Constructing, Adapting, and Validating Admissions Tests in Multiple Languages

Michal Beller

The Open University of Israel

Naomi Gafni and Pnina Hanani

The National Institute for Testing and Evaluation (NITE)

Abstract

This paper focuses on some of the major problems involved in test translation from the perspective of test usage and score interpretation. In particular, it deals with: (a) the extent to which the source language version is translated, adapted or changed; (b) the definition of criteria for evaluating the quality of the translation; and (c) various approaches to calibrating scores on different language versions. These issues are demonstrated using the various language versions of the Psychometric Entrance Test (PET) - a test required by all major institutions of higher learning in Israel for making admissions decisions. Results related to differential guessing patterns, DIF analyses, reliability, construct and predictive validity, and test-bias are presented with respect to the Hebrew and the various translated versions (Arabic and Russian in particular).