

Midwest Association of Language Testers

Annual Meeting
May 19-20
University of Iowa

Program

FRIDAY

12:00 - 1:00 Registration

1:00 - 2:30 Workshop

Test Specification Workshop: Practical and Theoretical Issues in Language Tests Creation

Samira Elatia, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Viviane Ruellot, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Ling Harris, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Lin Hongzong, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Hui Jeong, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Scott Walters, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Fred Davidson, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2:30 - 3:00 Break

3:00 - 4:30 Papers

Dilemmas of ESL Writing Assessment for Placement

Deborah Crusan, Wright State University

Construct Validation of the EAP Placement Testing with an Integrated Approach

Kyong Hyon Pyo, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Assessing Oral Performance in the Secondary Classroom

Patricia B. Westphal, Central College
Heather Wacha, Norwalk High School
Pamela Rhodes, Norwalk High School and Indian Hills Junior High

School

4:30 - 5:00 Break

5:00 - 6:00 Keynote

John Oller, University of Louisiana, Lafayette

Testing Verbal (Language) and Non-Verbal Abilities in Language Minorities: A Series of Studies with One Group of L2 Children and Two Groups of L2 Adults

Speakers of minority languages are greatly over-represented in classes for the learning disabled, disordered, and educable mentally retarded and are about equally under-represented in classes for the gifted. The problem is owed to a general failure to appreciate the role of language proficiencies in psychological and educational testing. The relation between acquired (socially dependent) language proficiencies and so-called nonverbal abilities may be closer than commonly supposed. Results of three experimental studies are discussed suggesting that this is indeed the case.

6:15 - 8:00 Reception

University of Iowa Natural History Museum

SATURDAY

8:00 - 9:00 Business Meeting

9:00 - 12:00 Paper and Workshop

Validation in Language Assessment Part I: Some Essentials

Carol Chapelle, Iowa State University

Validation in Language Assessment Part II: Hands-on Workshop

Yeonsuk, Cho, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Fred Davidson, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Diana Steele, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Scott Walters, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch

1:00 - 2:00 Posters

Assessing Oral Skills in the Classroom

Susan L. Chevront, The University of Iowa

An Interpretation of Scores and Comparative Item Analysis Study of an
Achievement Test in a Taiwanese Senior High School

Yu-Chen Chou, The University of Iowa

Innovation in Portfolio Assessment of Writing

Kelly Clute, Wright State University
MaryBeth Hoffis, Wright State University
Nicole Mitchell, Wright State University
David White, Wright State University

Student Awareness: The Benefits of Oral Portfolios

Jeannette Horwitz, Wright State University
Glena Madden, Wright State University
Nichole Neuhard, Wright State University
Robin Reasoner, Wright State University
Carol Cornett, Wright State University

Reanalyses of Language Test MTMM Matrices

Kyong Hyon Pyo, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2:00 -3:30 Papers

Evaluation of English Placement Test 1999, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Priyanvada S. Abeywickrama, Iowa State University

The Feasibility of Historical Reverse Engineering to Trace Evolution of Language Test Development

Sandhya Gopalan, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Fred Davidson, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

A Needs-Based Approach to the Evaluation of ITAs' Spoken Language Ability

Shahrzad Saif, University of Victoria, Canada

3:30 - 3:45 Break

3:45 - 4:45 Invited Session

Refining TOEFL 2000: Frameworks through Prototyping

Dan Douglas, Iowa State University

The ACT ESL Placement Test: A CAT Instrument

John Downs, ACT

The Foreign Language NAEP: Anatomy of the Planning Process

Judy Liskin-Gasparro, University of Iowa