

# English Competency Test (UK BIG) in ILC Anugerah: Between Hope And Fact

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## *Abstract*

The English Competency Test (UK BIG) has been undertaken by English Competency Certification Board (LSK) since 2009. It has authority to conduct the English Competency Test which preceded by coordinating with Directorate of Course and Training Development, Early Childhood Education Non Formal and Informal, Ministry of Education and Culture of Republic of Indonesia (Direktorat Pembinaan Kursus dan Pelatihan PAUDNI, Kemendikbud RI). In the stage of English Competency Test (UK BIG), English Competency Certification Board (LSK) has full authority as the organizer which realization is entirely handed to the English Competency Test Centre (TUK BIG) which has spread over Indonesia. TUK BIG acts as the organizing institution

As we have known that English Competency Test (UK BIG) is projected to replace the position of National exam but unfortunately it is not broadly known by education community and public society. Besides, the supports and motivations from Ministry of Education and Culture is very strongly, the spirit of LSK BIG is also very highly and TUK BIG have been formed nearly at every capital city in Indonesia. However, the echo of UK BIG is not clearly seen yet, even some efforts had been done thoroughly. Concerning to this reality, this writing will make segments about recent UK BIG: Between hope and fact.

**Key words:** comptency certification board, English comptency test, English competency test center

## **I. Background and Problem**

ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) alias free trade in ASEAN territory and ASEAN Economic Community (MEA) officially will be applied on January 2015. It is a challenge and an opportunity for Indonesia. It can be imagined that the distribution economic current and even the employees will freely enter and exit to the countries joining AFTA and MEA. The fact clearly seen in Bali recently, according to Ida Bagus Ngurah Wijaya the head of GIPI (Indonesian Tourism Industry Union) Bali (Jawa Post Sunday 27 April 2014, Page: 22), said the issue about free current on AFTA and MEA and it should be drilled to the surface.

All parties need more serious attention for everyone from the employees preparation so that the local people will not become audience at their own place. Furthermore, now days there are many foreign workers work for tourism industry. Concerning to this, it is time for every tourism industry which is looking for employees and will seek employees in order to select the qualified ones in the form of Competency Test Certificate. By this kind of Competency Certificate model, both employees and Employee candidates are more ready to compete with foreign employees that sometimes at some certain aspects are better. For instance, the employees from Philippines, Malaysia, Singapura will be more prepared to compete with local employees at some division due English mastery.

Competent Test is held by English Competency Certification Board LSK), and done by English Competency Test Centre (TUK) that has been started since 2010. That test is meant to replace National Exam which had been done before. English Competency Test (Abdullah' 2014) is one of English Competency models that had been held since 4 years ago, which is a process of test and evaluation done by Assessor to measure the achievement level of Students on one program of certain education. This competency test is part of study thoroughness based on National Education Standard (SPN)

The Legal Ground of Competency Test is based on regulation of Minister of National Education No. 70 Year 2008 about Competency Test for students of Course and Training from Non formal Education Unit and for society who study independently based on Government Rule No. 19/2005 about SNP Article 89: (1,2,5) states that (1) Final Competency Achievement of students written on document, Acte or and Competency certificate, (2) Certificate is issued by basic and middle Education Unit and highly Education unit, as the sign that those students had passed on Education unit, (3) Competency certificate is issued by Accredited Education Unit by Profession Organization which is legalized by Government as the sign that those students have passed the competency test.

Act No. 20/2003 about National Educational System Article 61: (1,2,3) states that (1) Certificate is as an Act and Competency Certificate, (2) Certificate is given to student as a recognition to study achievement and or a certain education accomplishment after passing the test held by a accredited education, (3) Competency certificate given by education organizer and training institution to students and society as the recognition of competency to do certain works after passing competency test held by Accredited Education unit or Certification board

Competency test is actually an Industry need now days. The people interest to join National competency is increasing. Also, according to Abdullah (2014:6) states that the progress of graduate has reached 75%. Even if the number of personal is still a problem faced in conducting Competency Test. Up to now In Indonesia there are 381 English Competency Centre (TUK) for 60 kinds of skills. Now, the number of TUK that have been forms 619, meanwhile the number of assessor is 601 for 12 kinds of skills. Especially for English TUK has reached approximately 18 TUK wide spread all over Indonesia and one of them in Bali is TUK BIG IIC Anugerah Denpasar

As of now, the result of Competency Test is very qualified because the assessment is done by professional assessor. The assessors have been educated specifically to do assessment. Before being Assessors, even if they have got certificates they have to join training in Assessing stage to get “right” to assess on the next level. Government especially the ministry of Education and Culture has tried best to form TUK, Assessor, and facilitate the Assessor for the success of this competency test.

Concerning to the above thing, The competency test is a obligatory because there has been rule to form the foundation apart of rule, there have been real actions done to implement that Competency Test. But, the existence of LSK, TUK, and Assessors have been prepared but they can not encourage the interested ones either the course mangers, young generation even other stake holder, so that UK is not considered as a need yet.

Based on above explanation, this letter will try to describe how UK Big done at ILC Anugerah since 2010 which has done UK BIG continuously either independently or thorough scholarship entitled “UK BIG at ILC Anugerah, between Fact and Hope”.

## **II. English competency at ILC Anugerah**

### **2.1 History**

There are 2 (two) ways of formulating TUK BIG. First Phase or early phase and today' phase or recent phase. This culture, both good and both have each goodness and lacks. Every phase has same descriptions which (Course and Training Institution) LKP does activities and programs based on their field. On this context, the Government of Education has important role to recommend the formulation

Early Phase, around 2009 there was a direct nomination by Local Department of Education and sport. By some considerations, mainly after seeing the education standard owned by LKP, The Department of Non Formal Education proposes ILC Anugerah to be nominated at TUK in Bali. This phase is still not based on LKP need or LKP does not comprehend what they will become and how the TUK was.

Today's phase or Recent phase done by proposal or need by a LKP. So, all LKP and other Education units can be TUK with certain criteria and condition. On this phase, LKP has

understood which what they have to do with their responsibilities. In this context, those LKP will find out with the possible taken opportunity as TUK at this era and future TUK

## 2.2 Steps

The steps of TUK formulations description is the step of phase 1 which is little bit different from phase 2. Started from the plan letter of TUK formulation at province from Directorate Kursus and Kelembagaan Dirjen PAUDNI which is shown to Education Department either at province or regency in Indonesia. Those memo letters are taken upon by Department of Education and Culture Denpasar by preceding memo letter which points some LKP chosen to be TUK either TUK BIG or other TUK

That appointment letter preceded by discussions either non formally or formally which is related the readiness of that institution. ILC Anugerah is one of appointment processes. Even if it is through appointment, existence of being TUK is still exist, at least the activity of being TUK has been well done

Dikpora Denpasar as the Technical institution proposes to Directoratein Jakarta to be verified and it will state that this Institution is worth to be TUK or not. If it is worth the directive will be issued by LSK BIG Jakarta but if it is not worth yet they will be suggested to complete the equipments and infrastructures, and may be also other equipments

As a new TUK, ILC did not experience and scope space from TUK works. Those kinds of conditions and situations have been well understood by Directorate by giving chance to Owners of LKP to follow the technical counseling that aims to introduce assignment, function and roles of TUK, Beside technical counseling, this new TUK assisted by sum of funds to socialize TUK, finally every TUK is given an offer to get facilities of office equipment and infrastructure like computer and other equipment so that TUK BIG can be online.

## 2.3 The Assessors of UK BIG

Up to now, ILC Anugerah have got 4 assessors who have been certified by LSK BIG. These Assessors are the instructors of ILC Anugerah who have been very helpful in preparing UK Big. They have got Direktorat Pelatihan Kursus dan Kelembagaan Kemdikbud done by LSK BIG and their ranks. The training of these assessor candidates usually centered at certain place yearly. TUK BiG ILC Anugerah always get one chance to send one assessor to be nominated. The managerial level of this institution targets to get all English Teachers, later can be as assessor who have UK BIG certificate.

## 2.4 Realization of UK

The basic assignment of TUK is to prepare, to do and evaluate UK BIG activities Since it was erected around 5 years ago, the TUK has successfully UK continuously annually with the vary participants either profession, education, sex and others

In 2010 the first year ILC Anugerah conducted TUK with the number of participants was 45 persons, most of them come from internal students and other course students and participants joining In House Training from some hotels and other industries. With the graduate level of 75%

The following year is 2011 with the number of participants of 65 persons. The joining participants reached almost 50% from all over Denpasar and Singaraja town. From Singaraja, there were around 12 students from popular university at that city. The progress of participant is increasing yearly. In 2012 written around 100 participants, in 2013 around 200 participants conducted at Bali State Polytechnic Kampus Bukit Jimbaran Badung Bali

In 2014 is the preparation process that will be done in August 2014 with the number of 500 participants from all over Bali coming from young generation who need certificate to get future work. This year is hoped as the socialization year of UK Big done in Bali which always cooperate with LSK BIG Jakarta and Direktorat Kursus dan Kelembagaan Kemdikbud RI.

### **III. Hope and Fact**

#### **3.1 Hope**

From the point of view of internal institution, hoped that all components either instructors and non instructors comprehend and inspires the function and role from Competency Test holistically. By optimal comprehension, the competency test can be well informed to the students especially and public people generally. The ideal condition is very much expected in fastening and take information lightly to all users either for internal institution interest or external ones

To create Competency Test that is minded at institution, the owners of institution should socialize and coordinate all instructor staffs and non education staffs so that the front liners will know the contents of that UK. Up to now, the publication Media like brochure or leaflet and kinds of so that they can read by internal party any time

Externally, the goal of UK is productive society who do not enter work field yet either they are still unemployment or Education units formal or non formal will feel “need” to this Competency Test. By this UK, the work filed and industry will not find difficulty in seeking selective employees needed by their company

One of those descriptions is Competency Test is needed by job seekers and Industry whenever the Competency Certificate holder can be priority for work field and Industry. To propaganda this Competency Test, a mass movement is needed by related authority, LSK, TUK that synergize with industry in a MoU.

#### **3.2 Fact**

As Internal Institution, the Competency Test is known but it has not been deeply understood nor comprehended by teachers and educators. This non strategic position makes Competency Test is not well informed comprehensively. So that, when there is question related to this from users, the instructors and educators can explain systematically and comprehensively yet

Externally, the goal and target of this Competency Test is productive community to measure their English standard, but the fact is that, many productive community do not try to measure their English ability by Competency Test. So does the business and industry do not concern to employ those who have Competency Test certificate. Besides, this English Competency Test is still equalizes with certificate given by courses which are spread all over

To strengthen the things above, some steps have been done by inviting industry especially tourism industry to send their staffs for Competency Test with certain funds but there are not positive responds yet. Besides that, some schools and Universities in Denpasar and around are invited to send their students to participate this scholarship but there is no satisfying responds yet

### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

Competency Test has good legacy by issuing Acts or Government Regulation that follows. The efforts of Directorate of Course and Training Development, Early Childhood Education Non Formal and Informal Ministry of Education and Culture of Republic of Indonesia has prepared the organization structures and their components likely LSK, TUK, Assessor and vary activities in anticipating the development of Competency test.

There are some factors as the causes why the society/users do not use this Competency test as the self Assessment Media. The main factor is that they do not know that and how TUK BIG done. This main factor that makes them do not look at this competency test.

The lack interest to this Competency test is caused lack information or knowledge and they never know what Competency test is. They do not get enough information from the competent people to this UK BIG Information. So does the users either Industry and business, test do not use the holders of this Competency Certificate however, they are employees who are competent in their field and skills

It is hoped that all components such as Policy holder, Education Field, Business, Industry to place competency as a need. By having Competency Test Certificate, the local employees will be able to compete on work field locally and nationally. In short period, this certificate holder can strengthen a Nation defense from the upcoming AFTA and MEA.

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