

ACQUIRED SKILL ASSESSMENT AND EFFECTIVENESS MODEL FOR
SKILL-BASED E-LEARNING SYSTEMS

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ACQUIRED SKILL ASSESSMENT AND EFFECTIVENESS MODEL FOR
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A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the
requirements for the award of the degree of
Master of Philosophy

School of Computing
Faculty of Engineering
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

AUGUST 2021

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In preparing this thesis, I was in contact with many people, researchers, academicians, and practitioners. They have contributed towards my understanding and thoughts. In particular, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to my main thesis supervisor, **Dr. Norhaida Binti Mohd Suaib**, for encouragement, guidance, critics and friendship. Without her continued support and interest, this thesis would not have been the same as presented here.

I am also indebted to the Ministry of Higher Education for funding my Master's study. Librarians at UTM deserve special thanks for their assistance in supplying the relevant literature and accommodation.

My fellow postgraduate students should also be recognized for their support. My sincere appreciation also extends to all my colleagues and others who have assisted at various occasions. Their views and tips are helpful indeed. Unfortunately, it is not possible to list all of them in this limited space. I am grateful to my entire family members.

ABSTRACT

Learning with a computer-based education system relies heavily on student interaction. Therefore, skill-based E-Learning is also given priority by educators for delivering knowledge and skills to a student. The skill-based E-Learning system is popular in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) education sector at present. However, the need for assessment of skill-based E-Learning systems has not been addressed effectively. Issues that often arise during the coordinators' discussion concern the assessment and effectiveness of the skill-based E-Learning system. Moreover, in previous research lower priority has been given to the evaluation of E-Learning and the effectiveness of training programs. These limitations raise some serious concerns on how the skill-based E-Learning system can be assessed in TVET in the future or how the current model evaluation can be fitted to assess a skill-based E-Learning system in terms of effectiveness. This research aims to propose an assessment and effectiveness model for a skill-based E-Learning system called Acquired Skill Assessment and Effectiveness Model for Skill-Based E-Learning Systems (ASKEM). ASKEM was developed with modification from the Kirkpatrick model at the behavioral level to systematically assess the skill-based E-Learning system. The ASKEM model has the potential to assess skill-based E-Learning systems via student-centered learning. The effectiveness of a skill-based E-Learning system was assessed via selective criteria such as satisfaction, learnability, and usefulness to build a deeper and better understanding of human interaction with the system. One group of pre-test and post-test was tested to validate the ASKEM. The result shows that the proposed instrument and techniques gave significant results that made the assessment more effective and provided positive feedback, such as motivation, progress on student achievement, upgraded teaching material, and identification of the most skilled person from the assessment. This research has contributed to the ASKEM model and guidelines in skill assessment and effective model for skill-based E-Learning systems in the TVET education field.

ABSTRAK

Pembelajaran menggunakan sistem pendidikan berasaskan komputer sangat bergantung pada interaksi pelajar. Oleh itu, E-Pembelajaran berasaskan kemahiran juga diberi keutamaan oleh pendidik dalam menyampaikan pengetahuan dan kemahiran kepada pelajar. Sistem E-Pembelajaran berasaskan kemahiran terkenal dalam sektor pendidikan dan Latihan Teknikal dan Vokasional (TVET) pada masa kini. Walau bagaimanapun, keperluan untuk penilaian sistem E-Pembelajaran berasaskan kemahiran masih belum lagi ditangani dengan berkesan. Isu yang sering timbul semasa perbincangan penyelaras adalah mengenai penilaian dan keberkesanan sistem E-Pembelajaran berasaskan kemahiran. Selain itu, kebanyakan penyelidikan terdahulu kurang memberi perhatian terhadap penilaian E-Pembelajaran dan keberkesanan program latihan. Batasan ini menimbulkan beberapa kebimbangan serius tentang mengenai bagaimana sistem E-Pembelajaran berasaskan kemahiran dapat dinilai dalam TVET pada masa akan datang atau bagaimana penilaian model semasa dapat disesuaikan untuk menilai sistem E-Pembelajaran berasaskan kemahiran daripada segi keberkesanan. Tujuan penyelidikan ini adalah mencadangkan sebuah model penilaian dan keberkesanan untuk system E-Pembelajaran berasaskan kemahiran yang dipanggil Model Keberkesanan dan Penilaian Kemahiran Terperoleh untuk Sistem E-Pembelajaran Berasaskan Kemahiran (ASKEM). ASKEM dikembangkan dengan pengubahsuaian dari model Kirkpatrick pada tahap tingkah laku untuk menilai sistem E-Pembelajaran berasaskan kemahiran dengan lebih sistematik. Model ASKEM ini berpotensi untuk menilai sistem E-Pembelajaran berasaskan kemahiran melalui pembelajaran berpaksikan pelajar. Keberkesanan satu sistem E-Pembelajaran berasaskan kemahiran telah dinilai menggunakan kriteria terpilih seperti kepuasan, kebolehpayaan pembelajaran, dan kebergunaan untuk membina kefahaman yang lebih mendalam dan baik berkenaan interaksi manusia dengan sistem. Kumpulan ujian pra dan ujian pasca telah diuji untuk mengesahkan model ASKEM. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa instrumen dan teknik yang dicadangkan memberikan hasil yang signifikan yang menjadikan penilaian menjadi lebih berkesan serta mendapat maklum balas yang positif seperti motivasi, kemajuan pencapaian pelajar, bahan pengajaran yang dinaik taraf dan pengenalpastian insan paling berkemahiran melalui proses penilaian tersebut. Penyelidikan ini telah menyumbang kepada model ASKEM dan garis panduan dalam penilaian kemahiran serta model yang berkesan untuk sistem E-Pembelajaran berasaskan kemahiran dalam bidang pendidikan TVET.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CLO	-	Course Learning Outcome
GUI	-	Graphical User Interface
HCI	-	Human Computer Interaction
HTML	-	Hyper Text Mark-up Language
i-Comel	-	Interactive Computer Maintenance Lesson
KPIs	-	Key Performance Indicators
LMS	-	Learning Management Systems
LnT	-	Learning and Teaching
MOOC	-	Massive Of Online Course
OBE	-	Outcome Base Education
RAM	-	Random Access Memory
SCM	-	Success Case Method
SLO	-	Students Learning Outcome
TVET	-	Technical Vocational Education Training
UX	-	User Experience
RND	-	Research And Development
ASKEM	-	Acquired Skill Assessment and Effectiveness for Skill- Based E-Learning Systems
SD	-	Standard deviation
Q&A	-	Question and Answer

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Technology is rapidly changing the student learning process and teaching process. Technology plays an important role in many aspects of everyday life, and its importance for education is no different. There are various reasons that's why E-Learning education industry is growing very fast. Online learning is an E-Learning application where learning is done using internet access (Junus *et al.*, 2015). The adoption of online or web-based learning system or software is not limited to learning institutions such as universities and schools. Government and private sectors also are implemented such platforms to train the students and employees (Fu, 2016). E-Learning is an innovative teaching technique among educators. Mostly, E-Learning techniques are also a combination of online and offline, which is suitable for delivering education to students and an excellent strategy to improve the teaching and learning system to a higher quality (Ramakrishnan *et al.*, 2012). E-Learning is divided into six technology-based categories used for learning activities. These categories are psychomotor skills trainers, offline computer-based E-Learning, online and local area network-based E-Learning, digital game-based learning, virtual reality environments and Mobile Learning (M-Learning) (Azhari and Ming, 2015).

Assessment is a very important component of E-Learning. It shows the progress in the course or field of the students, identifies the individual strength and weakness, and measures the instrument of student learning motives achievement. As current learning activities are made up of variation technology-based, the assessment process required an appropriate model or framework to get the effective result. Assessment of each category is divided according to the technology and objectives

used in the development of E-Learning to obtain the accurate results in the assessment. This point supports the suggestion from Sandoval (2016) that the questionnaire's design is modified according to the different levels and characteristics of the course.

Many researchers propose framework for evaluating E-Learning systems, otherwise known as Learning Management Systems or LMSs for the education field and training evaluation of the skill-based training program in the industrial field in previous studies. There are many significant results; however, there is still a need for some improvements for assessment by categorization. Redesigned questionnaires of current E-Learning evaluation design by Zaharas (2008) for different higher education institutions, with students with different course levels and characteristics and different course designs to find the improvement areas and differences between one course's characteristics and another needs to be expanded in future research. This gap is one of the factors leading to this investigation. Based on the literature review (Al-Rahmi, *et al.*, 2015) and (Babu and Sridevi, 2018), more emphasis is on the effectiveness of e-learning compared to skill-based E-Learning. This shows that knowledge-based E-Learning is given priority in effectiveness assessment while the skill-based E-Learning assessment category is less emphasized. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to enhance the designed framework of assessment on skill-based learning system in terms of effectiveness.

Several studies are investigated to find a closed model for matching the assessment on skill-based E-Learning system. The model of training program evaluation is most appropriate to improve the learning system based on skill assessment. The reason for developing a training program model is to assess skills for participants including learning improvement. Technology develops a variety of methods and techniques in E-Learning evaluation process. However, researchers mainly depend on training models to evaluate skill-based e-learning (Nagendrababu *et al.*, 2019). In order to make some improvement, modification of evaluation method from training models is required to assess the effectiveness of skill-based e-learning system producing a better result.

1.2 Problem Background

Various sectors of industry recognize the importance of developing a training skills system. Based on this fact, the education sector strongly welcomes educators to develop a skill-based E-Learning system for helping the education sector to be parallel by the technology development. There are various types of E-Learning developed and practiced among people, such as web-based learning. This form of training is accessed via web browsers or through the corporate Intranet, Computer-based training, CD-ROM-based learning, Webinars, Virtual Classroom, Mobile Learning, Video-based Learning, and custom E-Learning. Evaluative skills are used to assess the credibility of the claims people make or post, and to assess the quality of the reasoning people display when they make arguments or give explanations. Based on the explanation above about teaching aids to improve the teaching and learning methods, educators develop many teaching aids such as E-Learning to transfer knowledge and skills. Most of E-Learning is undergone a traditional evaluation process such as questionnaires and interviews, which is used as a basis for evaluating student's performance and achievement while significantly limit the ability to evaluate the effectiveness of skills resolving constraints, especially during practical training. Researchers have conducted evaluations on skill-based E-Learning systems before. Still, researchers are not able to find an appropriate model as a guide to conduct the assessment process of skill-based E-Learning systems in terms of effectiveness. Based on the survey done at National Innovation and Invention Competition Through Exhibition (i-Compex'17), it is found that 90% show positive feedback about skill-based E-Learning system but still has bias in the results due the accurate results for identify skilled participants failed to highlight during the assessment. Furthermore, the effectiveness of the skill-based E-Learning system cannot be detected through the conventional assessment. Although, there are various training evaluation models for evaluating training system and E-Learning system are mentioned in previous studies such as (Ali *et al.*, 2018; Kay, 2011; Alrawashdeh *et al.*, 2013). However, there is still a lack of specification training skill-based system model evaluation to assess the skill-based E-Learning system in terms of effectiveness. Hence, the researcher should emphasize skill assessment and effectiveness for skill-based E-Learning system evaluation to get high effective results.

1.3 Problem Statement

Various models and design frameworks assess E-Learning and training programs or systems are identified (Topno, 2012; Tripathi and Bansal, 2017). Based on the review, the Kirkpatrick Model, Kaufman's Model, Anderson's Value of Learning Model, Brinkerhoff's Success Case Method (SCM), CIRO Model and CIPP are identified as skill-based system evaluation models. Also, the effectiveness of the skill-based E-Learning system investigates the importance of effectiveness assessment from the previous studies to support this study (Zammel *et al.*, 2018). However, there is a lack specific design framework and model for conducting acquired assessment for skill-based E-Learning systems. This statement is further supported by the argument of (Wu *et al.*, 2012) that evaluation of vocational school teaching processes places a lot of emphasis on class teaching and theory studies. Still, practice is a weak part of the evaluation process, especially in providing internships for students in factories outside or applying knowledge to practice. People do not know whether students have acquired skills through actual practices. Based on the discussion by the coordinators, the issues that often arise are skill-based learning system such as Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) education assessments since most of the evaluations are carried out by previous studies in E-Learning and training programs, and lacking an appropriate framework for the evaluation on the skill-based E-Learning system in term of effectiveness. Thus, part of the effort of the study is to fill this specific gap. In previous studies, few papers are focused on assessment of skills-based learning system and showed some limitations in the designed framework by E-Learning category (Farid *et al.*, 2018; Kay, 2011). This study fulfills the research gap by evaluating skills-based E-learning systems.

1.4 Research Question

The following are the research questions to be explored for answering the above problem statement:

- i. What is the most appropriate assessment model to evaluating skill and effectiveness for a skills-based E-learning system?
- ii. How do the training evaluation model enhancement and effectiveness assessment for skill-based E-Learning system develop?
- iii. Which validation approach is most appropriate for measuring the effectiveness of a new model?

1.5 Research Aim

The purpose of this study is to propose an enhanced skill training evaluation model for acquired skill assessment on a skill-based E-Learning System in terms of effectiveness using a case study approach.

1.6 Research Objectives

The objectives of this research study are as follows:

- i. To investigate the skill-based training and effectiveness assessment model on skill-based E-Learning system.
- ii. To propose the enhancement of the skill-based training evaluation model for acquired skill assessment and an effective model for a skill-based E-Learning system.

- iii. To evaluate the proposed skill-based E-Learning evaluation model using a case study approach.

1.7 Scope of Research

These are the scope of research to a specific field.

- i. This research focuses on identify the specific training model which is suitable for acquired skill assessment on skill-based E-Learning system in terms of effectiveness.
- ii. This study is carried out on various training models to compare design or enhance a new assessment model for a skill-based E-Learning system in terms of effectiveness.
- iii. Only the training model of a skill-based E-Learning system is analyzed and investigated in this study.
- iv. The analysis of the system efficiency is based on current training skill-based system models.
- v. Interactive Computer Maintenance Lesson (i-Comel) is used as a testbed for this study.
- vi. Pasir Gudang Community College Semester 2 students are selected as respondents for this case study.

1.8 Significances of the Study

This study is essential to assess a skill-based E-Learning system as it provides the researchers with a lot of information about assessment on skill-based E-Learning system. Specification of training model will be identified to evaluate the effectiveness of skill-based E-Learning system. The important and beneficial milestones expected are identified a new training model of the skill-based E-Learning system. Other than

that, an outline of a training model assesses the effectiveness of the skill-based E-Learning system, which provides the systematic method for identifying the system's weakness. Additionally, the skill-based E-Learning system assessment model also provides a recommended guideline for various skill-based E-Learning system assessments in TVET education in the future.

1.9 Research Organization

Below are the brief content descriptions of the subsequent chapters of this thesis. This thesis is divided into five chapters to make this thesis successful. The overall development of this thesis has been described in detail in Figure 1.1 in the following section.

The first chapter covers an advance of the research background. In addition, problem background and problem statement are also described in this chapter for the purpose that the reader knows the reason for this study. The aim and objective of the study are listed in sequence. The scope and significance of the research of the study are also discussed in this chapter.

Chapter 2 discusses existing studies on topics that are relevant to current studies, including the history of E-Learning, skill-based E-Learning system, and training evaluation models. In addition, literature review and methods used for the skill-based training system are identified in previous studies. The previous research was supported by evidence to be read in this chapter. This chapter is beneficial in reinforcing our research from the evidence of previous studies.

Chapter 3 involves the methods and techniques applied in this study. Describes the data source and preparation, software and hardware specification that is used for this research. The research method using three phases that fulfill research objectives

will be discussed in this chapter. Most importantly, this chapter will provide answers for the researchers in producing the data needed to make decisions and conclusions.

Chapter 4 describes the preliminary study design and implementation, and presents a quantitative study's process and outcome. The quantitative study is conducted through the structured quantitative survey questions and the case study on i-Comel across the Pasir Gudang Community College. Research hypotheses are generated and as a result, enhancement of the Kirkpatrick model for the skill-based E-Learning system is developed.

Chapter 5 discusses acquired assessment of skill-based E-Learning system model results of the test by using the method set out in Chapter 3. There are three methods of testing that are discussed. Each test will be discussed and can be compared to the previous study. The findings from the questionnaire are improved, and the findings become more assertive in conclusion.

Chapter 6 describes the discussion and conclusion. Summary of research and provide a contribution of research findings. In addition, discuss limitations and recommendations for future research.

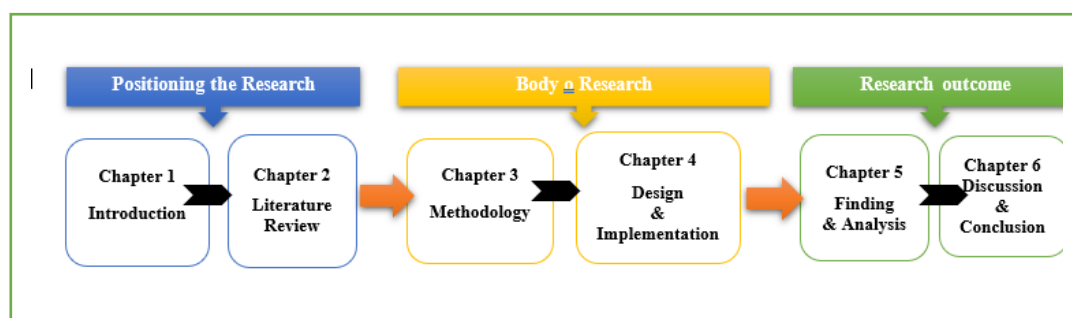


Figure 1.1 Structure of the Research

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