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Series 2025

Chief Editors:
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Muhammad Irfan bin Mokhtar

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Preface

Pioneering Educational Perspectives: Series 2025 is a collection of thought-provoking insights and research contributions exploring contemporary educational trends and practices. This eBook presents a diverse range of perspectives on innovative teaching methodologies, digital learning strategies, and transformative approaches in education. Designed to serve as a resource for educators, researchers, and practitioners, it aims to inspire meaningful discussions and advancements in the field. Through carefully curated chapters, this publication offers fresh ideas and practical solutions to enhance learning experiences in an ever-evolving educational landscape.

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ESL GRAMMARBOOST

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ABSTRACT

ESL GrammarBoost is a set of grammar quizzes specifically designed based on a CEFR aligned English proficiency course taught at the university. Using an online platform known as Quizizz, the grammar quizzes can be accessed through 10 links provided by the instructor. By choosing a platform that emphasises student engagement, learners can be motivated and it allows self-paced learning to take place as it is accessible anytime and anywhere. In addition, the quizzes focus on ESL learners' grammar mastery by emphasising the use of local context to teach each topic. Topics ranging from cultural, historical, and social elements were integrated into the quizzes based on the Malaysian context. This may enhance the learners' understanding as grammar remains challenging, especially for ESL students. Part of the reason is that the culture of native speakers of the language often occupies the space of English grammar textbooks (Baleghizadeh & Shayesteh, 2020). When language and culture are separated, it adds to the complexity of language learning as these two entities are inseparable (Brown, 2000). This innovation highlights the need for more locally designed grammar materials with the awareness that language and culture should not be separated in the ESL classroom.

KEYWORDS: ESL, Grammar, Language and Culture, Online Platform, Student Engagement

PROBLEM AND OBJECTIVE

ESL learners often find grammar lessons complicated to grasp, which results in low engagement and slow progress in understanding English grammar. Moreover, ESL learners are usually presented with materials that are not sourced locally; hence, they have to learn based on an unfamiliar context (Baleghizadeh & Shayesteh, 2020). Also, the lack of interactive and personalised learning tools further discourages ESL learners from practicing grammar regularly, hindering their overall L2 acquisition.

To address the problems ESL learners face, ESL GrammarBoost seeks to enhance ESL learners' understanding of English grammar by incorporating technology into the learning process based on locally sourced materials. The focus on developing materials based on the Malaysian context is believed to reduce the barrier to learning grammar. In addition, the innovation aims to encourage independent learning where students are given ownership and control of their learning through the website chosen.

DESIGN DESCRIPTION

ESL GrammarBoost provides ESL learners with engaging content specifically designed for Malaysian students to improve their English grammar mastery aligned with the CEFR (Common European Framework Reference for Languages) by the Council of Europe (2020). The quizzes range from topics that address different components namely subject-verb

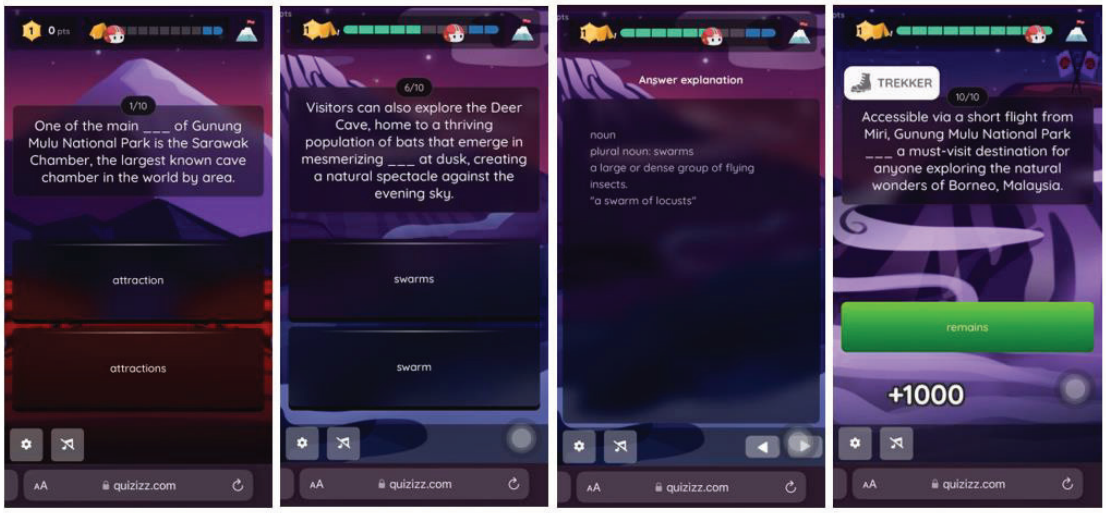
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agreement, tenses (present, past, continuous, future), and parts of speech. Each of these quizzes totaling 100 incorporates facts based on Malaysia's rich historical, social, and cultural diversities. Compared to other online grammar materials, this innovation is unique as it considers the learners' background and integrates elements that are familiar to them to improve their proficiency. Moreover, it offers immediate feedback which accelerates the learning process as the learners learn from their errors in real time. Lastly, the quizzes are accessible anytime and anywhere offering flexibility for learners with different schedules or commitments.

VISUALS

The following images are taken from the screenshots of the website and feedback on the quizzes received from the learners collected using Google Forms.

Figure 1: Compilation of images taken from a learner's point of view.



Once the learners enter the game code, they are required to enter their username and will be directed to the quiz soon after. As shown in Figure 1, the quiz focuses on the topic of Subject-Verb Agreement using the theme Places to test the learners' grammatical knowledge. When a wrong answer is chosen, the user will be given a chance to try again. An answer explanation is also provided to assist the learners in real time. Results from the survey show that the learners view the quizzes positively with the majority agreeing to the statements given as shown in Figures 2, 3, and 4 below.

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Figure 2: Learners' Feedback 1

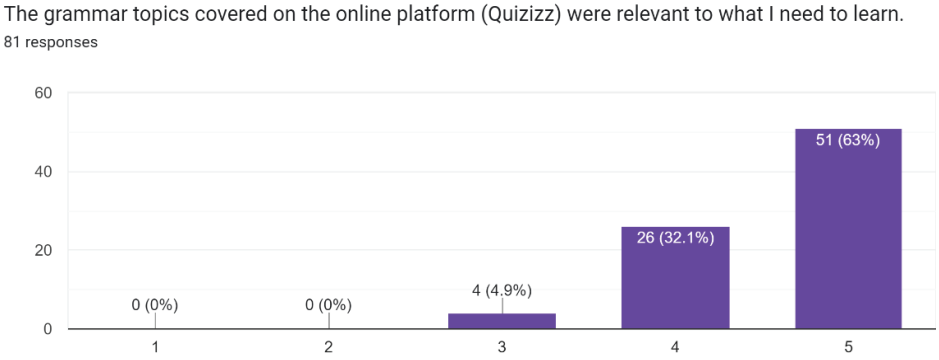


Figure 3: Learners' Feedback 2

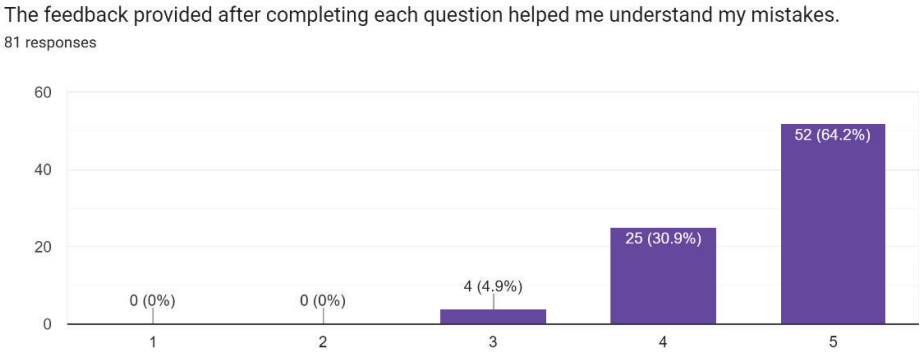
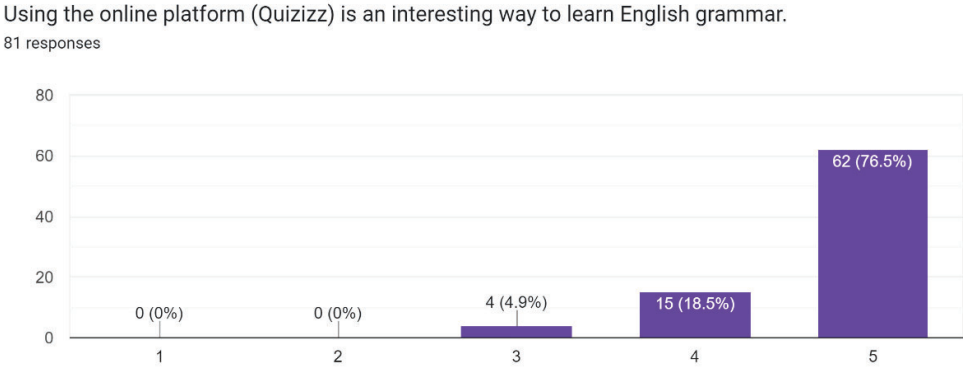


Figure 4: Learners' Feedback 3



NOVELTY AND UNIQUENESS

ESL GrammarBoost is developed specifically based on an English language course syllabus offered at the university, aligned with the CEFR framework. The quizzes were developed based on localised themes to facilitate the learning process. Each set was designed by incorporating various themes where the learners can learn interesting historical, social, and cultural facts about Malaysia while being tested on their grammar knowledge. The quizzes were designed following Bennet et al. (2003) approach where language and culture should not be separated as it may cause the learners to be uninformed despite being proficient. This innovation also addresses the lack of locally sourced English grammar materials that are available online.

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BENEFITS TO MANKIND

Incorporating the Malaysian context into the materials to engage and motivate second language learning is deemed important to improve the learner's proficiency level while assisting them in retaining information better as learners often struggle to understand varying grammatical rules. Also, the website offers personalised learning paths where learners can focus on areas where improvement is needed. Compared to the traditional learning method where exercises are often printed and distributed in class, using online platforms is cost-effective and reduces the need for printing papers. This combination of convenience, customisation, and interactive tools makes ESL GrammarBoost a helpful resource for ESL learners.

COMMERCIAL POTENTIAL

The shift towards digital education has accelerated the demand for online platforms that offer flexibility for varying audiences. With such demand, the e-learning market will continue to grow making it easier for online platforms to reach a large number of users. Developing multilingual support and localised content for different regions can further expand its market. For instance, incorporating grammar lessons with explanations in the learner's native language could attract a wider user base. By focusing on niche areas like grammar, ESL GrammarBoost has the potential to thrive in the online ESL education domain.

CONCLUSION

ESL GrammarBoost has significant potential due to the growing global demand for English proficiency, the rise of online learning, and the need for affordable, flexible language education. Adding more interactive elements like rewards and collaborative learning features suitable to the learners' mastery levels could further increase engagement and retention. These design improvements could enhance user experience, drive engagement, and facilitate learners' learning.

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