



Pre-Task Planning Effect on Oral Performance of Russian B1 EFL Examinees

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**March 23, 2017,
Narva, Estonia**

- **Nitta, R. and Nakatsuhara, F. (2014)** A multifaceted approach to investigating pre-task planning effects on paired oral test performance', *Language Testing*, 31 (2): 147-175.
- Language Testing Forum 2013, Nottingham, UK.

Route



- 1. Research Background**
- 2. Research Question**
- 3. Data Collection**
- 4. Research Methods**
- 5. Results**
- 6. Conclusion**
- 7. Perspective**



1. Research Background

Testing of second language speaking is a relatively new field

Reasons :

- ephemeral nature of speech,
- difficulty of devising objective assessment criteria
- relative lack of interest in the spoken language shown by pre-1970s linguists

“Speaking” is a difficult construct to define.

“the purpose of testing second language speaking is similar to that of a driving test. The purpose of a speaking test is to **collect evidence in a systematic way** (through elicitation techniques or tasks) that will support an inference about the construct as we define it from the summary of the evidence (the 'score'). We will also be interested in the learner's ability to perform in a range of situations much wider than those that can be sampled during the test”. To provide a valid speaking test, it is necessary to capture the relevant aspects of speaking on the one hand, and **prevent interference in the score from irrelevant factors**, on the other (Fulcher, 2003, 47).

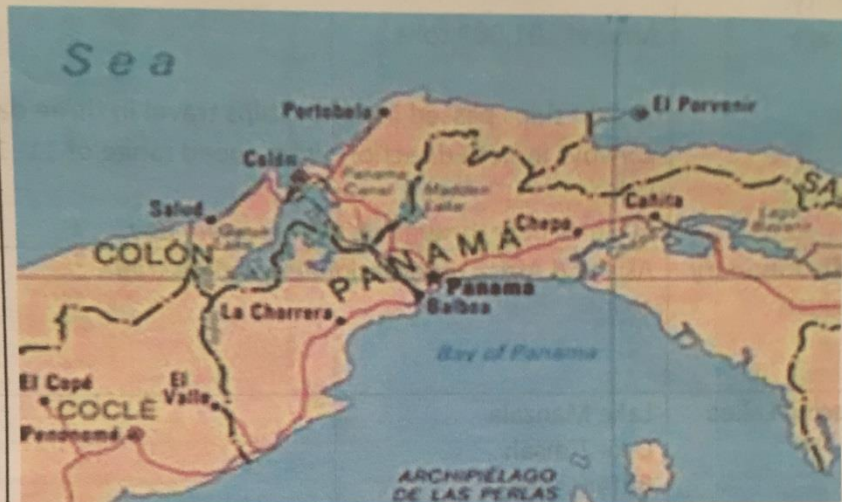


Being an assessee within the **structured approach** (vs. observational)

the student is asked to perform one or more specific oral communication tasks.



Panama



Isthmus of Panama – Americas (North & South Americas)

The Caribbean Sea
The Gulf of Panama
The Atlantic Ocean
The Pacific Ocean

8,000 mile shortcut for cruise & cargo ships instead of the alternative hazardous Cape Horn voyage

77 km long, 26 m above sea level

SPEAKING

You are going to give a talk about the Panama Canal. You will have to **start in 15 minutes** and **speak for at least 2 minutes**.

Remember to mention:

- the location
- the historical background
- construction costs
- capacity
- transit fees
- interesting facts
- economic and strategic value
- and say why this construction can be called a modern wonder of the world.

You have to talk continuously. After your partner has finished his/her speech, ask him or her 2 questions on their topic.

SAMPLE ORAL TEST 2[1] EI 3203

University of Chile



ITEM I: SPEAKING CARDS:

Students must **talk for 3 minutes about the topics** on the cards using the bullet points as prompts and including the three vocabulary items written on the card. They may make some notes, but should not read when they speak. The teacher does not interrupt them. In the end he/she must ask them some questions about the topic.

Preparation time: **1 minute**

Speaking time: **3 minutes**

Student-Teacher interaction: 2 minutes



Why planning time?

Views on Effects of Pre-Task Planning

Learners can

- focus on **what** to speak during planning time
- **prioritise meaning** while retaining focus **on form** on-task.

Planning time helps

- **control** the level of **cognitive demand** imposed by potentially unfamiliar topics
- establish a **fair environment** for test-takers



Inconsistent research results on pre-task planning effects

Views on Effects of Pre-Task Planning

Faezeh Mehrang & Massoud Rahimpour report that “**planning time had no effect** on the accuracy and fluency of the learners’ performances” (The Impact Of Task Structure And Planning Conditions On Oral Performance Of EFL Learners, 2012).

Views on Effects of Pre-Task Planning

- Fangyuan Yuan & Rod Ellis argue that **“pre-task planning impacts positively language production, especially where fluency and complexity are concerned”**(The Effects of Pre-Task Planning and On-Line Planning on Fluency, Complexity and Accuracy in L2 Monologic Oral Production, 2003).

Views on Effects of Pre-Task Planning

Saeideh Ahangari & Morteza Abdi demonstrate that “...learners with the opportunity to plan before task performance may **produce language which is more complex**” (The effect of pre-task planning on the accuracy and complexity of Iranian EFL learners’ oral performance, 2011).

Effects of Pre-Task Planning

- **Some benefits in Tavakoli & Skehan (2005); Wigglesworth (1997); Xi(2005).**
- **Limited or no effects in Elder & Iwashita(2005); Wigglesworth (2001); Wigglesworth & Elder (2010)"**



2. Research Question

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How does pre-task planning affect the **discourse produced**?

Discourse parameters:

- structure,
- breakdown,
- repair,
- syntactic complexity,
- lexical diversity
- accuracy



3. Data Collection

3.Data Collection

- **115 native** Russian participants
- the English language competition (Kazan, Jan.2017)
- aged 16 – 18
- Proficiency level B1

3.Data Collection

The contest participants were allowed to take notes
Performance was rated by the panel including :

| Task response | Interaction with partner | Grammar range and accuracy | Lexical resource | Pronunciatio n | Total score |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 10 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 20 |



4. Research Methods

4. Research Methods

The discourse produced by each participant was

- ✓ audio recorded,
- ✓ transcribed,
- ✓ assessed using discourse analytic measures

(adapted from Nitta, R. and Nakatsuhara, F. (2014)).

Discourse Analytic Measures

- **Fluency:**
 - Speed: # of words/second
 - Breakdown: # of lexicalised / unlexicalised pauses /speaking time
 - Repair: # of repetitions, corrections
- **Complexity:**
 - Syntactic: # of Clauses / Analysis of Speech Unit
 - Lexical: Lexical diversity(Method for measuring diversity of text units)
- **Accuracy:** # of errors per 100 words



Transcript 11 (of 115)

- И: dear friends I'm VERY glad to welcome you(.) to our monthly meeting of the english club(-) well(.) as you know today's topic is (.) the modern(-) wonders of the world(.) i put a lot of thought into it and i would like to share with my results(.) of the research which I conducted on this topic(-) well(.) let's get started (-)my topic is(.) the ###su:ez canal(.) and I think that is one(.) of the(.) wonders of the world(.) nowadays(.) first of all please take a look(.) at the(.) screen and you will see clearly that ### su:ez canal(.) is located in the north(.) part of af\ ###africa and una\ and connects two oceans of the world(-) well talking about(.) the history I would like to point out that(1.0) it the construction started in 1859(.) and took ten years for to(-) be over(.) well(-) talking about people(-) an\ and the workers who were in\ {#####/1_2/00:01:03} mainly they were slaves(.) and most of them DIED during the work and during the construction as (2)a due to bad a weather conditions and(-) disease(.) well talking about the CAPACITY (.)the numbers are tremendous(-) more than two hu:ndred thousand tones of wa:ter(.) well(1) also I would like to point OUT(.) that the cost the final cost of construction(.) was one(-) hundred thousand us dollars which is an incredible number (.)because(-) the egypt\ egyptian currency(-) has(-) devaluated over the last hundred of years(-) talking about the {#####/1_2/00:01:51} that(-) the(-) country of ###egypt(2) gets(-) from the transit(1) in two thousand FIFTE:EN(.) in two thousand and five(.) it was over three billion united states dollars and nowadays(-) this amount of money(-) has almost(.) DOUBLED (-)and now(.) is(2) roughly five(.) point(.) five billion dollars (3) talking about economic\ (3) a talking about the(-) impact of this construction of the channel(1) ON the(1) economy of the country(.) it should be mentioned(.)that(.) it IS(-) the(.) largest(.) canal the THIRD(.) largest(.) canal in the world and(.) the money(-) that(-) are(-) that the(2) country gets from(.) the transit of ships(.) goes to country's {#####/1_2/00:02:47} and (-)is (-)a huge(.) amount of money(-) every year(1) well(-) i wou\ (-) i would(-) also like(.) to tell(-) that(-) talking about interesting facts(-) I was really ridiculous about it(-) and(-) I KNOW(.) that(.) the link of(-) the (.)cana\ (-)canal(.) is (2) almost two hundred kilometers and(.) I think(.) all these facts(.) really sum up(-) that(.) this(.) one of the world's(.) wonders(.) thank you
- (5)



Transcript 23 (of 115)

- P:ok (-)i'm going to tell you about(-) the ###suez canal(-) which is the thirds\ the third largest canal in the world(.) it is located in the isthmous of ###suez ###africa middle east(-)you know(-)in the(-)first(1)firstly(-)the ideas about suez canal(.) were known from the third century(.) bc(1) this canal was called(.) a canal {#####1_2/00:00:39} and also in the eighteenth(.) century ###napoleon had some ideas (.) of constructing it(2) but the construction of the modern ###suez canal(.) had started in the eighteen(.) fifty nine(-) and the suez canal was opened(-) in the eighteen sixty nine(-)the construction costs(.) were(-) about(-) one hundred(.) billion dollars (-)its capacity is (.) nearly(.) one out of four(.) million tonns (-)and it is said (-)that(1) fifty ships(-) are passing (.)through it(.) every day(-)also (-)what i want to say(.) is that(.)### the suez canal(.)is the third largest source of revenue(-) of egypt's economy(-) cause (-)it's brings (.)nearly(-) five billion dollars(.) annually(-) and(-) I want to tell you one interesting fact(-) of course (.)you know something about ###statue of liberty (-) and(.)but(.)you didn't know that(.) in the beginning(-) it(.)had to be(-) in the (-) mediterranean entrance of ###suez canal(-) and it must be called (-) ###egypt(.) brings the light(-) to ###asia(-) also the suez canal(.) has its economic (.)and strate\ strategic value(-) because in the twentieth century(.) there were a war between (-)there was a war(.) between ###egypt(.) and(-) ###british (.)and its(2) and its helpers(.) like ###israel and ###french (.)and(.) suez canal (.) had it strategic value(.) too (-)but now (.)suez canal (.)is claimed(.) as a natural (.)preserve (-)so(.) thanks for your attention(-) fill free to ask questions (-)



5. Results

Results

Time of speaking

| min | mean | max |
|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 40 sec | 85 sec | 2 min 30 sec |



A three-part pattern of the responses:

- a. a reproductive part (40 sec – 2 min)
- b. a hesitant part (0 – 15 sec)
- c. a productive part (10 - 30 sec)



Transcript 25 (of 115)

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Reprod. 45 sec. | <p>P:good afternoon(-)today i would like to give a speech (.)about ###panama canal(-)it is a unic(-)it is a unic place on our earth(-)it is connected(1)it is located in the\ just in the connection of ###north america and ###south america(-)and(-)it is unic(.)because(.)the travelers (.)who sail through the canal (-)can (.)can avoid going(.) through{#####1_2/00:04:45}and use (-)###the panama canal(.)however it's costs(2)special price(-)for example(-)some ships(-)some ship which travel(.) there every day(.) should pay a special transit fee(-)for some cruise ships(-) it can be up to(-)one hundred (.)forty four(.) million dollars(.)and (.)for some single ship(.) it can be reach thre:e hundred(.) sixty thousand dollars(-)so(-) the history(.) is also very interesting(.)because(2)in sixteen eighty three(-)some english ccom\con\ colonies(-)wanted to(2)wanted to the canal there(-)own(2)wanted to make the canal (.)a part of ###the united kingdom(-)however there were many {#####1_2/00:05:37}which wanted(-) the canal to be(-) to be their(-)and(1) however(.) i think(-)that one building the canal(.) and building its borders(-) about(.)they were about(.) twenty six thousand people who died (-)because of yellow fever (.)and malaria(-)so(-)what about(-)if you(-)if you wonder(-) what's the capacity(.) of the ship(.)which can (-)transfer through the canal(-)it's about(-) three hundred (.)forty million tones(.)so it means it's huge(-)and modern(-)modern travelers (.)and(-) historian say(.) that it's (.) one of the most interesting(.)and unic places on earth(-)so(.)so what(2)yes(1)the next interesting thing(-) is that(.)when english(-) come and wanted to get(-)the panama canal to(-)their country{#####1_2/00:06:43}also wanted (-)to get (-)it to(.)to(-)themselves(.)that's why i think that it(-)now it belongs to the us(-)and(1)and the capital(-) of the ### panama (.)is the panama city(-)so(3)if you(-)if you wonder(-) what is(1)what is(1)how many(.)if you wonder (.)how many ships travel there every day(-) and every year (-)its just a huge (.)amount of them (.)about thousands ships(-)every year(.)so(.)i think now(.) it time to have some question(-) and I READY to answer them(-)</p> |
| Partner | <p>I:so yes(-)i'd like to know more (.)about the place of ###panama canal(-)so you mentioned (.)that a lots of chip\ ships passing it every year(-)so how many ships(-)does(-)do(-)pass thro\ through panama canal(.)every day</p> |
| Produc 25 sec. | <p>P:so(.)every day about forty (.)of them(-)</p> |
| | <p>I:that's great number(-)i'd like to know more(-) about ### panama canal itself (-)what is it's length</p> |
| | <p>P:so(-)its length is about(.) seventy seven kilometers(-) I:it's huge(-)thank you fo\(-)thank you for your presentation(.) P:thank you</p> |



6. Conclusion

Main Findings

| | |
|--|---|
| Reproductive/ Planned Part 40 sec. | Fluency and Complexity of the Planned Part is higher than those of the Hesitant and Unplanned Number of pauses is lower Concentrate on delivering what they prepared |
| Hesitant Part 15 sec. | Number of stops, pauses, false starts and restarts increase dramatically (abt 37%) Speed reduces by 24 % Accuracy and Complexity drop by 15 % |
| Productive Part 30 sec. | The number of pauses reduces by 10% Speed increases by 17% Accuracy and Complexity raise by 11% Generate unprepared speech Focus on the task and coherence/cohesion |



7. Perspective

Perspective

Multifaceted approach →

**Complex relationship between pre-task planning
and performance→**

**Multifaceted research to be taken to tackle various
challenges.**

Aknowledgements

We would like to thank **the Kazan (Volga Region) Federal University** for the support and the travel grant which actually made this trip possible.

We are also grateful to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tatarstan for giving us the permission to collect the data for our research.



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Thank you for your attention

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