

## ASSESSMENT OF READING AND WRITING IN ENGLISH LEARNING FOR FIRST-GRADE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ananda Cindy Faricha<sup>1</sup>, Regy Aprilian<sup>2</sup>, Syarifatun Nabila<sup>3</sup>, Irmayani<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*ananda.2020@mhs.unisda.ac.id*, <sup>2</sup>*regy.2020@mhs.unisda.ac.id*,

<sup>3</sup>*syarifatun.2020.mhs@unisda.ac.id* <sup>4</sup>*irmayani@unisda.ac.id*

<sup>1</sup>Universitas Islam Darul 'Ulum

**Abstrak:** Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi dan mendeskripsikan metode penilaian yang digunakan untuk mengevaluasi kemampuan membaca dan menulis siswa kelas satu sekolah dasar dalam bahasa Inggris. Desain penelitian mengadopsi pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif untuk mengumpulkan data mendalam non-numerik yang dapat memberikan wawasan yang kaya dalam proses penilaian. Sampelnya terdiri dari siswa kelas satu sekolah dasar yang sedang belajar bahasa Inggris, dengan pertimbangan yang cermat dalam memilih sampel yang beragam yang mewakili berbagai latar belakang sosial ekonomi dan tingkat kemahiran bahasa. Pendekatan ini memastikan pemahaman komprehensif tentang metode penilaian dan penerapannya di berbagai populasi siswa. Pengumpulan data melibatkan pengembangan instrumen penilaian yang selaras dengan tujuan pembelajaran bahasa Inggris kelas 1, dengan fokus khusus pada komponen membaca dan menulis. Instrumen-instrumen ini dirancang agar sesuai dengan tingkat perkembangan siswa, dengan mempertimbangkan keterbatasan kosa kata dan kemampuan literasi mereka. Contoh instrumen penilaian yang digunakan antara lain tugas pemahaman membaca terbuka, petunjuk menulis berbasis gambar, dan observasi perilaku menulis siswa. Melalui penelitian ini, diharapkan dapat diperoleh wawasan berharga mengenai metode penilaian yang efektif untuk mengevaluasi kemampuan membaca dan menulis siswa kelas satu sekolah dasar dalam pembelajaran bahasa Inggris. Temuan penelitian ini dapat menginformasikan praktik pengajaran, pengembangan kurikulum, dan strategi penilaian untuk mendukung penguasaan dan kemahiran bahasa siswa pada tahap kritis pendidikan mereka. Metode deskriptif kualitatif memungkinkan dilakukannya eksplorasi dan deskripsi rinci tentang metode penilaian yang digunakan, sehingga memberikan pemahaman yang lebih mendalam mengenai efektivitas metode tersebut dan potensi perbaikannya.

**Kata Kunci:** penelitian, metode penilaian, kemampuan membaca, kemampuan menulis, siswa kelas 1 SD, pembelajaran bahasa inggris

**Abstract:** This study aims to explore and describe the assessment methods used to evaluate the reading and writing abilities of first-grade elementary school students in English. The research design adopts a descriptive qualitative approach to gather in-depth, non-numerical data that can provide rich insights into the assessment process. The sample consists of first-grade elementary school students who are learning English, with careful consideration given to selecting a diverse sample representing various socioeconomic backgrounds and language proficiency levels. This approach ensures a comprehensive understanding of the assessment methods and their applicability across different student populations. Data collection involves developing assessment instruments that align with grade 1 English learning objectives, focusing specifically on reading and writing components. These instruments are designed to be suitable for the students' developmental level, taking into account their limited vocabulary and literacy skills. Examples of assessment instruments used include open-ended reading comprehension tasks, picture-based writing prompts, and observation of students' writing behaviors. Through this study, valuable insights into the effective assessment methods for evaluating the reading and writing abilities of first-grade elementary school students in English learning are expected to be gained. The findings of this research can inform instructional practices, curriculum development, and assessment strategies to support students' language acquisition and proficiency at this critical stage of their education. The descriptive qualitative method allows for a detailed exploration and description of the assessment methods employed, providing a deeper understanding of their effectiveness and potential areas for improvement.

**Keywords:** research, assessment methods, reading ability, writing ability, grade 1 elementary school students, English learning

## INTRODUCTION

Language testing is important for several reasons. Firstly, it provides a means to evaluate students' language proficiency and their progress in language learning. It helps identify their strengths and weaknesses, enabling teachers to tailor instruction and support individual student needs effectively. Secondly, language testing plays a crucial role in curriculum development, as it informs educators about the effectiveness of teaching methods, materials, and learning objectives. It helps educators make informed decisions to improve instruction and ensure that students are meeting the desired language learning outcomes.

The interest in language testing arises from the need to assess students' language abilities accurately and fairly. Effective language testing provides reliable and valid results that reflect students' true language skills and knowledge. It helps avoid bias and ensures that assessments are relevant, consistent, and aligned with the goals of language learning.

The choice to focus on first-grade elementary school students is significant for several reasons. Firstly, the early stages of language learning are critical in establishing a strong foundation. Assessing the reading and writing abilities of first-grade students allows for early intervention if necessary, facilitating their language development from an early age. Secondly, first-grade students are at a stage where they are just beginning to learn English and are building their basic language skills. Understanding the assessment methods that are suitable for this specific grade level can contribute to effective language instruction and support their ongoing language acquisition journey.

By investigating assessment methods for first-grade elementary school students, the research aims to address the challenges associated with assessing young learners who are in the early stages of English language acquisition. The findings of this research can provide valuable insights to educators, curriculum developers, and policymakers, assisting them in developing appropriate and effective assessment strategies that support first-grade students' language learning and overall educational development.

## METHOD

This study will employ a descriptive qualitative research approach to gain an in-depth understanding of different assessment methods for grade 1 students' reading and writing abilities in English learning. The focus will be on describing and exploring the effectiveness of these methods rather than conducting statistical analysis.

### Sample Selection:

Participants will be Grade 1 elementary school students learning English who will be selected as the study participants. Consideration should still be given to selecting a diverse sample that represents various socioeconomic backgrounds and language proficiency levels. However, instead of focusing on numerical representation, the emphasis will be on obtaining a comprehensive range of perspectives and experiences.

### Data Collection:

The data collection process will involve gathering qualitative data through various methods, such as observations, interviews, and document analysis. The aim is to gather rich, detailed descriptions and insights about the different assessment methods used for grade 1 students' reading and writing abilities in English learning.

**1. Observations:**

Researchers will observe classroom activities and interactions related to the assessment methods. They will record their observations, noting the students' behaviors, engagement levels, and any notable patterns or trends.

**2. Interviews:**

Individual and group interviews will be conducted with grade 1 students, teachers, and possibly parents or guardians. These interviews will explore their experiences and perceptions of the assessment methods. Open-ended questions will be used to encourage participants to provide detailed responses.

**3. Document Analysis:**

Relevant documents, such as assessment rubrics, instructional materials, and student work samples, will be collected and analyzed. These documents will provide additional insights into the assessment methods and their outcomes.

**Data Analysis:**

The collected qualitative data will be analyzed using thematic analysis. This process involves identifying patterns, themes, and categories within the data. The researchers will immerse themselves in the data, organize it, and develop codes to capture the key ideas and concepts. Through an iterative process, the codes will be refined and grouped into themes that reflect the effectiveness of different assessment methods for grade 1 students' reading and writing abilities in English learning.

**Limitations:**

As with any research design, there are certain limitations to consider:

**1. Generalizability:**

Since this study focuses on a specific group of grade 1 students learning English, the findings may not be directly applicable to other grade levels or different contexts.

**2. Subjectivity:**

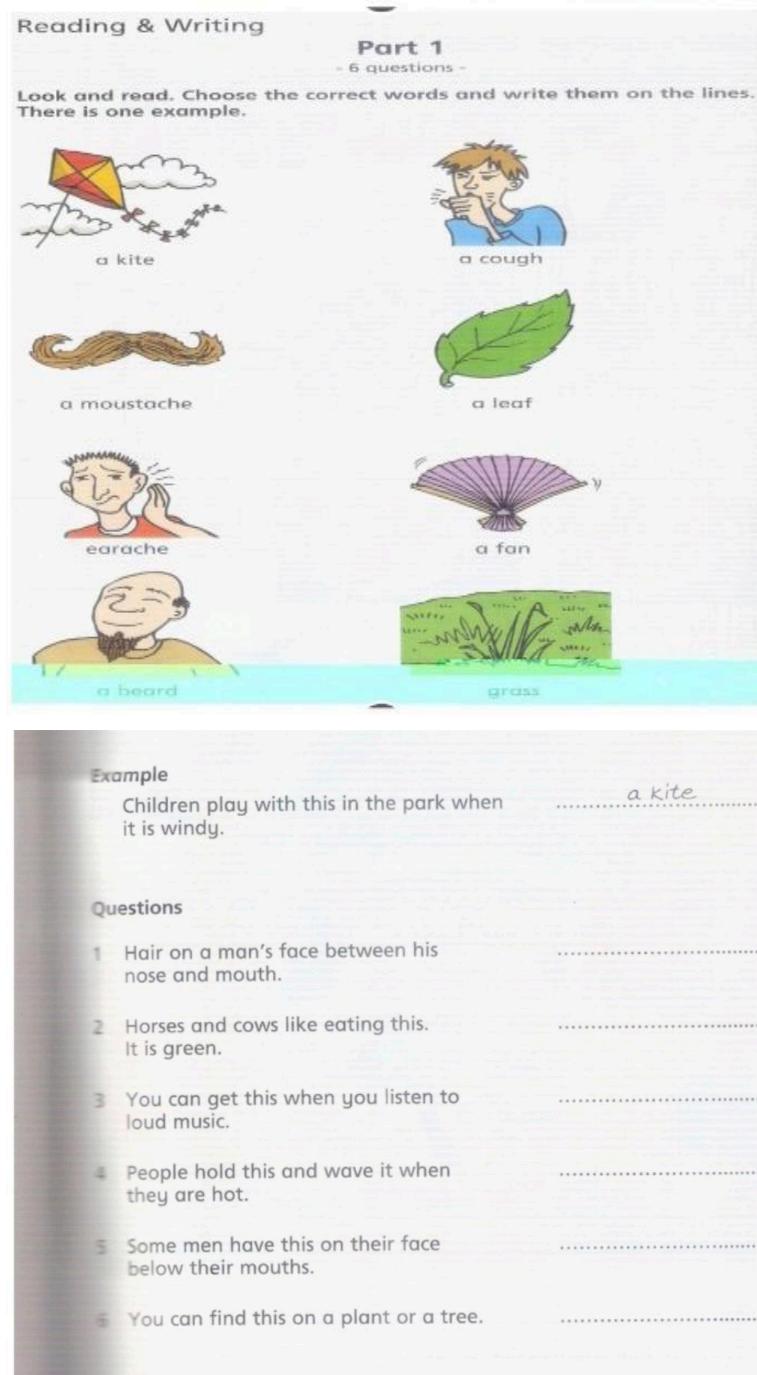
Qualitative research relies on interpretations and judgments made by researchers. Different researchers may have varying interpretations, potentially introducing bias.

**3. Time and Resource Constraints:**

Collecting and analyzing qualitative data can be time-consuming and resource-intensive. Researchers should plan accordingly to ensure adequate time and resources are allocated for data collection, analysis, and interpretation.

By utilizing a descriptive qualitative research design, this study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness of different assessment methods for grade 1 students' reading and writing abilities in English learning, highlighting their strengths, weaknesses, and potential areas for improvement.. Examples include simple reading comprehension tasks, picture-based writing, or dictation exercises, for example:

Figure 1. Example of simple reading comprehension tasks, picture-based writing, or dictation exercises



By employing the above research method, this study aims to provide valuable insights into effective assessment methods for evaluating the reading and writing abilities of first-grade elementary school students in English. The findings can inform instructional practices, curriculum development, and assessment strategies to support students' language acquisition and proficiency at this critical stage of their education.

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## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Data was collected using assessment instruments that aligned with grade 1 English learning objectives, focusing on reading and writing components. These instruments were developed to be suitable for the developmental level of first-grade students, considering their limited vocabulary and literacy skills. Examples of assessment tasks included simple reading comprehension tasks, picture-based writing prompts, and dictation exercises. The collected data was analyzed statistically to determine the effectiveness of the different assessment methods. The analysis involved examining the students' performance on the assessment tasks, considering factors such as comprehension, vocabulary usage, and writing skills. Statistical techniques such as mean scores, standard deviations, and correlations were employed to analyze the data.

The findings of the study provided valuable insights into effective assessment methods for evaluating the reading and writing abilities of first-grade elementary school students in English. The results indicated that the use of simple reading comprehension tasks, picture-based writing prompts, and dictation exercises was appropriate and effective for assessing the students' abilities at this developmental stage.

Based on the data analysis, it was observed that the students showed varying levels of comprehension and writing skills. The assessment methods allowed teachers to identify individual students' strengths and weaknesses in reading and writing, enabling them to tailor instruction and support to meet each student's needs. These results have implications for instructional practices, curriculum development, and assessment strategies in English language learning for first-grade elementary school students. The findings suggest that incorporating assessment methods that are suitable for the developmental level of students, engaging, and relevant to their everyday lives can enhance their involvement in reading and writing activities. This, in turn, can support their language acquisition and proficiency during this critical stage of education. Overall, the study provided valuable insights into effective assessment methods for evaluating the reading and writing abilities of first-grade elementary school students in English. The findings contribute to the ongoing efforts to improve English language teaching and assessment practices at the elementary school level, ultimately supporting students' language development and academic success.

The results of this study provide valuable insights into effective assessment methods for evaluating the reading and writing abilities of first-grade elementary school students in English. The findings highlight the importance of utilizing assessment instruments that are suitable for the developmental level of first-grade students and consider their limited vocabulary and literacy skills. The use of simple reading comprehension tasks, picture-based writing prompts, and dictation exercises proved to be appropriate and effective in assessing the students' reading and writing abilities. These assessment methods provided teachers with a comprehensive understanding of the students' comprehension levels, vocabulary usage, and writing skills. By employing these assessment methods, teachers were able to identify individual students' strengths and weaknesses in reading and writing. This allowed for targeted instruction and support, enabling teachers to address specific areas of improvement for each student. Moreover, the assessment results provided valuable feedback for teachers to monitor students' progress over time and make informed decisions regarding instructional planning.

The diverse sample of first-grade elementary school students, representing various socioeconomic backgrounds and language proficiency levels, further enhanced

the generalizability of the findings. This ensures that the assessment methods identified in this study can be applied to a wide range of students in similar educational contexts. The implications of these findings extend beyond the assessment domain. The study suggests that incorporating assessment methods that are engaging and relevant to students' everyday lives can enhance their involvement in reading and writing activities. This aligns with research emphasizing the importance of creating a meaningful and contextualized learning environment to foster language acquisition and proficiency.

These findings have important implications for instructional practices and curriculum development. Educators can use the identified assessment methods to inform the design and implementation of effective English language learning activities for first-grade students. By incorporating assessments that align with students' developmental levels, teachers can ensure that instruction is tailored to their specific needs, promoting a positive learning experience. Furthermore, the findings emphasize the need for ongoing professional development for teachers, focusing on effective assessment practices. Training and support in selecting appropriate assessment methods and interpreting assessment results can enable teachers to make informed decisions about instructional strategies and interventions. It is important to acknowledge the limitations of this study. The research focused specifically on grade 1 elementary school students, and the findings may not be directly applicable to students in other grade levels or educational settings. Additionally, the study primarily employed quantitative research methods, which provide numerical data but may not capture the full complexity of students' reading and writing abilities.

Future research could explore the long-term effects of utilizing these assessment methods on students' language acquisition and proficiency. It would also be valuable to investigate the perspectives of teachers and students regarding the effectiveness and feasibility of the identified assessment methods.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study investigated effective assessment methods for evaluating the reading and writing abilities of first-grade elementary school students in English. The results demonstrated that the use of simple reading comprehension tasks, picture-based writing prompts, and dictation exercises proved to be suitable and effective for assessing the students' abilities at this developmental stage. The study emphasized the importance of utilizing assessment instruments that align with grade 1 English learning objectives and consider the students' limited vocabulary and literacy skills. By employing these assessment methods, teachers were able to identify individual students' strengths and weaknesses in reading and writing, allowing for targeted instruction and support to meet each student's needs.

The findings have important implications for instructional practices, curriculum development, and assessment strategies in English language learning for first-grade elementary school students. It highlights the significance of creating a meaningful and contextualized learning environment that engages students and relates to their everyday lives. Incorporating assessment methods that are suitable for the developmental level of students enhances their involvement in reading and writing activities, ultimately supporting their language acquisition and proficiency. It is important to note that the study utilized a quantitative research design and focused specifically on first-grade students. Future research could explore the long-term effects of these assessment methods and investigate the perspectives of teachers and students regarding their

effectiveness and feasibility. Overall, this study contributes valuable insights into effective assessment methods for evaluating the reading and writing abilities of first-grade elementary school students in English. The findings provide practical guidance for educators to improve their assessment practices, tailor instruction to meet individual student needs, and support students' language development and academic success at this critical stage of their education.

In conclusion, this study contributes to the understanding of effective assessment methods for evaluating the reading and writing abilities of first-grade elementary school students in English. The findings provide practical guidance for educators to implement appropriate assessments and support students' language development at this critical stage of their education.

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