversity in the TOEFL test along with the model tested in the TOEFL test. TOEFL or (Test of English as a Foreign Language) is a Standard English test as a foreign language to test one's ability in English mastery. The capabilities or skills tested in this model test include listening comprehension, structure and written expression and reading comprehension, and equipping the teachers with basic conversation with the aim of the teacher's mother to communicate in English.

In the training, the trainer gave the Listening strategies, they are :

1. Be familiar with the directions
2. Listen the passages very careful
3. The question start from easy to difficult
4. We have 12 seconds every each question on the recording. So we must answer the question and be prepared for the next question within 12 second
5. We don't leave any answers blank on our answer sheet
6. Use remaining time to see at the answers to the questions that follow

In addition to providing listening strategies, it also provides Structure strategies:

1. We have to study the sentence to determine what is needed to complete the sentence correctly
2. Then we have to study each answer based on how well it completes the sentence to reduce answers that do not complete the sentence correctly
3. We do not try to eliminate incorrect answers by looking only at the answers. The incorrect answers are generally correct by themselves.

After providing the listening and structure strategy, then the trainer gives the Reading strategies to the audience, among them are:

1. We have to be familiar with the direction on every paper TOEFL tests are the same, so it is not necessary to spend time reading the directions carefully when we take the test. We should be completely familiar with the directions before the day of the test.
2. We do not spend too much time to read the text.
3. We do not worry if a reading text is on a topic we are unfamiliar with. All the information that we need to answer is included in the text
4. We do not spend too much time on a question we are unsure of.
5. We have to guess to complete the section before time is up

After participating in TOEFL basic training, participants feel that they have basic skills in TOEFL and have basic strategy in facing TOEFL problem, participants feel that continuous training on listening, structure and reading is continuous so that participants can better understand the material and can achieve TOEFL score maximally.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

From the results of community service training it can be concluded that the Community Service Program for High School Teachers on the implementation of the TOEFL preparation to some of the Senior High School Teachers to support the English Proficiency of Senior High School Teachers. This program is focused on the skill of reading, listening, writing and speaking. English language skills, especially TOEFL is very important so that teachers can improve language competence, as stock in teaching and equip themselves in the ability to speak English. Teachers feel in addition to having academic ability must also have good English skills, namely: reading, listening, writing, and speaking. The teachers agree that this kind of event is supposed to be conducted frequently to increase the teachers ability of English skill especially in doing the TOEFL Test.

Suggestions that can be given for continuous programs as an effort to improve the quality of teachers as teachers and the quality of teaching and learning in Senior High School, especially in Senior High School in Sidoarjo.

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