Method of online assessment for a writing course

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Abstract

Due to the growth of the online language courses, to design an effective online assessment method is very challenging. A number of attempts had been contributed in designing various methods for a writing course at a public university in Thailand. This was to find a standardized method in evaluating students' writing performance. This study, therefore, aims to investigate patterns or characteristics of the methods for the online writing course, and also the positive and limited aspects of those individual methods. The data were collected through the analysis of the formal course assessment designs during the period of an academic year and the semi-structured interviews of six teachers. The findings show that there were two methods of formal online assessments of the writing course, and the teachers shared their viewpoints on both the strengths and limitations of the two individual methods. This sheds light on teachers' awareness in designing a method of formal assessment for a writing course and also other language skills.

Key words: online assessment, online assessment methods, writing assessment