

**EXPLORING THE WASHBACK OF TOEIC
AS AN ENGLISH EXIT TEST
IN VOCATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION**

A dissertation

Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for
The Doctoral Degree in English Education



Nurti Rahayu

1907014

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FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE EDUCATION
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Exploring the Washback of TOEIC as an English Exit Test in Vocational Higher Education

Oleh
Nurti Rahayu

Dr. Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia 2024
M.Pd Universitas Indraprasta PGRI 2013
S.Pd Universitas Negeri Sebelas Maret, 2003

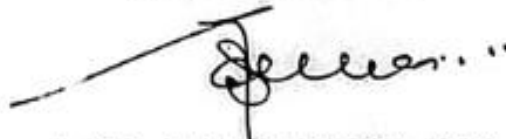
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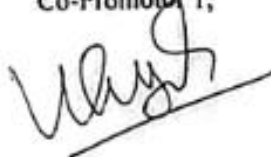
Approved by: Promotor,



Prof. Fuad Abdul Hamied, M.A., Ph.D.

NIP. 195008211974121001

Co-Promotor 1,



Prof. Dr. Didi Sukyadi, M.A

NIP. 196706091994031003

Co-Promotor 2



Dr. Fazri Nur Yusuf, S. Pd., M. Pd

NIP. 197308162003121002

Acknowledged by:

The Head of English Education Program

Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia



Prof. Emi Emilia, M.Ed., Ph. D

NIP. 196609161990012000

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this dissertation, entitled “EXPLORING THE WASHBACK OF TOEIC AS AN ENGLISH EXIT TEST IN VOCATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION” is completely my own work. I am fully aware that I have quoted and paraphrased some statements and ideas from a large number of sources, and they are properly acknowledged in the texts.

Bandung, January 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'N' followed by several vertical strokes and a final flourish.

Nurti Rahayu - 1907014

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PREFACE

Alhamdulillahirobbil'alamin. All praise is given to Allah Subhanahu wa ta'ala for His blessings and guidance, which have permitted the completion of this dissertation titled "*Exploring the Washback of TOEIC as an English Exit Test in Vocational Higher Education.*" This research has been accomplished as part of the Doctor of Education program in English Education at Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia.

This research aims to contribute to the existing body of knowledge on test washback, specifically focusing on the Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC) in the context of Vocational Higher Education. The study seeks to investigate the impact and consequences of TOEIC as an exit test, examining how it influences teaching and learning practices, curriculum design, and learning performance. This study aims to provide insights that can enlighten educators, policymakers, and test producers about the implications of utilizing TOEIC as an exit test in vocational higher education by investigating the washback effects of TOEIC. The findings should provide useful information for improving the effectiveness and relevance of English language assessment techniques in this educational setting.

This study aims to give a complete understanding of the correlations between TOEIC as an exit test and numerous educational characteristics through rigorous data collecting, analysis, and interpretation. The researcher understands the importance of objectivity and transparency in reporting the findings, as well as the limits inherent in any research attempt. To this end, thoughtful consideration, suggestions, and constructive criticism are greatly appreciated.

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ABSTRACT

This study reports the washback effects of the Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC) as an English exit test (EET) in a tourism vocational higher education (VHE) institution, utilizing a mixed-method approach. The washback model was adapted from previous washback studies (Alderson & Wall, 1993; Bailey, 1996; Green, 2006; Hughes, 1993; Shih, 2007) and other sources. Data collection involved a survey with 190 students, 4 of them were interviewed. Then, document analysis, classroom observations, and interviews with 6 ESP teachers were conducted. The researcher also interviewed four policymakers. Quantitative data underwent SPSS 20, and *Jeffreys's Amazing Statistics Program* (JASP) analysis for Principal Component Analysis (PCA), statistic descriptive, and correlations, while qualitative data were thematically analysed. Engestrom's (2000) activity theory was adopted to portray students' learning activities. Students' survey reported the positive washback of EET in enhancing English learning practices, including motivation, learning time, strategies, and learning outcomes. However, concerns arose regarding content reduction, multiple-choice reliance, and test-related anxiety. Additionally, weak correlations were observed between personal factors, test perception, anxiety, and learning practices. Then, students' learning activities were directed toward specific goals to work in tourism industry. Similarly, teachers adhered to the syllabus as evident in their preparation, content delivery, and teaching methods but reported negative washback on feelings and attitudes. The washback on teaching was affected by teacher, student, and institution factors. Eventually, policymaker interviews confirmed TOEIC adoption for employability, language measurement, competence reflection, education, and quality assurance. Findings were corroborated by alumni, employers, and internship providers. Based on these findings, integrating EET into Indonesia's tertiary English curriculum could enhance teaching and learning. Strengthening the implementation of EET with international standardised tests requires collaboration among stakeholders to mitigate negative washback and promote positive outcomes. Simultaneously, the implementation of a comprehensive language development program alongside EET policy implementation is imperative.

Keywords: English exit test, TOEIC, Washback, Vocational Higher Education.

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