

## **LANGUAGE PROFILE OF LOW ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS BASED ON THE ADAPTED AFASIC CHECKLIST**

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This study involves the adaptation of the AFASIC Checklist and profiling the language skills of low academic achievers. For the evaluation of the adapted checklist, the sample consisted of 30 students with language difficulties and 30 normal subjects. To profile the language skills of low academic achievers, 38 low achievers and 38 normal subjects were used. All subjects were Malay, Standard Two students and were gender matched. Teachers filled up the checklist for their students. An analysis was done to determine the reliability of the adapted checklist and to do a language profile of low academic achievers. The results show that the adapted checklist can differentiate between normal and language difficult subjects with a high sensitivity and specificity rate, 97% and 83%. The language profile of low academic achievers shows that 76% of the sample group had characteristics of language difficulties. They appeared to have the most difficulties in the 'Cognitive Process' category; followed by the 'Communication' and 'Vocabulary' categories. The adapted AFASIC Checklist can be used by school teachers as a screening tool for speech and language difficulties. The findings from this study, as well as numerous other foreign studies, suggest that a high percentage of low academic achievers evidence language difficulties. This study is an initial attempt to collect data as a guide in managing this group of students.

Inbam, A. 2002. Language Profile of Low Academic Achievers Based on the Adapted AFASIC Checklist. Bachelor of Speech Science Thesis. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.