

Equating Translated Verbal Test Forms

Using Multiple Channels

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Abstract

For a growing number of test translations, there is a need for equating which provides scores that can be used interchangeably for both source- and target-language forms. The basic equating requirements (common items and/or common) cannot usually be met in the cross-lingual case and especially in verbal tests. In this study, two equating channels, in addition to the popular common identical items method that uses only the non-DIF translated items in the anchor (**Channel 1**) were proposed: using non-verbal translated items as an (external) anchor (**Channel 2**), and using an internal within-language equating channel (**Channel 3**). All three equating channels were described in detail, and we elaborated on the experience acquired and the studies conducted at the Israeli National Institute for Testing and Evaluation (NITE). The three channels were evaluated by a number of criteria: theoretical background, stability of the equating process, accuracy in measuring the ability and drift over time. Two possibilities for implementation are suggested: (**a**) to continue to use the verbal anchor, as it has a stronger theoretical basis, and to use the two other channels for monitoring purposes, and (**b**) to weight the outcomes of all three methods according to an estimation of the appropriateness of each of the methods.