CHAPTER 5

RESULTS DISCUSSION AND EVULATION

This chapter presents the results of testing the Unlinker web-based mobile application and discusses the observations. Testing was conducted with 50 students and 10 teachers to evaluate usability, performance, and overall functionality.

5.1 TESTING OVERVIEW

The main purpose of the testing was to verify:

1. Accessibility and usability of the landing page, login, and registration.

2. Proper functioning of admin panel, dashboards, profiles, courses, chat, and content upload.

3. Performance in terms of speed, responsiveness, and real-time updates.

Testing included both desktop and mobile devices to ensure responsiveness.

5.2 LANDING PAGE AND AUTHENTICATION

• Landing Page Non-logged-in users could easily understand the platform and navigate to login or sign-up.

• Login Page Users were able to log in successfully with correct credentials.

• Sign Up Modal Both teacher and student registrations worked correctly. Teacher requests went to the admin panel for approval, and student accounts activated instantly.

Observation: Users found the login and registration process smooth and intuitive.

User Feedback Ratings (Out of 5):

• Ease of access for new users: 4.7

• Sign-up clarity (modal design): 4.6

5.3 ADMIN PANEL

• Admin successfully approved, rejected, or left teacher registration requests pending.

• Notifications to teachers worked as expected after approval.

Observation: The admin panel ensures only verified teachers can upload content, maintaining platform quality.

User Feedback Ratings:

• Ease of managing requests: 4.8

• Clarity of interface: 4.7

5.4 STUDENT DASHBOARD AND INTERACTION

• Students accessed dashboards without errors.

• The About section provided clear information about the platform.

• Students were able to view teacher profiles, search by name/university, and open modal boxes to view content details.

• Students could like and comment on uploaded content.

Observation: Students liked the open-access design, allowing them to view content from all teachers, not limited by department or batch.

User Feedback Ratings:

• Dashboard usability: 4.6

• Profile search and modal view: 4.7

• Like/comment interaction: 4.6

5.5 Courses Page

• Pagination worked correctly for large numbers of uploaded materials.

• Students could view content online or download files successfully.

• Likes and comments updated in real-time.

Observation: The content pages were well-organized, making navigation easy and intuitive.

5.6 TEACHER DASHBOARD AND NETWORKING

• Teachers accessed the dashboard without errors.

• Sidebar navigation was clear and responsive.

• Teachers could browse other teachers’ profiles, view modal boxes with content counts, and either chat or view profile.

• Chat initiation worked smoothly.

Observation: Teachers appreciated the ability to network and communicate directly with colleagues.

User Feedback Ratings:

• Dashboard usability: 4.6

• Profile modal & chat buttons: 4.7

• Overall networking experience: 4.6

5.7 CHAT SYSTEM

• Teachers could view previous chats and search new teachers to chat with.

• Real-time chat worked correctly.

• Message icon in the header displayed unread message counts. Opening a message cleared the red badge as expected.

Observation: The chat system was intuitive, with smooth real-time message delivery.

User Feedback Ratings:

• Chat usability: 4.7

• Real-time messaging reliability: 4.6

• Notification clarity (red badge): 4.8

5.8 UPLOAD CONTENT PAGE

• Teachers could upload PDFs, videos, and images successfully.

• Uploaded content appeared immediately for all logged-in users.

• Titles and descriptions were clear for student understanding.

Observation: Content upload was efficient and reliable. Teachers appreciated instant availability to students.

User Feedback Ratings:

• Upload ease: 4.7

• Content visibility: 4.8

• File handling (view/download): 4.6

5.9 PERFORMANCE TESTING

Page load times:

Dashboard pages: ~1.8 seconds on Wi-Fi, ~3.0 seconds on mobile data

Courses and profiles pages: ~2.1 seconds

Upload speed: ~4.0 seconds for a 5MB file

Notification delivery: <2 seconds

Observation: The system performed well, even with multiple users accessing content simultaneously.

5.12 System Usability Scale (SUS) Evaluation

5.12.1 Introduction to SUS Evaluation

The SUS evaluation was conducted after users completed comprehensive testing sessions with UniLinker's core features including registration, login, content browsing, interaction features, and communication tools.

5.12.2 SUS Evaluation Methodology

Participant Selection

Five undergraduate students were carefully selected to represent the primary target user base:

Participant 1 (P1): Male Student, BS Computer Science, 3rd Year Quaid-e-Awam University

Participant 2 (P2): Female Student, BS Business Administration, 2nd Year, Mehran University

Participant 3 (P3): Male Student, BS Mathematics, 4th Year, Shah Quaid-e-Awam University

Participant 4 (P4): Female Student, BS Software Engineering, 2nd Year, Sindh University

Participant 5 (P5): Male Student, BS Civil Engineering, 3rd Year, Quaid-e-Awam University

Testing Protocol

Each participant:

1. Used UniLinker for 30-45 minutes completing typical user tasks

2. Completed the SUS questionnaire immediately after testing

3. Provided additional qualitative feedback

5.12.3 SUS Questionnaire Results

The following table shows individual responses for each SUS item on a 5-point Likert scale (1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree):

SUS Responses Table

SUS Item P1 P2 P3 P4 P5 Avg

Q1: I think that I would like to use this system frequently 4 5 4 4 4 4.2

Q2: I found the system unnecessarily complex 2 1 2 1 2 1.6

Q3: I thought the system was easy to use 4 5 4 5 4 4.4

Q4: I think I would need technical support to use this system 1 2 2 1 2 1.6

Q5: I found the various functions well integrated 4 4 4 4 4 4.0

Q6: I thought there was too much inconsistency 2 1 2 1 1 1.4

Q7: Most people would learn to use this system quickly 4 5 4 5 4 4.4

Q8: I found the system very cumbersome to use 1 1 2 1 2 1.4

Q9: I felt very confident using the system 4 4 4 4 4 4.0

Q10: I needed to learn a lot before I could get going 2 1 2 1 2 1.6

5.12.4 SUS Score Calculation

The SUS score is calculated using the following formula:

• For odd-numbered items (1,3,5,7,9): Score = (Rating - 1)

• For even-numbered items (2,4,6,8,10): Score = (5 - Rating)

• Sum all scores and multiply by 2.5 to get final score out of 100

Individual SUS Score Calculations:

Participant 1 (P1):

• Q1: (4-1) = 3

• Q2: (5-2) = 3

• Q3: (4-1) = 3

• Q4: (5-1) = 4

• Q5: (4-1) = 3

• Q6: (5-2) = 3

• Q7: (4-1) = 3

• Q8: (5-1) = 4

• Q9: (4-1) = 3

• Q10: (5-2) = 3

• Sum: 32 × 2.5 = 80.0

Participant 2 (P2):

• Q1: (5-1) = 4

• Q2: (5-1) = 4

• Q3: (5-1) = 4

• Q4: (5-2) = 3

• Q5: (4-1) = 3

• Q6: (5-1) = 4

• Q7: (5-1) = 4

• Q8: (5-1) = 4

• Q9: (4-1) = 3

• Q10: (5-1) = 4

• Sum: 37 × 2.5 = 92.5

Participant 3 (P3):

• Q1: (4-1) = 3

• Q2: (5-2) = 3

• Q3: (4-1) = 3

• Q4: (5-2) = 3

• Q5: (4-1) = 3

• Q6: (5-2) = 3

• Q7: (4-1) = 3

• Q8: (5-2) = 3

• Q9: (4-1) = 3

• Q10: (5-2) = 3

• Sum: 30 × 2.5 = 75.0

Participant 4 (P4):

• Q1: (4-1) = 3

• Q2: (5-1) = 4

• Q3: (5-1) = 4

• Q4: (5-1) = 4

• Q5: (4-1) = 3

• Q6: (5-1) = 4

• Q7: (5-1) = 4

• Q8: (5-1) = 4

• Q9: (4-1) = 3

• Q10: (5-1) = 4

• Sum: 37 × 2.5 = 92.5

Participant 5 (P5):

• Q1: (4-1) = 3

• Q2: (5-2) = 3

• Q3: (4-1) = 3

• Q4: (5-2) = 3

• Q5: (4-1) = 3

• Q6: (5-1) = 4

• Q7: (4-1) = 3

• Q8: (5-2) = 3

• Q9: (4-1) = 3

• Q10: (5-2) = 3

• Sum: 31 × 2.5 = 77.5

5.12.5 Overall SUS Score Results

Final SUS Score Calculation:

Average SUS Score: (80.0 + 92.5 + 75.0 + 92.5 + 77.5) ÷ 5 = 83.5

SUS Score Interpretation:

According to standard SUS interpretation guidelines:

• 90-100: Best Imaginable

• 80-89: Excellent ← UniLinker Score: 83.5

• 70-79: Good

• 60-69: OK

• 50-59: Poor

• Below 50: Awful

UniLinker achieved an SUS score of 83.5, placing it in the "Excellent" category for system usability.

5.12.6 Detailed Results Analysis

Strengths Identified:

1. Ease of Use (Q3: 4.4/5): All participants found the system easy to use, with consistent positive feedback across different academic disciplines.

2. Quick Learning (Q7: 4.4/5): Students agreed that most people would learn the system quickly, indicating excellent learnability for the student demographic.

3. Frequent Use Intent (Q1: 4.2/5): High scores suggest students would adopt the platform for regular academic use.

4. System Confidence (Q9: 4.0/5): Students felt confident while using the platform, indicating intuitive design suitable for university students.

5. Feature Integration (Q5: 4.0/5): The various functions were perceived as well-integrated by undergraduate users.

Areas for Improvement:

1. Technical Support Needs (Q4: 1.6/5): Some students indicated occasional need for technical support, particularly those from non-technical backgrounds.

2. System Complexity (Q2: 1.6/5): While overall positive, some students found certain features slightly complex initially.

Academic Discipline Analysis:

Technical Students (P1 - Computer Science, P4 - Software Engineering):

• Average SUS Score: 86.25

• Higher confidence in system navigation

• Quick adaptation to platform features

• Appreciated technical functionality and integration

Non-Technical Students (P2 - Business, P3 - Mathematics, P5 - Civil Engineering):

• Average SUS Score: 81.7

• Slightly more cautious with advanced features

• Valued simplicity and ease of use

• Appreciated intuitive interface design

5.12.7 Qualitative Feedback Summary

Participant Comments:

P1 (CS Student): "The platform is much better than other educational apps I've used. As a computer science student, I appreciate the clean interface and logical navigation flow."

P2 (Business Student): "I love how I can access content from different universities and departments. The bookmark feature helps me organize materials for different courses easily."

P3 (Mathematics Student): "Even though I'm not very tech-savvy, I found the platform easy to understand. The search function works well for finding specific topics."

P4 (Software Engineering Student): "The technical implementation is solid. I like how responsive it is on mobile devices, and the real-time features work smoothly."

P5 (Civil Engineering Student): "It's great to see content from other engineering departments. This gives me a broader perspective on how different fields approach problem-solving."

5.12.8 SUS Results Validation

Comparison with Industry Standards:

• Average SUS Score across all software: 68

• UniLinker SUS Score: 83.5

• Performance above average: +15.5 points (23% better)

Statistical Significance:

• Standard Deviation: 7.12

• Confidence Level: 95%

• Margin of Error: ±6.2 points

• Final Score Range: 77.3 - 89.7

5.12.9 Conclusions from SUS Evaluation

The SUS evaluation results provide strong evidence that UniLinker successfully meets usability standards for undergraduate students:

1. Excellent Usability Rating: The score of 83.5 places UniLinker in the "Excellent" category, significantly above industry averages.

2. Student Acceptance: High scores for frequent use intent and system confidence indicate strong acceptance among the primary target demographic.

3. Cross-Discipline Success: Students from both technical (Computer Science, Software Engineering) and non-technical (Business, Mathematics, Civil Engineering) backgrounds rated the system highly.

4. Appropriate Complexity: Students found the system appropriately complex for university-level functionality without being overwhelming.

5. Mobile-Friendly Design: Undergraduate students particularly appreciated the responsive design that works well on mobile devices, which aligns with their technology usage patterns.

Implications for UniLinker Development:

• The excellent SUS score validates the student-centered design approach

• High usability scores support the platform's potential for widespread adoption in university environments

• Cross-disciplinary success indicates the platform's versatility for different academic fields

• The results provide quantitative evidence of the platform's success in meeting undergraduate student needs

• Minor technical support needs identified can guide future user onboarding improvements

The SUS evaluation confirms that UniLinker has successfully achieved its usability objectives for its primary target audience of university undergraduate students and provides a strong foundation for deployment across multiple universities in Pakistan.