English Language Testing: Validity, Reliability, and Communicative Competence

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Introduction

- Testing is essential in English instruction

- English as a global lingua franca

- Beyond grading → shaping teaching & assessing competence

Purpose of English Language Testing

- Proficiency assessment: reading, writing, listening, speaking

- Diagnostic role: strengths & weaknesses

- Motivational role: encourages goal-setting

- Accountability & benchmarking

Communicative Competence

- Goes beyond grammar & vocabulary
- Focus on authentic language use
- Functional, real-world communication

Principles of Effective Testing

- Validity: measures what it should
- Reliability: consistent results
- Fairness: avoids cultural bias
- Practicality: feasible in classrooms

Techniques of Language Testing

- Traditional paper-based tests
- Performance-based tasks (writing, interviews, presentations)
- Standardized tests (TOEFL, IELTS, Cambridge)
- Technology-enhanced testing (adaptive, AI-driven)

Challenges in Language Testing

- Cultural bias in test items
- Over-reliance on routine testing
- Validity vs practicality tensions
- Technology disparities

New Trends & Future Directions

- ▶ AI & automated scoring systems
- ▶ Interactive & virtual assessments
- ▶ Formative assessment via digital tools
- ▶ Ethical & inclusive testing practices

Conclusion

▶ Testing remains a cornerstone of language teaching

▶ Balance of validity, reliability & fairness

▶ Dynamic & student-oriented approaches

▶ Well-designed tests improve teaching & learning

Thank You / Q&A

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