

**ADAPTATION OF KINDERGARTEN LANGUAGE SCREENING TEST-II INTO
MALAY LANGUAGE FOR MALAYSIAN CHILDREN AGED 4 YEARS OLD:
AN EARLY RESEARCH**

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The purpose of this study was to adapt the Kindergarten Language Screening Test-II into a test that is appropriate with the culture and language of Malaysian Malay children aged 4 years old. The standardized language screening tools that are appropriate to be used on Malaysian population was very limited. The existing language screening tools were mostly in English and were designed based on western population. Those tests were not suitable for Malaysian population due to significant language and cultural differences. The second purpose of this study was to determine the language ability of 4 years old normal Malaysian Malay children. This study was carried out on 30 Malay children aged 4;0 to 4;11 who were selected from four kindergarten in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor. The test was administrated individually and the responses were recorded manually into score sheets and also taped on audio recorder for later review. Data collected were based on verbal and gestural responses. The validity of the adapted KLST-2 was determined based on the percentage of correct responses by the subjects. Study results showed that most of the items achieved the desired validity level, and only a few items which mostly come from narrative part (morphological markers) did not pass the level. This happened due to variation factors and some of them were the scoring was too specific and the stimulus pictures were unable to elicit more stories and also the attitude of the subjects that were less expressive during the test. The internal reliability was moderate (Set A – 0.6063, Set B = 0.6465) and the test-retest and inter-scorer correlations were high ($r = 0.848$, $r = 0.768$). It was found that adapted KLST-2 could be used as a guideline in doing the language screening on 4 years old children. However, further study should be done in order to make the test become more valid and reliable for the use of Malaysian population. In terms of language development, the children at the age of 4 years old still in the acquiring stage and there are still a lot of language components that are just emerging and not mastered yet.

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