

The Dialogue Dashboard: Measuring Performance in Academic Talks (D Dash)

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ABSTRACT

This innovation presents the development and implementation of the Dialogue Dashboard, an innovative assessment tool designed for the English for Occupational Purposes course, specifically targeting the Mock Meeting evaluation. The tool addresses challenges in consistently and accurately assessing students' use of language functions and argumentation skills during academic discussions. Traditional rubrics lacked specificity and were difficult to apply in real-time. To overcome these limitations, the Dialogue Dashboard integrates language function tracking with argumentation rubrics through two complementary tables: one monitoring language function usage and the other capturing detailed qualitative performance comments. The methods involve educators listing students and relevant language functions in a structured table format, marking observed usage in real-time during discussions. Simultaneously, detailed comments on student participation and communication skills are recorded to support transparent and fair grading. This dual-table approach simplifies the evaluation process, reduces cognitive load on instructors, and enhances assessment accuracy. The impact of the Dialogue Dashboard is significant. It promotes more objective, consistent, and efficient evaluation of communicative competence in simulated professional contexts. Educators benefit from clearer evidence of student performance, enabling improved feedback and alignment with instructional goals. Students gain clarity on assessment criteria, leading to better preparation and more focused engagement in discussions. Overall, the Dialogue Dashboard exemplifies a practical, adaptable solution for advancing language and critical thinking assessment in higher education.

Keywords: Dialogue Dashboard, assessment, language function, method, academic talks

INTRODUCTION

Effective communication is fundamental to 21st-century education; nonetheless, the evaluation of students' linguistic and argumentative abilities in academic discourse remains inconsistent. English for Occupational Purposes is a subject specifically designed for workplace communication.

One of the evaluations to achieve this objective is mock meeting. Therefore, this innovation develops an innovative tool that integrates language function assessment with argumentation rubrics to provide fairer, clearer, and more effective evaluation in higher education, fostering confident communication, critical thinking, and engaging discussions. The sample chosen was final year students taking English for occupational purposes.

Therefore, the Dialogue Dashboard was developed during the English for Occupational Assessment known as the Mock Meeting. The aim of this evaluation was to assess students' competency in speaking within a specified context. Multiple rubrics were included to facilitate the evaluation process; however, it was found that verifying the functions they used during the discussion was quite challenging. Consequently, the Dialogue Dashboard was created to enable a clearer and easier assessment of the use of language functions in simulated meeting environments.

Problem Statement

Assessment tools in academic discussions often exhibit a limited focus on specific language functions such as clarifying, agreeing, disagreeing, and summarizing. This oversight results in incomplete evaluations of students' communicative abilities, as crucial aspects of interaction are neglected. Additionally, current assessment methods show significant inconsistency when evaluating students' speech communication and reasoning during academic conversations, leading to unreliable and potentially inaccurate outcomes (Furtak & Ruiz-Primo, 2008; Bheda, 2022).

Furthermore, existing evaluation forms lack appropriately detailed descriptors, making it difficult for instructors to effectively access and assess these language functions while simultaneously listening to ongoing discussions. This gap creates challenges in real-time assessment, hindering educators' ability to provide accurate, immediate feedback. Addressing these issues requires the development of more focused, consistent, and user-friendly assessment frameworks that facilitate the practical evaluation of language use in dynamic academic settings (Furtak & Ruiz-Primo, 2008; Bheda, 2022).

Objectives

Below are the objectives of the innovation:

1. To develop an innovative evaluation tool that integrates language function assessment with argumentation rubrics.
2. To address inconsistencies in the assessment of students' language and argumentation skills in academic discussions.
3. To create user friendly evaluation form to use during assessment.

METHODOLOGY

Product Description

During the Mock Meeting assessment for the English for Occupational Assessment, the Dialogue Dashboard was created. The tool, which was created to assess students' speaking skills in a structured, real-world setting, tackles issues with several initial rubrics that made it challenging and time-consuming to track language functions during discussions (Politis et al., 2023; Tauchid, Putri, & Suwandi, 2024). The Dialogue Dashboard provides a straightforward and effective way to monitor and evaluate language function use in simulated meeting settings, which helps to expedite this process (Gao, Roevers, & Lau, 2024). The invention is based on the two-stage Mock Meeting Assessment, which consists of a group discussion and an individual presentation.

The Latter Stage is Where it is Most Important to Evaluate Students' Participation and use of Language Functions. The Dialogue Dashboard offers Specialised Evaluation Forms with two Distinct but Complementary Tables: Table 1 (The Dashboard Dialogue) for Systematic Tracking of Language Function use and Table 2 (Comment Board) to Gather Qualitative Feedback on Student Performance. This is Because The Previous Rubric Was General and Lacked Specificity in Certain Aspects (Politis Et Al., 2023). The Instructor uses these tables Simultaneously During Tests for Different but Related Reasons, Which Improves the Evaluation Process's Efficacy, Fairness, and Clarity (Zhai & Wibowo, 2023).

METHODOLOGY

The Dialogue Dashboard was developed and implemented in the English for Occupational Purposes course to improve the way students' speaking abilities were evaluated during the Mock Meeting evaluation, which is a structured performance-based assessment that mimics professional communication in the real world. The Dashboard Dialogue and the Comment Board are two separate but complementary assessment tools that were developed as part of the methodology. A systematic table that recorded language functions—like clarifying, agreeing, or summarizing—those students used during group discussions made up the Dashboard Dialogue,

which enabled teachers to annotate these functions in real time. Simultaneously, the Comment Board was created for qualitative documentation, allowing instructors to document in-depth observations on students' critical thinking abilities, participation, and communication effectiveness.

Five groups of 86 final-year students enrolled in the English for Occupational Purposes course participated in the tool's pilot and five instructors were chosen to be interviewed after they have used this for their assessment. To reduce reliance on memory or post-session evaluation, instructor used the Dashboard to conduct concurrent, immediate assessments during live mock meetings, which is how the data was collected. By combining qualitative performance observations with quantitative language function usage, this dual-table method allowed for transparent and consistent grading. Clear descriptors and efficient marking systems also improved usability, allowing for real-time evaluation without interfering with conversation.

By using a mixed-method approach, it was possible to guarantee a thorough and accurate evaluation of students' linguistic proficiency as well as their ability to argue in authentic communication situations. This improved feedback helped students become more prepared for communication in the workplace.

POTENTIAL FINDINGS

Findings

In the pilot, 78% of students reported finding it easier to understand the criteria when viewing the Dialogue Dashboard before their presentation. Additionally, 3 out of 5 instructors and 2 instructors prefer the evaluation to be more specific but they agreed that by having the structured evaluation tables improved the overall assessment process. By using a mixed-method approach, it was possible to guarantee a thorough and accurate evaluation of students' linguistic proficiency as well as their ability to argue in authentic communication situations. This improved feedback helped students become more prepared for communication in the workplace. The accuracy and consistency of language function assessment in scholarly discussions were greatly improved by the introduction of the Dialogue Dashboard. Evaluations became more trustworthy and transparent because of instructors' ability to objectively monitor students' use of critical communication skills in real time. By offering both quantitative measurements and qualitative insights, the dual-table system—which also included a comment board—improved the quality of the feedback. Students were more aware of the evaluation criteria as a result, and this was linked to higher levels of confidence and participation. The Dashboard's incorporation of argumentation rubrics further encouraged the growth of critical thinking abilities necessary for effective communication in the workplace. The Dashboard was a useful and scalable tool in higher education settings because of its versatility for both manual and digital use. But some of the instructors also mentioned about the need to make it more detailed for future used.

Figure 1 The Dialogue Dashboard Table

DIALOGUE DASHBOARD TABLE							
MEMBERS/STUDENTS	LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS						
	GIVING OPINIONS	SUGGESTION	AGREED	DISAGREED	CLARIFYING	EXPLAINING	OTHERS
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							
6.							

Figure 2 The comment board

COMMENTS SECTION

STUDENT 1	STUDENT 4
STUDENT 2	STUDENT 5
STUDENT 3	STUDENT 6

Figure 3 Findings

Participants	Total Number	Finding	Number/Count	Percentage
Students		Found it easier to prepare for assessment using Dialogue Dashboard	78	90.7%
Instructors	5	Found having the evaluation form easier	3	60%
Instructors	5	Felt evaluation form needed more specific descriptors	2	40%

NOVELTY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This innovation offers a novel, integrated approach that combines language use evaluation with argumentation skill assessment in a single user-friendly format. It stands out by:

- Bringing together linguistic and critical thinking evaluation in real-time academic discourse
- Providing both structured and flexible scoring methods
- Being adaptable for both manual and digital use (e.g., Google Forms, Socrative)

It is suggested that for future research, these tables can be utilized clearly by adding specific descriptors in language form and functions and can be utilized into digital used.

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