

# The Application of Itest Paperless Test System in College English Teaching

Peiyu Jin

Jilin Engineering Normal University, Changchun 130052, Jilin Province, China

**Abstract:** In the process of public foreign language teaching, teaching evaluation is an indispensable part. With the rapid development of modern science and technology in China, major publishing houses are competing to research various software platforms related to public foreign languages, and carry out the research on the application evaluation of paperless teaching in various disciplines. Among them, the application effect is more prominent is the ITest test platform of FLTRP. This year, our school comprehensively adopts ITest as a means of English teaching evaluation. This paper will focus on the advantages and difficulties of paperless assessment in the process of teaching assessment based on this system, which is of great significance to the future foreign language teaching management of our college.

**Keywords:** Paperless test system; Applied research; College English teaching

**Publication date:** March, 2020

**Publication online:** 31 March 2020

**\*Corresponding author:** Peiyu Jin, martinaking@163.com

## 1 Introduction

According to the requirements of the national foreign language syllabus, testing and evaluation is an important means to understand students' English level and evaluate teaching quality in the process of foreign language teaching. With the rapid development of information science and technology in China, a lot of testing software is emerging, and the field of foreign language teaching in various colleges and universities

is carrying out paperless teaching testing research. Our school purchased Itest testing software from Beijing Foreign Research Institute in 2016, which is a one-stop testing cloud system specialized in providing online testing resources and services for foreign language teaching in Colleges and universities. Itest not only meets the needs of colleges and universities to establish a multi-dimensional evaluation system, but also meets the needs of our summative evaluation and formative evaluation. After two years of continuous testing and research in the College of foreign languages, we began to gradually carry out peacetime and mid-term tests among public and foreign students and professional students from 2017<sup>[1]</sup>. In the second half of 2018, it was officially used in the final examination of the whole school, opening a new chapter for our foreign language teaching evaluation.

Nowadays, there are two main methods of foreign language teaching evaluation: external evaluation and internal evaluation. External evaluation means that the college should check whether the teaching plan of this semester is applicable to learners; internal evaluation means that teachers check whether their teaching plan has reached a certain teaching goal. Then internal evaluation is closely linked with students' evaluation. Internal evaluation is divided into diagnostic evaluation, formative evaluation and summative evaluation, which respectively refers to the evaluation of students' original language knowledge level and ability development potential at the beginning of a learning stage, the timely evaluation of students' language knowledge mastery and ability development in the teaching process, and the final evaluation of students' performance at the end of a

learning stage<sup>[2]</sup>.

## **2 Research process of paperless test based on Itest system**

First, the paperless test process based on this system is simple, flexible and easy to operate, which can be divided into four steps. First of all, the system administrator distributes the user name to the teacher. The teacher needs to log in to "set up a class" for each teaching class, and then let the students of each teaching class register under the name of the teacher. Second, the teachers write examination paper and establish a item bank. This is also the most important part of the whole paperless test. According to the different grades and teaching materials, according to the test paperless system establishes different test templates. After the template is established, the teacher who is responsible for the questions will record the questions according to the specific requirements of the template. With the development of Itest test research, we gradually get rid of relying on the self-contained question library in the system and form a question library with its own characteristics. Different from the traditional paper and pencil test, the teacher uses Itest's huge test database to achieve fast automatic test paper generation and manual screening. The test bank has developed from a set of questions in 2017 to dozens of sets of test questions now. After the establishment of the test bank, the administrator selects several sets of test questions from the test bank according to different grades and majors, and rearranges the test paper generation<sup>[3]</sup>. Then the administrator creates a new test, notes the test name and issues the test according to the grades and classes he participated in, so that he can be selected. At last, Itest system will automatically grade and display the examinee's paper score after the specified test time. After the test, the teacher can log in to his account to view and download the student generated performance sheet directly.

## **3 Advantages of ITest paperless evaluation in foreign language teaching reform of our college**

Based on the application of two-year paperless evaluation in our college, its advantages are as follows: first, teachers' final evaluation can be scientific and standardized. Teachers only need to input the test questions into the question bank and group papers according to certain steps, and carry out simple setting,

then they can carry out the test, which not only saves the steps of making plates, printing, distributing papers, keeping papers, but also saves a lot of paper. Second, gradually establish our own question bank with our own characteristics. After a round of teaching tasks, a large number of test questions produced by teachers every semester have formed a question bank that can be called at any time in English curriculum, which is convenient for teachers to share resources. Third, it can effectively avoid students cheating. Because the paperless test teacher can randomly retrieve the questions in the question bank, the system will randomly and automatically disrupt the order of the questions and automatically combine them into multiple sets of papers. Then the Itest system randomly assigns test papers to each examination room and examinee<sup>[4]</sup>. In principle, the system can do that in each examination, each student is different from the students around him. That is to say, in the case of no invigilator, it is impossible to plagiarize between students, and fundamentally put an end to cheating in examinations. Fourthly, it improves the speed and accuracy of teacher's marking. Itest system plays in the advanced writing intelligent rating engine, intelligent voice rating engine and translation rating engine, which can accurately carry out the intelligent rating of subjective questions, realize the combination of machine assessment and human assessment, quickly give the assessment and feedback, and improve the efficiency of the assessment<sup>[5]</sup>. The members of the question group import the questions and answers into the test system, and then the students submit their own papers within the specified time or arrive at the specified time system to automatically collect the papers. After that, the teachers can immediately see the results of marking the papers, and can easily check which questions of a student are correct or wrong. Because it is computer marking, students' worry about scribbling and losing points and some teachers' original subjective impression of students lead to unfairness, which greatly improves the scientific nature, fairness and objectivity of the test.

## **4 Conclusion**

Since the purchase of Itest College English test system in 2014, Jilin Normal University of engineering and technology has set up an evaluation team to conduct continuous research and exploration for the comprehensive spread of paperless test in foreign language college. Under the leadership of the dean

of the College of foreign languages, we went to Changchun University of Finance and economics and Shenyang Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics for many times to investigate the feasibility, objectivity, fairness and scientific evaluation of the implementation of paperless test in College English. After more than three years of continuous research and diagnostic testing, the paperless evaluation based on ITest has made a breakthrough in our hospital. Although the work of teachers in the early stage is heavy, but after a period of time, paperless evaluation is recognized and loved by teachers and students, which saves paper, but also reduces the heavy burden of teachers' strong marking papers at the end of the term<sup>[6]</sup>. Looking forward to the future teaching work, we will continue to improve and innovate the teaching concept, curriculum design and evaluation mechanism, strive to fully implement the paperless examination in Jilin engineering teacher's

examination, and strive for a breakthrough in the era for the paperless evaluation and improvement of foreign language teaching quality in college.

## References

- [1] Chen JL. Modern English teaching organization and management[M]. Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press, 2000
- [2] Hu ZL. Linguistics Course [M]. Peking University Press, 2011
- [3] Wang DJ, Guo WN. Pedagogy [M]. People's education press, 2009
- [4] Dong HN. Research on Paperless assessment of foreign languages in ITest universities in China[M]. 2017
- [5] Liu SY. How to develop college English school-based textbooks and question banks based on ITest examination system[J]. Igitel design, 2019, 8: 174.
- [6] Promoting learning by evaluation and learning by evaluation. ITest mobile terminal helps universities to explore formative evaluation and practice voice of external research, Ileges and universities, 2019.2.