**Kinds of Language Tests**

By: Jennefer L. Edrozo

What is testing???

What is a Test? “A test is an assessment intended to measure a test- taker's knowledge, skill, aptitude, physical fitness, or classification in many other topics .A test may be administered verbally, on paper, on a computer, or in a confined area that requires a test taker to physically perform a set of skills. In general, testing is finding out how well something works. Testing tells what level of knowledge or skill has been acquired.

Teaching vs. Testing Both testing and teaching are so closely interrelated (or the relationship between them is as a partner) The test is geared to the teaching that has taken place, whereas in the latter case the teaching is often geared to the test

Functions of Testing a device to reinforce learning and to motivate the student a mean of assessing the student’s performance in the language information tool for teacher to know about where the students are at the moment, to help decide what to teach next information for students to find about what they know, so that they also have an awareness of what they need to learn or review

Diagnoses students’ strengths and weaknesses, to identify what they know and what they don’t know Gets students to make an effort (in doing the test itself), which is likely to lead to better results and a feeling of satisfaction Gives students tasks which themselves may actually provide useful review or practice, as well as testing Provides students with a sense of achievement and progress in their learning.

Five Kinds of Language Tests: Proficiency Test Achievement Test Diagnostic Test Placement Test Direct & Indirect Test

Proficiency Test: Proficiency tests are designed to measure people’s ability in language, regardless any training they may have in that language. The content of a proficiency test is not based on the content of the objectives of language courses. It’s based on a specification of what candidates have to be able to do in the language in order to be considered proficient.

Achievement test: The content of the course in achievement tests are directly related to language course. The purpose is being able to establish how successful individual students, group of students and the course in achieving the objectives. There are two kinds of achievement tests: Final achievement test Progress achievement test

Final achievement test: It’s administered at the end of a course of study The content of the test must be related to the courses with which they are concerned, but the nature of this relationship is a matter of disagreement amongst language testers. In the view of some testers, the content of a final achievement test should be based directly on a detailed course syllabus or the books and other materials used.

Progress Achievement Test: as the name suggests, are intended to measure the progress that students are making. They contribute to formative assessment. Since 'progress' is towards the achievement of course objectives, these tests, too, should relate to objectives.

What are the disadvantages of final achievement test???

1. Disadvantages If the syllabus, the books and other materials are badly designed, the result of a test can be very misleading. Successful performance on the test may not truly indicate successful achievement of course objectives.
2. For example: A course may have an objective to develop conversational abilities, but the course and the test require students only to utter statements about certain topics. A course may aim to develop a reading ability in German, but the test limits to the vocabulary the students have to meet.
3. Diagnostic Test It’s used to identify learners’ strength and weaknesses. It’s intended primarily to ascertain what learning still needs to take place.
4. Placement Test It’s intended to provide information that will help to place students at the stage of the teaching programme most appropriate to their abilities. Typically it’s used to assign students to classes at different level or sectioning.
5. Thank you for Listening ϑ