

The Most Appropriate Online Assessment Tools for Language Learning: An Analysis of Their Use and Challenge in EFL Instructions

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Abstract

The integration of assessment tools with technology can lead to numerous benefits, such as improving the efficiency and practicality of the assessment process and its results. Therefore, this study aimed to map the types of online grading systems in EFL testing classrooms and also determine the challenges faced by users, including EFL lecturers and students. This study involved 10 EFL lecturers and 15 students of the English Education Department of IAIN Sultan Amai Gorontalo, and the instruments used for data collection were observation sheets and a questionnaire. A minimum of 52 online grading systems were accessible through websites and these tools were assessed using instruments produced by the study team to identify any tools that could be employed in the context of language learning, particularly in terms of evaluation. Based on the results, 16 tools were identified for use in the language evaluation process. These included (1) Mentimeter, (2) AnswerGarden, (3) Blooket, (4) Gimkit, (5) Crowdsignal, (6) Google Formulir, (7) Kahoot, (8) Socrative, (9) Quizizz, (10) EdPuzzle, (11) Formative, (12) Floop, (13) JoeZoo, (14) EasyTestMaker, (15) Quia Web, and (16) Edmodo. Furthermore, 5 main components in terms of the challenges faced by EFL lecturers and students in applying these online grading systems in the learning process were identified. These components included preparing to conduct an online assessment, organization of questions, internet connection issues, the use of a device, and controlling a plagiarism/cheating issue.

Keywords: Online Grading Systems, Types of Online Assessment tools, EFL Lecturers, and Students' Challenges

INTRODUCTION

The rapid development of new technology in recent years has presented a unique opportunity for individuals and organizations to adapt and utilize it to their advantage. This advancement in technology can be seen as a "friend" in facing an increasingly sophisticated era, as it offers a variety of benefits to different parties (Saleh et al., 2021; Walmsley-smith et al., 2019). According to Miyazoe, (2022), technology is created to facilitate and assist in fulfilling daily human needs. Many studies suggested that individuals should control the extent of technology use in their daily lives by selecting and sorting out its benefits or positive aspects (Randall, n.d.). Although each argument has its foundation, this study is inclined to view technology as a complementary tool that should be utilized by humans wisely and appropriately, according to their needs.

The description above shows that technology permeates all aspects of life, including the field of education, specifically the teaching and learning process (Altohami, 2022; Barlovits et al., 2022). It has increasingly established itself as the main supporting instrument for humans as the COVID-19 outbreak has practically eliminated face-to-face learning activities. Numerous new technologies have been developed to cater to the demands of virtual learning. This includes the emergence of various systems like Zoom, Google Meet, and Google Classroom. Additionally, social media has gained popularity as a favored option for

implementing distance learning, with education stakeholders embracing it enthusiastically. In response to this trend, technology developers are competing to create rival systems that offer higher capacity and more advanced technological features to provide users with a seamless and appealing learning experience (Martinho, 2022; Walmsley-smith et al., 2019).

Presently, advancements in technology predominantly revolve around the learning process itself and the utilization of systems. Numerous studies have delved into systems that are tailored to specific learning styles, particularly in the context of English language learning (Bilotserkovets et al., 2021; Kawinkoonlasate, 2020; Klimova et al., 2021; Lazebna & Prykhodko, 2021; Mulyani et al., 2021). The findings of these studies offer insights to readers and educators on the significance of incorporating digital systems into the existing English language learning process. Nevertheless, it is crucial to bear in mind that the learning process encompasses not only the instructional activities of teachers and students in delivering and receiving materials but also the assessment methods employed by educators to gauge students' comprehension of the presented content.

With the proliferation of learning products and online systems, there has been rapid development of assessment tools. The integration of these tools with technology has made the process and results more efficient and practical, ensuring a streamlined and effective assessment experience (Generosi et al., 2022; Nsaif et al., 2021). Furthermore, the assessment tools available currently offer various features that make it easier for lecturers to design questions and select models according to the learning topic (Generosi et al., 2022; Gozali& Malang, 2022; Saleh et al., 2021; Walmsley-smith et al., 2019). In the context of learning English, assessment tools that can be used to design evaluations are widely available for free and with payment options.

The use of online-based assessment has not been touched and used massively in the English Tadris Department of IAIN Sultan Amai Gorontalo. Some are well-known among language lecturers, such as Kahoot and Quizess. However, the results of informal interviews showed that the use of online-based applications or software has not been used as an alternative assessment. The use of online-based assessment has been suggested by several previous studies to be effective and efficient in managing the learning evaluation process transparently and objectively (Dermo, 2009; Gikandi et al., 2011; Darmawan et al., 2020; Petillion& McNeil, 2020; Tuah & Naing, 2021; Asiyah et al, 2024). Existing studies on online-based assessments have not comprehensively covered aspects of learning English, and only a few have explored the challenges of lecturers and students in using this in the language learning assessment process. Therefore, this study is considered important to map out the applications or online-based assessment software, describe their features, and identify challenges, to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the tool. This information is expected to be practically useful for lecturers and students in the English Tadris Department. The significance of this study lies in its effort to map out a specialized online system for evaluating English learning and the challenges to operating it, which can be valuable for English lecturers. The findings of this study can serve as a reference for utilizing assessment tools in designing and creating online questions, particularly in the context of virtual teaching, which is currently prevalent in the learning process. Therefore, this study aims to examine the types of online assessments and EFL lectures and students' challenges in using those online assessment tools.

THEORY

The Notion of Learning Assessments

Assessment is widely acknowledged as a crucial and influential component of the educational experience, as it offers tangible evidence of learning, gauges student progress,

and showcases comprehension of the curriculum (Joshi et al., 2020). Assessment also serves as the foundation for fostering student independence and supports the development of essential skills for autonomous, self-directed, and lifelong learning (Pereira et al., 2016). Generally, assessment is defined as the process of gathering information (Brown, 2019) in various forms to inform decision-making about students (Stufflebeam et al., 1985), including their curriculum, learning programs, school climate, and school policies (Whitelock & Watt, 2008). These decisions involve how teachers manage classroom instruction, place students in different educational programs, assign tasks appropriate to individual abilities and needs, provide guidance and counseling, and offer recommendations for further study (Luthfiyyah et al., 2020). Decisions regarding the curriculum and school programs involve evaluating program effectiveness and implementing measures to enhance student capabilities through remedial teaching (Tharwat, 2018). Policy decisions pertain to educational policies at the school, district, and national levels (Ferretti et al., 2021).

Modes of Learning Assessments

In general, learning assessment can be divided into offline and online modes (Nancy et al., 2022; Saher et al., 2022). Offline assessments typically involve traditional methods such as paper-based tests, classroom observations, and in-person evaluations (Ghosh et al., 2020). These methods allow for direct interaction between students and educators, providing immediate feedback and a hands-on approach to measuring student performance and understanding. Offline assessments are often seen in more conventional educational settings, where physical presence is a key component of the learning and assessment process (Asamoah, 2019).

On the other hand, online assessments utilize digital platforms and tools to evaluate student learning. These assessments can include online quizzes (Bukhari et al., 2022), virtual simulations, digital portfolios, and remote proctoring systems (Enders et al., 2021; Kerr et al., 2016; Seifert & Feliks, 2019). Online assessments offer greater flexibility and accessibility, enabling students to complete evaluations from any location and often at their own pace. This mode of assessment has become increasingly popular, especially in the context of remote learning and the integration of technology in education. Online assessments also allow for automated grading and data analysis, providing educators with efficient means to track student progress and adapt instructional strategies accordingly.

Challenges Associated with Online Assessments

Despite the numerous opportunities that online assessments present, their widespread adoption brings distinct challenges that must be addressed to maintain the integrity, authenticity, and fairness of these assessments. Several key challenges associated with online assessments that necessitate proactive solutions include (Kearns, 2012; Hakim et al., 2021; Mariadi et al., 2022; Al-Maqbali & Hussain, 2022; Bukhari et al., 2022; El Hassan & Ahmed, 2023):

- a. **Technical Issues:** Technical difficulties can impede the seamless execution of online assessments. Problems such as internet connectivity issues, software compatibility concerns, and device malfunctions can disrupt the assessment process and negatively impact the experience of test-takers.
- b. **Academic Integrity:** Ensuring the security and integrity of online assessments is critical. The ease of accessing unauthorized materials, online resources, or collaborating with others increases the risk of cheating and plagiarism among students.

- c. Access and Equity: Online assessments require reliable internet access, appropriate devices, and digital literacy skills. However, not all individuals or regions have equal access to these resources, resulting in potential disparities and restricted opportunities.
- d. Digital Literacy: Students and teachers who lack digital literacy may struggle with navigating online assessment platforms. Difficulties in locating assessments, submitting responses, or accessing feedback can lead to frustration and hinder effective participation in the assessment process.
- e. Measuring Learning Outcomes: Assessing learning outcomes online can be more challenging than traditional face-to-face methods due to the absence of direct observation and limited student interaction.
- f. Data Privacy: Online assessments involve the collection and storage of sensitive student data, including personal information, academic performance, and assessment results. Insufficient security measures in online assessment platforms can expose this data to cyberattacks, posing significant privacy risks.

METHOD

The descriptive qualitative methods were used to examine and map the results of observations on online grading systems. On the other hand, the quantitative method was used to describe the results of lecturers' and students' perceptions of the tools in the form of numbers and percentages (Jamshed, 2014).

Subject and Object of Study

The subjects involved in this study were 10 English lecturers and 15 students at the English Education Department of IAIN Sultan Amai Gorontalo. The selection of respondents was based on the experience and habits of lecturers in evaluating learning in several courses, as well as students' experience in filling out tests using online media, while the object was an online grading tool specifically designed for learning English. Additionally, based on the potential of online language evaluation tools that were found, the perceptions of lecturers and students were gathered to describe the challenges faced when using the tools.

Research Instruments

In this study, the researchers played a central role as the primary instrument for data collection. Observations and questionnaire heets were used as supporting tools to gather data on the perceptions of lecturers and students regarding various types of language learning evaluation tools available online or on the Internet. The data obtained from the questionnaire provided a foundation for further exploration of the challenges faced by lecturers and students. This instrument consists of 5 main indicators and includes a total of 13 items (Ghanbari & Nowroozi, 2021).

Study Procedures

The study followed several stages to answer the research questions. Initially, the planning stage involved discussions to design the data collection instruments. Data were then collected from various online sources, including Google Search Engine, Google Scholar, and YouTube, by using keywords such as online assessment tools, online grading systems, online test tools, virtual assessment tools, and digital test. The collected data were subsequently analyzed and coded using additional instruments created by the study team to identify suitable online grading systems for teaching English both inside and outside the classroom.

Data Analysis Technique

The data analysis in this study involved carefully observing and analyzing the data sources. The research team meticulously reviewed potential online assessment tools from various internet sources and coded the tools that could be specifically used in English language learning. After obtaining the results, we conducted a simple descriptive quantitative test on the questionnaire instrument, presenting the findings in graphical form to identify the challenges faced by lecturers and students when using online assessment tools.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

Types of Online Grading Systems for English Learning

Based on the results of the study conducted through different sources from the internet, such as websites and published journal articles, several systems have been identified that can be used in the assessment process for English learning. The following is a description of the results:

Table 1. Mentimeter Features

Features	Availability	Explanation
Price	√	Available in Basic, Premium
Language Test Covered	√	Reading, Listening, Writing, Speaking, Grammar, Vocabulary
Accessibility	√	Normal
Test Types	√	Multiple Choice, Word Cloud, Open Ended, Scales, Ranking, Question, and Answer
Automatic Scoring	√	Live Score and Delayed Score Viewed, but none for Speaking and Writing
Compatible Devices	√	Laptop, Mobile Phone, Tablet
Test Duration Setting	√	Customized

Table 1 outlines the features of Mentimeter, highlighting its availability and functionality. The platform supports various test types, including multiple-choice, word cloud, open-ended, scales, ranking, and question-and-answer formats, with automatic scoring available for all except speaking and writing. Additionally, Mentimeter is compatible with multiple devices such as laptops, mobile phones, and tablets, and allows customized test durations.

Table 2. Answer Garden Features

Features	Availability	Explanation
Price	×	Free and No Need to register
Language Test Covered	√	Sentence Structure, Vocabulary
Accessibility	√	Easy
Test Types	√	Word Cloud and Questioning and Answer
Automatic Scoring	√	Live Score and Delayed Score Viewed
Compatible Devices	√	Laptop, Mobile Phone, Tablet
Test Duration Setting	√	Customized

Table 2 details the features of AnswerGarden, which is a free tool that does not require registration. It covers language tests such as sentence structure and vocabulary, with easy accessibility and support for test types like word cloud and question-and-answer formats. The platform offers automatic scoring, compatibility with laptops, mobile phones, and tablets, and allows for customized test durations.

Table 3. Blooket Features

Features	Availability	Explanation
Price	√	Basic and Premium, need to register
Language Test Covered	√	Reading, Listening, Grammar, Vocabulary
Accessibility	√	Normal
Test Types	√	Multiple Choice
Automatic Scoring	√	Live Score and Delayed Score Viewed
Compatible Devices	√	Laptop, Mobile Phone, Tablet
Test Duration Setting	√	Customized

Table 3 describes the features of Blooket, a platform that offers both basic and premium versions requiring registration. It covers language tests including reading, listening, grammar, and vocabulary, with normal accessibility and supports multiple-choice test types. Blooket provides automatic scoring, is compatible with laptops, mobile phones, and tablets, and allows for customized test durations.

Table 4. Gimkit Features

Features	Availability	Explanation
Price	√	Basic and Premium, need to register
Language Test Covered	√	Reading, Listening, Grammar, Vocabulary, Writing
Accessibility	√	Normal
Test Types	√	Multiple Choice
Automatic Scoring	√	Live Score and Delayed Score Viewed
Compatible Devices	√	Laptop, Mobile Phone, Tablet
Test Duration Setting	√	Customized

Table 4 outlines the features of Gimkit, which offers both basic and premium versions requiring registration. It supports language tests in reading, listening, grammar, vocabulary, and writing, with normal accessibility and multiple-choice test types. Gimkit provides automatic scoring, is compatible with laptops, mobile phones, and tablets, and allows for customized test durations.

Table 5. Google Form Features

Features	Availability	Explanation
Price	√	Free and No Need to register
Language Test Covered	√	Reading, Listening, Grammar, Vocabulary, Writing, Speaking
Accessibility	√	Normal
Test Types	√	Multiple Choice, Scales, Short Answer, True and False
Automatic Scoring	√	Live Score and Delayed Score Viewed
Compatible Devices	√	Laptop, Mobile Phone, Tablet
Test Duration Setting	√	Customized

Table 5 highlights the features of Google Forms, a free tool that does not require registration. It covers a wide range of language tests including reading, listening, grammar, vocabulary, writing, and speaking, with normal accessibility and supports various test types such as multiple-choice, scales, short answer, and true/false. Google Forms offers automatic scoring, is compatible with laptops, mobile phones, and tablets, and allows for customized test durations.

Table 6. Kahoot Features

Features	Availability	Explanation
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Price	√	Basic, Kahoot Plus, Kahoot Pro, Kahoot Premium, Kahoot Premium Plus
Language Test Covered	√	Reading, Listening, Grammar, Vocabulary, Writing, Speaking
Accessibility	√	Normal
Test Types	√	Multiple Choice, Word Cloud, Puzzle, Poll, Open Ended, Type Answer
Automatic Scoring	√	Live Score
Compatible Devices	√	Laptop, Mobile Phone, Tablet
Test Duration Setting	√	Customized

Table 6 details the features of Kahoot, which offers various pricing plans including Basic, Kahoot Plus, Kahoot Pro, Kahoot Premium, and Kahoot Premium Plus. It supports language tests in reading, listening, grammar, vocabulary, writing, and speaking, with normal accessibility and various test types such as multiple-choice, word cloud, puzzle, poll, open-ended, and type answer. Kahoot provides live automatic scoring, is compatible with laptops, mobile phones, and tablets, and allows for customized test durations.

Table 7. CrowdSignal Features

Features	Availability	Explanation
Price	√	Free and Need to register
Language Test Covered	√	Reading, Listening, Grammar, Vocabulary, Writing, Speaking
Accessibility	√	Normal
Test Types	√	Multiple Choice, Free text, Rating Scale, Matrix Likert, Rank
Automatic Scoring	√	Delay Score
Compatible Devices	√	Laptop, Mobile Phone, Tablet
Test Duration Setting	√	Customized

Table 7 presents the features of CrowdSignal, a free tool that requires registration. It supports language tests in reading, listening, grammar, vocabulary, writing, and speaking, with normal accessibility. The platform offers various test types including multiple-choice, free text, rating scale, matrix Likert, and rank, with delayed automatic scoring. CrowdSignal is compatible with laptops, mobile phones, and tablets, and allows for customized test durations.

Table 8. Quizziz Features

Features	Availability	Explanation
Price	√	Basic, Premium
Language Test Covered	√	Reading, Listening, Grammar, Vocabulary, Writing, Speaking
Accessibility	√	Normal
Test Types	√	Multiple Choice, Reordering, Matching, Fill in the Blank, Draw, Open Ended, Video Respond, Audio Respond, Poll
Automatic Scoring	√	Live and Delay Score
Compatible Devices	√	Laptop, Mobile Phone, Tablet
Test Duration Setting	√	Customized

Table 8 describes the features of Quizziz, which offers both basic and premium versions. It covers a comprehensive range of language tests including reading, listening, grammar,

vocabulary, writing, and speaking, with normal accessibility. The platform supports various test types such as multiple-choice, reordering, matching, fill-in-the-blank, draw, open-ended, video respond, audio respond, and poll, and provides both live and delayed automatic scoring. Quizziz is compatible with laptops, mobile phones, and tablets, and allows for customized test durations.

Table 9. Socrative Features

Features	Availability	Explanation
Price	×	Free and Need to Register
Language Test Covered	√	Reading, Grammar, Vocabulary, Writing
Accessibility	√	Normal
Test Types	√	Multiple Choice, True and False, Short Answer
Automatic Scoring	√	Live and Delay Score
Compatible Devices	√	Laptop, Mobile Phone, Tablet
Test Duration Setting	√	Customized

Table 9 outlines the features of Socrative, a free tool that requires registration. It supports language tests in reading, grammar, vocabulary, and writing, with normal accessibility. The platform offers test types such as multiple-choice, true and false, and short answer, with both live and delayed automatic scoring. Socrative is compatible with laptops, mobile phones, and tablets, and allows for customized test durations.

Table 10. EdPuzzle Features

Features	Availability	Explanation
Price	×	Free and Need to Register
Language Test Covered	√	Listening and Speaking
Accessibility	√	Normal
Test Types	√	Audio and Video Project
Automatic Scoring	√	Delay Score
Compatible Devices	√	Laptop, Mobile Phone, Tablet
Test Duration Setting	√	Customized

Table 10 describes the features of EdPuzzle, a free tool that requires registration. It supports language tests in listening and speaking, with normal accessibility. The platform offers test types such as audio and video projects, with delayed automatic scoring. EdPuzzle is compatible with laptops, mobile phones, and tablets, and allows for customized test durations.

Table 11. Formative Features

Features	Availability	Explanation
Price	×	Free and Need to Register
Language Test Covered	√	Reading, Grammar, Vocabulary and Writing
Accessibility	√	Normal
Test Types	√	Multiple Choice, Short Answer
Automatic Scoring	√	Live and Delay Score
Compatible Devices	√	Laptop, Mobile Phone, Tablet
Test Duration Setting	√	Customized

Table 11 outlines the features of Formative, a free tool that requires registration. It supports language tests in reading, grammar, vocabulary, and writing, with normal accessibility. The platform offers test types such as multiple-choice and short answer, with both live and delayed automatic scoring. Formative is compatible with laptops, mobile phones, and tablets, and allows for customized test durations.

Table 12. Floop Features

Features	Availability	Explanation
Price	×	Free and Need to Register
Language Test Covered	√	Reading, Grammar, Vocabulary, and Writing
Accessibility	√	Normal
Test Types	√	Multiple Choice, Short Answer, True and False, Fill in the Blank, Scaling
Automatic Scoring	√	Delay Score
Compatible Devices	√	Laptop, Mobile Phone, Tablet
Test Duration Setting	√	Customized

Table 12 highlights the features of Floop, a free tool that requires registration. It supports language tests in reading, grammar, vocabulary, and writing, with normal accessibility. The platform offers various test types including multiple-choice, short answer, true and false, fill in the blank, and scaling, with delayed automatic scoring. Floop is compatible with laptops, mobile phones, and tablets, and allows for customized test durations.

Table 13. Joe Zoo Features

Features	Availability	Explanation
Price	×	Free and Need to Register
Language Test Covered	√	Writing
Accessibility	√	Hard Enough
Test Types	√	Short and Long Answer
Automatic Scoring	√	Delay Score
Compatible Devices	√	Laptop, Mobile Phone, Tablet
Test Duration Setting	√	Customized

Table 13 describes the features of JoeZoo, a free tool that requires registration. It supports language tests focused on writing, with somewhat challenging accessibility. The platform offers test types such as short and long answers, with delayed automatic scoring. JoeZoo is compatible with laptops, mobile phones, and tablets, and allows for customized test durations.

Table 14. Easy Test Maker Features

Features	Availability	Explanation
Price	×	Free and Need to Register
Language Test Covered	√	Reading, Grammar, Vocabulary, Writing
Accessibility	√	Hard Enough
Test Types	√	Multiple Choice, Short Answer, Fill in the Blank, True and False, Matching
Automatic Scoring	√	Delay Score
Compatible Devices	√	Laptop, Mobile Phone, Tablet
Test Duration Setting	√	Customized

Table 14 outlines the features of EasyTestMaker, a free tool that requires registration. It supports language tests in reading, grammar, vocabulary, and writing, with somewhat challenging accessibility. The platform offers various test types including multiple-choice, short answer, fill in the blank, true and false, and matching, with delayed automatic scoring.

EasyTestMaker is compatible with laptops, mobile phones, and tablets, and allows for customized test durations.

Table 15. Quia Web Features

Features	Availability	Explanation
Price	√	Free, Premium
Language Test Covered	√	Reading, Grammar, Vocabulary, Writing
Accessibility	√	Hard Enough
Test Types	√	Multiple Choice, Short Answer, Fill in the Blank, True and False, Matching, Essay, Initial Answer, Multiple Correct, Pop-Up
Automatic Scoring	√	Delay Score
Compatible Devices	√	Laptop, Mobile Phone, Tablet
Test Duration Setting	√	Customized

Table 15 describes the features of Quia Web, which offers both free and premium versions. It supports language tests in reading, grammar, vocabulary, and writing, with somewhat challenging accessibility. The platform provides a wide range of test types including multiple-choice, short answer, fill in the blank, true and false, matching, essay, initial answer, multiple correct, and pop-up, with delayed automatic scoring. Quia Web is compatible with laptops, mobile phones, and tablets, and allows for customized test durations.

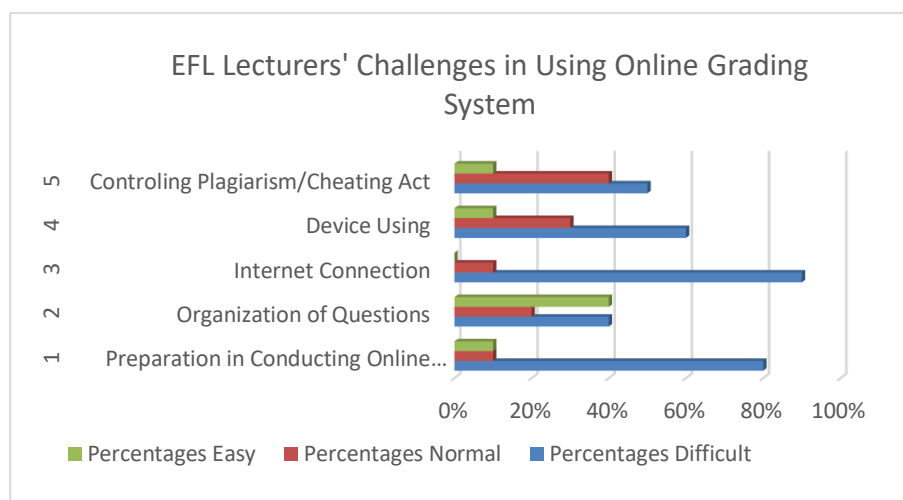
Table 16. Edmodo Features

Features	Availability	Explanation
Price	√	Free, Premium
Language Test Covered	√	Reading, Grammar, Vocabulary, Writing, Listening
Accessibility	√	Normal
Test Types	√	Multiple Choice, Short Answer, Fill in the Blank, True and False, Matching
Automatic Scoring	√	Live and Delay Score
Compatible Devices	√	Laptop, Mobile Phone, Tablet
Test Duration Setting	√	Customized

Table 16 outlines the features of Edmodo, which offers both free and premium versions. It supports language tests in reading, grammar, vocabulary, writing, and listening, with normal accessibility. The platform provides various test types including multiple-choice, short answer, fill in the blank, true and false, and matching, with both live and delayed automatic scoring. Edmodo is compatible with laptops, mobile phones, and tablets, and allows for customized test durations.

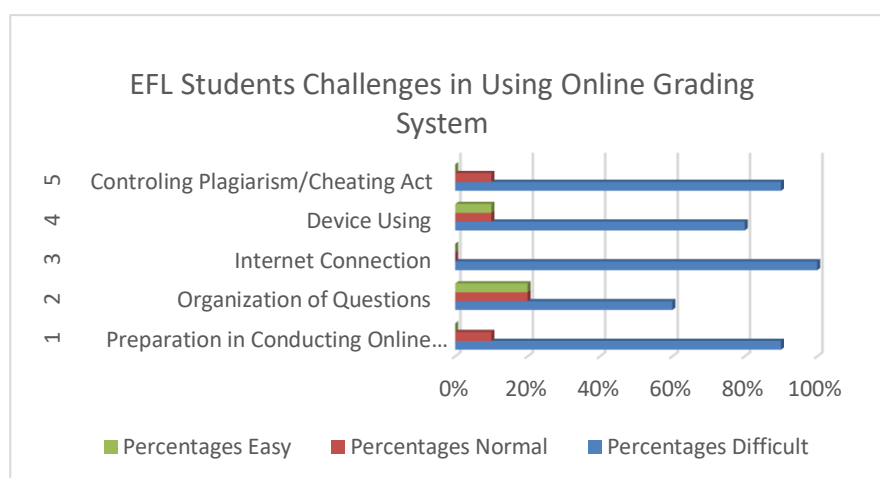
Challenges of EFL Lecturers in Using Online Grading Systems

After examining different types of online grading systems from various internet sources, the research team shares the findings with English lecturers and final-year students who will be involved in Field Experience Practices. This includes presenting and demonstrating how to create accounts, input questions, and use the systems as either lecturers or students. Following the dissemination process, lecturers and students were asked to provide feedback on the types of tools and challenges encountered while implementing these systems in the learning process. The responses from the lecturers and students are as follows.



Graph 1. EFL Lecturers' Challenges in Using Online Grading Systems

According to the data presented in the graph, it can be observed that many lecturers find it challenging to prepare for online-based assessments. Eight lecturers emphasized the importance of adequate preparation for implementing online grading systems in order to ensure a smooth and fair assessment process. The majority of lecturers struggle with organizing or compiling tests when transitioning from traditional test models to online assessments. Additionally, cultural considerations are still seen as relevant in contemporary conditions. The main challenge faced by lecturers in implementing online grading systems is internet connectivity, which is not within their control but rather dependent on students' access. The use of different devices such as cell phones, laptops, or tablets also poses a challenge, as there may be discrepancies in device capacity and ownership among students. Moreover, conducting assessments outside the classroom presents a risk of students cheating on exams. In addition, the study team also sought the opinions of 15 final-year English students who are expected to participate in Field Experience Practices and engage in teaching practices at schools. These students were asked about the potential challenges they may encounter while using online grading systems in the learning process at these schools, and the results are depicted in the graph provided.



Graph 2. EFL Students' Challenges in Using Online Grading System

According to students' responses, the main obstacle faced was internet connectivity. Furthermore, students felt unprepared to take online assessments and prevent cheating. These results illustrated the interconnection of the challenges faced by students with five aspects, which required time and an adjustment process to ensure the evaluation process for language learning can be conducted entirely online.

Discussion

This research article explores various types of online assessment tools, highlighting their features and benefits in facilitating interactive and effective learning experiences. It emphasizes tools like Mentimeter, AnswerGarden, Blooket, Gimkit, Google Form, Kahoot, and others, showcasing their diverse functionalities in creating quizzes, surveys, and interactive activities that enhance student engagement and streamline the evaluation process. However, the transition to online assessments during the COVID-19 pandemic has presented significant challenges for lecturers and students, including a lack of preparation, unfamiliarity with online tools, and issues of academic integrity. Additionally, the digital divide has exacerbated inequities, making access to necessary technology and stable internet connections a considerable barrier for many students. For a more detailed analysis, we provide a discussion on the types and challenges of online assessment by referring to various expert opinions and findings from previous research as follows.

Types of Online Assessment Tools

Mentimeter is an online application that allows users to display various diagrams of the results of social interactions of a group of people, such as polls or opinions delivered openly and briefly. This tool supports the process of learning and allows lecturers and students to interact directly. Furthermore, it is free but can be upgraded to obtain additional features. Mentimeter is equipped with presentation menus with various models such as multiple choice, word cloud, open-ended, and others (Vallely & Gibson, 2018). It also allows uploading images and graphics, as well as making quotes, displaying reports on students' answers if made in the form of questions, providing answer information, and much more. The benefit of using this tool is that it can capture students' interest during the learning process by serving as a supporting media for data collection, allowing students to express their opinions, and providing interactive systems for asking questions (Gokbulut, 2020; Moorhouse & Kohnke, 2020). This site can be accessed on the following homepage: <https://www.mentimeter.com/features/quiz-presentations>.

Answer Garden is an uncomplicated online feedback tool that promptly elicits responses from those who participate. Its basic interface facilitates the creation, distribution, response, and management of topical questions without requiring user accounts. Despite its simplicity, AnswerGarden has the capacity to serve various educational purposes such as brainstorming, polling, both synchronous and asynchronous communication, and formative assessment. As an illustration, an EFL instructor can utilize AnswerGarden to present an initial question that stimulates the students' prior knowledge (Atherton, 2022). This site can be accessed on the following homepage: <https://answergarden.ch/>

Blooket is an educational tool designed for trivia and reviews, aiming to enhance classroom engagement (Blooket, 2021, para. 1). It functions as a gamified learning system, where teachers can host games using question sets, and students can provide answers using their devices (Bratel et al., 2021). This system is primarily used for formative assessment, with correct answers earning students points which they can use to buy and sell virtual items called 'Blooks'. Blooket provides educators with a vast array of pre-designed question sets. Alternatively, teachers can construct their own sets of questions tailored to their particular

class. This novel approach to reviewing or exercising course material can increase students' engagement and enthusiasm. (Bratel, 2021). The site can be accessed on the following homepage: <https://www.blooket.com/>.

Gimkit is a website that provides access to an online gaming portal designed for use by educators and students. A student project inspired this platform was inspired by a student project in a public high school. Its goal is to facilitate engaging and enjoyable learning through educational games that require knowledge, collaboration, and critical thinking skills for accomplishment. (Berzanskis, L., 2021). In Gimkit, instructors create quiz games referred to as "Kits," which students can play outside of the classroom. These activities aid in the retention of newly acquired information, preparation for tests, and mastery of a unit's standards. Gimkit is appropriate for both online and in-person courses, and it enables instructors to effectively teach their material while reducing preparation time and fostering student engagement, enthusiasm, and motivation.

Google Form is a handy tool for conducting online evaluations. Using Google Forms, users can create questionnaires with various types of questions, such as multiple choice, short answers, long answers, Likert scales to collect responses from respondents efficiently and easily (Saleh Alharbi et al., 2021; Suryanovika, 2020). In addition, Google Form also makes it easier for users to analyze and visualize the response data collected in tables or graphs. As a result, Google Forms are especially useful for evaluation activities, such as employee performance appraisals, customer satisfaction surveys, or evaluation of events in business or educational settings. In addition, using the Google Form, the evaluation process can be carried out online, making it more efficient, fast, and accessible to respondents from anywhere and at any time using the available devices (Lailaturrahmi et al., 2020). This site can be accessed on the following homepage: <https://docs.google.com/>.

Kahoot is an online interactive learning platform that provides educational quiz games for teachers and students (Neureiter et al., 2020). With Kahoot, users can create interactive quizzes with different types of questions, such as multiple choice, quick questions, matched, or sequences, and add images or videos as part of the questions (Nguyen & Yukawa, 2019). Once a quiz has been created, users can share an access code with students so they can participate in the quiz online through their device. During the quiz game, student scores are updated live and displayed on the scoreboard (Bicen & Kocakoyun, 2018). Kahoot offers students a fun and interactive learning experience, and allows teachers to easily monitor student progress. Kahoot is widely used in various educational settings, such as schools, universities, or training institutes (Kapsalis et al., 2020). This site can be accessed on the following homepage: <https://kahoot.it/>.

Crowdsignal is an online survey platform that allows users to easily create surveys and polls. Formerly known as Polldaddy (Arif et al., 2019). Crowdsignal allows users to create surveys with a variety of question types, including multiple choice, short-fill, long-response, rating, and more. In addition, users can customize the design of their surveys and adjust privacy settings, such as choosing who can view surveys and keeping respondent data private. After the survey is completed, users can analyze survey results in real-time, view responses in graphical or tabular form, and download response data for further analysis. Crowdsignal is often used by individuals, organizations or companies to gather feedback and opinions from their customers, team members or audience. This site can be accessed on the following homepage: <https://crowdsignal.com/>.

Quizizz is an online interactive learning platform allowing users to create game-form educational quizzes (Nojen, 2021). In Quizizz, users can create quizzes with different types of questions, such as multiple choice, true or false, short answers, and sequences. Apart from that, users can also add images or videos as part of the question. Once a quiz has been

created, users can share access codes with students so they can participate in quizzes online through their own devices. During quiz games, student scores will be updated live and displayed on the scoreboard. Quizizz provides a fun and interactive learning experience for students and allows teachers to easily monitor the progress of their students. Quizizz is widely used in various educational settings, such as schools, universities, or training centers (Hidayati et al., 2021; MohdJalani& Hashim, 2020; TurhanKariko&Ayuningtyas, 2021). This site can be accessed on the following homepage: <https://quizizz.com/>.

Socrative is an online interactive learning platform that allows users to create real-time questions and quizzes for use in class or training sessions (Balta &Tzafilkou, 2019; Romero et al., 2021). With Socrative, users can create questions in a variety of formats, including multiple-choice, true or false, and short questions. In addition, users can generate reports directly from the answers given by students and provide timely feedback. Socrative is used primarily by teachers and trainers in the classroom but is also used by companies to extend their employee training.(Bratel et al., 2021; Saeed Alharbi &Meccawy, 2020). This site can be accessed on the following homepage: <https://www.socrative.com/>

Edpuzzle is an interactive online learning platform that allows users to turn videos into more interactive learning experiences (EmiliyaHidayat&DzulfiqarPraseno, 2021; Shelby &Fralish, 2021). In Edpuzzle, users can select the videos they want to use and add interactive questions and assignments to them. This allows students to follow the videos more actively and allows teachers to monitor students' progress in understanding the material. In addition, Edpuzzle allows users to track student progress, analyze answers, and provide real-time feedback. Edpuzzle is used primarily by teachers in the classroom, but can also be used by individuals for online learning. This site can be accessed on the following homepage: <https://edpuzzle.com/>.Formative assessment tools are tools or platforms used to carry out formative evaluations, namely evaluations that are carried out continuously during the teaching and learning process (Costa et al., 2010). These tools typically allow users to create and assign assignments, quizzes, or questions to students, and track and analyze their progress throughout the lesson. (Craig Jones). This site can be accessed on the following homepage: <https://www.formative.com/>.

Floop Tools is an online learning platform that allows teachers to provide feedback on individual student work and track their progress in the learning process(Janar&Nozima, 2022). Floop Tools can be used for many types of assignments, including writing assignments, projects, and presentations. This platform allows students to receive direct feedback from their teachers and classmates, as well as provides space for discussion and collaboration between students and teachers. Floop Tools is also equipped with an analysis feature that allows teachers to track students' progress in understanding material and provide more effective feedback. This site can be accessed on the following homepage: <https://floopedu.com/>.

JoeZoo is an online learning platform designed to help teachers provide feedback and grade students' work quickly and effectively. JoeZoo allows teachers to provide immediate feedback on Microsoft Word or Google Docs documents and uses machine learning algorithms to help provide suggestions and corrections automatically. In addition, JoeZoo provides easy-to-use text editing tools and grading features and tracks student progress throughout the lesson. This platform is widely used at various levels of education and allows teachers to provide more effective feedback and improve the quality of student learning. (BAA, M. F. 2021Joezoo also assists instructors in syncing their class roster with Google Classroom. This site can be accessed on the following homepage: <https://getjoezoo.com/packages-tools-insights-improvements.html>.

EasyTestMaker is an online test creation platform that allows users to create various types of tests such as multiple choice, true or false, matching, short answer tests, etc. Users can add images, audio, and video as part of the test and can specify the time required to complete the test. After finishing creating the test, users can download it in various formats such as PDF, Microsoft Word or HTML. EasyTestMaker also provides automatic analysis and report generation of test results. This platform is often used by teachers, instructors, and instructors at various levels of education (Bertea, A. F. 2012). This site can be accessed on the following homepage: <https://www.easytestmaker.com/>

Quia Web is an online learning platform that allows users to create various types of interactive learning activities such as quizzes, word games, exercises, and tests. Quia Web also provides thousands of activities that have been previously created by other users, so that users can use them as references or directly use these activities. This platform also provides features for tracking student progress and learning outcomes reports that can help users monitor and analyze student progress. Quia Web is frequently used by teachers and instructors at various levels of education.(Roediger et al., 2011). This site can be accessed on the following homepage: <https://www.common sense.org/education/website/quia-web>.

Edmodo is a web-based learning platform designed specifically for classroom use. It is accessible to instructors, students, and parents, and provides virtual classrooms, discussions, assignments, and assessments, among other features (Sumardi & Muamaroh, 2020). Educators can easily create and administer online classes, assign assignments and assessments, and provide students with real-time feedback using Edmodo. Students can use Edmodo to access and complete assignments, submit answers, and partake in class discussions. Similarly, parents can use this platform to track and support their child's educational development (Laili&Nashir, 2018; Puspitaloka et al., 2018; Widyaningrum et al., 2020). Edmodo includes security features that prevent unauthorized access to user information to protect user privacy. This website can be accessed at edmodo.com.

Challenges of EFL Lecturers and Students in Using Online Grading Systems

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the lack of preparation of lecturers and students to undertake online assessments stands out as a major challenge. As a result of being taken aback by COVID-19, lecturers lacked acquaintance with online assessment and lacked sufficient time to design appropriate online tests (Almusharraf&Khahro, 2020). Although most higher education institutions may have short-term contingency plans, many did not have long-term continuity strategies in place to smoothly transition from in-person to online courses (Muñoz & Álvarez, 2010). The abrupt transition to online education resulted in some faculty members hurriedly creating courses in a medium they may not have taught in before. It is important to acknowledge the prevalence of plagiarism and cheating in online assessments. Therefore, situations like the COVID-19 pandemic may require compromises when assessing intended learning outcomes (Tuah& Naing, 2021). Importantly, the spread of COVID-19 has worsened existing inequities across students, as connectivity issues are merely the tip of the iceberg. The lack of a cohesive national response to the public health crisis has exacerbated the digital divide across various educational settings, widening existing economic and structural disparities in access to information and communication technology (ICT) such as internet, electricity, and computers among historically marginalized populations. This includes rural children, families of color, students with disabilities, and students with refugee status (Salmi, 2021 as cited in Chan, et al., 2021).

CONCLUSION

The result of the early stage of this study using Internet-accessible sources showed that at least 52 online grading systems were accessible through websites. These 52 tools were then assessed using instruments produced by the study team to identify the most suitable tool in the context of language acquisition, particularly in terms of evaluation. Based on these results, sixteen tools were developed for use in the language evaluation process, namely (1) Mentimeter, (2) AnswerGarden, (3) Blooket, (4) Gimkit, (5) Crowdsignal, (6) Google Formulir, (7) Kahoot, (8) Socrative, (9) Quizizz, (10) EdPuzzle, (11) Formative, (12) Floop, (13) JoeZoo, (14) EasyTestMaker, (15) Quia Web, and (16) Edmodo. This study identified five main components that presented challenges for EFL lecturers and students in implementing online grading systems in the learning process. These included preparing to conduct an online assessment, organization of questions, internet connection issues, the use of a device, and controlling a plagiarism/cheating issue. Theoretically, this study has implications for the understanding of English lecturers and students at IAIN Sultan Amai Gorontalo, as it provides insights into the type and use of online grading systems for evaluating English both inside and outside the classroom. Based on the results and limitations of this study, further investigation is recommended on this topic using different methods and data analysis. Additionally, involving more respondents, including both English lecturers and students, would be beneficial. The effectiveness of online assessment tools can also be measured by evaluating their ability to assess students' learning outcomes.

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