

ADAPTATION OF KINDERGARTEN LANGUAGE SCREENING TEST-2 (KLST-2) INTO MALAY LANGUAGE FOR MALAY CHILDREN AGED 5 YEARS OLD

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The purpose of this study was to adapt the Kindergarten Language Screening Test-2 (KLST-2) into Malay language and to gather information about speech and language development of Malay children of 5 years old. Until now, there is no standardized language screening test for Malaysian children. This study was conducted on 30 Malay children in Kuala Lumpur and Ipoh. All of them were attending kindergarten, which used Malay language as language of instruction. Spontaneous transcription and audio recording were used to record the language sample. Responses were based on verbal and non-verbal answers. A few items were modified according to language and culture appropriateness. The test was administered using adapted pictures and additional pictures. Validity of items was based on 60% of correct responses. Findings showed that the reliability of test items was significantly low for the adapted test when compared to the original test. Statistically, reliability alpha for adapted version was 0.5989 and 0.6589 for the additional version. It is found that the speech and language development of the 5 years old Malay children was significantly similar with their peers in certain aspects. But, most of the subjects did not get high score for narration because of the scoring system was not very sensitive with the Malay Colloquial Language usage. As conclusion, the adapted KLST-2 was found unsuitable to be used for Malay children aged 5 years. Further research could be undertaken to improve on the individual items and increase the validity and reliability to better suit local linguistic and cultural needs.

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