

REFLECTIONS UPON DICTATION AS A TESTING DEVICE IN AN EFL CLASSROOM: THE PRO'S AND CON'S

Dr. Nawal BENMOSTEFA
University of Tlemcen, ALGERIA

ABSTRACT

The present paper addresses the commonly acknowledged challenges of dictation as a testing device. Dictation is a valuable language learning device that has been used for centuries. However, for some teachers these days, the word dictation is all too often synonymous with old-fashioned, boring and teacher-centred teaching/testing technique. The paper incorporates a discussion of the value of dictation as a testing device bearing in mind that it has had its ups and downs among professional language test writers. Finally, the paper culminates with the proposal of a set of suggestions as to how this long-time underestimated technique can actually form an integral part of a language programme. In sum then, one may say that dictation can reveal much about the language proficiency of the learners in a most economical and effective way.

Keywords: Dictation, testing device, language proficiency.