Applying GPT to Assess Pre-Intermediate EFL Learners' Creative Writing: A Classroom-Based Study at Tanjung Star Academy

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INTRODUCTION

- AI is transforming language learning and assessment.
- Pre-intermediate EFL learners struggle with creative writing and revision.
- Limited teacher time restricts personalized feedback in non-formal classes.
- Need for efficient tools to support formative writing assessment.

LITERATURE REVIEW

- Criterion-Referenced Assessment emphasizes clear performance standards.

- Self-assessment supports learner autonomy (Boud & Falchikov, 2007).

- AI tools like GPT offer fast, scalable writing feedback.

"Self-assessment must be criterion-referenced if it is to contribute to the development of learner autonomy."

— Lok, McNaught, & Young (2015)

METHOD

Aspect	Details
Participants	4 Pre-Intermediate EFL students at Tanjung Star Academy
Design	Classroom-based qualitative study
Task Type	2 creative stories (midterm & final exams)
Assessment Tool	ChatGPT (GPT-4)
Assessment Criteria	Creativity, Grammar, Vocabulary, Structure, Coherence
Feedback Cycle	GPT comments, targeted feedback and improvement worksheets.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Student	Story Title	Creativity	Vocabulary	Grammar	Structure	Coherence	Total (50)	CEFR	Score/100	Grade
Afifa	The Snow Creature	8	7	7	8	8	38	A2+	76	B
Audreya	Tasha's Dream Birthday Party	9	8	8	9	9	43	B1	86	A
Alya	The Crater Trap	8	7	7	8	8	38	A2+	76	B
Kalila	The Great Dane's Gift	7	7	7	7	8	36	A2	72	B–

📝 *Note: CEFR levels were estimated using overall language performance aligned with assessment criteria.*

GPT Feedback & Student Performance Summary

✨Key Observations:

Student	Strengths	Needs Improvement
Audreya	Strong imagination, vivid details, clear structure	Use of transitions, dialogue punctuation
Afifa	Creative idea, moral lesson, basic organization	Sentence variety, grammar consistency
Alya	Logical plot, smooth sequencing	Verb usage, emotional expression, vocabulary range
Kalila	Heartwarming theme, moral clarity	Word choice, opening/ending strength, sentence fluency

Study Suggestions Based on GPT Feedback

Personalized Practice Guidance:

Student	Recommended Focus Areas	Suggested Activities
Audreya	Punctuation, transition use, story layering	Dialogue punctuation drills, rewriting with connectors, metaphor writing
Afifa	Sentence variety, grammar range	Sentence combining games, descriptive writing prompts, peer editing tasks
Alya	Verb consistency, vivid expression	Tense transformation practice, emotional vocabulary exercises
Kalila	Word choice, sentence fluency, story hook/ending	Thematic vocabulary sets, read-and-retell, story starter/closer worksheets

GPT's Role in Supporting Writing Assessment

Contribution	Details
Formative Feedback	GPT provided specific, immediate feedback on 5 writing criteria
Autonomy & Reflection	Helped students identify strengths and revise their own work
Time Efficiency	Saved teacher time while offering personalized support
Differentiated Instruction	Matched suggestions to each student's level and writing needs
Teacher-GPT Partnership	GPT worked best with teacher mediation — not as a replacement

CONCLUSION

Key Takeaway	Explanation
GPT supports formative assessment	It provided timely, personalized feedback on creative writing criteria.
Enhances student autonomy	Students used feedback to reflect, revise, and build confidence.
Valuable for non-formal settings	Saved teacher time and offered tailored support for diverse learners.
Best when paired with teacher guidance	GPT acted as a co-assessor — most effective with teacher explanation and scaffolding.

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