

## RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY OF MANDARIN SPEECH PERCEPTION TEST

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The purpose of this study was to determine the reliability and the validity of the newly developed Mandarin speech perception test using sentences for Mandarin spoken Chinese children between age 4;0 to 4;11, 5;0 to 5;11, and 6;0 to 6;11. Overall, 92 normal hearing participants who fulfilled the subject inclusive criteria have been chosen as thesis subjects, including 29 subjects for age group 4;0-4;11, 36 subjects for age group 5;0-5;11, and 27 subjects for age group 6;0-6;11. The study included normative data at the presentation level of 65 dB SPL, intra-tester reliability, and Performance-Intensity (PI) graphs formation at the presentation level of 50, 55, 60 and 65 dB SPL. There was no significant difference between first and second test scores ( $p>0.05$ ). The graphs of Performance-Intensity (PI) for each age group were formed to measure predictive validity. Correlation coefficients between performance score and stimulus presentation level were high and significant ( $r=0.827$  to  $0.879$ ,  $p<0.01$ ) except level A for the age group of 5;0-5;11 ( $r=0.417$ ) and 6;0-6;11 ( $r=0.460$ ). Although the  $r$  values at level A for age group 5;0-5;11 and 6;0-6;11 were relatively lower, but the significant values for the correlation coefficients of both age groups were very high ( $p<0.01$ ). As a conclusion, this study showed that the newly created speech perception test is reliable and valid to test Mandarin spoken children between age 4 to 7 years old in Malaysia.

Lee, S.Y. 2011. Reliability and Validity of Mandarin Speech Perception Test. Bachelor of Audiology Thesis. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.