

## THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN TOEIC AT THE SIXTH SEMESTER ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF STAI HUBBULWATHAN DURI

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**Abstract:** *The research aimed to find out measure the ability of students in answering Questions TOEIC on Sixth Semester, The TOEIC consists of two sections: Listening and Reading comprehension. Listening Comprehension (100 multiple-choice questions) and Reading (100 multiple-choice questions) and audiotape or VCD is used to test Listening Comprehension The TOEIC Listening and Reading comprehension test is an assessment of proficiency in English language as it is used in the global workplace, where English is the means of communication among both native and non-native speakers. The research population was Sixth Semester of STAI Hubbulwathan Duri in the academic year 2017/2018. The population of the research is 18 students. The sample technique is Total sampling. To perform the data, researcher used descriptive quantitative approach. Therefore, it related with statistic, so that researcher uses SPSS V. 17 to analyze the data. To make the reader easy to understanding this research, the data will be presented in tables and chart form. In order to investigate students' Ability in Mastering to Answer The Question TOEIC Test. After doing the research of students' Ability in mastering to Answer The Question TOEIC Test. researcher obtained the result of total mean score is 73.31 "Everage" category.*

**Key words:** TOEIC Test ( Listening and Reading)

**Abstrak:** *Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengukur kemampuan siswa dalam menjawab Pertanyaan TOEIC pada Semester Keenam, TOEIC terdiri dari dua bagian: Mendengarkan dan Membaca pemahaman. Mendengarkan Pemahaman (100*

pertanyaan pilihan ganda) dan Membaca (100 pertanyaan pilihan ganda) dan audiotape atau VCD digunakan untuk menguji Pemahaman Mendengar Tes Mendengarkan dan Membaca. Membaca TOEIC adalah penilaian kemahiran dalam bahasa Inggris karena digunakan di dunia tempat kerja, di mana bahasa Inggris adalah sarana komunikasi di antara penutur asli dan non-pribumi. Populasi penelitian adalah Semester VI STAI Hubbulwathan Duri pada tahun akademik 2017/2018. Populasi penelitian adalah 18 siswa. Teknik sampelnya adalah Total sampling. Untuk melakukan data, peneliti menggunakan pendekatan kuantitatif deskriptif. Oleh karena itu, terkait dengan statistik, sehingga peneliti menggunakan SPSS V. 17 untuk menganalisis data. Untuk membuat pembaca mudah memahami penelitian ini, data akan disajikan dalam bentuk tabel dan bagan. Untuk menyelidiki kemampuan siswa dalam Menguasai untuk Menjawab Pertanyaan Tes TOEIC. Setelah melakukan penelitian tentang kemampuan siswa dalam menguasai untuk menjawab pertanyaan tes TOEIC. Peneliti memperoleh hasil total skor rata-rata adalah 73,31 kategori "Rata-Rata".

**Kata Kunci :** Tes TOEIC (Mendengar dan Membaca)

## INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, there are some of the better-known standardized tests of overall language ability or proficiency, to examine some of typical formats used in commercially available tests. The researcher will not look at standardized tests of other specific skills here, but there are two standardized oral production tests: the test of spoken English (TSE), and the test of written English (TWE), (Douglas Brown: 2003:86). The TSE and the TWE are considered constructed-response tests in that candidates are required to produce original responses, not to select from a set of given options, as in the case of multiple choice tests. The standard-setting process as applied to the TSE will be described in some detail. An abbreviated presentation of the process will follow for the TWE because the same process was used in both cases.

Four commercially produced standardized test of English language proficiency are such: the TOEFL, the Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB), the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), and the Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC), (Douglas Brown: 2003:86).

The Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC) is an English language test designed specifically to measure the everyday English skill of people working in National and international environment. It is a multiple-choice test of English for adults, nonnative speakers of the language (Lougheed Lin: 2010: 3).

The TOEIC consists of two sections: Listening and Reading comprehension. Listening Comprehension (100 multiple-choice questions) and Reading (100 multiple-choice questions) and audiotape or VCD is used to test Listening Comprehension (Lougheed Lin: 2010: 3). The TOEIC Listening and Reading comprehension test is an assessment of proficiency in English language as it is used in the global workplace, where English is the means of communication among both native and non-native speakers. Since 1979, the TOEIC scores have informed decisions regarding recruitment, job placement, promotion, and training, and the test has been widely recognized as a worldwide standard in the assessment of international English use (Mary Schedl: 2010 ).

Since the first TOEIC Secure Program (SP) test was implemented in December 1979, the test has been adopted around the world as the global standard for English communication skill assessment. Many companies, schools, and other organizations, as well as individuals, are currently utilizing the test as an effective way to raise the motivation to study, and as an opportunity to check the English skill levels of their workers and students. In reality is not all of the students of English Major Program graduated including graduated of English Major Program of STAI Hubbulwathan Duri will be teachers at school or college and university but some of them will work in any different work places: Government Agencies, Multinational Corporation, International organization, Hotel, Bank and any National and Foreign Companies.

Relate to the reality above, the TOEIC one of the requirement for English students to prove their ability in mastering English in any aspect of skills. It would be such a reliable measure of a test-takers English Language skills that is now used for academic admissions, for placement purposes, and for measuring achievement. Over 1,500,000 people take the TOEIC each year. The TOEIC is the choice of nearly five million test takers a year and is recognized by thousands of corporations. TOEIC is to measure of English proficiency (Lougheed Lin: 2010: 3) the TOEIC will enable students to:

- a. Verify your current level of English proficiency

- b. Qualify for a new position and or promotion in a company.
  - 1. Enhance your professional credentials.
  - 2. Monitor your progress in English.
  - 3. Set your own learning goals
  - 4. Involve your employer in advancing your English ability

Caused of fact on the students' background above,(Rogers: 2006;35) showed that many businesses require people to talk the TOEIC prior to being hired, prior to being considered for promotions, or prior to being allowed to travel overseas. People who work for large international corporations, for airlines, for hotels, for banks, and for government organizations may be asked to take the TOEIC. TOEIC is an acronym for the Test of English for International Communication. As quoted from the TOEIC website: "The TOEIC is an English language test designed specifically to measure the everyday English skills of people working in an international environment." The point system ranges from 10 to 990 points and the test itself is two hours in length, multiple The TOEIC gives certificates to those who take the test, with different colours differentiating the range of advanced skills. In 2006 a new TOEIC was released with longer reading passages and also British, Australian and New Zealand English-speakers, whereas the previous test only featured American speakers (Douglas Brown: 2003:86)

IELTS is otherwise known as the International English Language Testing System, the IELTS is administered by the University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations, the British Council & IDP Education. There are two primary versions of the IELTS: the academic version & the general training version. Basically, the academic version is meant for students who want to enrol in universities and other higher education institutions, as well as for medical professions, such as doctors or nurses who need to work or study in an English-speaking country. The general training version is meant for those looking to gain work experience or for purely immigration purposes. Similar to the TOEFL, an IELTS score is valid for two years. While both the academic version and the general version differ in terms of content, their structure is the same, dividing the test into three parts: Listening (40 minutes), Reading (60 minutes) and Writing (60 minutes). A brand is given along with a score, ranging from the high score of an "Expert User" to the lowest score of the "Non User." The top three

countries the test is administered in are China, India and Pakistan (Douglas Brown: 2003:86)

According to Longman (1989:12) The Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC) is a multiple choice test of English for adults, nonnative speakers of the Language. It consists of 200 questions' multiple choices divided into two parts of 100 questions each 100 for listening comprehension and reading comprehension. With 200 questions, the TOEIC test measures a wide range of English proficiency. The following sample questions do not indicate the full range of difficulty you will find in an actual TOEIC test. This test is designed to measure your English language ability. The test is divided into two sections: Listening and Reading ((Lougheed Lin: 2010: 4) Each candidate receives independent scores for listening and reading comprehension on a scale from 5 to 495 points. The total score adds up to a scale from 10 to 990 points.

TABLE.1  
TOEIC test scores and what they mean:

Score Level	General Description
905 - 990 (91% - 100%)	International Professional Proficiency Able to communicate effectively in any situation
785 - 900 (79% - 90%)	Working Proficiency Plus Able to satisfy most work requirements with language that is often, but not always, acceptable and effective.
605 - 780 (61% - 78%)	Limited Working Proficiency Able to satisfy most social demands and limited work requirements
405 - 600 (41% - 60%)	Elementary Proficiency Plus Can initiate and maintain predictable face-to-face conversations and satisfy limited social demands.
255 - 400 (26% - 40%)	Elementary Proficiency Speaker has functional, but limited proficiency. Able to maintain very simple face-to-face conversations on familiar topics
10 - 250 (0 - 25%)	Basic Proficiency Able to satisfy immediate survival needs.

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**TABLE. 2**  
**Certificate Color**

NO	Certificate Colour	Minimum Score
1	GOLD	860-990
2	BLUE	730-859
3	GREEN	470-729
4	BROWN	220-469
5	ORANGE	10-219

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**a. Listening Section**

In the Listening test, you will be asked to demonstrate how well you understand spoken English. The entire Listening test will last approximately 45 minutes. There are four parts, and directions are given for each part. You must mark your answers on the separate answer sheet. Do not write your answers in your test book ((Lougheed Lin: 2010: 4)

Each question in this part, you will hear four statements about a picture in your test book. When you hear the statements, you must select the one statement that best describes what you see in the picture. Then find the number of the question on your answer sheet and mark your answer. The statements will not be printed in your test book and will be spoken only one time.

**b. Reading Section**

In the Reading test, you will read a variety of texts and answer several different types of reading comprehension questions. The entire Reading test will last 75 minutes. There are three parts, and directions are given for each part. You are encouraged to answer as many questions as possible within the time allowed. You must mark your answers on the separate an The TOEIC test is the choice of nearly five million test takers a year and is recognized by thousands of corporations. As a fair and objective measure of English proficiency, the TOEIC test will enable you to (Lougheed Lin: 2010: 5):

- a. Verify your current level of English proficiency
- b. Qualify for a new position and/or promotion in a Company  
Enhance your professional credentials
- c. Monitor your progress in English
- d. Set your own learning goals
- e. Involve your employer in advancing your English ability

The purpose of the TOEIC tests: to (Lougheed Lin: 2010: 3):

- a. Help businesses build a more effective workforce
- b. Give job seekers and employees a competitive edge
- c. Enable universities to better prepare students for the international workplace

Many leading companies, academic institutions, and language programs worldwide rely on the TOEIC Listening and Reading test as a fair, objective measure of English-language proficiency for students and business professionals. Individuals who take the test include: to (Lougheed Lin: 2010: 5):

- a. Employees who work at hotels, hospitals, restaurants, international meetings, conventions, and sporting events and need to use English on a daily basis.
- b. Individuals employed in managerial, sales, and technical positions in international business, commerce, and industry who use English to communicate in their jobs.
- c. New entrants to the workforce.

Kurniawan (2015), "The Students' Ability in Understanding Listening Question Response in TOEIC Test. Result of the research is Based on the data analysis explains in chapter IV, the researcher describes some conclusions as in the following: There were 52 students of the seventh semester students of the English Education Department Faculty of Education and Teachers Training Lancang Kuning University Pekanbaru who participated in this research. From these 52 students can be seen that the total of the students' scores in descriptive test was 3040, mode of the students' scores was 53.3, median of the students' score was 60, variance of the students' score was 229.62, and standard deviation was 15.15. The scores range from a low of 23.3 to high of 93.3, a range of 70 points. The average score of the students' ability in understanding listening question response was 58.46. It means that the students' ability in understanding listening question response is categorized into poor.

The operational concept is the concept used to describe about the theoretical frame work. In this research, the researcher would like to present the concepts in order to avoid misunderstanding as well as giving guidance in collecting the data. This explanation is to indicate the concept that the researcher uses. There is only one variable

use in this research namely Students' Ability in TOEIC at sixth semester of English Major Program at STAI Hubbulwathan Duri. So in this research there are two operational concept used and some of indicators each of them. They are seen as follows:

1. Listening Comprehension.  
It has a few indicators as follows:
  - a. The student able to analyzing Photographs
  - b. The student able to Answer Choices
  - c. The student able to Analyzing Language Function
  - d. The student able to Strategies For Conversations and talk
2. Reading Passage.  
It has few indicators as follows:
  - a. The student able to Analyzing Vocabulary
  - b. The student able to Analyzing grammar
  - c. The student able to Analyze reading passages

Based on the statement above, it can be concluded that the TOEIC has proven to be such a reliable measure of a test-takers English Language skills that it is now used for academic admissions, for placement purposes, and for measuring achievement.

In fact, some of students still get problems in mastering the TOEIC test. Based on the preliminary study and temporary observation on 24 January 2018, students in majority get problems in TOEIC were indicated by the following phenomena:

Students of English Major Program at STAI Hubbulwathan Duri still have less on mastering the TOEIC.

1. Most of them do not know the TOEIC.
2. Most of them think that TOEIC as same as TOEFL.
3. Most of them have never learned TOEIC.
4. Most of them have never join the TOEIC preparation.

Based on the explanation above, it is necessary to conduct a research entitled: "The Students' Ability in TOEIC at the Sixth Semester Students of English Major Program at STAI Hubbulwathan Duri".

## **METHOD**

Research design is plan for collecting and unitizing data so that desired information can be obtained with sufficient precision or so that a hypothesis can be pretested properly. According to Creswell



(2009:3) research design are plans and the procedures for research that span the decisions from board assumption to detailed methods of data collection and analysis. It means that the process includes planning and doing the research. The method used in this study is the descriptive method by using quantitative approach. According to Gay L.R. (1987: 139), "A descriptive method is a method of research that involves collecting data in order to test hypothesis or to answer questions concerning correct status of the subject of the study. The descriptive study determines and reports the way things are.

Furthermore, Creswell (2009:3) states that research is a process of steps used to collect and analyze information to increase the understanding of a topic or issue. It is used to arrange the setting of the research in order to get valid data. In this case the researcher wants to find the students' ability in mastering to answer the question of TOEIC Test on the sixth semester of English Major Program at STAI Hubbulwathan Duri, the researcher will use the descriptive research in order to get the data with the use of quantitative approach.

In this case, the research has been conducted at STAI Hubbulwathan Duri on the sixth semester of English major Program. It is located on Jl. Karya km.7 Duri. The research has been conducted on January to May 2018. The subject of the research is The Sixth Semester of English Major Program at STAI Hubbulwathan Duri. The object of the study is The Students' Ability in TOEIC. Population is defined as all members of any well-defined class of people, events, or object. A population is also the group of interest to the researcher; the group which the results of the study will ideally generalize (Parmjit Sign, Chan Yuen Fook, Gurnam kaur Sidhu:2013). An important characteristic of inferential statistics is the process of doing from the part to the whole.

The small group that is observed is called a sample and the larger group about which generalization is made is called a population. A population is defined as all members of any well-defined class of people, events or object. Shortly, population is all students on the sixth semester of English major program at STAI Hubbulwathan Duri Riau, because they have learned any aspects of English materials in the few semesters that are going to be observed.

The population of this research is the all students of sixth semester of English major program at STAI Hubbulwathan Duri in academic year 2017 /2018. The sixth semester students of English major at STAI Hubbulwathan Duri consist of one class. Total

population are 18 Students. Sample is a portion of a population. It usually consists of a small group from the population that is observed and about which the generalization is made (Parmjit Sign, Chan Yuen Fook, Gurnam kaur Sidhu:2013). Selected sample is a very important to conduct a research study. Shortly, sample means part of population that observed. The sample of the research has been total sampling taken from the sixth semester students of English Major Program as a sample.

The number of population are 18 students as a total population. According to (Parmjit Sign, Chan Yuen Fook, Gurnam kaur Sidhu:2013) Total population sampling is where you choose to examine the entire population that have a particular set of characteristics. In such cases, the entire population is often chosen because the size of the population that has the particular set of characteristics that you are interested in is very small. Selection of a sample is very important step in conducting a research study. The sample becomes the representative from the population as the subject of this research. The sample for this research, will take one class of at English Major Program at STAI Hubbulwathan Duri.

**Table. 3**  
**Population and Sample**

population	Sample
18	18 Students
TOTAL	18 Students

(source: B.A.K Stai Hubbulwathan Duri)

To collect the data on this research, the researcher gives test of TOEIC. The test consists of Listening comprehension and Reading comprehension of TOEIC test. In order to analyze the data, the writer uses a descriptive quantitative research. It will be attempted to describe and interpret the data collected as objectively as possible. The data will be quantitatively analyzed into some categories. The students' score is based on the number of their correct answers divided by the number of the items, and the result is multiplied by 100. To analyze the above data there are two ways: SPSS 17 and manual.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

Researcher presented the data in order to know the Students' ability in TOEIC test. The data of this research taken from the Students' test. The researcher gave the test to all population to

determine the sample. The test had conducted once. The data obtained is used to know the Students’ ability in TOEIC test.

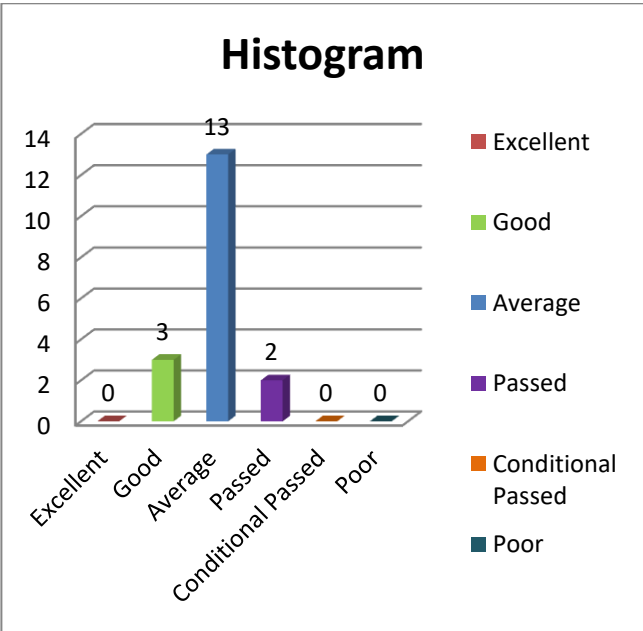
**Table 4**  
**The Range Score and Classification of Mastery**

No	Range of Score	Value		level
		Number	Grade	
1	90 – 100	0	A	Excellent
2	80 – 89	3	B	Good
3	65 – 79	13	C	Average
4	50 – 64	2	D	Passed
5	45 - 49	0	E	Condition al Passed
6	≤ 45	0	F	Poor

Base on the result above, in TOEIC , 3 Students have criteria “ Good”, 13 Students have criteria “Average”, 2 Students’ have criteria “Passed” The highest score is 89.00 and the lower score is 53.00. The total scorer in the test is 1320 with mean is 73.31.

Base on the percentage above the writer can conclude that students’ability in TOEIC is **Average** level or B.

**Chart. 1**  
**The Graphic of Students’ ability In TOEIC**



In data analysis, the writer gives the test to show how is the students' ability in TOEIC on the Sixth Semester at STAI Hubbulwathan Duri. The score of the test can be showed in appendix of this thesis. The writer presented data statistical measures that are used to summarize the research data is descriptive analysis.

Table 5  
Descriptive Statistic of Students Listening Score and Ability  
in TOEIC

N	Valid	18
	Missing	0
Mean		37.17
Std. Error of Mean		1.256
Median		38.25
Mode		39
Std. Deviation		5.330
Variance		28.412
Range		23
Minimum		25
Maximum		47
Sum		669

Table 6  
Descriptive Statistic of Students Reading Score and Ability  
in TOEIC

N	Valid	18
	Missing	0
Mean		36.14
Std. Error of Mean		1.075
Median		38.00
Mode		39
Std. Deviation		4.563
Variance		20.818
Range		16

Minimum	26
Maximum	42
Sum	651

Based on the result above that showed The students' ability in Listening and Reading TOEIC test. The students' ability in Listening higher than reading TOEIC. The result of listening is 669 with mean score 37.17 reading is 651 with mean score 36.14. Below the writer want to present the chart of student ability in listening and reading TOEIC.

Chart .2  
The Graphic of mean Score Students' Listening and Reading ability in TOEIC

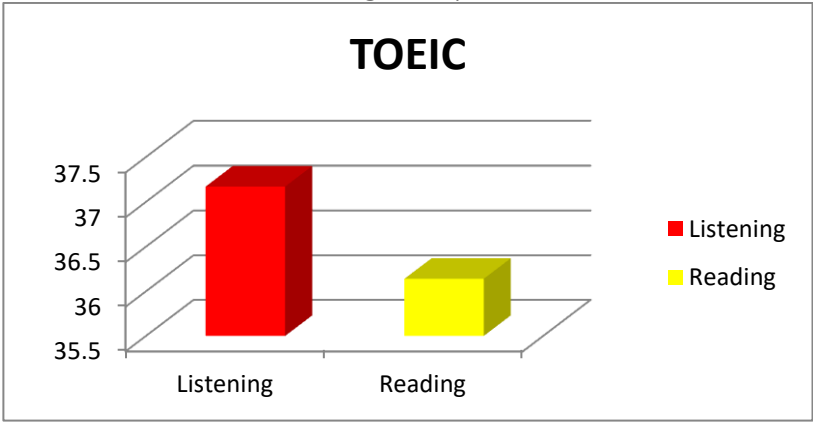


Table. 7  
Descriptive Statistic of Students' Ability in TOEIC

N	Valid	18
	Missing	0
	Mean	73.31
	Std. Error of Mean	2.112
	Median	75.50
	Mode	78
	Std. Deviation	8.961
	Variance	80.298

Range	36
Minimum	53
Maximum	89
Sum	1320

The result of Students' Ability in TOEIC base on the result above showed that mean score is 73.31, and standar deviation 8.961. the maximun score of the test is 89 and the minimum score of the test is 53 the range of the score is 36.

## CONCLUSION

After the researcher analyze the data from previous chapter the researcher can conducted that based on the data of student score in TOEIC, shows the total score was 1320 with mean 73.31, it means the students' ability in TOEIC on the Sixth Semester at STAI Hubbulwathan Duri is **"Average"** categories. This result base on the test that have given to the students without their preparation, because the researcher only want to know about their ability in answered the question in TOEIC test.

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