

A PILOT STUDY ADAPTING THE AFASIC CHECKLIST TO BAHASA MALAYSIA

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This pilot study is an early attempt to adapt the AFASIC Checklist into the Malay language. The researcher hopes that this pilot study will aid and make easy for future researchers to obtain a thorough adapted checklist. The adapted AFASIC checklist will help identifying students who are at risk of speech and language difficulties, easier for teachers in Malaysia. The researcher first translated and adapted the checklist after ensuring that it was relevant to the Malaysian culture. Then, the researcher distributed it to a group of teachers (respondents) with questionnaires that was developed by the researcher. Feedback and suggestions about the checklist were gathered and then analyzed and also used to make changes to the checklist. The feedback and suggestions obtained focused more on choosing suitable grammar items to test in the checklist. The results revealed that the appropriate age ranges for the checklists are 4 – 6 and 7 – 10. *Kata hubung, kata ganda, kata tunjuk, kata soal, kata sendi, kata nafi, kata panggilan* and *kata penegas* are the chosen grammar item to test children between the ages of four to six years old. Whereas *kata ganda, penjodoh bilangan, kata nama arah, kata ganti nama* and *pengguguran kata* are the chosen grammar items to test children between the age of seven to ten years old. Feedback showed a high awareness among the teachers about the importance of early detection for speech and language problems. They also responded positively towards the checklist. Nonetheless, their knowledge of the career and profession of a speech-language pathologist is still very basic.

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