

## **CONCURRENT VALIDITY OF ADAPTED AFASIC CHECKLIST AS A SCREENING TOOL FOR MALAYSIAN SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN**

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This study was an initial attempt to do a concurrent validity check on the adapted version of AFASIC Checklist as a screening tool for Malaysian school age children. The original AFASIC Checklist (Corcoran et al. 1998) was adapted into a Malay version (SSAd). For the concurrent validity study 2 groups of subjects were involved, the experimental group (n = 30) and the control group (n = 30). The experimental group consisted of those who failed the adapted AFASIC Checklist test (SSAd) while the control group was for those who passed the SSAd test. Then, the data collected for the SSAd test was compared with the Multilingual British Picture Vocabulary Scale – Malay Version (MBPVS-M) (Liow et al. 1992) to find performance correlation between those 2 tests among subjects. The SSAd test was carried out by the teacher in charge, while the MBPVS-M is a clinical test of receptive vocabulary carried out by the researcher. So it was compulsory to measure the agreement of teacher judgement and formal assessment in identifying children with language difficulty. The findings showed that the internal reliability co-efficient was  $\alpha = 0.717$  and split-half reliability = 0.851, while the mean total score and all of the mean subtotal scores were significantly different ( $p < 0.001$ ) between those who have language difficulty and those who have no language difficulty. With a cut-off score of 9 the SSAd test has high value of sensitivity and specificity, with sensitivity = 97% and specificity = 83%. For the concurrent validity study, scores based on the Pearson Co-efficient test on SSAd and MBPVS-M, showed a significant correlation ( $p < 0.01$ ) ( $r = 0.508$ ). There were agreement between teacher judgement (SSAd) and formal assessment test (MBPVS-M) up to 80.0% - 83.3%, while the disagreement was only 16.3% - 20%. Therefore it is concluded that the adapted AFASIC Checklist is valid for Malaysian school age children.

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