

ADAPTATION OF THE RECEPTIVE PART OF THE CLINICAL EVALUATION OF LANGUAGE FUNDAMENTALS-III (CELF-III) INTO MALAY VERSION

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This study is a preliminary study to adapt the receptive part of the Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals-III (CELF-III) into Malay version, i.e., CELF-Ad, for use among school age children in Malaysia. Data obtained from 30 children, age ranging from 7;0 to 8;11 years old, were analyzed descriptively and statistically to determine the validity and reliability of the adapted test. This study was also done to compare the difference in test achievement between boys and girls. Three subtests were adapted, i.e., sentence structure, concepts and directions, and word classes. The verbal and nonverbal responses from these children were recorded instantaneously into response sheets. From the study, this test is able to significantly discriminate the receptive language abilities between seven and eight years old children. The total mean value for the seven years olds was 36.7 marks, while the total mean value for the eight years olds was 49.3 marks. The ANOVA values obtained, i.e., less than 0.05, proved that this difference is significant. Data from each subtests and their items also displayed a similar pattern; there are differences in the performance between the seven and the eight years old, with the latter performing better. These findings indicate that the CELF-Ad has a good validity as it is able to show developmental changes across different age groups. For the concept and direction subtest and word class subtest, the internal consistency validity is high, with alpha values of 0.85 and 0.70 ($p > 0.7$) respectively. However the internal consistency validity of the sentence structure subtest is low, with alpha value of 0.247 ($p > 0.7$). Based on the Pearson correlation test, it was found that the test and retest of the CELF-Ad has high correlation for all three subtests with correlation values of more than 0.5. From the aspect of difference in test achievement among boys and girls, the ANOVA values obtained were not significant ($p > 0.05$). This showed that the difference in test achievement between boys and girls is not statistically significant. In conclusion, the CELF-Ad (receptive part) shows potential as a language assessment tool for the target group. Further research needs to be done, and local norms need to be collected before it can be fully used to assess the receptive language abilities of school age children in Malaysia.

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