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Online Platforms to Assess Writing Skills in LSP

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Abstract

The evaluation and assessment of writing skills becomes the most important aspect of instruction when the specialization of languages has reached the level of language for specific purposes (LSP). Online platforms for assessing writing skills in LSP utilize technology to assess and evaluate learners' written texts in varied specialized disciplines. By means of machine learning and natural language processing, the accuracy of the assessment of language proficiency grows and is adapted to the specific needs of immediate feedback. By gaining knowledge of it, learners become good at expressing themselves in a particular way or type of communication. Teachers also benefit from providing students with informative, useful feedback tailored to workplace writing demands, improving students' learning conditions. These learning tools re-invent language education by offering unique assessment methods and personalized support. Therefore, they eventually shape a more refined and precise way of cultivating writing skills in specialized fields. Thanks to online platforms, there is a structure and standardization approach that evaluates the written expressions of the learners within the niche fields. It is a digital platform that enables students to practice writing situations that are similar to real world situations. The online platform offers students authentic assessment experiences that simulate professional communications requirements. Real-time assistance provided by computerized algorithms increases its quality and the convenience of accessibility at all times and anywhere, enabling the mastery of their learning journey. Multimedia integration in the assessment task deepens comprehension and supplements peer interaction and teamwork, stimulating collaboration skills among learners. These platforms enrich the writing potential in the technical sphere, improving the accuracy and speed of language learning in education.

Keywords: automated language assessment; language for specific purposes (LSP); online platforms; technology; writing assessment

Introduction

Online platforms for assessing writing skills in language for specific purposes (LSP) leverage technology to evaluate and assess language learners' written expressions within specialized fields like business, science, and other disciplines of academia (Godwin-Jones, 2018) ^[2]. Machine learning and natural language programming allow for instant submission and feedback, and online platforms become more precise in the assessments of language abilities and identify the unique requirements of production in writing. They promote tactical improvement of language skills through the cultivation of customized writing situations better (Godwin-Jones, 2018; Krajka, 2002) ^[2,4]. Online tutors are efficient enough to provide high-quality and insightful feedback to learners for a variety of professional writing situations that make learning fun. These online platforms are game changers by introducing individualized feedback and tutoring, therefore, allowing for more accurate monitoring and overall better results in the process of writing specifically for academic subjects.

Types of online platforms

There are various types of online platforms for writing assessment. Several online platforms facilitate writing assessment in language education, catering to diverse needs and proficiency levels. Some examples include in alphabetical order:

Table1: Types of online platforms

Type	Description	Website
EduBirdie	This platform offers writing assistance and assessment services, including essay writing, editing, and proofreading. Learners can submit their writing assignments for evaluation by professional writers.	https://edubirdie.com/
Grammarly	While primarily a grammar-checking tool, Grammarly also offers writing assessment features that analyze writing clarity, engagement, and tone. It provides suggestions for improvement to enhance overall writing quality.	https://www.grammarly.com/
Quill	For language learners, Quill offers interactive writing activities and assessments targeting grammar, vocabulary, and sentence structure. It provides instant feedback and progress tracking for learners.	https://www.quill.org/
Turnitin	Widely used in academic settings, Turnitin enables educators to assess students' writing for originality and plagiarism. It provides detailed feedback on grammar, style, and citation accuracy.	https://www.turnitin.com/
VoiceThread	This multimedia discussion platform allows users to create and share presentations, documents, and other media for collaborative feedback. It can be used to assess writing in LSP by facilitating peer review and instructor feedback in a multimedia-rich environment.	https://voicethread.com/

These online platforms offer valuable resources for educators and learners alike, facilitating writing assessment and skill development in various educational contexts.

Benefits

Writing proficiency in LSP is a skill that allows one to express oneself fluently and correctly while doing work in academic fields. With the rapid advancement of technology, online platforms prove themselves as the best way of assessing writing skills in LSP. They have offered a set of advantages to the involved parties. Online platforms to assess writing in LSP enable the structured and standardized system for assessing learners' written products in the fields of specialties. These platforms apply digital technology to create a wide variety of assessment exercises of various linguistic complexities, adapting them to the specific industries of professional languages. Whether you need to write business reports or scientific research papers, online platforms help you to practice writing academic papers in your sphere of study.

Online platforms for the evaluation and assessment of writing in different settings of language learning provide an opportunity for instantaneous feedback to language learners (Martín *et al.*, 2022) ^[5]. By way of automated marking algorithms and natural language processing technology, these platforms can examine and review learners' written responses in a matter of real time, providing comprehensive feedback on grammar, vocabulary use, coherence, and structure (Abdulrahman *et al.*, 2020) ^[1]. This kind of feedback system will allow learners to notice their mistakes in real time and then make suitable revisions, further supporting their growth and skill development. Moreover, these LSP writing assessment platforms provide completely unique flexibility and availability (Kokoc, 2019) ^[3]. While learners can do as many writing sessions as they want at whatever time and place, they may as well use multiple devices such as smart phones, tablets, or computers. This learning independence promotes many learning preparations suitable for learners with different learning styles and preferences, in which the language students can be the owners of their learning journey and develop at their own pace (Skordis-Worrall, *et al.*, 2015) ^[6]. Online platforms for writing assessment in LSP provide the possibility of integrating multimedia elements, including sound files, videos, and interactive exercises, to offer learners dynamic and engaging write-up experiences. These multisensory resources stand as a catalyst for learners to improve their degree of understanding and their memorizing

capacity, making the process of assessment enjoyable and realistic (Abdulrahman *et al.*, 2020) ^[1]. Online writing assessment platforms armed with LSP enable educationally expressive collaborations. Students can participate in peer review activities, collaborative writing projects, and virtual group discussions, which are provided by those platforms, so it helps to develop communication skills, teamwork, and peer interaction (Skordis-Worrall *et al.*, 2015) ^[6]. This is not only the reason which enhances the evaluation process but also students are able to adapt easily for working together in the workplace (Kokoc, 2019) ^[3].

Challenges

Online assessment platforms are places where educators and professionals can develop writing evaluation systems with relatively easy access, so there should be several key points we should take into account. First, it is necessary to be authentic by keeping writing prompts in line with the requirements of real-world communications. This task involves continuous validation of the quality of the practice according to the requirements of the learners (Martín *et al.*, 2022) ^[5]. Apart from that, scales prove to be essential with the demand for a smooth working system and refined procedures to ensure fast answers with no risks to the quality of the evaluation. Resolving prejudice and equity also means minimizing the bias of assessment programs that could give a preference to certain linguistic styles or varieties of writing. Thus, those students whose native language is of a different base than the standard language could be disadvantaged (Kokoc, 2019) ^[3]. Lastly, the security of data and the standards of privacy that must be maintained is of great importance, and this will need to be done through formulating strict measures which will protect sensitive learner's information and confidentiality and comply with data privacy regulations in order to ensure that there is trust amongst the learners in the assessment process (Abdulrahman *et al.*, 2020) ^[1].

Conclusion & Implications

Online platforms are not only significant in LSP writing assessment, but they are broadly capable of perfecting the learning process for students. These portals markedly enhance accessibility through multiple means. They allow learners to practice writing at their convenient time and on various devices. Furthermore, learners can find an assessment resource and receive feedback at any time from experts. Second, the delivery of tailored assessment tasks and

feedback is instrumental for facilitating individual personalized learning; on occasion, the approaches are adjusted to the learner proficiency level and skills, which allows for targeted improvement of an individual and progress tracking. Along with the improvements, these online platforms also stimulate self-assessment and reflection, thus providing space for self-learning, in which learners become the center of their language improvement and directly participate in the learning process. They are also used in remote learning activities through their virtual tests and items, and this will continue the success of education or even during temporary shortages of traditional environments. These computerized programs help teachers assess their students, even dissect writing samples, and provide immediate feedback. This allows language education to be faster as well as more effective. Sustainable assessment ought to be achieved by cooperation among educators, technologists, and the relevant stakeholders towards fair, successful, and engaging assessment in the context of language. One of the most prominent changes that online platforms introduce into the writing assessment of LSP is the availability of custom-made tasks that create a real-life professional environment. Since there is prompt feedback on the neural net auto-algorithm, learners' commensurate progression is developing in portions. Flexibility, time-efficiency, and openness play a significant role in this process, which motivates learners to take on ownership and be responsible for their learning experience. The different types of multimedia content may serve as a factor to the improvement of the learner's engagement. They not only help learners to get a better understanding, but they also create lively, interesting, and memorable learning. Group work is a strong trait of such platforms involving learners in teamwork and cooperation learning preparing them for the professional world. These mediums heighten the issue of language writing diligence and rigorousness in particular domains, causing a transformative shift in language learning pedagogies. All in all, Online writing assessment and evaluation tools in LSP are undoubtedly gate keepers as they provide a number of perks for instructors and students. Learning to write is enhanced by means of authentic performance assessments, prompt feedback, flexibility, accessibility, varied resources, and cooperative learning in specialized domains, students hone proficiency and improve their accuracy of writings.

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